Studying Recreational Boating Patterns in Northeast Florida
A Survey Conducted by the University of Florida
Sea Grant College Program with funds from NOAA

Dear Boat Owner / Operator,

We are asking you to participate in a boating study to characterize recreational boating patterns in the near- and off-shore waters of Northeast Florida. A goal of the study is to ensure that decisions about the siting of boating infrastructure and resource protection, including right whales, are based on information that includes input from the boating community. Please help in this effort by completing our questionnaire. Florida Sea Grant has worked with coastal communities throughout the state to enhance boating infrastructure, improve navigation access to local waterways, and preserve working waterfronts.

You are one of a small number of recreational boaters selected to receive this survey, so your response is very important. Please rest assured that your responses to this survey will remain strictly confidential. Answers will NOT be linked to individuals. Your name and address will NOT be made available to anyone. The survey number on the questionnaire is only to track returns and to enable us to send a copy of the Northeast Florida map used in this survey to those who request one.

If you have any questions about the study you may contact the project’s principal investigator, Dr. Bob Swett, (352) 392-6234, or by email fas-boat@ifas.ufl.edu. If you would like more information about your rights as a survey participant, feel free to contact the University of Florida Institutional Review Board, PO Box 112250, Gainesville, FL 32611, (352) 392-0433.

We are most grateful for your help in this project.

Bob Swett, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of Florida

The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution
PART 1.
FOR EACH OF THE FOUR SEASONS – WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL – PLEASE DRAW A ROUTE YOU TOOK WHEN BOATING OFFSHORE IN NORTHEAST FLORIDA

"Offshore" refers to waters off the coast that are accessed through an inlet.

Please use the map provided to draw the routes of offshore boating trips that you took during the most recent winter (DEC, JAN, FEB), spring (MAR, APR, MAY), summer (JUN, JUL, AUG), and fall (SEP, OCT, NOV) seasons. For example, if you boated offshore during all four seasons, then you will draw four routes—one for each season. However, if you boated offshore during only one of the seasons, you will draw one route on the map.

Please refer to the box labeled “INSTRUCTIONS FOR DRAWING ROUTES" found below and on the map to complete this part of the questionnaire. Thank you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DRAWING ROUTES

Please draw the entire ON-THE-WATER route for each season, as accurately as you can.

- Draw a solid line to represent the trip for EACH SEASON. Use arrowheads to indicate direction of travel.

- Please identify each route with the SEASON that it represents, as illustrated below:

  - Winter (Win)
  - Spring (Spr)
  - Summer (Sum)
  - Fall (Fall)

  WINTER (December, January, and February)
  SPRING (March, April, and May)
  SUMMER (June, July, and August)
  FALL (September, October, and November)

- If you followed the same route for different seasons, just identify both seasons on the route:

  Win Spr

- Mark the START of each route with the letter “S” and the END with the letter “E”.

- Indicate a round trip that uses the same route out and back with arrowheads in both directions:

  Fall

- Mark destinations along your routes with the letter “D”.

- If a trip continued beyond the boundary of this map, draw the route to the boundary and indicate the final destination (reef, buoy, fish haven, geographic coordinates, etc) at the map’s edge.
## Part 2. Questions About The Routes You Drew On The Map

**Question 1.** About what time did each trip that you drew on the map begin and end? *(for example, 7:30 AM and 1:30 PM).* If a trip lasted more than one day *(overnight trips)* please write in the total number of days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AT WHAT TIME DID YOUR BOATING TRIP BEGIN?</th>
<th>AT WHAT TIME DID YOUR BOATING TRIP END?</th>
<th>IF IT WAS AN OVERNIGHT TRIP, HOW MANY DAYS DID THE TRIP LAST?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Trip</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Trip</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Trip</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Trip</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question 2.** For each trip that you drew on the map, what was the average amount of time (in hours and minutes) that you spent at the destinations you marked on the routes? *(for example, 2 hours and 30 minutes)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT AT DESTINATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Trip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question 3.** Please check the day of the week that you took each of the trips that you drew on the map. If you drew an overnight trip, please check the day of the week that the trip began.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>SUN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question 4.** Please indicate the departure site type that you used for each trip that you drew on the map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boat Ramp</th>
<th>Marina Wet Slip</th>
<th>Marina Dry Slip</th>
<th>Home or Condominium Dock</th>
<th>Shoreline or Causeway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Trip</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTION 5. Please check the box that best describes the type of boat that you used for each trip that you drew on the map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOAT TYPE</th>
<th>WINTER TRIP</th>
<th>SPRING TRIP</th>
<th>SUMMER TRIP</th>
<th>FALL TRIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sailboat</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Boat (runabout/bowrider)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Fisherman (Flats/Skiff/Center console)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offshore Sportfisherman</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Cruiser</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify):</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUESTION 6. Please write the length (in feet) of the boat that you used for each trip that you drew on the map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOAT LENGTH (FEET)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WINTER TRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING TRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER TRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL TRIP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUESTION 7. Please write the number of days that you operated your boat offshore in Northeast Florida during each of the most recent seasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WINTER SEASON (DEC, JAN, FEB)</th>
<th>SPRING SEASON (MAR, APR, MAY)</th>
<th>SUMMER SEASON (JUN, JUL, AUG)</th>
<th>FALL SEASON (SEP, OCT, NOV)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of offshore boating trips</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IF YOU DEPARTED FROM A RAMP, MARINA, OR SHORELINE/CAUSEWAY, PLEASE Go to Part 3 on Page 4.

IF YOU DEPARTED FROM A HOME OR CONDOMINIUM DOCK, PLEASE Go to Part 4 on Page 5.
**PART 3. QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DEPARTURE SITES**

**QUESTION 8.** Please write below the name or location of the ramp, marina, dry stack, or shoreline/causeway that you used for each of the trips that you drew on the map. *(See map for reference.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OR LOCATION OF THE DEPARTURE SITE TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WINTER TRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING TRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER TRIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALL TRIP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION 9.** How important to you is each of the following factors when selecting the ramp, dry stack, marina, or shoreline that you use when boating offshore in Northeast Florida? *(In the table below, check the box that best describes how important each factor is to you.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACTORS</th>
<th>IMPORTANT</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT</th>
<th>NEUTRAL</th>
<th>SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT</th>
<th>UNIMPORTANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Close to an inlet (near offshore waters)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No launching or parking fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom availability</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate parking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to my home (shorter drive time)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearby amenities (store, restaurant, hotel, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe and secure parking area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close to my favorite boating spots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of fishing supplies, bait</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of operation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas, pump-out, or maintenance service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**QUESTION 10.** Suppose that a new ramp, marina, or dry stack were built and it had all the amenities you could want and solved problems you now experience. What is the maximum on-the-water distance that you would travel from that facility to the nearest inlet (the distance beyond which you would not use the facility)?

On the hypothetical diagram below of a navigable river leading to an inlet, please circle the on-the-water distance upstream from the inlet that represents the maximum distance that you would be willing to travel between the facility and the inlet.

- 20nm or more
- 18nm
- 16nm
- 14nm
- 12nm
- 10nm
- 8nm
- 6nm
- 4nm
- 2nm

Approximate travel times to reach the inlet (assuming 20MPH):
- 2nm = 6 Minutes
- 6nm = 18 Minutes
- 10nm = 30 Minutes
- 14nm = 42 Minutes
- 20nm = 60 Minutes

**nm = nautical miles**

**PART 4. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOURSELF**

**QUESTION 11.** How many years have you boated offshore in Northeast Florida? __________ (Years)

**QUESTION 12.** Have you ever completed a boat safety or seamanship course?  
- Yes  
- No

**QUESTION 13.** In what year were you born? ______________

**QUESTION 14.** What is the ZIP code of your primary Florida residence? ______________

**QUESTION 15.** Please check this box if you would like us to mail you a duplicate copy of the survey map.

**QUESTION 16.** Please provide any other comments that you would like us to know about your boating trips, boating facilities that you use, waterway improvements, or information/actions that would increase your boating enjoyment or help care for your boating environment.

**COMMENTS:**

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**PLEASE RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND MAP IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND PARTICIPATION!**

**QUESTIONNAIRE CONTROL NUMBER**

(Used only to keep track of survey returns so that we do not bother you with reminders, and to enable us to send a copy of the survey map to those who request one.)