



# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **It's Time for the 2nd Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup**

**Stuart, FL – (July 11, 2009)** — Calling all boaters young and old. We are seeking volunteers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup on Saturday, July 25, 2009. Thanks to sponsorship from the Florida Inland Navigation District, MIATC will conduct this event along the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties.

The cleanup begins at 8:00am and continues until 12:30pm. All volunteers receive an event t-shirt and a burgee to display on their vessel during the cleanup. We are currently signing up teams and individuals to clean the areas of their choice. If you choose, you can register the day of the event. Don't have a boat? We can use all you land lubbers too. There is plenty of shore line to work.

"New this year, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will be mapping the trash that we collect during the cleanup. All those with the capability to give GPS coordinates for the area they clean, will be asked to provide that information on their data collection cards," says Steve Haigis, MIATC's president. "This will help us to educate boaters and create awareness about the importance of protecting our boating habitat. We invite all boaters and non boaters to be part of this historic effort," says Haigis.

Martin County sites are the Jensen Beach Causeway Boat Ramp, Stuart Causeway Boat Ramp, Sandsprit Park Boat Ramp, Jim Graham Boat Ramp, St. Lucie Marine, Pendarvis Park, River Forest Yachting Center, Leighton Park Boat Ramp and the new Jensen Beach Boat Ramp on Indian River Drive. St. Lucie County sites include Rivergate Veteran's Park Boat Ramp in Pt. St Lucie, The Manatee Center Boat Ramp, Ft. Pierce Yacht Club, Harbortown Marina, Stan Blum Boat Ramp, South Causeway Island Boat Ramp and the Pelican Yacht Club. Indian River County sites will include the Riverside Park Boat Ramp, Vero Beach Municipal Marina, Loggerhead Marina at Grand Harbor, Captain Forsters Park Dock on Jungle Trail, the Sebastian Main Street Boat Ramp and Sebastian Inlet Marina. These sites all have the capability to register boats on the day of the cleanup.

In conjunction with this year's cleanup we will be conducting four area underwater dive cleanups. The Indian River County cleanups will take place on July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Sebastian Inlet and the Near Shore Reef. On July 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a dive at the Ft. Pierce Inlet in St. Lucie County and Peck's Lake Reef in Martin County.

So mark your calendars and join us on July 25<sup>th</sup>, to be part of this community effort. Registration forms and dive cleanup information are available on our web site at [www.tewaterwaycleanup.com](http://www.tewaterwaycleanup.com). For more information please contact April Price (772) 285-1646.

*The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (MIATC) is a not-for-profit trade association representing Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. MIATC is dedicated to the promotion of pleasure boating and its related industries. The Industry's economic impact in Florida--**\$18.4 billion annually**— more than citrus and the cruise ship industry combined. Its annual economic impact upon the Treasure Coast **is \$930 million providing approximately 7,600 jobs.***