

Derelict Vessels

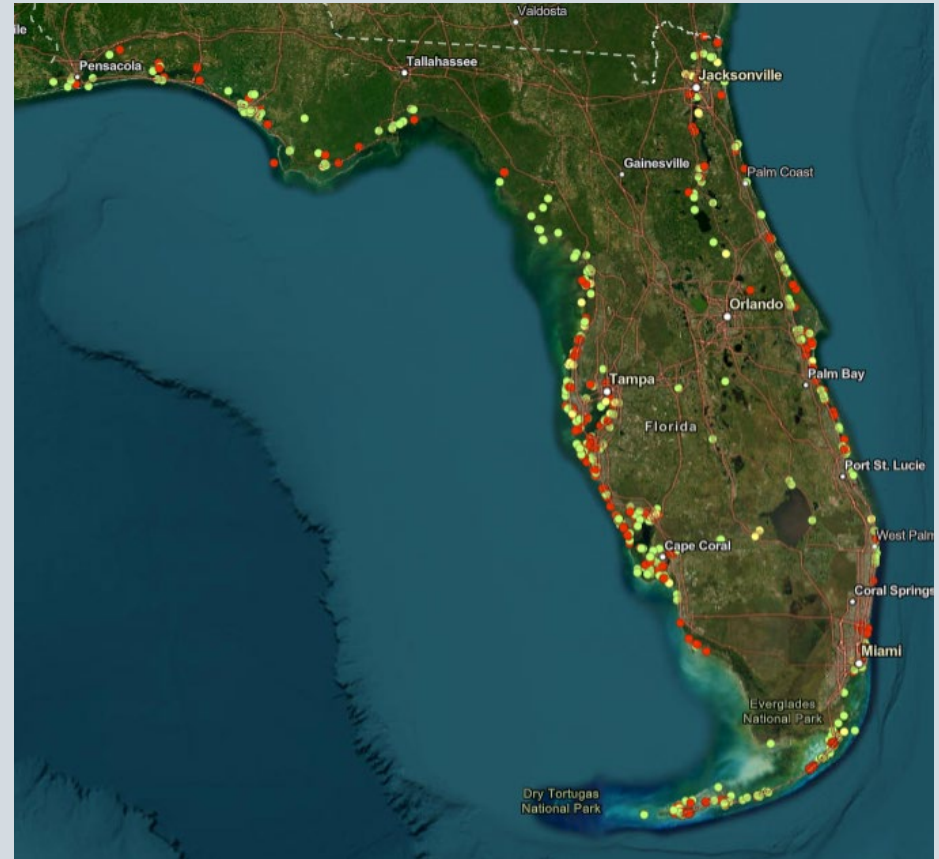


Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

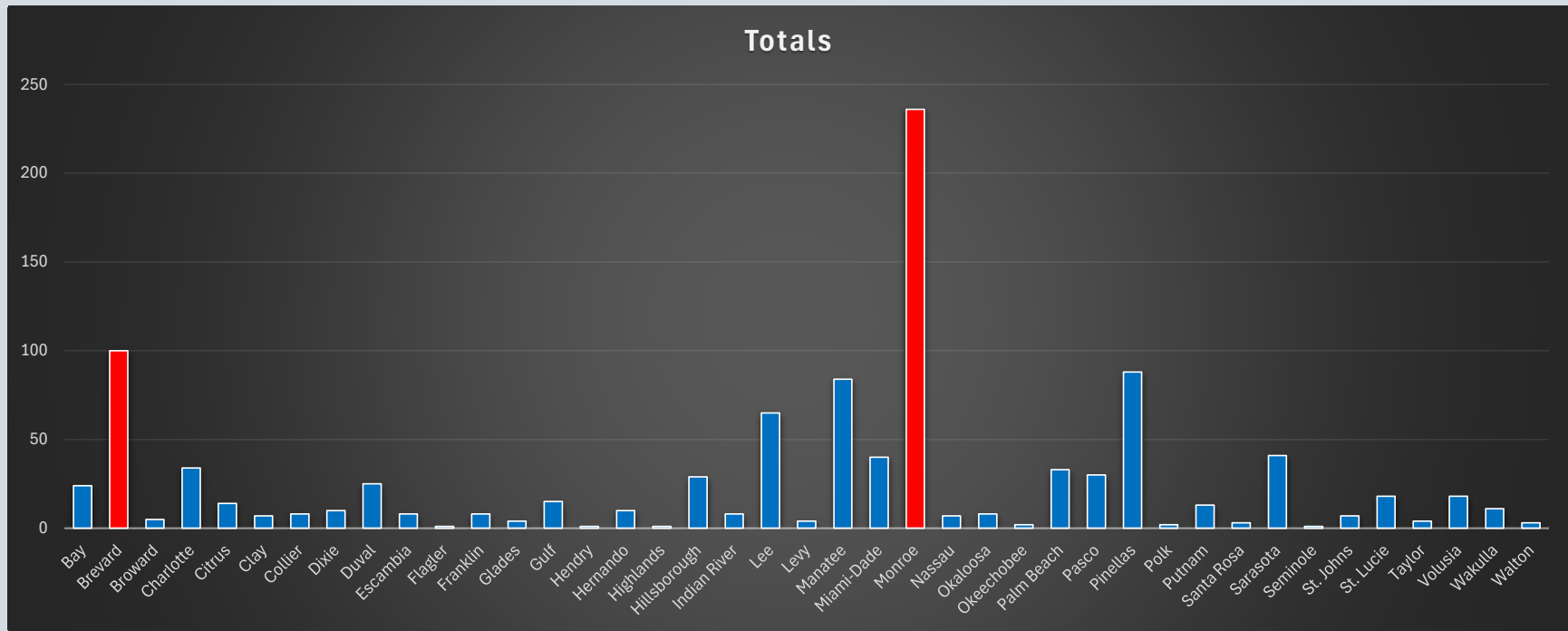
Active Derelict Vessel Cases

January 7, 2025

1,040 active derelict vessels listed in the FWC Statewide Derelict Vessel Database



Active DV Cases by County



Derelict Vessels - Criteria



Wrecked



Junked



Substantially
Dismantled



Derelict Vessels - Causes



- Owner neglect
- Owner abandonment
- Natural disasters



Derelict Vessels - Impacts

- Waterway Obstruction
- Hazardous Materials
- Seagrass Destruction

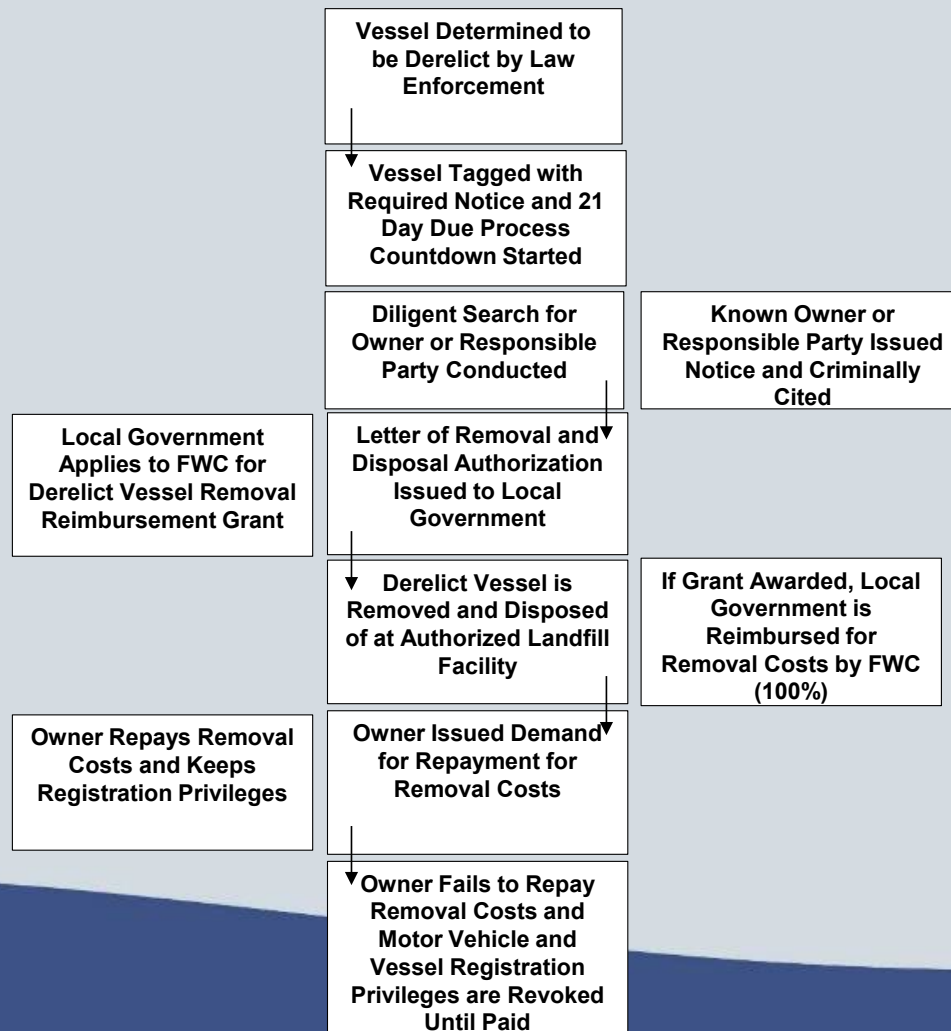


Derelict Vessels – FWC's Role

- Assess
- Investigate
- Charge
- Removal



Derelict Vessels – The Process



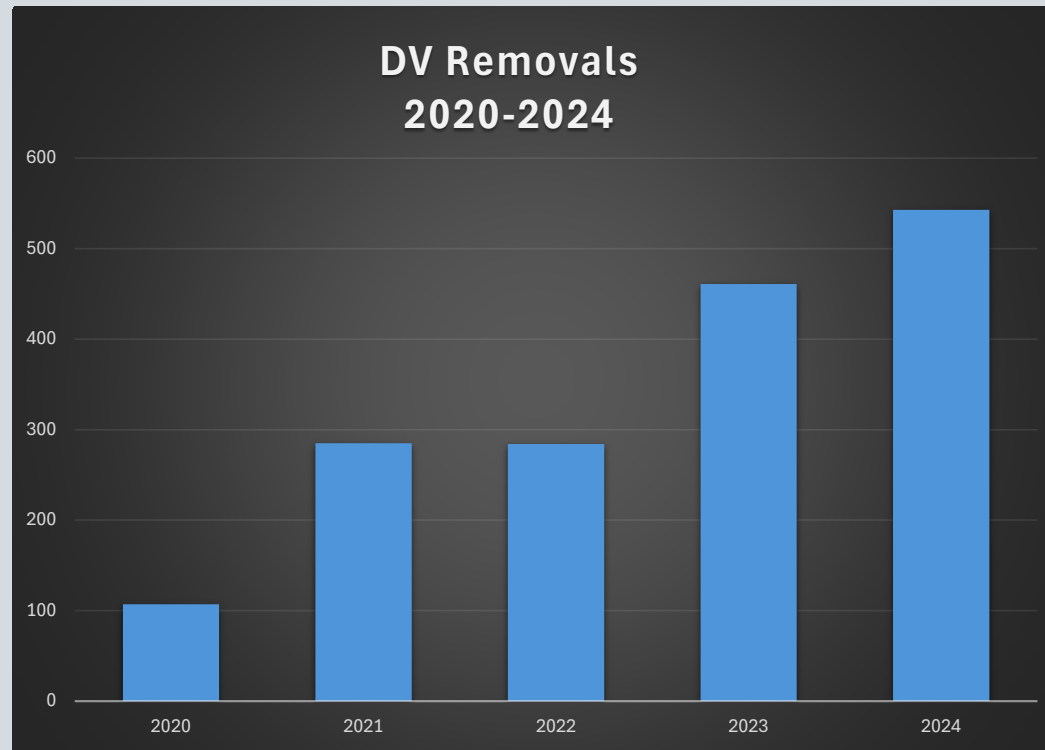
Derelict Vessels – Removal Process



- Contracting
- Grants
- Direct Removals



Derelict Vessel Removals



Derelict Vessels – Hurricane Response

Irma: 945 removals

Michael: 175 removals

Ian: 536 removals

Helene and Milton: 450 vessels removed or in progress



Long-Term Stored Vessel Study

- Directed by the Legislature to study unsupervised vessels on waters of the state
- Vessels anchored or moored outside of a public mooring field for at least 30 days out of a 60-day period



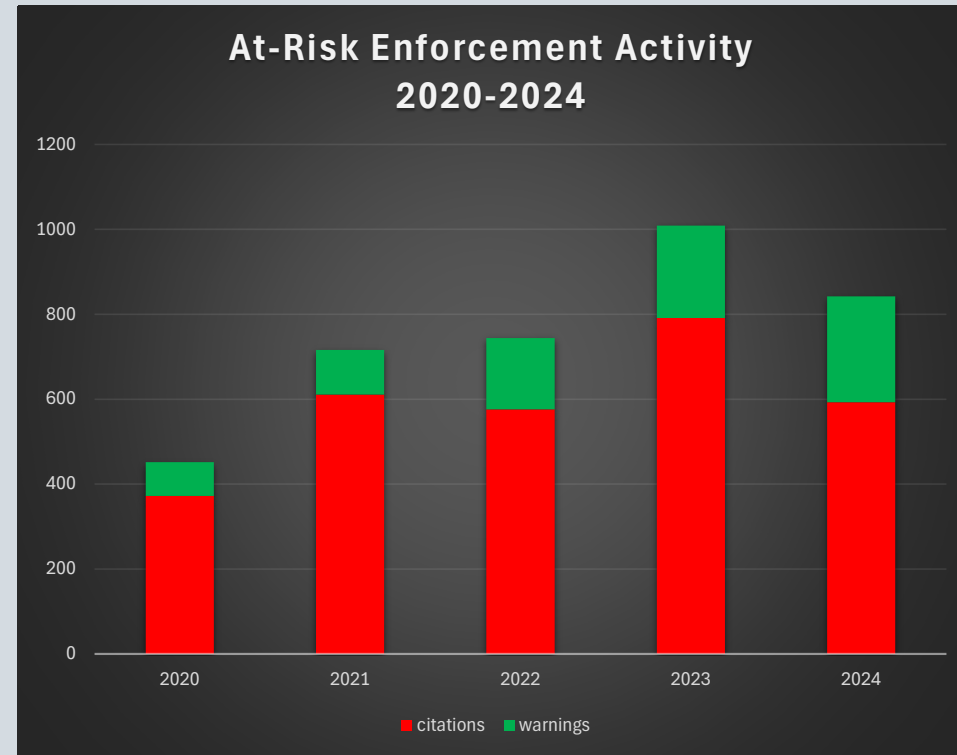
Long-Term Stored Vessel Study Results

- 450 long-term anchorages in Florida
- Correlation between LTSVs and DVs
- Impacts not exclusive to storm events
- At-risk citations often unpaid or dismissed by court



At-Risk Vessels

- Taking on water without an effective means to dewater
- Spaces on the vessel open to the elements
- Has broken loose or is in danger of breaking loose from anchor
- Listing due to water intrusion
- No effective means of propulsion
- Tied to an unpermitted structure or mooring



At-Risk/Public Nuisance Vessels

- Three of the same at-risk citation convictions
- Same at-risk condition
- 18-month timeframe



Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP)

- Florida Statutes authorize FWC to create a vessel turn-in program
- Opportunity for the owner of an at-risk vessel to voluntarily turn-in their vessel and title to FWC for removal and destruction without further penalty



VTIP Advantages

- Voluntary
- No cost to the owner
- Reduces removal costs
- Reduces environmental impacts
- Faster removals



DV Program Advancement

- New laws and rules passed to combat DV enforcement concerns
- Upgraded DV database
- Streamlined grant process
- New Block grant program
- Increased prevention efforts
- Educating the public



