



St. Marys River Management Committee

Post Office Box 251 • Folkston, GA 31537

April 30, 2012

Mayor Bill DeLoughy
City Hall
418 Osborne St.
St. Marys, GA 31558

RE: St. Marys River – Accumulation of Derelict Boats

Dear Mayor DeLoughy and City Council:

The St. Marys River Management Committee (SMRMC) would like to draw your attention to the increasing number of derelict and abandoned boats accumulating in the St. Marys River, especially around Lang's Marina.

These vessels are a potential threat to the environment, to navigation, and to boaters. They are also an eyesore for tourists. At least one of the boats has about 25 gallons of diesel fuel in its decaying tanks. Two of the boats are now filling with water and dragging anchor. All of them threaten the health of the marina, the river, and the people who use the water.

Is there anything the City Council can do to help? Can you advise us of state or federal programs or grants that are available to help us deal with this growing problem? Any advice or guidance will be appreciated.

As a quasi-governmental advisory panel chartered by Interlocal Agreement between Baker and Nassau Counties in Florida and Camden and Charlton Counties in Georgia, several SMRMC members have been working on the derelict boat problem in the St. Marys River, but the problem has grown too large for our volunteers to solve.

We want to thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chip Campbell, Co-Chairman
St. Marys River Management Committee
stmarysriverinfo@gmail.com

cc:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GDNR) – Buck Bennett, Bruce Foisy

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Matthew Kershner

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission – Phil Horning

US Coast Guard – Rob Taylor

US Army Corps of Engineers – David Crosby, Donnie Kinard

Camden County Board of Commissioners

St. Marys EarthKeepers, Inc.