

Opiate Awareness Institute



Awareness Through Community Engagement

A Better Boca Ciega Bay

Summary

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A BETTER BOCA CIEGA BAY PROJECT SUMMARY

"A Better Boca Ciega Bay" project is designed to bring basic practices and excellence in standards to the boating community in and around Boca Ciega Bay, Pinellas County, Florida. In support of the "Clean Vessel Act", by implementing necessary public services to the maritime community, we can preserve and improve the ecological integrity of this beautiful marine environment that so many citizens and visitors come here to enjoy.

OAI's community engagement programs have been extremely effective method to raise awareness, as well as provide education and direction for our participating youth. This message is further propagated to all those they come in contact with. Additionally, voluntary participation in OAI's "A Better Boca Ciega Bay" is a guaranteed win-win for all citizens of our great state, as well as our youth. This community service project very well may achieve a level of recognition higher than its goal.

OAI is a Florida registered and federally recognized public charity. Established in 2011, OAI has been raising awareness in Florida's citizens through volunteerism and service to our communities.

The primary goal of all OAI's programs is to provide critical information to our youth and citizens about the extreme dangers of abusing opiate based prescription pain medications. As declared by the CDC in Atlanta, this "teen epidemic" is a result of "addiction by ignorance", and can only be resolved by raising awareness. Awareness is best achieved by attracting attention and interest, and we do that by providing services that benefit and engage our communities.

Unfortunately, many first-time teen and youthful abusers are easily manipulated by others because of boredom and lack of direction in their lives. To combat this, another important goal in all of OAI's programs is providing the resources and training to many exciting, educational, and important projects designed to improve our community and environment, giving our youth paths and options other than drugs to pursue their adventures.

"A Better Boca Ciega Bay" specific goal is to provide an environmentally safe strategy to maintain the ecological integrity of the Boca Ciega Bay. This historical anchorage's popularity has dynamically increased in the last few years and we should be prepared for even more marine and land based visitors to this natural attraction.

There are many outstanding advantages to enhancing services to this anchorage. With associated facilities currently available and accesses within easy reach, we can achieve a standard of excellence with a minimal investment. Additionally, we are engaging the community in a volunteer project that may well set a new standard with volunteer organizations and public services.

Opiate Awareness Institute currently operates other maritime projects and has a multitude of volunteer resources to commit to this project. Our "Aquatic Platform for Learning" is currently in the heart of the proposed affected area. With the collaboration of students in marine conservation studies, and those in engineering fields, along with their professors and our staff, we can deliver a public marine service for the Boca Ciega Bay area that will ensure ecological preservation while enhancing the beauty of this natural attraction.

A BETTER BOCA CIEGA BAY BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The northern Boca Ciega Bay harbor and anchorage area has witnessed a massive increase in popularity as an inland boating and social site. With water-side cafes and restaurants, a public marina, water-side park with beach, and even a publically available dock supported by McDonalds of Madeira Beach, this maritime hotspot is attracting more visitors at an exponential rate.

Within a half of a mile from the largest anchorage of North Boca Ciega Bay are the Madeira Beach Middle School and the upcoming St. Pete College Marine Research facility. Both of these organizations are highly active in the immediate waters behind their institutions.

Additional evidence of this growth is the increasing number of cruising sailboats and motor-yachts anchoring in the basins just to the North and South of Tom Stuart Causeway, directly in the heart of the North Boca Ciega Bay recreational area. At current count, there are twenty eight (28) vessels anchored in the two adjoining harbors. Of the 28 vessels there are fifteen (15) confirmed live-a-board cruisers, and local witnesses have seen as many as seven (7) additional vessels come and stay for 2 or 3 day periods, mostly weekends, several times a month. (see photos)

Along with the vessels described above, there are no less than thirty (30) vessels large enough to support on-board facilities at Holiday Isles Marina, ABC Marina & the new Marriott hotel beside the American Legion Post. None of those marinas has pump-out facilities. FWC records will illustrate recent inspections to the vessels docked with live-a-boards in and near Madeira Beach Municipal Marina.

This year alone, there have been no less than four (4) citations issued under the “Clean Vessel Act” of 1992 for unapproved sanitation devices. Several vessels have become derelict and have sunk. There are no less than two (2) that are in danger of doing so at this time. Additionally, as of this date, a large sailboat, approximately thirty eight (38) feet, is aground and on her side between the Madeira Beach Middle School and the “Hurricane Hole” after her anchor line broke during a squall. Witnesses in the harbor have testified to run-a-way vessels from poor or inadequate anchoring during storms in any given year. Anchor-line chaffing seems to cause the majority of the groundings. (see photos)

OAI would like to propose the implementation of a mobile pump-out vessel to serve the Boca Ciega Bay area. In addition providing compliance with the “Clean Vessel Act”, this vessel will be utilized for surveying and studies for the possible installation of a public mooring field in this historical anchorage. OAI's 100% volunteer organization will accept responsibility for the management and operations of the facilities and resources provided under this proposal. Our volunteer organization will insure the lowest operational cost of the project as well as complete sustainability.

A BETTER BOCA CIEGA BAY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

“A Better Boca Ciega Bay” project would begin with the implementation of a mobile pump-out vessel. This vessel, in addition to providing mobile pump-out services to the boating community in the Boca Ciega Bay area, would perform a marine survey of the local basins just to the North and South of the Tom Stuart Causeway, and the South basin near Gulfport, for future consideration as public mooring areas. Additionally, the vessel will be available and serve the area for FEMA, state and local declared emergencies, or to prevent ecological damage to the harbors.

Fuel, waste disposal and dockage for the vessel are available at the Madeira Beach Municipal Marina within one mile of the northern service area, and the City of Gulfport Marina to the South. Although the marinas have pump-out service available, most of the harbored vessels, on anchors and at docks, are not pulling anchors, or cleaning their props, shafts and intakes just to go there.

OAI will staff the pump-out vessel with qualified volunteer crew while in service performing pump-outs, providing a wage-free operation. Services will be performed under the umbrella of our registered charter as a public charity performing a public service. Pump-out staff will maintain detailed logs and submit complete weekly reports.

During the vessel's non-service hours, OAI student volunteers will perform surveys of the North &

South Boca Ciega Bay basins, while volunteer student engineers study the data and develop a plan for implementing a safe and secure mooring facility for the areas maritime visitors.

OAI has begun and operates a local cruiser’s-net in the northern harbor on VHF channel 72 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM providing local weather and cruising information. Operation of the proposed pump-out vessel will be announced on a daily basis. Expansion of this service is being sought in the southern harbor.

Free service range is 1.5 NM from base dock. Maximum service range is 5 NM from base dock. (Base dock is defined by locations where discharge is available.) Service performed beyond 1.5 NM from base dock carries a \$5.00 fuel surcharge. This range definition will service the vast majority of vessels at anchor, while reducing the distance the pump-out vessel must travel with a sizable load.

Mobile pump-out services will be available in the northern harbors on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, without requesting service. The pump-out vessel will pilot a specific route, offering service to known live-a-board cruisers, in addition to radio & phone requested service. Mondays and Wednesdays, service will be provided in the southern basins near Gulfport, in route format, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Service is available on Saturday, by request, for cruising vessels that haven’t been in the harbor during previous weeks. Service is not available on Sundays. Schedule subject to adjustments and weather conditions.

All pump-out operators will document every moment of the vessel’s activity in accordance with the standardized report forms from FWC, as well as the detailed reports required by OAI. Photos will accompany OAI’s electronic records when appropriate.

In addition to pump-out services, the vessel’s crew will be mandated to periodically inspect anchored vessels for dangerous anchor-line chaffing, listing or otherwise appearing to be taking on water, and any other threats, so as to prevent a negative impact to the harbor or ecology. Upon discovery, OAI will attempt to contact the vessel’s owner, and/or make a report to the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office.

Attractive informational postcards will be distributed to local marinas, making them available to the general public. Additionally, all media sources will be issued press releases, including publishers of local cruising guides and boating magazines. A large and clearly visible pump-out symbol will mark the exterior of the vessel, and the standardized symbol will be flown from a staff raised flag aboard the vessel. The vessel will also display a yellow flashing (rotary) light on a mast for use during servicing or when approaching another vessel.

SAFE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

- Before each use:
 - Check all valves and hoses to ensure proper working condition
 - Check that the nozzle is clean and rinsed before inserting into the boat
- After each use:
 - Place nozzle end of pump-out hose in five gallon bucket containing Clorox solution
- At the end of each day use:
 - Pump at least 5 gallons of fresh water through the suction hose
 - Wash and wipe down the exterior stainless steel cover
 - Shut off the electrical power
- At the end of the first 50 hours of use:
 - Drain gear reducer oil and fill with 90W gear oil to the bottom of the oil level inspection plug

- At the end of the first 250 hours and thereafter every 200 hours of use:
 - Drain gear reducer oil & fill with 90W gear oil to bottom of oil level inspection plug
 - Grease the rod bearing and the pivot pin
 - Replace the two intake and the two discharge duck-bill valves
 - Inspect pump diaphragm for wear or damage
 - Inspect pump-out hose for wear or damage
 - Tighten all nuts and bolts

- At end of every 2000 hours of use
 - Replace the pump diaphragm

EMERGENCY CONTACT

“Daylight” monitoring of local VHF Channel 77
 Telephone (727) 755-4624

**A BETTER BOCA CIEGA BAY
 BUDGET SUMMARY
 12 Months**

Vessel for Pump-out/Surveys (used/approximate)	\$ 28,500
Vessel Pump-out Equipment / Outfitting Hardware (new/approximate)	\$ 12,600
Equipment Installation & Outfitting (service/approximate)	\$ 1,700
Staff Training & Certifications (approximate)	\$ 2,800
Vessel Operational Expenses, Fuel/Insurance (supplemented by income)	\$ 16,300
Dockage (Municipal Marina w/ City/FWC Co-op)	\$ 0
Permits & Other Fees	\$ 1,600
Print Media – Postcards (5,000)	\$ 230

Total Pump-out Vessel Expenses	\$ 63,730

**A BETTER BOCA CIEGA BAY
 FUNDING SUMMARY**

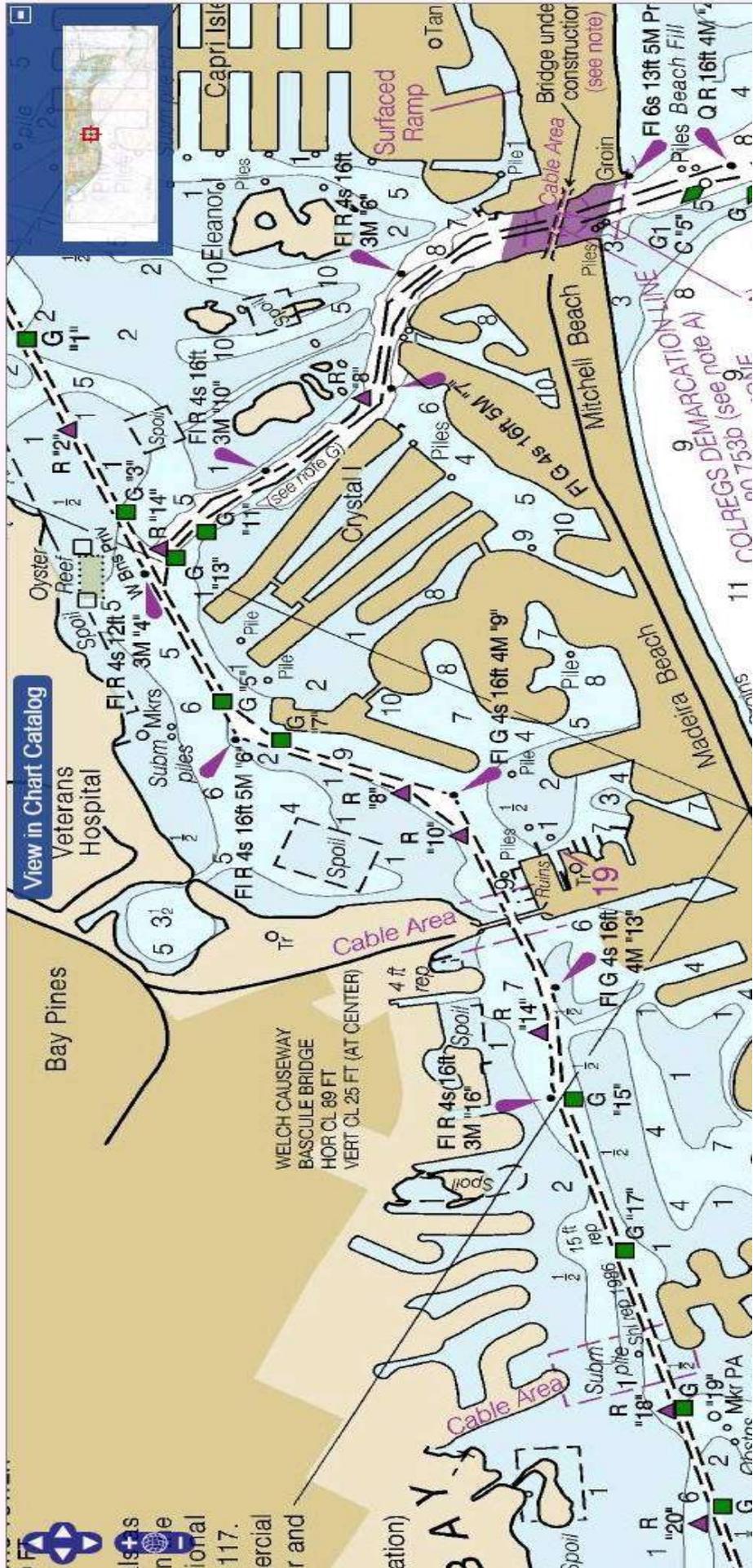
OAI Special Projects Fund	\$ 3,930
Local Business & Community Contributions	\$ 12,000
FWC “Clean Vessel Act” Grant Funding	\$ 47,800

Total	\$ 63,730

 **Office of Coast Survey**

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The image displays a NOAA navigation chart for the Gulfport area. Key features include:

- Geographic Labels:** Gulfport, Indian Key, Frenchman Creek, Maximo Pt., Cats Pt., and Cable Area.
- Navigation Markers:** Numerous buoys (R "1" through R "16", G "1" through G "15"), piles (e.g., Pile 1, Pile 2, Pile 3), and submerged piles (Subm pile).
- Channels and Obstacles:** CATS POINT CHANNEL (6 FT CENTERLINE 1988), Pipeline Area, Spoil Area, and Cable Area.
- Infrastructure:** FIXED BRIDGE, OYHD PWR CA, and Surfaced ramps.
- Depth Soundings:** Various depth measurements such as 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, and 0.
- Other Features:** SPIRE, Iso R 2.5s 15ft, and a note "Marked by private aids".

NOAA Office of Coast Survey

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Aerial photo of North Boca Ciega Bay anchorage areas, with the Madeira Beach Municipal Marina, and the well known “Hurricane Hole”.



- (1) Angry Pepper Restaurant w/ Dock
- (3) New Publix Supermarket
- (5) American Legion Post w/ Dock
- (7) Public Park, aka “Doggie Beach”
- (9) Holiday Isles Marina (no facilities)

- (2) New St Pete College Marine Center Site
- (4) Madeira Beach Middle School
- (6) McDonalds Restaurant Dock
- (8) New Madeira Beach City Center
- (10) ABC Marina (no facilities)

Southern Harbor (Gulfport)



Latest vessel grounding in northern harbor due to insufficient ground tackle during recent squall.



Tagged vessels abandoned and neglected. Harbor residents have been ensuring continued floatation by periodic water pumping on their own initiative.



OAI – “A Better Boca Ciega Bay” Project



Sunken vessels inside the “Hurricane Hole”.



OAI – “A Better Boca Ciega Bay” Project

*Populace of harbored vessels in North Boca Ciega Bay
South of Tom Stuart Causeway*



General populace just off beach in southern Boca Ciega Bay near Gulfport



Authorization & Verification

This is an official document of Opiate Awareness Institute, Inc., authorized by Ronald D. Hayward, President, on 6 April 2015.

Opiate Awareness Institute	Established 2011
<i>Current IRS Classification</i>	Public Charity 501(c)3
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<i>Current OAI Supporters</i>	Tampa Tribune T.B.O. Walmart Stores Clearwater Marine Aquarium Walt Disney Foundation Florida Panthers Tampa Bay Rays Florida Lightning Many Private Florida Family Foundations

Authorized Signature:

Ronald D. Hayward, President

06 APR 2015

Date