**Marine Advisory Committee**
**February 5, 2013**
**Milton, Florida**

The Marine Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Jeff Marker, Rick Harris, and Scott Mason. Also present were the County Administrator, Hunter Walker; Chris Verlinde, Marine Extension Agent; and Avis Whitfield, Public Works Director. Jeff Marker, Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The minutes of the December 4, 2012 meeting were approved.

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING RED SNAPPER SEASON

Mr. Walker advised the committee that the County has received a request for a Resolution in support of regional management of Red Snapper recreational fishing in the Gulf. He also noted that some of the Gulf States have, or are, considering non compliance with Federal guidelines. Mr. Marker said he is in favor of management for all species and would not recommend becoming non compliant because of possible loss of Federal funding. Mr. Mason agrees with Mr. Marker and noted that if our fishermen only fished the State's waters with commercial licenses they would fish out the area really fast. He also agrees that all species should be under management and that the waters should be divided and governed by regions because of the different species and the quantities of those species. Mr. Harris also agreed that other species need to be included and after further Committee discussion Mr. Mason made a motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that they adopt a Resolution similar to the Resolution adopted by Escambia County and encouraging support for regional management of all fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Seconded by Rick Harris and approved without opposition.

## FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT (FBIP) GRANT CYCLE

The only project in the works that may qualify is the Live Oak Boat parking lot but it is not ready for submission in this year. It will have to wait until the 2014 cycle.

## CHAIRMAN/MEMBER ISSUES

Ms. Verlinde is working on letters of support for the extension of the oyster project at White Point. Mr. Harris made a motion for Committee support of the project which passed without objection. Ms. Verlinde recommended that Committee members send their letters to her and she will transfer them to Santa Rosa County letterhead.

## PROJECTS / ISSUES UPDATE

Mr. Marker asked who is handling the Escambia River log jam. Mr. Walker advised the Committee that Escambia County is handling it. They have gone out for bids and the lowest bid was $68,000. Mr. Marker asked if Santa Rosa County is committed to half of the cost. Mr. Walker advised that there is no commitment from Santa Rosa County.

Mr. Harris asked about the "No Wake" signs at Archie Glover. Mr. Whitfield advised that the project is complete.

Mr. Marker asked about Sanding Landing. Mr. Whitfiled said it is open and in use. He noted that there is a small amount of work to be done but should be finished soon.

Ms. Verlinde mentioned that she can set up a workshop on oyster permitting and farming projects if the Committee is interested. She will set something up in the next month or so.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.