

# MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, INC.



2025  
ANNUAL REPORT



### AUSTIN BURKETT, Board President

As board president of the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County (MIAPBC), I am proud to reflect on another year of meaningful growth, strong engagement, and continued success for our industry. The momentum we are building together is a testament to the dedication of our members, volunteers, sponsors, and staff who believe deeply in the strength and future of Palm Beach County's marine community.

The continued success of the Palm Beach International Boat Show remains a cornerstone of our Association's impact. Each year, the show not only showcases the very best of the marine industry but also reinforces Palm Beach County's reputation as a premier destination for boating and

yachting. Its success fuels our advocacy, community initiatives, and member programming throughout the year.

We have also seen encouraging growth in member attendance at events, reflecting a renewed energy and commitment to connection within our industry. Our networking gatherings, educational programs, and signature events are bringing more members together than ever before. At the same time, our social media engagement continues to grow and evolve, expanding our reach and strengthening how we communicate the value and vitality of the marine sector to a broader audience.

On a personal note, 2025 was especially meaningful for my family as we welcomed another son. Becoming a father again has reinforced my appreciation for community, legacy, and the responsibility we share in building a strong future; principles that closely mirror the mission of this Association.

Thank you to our members for your continued trust and involvement. Together, we are not only supporting today's marine businesses, we are shaping the future of our industry here in Palm Beach County.



### ALYSSA FREEMAN, Executive Director

As we reflect on another successful year for the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County (MIAPBC), I am filled with pride and gratitude for the strength, resilience, and generosity of our members. Together, we continue to elevate the marine industry as one of the leading economic drivers in Palm Beach County, while strengthening the communities that support our work.

This past year, we kept the momentum going with the Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back grant program, awarding another \$500,000 to 29 local nonprofits. Seeing the direct impact of our industry's success translate into meaningful community investment is a

powerful reminder of who we are and what we stand for. Our collective commitment to giving back reflects the heart of the Association and the values of the marine community.

Personally, I became more engaged on the legislative front, working closely with our Association's lobbyists in Tallahassee and building stronger relationships with our local and state elected officials. Advocacy is essential to protecting and advancing our industry, and strengthening those connections ensures that the voice of Palm Beach County's marine businesses and boaters is heard clearly and effectively at every level of government.

Looking ahead, the Association remains focused on growing our business membership and continuing to raise awareness of the marine industry's vital role in our local economy. We will remain steadfast in our advocacy efforts and proactive in creating opportunities that help our members succeed.

On behalf of the entire team at the MIAPBC, we are incredibly grateful for our members. Thank you for supporting this organization as we support your businesses and the marine industry here in Palm Beach County. Together, we will continue to move forward with purpose, partnership, and pride.

# MEMBERSHIP

In 2025, overall membership increased with the largest spike in business memberships at almost 4 percent. We set a goal to have 500 members by the end of 2025 and the goal was achieved! Another new addition to membership was the Admiral Membership introduced toward the end of the year, which we plan to focus on growing in 2026.

## 2025

269 business members +  
232 boaters  
501 total



Farewell Summer

## 2024

259 business members +  
235 boaters  
494 total



Member Picnic

## 2023

257 business members +  
229 boaters  
486 total



World Oceans Day



International Coastal Cleanup

The MIAPBC will continue to plan quality events for members, including complimentary and reduced-price Palm Beach International Boat Show tickets.



## MIAPBC 2025 Events

- **January:** Annual Member Awards Dinner
- **March:** Palm Beach International Boat Show/Kickoff Party/Leadership Luncheon
- **April:** Volunteer Appreciation Sunset Cruise
- **May:** Member Picnic and Palm Beach Tuna Tournament
- **June:** World Oceans Day Marine Mingle
- **July:** Women on the Water with MarineMax
- **August:** Farewell Summer Marine Mingle
- **September:** International Coastal Cleanup
- **November:** Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade Kickoff Party
- **December:** Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade VIP Viewing Party



Volunteer Appreciation Sunset Cruise



Palm Beach International Boat Show Kickoff Party

All Boater Members were eligible for an extra **\$1,000 prize** in three fishing tournaments this year.



Big Dog Fat Cat KDW



ChaseN'Tailz KDW



Palm Beach Tuna Tournament



Annual Member Awards

### Congratulations to the Member Award Recipients for 2025 (recognized in a January 2026 ceremony):

**Environmental Steward of the Year:**  
Greg Reynolds, LagoonKeepers

**Lifetime Achievement Award:**  
John Sprague

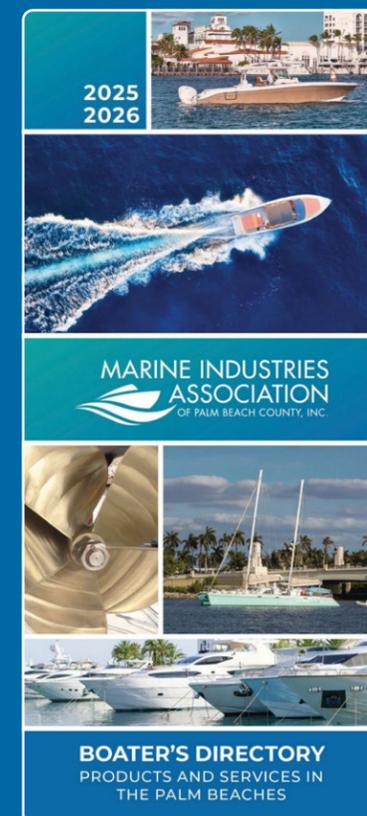
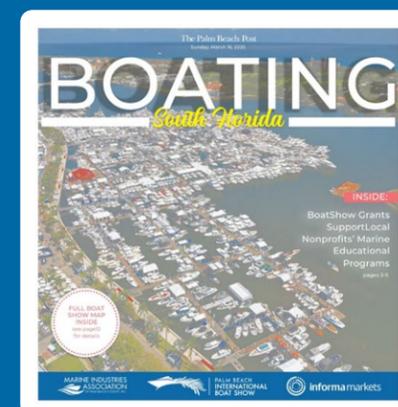
**Marine Advocate:**  
Stephen Spencer, Palm Beach State College

**Marine Business of the Year:**  
Blue Heron Fleet

**Marty Murphy Sr. Member of the Year:**  
MacKenzie McGuckin, Loggerhead Marina PBG

## MARKETING & ADVERTISING

- **Radio Campaigns:** 3 (featured on all local stations promoting boating safety: Memorial Day Weekend, July 4, and Labor Day Weekend).
- **Boater's Directory:** All members receive a free directory listing with option to purchase an ad. Printed copies are available at select member locations, included in local fishing tournament buckets, mailed to all members, and distributed at the Palm Beach International Boat Show.
- **Boating South Florida:** *The Palm Beach Post* insert for the Palm Beach International Boat Show that publishes in print and online the Sunday before the boat show. Members have access to deeply discounted advertising.



59

Email Blasts



1K

Social Media Posts



21.2K

Social Media Followers

1.3M

Social Media Views

394.5K

Social Media Reach



12

Newsletters

# SIGNATURE EVENTS



Palm Beach International Boat Show Ribbon-Cutting



Palm Beach International Boat Show Kickoff Party

The 2025 **Palm Beach International Boat Show (PBIBS)** welcomed more than 60,000 visitors to West Palm Beach from March 19 to March 23, marking its first-ever, five-day format and delivering one of the most successful shows in its history. With ideal weather throughout the week, the expanded schedule drove exceptional, economic activity across Palm Beach County, benefiting local hotels, restaurants, marinas, retailers, and small businesses. The show featured more than 600 exhibiting brands and over 1,000 boats on display – the largest showcase to date – further elevating Palm Beach County’s reputation as a premier global yachting destination. Hotel occupancy reached 89.1% countywide, with the downtown West Palm Beach and Palm Beach International Airport areas reaching 95.1%, reflecting significant year-over-year growth. As a long-standing economic engine with a historical regional impact exceeding \$1.05 billion, the PBIBS continues to reinforce its role as a cornerstone of Florida’s tourism and marine sectors, while attracting record international participation and industry engagement.

Beyond its powerful economic impact, the 2025 Palm Beach International Boat Show continues to make a meaningful difference through its Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back grant program. In February, grant recipients were recognized during a special awards ceremony



Palm Beach International Boat Show Leadership Luncheon



Palm Beach International Boat Show Volunteers

celebrating organizations that are shaping the future of the marine industry. A total of \$500,000 was distributed to support marine-focused initiatives centered on education, workforce development, environmental stewardship, and youth engagement. These grants fund local nonprofits, scholarship opportunities, and hands-on training programs that cultivate the next generation of marine professionals and boating enthusiasts. By reinvesting proceeds directly into Palm Beach County, the PBIBS not only elevates its standing as a premier global event, but also reinforces its commitment as a philanthropic partner dedicated to strengthening, sustaining, and advancing the marine industry for years to come.

The 31st annual **Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade and Toy Drive** brought dazzling holiday spirit on Saturday, December 6, 2025, to the Intracoastal Waterway, as dozens of festively decorated boats cruised from North Palm Beach to the iconic Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. Presented by Lessing’s Hospitality Group, the event combined community celebration with charitable impact, collecting an impressive 16,000 toys for Little Smiles and Toys for Tots to support local children. Participants showcased extraordinary creativity with themes ranging from The Grinch and Santa Claus to vibrant marine life displays, and competed for more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes, with local leaders as judges. Additional recognition was awarded through the public voting in the “Fan Favorite” category. The beloved vessel *Nauti Kitty* captured “Best of Parade,” while standout winners were chosen across multiple categories, including corporate, rookie, and size divisions. The public’s enthusiastic participation highlighted the continued growth, community engagement, and festive excellence that define this cherished Palm Beach County tradition.



Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Grant Recipients



Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade WPBF Live Broadcast with Alyssa Freeman and Felicia Rodriguez



Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade Marine Toys for Tots Foundation



Palm Beach Holiday Boat Parade Winner – *Nauti Kitty*

# FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Thanks to another successful boat show, the MIAPBC is in good financial standing with healthy savings going into 2026.



Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Grant Recipient - Center for Creative Education



Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Grant Recipient - Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park



Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Grant Recipient - Delray Beach Library



Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Grant Recipient - Center for Creative Education

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Bringing Awareness to the Marine Business Community in Palm Beach County

### Community Partners 2025:

- Business Development Board of Palm Beach County
- CareerSource Palm Beach County
- Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
- Discover The Palm Beaches
- Forum Club of the Palm Beaches
- Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)
- Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast
- Leadership Palm Beach County
- Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Palm Beach County Film Commission
- Palm Beach County League of Cities
- Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce
- Palm Beach State College



Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Grant Recipient - Junior Achievement



Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Grant Recipient - PACE Center for Girls



2025: **\$95,100** donated to **22 organizations and events** (not including the grant program funding).

# ADVOCACY

The Association has maintained its annual contracts with two Tallahassee-based lobbying firms: Timmins Consulting and Corcoran Partners.

## Here is a 2025 Florida Legislative Session recap:

- **Boating Safety Bill:** HB 289 named “Lucy’s Law” passed Legislative Session. The bill was approved by the Governor. (Chapter Law 2025-197)
- **Anchoring Bills with Port Provision:** SB 594 by Rodriguez and HB 795 by LaMarca were known as the seaport anchoring bills. The bills were amended but ultimately did not pass Legislative Session. The bill would have impacted seaports in Palm Beach, Panama City, Tampa, and Fort Pierce.
- **Vessel Accountability:** SB 164 by Rodriguez and Basabe passed Legislative Session. The MIAPBC supported this legislation and waived in support of the bill. The bill was approved by the Governor. (Chapter Law 2025-147)
- **Driving and Boating Under the Influence – Trenton’s Law:** HB 687 by Kendall passed Legislative Session. This bill enhances penalties for BUI manslaughter and vessel homicide. The bill was approved by the Governor. (Chapter Law 2025-121)
- **Anchoring:** HB 481 regarding Anchoring Limitation Areas passed the House and Senate. The bill allows local governments with a 1.5 million population or more to allow the county and municipalities to create anchoring limitation areas that would restrict vessels from anchoring more than 30 days within any six-month period. The MIAPBC opposed this bill. The bill was signed by the Governor. (Chapter Law 2025-39)
- **Boater Freedom:** SB 1388 relating to Boater Freedom passed the Senate and the House and was signed at a bill-signing ceremony in Panama City, Florida. The bill prevents boats from being checked without probable cause and directs the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to develop a 5-year safety decal. The MIAPBC supported this bill in committees. The bill became effective July 1, 2025. (Chapter Law 2025-35)
- **Water Access Facilities:** HB 735 relating to Water Access Facilities passed and has been signed by the Governor. The bill provides a Clean Marine Manufacturer designation and adds parking for boat ramps to competitive grant programs. This bill was supported by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). (Chapter Law 2025-41)



Marine Industries Day in Tallahassee

- **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:** HB 1133 relating to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) passed the House and the Senate. The bill was vetoed by the Governor. The bill reconfigured the FWC into five regions within the state and members must reside full time in their region. The bill also provided for two at-large seats on the Commission to represent the state.

- ✓ The MIAPBC will continue to push for more on-the-water law enforcement and to monitor and work on legislation that affects boating and your marine-related businesses.
- ✓ The MIAPBC supports the building of mooring fields and additional boat ramps to support the growing demand for boating infrastructure. We also encourage repairing existing boat ramps to meet the increased need to access our public waterways.
- ✓ The MIAPBC supports boating safety education as presently required by Florida law. We support individuals who receive a moving violation in a vessel to be required to take a boating safety course.
- ✓ The MIAPBC supports the creation of a map of state waters showing all no anchoring areas, slow speed zones, manatee zones, no wake zones, and all limitations on the water regarding boating.
- ✓ The MIAPBC worked with the Town of Palm Beach Shores to successfully obtain a \$1 million appropriation request for the dredging of the channel that runs north and southeast of Peanut Island, as well as along the marinas in Palm Beach Shores. Construction started and was completed in 2025.
- ✓ The MIAPBC attended and sponsored a Marine Industries Association of Florida (MIAF) legislative conference with other MIAs during the 2025 session in Tallahassee, which included a full day spent meeting with various Florida legislators. Another MIAF conference was sponsored and attended in September in St. Petersburg.
- ✓ The MIAPBC will continue to support local, state, and federal elected officials and candidates who promote and protect the marine industry.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Austin Burkett, President**

E. J. Schrader Mattress Company, Inc.

**Tamra FitzGerald, Vice President**

Venue Marketing Group

**Raymond Graziotto, Secretary**

Seven Kings Holdings

**Janet Zimmerman, Treasurer**

Florida Inland Navigation District

**Ryan Daniello**

Barnacle Busters

**Mallory Doremus**

Palmdale Oil Company

**Tino Garcia**

Ferreira Construction Company, Inc.

**George Gentile**

G2HO

**Rick Kozell**

Law Office of Rick Kozell

**Martin Murphy Jr.**

JAMCO, Inc.

**Doug West**

Alliance Marine



## STAFF

**Alyssa Freeman**

Executive Director

**Paola Pineros**

Marketing and Membership Manager

**Stephanie Button**

Administrative Manager

**Rena Blades**

Palm Beach International Boat Show Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs

- **Purpose:** The voice of Palm Beach County's boating community.
- **Vision:** Providing excellence through advocacy, education, and promotion.
- **Mission:** The MIAPBC is a not-for-profit organization created to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in Palm Beach County for the benefit and education of its members, the community, and the environment.