



WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB

~ Established 1934 ~



July 7, 2016

Jennifer Smith, Director of Southeast District
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 7210-1
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Mrs. Smith,

I write to you on behalf of the over 1,300 members of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) to voice our concern over the floating home that has been placed in the cove immediately south of Munyon Island in the Lake Worth Lagoon. This area contains some of the best developed seagrass beds in the lagoon. The water filtration that occurs in this area helps maintain a reasonable level of water quality. Development of a floating home community would shade out seagrasses and inhibit their growth. Furthermore, the addition of floating homes would significantly compromise the full recovery of seagrass after periods of diminished growth. It is well documented that this area is home to a wide variety of marine fish, invertebrates, birdlife, and is often utilized by manatees and juvenile sea turtles. The ecological role this area plays within the lagoon cannot be underestimated.

The WPBFC strongly urges the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to exercise its regulatory power to prevent this areas marine habitat from being degraded by one or more floating homes. Losing this area would have a considerable negative impact on the resources of the Lake Worth Lagoon at a time when we cannot afford to loose any additional marine habitat. Like other stakeholders in our community, the WPBFC has long argued that all of the privately owned submerged land parcels in this cove should be purchased by the state, held in the public domain and protected in perpetuity. We are hopeful the Florida DEP can play an influential role in accomplishing such an action. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Tom Twyford
President

Cc: David Clark, Acting Director of State Lands FDEP
Cheryl McCall, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Public Land Administration FDEP
Rob Robbins, Director, Palm Beach County Dept. of Environmental Resources Management