



# Northwest Florida Marine Industries Association

NWFMIA NEWS

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## NWFMIA'S MISSION:

The Northwest Florida Marine Industries Association, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation created in 1986 to advance the growth, education and cooperation of the recreational boating industry and to promote the protection and improvement of the inland and coastal waterways of northwest Florida and surrounding areas. NWFMIA's 38 member businesses run in Florida's Panhandle from Perdido Key to Alligator Point (that's from the Alabama line to just south of Tallahassee) and are boat dealers, marinas, boat repairers, boat bro-

kers, marine accessory distributor and dealers. The Florida Cruising Directory 2001/02 says, "... the Panhandle is a long series of beautiful and diverse waters. Often with a choice of staying inland, cruising the bays inside the barrier islands, or running offshore along

some of the most beautiful beaches in the world ... past some of the most hospitable ports in Florida ... a cruising grounds of unique beauty and charm far removed from the high-rise canyons of the Gold Coast and the wilderness coast of the Big Bend."



## SOME OF MARINE INDUSTRIES ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

### Seagrass violations

While we understand the importance of protecting seagrass, we worked to have proper penalties applied and reduced the charge from misdemeanor to a more reasonable infraction.

### Property taxes for marine-related businesses.

We helped pass Amendment 6 which reduced the skyrocketing

property taxes that were forcing marinas, boatyards and water-side restaurants to close their doors.

### Education and Safety.

MIAF works year-round helping craft regulatory decisions that help boaters enjoy the water without imposing unnecessary licensing, educational and safety bureaucracy on Florida boaters.

### Networking and Information Sharing.

The organization gives you the opportunity to meet with and share valuable information with other marine-related businesses and individuals about what's happening in the Florida Panhandle that can have a direct impact on you.

## Upcoming Meetings:

PANAMA CITY	1/23
NICEVILLE/ DESTIN	2/20
PENSACOLA	3/20
PANAMA CITY	4/17
NICEVILLE/ DESTIN	5/15
PENSACOLA	6/19
PANAMA CITY	7/17

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