

Bocilla Lagoon Dredging Survey

Consolidated Results

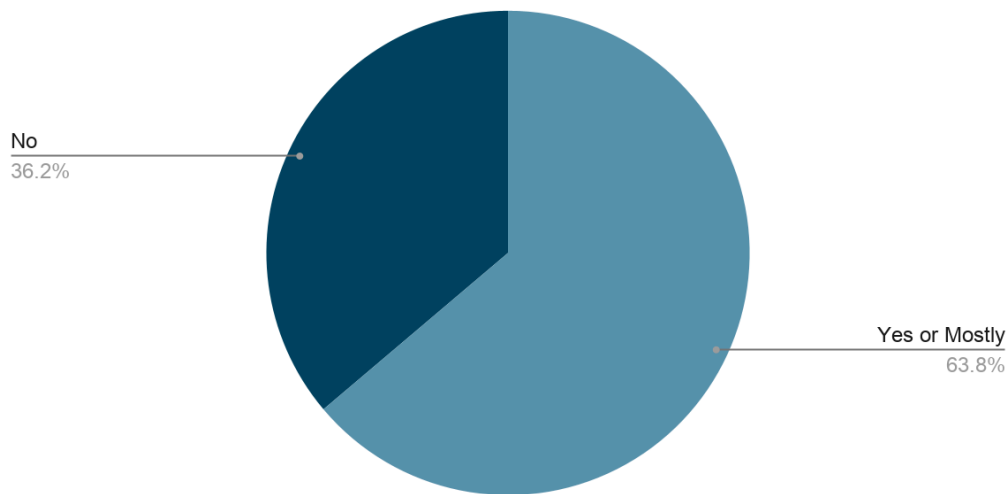
Palm Island Estates (PIE) conducted this survey of Bocilla Lagoon property owners to better understand residents’ views and identify areas of consensus, particularly because many property owners do not live on the island full-time and are unable to attend meetings in person.

Note: Four respondents who answered “No” to the question “Do you own property with water or dock access to Bocilla Lagoon?” were removed from the results. **54 qualified responses were analyzed.**

Percentages are rounded to one decimal place and may not total exactly 100.0% because of rounding.

Results at a Glance

Is the current channel sufficient for navigating in and out of Bocilla Lagoon?



Note: In the above chart, 7 people also answered “unsure”

Topic	Most common response	Percentage
Lagoon use	Weekly was the most common response	37.0%
Current channel sufficiency	Yes was the most common response	48.1%
Access since the hurricanes	Improved was the most common response	50.0%
Dredging needed now	No was the most common response	53.7%
Preferred next step	No action needed at this time was the most common response	46.3%

Topic	Most common response	Percentage
Primary payer	Charlotte County was the most common response	68.5%

Detailed Survey Results

Question 2: How often do you use Bocilla Lagoon for boating access?

Response	Number	Percentage
Daily	5	9.3%
Weekly	20	37.0%
Monthly	11	20.4%
Rarely	9	16.7%
Never	9	16.7%

Question 3: Is the current channel sufficient for navigating in and out of Bocilla Lagoon?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	26	48.1%
Mostly	4	7.4%
No	17	31.5%
Unsure	7	13.0%

Question 4: Compared to immediately after the hurricanes, has access to Bocilla Lagoon:

Response	Number	Percentage
Improved	27	50.0%
Stayed the same	10	18.5%
Gotten worse	6	11.1%
Unsure	11	20.4%

Question 5: Were you aware that a new navigable channel has naturally formed since the hurricanes?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	45	83.3%
No	9	16.7%

Question 6: Which channel do you prefer?

Response	Number	Percentage
Current channel	30	55.6%
Previous channel	9	16.7%
No preference	10	18.5%
Unsure	5	9.3%

Question 7: Prior to PIE's email and this webpage, did you understand that the proposed dredging area relates only to the entrance/access channel and not the entire lagoon?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	35	64.8%
No	19	35.2%

Question 8: Based on current conditions, do you believe dredging is needed at this time?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	22	40.7%
No	29	53.7%
Unsure	3	5.6%

Question 9: Which approach do you support moving forward?

Response	Number	Percentage
No action needed at this time	25	46.3%
Monitor conditions and dredge only if access worsens	8	14.8%
Establish ongoing maintenance dredging	20	37.0%
Unsure	1	1.9%

Question 10: Would you support assessments or fees for future dredging or maintenance?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	19	35.2%

Response	Number	Percentage
No	27	50.0%
Unsure	8	14.8%

Question 11: Who should primarily pay for future dredging or maintenance?

Response	Number	Percentage
Charlotte County	37	68.5%
Waterfront/dock owners	8	14.8%
All island property owners	3	5.6%
Unsure	6	11.1%

29 Written Comments

Comment 1

Shame on you for making it sound like the fees to the property owners are high. It's only \$3.09 per day and then we could actually use the lagoon and get in and out of the lagoon safely without issues. This real shitty of you to make it sound extreme.

Comment 2

I don't like the MSBU and the fact that the county wants to only charge residents who might be affected by the lagoon channel sand. Beach Place is arguing that the sand came from the beach and would be restored to the beach and should be paid for under the beach renourishment project...similar to how they dredge stump pass and have that part of beach renourishment MSBU. Also resident who care about the environment should care that FEMA workers created that channel illegally and it damaged a large area of protected sea grass. There is a small area of sea grass in the proposed dredging project and the county has stated that would have to be approved via another environmental agency...yet they are fine with the damage done to a larger area of grass through the middle of the lagoon...which opens up the county to environmental lawsuits. They should dredge the existing "old" channel but make the MSBU part of the beach MSBU!

Comment 3

I believe boat access is important however I am not interested in paying for this dredging and the beach renourishment. We cannot afford both at this time. I rather pay for this dredging vs the beach renourishment

Comment 4

I highly disagree with your assessment that the channel is sufficient. The window to get my boat in and out has drastically been reduced due to the channel's current condition. I will be contacting the commissioners to fully support dredging. Once again, I do not in any way agree with PIE on this subject.

Comment 5

There is no need for this dredge this area it's better than the old one was! Leave it where it is rt now! The sea wall along this channel should be fixed at the lot owners cost! We should not have to pay for the stump pass dredge project either!

Comment 6

Thanks for doing the survey. Let's heft the commissioners listen to us as this is not needed at this time.

Comment 7

The way it is currently set up many owners on the beach with access/docks on Bocilla Lagoon are not included in the current fee structure. The brunt of the cost is being placed on Bocilla Lagoon owners. It's important to convey to everyone with access to Bocilla Lagoon to either attend the Tuesday meeting or send letters. Thank you for this.

Comment 8

Who pays for maintenance on the other channels used by our island?
I feel the same assessment should be used as the rest of the island. Bocilla Lagoon is not restricted to residents owning property on the lagoon. It is a public waterway.

Comment 9

I have 4 properties on the Bocilla
360 South Gulf Blvd.
301 South Gulf Blvd. unit 419 and unit 420
270 South Gulf Blvd.

Comment 10

We only a dock and don't have a boat on the lagoon as our home is on the beach. We never use our dock and feel \$9,000 is excessive to pay for dock only with no home on the lagoon.

Comment 11

We only own a dock on the lagoon. Our house is on the beach and we do not have a boat. Seems unfair to ask "dock only" owners to pay \$9000.

Comment 12

A Navigable channel did NOT occur naturally. This is false, this was created by Charlotte Co and other boats trying to get through. It is not Natural.

Comment 13

At a minimum, whether dredging occurs or not, a Slow Speed sign(s) needs to be installed. Too many boats speed in the lagoon putting manatees and dolphins at risk of getting hit. Manatees and dolphin are frequently in the lagoon, especially in the channel from the small bridge around pinfish point. Avoidable wave action caused by boat wake also takes its toll on the seawall and shoreline.

Comment 14

The new waterway was not formed naturally it was caused by the FEMA boats, pushing through when they removed debris from the lagoon after the hurricanes. The new waterway was also caused by residents pushing through with their shallow Boats displacing the sand. This area originally was a grass flats area filled with seagrass. We support having the old channel where the markers are still currently in place. OK. The newly created channel does not seem like a legal way for the County to solve this problem.

Comment 15

We have boat access to Bocilla Lagoon now. It is a different channel than it used to be, but nature figured it out. Leave well enough alone. It is an undo burden to ask homeowners to take on dredging when there is no need even to do it.

Comment 16

No dredging needed.

Comment 17

The new channel is more than sufficient. I don't want tk see it go back to hugging the shoreline as that is always at risk for it closing agin in the next storm. We now have more dolphins & manatees entering the channel because this new channel is seeker & more navigable to high boaters & wildlife. Keel it where it is. Move the markers as needed & maintain it.

Comment 18

No one has been assessed for Storm clean up, beach nourishment or road repair. Why are we being assessed for the dredging of a designated state waterway. This is a marked channel just like the intercostal everyone else uses.

Comment 19

We just acquired a property but have not used the lagoon. If there is navigable access, I don't see why dredging is necessary. If access worsens then I would support dredging.

Comment 20

I own property in Pinfish point and Kettle Harbot. Dredging is not needed and a potential hazard to marine life, and the assessment algorithm is grossly unfair

Comment 21

This channel you are referring to absolutely was NOT created naturally! It was started by FEMA workers doing prop washing to clear a path while clearing the lagoon of debris. It was then made deeper/larger by boaters dragging their boats across the sea grass areas after they got beached while trying to navigate.

The sand in our lagoon was washed in by the hurricanes from the beaches. This sand should be returned to the beaches during beach re-nourishment.

Right now our access to fire protection is restricted to the road only as the channel is not navigable going to our homes in Beach Place and beyond. Please return the channel to its original functionality!

If a residential road were washed out or damaged in some way by a hurricane, the county would pay to repair it.

Why is a navigational channel any different? Prior to the hurricanes we had fisherman & pleasure boaters coming in & out of this channel much of the time. Not all of these people are from Palm Island.

Comment 22

Boating is integral to the island lifestyle. We need navigable waters not limited to a 18 inch window where you either hit bottom or even a small tower cannot get under the bridge. This also affects the rental market.

Our high taxes should allow the county to provide us a few services enjoyed by other neighborhoods.

Comment 23

Charlotte county has dropped the ball a couple of times. They had funding for maintenance that was never completed. They missed the FEMA moneys as well and now want us to pay.

The past design was ineffective, being filled in more than once.

A excessively wide shallow turn is a bad design. Tight turns maintain deeper routes... this just makes sense. This is how rivers are formed.

I'm also very concerned about the environmental impact of new work that is in my mind not truly defined.

Comment 24

In regards to the last question regarding funding:

I believe the county needs to be more proactive and responsible. Past funding upkeep seems not to have been maintained and the county missed opportunities of securing FEMA funding after hurricanes.

The waterway pass (which is connected to the Inter-coastal Highway) is no different than a county road. It's one way we access our home as a full-time resident.

Comment 25

The channel is and has always been a natural, it should stay that way and has opened up perfectly. The seawall at some point needs to be addressed but does not affect us at this time either.

Comment 26

I live year round on S Gulf blvd.

I know the waterway between the bridges very well. At this time the access channel is navigable at high and mean Tides.

If you return to Lagoon as the tides are out flowing you risk getting back in to the lagoon. The narrow and changing out flows are difficult to navigate.

Recently, the Tides have been stronger than usual. The lagoon has recently seen a 36" tidal change in a 12 hour period.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my opinion

Comment 27

The Channel definitely needs to be dredged. The Lagoon is mostly navigable, however, dredging is required on the lagoon side of the bridge.

The waterway between Bocilla Drive and Kettle Harbor Drive is in need of dredging - some areas are unnavigable during low low tides.

Can we get an update on when the dredging will occur and what will be dredged?

Comment 28

To refer to the existing channel as "navigable" is a misnomer. I have observed small flats boats driving through this channel. At low tide even those vessels are churning grass and mud up with their props. I own a home in The Beach Place and our docks have been rendered largely useless by the vast quantities of sand washed in from the beach. Charlotte County should dredge a navigable channel with marked channel markers and return the dredged sand to the beach for renourishment. The result would be a clearly marked navigable channel (thereby avoiding further damage to existing grass flats) as well as additional beach renourishment. The Beach Place has offered to accommodate the county as an access point for facilitating the dredging.

Comment 29

It's a navigable channel & the county should be paying for dredging & maintaining the channel. Anyone who has a licensed boat can use the channel, therefore the county is responsible.