

No paper  
available

Theme: Special Sessions

Session: ThG1 - Ocean management 3

Title: **The Implicit Value of Waterway Characteristics and Boating Regulations**

Author(s): Thomas Wells , Sherry Larkin , Robert Swett

Abstract: Waterways that are used for boating (both for recreation and commercial fishing) are increasingly being constrained out of concern for boater safety, the habitat and habitat-dependent stocks and wildlife. In Southwest Florida, a primary species of concern is the West Indian manatee, which is currently listed as an endangered species. To ascertain how the value of direct access to the water is impacted by waterway characteristics (e.g., type of habitat, channel depth, distance to the open water, etc.) and boating regulations (e.g., speed zones, moorings, and others conveyed by signs along the waterway, including those pertaining specifically to manatees), recent GIS-based survey data of such characteristics are combined with residential property sale data to estimate a hedonic function for Lee County in Southwest Florida. The surveyed parcels were representative of all waterfront property in Lee County, including those within channels off the Calooshahatchee River. Results will be used to value channel depth to prioritize dredging and provide an estimate of the impact of boating and mooring facilities and regulations on residents.