

Derelict Vessels



House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee
November 18, 2025
Major Bill Holcomb, Section Leader of Boating and Waterways

Derelict Vessels



Wrecked



Junked



Substantially
Dismantled

Derelict Vessels - Causes

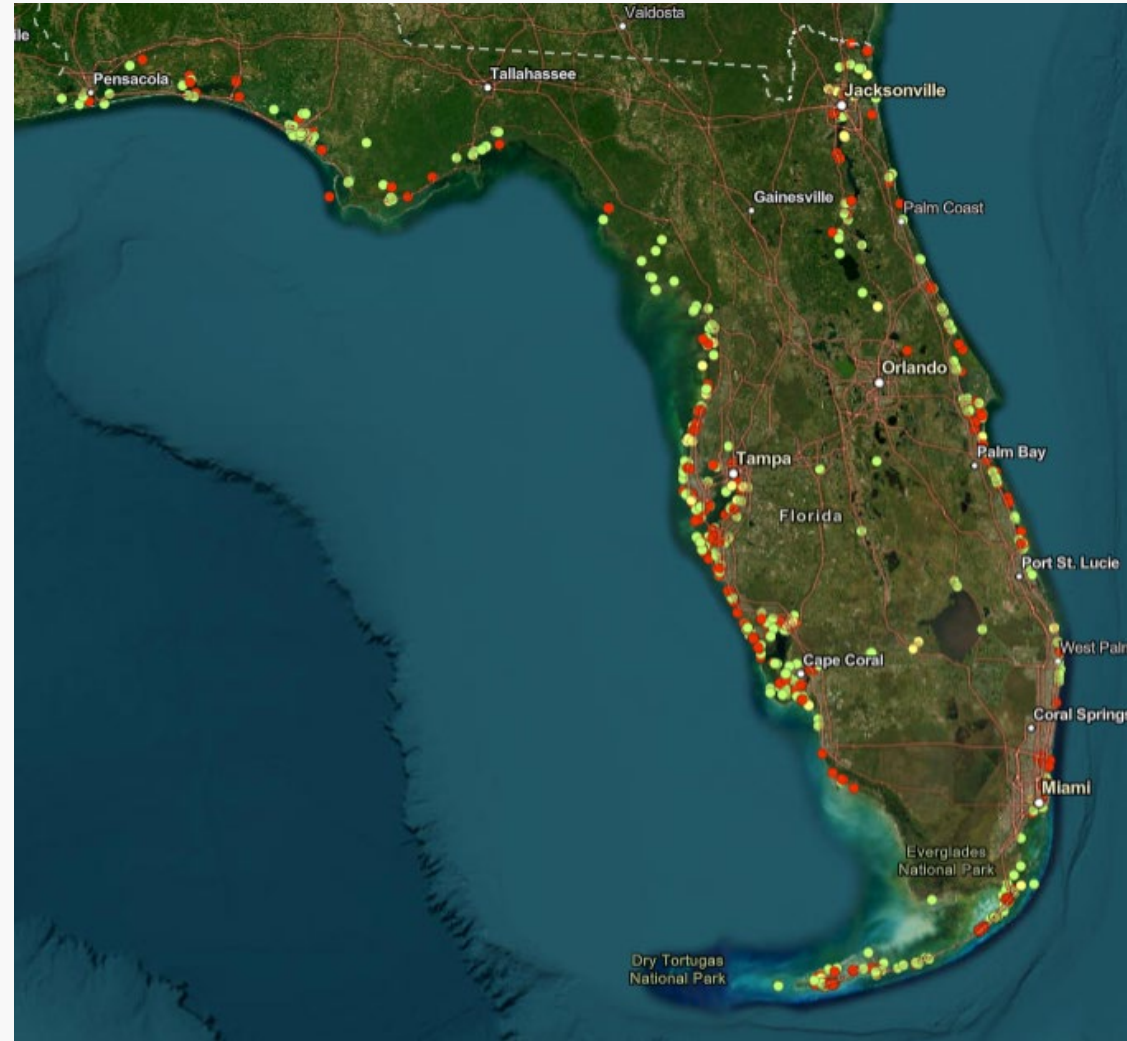


- Owner Neglect
- Owner Abandonment
- Natural Disasters

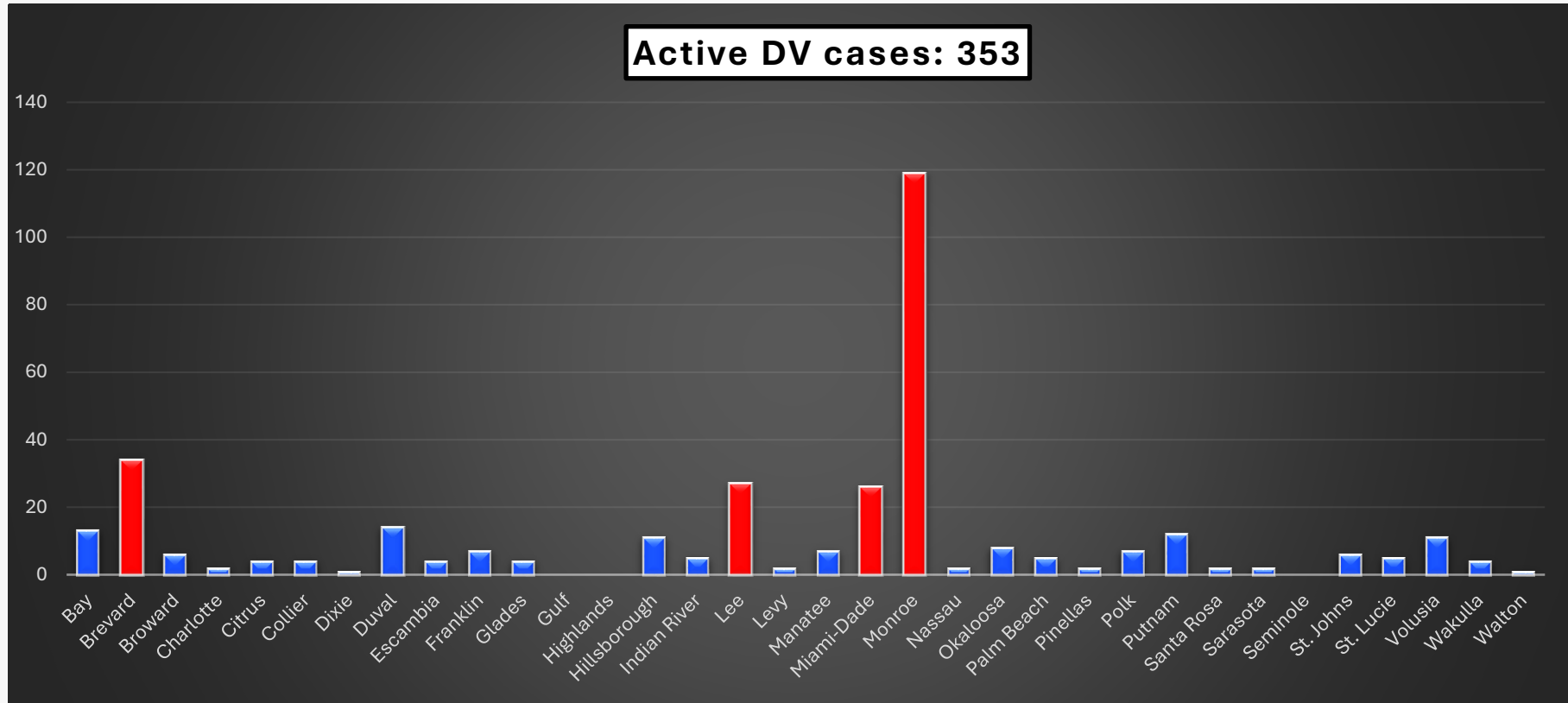
Active Derelict Vessel Cases

November 2024: 1,221 active derelict vessels listed in the FWC Statewide Derelict Vessel Database

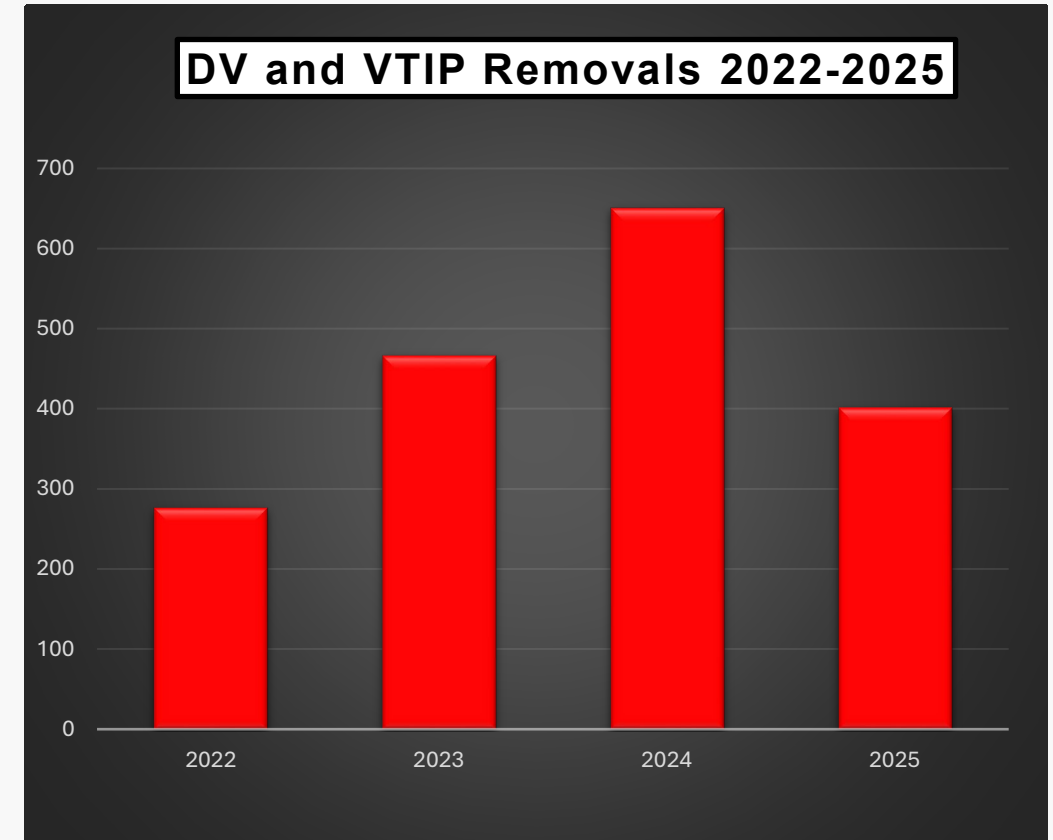
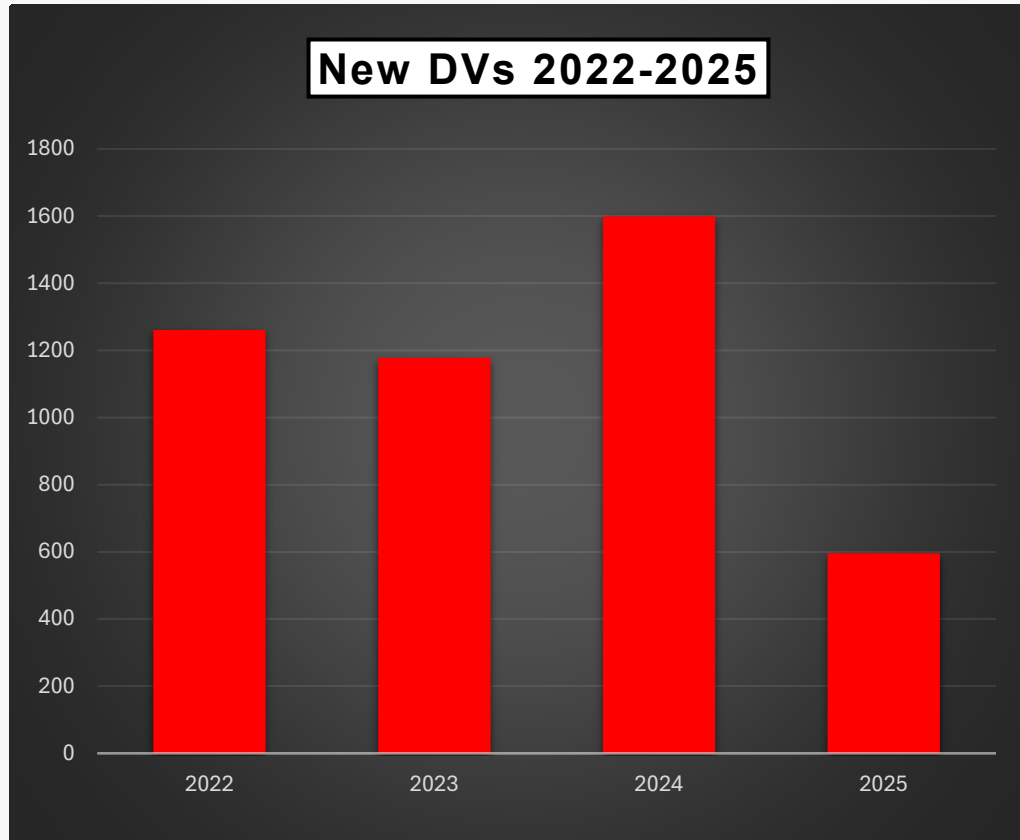
November 2025: reduced to 353 active derelict vessels listed in the FWC Statewide Derelict Vessel Database



Active DV Cases by County



Derelict Vessels 2022-2025



Derelict Vessels – Removal Process



- Contracting
- Grants
- Direct Removals

DV Removal Contractors

- 20 contractors qualified under RFP FWC 21/22-75 statewide
- Qualifications awarded by geographic region
- Five vendors qualified statewide
 - Northwest Region: 7
 - North Central Region: 6
 - Northeast Region: 7
 - Southwest Region: 7
 - South A Region: 8
 - South B Region: 10



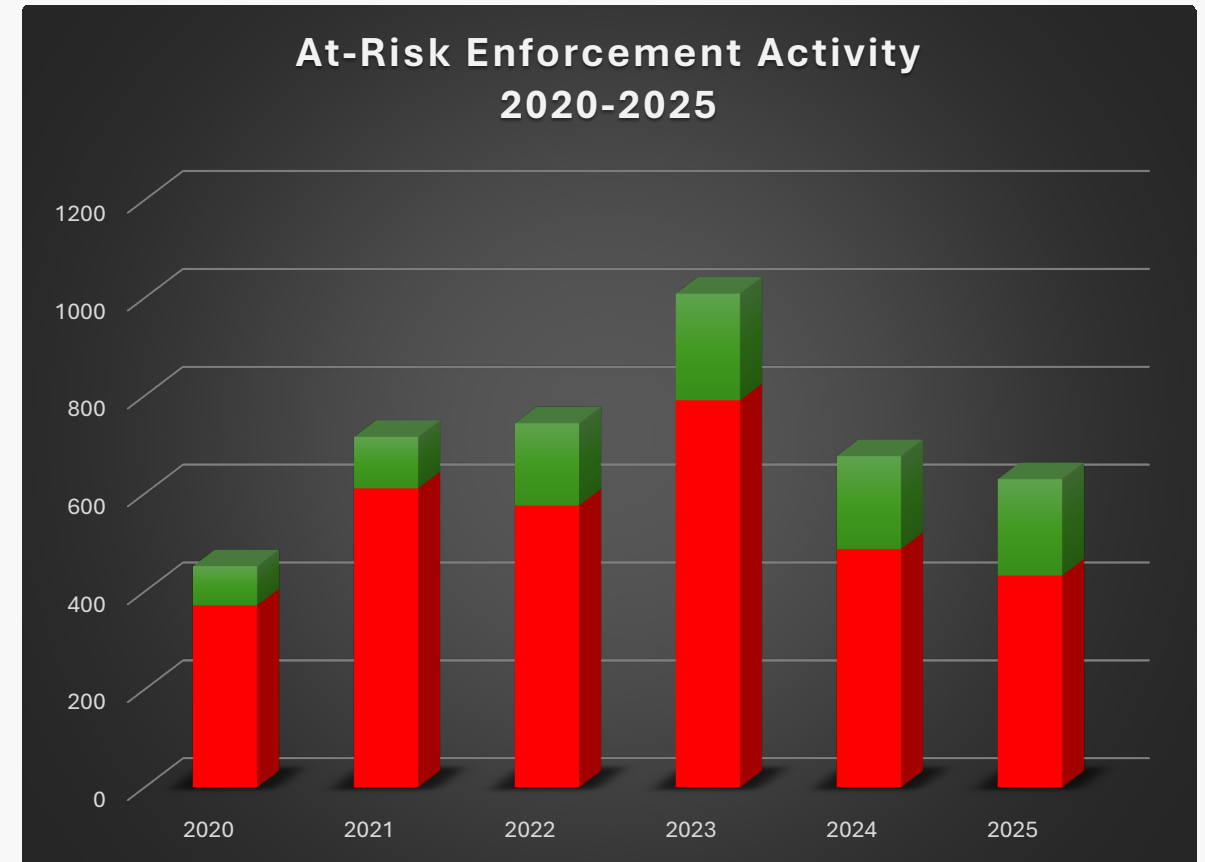
DV Block Grants

- Program created in late fall 2024 by FWC
- Allows local governments with DV removal experience access to block grant funds
- Requires a local government to have at least 40 documented DV removals in three out of five preceding years
- West Coast Inland Navigation District: \$187,500; Miami-Dade: \$232,000; Monroe: \$815,000



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 at-risk citation convictions
- Any at-risk condition
- 24-month timeframe



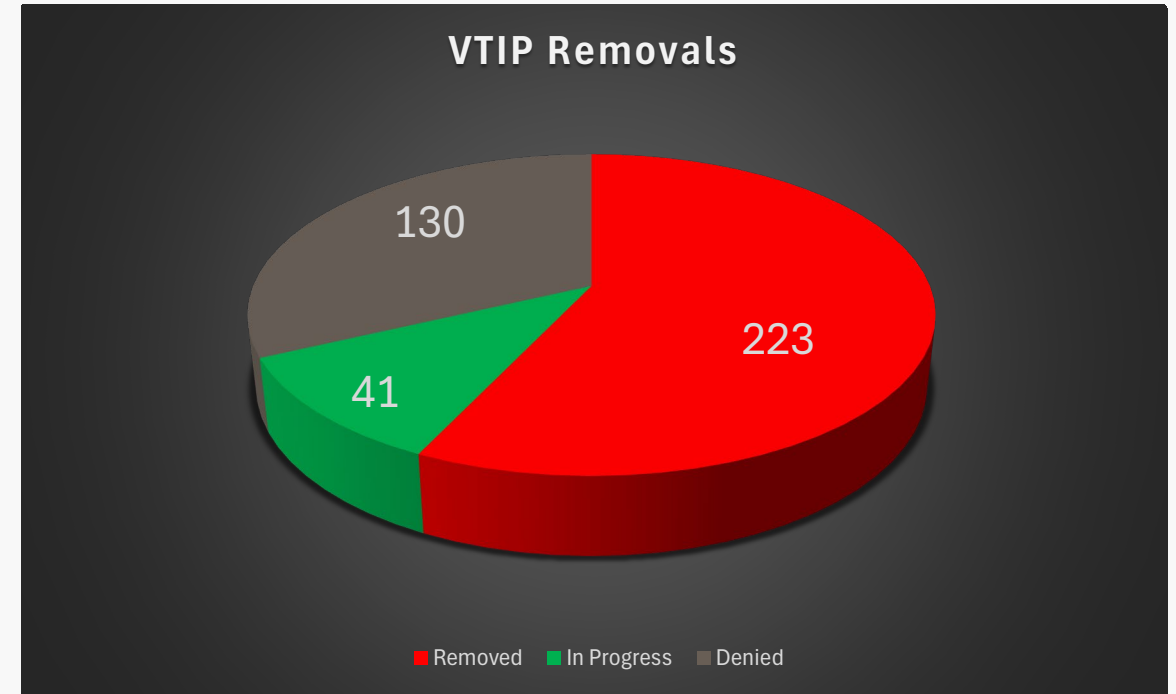
Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP)

- Section 327.4107(6)(b), *Florida Statutes*, authorizes 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 Progress

- 394 applications received
- 223 at-risk vessels removed
- No cost to the owner
- Reduces cost and environmental impact



DV Program Advancement

- New laws and rules passed
- Upgraded database
- New long-term anchoring permit requirement in 2026
- Streamlined grant process
- New block grant program
- Increased prevention efforts





Thank You

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