

## NAVY RESTRICTED AREA BY THE KEY WEST BIGHT

Dan Probert

Mr. Craig Hunt, Conch Harbor Owner held a meeting on 2/28/2013 at their facility to address the intrusion of transient vessels entering the Navy Restricted Area south of Pier D-1 and adjacent to the Key West Bight water entry. He requested a representative from the Bight Board and since I am the maritime representative, Marilyn asked me to attend. In addition the City was represented by the Mayor, Craig Cates, the City Manager, Bob Vitas, the Port & Transit Director, Jim Fitton and our marina manager, Mark Tait. In addition the Navy was represented and others.

At the meeting it was agreed that the neighborly thing to do was for the area marinas to embark on a program to provide the restricted area information to boaters traversing the area. To this end, it was suggested that a hand out be prepared that could be given to marina users and prospective users that would present this information. Since Mr. Hunt was the driving force, the City Manager suggested that he should undertake this task. There was also discussion about the Navy improving their signage and perhaps installing some sort of a light. The Navy agreed to take this suggestion for consideration. It was suggested that the Bight Board take implementation action for the area. The Bight agreed to consider implementation of the program the same as any other area marina. Mr. Hunt indicated that Conch Harbor would continue to notify infringing boaters by VHF or bull horn from their dock.

I don't believe any action is required by the Bight Board. Our management can prepare the material and implementation of such a program and advise the Board of their actions. I believe the Board should support such a program. Additional information is available from Mr. Hunt's email of Tuesday, March 19, 2013 regarding the restricted area. I have taken exception to certain areas of this document which I feel are misleading or beyond the authority of subject group.