

BE A GOOD BOATER, DON'T LEAVE A FLOATER!

Why is sewage harmful?

[Learn About Aquatic Trash | US EPA](#)

[Ocean pollution and marine debris | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

What's impacting our area specifically?

[Environment and Water Quality](#)

[Issues | Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#)

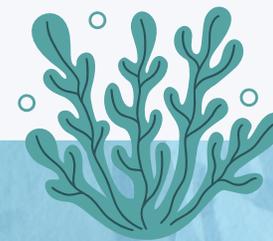
Pumpout Nav: An app developed to identify the closest sewage pumpouts, dumpstations, and floating restrooms, very helpful for boaters and can help prevent the discussed negative impacts on our waterways. You can read more about the app [here](#). Download the app on [IOS](#) or [Android](#).

Did you know that Florida's state waters extend 9 nautical miles out to sea, not the typical 3? You can read more about it [here](#). What this means for boaters is that it is illegal to discharge sewage through this 9 nautical mile mark.

Here's some other relevant information:

[On the Water | Marine Debris Program](#)

[Clearwater boaters can dispose of expired flares for free](#)



BE A GOOD FELLER, MIND YOUR PROPELLER!

What is seagrass scarring, also known as prop scarring?

Seagrass scarring is the damage caused by boats, usually the hulls or propellers, in shallow waters when they come into contact with seagrass.

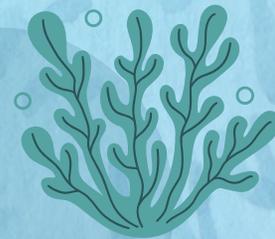
Why is seagrass important?

[Learn About Seagrass](#)

[Seagrass and Seagrass Beds | Smithsonian Ocean](#)

[Florida Seagrasses | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)

You can look into Florida Sea Grant's **Be Seagrass Safe** campaign [here](#). They provide simple steps to avoid seagrass scarring, more information on the issue, and you can even take their pledge.



HAZARDOUS WASTE LEAVES A BAD TASTE!

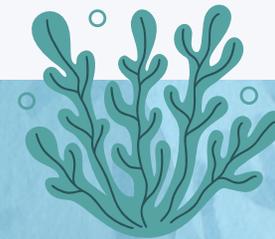
Why is fuel and oil harmful for the water?

[Oil spills | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

What are some solutions to fuel spills?

- [Fuel Spill Prevention : BoatUS Foundation](#)
- [Fuel Spill Prevention Products : BoatUS Foundation](#)
- [Clean Fueling Practices](#)
- Fuel bibs, which prevent fuel leaks by absorbing fuel that spills before it reaches the water. A lot of kits for boaters will include these.
- Boat maintenance, which can help to prevent accidental spills. It also has benefits economically and from a safety standpoint, and you can read more about boat maintenance [here](#).

For disposing of trash, make sure to refrain from littering both in the water and on land. If you have waste to dispose of, many marinas take small amounts of waste for disposal, or just use a trash can. For finding bin locations for fishing line recycling, you can use [this website](#).



LET THEM THRIVE, KEEP WILDLIFE ALIVE!

What are some ways you can help protect marine animals?

[Boating with Respect: Ensuring Marine Animals' Safety | ATHT](#)

[What You Can Do When Viewing Marine Life | NOAA Fisheries](#)

[Return 'Em Right](#) campaign aims to increase survival of reef fish that are caught and released in the Gulf

Are there other benefits to polarized sunglasses?

[Why Polarized Sunglasses Are a Game-Changer on the Water! | Peace River Charters](#)

[Benefits of Using Polarized Sunglasses for Fishing | In The Spread](#)

Why should you follow speed limits on the water?

[Why We Should Obey Speed Limits on the Water - Gerry's Marina](#)

If you're new to boating and don't know what different speed warning signs mean, click [here](#).

Here's some additional, relevant links on boating and speeding regulations:

<https://www.jupiterpointe.com/news/florida-boating-laws-safety-2025>

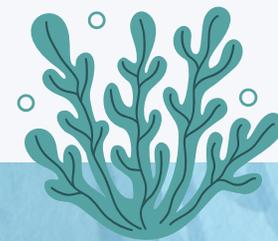
<https://myfwc.com/boating/regulations/>

Here in Florida, **manatees** are often a hot topic of discussion. You can read more about them and their status as threatened species here:

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/manatee/>

<https://www.fws.gov/species/manatee-trichechus-manatus>

<https://www.ecowatch.com/florida-manatee-protections-endangered.html>



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