



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 7, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Brian L. Barroso, City Manager

From: Steve McAlearney, Director Port & Marine Services

Subject: **Ordinance Prohibiting Fishing within City-Owned and Operated Marina Facilities (Key West Bight Marina and City Marina at Garrison Bight) (File ID: 26-5241)**

Introduction

This item creates Chapter 82-3 (Waterways) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Key West to prohibit fishing activities within municipally owned and operated marina facilities, specifically the Key West Bight Marina and the City Marina at Garrison Bight.

Purpose and Justification

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to enhance public safety, protect municipal infrastructure, and preserve the operational integrity of City marina facilities.

Fishing within active marina environments has been identified as creating multiple adverse impacts, including:

- **Public Safety Risks:** Fishing lines, hooks, and casting activity pose hazards to marina patrons, staff, and vessel operators.
- **Navigation Interference:** Fishing activity within marina basins can obstruct vessel maneuvering, particularly in confined docking areas and channels.
- **Property Damage:** Fishing gear and tackle can damage vessels, rigging, and marina infrastructure, resulting in increased maintenance costs and liability exposure.
- **Sanitation Concerns:** Fish cleaning and disposal of bait or waste contribute to odors, pest attraction, and water quality degradation within enclosed marina basins.
- **Operational Conflicts:** The presence of fishing activity is incompatible with the intended commercial, charter, and live-aboard uses of municipal marina facilities.

The City has received ongoing reports from marina management, tenants, and harbor personnel documenting these issues. Adoption of a clear prohibition aligns with best practices implemented by other Florida municipal marinas and provides a consistent and enforceable standard.

The ordinance is adopted pursuant to the City's home rule authority under Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Florida Constitution and Sections 166.021 and 166.201, Florida Statutes, authorizing municipalities to regulate activities on City-owned property to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Procurement

No procurement is required for adoption of this ordinance.

Implementation costs are minimal and will be absorbed within existing marina operating budgets. Anticipated minor expenses include:

- fabrication and installation of additional "No Fishing" signage at marina facilities;
- staff time associated with enforcement and public education.

Any signage will be procured in accordance with the City's standard purchasing procedures and thresholds.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Commission approve the ordinance on first reading and schedule it for second reading and public hearing.

Adoption of this ordinance will provide clear regulatory authority to prohibit fishing within City-owned and operated marina facilities, reduce safety risks, protect City assets, and support efficient marina operations.