



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup continues to cleanup!**

Stuart, FL (August 12, 2022) - The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (aka MIATC) is happy to announce the results of its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup. The cleanup began on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> with self-reporting volunteers and concluded with big day on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year, 1181 volunteers contributed. Together they collected 3.90 tons of trash. With an additional 123 volunteers, we saw a slight increase of just 66 lbs (.03 tons) of trash from 2021.

Since 2008, MIATC has engaged more than 13,441 volunteers, who together have removed more than 99.25 tons of trash from the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. Our participants range from 18 months to 90+ years of age and come from all segments of our community.

“The trash collected tells its own story and trends are easily identified from year to year whether it be storm events, homelessness due to a housing crisis, algae blooms or a

pandemic,” says April Price, the cleanup organizer. “This year our volunteers repeatedly reported seeing less trash and smaller pieces. Most common was picnic trash including bottles, cans, cups, wrappers, and straws. I believe our golfing community may have seen a significant improvement in their game since we only collected 37 golf balls this year compared to 90 balls in 2021. We still collected 403 articles of clothing (407 in 2021) which included shoes, tops, bottoms, underwear, etc. Some of the more unusual items we found included 17’ boat intact up in the mangroves near Jimmy Graham Boat Ramp, a train wheel hub found in Sebastian and a pair of antlers found on Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County. Our strong community partnerships with the Florida Inland Navigation District, Martin County, the City of Stuart, City of Ft. Pierce, City of Pt. St. Lucie, Indian River County, City of Vero Beach, City of Sebastian, and many more make the event possible,” says Price. “Additionally, thank you to our business sponsors who supported this years’ effort.”

The Marine Industries Association (MIATC) looks forward to hosting its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup Week which will take place Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, with our “live” event on Saturday, July 22, 2023.” To our view results, photos, and supporters for the 2022 cleanup go to [www.TCWaterwayCleanup.com](http://www.TCWaterwayCleanup.com).

Here are how things broke down per county:

**Martin County**, 455 volunteers removed 1.48 tons of trash, this includes **The City of Stuart**, who had 83 people remove .83 tons and the **Peck Lake Reef Dive** who had 51 people work to remove .12 tons from our reefs and spoil islands in Martin County.

**St. Lucie County** had 538 volunteers remove 1.57 tons of trash. This includes **The City of Ft. Pierce** where 189 people removed .66 tons and **The City of Pt. St. Lucie** where 89 volunteers removed .51 tons.

**Indian River County**, where 188 volunteers contributed to the removal of .85 tons of trash. This includes **The City of Vero Beach** had 101 people remove .23 tons and **The City of Sebastian** who had 68 volunteers combine to remove .52 tons.

***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 its related industries.***