

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Senator Rodriguez, Chair
Senator Ingoglia, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
PLACE: *Toni Jennings Committee Room*, 110 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Rodriguez, Chair; Senator Ingoglia, Vice Chair; Senators Arrington, Avila, Brodeur, DiCeglie, Harrell, Polsky, and Smith

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on Derelict Vessels, Enforcement Challenges, and the Long Term Vessel Storage Study.	Presented	
2	Other Related Meeting Documents		

Derelict Vessels

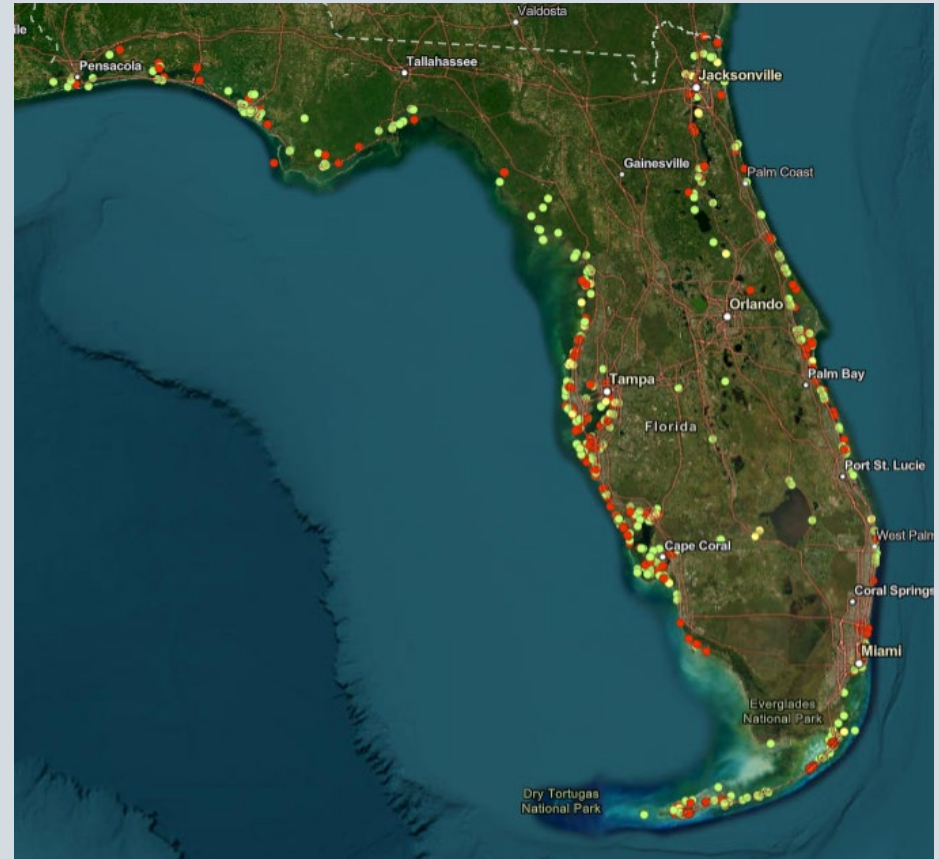


Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

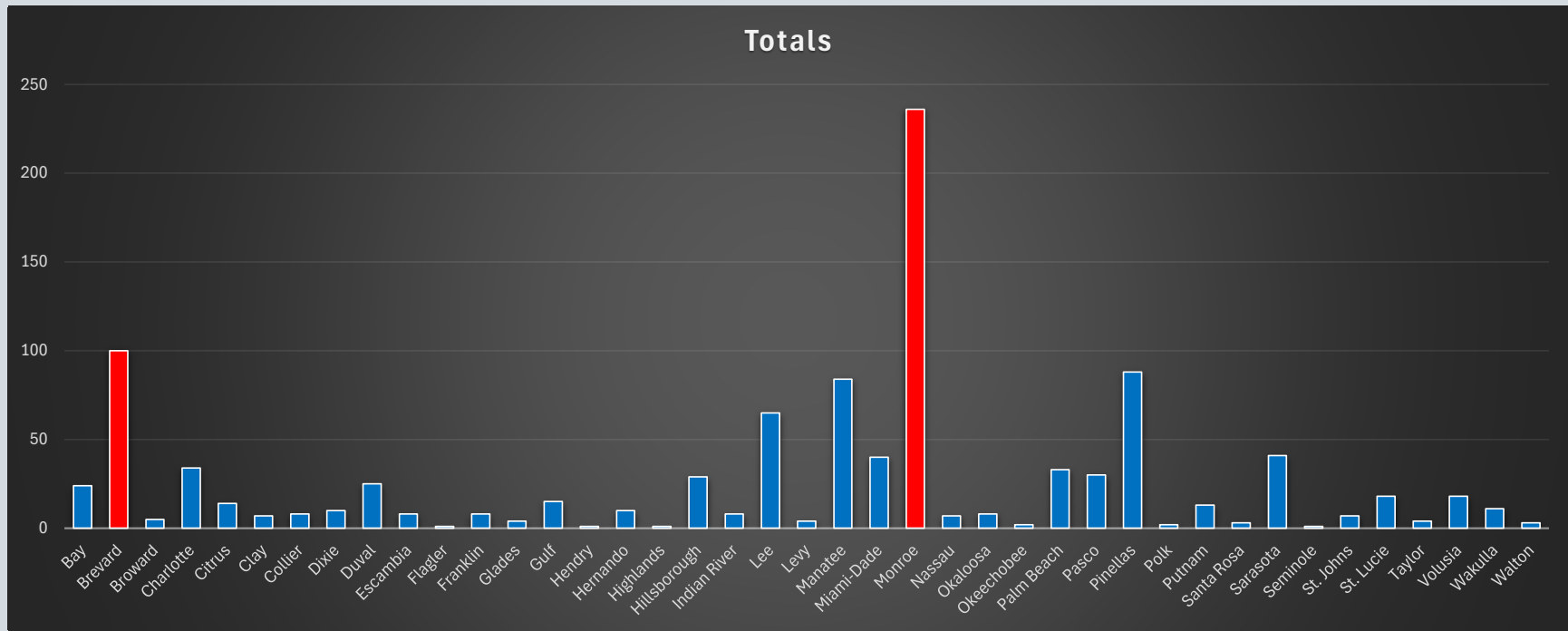
Active Derelict Vessel Cases

January 7, 2025

1,040 active derelict vessels listed in the FWC Statewide Derelict Vessel Database



Active DV Cases by County



Derelict Vessels - Criteria



Wrecked



Junked



Substantially
Dismantled



Derelict Vessels - Causes



- Owner neglect
- Owner abandonment
- Natural disasters



Derelict Vessels - Impacts

- Waterway Obstruction
- Hazardous Materials
- Seagrass Destruction

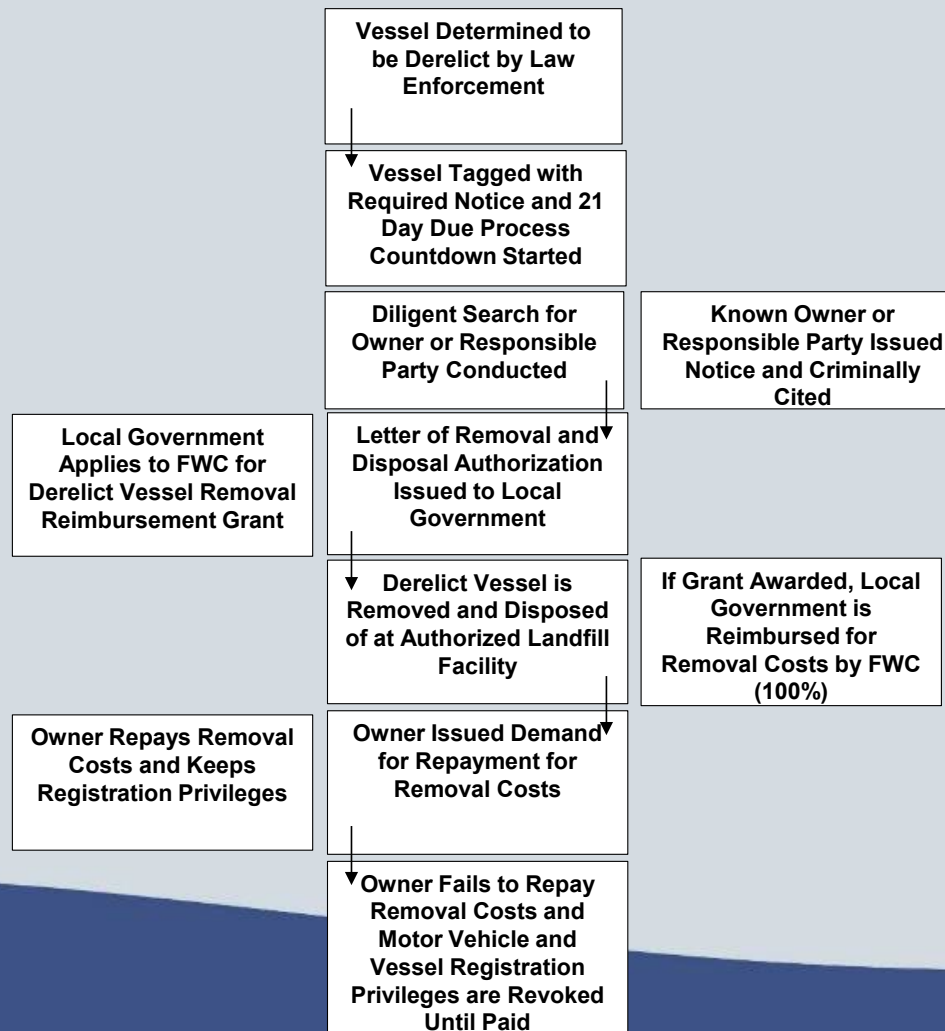


Derelict Vessels – FWC's Role

- Assess
- Investigate
- Charge
- Removal



Derelict Vessels – The Process



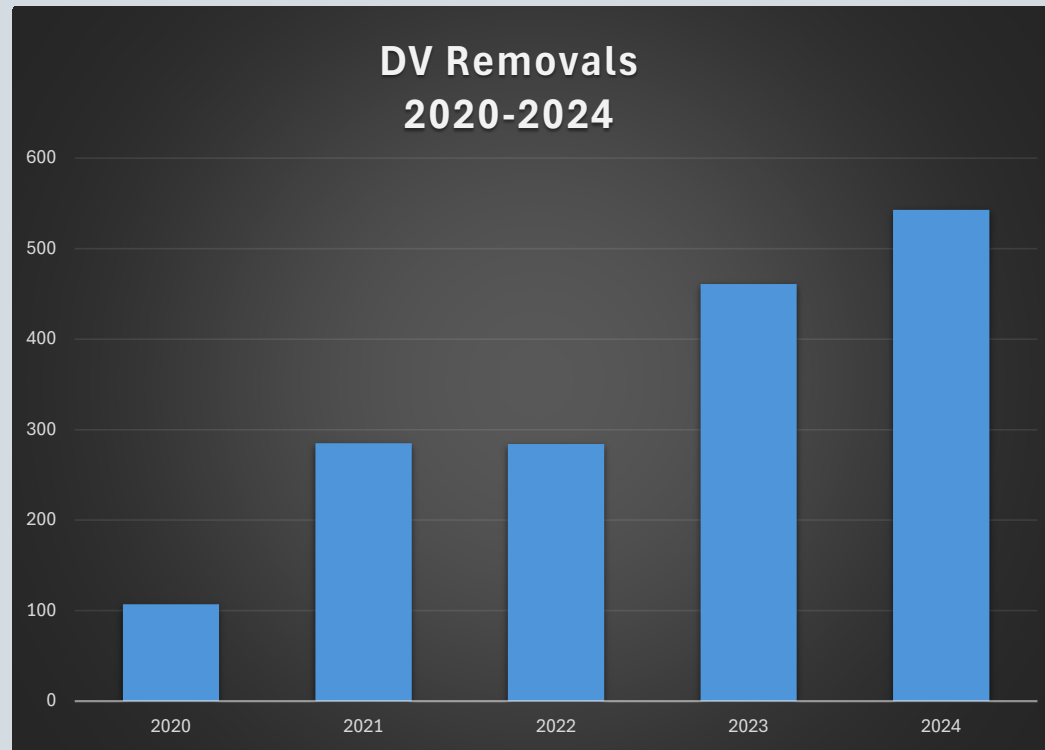
Derelict Vessels – Removal Process



- Contracting
- Grants
- Direct Removals



Derelict Vessel Removals



Derelict Vessels – Hurricane Response

Irma: 945 removals

Michael: 175 removals

Ian: 536 removals

Helene and Milton: 450 vessels removed or in progress



Long-Term Stored Vessel Study

- Directed by the Legislature to study unsupervised vessels on waters of the state
- Vessels anchored or moored outside of a public mooring field for at least 30 days out of a 60-day period



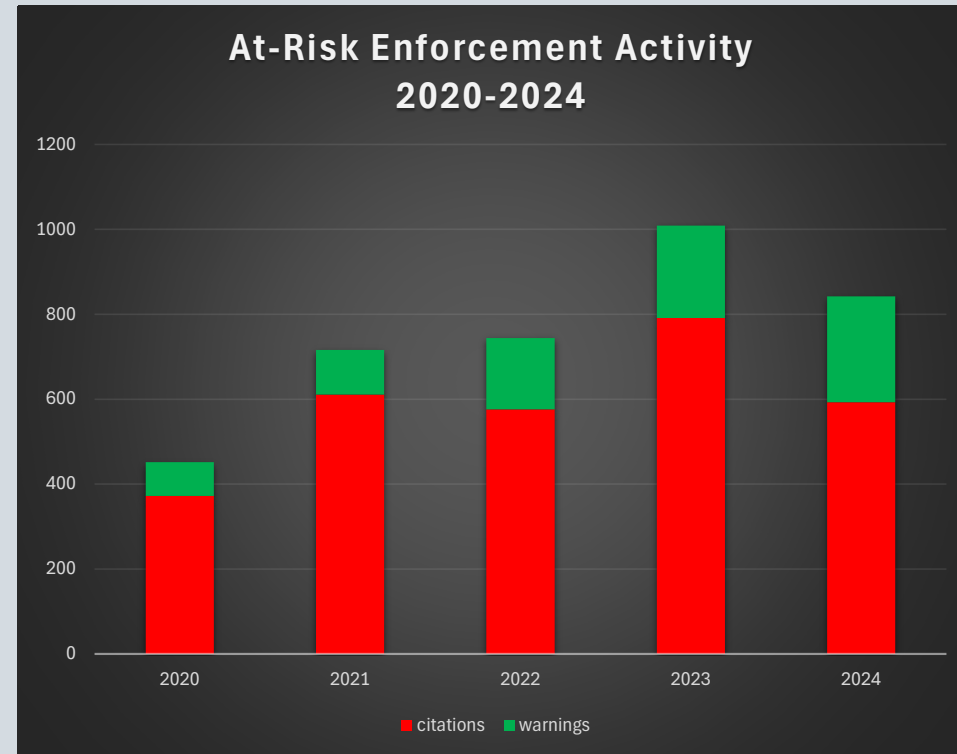
Long-Term Stored Vessel Study Results

- 450 long-term anchorages in Florida
- Correlation between LTSVs and DVs
- Impacts not exclusive to storm events
- At-risk citations often unpaid or dismissed by court



At-Risk Vessels

- Taking on water without an effective means to dewater
- Spaces on the vessel open to the elements
- Has broken loose or is in danger of breaking loose from anchor
- Listing due to water intrusion
- No effective means of propulsion
- Tied to an unpermitted structure or mooring



At-Risk/Public Nuisance Vessels

- Three of the same at-risk citation convictions
- Same at-risk condition
- 18-month timeframe



Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP)

- Florida Statutes authorize FWC to create a vessel turn-in program
- Opportunity for the owner of an at-risk vessel to voluntarily turn-in their vessel and title to FWC for removal and destruction without further penalty



VTIP Advantages

- Voluntary
- No cost to the owner
- Reduces removal costs
- Reduces environmental impacts
- Faster removals



DV Program Advancement

- New laws and rules passed to combat DV enforcement concerns
- Upgraded DV database
- Streamlined grant process
- New Block grant program
- Increased prevention efforts
- Educating the public





The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

2/4/25

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

ENR

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Robert Rowe

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City

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Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

FWC

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](https://www.flsenate.gov/joint-rules)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 110
Caption: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Case No.:

Type:
Judge:

Started: 2/4/2025 11:00:16 AM

Ends: 2/4/2025 11:31:26 AM

Length: 00:31:11

11:00:20 AM Chair Rodriguez calls meeting to order
11:00:26 AM Roll call
11:00:39 AM Quorum present
11:00:44 AM Pledge of Allegiance
11:01:04 AM Chair Rodriguez makes opening remarks
11:01:22 AM Take up Tab 1 - Presentation on Derelict Vessels
11:01:48 AM Lt. Col. Robert Rowe presents
11:18:15 AM Chair Rodriguez opens for questions
11:18:23 AM Senator Brodeur with question
11:18:56 AM Mr. Rowe replies
11:19:57 AM Senator Brodeur with follow up
11:20:35 AM Mr. Rowe replies
11:21:59 AM Senator Brodeur with question
11:22:18 AM Mr. Rowe replies
11:23:10 AM Senator Harrell with question
11:24:12 AM Mr. Rowe with response
11:26:34 AM Senator Harrell with follow up
11:26:58 AM Mr. Rowe replies
11:27:59 AM Vice Chair Ingoglia with questions
11:28:17 AM Mr. Rowe replies
11:28:34 AM Vice Chair Ingoglia with question
11:28:43 AM Mr. Rowe replies
11:28:49 AM Vice Chair Ingoglia with question
11:29:10 AM Mr. Rowe replies
11:31:00 AM No appearance forms
11:31:13 AM Senator Arrington moves to adjourn
11:31:17 AM Adjourned