



# WET GAZETTE



Department of Homeland Security  
USCG Auxiliary  
Flotilla 11-10  
Dunedin, Florida

Rob Bonnem, Commander  
Gordon Thomas, Vice Commander  
Kristi Mackey, Immediate Past Commander  
Ron Shebanek, Publications Officer

## Commander's Corner



Shipmates,

As we are now in hurricane season, I want to remind you how to plan for your pet's safety. This subject is very near and dear to me, as Sharon and I have adopted seven rescues over the years. Please read on.

To keep your pet safe in a hurricane, you have the following options: keep the pet inside (if you stay home); bring it along (if you evacuate); leave it with someone trustworthy or board it at a reputable kennel.

If you plan to stay at a pet-friendly shelter, make sure to pre-register well ahead of time.

Make sure all pets are wearing ID tags with your current contact information. Consider getting a microchip, which can be registered for free at [www.foundanimals.org](http://www.foundanimals.org).

Keep your pets inside before, during and after the storm and make them as comfortable as possible.

### Traveling

A portable pet emergency kit should include water, water bowls, pet food, medical records and medications.

**Make sure your pet is wearing its collar with identification. Pack a favorite towel or blanket and a two-week supply of water and food. Additional items: leash, litter box, crate.**

**Call hotels on your route to verify they accept your pets.**

**Shelters**

**Register with a pet-friendly shelter well in advance of the storm. Be prepared to show proof you live in a mandatory evacuation zone or mobile home in the county.**

**Pet-friendly shelters do not accept exotic pets like reptiles or livestock. Pets must be current on their vaccinations and be registered with the county.**

**Use your best judgment and remove large animals from the area if their lives are in danger.**

**Stay Sharp/ Stay Safe and be prepared.**

**Robert Bonnem  
Flotilla Commander 11-10**

Photo by Sharon Bonnem



## Vessel Examination Update



**Gordon Thomas is the Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Examination (FSO-VE) and Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC). He also volunteers at Air Station Clearwater.**

**We will be starting vessel examination blitzes soon, since we have been given the ok to start again. We will also be adding a Home Owners Association (HOA) to our blitz list that is a boating community.**

**We are planning to do a 25 minute boat safety program for them in July and then set up a date and time for a vessel exam blitz on a weekend in August or September. Details are being worked on and all vessel examiners will be notified when we are ready.**

**All vessel examiners, vaccinated or not, need to continue to wear masks and continue to do social distancing.**

## Divers at it Again



Harvey Prior, [harvb4@aol.com](mailto:harvb4@aol.com), is the Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Member Training.

Two years ago, when we last read about the dynamic, daring, dashing, diving duo from Flotilla 11-10, they had just successfully completed the search and recovery of a Coast Guard Portable Aerial Delivery System, (PADS) kit drum and parachute from the depths off Clearwater, Florida. The PADS kit had sunk after being dropped from a C-130 aircraft during a training flight.

The duo of Robert Bonnem and Harvey Prior along with their able boat watcher, Robert's wife Sharon, are finally back on the water after a year and half of following COVID-19 avoidance. We find them in this story on their first dive trip of 2021. While both of our divers have spent some time diving to keep their swimming pools clean, this trip will be a pair of easy dives to about 35 feet deep. During the dives, equipment will be checked for leaks and proper performance while the divers will check skills such as navigation and buoyancy control.

After entering the Gulf of Mexico, the team spotted an object floating nearby. While Harvey maneuvered the vessel closer, Robert got a dipnet and on the first try he caught a balloon. Knowing that balloons are sometimes eaten by marine animals the team was feeling good about protecting the environment.

Before the boat reached the first dive site, a second balloon was spotted and recovered. Two points for the good guys.

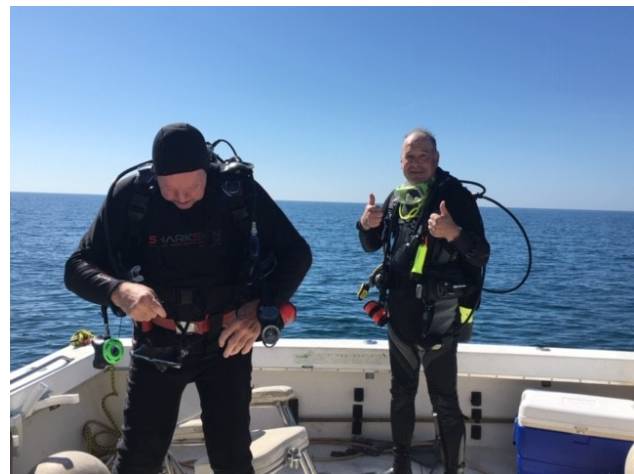
After a good first dive, the boat was en route to another dive site when a third balloon was spotted and recovered. We don't know who had the party and let the balloons fly away but we need to continue to spread the word about keeping plastic out of our waters.

Following another good dive, our team headed the boat towards home. Unknown to the team, they were not done protecting the environment. Another object was spotted floating and quickly scooped up. This object was not a

balloon. It was the top float portion of a NOAA National Weather Service sonobuoy.

Sonobuoys can be deployed either by aerial drop with a parachute from an aircraft or dropped into the water from a ship. The buoy that the team found was most likely an aerial drop because it had a nylon line that would have been connected to a parachute. Attached to the buoy was a plastic mailing envelope so the buoy could be returned to the National Weather Service (NWS) for use in a future deployment. The back of the envelope also requested information on when and where the buoy was found and by whom. Hopefully in the near future, the NWS will acknowledge receipt of the buoy.

On past dives, team members have released fish and crabs from abandoned traps as well as collected fishing line and trash from reefs. What will they find next time? You will have to wait for their next adventure tale. In the meantime, remember to take the time to bring ashore more than you take out. Clean waters are safer waters for us and all of the animals in the sea.



Photos by Sharon Bonnem

## Cloudy Waters Driving Florida's Manatee Die-off



Florida's most recent winter dealt a blow to its West Indian manatees, iconic marine mammals that are a big tourist attraction. In the first five months of this year, 761 manatees wintering in one Florida lagoon died, according to the state's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The number represents about 10% of Florida's population of *Trichechus manatus latirostris*, the subspecies found there, and is more than the total number of the manatees that died across the whole state in 2020.

The cause of death: starvation because of the loss of seagrass in increasingly polluted waters, a problem not easily fixed. "I would not be surprised if this happens again next year," says Daniel Slone, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The only vegetarian marine mammal, manatees—often called sea cows—thrive in subtropical waters, where they feed on seafloor grasses, algae, and floating plants. In the Atlantic Ocean north of the equator, two subspecies exist. One lives in the southern part of the Caribbean. The other meanders through Florida's rivers, springs, and coastal waters, sometimes straying north to Massachusetts in the summer. Manatees cannot tolerate water colder than 20°C, so in Florida during colder months they gather in warm springs, or in the water discharged at coastal power plants from cooling generators.

One key spot is the Indian River Lagoon midway down Florida's east coast, which hosts about 2,000 manatees each winter thanks to water releases by power plants. There, agricultural runoff, sewage discharges, and other human-driven activities have been increasing. Since 2011, the excess nitrogen and phosphorus that flow into waterways have fueled lengthy "superblooms" of brown or green algae that make the lagoon's water "look like pea soup," says Martine deWit, an FWC veterinarian. With sunlight unable to penetrate the lagoon, seagrasses and other photosynthesizing organisms disappear. "Each year, the seagrass gets a little worse," deWit says.

This year, "the hammer just fell," Slone says. The 2020–21 winter started with a cold snap, requiring manatees to increase their calorie intake to stay warm. Then, even though there wasn't enough grass to feed all the manatees, the animals stayed put. "They chose warmth over being hungry," deWit says. Some

of the starving animals that made it through the winter and started to spread out across Florida's coast are now showing up dead elsewhere because they could not recover.

About 10 years ago, USGS researchers determined the Indian River Lagoon could sustain the number of manatees that were learning from their mothers to go there. "That is clearly not the case now," Slone says.

For the moment, the options for restoring seagrass are limited. "We don't want to replant seagrass until we have [better] water quality," says Charles Jacoby, an environmental scientist with the St. Johns River Water Management District, based in Jacksonville, Florida. His agency is just five years into a 15-year plan to lower the nutrient load in the lagoon. The plan includes removing "muck"—muddy, nutrient rich sediment that's been accumulating in the lagoon, as well as in canals and tributaries, because there's not enough water flow to flush it out. It also calls for improving sewage treatment plants and hooking up households that now use septic tanks to the sewer system. Because these solutions will take time, he and others are considering short-term fixes for the manatees, such as feeding the sea cows or trying to coax them to winter elsewhere.

But other wintering spots are getting rarer, says Jaclyn Lopez, an attorney and manatee expert with the Center for Biological Diversity, a conservation organization. "We have not done enough to preserve warm water habitats."

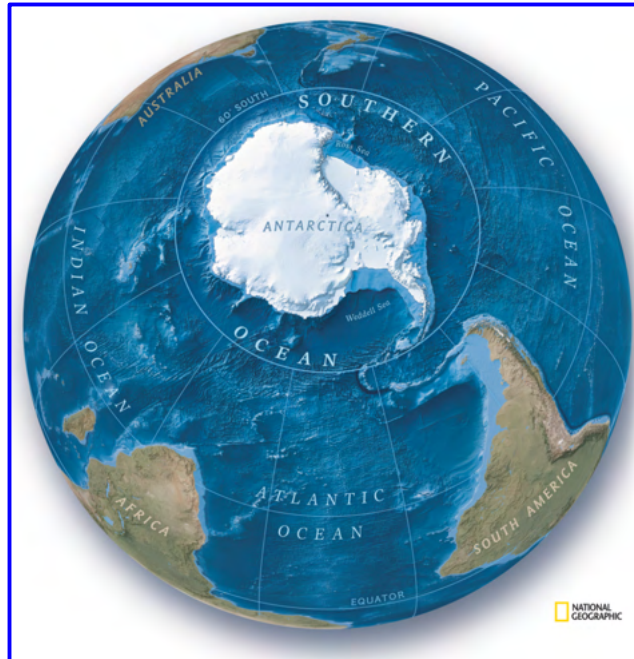
Until now, Florida's manatees, which were one of the first species to be placed on the U.S. endangered species list in the 1970s, seemed to be doing better. In 1991, the first aerial census counted about 1,200 individuals. Now, there's an estimated 7,000 to 8,000. In 2017, that progress prompted then-President Donald Trump's administration to upgrade the manatee's legal status to threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, despite objections from conservation groups.

Manatees also fall under the protection of the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. On 26 May, a working group established under that act declared the die-off an "unusual mortality event," which triggers a federally supported investigation of the cause.

But Sloan and Jacoby are optimistic about the species' future in Florida. Populations on the state's west coast are doing fine. And the long-term prospects for manatees on Florida's east coast, Jacoby says, "are probably all right."

Source: sciencemag.org and Getty Images

## There is a new Ocean!



Those familiar with the Southern Ocean, the body of water encircling Antarctica, know it's unlike any other.

“Anyone who has been there will struggle to explain what's so mesmerizing about it, but they'll all agree that the glaciers are bluer, the air colder, the mountains more intimidating, and the landscapes more captivating than anywhere else you can go,” says Seth Sykora-Bodie, a marine scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a National Geographic Explorer.

Since National Geographic began making maps in 1915, it has recognized four oceans: the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic Oceans. Starting on June 8, World Oceans Day, it will recognize the Southern Ocean as the world's fifth ocean.

“The Southern Ocean has long been recognized by scientists, but because there was never agreement internationally, we never officially recognized it,” says National Geographic Society Geographer Alex Tait

Geographers debated whether the waters around Antarctica had enough unique characteristics to deserve their own name, or whether they were simply cold, southern extensions of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.



“It’s sort of geographic nerdiness in some ways,” Tait says. He and the National Geographic Society’s map policy committee had been considering the change for years, watching as scientists and the press increasingly used the term Southern Ocean.

The change, he adds, aligns with the Society’s initiative to conserve the world’s oceans, focusing public awareness onto a region in particular need of a conservation spotlight.

“We’ve always labeled it, but we labeled it slightly differently [than other oceans],” Tait says. “This change was taking the last step and saying we want to recognize it because of its ecological separation.”

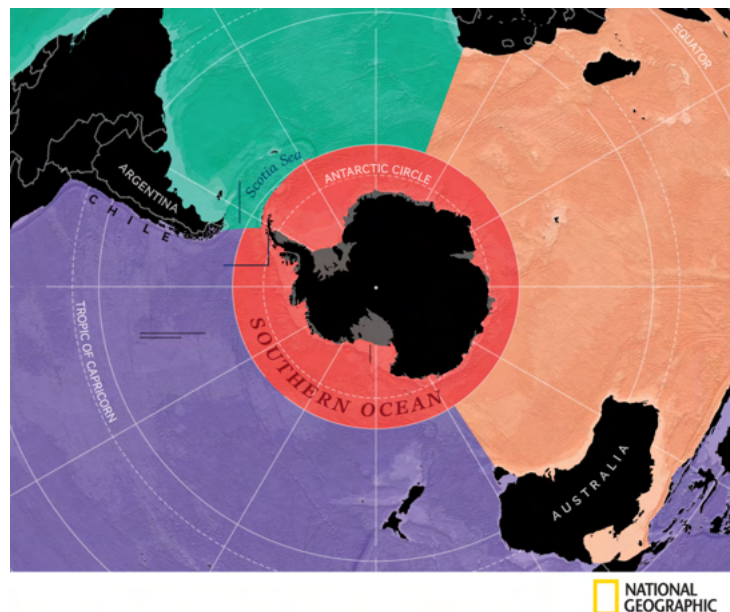
Marine biologist and National Geographic Explorer at Large Sylvia Earle praised the cartographic update.

“While there is but one interconnected ocean, bravo to National Geographic for officially recognizing the body of water surrounding Antarctica as the Southern Ocean,” Earle wrote in an e-mailed statement. “Rimmed by the formidably swift Antarctic Circumpolar Current, it is the only ocean to touch three others and to completely embrace a continent rather than being embraced by them.”

While the other oceans are defined by the continents that fence them in, the Southern Ocean is defined by a current.

Scientists estimate that the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) was established roughly 34 million years ago, when Antarctica separated from South America. That allowed for the unimpeded flow of water around the bottom of the Earth.

Article and Image source: National Geographic



# 2021 Hurricane Season

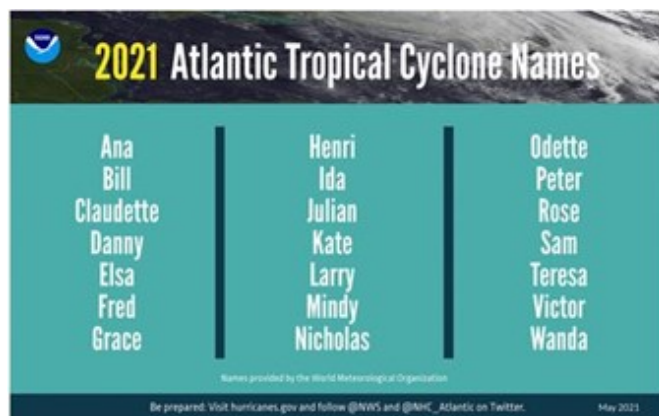
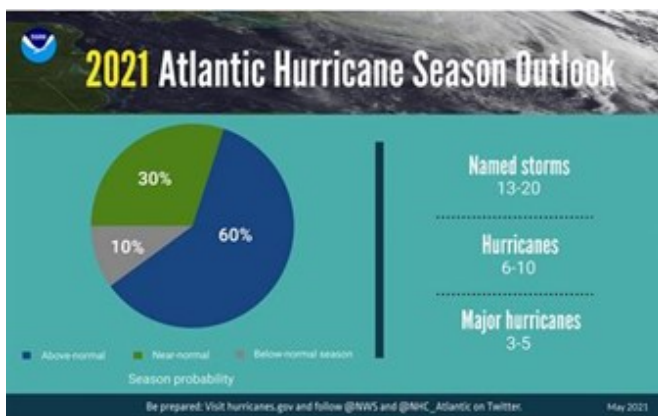
NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center is predicting another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. Forecasters predict a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season. However, experts do not anticipate the historic level of storm activity seen in 2020.

For 2021, a likely range of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which six to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including three to five major hurricanes (category three, four or five; with winds of 111 mph or higher) is expected.

NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence. The Atlantic hurricane season extends from June 1 through November 30.

NOAA updated the statistics used to determine when hurricane seasons are above-, near-, or below-average relative to the latest climate record. Based on this update an average hurricane season produces 14 named storms, of which seven become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes. to date, we have had four named storms, Ana which actually occurred in May before the official start of hurricane season on June 1, Bill, Claudette and Danny. The peak of the season is in mid September. Water temperature at Clearwater beach is 89 degrees.

“Now is the time for communities along the coastline as well as inland to get prepared for the dangers that hurricanes can bring,” said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. “The experts at NOAA are poised to deliver life-saving early warnings and forecasts to communities, which will also help minimize the economic impacts of storms.”



Named storms from NOAA are predictable with advanced warnings for preparation. However, Florida weather events can also be unpredictable in the form of tornadoes or water spouts. Last week, what was probably a small water spout, hit a marina in Palm Harbor. It caused more damage than previous named storms. A number of auxiliary members store their boats at the marina.

Be prepared for sudden weather events!



Photos by John Landon and Harvey Prior.

# Red Tide Update

## Red Tide Status Update for June 25, 2021

### Current Conditions

A patchy bloom of the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, persists on the Florida Gulf Coast. Over the past week, *K. brevis* was detected in 98 samples. Bloom concentrations (>100,000 cells/liter) were observed in 37 samples: one sample from Pasco County, nine samples from Pinellas County, 18 samples from Hillsborough County, eight samples from Manatee County, and one sample from Sarasota County. Additional details are provided below.

In Southwest Florida over the past week, *K. brevis* was observed at background to high concentrations in Pinellas County, very low to high concentrations in Hillsborough County, very low to medium concentrations in or offshore of Manatee County, background to medium concentrations in Sarasota County, background to low concentrations in Lee County, and very low concentrations in Collier County. For additional information, view the Southwest Coast report and map.

In Northwest Florida over the past week, *K. brevis* was observed at background concentrations in Bay County, and low to medium concentrations in Pasco County. For additional information, view the Northwest Coast report and map.

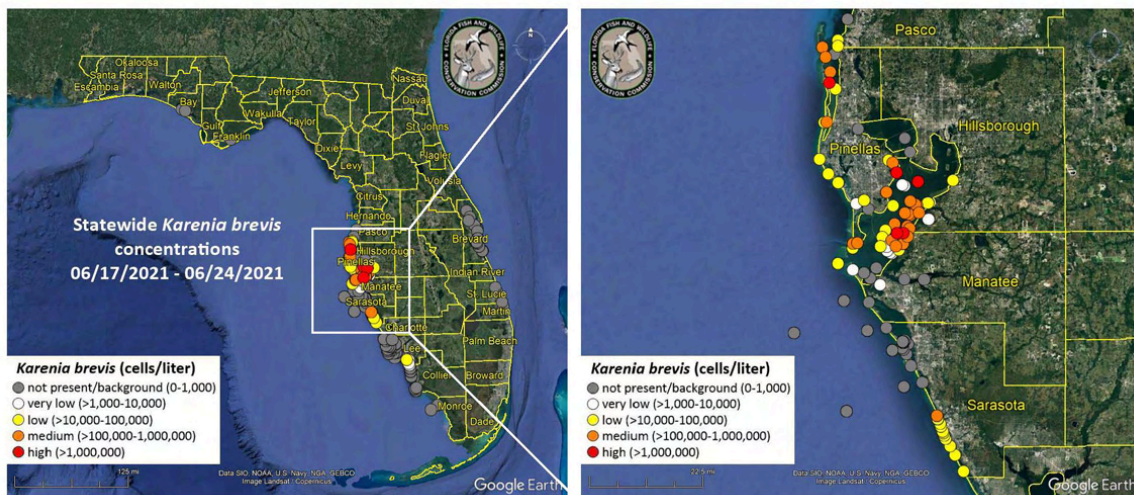
Along the Florida East Coast over the past week, *K. brevis* was not observed. For additional information, view the East Coast report and map.

### Fish Kills

In Northwest and Southwest Florida over the past week, fish kills suspected to be related to red tide were reported in Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough counties. For more details, please visit: <https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-hotline/>.

### Respiratory Irritation

Respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide was reported over the past week in Southwest Florida in Pinellas and Sarasota counties. Additional details are provided in the Southwest Coast report and for current information, please visit: <https://visitbeaches.org>.



## Happy Birthday to the Coast Guard Auxiliary!

Born out of Congressional authorization to create the Coast Guard's "Volunteer Reserve" force in 1939 and then further defined in U.S. Code in 1941, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and its talented and devoted uniformed volunteer workforce has supported Coast Guard missions along our nation's coasts and inland lakes and rivers. Auxiliary patrols are a welcome sight for mariners in distress.

Using their own boats and aircraft, Auxiliarists can be seen patrolling the waterways to offer vessel safety checks or flying above to assist active duty personnel in life saving search and rescue operations.

Despite COVID-19 limitations throughout most of 2020, the Coast Guard Auxiliary still saved 65 lives and \$5 million in property, along with administering almost 17 thousand vessel safety checks and log almost 2 million hours of activity in support of other Coast Guard missions.

Emulating the watchwords of Ready, Resourceful, and Resilient, the Coast Guard Auxiliary continues to evolve and become more integrated with the Coast Guard in new and innovative means.

Always ready to engage where needed most, highly trained Coast Guard Auxiliary Health Services members volunteered at Coast Guard clinics nationwide, at Training Center Cape May, and served on afloat deployments to provide invaluable medical assistance to active duty personnel.

Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel overcame COVID-19 restrictions and found ways to remain engaged and simultaneously social distanced. Examples of Auxiliarists flying medical supplies to remote locations or chaplains administering aid at heavily impacted Coast Guard units are truly emblematic of how committed the Coast Guard Auxiliary is to helping the nation and its citizens in times of need.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and its incredible volunteer workforce of is truly one of innovative augmentation of the Coast Guard.

We thank the many Auxiliary clergy, watercraft operators, pilots, medical staff, musicians, cyber security professionals and so many more outstanding professionals for their ongoing and invaluable assistance to the Coast Guard and its missions.

**Happy 82nd birthday to the Coast Guard Auxiliary!**

Article and photo source: [www.mycg.uscg.mil](http://www.mycg.uscg.mil)



# NACON and D-TRAIN Coming to Orlando



US Coast Guard Auxiliary  
National Convention  
NACON 2021  
August 16-22, 2021  
Rosen Centre  
Orlando , Florida

<https://www.cgauxa.org/nacon-2021.html>

Click on the links for more information.



D-TRAIN 2021  
WELCOME BACK !!  
US Coast Guard Auxiliary  
District 7 Board Meeting & Training  
September 22 - 26, 2021  
FLORIDA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA, 32809

<https://www.uscga-district-7.org/dtrain.html>

<b>ELECTED OFFICERS</b>	
<b>FC Flotilla Commander</b>	<b>Rob Bonnem</b>
<b>VFC Flotilla Vice Commander</b>	<b>Gordon Thomas</b>
<b>IPFC Immediate Past Flotilla Commander</b>	<b>Kristi Mackey</b>
<b>FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICERS</b>	
<b>FSO-CM Communications</b>	<b>Scott Birdwell</b>
<b>FSO-CS Communications Services</b>	<b>Walter P. Murray</b>
<b>FSO-DV Diversity</b>	<b>Rafael Caridad</b>
<b>FSO-FN Finance</b>	<b>Jimmy R. Ryder</b>
<b>FSO-HR Human Resources</b>	<b>Kristi Mackey</b>
<b>FSO-IS Information Services</b>	<b>Rafael Caridad</b>
<b>FSO-MA Materials</b>	<b>Charles Whitener</b>
<b>FSO-MS Marine Safety and Environmental Protection</b>	<b>Daniel Paolillo</b>
<b>FSO-MT Member Training</b>	<b>Harvey Prior</b>
<b>FSO-NS Navigation Systems</b>	<b>Doug Simpson</b>
<b>FSO-OP Operations</b>	<b>Keith Betzing</b>
<b>FSO-PV Partner Visitor</b>	<b>Rob Bonnem</b>
<b>FSO-PA Public Affairs</b>	<b>Teresa Hughes</b>
<b>FSO-PB Publications</b>	<b>Ron Shebanek</b>
<b>FSO-PE Public Education</b>	<b>Cono F. Casale</b>
<b>FSO-SR Secretary/Records</b>	<b>Allen Leimbach</b>
<b>FSO-VE Vessel Examination</b>	<b>Gordon Thomas</b>

## Upcoming Florida Boating and Fishing Sales Tax Holiday



# Freedom Week

## Sales Tax Holiday ★ July 1-7, 2021



### Fishing Supplies

- The first \$5 of the sales price of:
  - Bait or fishing tackle if sold individually (the first \$10 if sold as a set)
- The first \$30 of the sales price of:
  - Tackle boxes or bags
- The first \$75 of the sales price of:
  - Rods and reels if sold individually (the first \$150 if sold as a set)



### General Outdoor Supplies

- The first \$15 of the sales price of:
  - Sunscreen
  - Insect repellent
- The first \$30 of the sales price of:
  - Water bottles
- The first \$50 of the sales price of:
  - Hydration packs
  - Bicycle helmets
- The first \$100 of the sales price of:
  - Sunglasses
- The first \$200 of the sales price of:
  - Binoculars
- The first \$250 of the sales price of:
  - Outdoor gas or charcoal grills
  - Bicycles



### Camping Supplies

- The first \$30 of the sales price of:
  - Camping lanterns
  - Flashlights
- The first \$50 of the sales price of:
  - Sleeping bags
  - Portable hammocks
  - Camping stoves
  - Collapsible camping chairs
- The first \$200 of the sales price of:
  - Tents



### Admissions

- Private and membership clubs providing physical fitness facilities\*
- Musical theatre performances\*\*
- Live music events\*\*
- Live sporting events\*
- Movies\*
- Museum entry†
- State park entry†
- Festivals\*
- Cultural events\*
- Ballets\*\*
- Plays\*\*
- Fairs\*



### Boating and Water Activity Supplies

- The first \$25 of the sales price of:
  - Snorkels
  - Goggles
  - Swimming masks
- The first \$50 of the sales price of:
  - Safety flares
- The first \$75 of the sales price of:
  - Life jackets
  - Coolers
  - Paddles
  - Oars
- The first \$150 of the sales price of:
  - Water skis
  - Wakeboards
  - Kneeboards
  - Recreational inflatable water tubes or floats capable of being towed
- The first \$300 of the sales price of:
  - Paddleboards
  - Surfboards
- The first \$500 of the sales price of:
  - Canoes
  - Kayaks



### Sports



### Equipment

Any item used in individual or team sports, not including clothing or footwear, selling for \$40 or less

