

# Marine Boating Access 2010–2050

## Charlotte County

These are findings from a recent study, *Planning for the Future of Recreational Boating Access to Charlotte County Waterways 2010-2050*, TP-186, designed to provide Charlotte County with a planning instrument that specifies the type, quantity, and location of public shore access and boating facilities needed to meet anticipated demand through 2050 while minimizing environmental impacts on sensitive marine habitat.



### At a glance:

- Approximately 28,125 boats will be registered in Charlotte County in 2050, an increase of about 38% over the 20,355 that were registered in 2010.
- Currently, 53% of Charlotte County resident boaters keep their vessel at a dock in Charlotte County, 35% launch from a ramp, and 12% use a marina wet or dry slip.
- Residents comprise 53% of all ramp users and 51% of marina patrons at Charlotte County facilities.
- If marina capacity in Charlotte County remains consistent, Charlotte County will need an additional 870 slips by 2030; and 1,118 slips by 2050.
- Charlotte County's supply of saltwater accessible parcels is sufficient to meet dock demand well beyond 2050.
- Inequities in the demand for ramp access versus the supply of ramp lanes are apparent for specific regions of Charlotte County, with the largest gap between current supply and demand found in the Stump Pass/Gasparilla Sound region.
- Lower Charlotte Harbor is the destination for an overwhelming majority of boaters. Given that 80% of resident boaters who use ramps live in Central and east Charlotte County—areas that have no ramps on Lower Charlotte Harbor—it makes sense to consider placement of new ramps in this area.
- Potential mooring field sites in Charlotte County include six in the Lower Peace River, three in upper Lemon Bay, and one in the Stump Pass/Gasparilla region.

### Expected change in pleasure boats

Vessel Length	2010-2030	2010-2050
< 12'	15.3%	32.5%
12' to <16'	5.1%	-12.4%
16' to <26'	33.5%	44.1%
26' to <40'	17.5%	32.6%
40' to <65'	11.2%	24.8%

\*Excludes registered canoes and vessels over 65' in length

