



AGENCIES CONTACTS



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Ft. Myers District
Dispatch #
(888) 404-3922



Charlotte County
Sheriff's Office
East County
(941) 628-2615
West County
(941) 474-3233



Charlotte County
Community Services
Park & Natural Resources
(941) 613-3220



West Coast Inland
Navigational District
(941) 485-9402



Sunken Houseboat behind Cayo Pelau, R. DeBruler

OWNER'S/OPERATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

•**Vessel Registration:** All vessels on the waters of the state must be registered. F.S. 328.48(2) A Vessel must be in good working order, capable of moving and navigating under its own power (motor or wind)

•**Boating Safety Equipment:** All vessels on the waters of this state shall carry, store, maintain and use safety equipment in accordance with the current USCG requirements. F.S. 327.50(1)(a)

•**Marine Sanitation:** Every vessel 26 feet or more with enclosed cabin, or houseboat, or floating structure with enclosed living space shall install and maintain a toilet with storage capability as to prohibit discharge of raw sewage into the waters of the state. F.S. 327.53(1)(2)(3)(4)

•**Mooring:** All vessels are to be moored in a way as to maintain the submerged lands in its natural condition. F.S. 253.037(1) A mooring light is required in accordance with the current USCG.

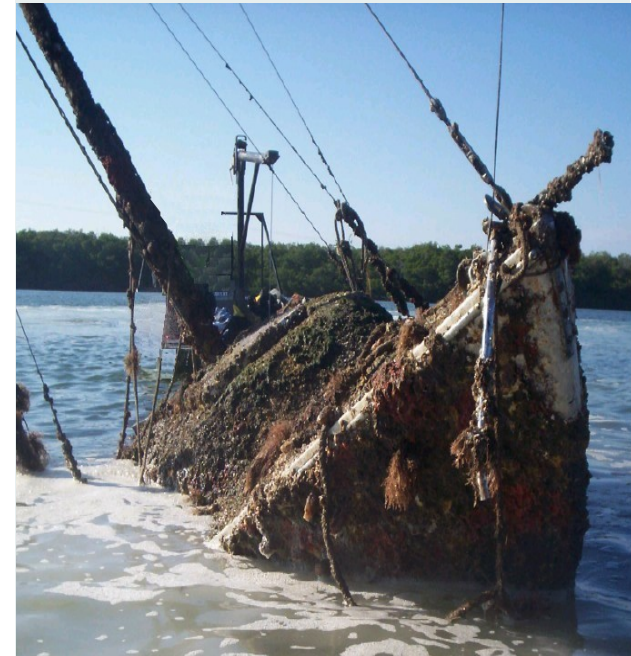
•**Litter Law:** Dumping litter (whether accidental or intentional) is prohibited. F.S. 403.413(4)(b)(6)



Charlotte County
Parks & Natural Resources
1120 Centennial Blvd
Port Charlotte, FL 33953
Phone : 941.613.3220
Www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Distributed by Charlotte County Government: 2022

Abandoned Vessel Program



Sunken sailboat, Steven Lee



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Parks & Natural Resources



Sunken power boat in Chadwick Bay, M. Christie



PROGRAM HISTORY

Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment in 2007; revised in 2015, section 3-9-76.1 of the Charlotte County Code of Ordinances concerning the discovery and disposition of vessels that are abandoned, derelict, a hazard to navigation, or a health hazard to the public. This code change allowed the County to assist in the removal of abandoned vessels under Florida Statute 705.103(2)(b).

Charlotte County with the help of Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Marine Division, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Department of Law Enforcement, and the Punta Gorda Police Department's Marine Section patrols to keep Charlotte County Waterways open and clear for all to enjoy.

For more information visit the County's website at www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

WHAT IS A DERELICT OR ABANDONED BOAT

"Derelict vessel" means any vessel, as defined in F.S. 327.02, that is left, stored, or abandoned in a wrecked, junked, or substantially dismantled condition upon any public waters of the state, F.S. 823.11 (1a)

"Abandoned vessel" means any vessel that meets the above and not having a identifiable owner and has no apparent intrinsic value to the owner, F.S. 705.101(3)

"At-Risk" means any vessel unable to dewater itself, open hatches, broken loose of its anchor, and no effective means of propulsion. F.S. 327.4107



REPORT AN ABANDONED VESSEL

If you encounter a boat that cannot function under its own power or appears to have been abandoned on or under the water, please let us know by calling Natural Resources or the Sheriff's Non-emergency number at 941.639.2101. Providing these details will help to start the investigation:

- Vessel description (type, size, make)
- Vessel location (address, GPS)
- Registration numbers or vessel name
- Pictures
- Why you believe it is abandoned (an ugly boat is not necessarily abandoned)
- Your contact information



PROTECTING YOURSELF

If you move or sell or donate a vessel to another party, and the change is not recorded to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), you may be held responsible for all damages and costs for the removal of the vessel, if it is later found abandoned or derelict F.S. 705.103 & 823.11 Remember that the transfer of ownership will not occur until the purchaser files for the new title with the DHSMV.

Florida Law requires the seller to notify Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) about the transaction within 30 days of the sale. F. S. 319.22(2a) 2 (b). **Don't rely on the new purchaser to do the right thing.** You can find the DHSMV 82050 form at the following website:

www.flhsmv.gov/resources/forms/

Click on 82050 form. Both the Seller and Buyer must sign the form. The seller must then submit the form to the Local Tax Collector's Office and keep a copy for your records.



Abandoned sailboat in Charlotte Harbor, CCSO R. Jernigan