

Allen, Shauna R

From: David Turkel <turkel22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 10:33 PM
To: Allen, Shauna R
Subject: Cayo Costa tour operations

David Turkel

17651 Cypress Creek rd.

Alva, FL 33920

Dear ARC member,

I am writing to express my concern about continuing commercial tour operation at the narrow part of Cayo Costa island. As a long time resident of Lee county and a frequent visitor to Cayo Costa, I have a detailed knowledge of sand movement and wildlife on the barrier island. After years of commercial operation of tours at the south part of Cayo Costa, sufficient erosion occurred to limit movement around the trees at the southern section. In the last several years Captiva cruises has instead brought the people to a small dock at the narrow part of the island.

The small dock at the narrows has created problems related to a high density of visitors at a limited portion of the island. Local use of this landing is now mostly precluded. There is a risk of dividing the island by increased erosion. There is an additional issue of trespassing on a few of the private lots on that part of the island. The few nesting plovers on the island are usually just north of the small dock landing.

After several meetings by various users of Cayo Costa, it was determined the best course of action would be to limit those cruise landings to the north part of the island or alternatively to divide it up over several spots of beach landing.

In summary, and for several sensible reasons, I support discontinuing the use of the small dock at the narrows by a tour operation.

Sincerely,

David H. Turkel MD