

# ALL AT SEA

## SOUTH FLORIDA



**Inside:** Needed Luxury Sub

Swim Around **KEY WEST**  
**JUMENTOS CAYS** and Ragged Islands  
**FLL** the Yachting Capital

# SOUTH FLORIDA NEWS

IMAGE COURTESY OF CAPT. BRIT ROBINSON, MY ARMS REACH, A 130' WESTPORT



## CONCORD MARINE ELECTRONICS OFFERS HIGH SPEED, LOW COST COMMUNICATION

The ability to communicate while inshore just got easier. Concord Marine Electronics launched its partnership earlier this year with Marine Data Solutions, providers of the MDS 101 Mobile Wireless Router. This now guarantees cost-effective 4G LTE Internet and communication service to yachts cruising the waters of the continental U.S.A. This innovative technology has already been installed on 25-plus yachts including brands such as Hargrave, Ferretti, Azimut, Westport, Benetti, Riva, Pershing, Alloy, Outer Reef, Heesen and Broward.

"The MDS 101 Wireless Router will unleash your yachts' potential to run data on multiple devices such as audio/visual equipment, to download and watch movies, listen to music,

computers to send business correspondence and search the Internet on mobile devices, all at the same time," explains Michael Robilio, president of the Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based provider of marine navigation, communication, entertainment and security solutions since 1988. "And, because it offers truly unlimited 4G LTE service, the users will never be throttled down to 2G speeds."

The MDS 101 service range offshore is about 5 nm. However, the MDS 101 was not designed to be used offshore, but rather to complement the yacht's VSat service by offering higher speeds at lower costs when inshore or at the dock. It's perfect, for example, for large yachts with multiple live aboard crew and charter guests. Since most yachts already come equipped with a VSat (i.e. KVH-V3), the VSat option may be chosen once out of range of shore



side 4G LTE wireless service. Concord can also install external antennas on the MDS101 system which can help boost the wireless 4G LTE signal in fringe coverage areas. [concordelectronics.com](http://concordelectronics.com)

### **STORNETTA IS NEW CREW SERVICES ASSOCIATE AT NORTHROP & JOHNSON**

She studied and worked in Europe and Australia, owned and operated businesses in her native California and served as chef and chief stewardess on luxury yachts for the past seven years. These life experiences, combined with a degree in business marketing from California State University, positive attitude and strong work ethic, has landed Jacey Stornetta the position of crew services associate at the Fort Lauderdale, Florida offices of Northrop & Johnson.

"Northrop & Johnson is growing as a company and I am excited to be a part of it," says Stornetta. "I work with Marcy Williams in the Crew Services department and we look forward to assisting captains and crew in finding their dream jobs and placing crewmembers with valuable experience and abilities on board yachts to enhance their teams and create exceptional working environments."

Northrop & Johnson is a global leader in yacht sales, purchase, charter, management and new construction of luxury yachts. [www.northropandjohnson.com](http://www.northropandjohnson.com)



### **READY FOR THE LATEST GREATEST WAY TO HAVE FUN ON & UNDER THE SEA? WELCOME THE NEYK SUBMARINE**

Think submarine and picture the utilitarian confines of a militaristic watercraft. Not so on the Neyk Submarine, the first luxury submarine to feature an interior from the private jet industry. Netherlands' builder Ocean Submarine has teamed up with global experts such as Rolls Royce, MTU and Bosch to create this sumptuous nautical toy. The submarine is being crafted in modules in high-yield steel to a design optimized by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"The first submarine will have an overall length of 63 feet, large panoramic viewports on top and three acrylic viewports on either side, comfortable seats, a bar, a library, a complete galley and sleeping accommodations for six," says Martin van Eijk, founder and chief executive officer of Ocean Submarine. "Plus, it has a surface range of 1500 nautical miles, ability to take up to 12 passengers to depths of 500 feet and is capable of remaining submerged for up to 6 days in a row."

The first Neyk L2 Luxury Submarine is projected to launch in January 2018. The price will range from US \$14 to 24 million. [www.oceansubmarine.com](http://www.oceansubmarine.com)



### IGY MARINAS MAKES SCHEDULING YACHT SERVICES AS EASY AS THE CLICK OF A SMARTPHONE

Maintenance? Click. Fuel delivery? Click. Cleaning, captains and more? Click, click, click. IGY Marinas, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has collaborated with Boatyard, a mobile application (app) that enables boaters to schedule services by mobile phone. The company now offers this newest reward at its One Island Park – Miami Beach, location, which houses five pre-loaded devices for guests.

"We are excited to extend our service beyond the shoreline and out to sea. Connecting land and sea will have a positive impact on the overall guest experience and allow business partners to work with IGY to better access this valuable consumer segment. Boatyard is a flexible and reliable platform, and we are excited to be working with their dedicated and creative team," says Mukamal, chief executive officer of IGY Marinas.

Consumers can simply download Boatyard directly to their

mobile device from the App Store or Google Play. Once opened, select "Marina" and "One Island Park" to order any of the services available to guests at One Island Park marina.

Soon, Mukamal says that IGY Marinas will expand its relationship with Boatyard to its destinations in the northeast as well as develop partnerships with numerous other app based products. [www.igymarinas.com](http://www.igymarinas.com)

## ALL AT SEA SOUTH FLORIDA

COVER SHOT:

Neyk Submarines, the first luxury submarine to feature an interior from the private jet industry  
**Image courtesy of Neyk Submarines**





Resort-style marina featuring 117 slips for vessels up to 180 feet. Daily and contracted rates available. Enjoy private pool & spa, tennis courts, two 18-hole golf courses, and Bourbon Steak, a Michael Mina Restaurant at Turnberry Isle Miami Resort, as well as shopping at nearby Aventura Mall. Private charters and sports fishing adventures may also be arranged.



*Turnberry Isle Marina  
Yacht Club*

**N 25° 57.450' W 080° 07.660'  
MONITOR CHANNEL 68**



# MOTION IN THE OCEAN: SWIMMING AROUND KEY WEST

BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI



The Swim Around Key West sponsored by Florida Keys Community College is a 12.5-mile journey that attracts solo and team swimmers to repeatedly reach-pull, reach-pull and flutter kick their way around the southernmost island. The FKCC Swim Around Key West celebrated its 22nd year June 10, 2017 with 155 participants starting at 1000 Atlantic Boulevard by White Street Pier. On that particular day, air and water temperature each hovered between 83-85 degrees.

Islamorada's masters swimmers, who train at the Olympic-sized pool at the Ron Levy Aquatic Center in Founders Park, also known as the Fighting Manatees team, enjoyed success and camaraderie. Sara Kirchner of Islamorada swam solo this year and



won her age group, age 35-to-39-year-old women, with a time of 5 hours, 58 minutes. Last year, her five-person male-female team placed third in its division with a time of 5 hours, 42 minutes.

Eliza Colmes, Rob Dixon, Larry Herlth, Beth Kaminstein, Olympic gold medalist swimmer Jon Olsen and Tom Strobel made the 90-mile drive from Islamorada to check in for their six-person mixed team relay. In order to maximize speed, each teammate swims 30 minutes of freestyle, and thereafter 10-minute rotations. "If we're racing to catch another team toward the end, we'll swim five-minute rotations," said Strobel. Strobel participated for his third time with this team, and he has kayaked it three times as well to support a solo swimmer.

The teammates enjoy an easy camaraderie. "It's a fun day out on the water with friends and training partners with enough competition to make it very interesting," Strobel said. Teammate Dixon concurred. "This swim is more about enjoying a weekend in Key West and promoting our Swim for Alligator Lighthouse. The appeal lies in meeting a great bunch of people while having fun." They clocked a time of 5 hours, 36 minutes.

How does one train for something like this?

Kirchner swam 30,000 yards per week, with some weeks up to 35,000 yards, and she participates in many swim meets "for pacing." At least four days a week were 5,000-yard days, she said. She also participated in the 6.2-mile Swim Miami event in May, and said it was a good warm-up.

According to Strobel, he doesn't train for the Key West swim specifically. "I'm training for the [8.5 mile] Swim for Alligator Lighthouse (SFAL), and the Swim Around Key West happens to occur during that training period. The SFAL training comprises three training sessions at the pool a week, with each swim from 3,000-5,000 yards, and a long open-water swim on the weekend or during the week. I'll gradually increase the mileage of the open water swims to six miles by the SFAL in September. That's the plan, anyway!"

Kirchner said seeing Key West from the "outside looking in" was a highlight. Swimming just 16 minutes longer than her relay team a year ago, Kirchner observed that the solo swimmer must eat and drink water while treading water. "I stopped about every 30 minutes for water. It's important not to dehydrate." She also said distance swimmers can experience a numb tongue afterward from tasting so much saltwater.

Lifeguards are stationed throughout the course as well as boats every mile to ensure swimmer safety. The event is sanctioned by the U.S. Coast Guard. Every swimmer must have his

## BOAT SHOWS

**TAMPA, FL**  
**SEPTEMBER 8 – 10**  
**Tampa Boat Show**  
[www.tampaboatshow.com](http://www.tampaboatshow.com)

**SEPTEMBER 19 – 21**  
**IBEX - The International Boatbuilders Exhibition and Conference**  
[www.ibexshow.com/](http://www.ibexshow.com/)  
[info@ibexshow.com](mailto:info@ibexshow.com)  
866-963-9655

## FISHING TOURNAMENTS

**CARRABELLE, FL**  
**AUGUST 5 – 6**  
**C-Quarters Marina Annual Kingfish Shootout**  
[www.c-quartersmarina.com/shootout.html](http://www.c-quartersmarina.com/shootout.html)  
[info@c-quartersmarina.com](mailto:info@c-quartersmarina.com)  
(850) 697 8400

**GULFPORT, MS**  
**AUGUST 16 – 19**  
**Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club Fall Tournament**  
[www.mgcbgfc.com](http://www.mgcbgfc.com)

**HOUMA, LA**  
**AUGUST 18 – 19**  
**IFA Lucas Oil Redfish Open**  
[www.ifatours.com/open/](http://www.ifatours.com/open/)

**ISLAMORADA, FL**  
**SEPTEMBER 15 – 17**  
**Herman Lucerne Memorial Tournament**  
[hermanlucernememorial.com/tournament/event-schedule](http://hermanlucernememorial.com/tournament/event-schedule)  
[kelliet62@gmail.com](mailto:kelliet62@gmail.com)

**SEPTEMBER 29 – 30**  
**Mad Dog Mandich Fishing Classic and Family Fun Weekend**  
[www.maddogclassic.com](http://www.maddogclassic.com)  
305-667-0399

**JUPITER, FL**  
**AUGUST 11 – 13**  
**Lionfish Derby for Divers - Palm Beach**  
[www.reef.org/lionfish/derbies](http://www.reef.org/lionfish/derbies)

**SEPTEMBER 9**  
**Annual KDW Sports Fishing Tournament Chasen'Tailz**  
[www.chasentailz.com](http://www.chasentailz.com)  
(561) 201-7757

**KEY LARGO, FL**  
**AUGUST 2 – 3**  
**Hooked on Kids Charity Fishing Tournament**  
[www.sheridanhouse.org/web/events/fishing-tournament/](http://www.sheridanhouse.org/web/events/fishing-tournament/)  
954-983-4360

**SEPTEMBER 22 – 24**  
**Annual Take Stock in Children Backcountry Challenge**  
[www.keylargorotary.org/TakeStockinChildren.cfm](http://www.keylargorotary.org/TakeStockinChildren.cfm)  
[mike@islandbayresort.com](mailto:mike@islandbayresort.com)  
305-304-0421

**KEY WEST, FL**  
**SEPTEMBER 8 – 10**  
**S.L.A.M. (Southernmost Light Tackle Anglers Masters)**  
[www.redbone.org/tourn\\_sched.html](http://www.redbone.org/tourn_sched.html)  
[susan@redbone.org](mailto:susan@redbone.org)  
05-664-2002

*Continued on page SF9*

own support craft in the form of a kayak or small boat. Most relay teams use a boat and the solo swimmers usually use a kayak escort.

The FKCC Swim Around Key West benefits the FKCC pool by providing scholarships for swimming and water safety instruction and aids in purchasing equipment for the swim clubs that train at the college pool.

*There is another Swim Around Key West held a week or two after this event. Its website is [www.swimaroundkeywest.com](http://www.swimaroundkeywest.com). The college's swim website is <http://fkccswimaroundkeywest.com>.*





# EXPLORING THE JUMENTOS CAYS AND RAGGED ISLANDS

BY CAPT SHANE MCCLELLAN



In this issue, our Bahamas series is going to explore the 60 mile long chain of small islands, rocks, and reefs called the Jumentos Cays (northern part) and the Ragged Islands (southern part). They extend south from George Town in the Exumas and since there is only one settlement and no services in the whole chain the farther south you go the fewer other cruisers you will see.

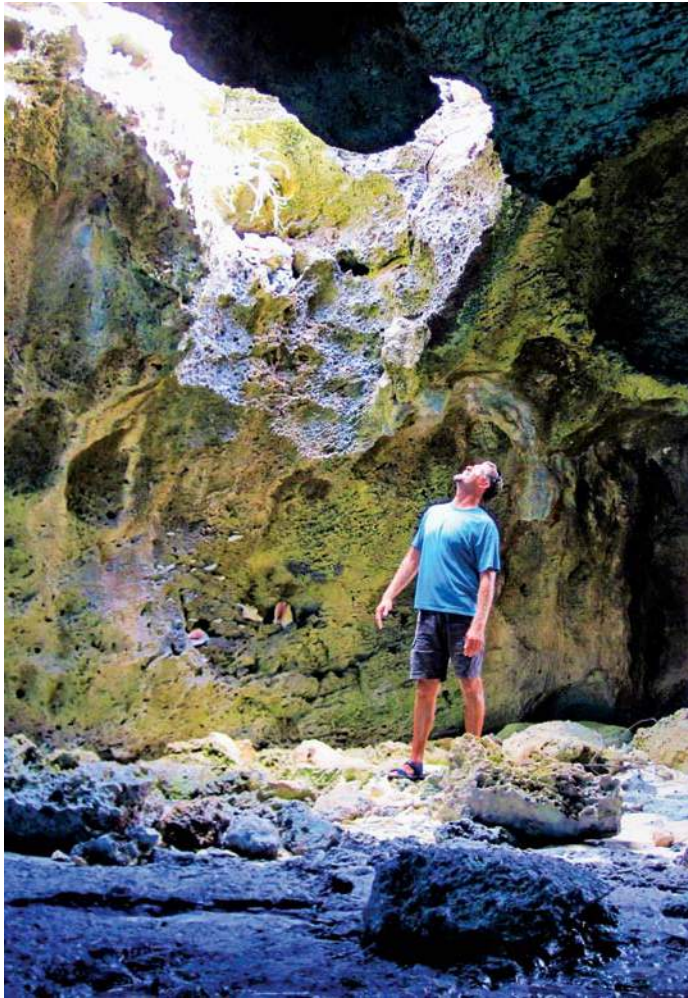
At the north end you will find Water Cay. Here you can find some nice beaches and limestone cliffs, but the most interesting thing is the three ocean holes a mile or so from the island. These sit in about 20 feet of water and are circular in shape. A rim has built up around the edge and there is a dramatic drop off in the center, where the holes are over 100 feet deep. You will love motoring over them and snorkeling inside the rim.

Our next island is Flamingo Cay, due to the resident birds, and you can find the shrimp flamingos get their pink color from in some of the watering holes. Of the three nice beaches, the one on the north coast has a small airplane wreckage 10



feet from shore. Make sure you check out the awesome cave where you can drive your dinghy inside and beach it. You will also find the John T Davis wrecked against the shore. If you





hike along the trails you might find curly tail lizards among the ruggedly beautiful landscapes and climbing the light tower gives you great views of the island.

Eight miles south along the chain you will find Jamaica Cay, home to a small, abandoned resort, which you can now poke around and check out the ruined remains. I must admit I found the welcome sign with the no trespassing next to it ironic. You may also see rabbits on the islands. The local fishermen like to catch them and take them home to their kids as pets.

Our next stop has a mile and a half long, half moon shaped, sandy beach and is Buena Vista Cay. This is a wonderful place to walk along the sandy shore or just relax the day away on a beach.

While snorkeling over at Raccoon Cay you will find some wonderful and shallow reefs. But the thing I enjoyed the most in these islands was following a small canal and discovering the remains of a salt plantation. I have seen salt pans before, but not with such an abundance of pure salt. This gives you an

*Continued from page SF7*

## FISHING TOURNAMENTS

**MARATHON, FL**  
**SEPTEMBER 21 – 24**  
 Marathon International Bonefish Tournament  
[www.mibt59.com/](http://www.mibt59.com/)  
[bnbifishing@comcast.net](mailto:bnbifishing@comcast.net)  
 Barb 305-304-8682

**NEW ORLEANS, LA**  
**AUGUST 10 – 13**  
 New Orleans Invitational Billfish Tournament  
[www.nobgfc.com](http://www.nobgfc.com)  
[charliec@howardweil.com](mailto:charliec@howardweil.com)  
 504-237-4030

**NORTH PALM BEACH, FL**  
**AUGUST 12**  
 Anchorage Aweigh Fishing Tourney  
[www.village-npb.org/467/](http://www.village-npb.org/467/)  
 Anchorage-Aweigh-Fishing-Tournament  
 561-841-3386

**OCEAN CITY, MD**  
**AUGUST 7 – 11**  
 White Marlin Open  
[www.whitemarlinopen.com](http://www.whitemarlinopen.com)  
[contact@whitemarlinopen.com](mailto:contact@whitemarlinopen.com)  
 410-289-9229

**PORT ARANSAS, TX**  
**AUGUST 9 – 13**  
 Texas Legends Billfish Tournament  
[www.txlegends.com](http://www.txlegends.com)

**STUART, FLORIDA**  
**AUGUST 11 – 12**  
 Annual Junior Angler Tournament  
[www.stuartsailfishclub.com](http://www.stuartsailfishclub.com)  
 (772) 286-9373

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL**  
**AUGUST 17 – 19**  
 Anglers For The Cure  
[www.anglersforthe.cure.com](http://www.anglersforthe.cure.com)


## SAILING REGATTAS

**MIAMI, FL**  
**AUGUST 5 – 6**  
 Single Handed and Double Handed Race  
[www.cgsc.org](http://www.cgsc.org)

**SEPTEMBER 21 – 24**  
 BBYC Lime Cup  
[www.biscaynebayyachtclub.com/limecup.html](http://www.biscaynebayyachtclub.com/limecup.html)

idea of how it dries and how pure it can be once you get the water to evaporate.

Our final stop is at the only settlement, Duncan Town. In order to get to the town you must anchor out near a small island with a memorial to victims of a hurricane. From here you dinghy down a long channel in order to arrive at the small settlement of around 75 people. Once here make sure you check out the Eagle Nest restaurant, which is built with an old airliner in it.

Just think at this point you are closer to Cuba than to George Town in the Exumas, which tells you how remote The Jumentos and Ragged Islands are. Next month we will jump offshore from here and check out the Acklins island group. 

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Visit [www.svGuidingLight.com](http://www.svGuidingLight.com) to read more from Captain Shane about the Bahamas, Caribbean, life aboard, world traveling, and more. You might also want to check out his travel video series.

# SUPERYACHT INSURANCE GROUP TURNS 15

BY CAROL M. BAREUTHER, RD


She started selling insurance with no marketing budget, \$10 worth of business cards and a door-to-door approach back in 2002. Today, Maria Karlsson, president and broker, not only celebrates the 15th anniversary of her successful company, the Fort Lauderdale, FL-based Superyacht Insurance Group, but also the launch of her company's exclusive crew medical plan called the 'Global Mariner', together with Azimuth Rick Solutions.

"After having worked for the Florida Powerboat Club for several years, I wanted to focus more on sales and marketing," says Karlsson. "I saw an ad in the paper asking for 'insurance sales agents' and I went to the meeting to hear what it was all about."

The position didn't turn out to be what Karlsson had hoped, yet it was her interest and aptitude for the insurance industry that led her to start her own firm. She began selling U.S. domestic health insurance plans for individual and groups and soon progressed into international insurance with a focus on the yachting industry. Karlsson says her proudest accomplishment to date is the new crew medical plan with Azimuth, a managing agency for certain underwriters at Lloyd's.

"The plan is specifically designed for crew and it covers them while working, during time off and when in between jobs. It's a simple plan design explained in a two-page brochure that will not overwhelm busy crew. It also has a 'one price for all' structure, meaning it's the same price whether you're a 50-year-old captain or a 20-year-old stewardess. This is unheard of, but keeps things simple," she explains.

Karlsson has another anniversary to celebrate this year. That is, 10 years since first dating and five years of marriage to husband Steve. The two met in the line of work when Steve captained a yacht that Karlsson provided the crew medical insurance.

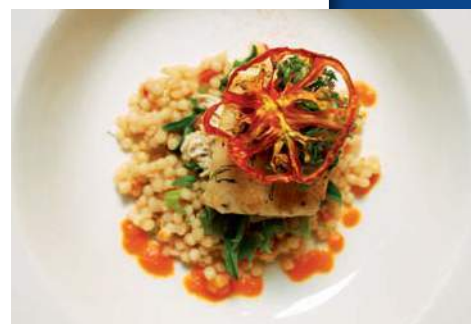
"Steve takes great part in the firm and acts like a consultant since he has 30 years of first-hand experience in yachting," she says. 





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# FORT LAUDERDALE — THE 'YACHTING EMPLOYMENT CAPITAL OF THE WORLD'

BY CAROL M. BAREUTHER



Fort Lauderdale is often dubbed the 'Yachting Capital of the World' No wonder. There's over 300 miles of inland waterways, 24 miles of Atlantic coastline in the city's Broward County and some 50,000-plus registered yachts of all types, from powerboats to sailboats and megayachts. However, and perhaps less commonly known, Fort Lauderdale and the whole of South Florida is the 'Yachting Employment Capital of the World'. Consider that the yacht refit and repair business in the southern part of the Sunshine State accounts for a large portion of the marine industry's 136,000

jobs and \$11.5 billion economic impact, including nearly \$4.05 billion in wages and earnings in the tri-county area of Broward, Dade and Palm Beach, according to data provided by the Fort Lauderdale-headquartered, Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF). What's more, salaries in the marine industry are typically 28 percent higher than the state average. This makes the city and whole of South Florida the happiest place on earth for skilled marine tradesmen and women.

"The marine industry, as a legacy industry in Florida, has many





multi-generational businesses, shipyards, marinas, and entrepreneurial enterprises," says Kelly Skidmore, MIAASF's public relations specialist. "However, external impacts, such as public policy decisions over the decades and Baby Boomers retiring at a faster pace than younger workers can replace them, have created a shortage of skilled tradesmen."

Needs for skilled workers run across the career spectrum in the marine industry. This includes everything from painters to plumbers, carpenters, welders, diesel mechanics,

HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) experts, and much more.

"Electrical and plumbing specialists who have their certifications are especially in demand," says Michele Caspari, operations manager at Fort Lauderdale-based Elite Marine Yacht Services, which concentrates on the design and installation of HVAC equipment on superyachts. "Few people are skilled in both."

For companies such as High Seas Yacht Service, a Fort Lau-



derdale-headquartered company that focuses on precision engine, strut and shaft alignments, it is mechanics and technicians that are highly sought after. "Particularly those that specialize in large megayacht running gear and hydraulic technicians that are knowledgeable on all types of marine hydraulic systems," says spokesperson, Lee Pernice. "Skills and training needed on the mechanics side, for example, include gear mechanics, basic mechanical skills and being good in math. When our mechanics work on engine alignments or shaft straightening, thousands of an inch off could mean the difference between a smooth ride and vibration under load."

In Broward County alone, there are several marine magnet programs at the middle-school and high school level, as well as marine technical services and vocational schools. One of these is Broward College, which offers a two-year Associate of Applied Science in Marine Engineering Management degree. Courses that make up this degree included marine technology, marine electricity, marine electronics, marine diesel, inboard/outboard saildrive and transmission, marine auxiliary equipment, marine corrosion and prevention and advanced marine composites.

"It's a well-rounded program that enables a student on graduation to be well-rounded and walk into a shipyard and be multifaceted," says Dr. Sean Gallagan, associate dean for transportation programs. "We graduate 25 students every 4 to 5 months and most have already been in dialogue with employers since after their first semester. That's the level of the workforce shortage. It's definitely an employee's market. Ironi-

cally, many people, even here in South Florida, don't know these types of careers exist."

Organizations such as MIAF are working closely with its members to increase the profile of the industry as well as the number of on-the-job training opportunities available for students right out of high school or with some college courses under their belt. In addition, marine companies themselves are actively encouraging more young people to consider working in the marine industry.

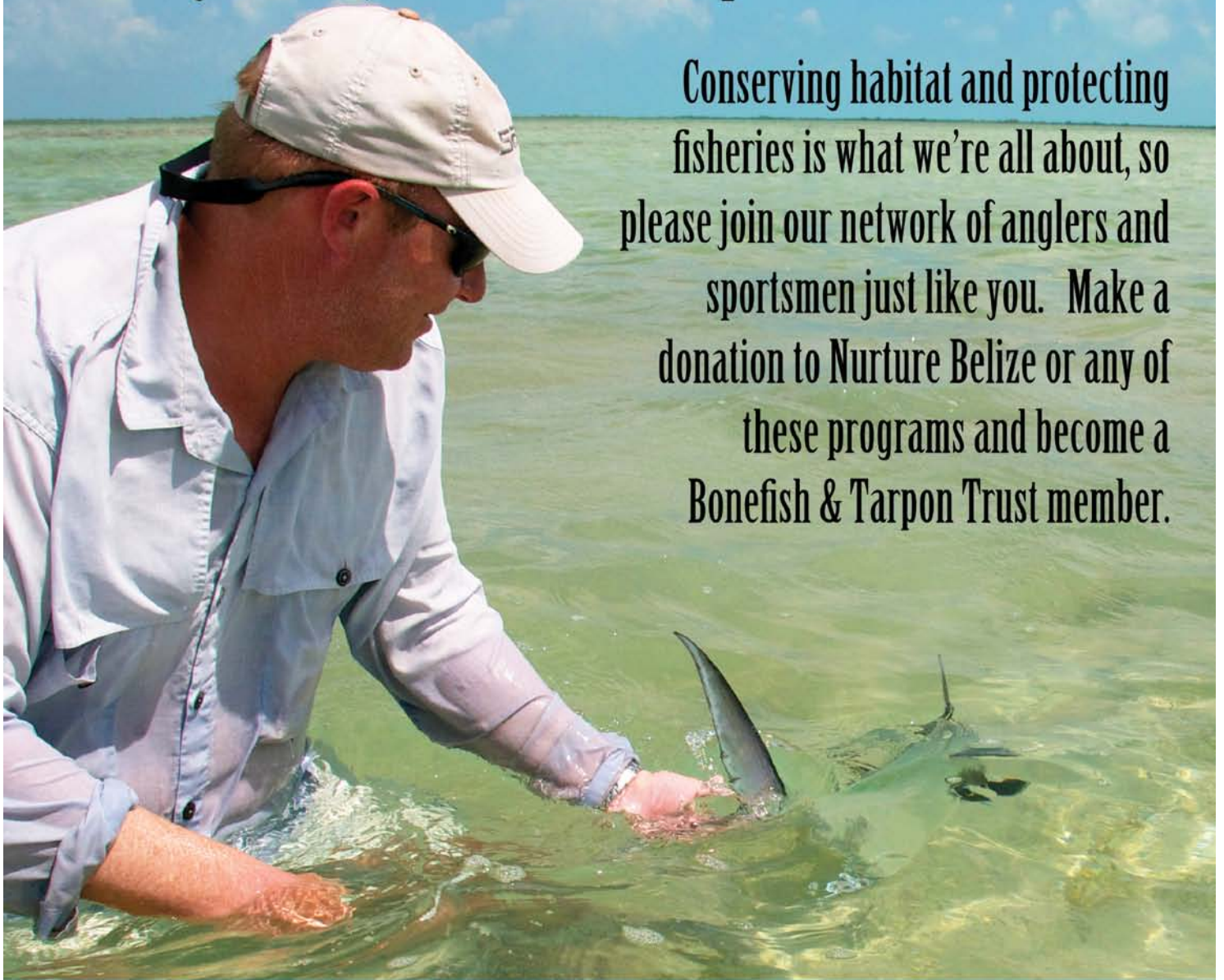
"We have hosted teacher field trips at our facility to teach teachers about the opportunities in our industry and pass that information on to their students who are not college-bound," says Staci Love, marketing manager for the Lauderdale Marine Center, in Fort Lauderdale, which is the largest shipyard in the world and home to over 60 marine contractors. "Last month, we hosted another event where 30 high school students were invited to see our shipyard and what goes on here."

Caspari, at Elite Marine Yacht Services sums up well not only the opportunities but the benefits of a career in South Florida's marine industry. "Within five years of graduating from a two-year tech school, you can be making \$28 an hour or upwards of \$60,000 annually before you turn 30, and that's with full health and retirement benefits. Plus, the South Florida yachting industry isn't going anywhere. People will always own boats and there will always be a need for trained serviceman to fix and maintain them."



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Nurture Belize — protecting fishing areas from development and destruction

Florida Keys — working with guides/anglers to protect and improve fisheries for the future

Bahamas — flats and mangrove conservation

Project Permit — population study, what, when, and how they tick

Boca Grande, Florida — juvenile tarpon habitat restoration



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# Dictador 12 Years — Colombia

RUM BY CLINT AND TERRY BORAM

The minute Terry realized Dictador rum was made in Cartagena, Colombia she knew we had to review. Cartagena is a magical city of narrow streets with flower-draped window boxes and colorful street performers that charm and entertain. Colombia is one of the three largest sugar cane producers in the world with Cartagena being the first area for sugarcane production in South America. What is unique about Dictador 12 Years is the base used for the rum and the twist on the solera-style aging.

Many rums in this region begin with rich molasses, however the Colombian government mandates that automobiles use a certain percentage of biofuels. You guessed it, molasses is a biofuel. To get around this interesting dilemma, Destilería Colombiana, producer of Dictador rums, makes their own sugar cane honey for rum production. Sugar cane honey is the first of three stages for making molasses. Here the sugar cane nectar is heated to produce a mild flavor and a light color. This “light molasses” is used as the rum’s base.

The sugar cane honey is then distilled partly in copper and partly in steel continuous columns. Then the rum is aged in pre-used oak barrels using the solera aging system. Remember, this is cascading process where younger rums are at the top flight and blended with the older rums in flights below. A unique feature of the Dictador Solera System is that barrels of similar aged rum, along the same flight, are periodically consolidated to keep the barrels as full as possible so that the rum remains in full contact with the wood.

## HE SAID

The nose has a nice caramel and vanilla note with a hint of rose. With further sniffs bringing out more notes such as allspice and oak, I’m looking forward to exploring this rum. I’m truly surprised the taste is not overly sweet. The vanilla is definitely gone but is replaced by semi-sweet earthiness. I’m going to say its coconut husks. The finish is warm and inviting. The lack of sweetness on the palate throws me. I’ve never tasted a rum like this.

## SHE SAID

I could smell caramel as soon as I poured the rum. The nose doesn’t disappoint with caramel, vanilla, slight oak and a spice I can’t immediately identify. The sip bites at my tongue before



the creaminess of the caramel smooths out the palate. Strong baking spices of cloves and nutmeg fill my sinuses while the liquid coat the throat. I find myself sipping unconsciously as we talked about the rum. I enjoy the warming sensation.

## OVERALL

There is much on the nose that screams, “Rum” but you are left disappointed because the rum sweetness is missing. That doesn’t make this a bad rum at all. Hold onto the sweetness of the nose throughout your snifter and you will continue to go back for more.

## 3.5 OUT OF 5

### SIPPING RUM SCALE

- 1 – An expensive mixer
- 2 – A quick celebratory shot
- 3 – Wouldn’t be embarrassed to share with friends
- 4 – Are my friends worthy of a sip
- 5 – Special moments rum

**ABOUT CLINT AND TERRY:** *We have sampled many a dram over our 33 years of marriage and quite often we don’t fully agree. Could be the difference is male/female taste buds. Or, somebody is just wrong.*