Economic Benefits of the District Waterways

**Palm Beach County**

**Total Annual Economic Output**

$874 Million

**TOTAL ANNUAL Boater Annual Spending Impacts**

$612 Million

**Total Number of Jobs**

8,229

**Waterway Amenity Value**

TOTAL $2.7 Billion

- 1500 Meters = $256k
- 500 Meters = $732k
- Waterfront = $1.7M

**Total Estimated Benefits from Tourists:**

$254 Million

**Total Spending**

$3,921,590

- $1.2M King Mackerel
- $536k lbs Spanish Mackerel

**Top Species Landed by Value**

$1.2M King Mackerel

**Top Species Landed by Pounds**

$536k lbs Spanish Mackerel

**Commercial Fishing**

**Total Spending**

$3,921,590

**Tax Impacts**

- **State & Local Tax Impacts**
  
  $57.7 Million

- **Federal Tax Impacts**
  
  $77.2 Million

**Overall**

$135 Million

**TAX IMPACTS**

FOR LESS THAN $1M SPENT YEARLY

$300M Annual Benefit

That would be lost without waterway maintenance as well as a loss of over 4,200 jobs

**Elaborate Yacht Services & Dredging**

**Total Spending** $55.5M

684,000 Out-of-State Waterway Users

50,000 In-State Waterway Users

**Recreational Boaters in Palm Beach County**

32,862

**Fishing**

32%

**Sailing and Other Activities**

7%

**Watersports**

5%

**Pleasure Boating**

75%
Within Palm Beach County, The Florida Inland Navigation District (District) is the state sponsor for Federal navigation projects along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Okeechobee Waterway (collectively, the Waterways). Nearly $7 million has been invested in Palm Beach Waterways in the past 12 years, and another $12 million is anticipated in the next five years. These investments and the Waterways themselves generate significant economic impact throughout the twelve-county region and beyond. The District’s Waterways are defined as all navigable waterways within the District’s boundaries including the Intracoastal Waterway and all waterways that are physically connected to it.

The continued investments and ongoing operations benefit the public, marine businesses and recreational users, the twelve member counties, and other government agencies. To estimate total benefits, a series of impacts were evaluated:

1. Direct spending by recreational boaters and their effects on local businesses and wage creation
2. Direct spending by tourists, both Floridians and out-of-state visitors
3. Proximity effects of the Waterways on real estate
4. Direct spending in “hidden sectors” which are generated by specialty service providers and not captured through recreational boaters or property impacts, and
5. Commercial Fishing.

The indirect and induced economic impacts generated from each of the direct spending effects were estimated using IMPLAN, an econometric modelling application that generates regional economic impact multipliers. The estimates find that value added impacts exceed $576 million annually, and labor income impacts exceed $300 million annually. Table 1 provides a breakdown. In addition to annual impacts, property values enjoy an estimated $2.7 billion in premium due to the waterways.

The economic impact of The District’s navigation projects in Palm Beach County has been estimated as of December 2016. Benefits of the District’s ongoing maintenance programs, as well as two alternative scenarios, were prepared.

Under the first maintenance scheme, reduced maintenance, the economic impacts of the District’s investments are substantially smaller. Analysis finds that reducing the maintenance regime to a three foot draft would cost $466 million in total impacts annually. This compares to annual maintenance costs of less than $1 million annually.

Under the second maintenance scheme, increased maintenance, improving the maintenance through full implementation of the District’s Dredge Material Management Plan is estimated to result in an increase of about 14% in spending for the small but important number of very large boats. This category of boats generate more than $300,000 daily in local revenues, translating to a $25 million in higher annual impacts under the full maintenance scenario.