



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup has Tons of Success

Stuart, FL – (August 18, 2009) — The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC) conducted its second Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup on Saturday, July 25, 2009. Thanks to sponsorship from the Florida Inland Navigation District, MIATC, along with more than 1,000 volunteers who came out and collected trash along the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties this summer.

Despite a muggy July morning, more than 1,000 volunteers and 300 boats collaborated to cover over 125 miles of waterways in the region. The cleanup extended to inlet dives at the Near Shore Reef in Indian River County, Sebastian and Ft. Pierce Inlets, conducted by Operation Blue Streak; and an offshore reef dive at Pecks Lake, conducted by the Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Authority in Martin County.

“We are very pleased with this year’s effort,” said Steve Haigis, President of the MIATC.

“Everyone came away from the event feeling we really made a difference. We made a BIG difference. As of today’s date, we have recorded 13.8 tons of trash and debris collected and disposed of; much of which was recycled. There were several reports of trapped fish and crabs, but unfortunately, all were reported deceased, tangled in monofilament and discarded cast nets.”

Overall 52 fishing nets were retrieved, along with literally miles of fishing line. Some of the more unusual items include 26 anchors retrieved from the dive teams, a bimini top, several pairs of underwear, an air conditioner, a deflated inflatable boat, a Big Wheel, several home made toilets, a solar panel, a mattress and box spring, a couple of dressers, a dozen bicycles, street barricades and a bath tub. Also noted was a large amount of plastic sheeting, tarps and tires. They also reported finding chairs, buckets and shoes (mostly single flip flops).

Volunteers and sponsors were recognized at a Bar-B-Que at the Ft. Pierce Yacht Club on Sunday, August 16th. "Everyone was anxious to hear the three county totals and we really want to show appreciation for their hard work", said Haigis. "This was a real success and we are already planning next year's cleanup which will take place on July 24th, 2010."

For more information regarding our sponsors, or to view photos, visit the web site at www.tcwaterwaycleanup.com . For more information please contact April Price, (772) 285-1646.

*The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (MIATC) is a not-for-profit trade association representing Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. MIATC is dedicated to the promotion of pleasure boating and its related industries. The Industry's economic impact in Florida--**\$18.4 billion annually**— more than citrus and the cruise ship industry combined. Its annual economic impact upon the Treasure Coast **is \$930 million providing approximately 7,600 jobs.***