

Doug Fry

Public boating access issues in Florida

Biography

Mr. Fry is the Environmental Administrator of the Program Development & Support Section in the Office of Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources in the Department of Environmental Protection. He has been in this position since 1992 and has been with the Department since 1980. In this capacity, he is responsible for supervising the rulemaking, training, public education, and mangrove protection programs for the environmental resource permitting, wetland resource permitting, and sovereignty submerged lands programs administered by the Department for the State of Florida.

Abstract

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection would propose to present a paper dealing with the Florida experience with public access issues, specifically including conversion of "open to the general public" docking facilities to docking facilities for more limited classes of users, such as those associated with private residential multi-family residences such as condominiums. This will include a discussion of matters related to ensuring the converted docks conform with size and slip limitations applicable to such users, our authority and ability to enforce compliance with reductions and removals of facilities as needed, and the potential for any "takings" claims arising from such reductions and removals. We would like to also solicit input from other states and territories on limitations, thresholds, and mechanisms for equitably allocating public access, and incentives for retaining and creating facilities that are open to the general public, such as tax breaks and zoning.