Press Release (#166-26) | **CITY OF MARATHON**
9805 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida 33050
305-743-0033

For Immediate Release:



Boats on the hook at Boot Key Harbor.

FWC to provide long-term anchorage permits

MARATHON, FL (Nov. 10, 2026) – Earlier this year, Florida enacted new rules regarding long-term anchoring of vessels in state waters, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is taking an active role in enforcement of those laws.

One of the main components of the laws states boaters whose vessels are anchored in one area for 14 days or more within a 30-day period must obtain a state permit. Additionally, cities and counties can employ code officers to enforce the permit requirement and write citations, following approval from the FWC.

State law established a 90-day anchoring limit within 10 nautical miles of mooring fields and designated anchoring areas in Monroe County.

Vessels in local waters will be directly affected by the new rules, according to Marathon Ports Director Sean Cannon.

Boats in the designated anchorage area within Boot Key Harbor will be required to move every 90 days, according to FWC Lt. Brian Sapp, and boats in the newly marked designated anchorage west of Boot Key in the open water will be required to move as well.

Cannon said boaters are acquiring long-term anchoring permits, which are available online at https://myfwc.com/boating/lt-anchoring-permit/.

However, “permitted” boats that are not in a designated anchorage and are within 10 linear miles of a public mooring field or designated anchoring area will also be required to move every 90 days.

Sapp also said the no-anchor zone of 300 feet outside the perimeter of a mooring field will be enforced.

Vessels in Sister’s Creek, which is well within 10 linear miles of a mooring field, will also need to move every 90 days.

Cannon said boaters who want a mooring ball should bring their vessel to the City Marina – under its own power – for inspection.

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The city's mooring field occupies most of Boot Key Harbor, north and east of the main Harbor channel. It consists of 226 permanently attached, engineered mooring systems that provide secure holding for vessels up to 60 feet in length.



Boot Key Harbor, facing east.

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