**Talking Points**

First and foremost, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Hans Wilson and I am representing The Southwest Florida Marine Industry Association.

**Anchoring and Mooring**

Marine Industries Association of Florida has had a busy summer attending several public hearings around the State of Florida on Anchoring and Mooring Issues.

As a brief reminder, during the 2014 Legislative Session, an amendment surfaced three times and was strongly opposed by Marine Industries Association of Florida and other boating groups. The amendment would have allowed local governments to pass their own ordinances relating to anchoring in state waters. We were successful last year in fending off this amendment three times and successfully supporting legislation to extend the anchoring and mooring pilot program for three more years. Martin County and Stuart are participants in this pilot program. MIAF supported extending the program.

Unfortunately, just because we were able to extend the pilot does not mean we are safe for three more years. Legislation could be introduced again this year to change the law and we anticipate this issue to resurface during the 2015 Legislative Session.

FWC has held four days of public hearings on the issue. They held two days of hearings in Tallahassee on July 21 and 22. They also held a public hearing September 3rd in Vero Beach and September 4th in Bradenton. The meetings in Vero and Bradenton were for the general public to give their thoughts on anchoring restrictions in Florida. Marine Industries has actively participated in all of these meetings.

Presently, FWC just completed an online survey on this issue. It has been very time consuming ,and as of today, MIAF opposes allowing local governments to adopt their own ordinances for anchoring and mooring.

The waters of this state are not like our roads. We do not have markers to let us know what jurisdiction we have crossed in. If each county and city are allowed to adopt an ordinance this will become very confusing and counterproductive to the economic impact boating has in Florida. Cruisers will not come down as we will be perceived as an unfriendly state for boating. Additional signage to properly notify boaters could potentially become a navigational hazard in itself. I could go on and on about this issue, but would be happy to meet with you individually and discuss this issue in detail.

We are working closely with other boating groups and organizations on this important issue. As always MIAF is willing to sit at a table and negotiate a compromise. We will keep you posted on the progress of this issue.

**Other Issues**

Another issue of concern, would be the rumblings that occurred during the interim with regard to boating safety/boater licensure. We are waiting and watching this issue closely as it could very possibly be a big issue this year. Marine Industries Association of Florida opposes a license for boaters.

All Aboard Florida has become a very big issue for many in the marine industry. Boaters continue to be concerned about bridges and navigational delays. Many MIAs are following and participating in that process. MIATC has been very active and vocal on this issue.

Finally, MIAF is closely monitoring the implementation of Amendment 1 that passed this past election. We are hopeful as you meet, discuss and debate the appropriate way to implement that Constitutional Amendment that boating and specifically boating access will be considered. We are open to the dialogue and would like derelict vessels removal, open to the public boat ramps, and mooring fields, etc to be included in that discussion.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. As always we appreciate your time and your service.