

May 7, 2021

TO: FDEP

To Whom It May Concern,

My family and I have been boaters in Lee County for many years. We always enjoyed coming over to Cayo Costa State Park. We either anchor offshore on the south end or try to use the small state dock along the narrows in Pine Island Sound.

Beginning awhile back, large commercial boats started to use a new dock the state built at the place where a dock that was destroyed by Hurricane Charley in 2004 used to be. Since then we've noticed big groups being dropped off and signs telling us private boaters to stay away from that access point. They have signs that say "do not block 6:30 am – 7:30 pm. These boats are making it so private boaters have no place to go and there are many others who feel the same way we do. I thought this was a state park where the public was welcome?

One time we tried to use the dock access point and the captain of the large boat ***actually yelled at me and told me I couldn't tie up there. This is wrong. We also heard the state is thinking about blocking off the dock so private boaters can't use it. This is a public dock!***

First of all, this is a very tiny and narrow part of the island that is being negatively impacted by these groups who should be taken to the north end where the park docks and bathrooms are. There is really no marked channel to get into this little dock so I am sure these big boats are not doing the grass flats any favors either. The beach is beat up looking and not anywhere close to being natural looking like it was for so many years before this began to happen.

We are writing this letter to join in with the others who have been trying to stop this commercial activity on the south end of the state park before it's too late.

Richard Kassar

Fort Myers, FL

Email: