

Transportation & Infrastructure

Move Boats Across Land & Sea, Invest in Boating Facilities & Waterways Access

Marine manufacturers need a 21st century infrastructure system to easily transport product and consumers across the nation's land and waterways.

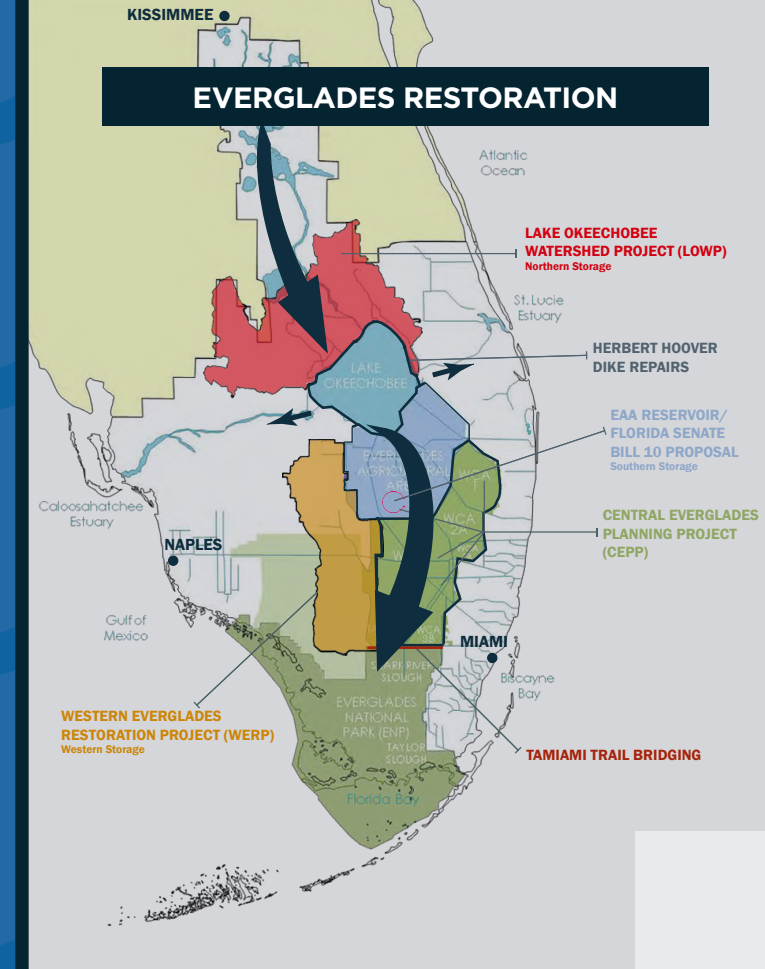
35,000 MARINE BUSINESSES
AND
142 MILLION BOATERS
DEPEND ON IT!

Waterway infrastructure is critical to recreational boat access and safe operation of vessels. A reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) needs to factor in the following:

- ▶ Increased recognition for economic development in Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) project prioritization.
- ▶ Streamlined permitting for ACOE projects, including State Programmatic General Permits (SPGPs), to allow for more efficient buildout of boating infrastructure projects.
- ▶ Support for low tonnage and shallow draft channels, which are essential for recreational boaters and coastal development.
- ▶ A study on new efforts to combat Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and a survey of state best practices.

ACTIONS FOR LEADERS TO TAKE

- 1 Pass WRDA reauthorization that addresses recreational boating needs.
- 2 Appropriate \$150 million in Operations and Maintenance accounts for the ACOE to dredge the Intracoastal Waterway and other vital recreational boating channels.
- 3 Provide \$200 million in federal matching dollars for Central Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) in the FY19 budget.



WHAT IS THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY?

The “Route 66 for Boaters”— a 3,000-mile waterway running from Boston to the southern tip of Florida, then following the Gulf Coast to Texas.

- ▶ 13,000 recreational boats transit the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) each year.
- ▶ Recreational use of the ICW pumps \$7.9 billion into local economies.
- ▶ Water depths as low as six feet impede access for both recreational and commercial boats.
- ▶ Currently, recreational use of the ICW is not counted towards overall economic value—including this segment could better prioritize resources.

- The Everglades system is a key ecological and environmental source of water and recreation for nearly 1 million Florida boaters.
- Everglades restoration and the southerly flow of water from central Florida to Florida Bay should be a priority for the federal government and state of Florida.