



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tons of trash scored at the 12th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup

Stuart, FL (August 14, 2019) – Tons of trash, 5.1 tons to be exact were removed from the waterways and shorelines of the Treasure Coast this summer during the 12th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup, reports the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC). This year 1,050 volunteers came out to collect trash on the sultry July morning. The volunteers targeted 125 miles of waterways and approximately 15 miles of ocean front to collect trash “Since 2008, we have engaged more than 10,650 volunteers, who together have removed more than 87.2 tons of trash from the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties,” says Event Coordinator April Price. “We have an amazing group of business leaders & volunteers whose duties range from acquiring sponsorships, recruiting volunteers, running our check in sites (we had 30 locations this year). Our participants range from 18 months to 90+ years of age and come from all segments of our community.”

Although 5.1 tons of trash is way too much, this year there was a slight increase in the number of volunteers and a decreased amount of trash from 2018, when 5.11 tons was collected. “Our data is trending in the right direction,” says Price. “In the first 4 years we averaged 10.5 tons of trash collected by 700 volunteers. The following 4 years we averaged 8.6 tons of trash with 900 volunteers. Over the past 4 years we averaged only 5.2 tons with 1,000 volunteers. Our collection data also indicates a decrease in marine usage when we are dealing with poor water quality

conditions. Other community efforts regarding litter education reflect in our numbers too. For instance, we saw a significant decrease in straws and cigarette butts for the first time this year. Both forms of debris have received a lot of media attention over the last 12 months. Many of our trashy treasures are expected like bottles, cans and fishing line, but we find some crazy stuff too. This year we found items representing every major holiday, including an Easter egg with a \$1, a floating dock, boat decks, a duck decoy, meter box, balls from every major sport, hub caps and a machete. Thank you to all who assisted this year and to the Florida Inland Navigation District for providing the opportunity for this annual event.”

Next year’s event will be Saturday, July 25, 2020. For more information regarding our sponsors, or to view photos, visit www.tcwaterwaycleanup.com or contact April Price, (772) 285-1646.

The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (MIATC), is a not-for-profit trade association representing recreational marine businesses in Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River and Okeechobee counties. MIATC is dedicated to the promotion of pleasure boating and s related industries.