

## Biscayne Bay/Virginia Key/Marine Stadium: Boat Show

- Biscayne Bay is a vast ecosystem that supports various wildlife from seahorses, mangrove snappers, brown pelicans, black tip sharks, bottlenose dolphin, and the endangered Florida Manatee. The bay provides for part of Miami –Dade County's economy through tourism, home values, and is an international destination. The bay is home to boating communities of all kinds, recreational and commercial fishing, paddlers, rowers, snorkelers, and scuba divers.
- Virginia Key is an 863 acre barrier island that is used by the public and contains environmental and cultural resources like the historic Miami Marine Stadium and the Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area (CWA), which is state protected. Furthermore the public was not aware of City of Miami's plans to temporarily relocate the Miami International Boat Show to the island. This violates the 2010 Consensus Master Plan that was created by the people for the people and was approved on July 22, 2010 by the city.
- The temporary staging of the floating docks on the marine stadium site will create new impacts, which can be considered minor but impacts to a state aquatic preserve nonetheless. Studies have shown that constant shading will preclude any submerged aquatic vegetation from growing and the materials used to create these walkways means additional marine debris disturbing the already sensitive resources in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves.
- The Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) is a 700-acre no-entry zone all year round that was set aside by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the 1980s to protect extraordinary habitats such as seagrass beds and last remaining unaltered mangrove habitat. Birds, spawning fish, invertebrates and the endangered manatee utilize these habitats, managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves.
- Manatees utilize the Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) all year round but are most abundant from November through April. They aggregate around rivers and canals like the Miami River and travel across Biscayne Bay to the lush seagrass beds of this protected area. Its designation was in part of the high amount of manatee usage year round. Manatees use this protected habitat to feed, rest, mate and calve their young.
- Hire 6 Law Enforcement Officers (Miami Dade County Marine Patrol and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) with vessels, to monitor the basin 24/7 for boating activities relating to the manatee speed zone violations, navigation within shoal areas, and the CWA no boat entry zone.
- Require that a Detailed Water Taxi Plan be submitted to the agencies for review and comment. The plan should include speed, time tables, frequency, routes, draft of vessel, and the boat capacity. Entry should be prohibited for areas like the Bill Sadowski Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) and manatee protected zones.

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- Boat captains and manufacturers should be provided with Miami Dade County boater education information (especially the protected and shallow seagrass areas) before arrival.
- If this project is allowed to be permitted, there should be a cap on size and development impact to avoid and minimize the impact to this sensitive environment. For example, that cap for vessels should be 200 or less.

These are the people responsible for permitting:

### Miami- Dade Couty

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### State of Florida

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### United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

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### Resources:

Link for Elected Officials: City\_County pdf

Link for PowerPoint: BBC\_ppt

Link for Biscayne Bay Coalition Letter: NMMA\_Comments pdf

Link for Legal Letter: Comments re pdf

Link for Virginia Key Master

Plan: <http://www.miamigov.com/Planning/virginiakeymp.html>

Link for Save our Virginia Key Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-miami-national-marine-manufactures-association-move-the-boat-show-away-from-virginia-key>

Thanks and feel free to email [biscayne@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:biscayne@tropicalaudubon.org) or call [305-542-4179](tel:305-542-4179) if you have any questions.

For the Bay,  
Michelle