



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

- **September 2018:** Beaufort adopts Navigable Waters Ordinance to address abandoned/derelict vessels and illegal moorings within our waterways
- **September 2018:** Beaufort partners with Rachel Carson Reserve to begin clean-up efforts post-Florence
  - 8 vessels beached on Carrot island removed by Tow Boat U.S.
  - 6 sunk vessels raised from Taylor's Creek and Town Creek
  - 42 illegal mooring balls located and removed
- **Fall 2018 costs: \$125,405.00**
  - NOAA Grant plus "in-kind" contributions from Tow Boat US

# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

- **March 2019:** Beaufort Police Vessel “Marine 1” becomes operational
  - 2 patrols per week\*
  - Average patrol of dedicated waterways lasts 3 hours
- **To Date:**
  - 75 hours spent patrolling
  - 236 vessels contacted
  - 46 vessels tagged for anchoring beyond allowable time
  - 3 violators criminally charged with Felony Littering



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

Taylor's Creek before Florence



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

Town Creek before Florence



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

- **Enforcement Philosophy:** Voluntary Compliance
  - Staff work with violators to get them into compliance
  - Communication is critical to ensure ordinance is adhered to
  - Most common violation is abandoned/derelect vessels

# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

- When voluntary compliance fails:
  - Vessel is tagged as being in violation
  - Certified mail notifications are sent to owner (if known)
    - Letter outlines what must be done to come into compliance as well as outlines the accumulating civil penalties for being in violation of the ordinance (\$500.00/day)

# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

- When voluntary compliance fails:
  - Failure to act requires intervention from Town Attorney to discuss removal options/associated fees with vendor
  - A small percentage of boaters want to dispute the legality of the Navigable Waters Ordinance
- Example:
  - Vessel intentionally vandalized required extraordinary measures while ordinance timeline was being fulfilled. Fee for removal exceeded \$13,000.00

# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

- **Why this is important:**
  - Our image
  - Clean water ways
  - Less storm cleanup
  - Reduce/Eliminate mischief on the harbor
  - Tourism: More boaters visiting



# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

## Real World Impact...

A couple from Maine:

“ We stopped coming to Beaufort years ago, but we heard that the harbor had been cleaned up...”

A couple from Florida:

“ We heard down in Florida that Beaufort has cleaned up the derelict and abandoned boats. We will definitely be coming back to Beaufort...”

# Beaufort Police Department Harbor Operations

Questions?

