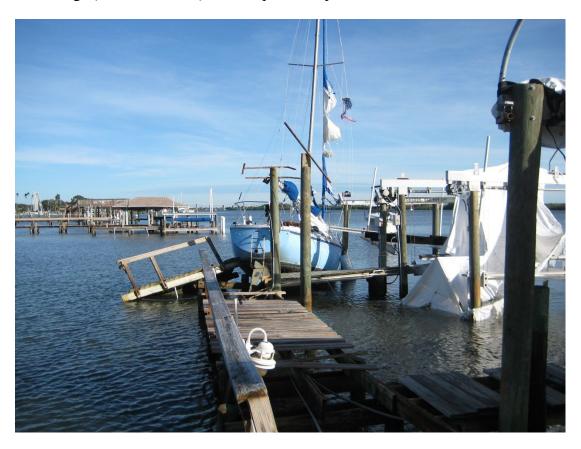
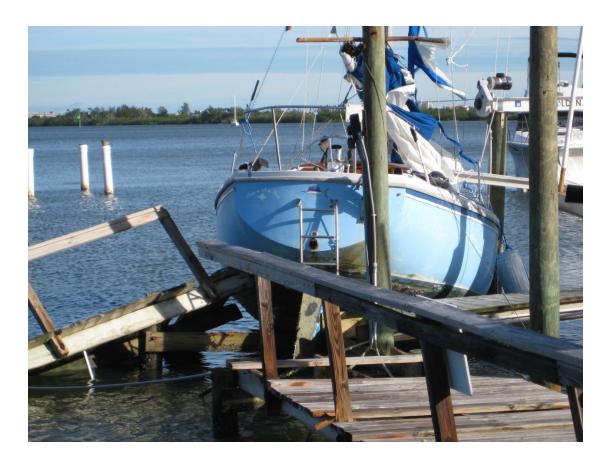
An Interview with a Victim of Derelict Boats

We interviewed a dock owner that was impacted because of the derelict boats that remain in our city waterways. This person was a dock owner who in 2016 and right after the hurricanes found a rather large (30 feet or better) sailboat perched up on the end of his dock.



This sailboat had lodged its rudder into the dock, taking out railings and cross members, as seen below:



The registration on the vessel was several years expired and the dock owner contacted local Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (*FWC*) law enforcement officers in an attempt to find the owner. *FWC* refused, on privacy grounds, to disclose the owner and refused any assistance in removal of the boat. In essence said it was the dock owner's problem.

The officer did provide the following background on the boat. They have ticketed several times for expired registration. and they were that the owner had passed away a couple of years before, with the boat subsequently inherited and transferred to his sister or cousin, who promptly sold it to another party in another state.

So the NSB resident and dock owner was left with an abandoned boat lodged on his dock with no removal assistance from the State despite the fact they had known for quite some time the problems with the boat and that it was essentially abandoned.

The dock owner told us he inspected the interior of the boat and found that the heads had been removed from the engine making it inoperable and the boat batteries were fully discharged and dead. Obviously this could be a potential sinking problem as the boat's bilge pumps were no longer operable. There was no registration documentation on the boat; in fact there were no papers of any kind such as insurance or prior registrations. The interior of the boat was a shamble. It was truly abandoned and thus a derelict.

The dock owner was forced, using chain saws, to cut away a significant portion of the dock under the boat's rudder and using his own boat, was finally able to tow it away from the dock. The boat was double anchored back out in the river and never seen again.

The other boat in both pictures was also a moored boat that had broken free but its anchor had taken hold before hitting the dock owner's dock. It was retrieved several days later by the owner.

This is a prime example of why it is imperative that any and all derelict boats be removed from the waterway regardless of cost. Given the battery situation in this boat, it could have sunk if it took on a lot of water.

Last Edited 032623