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**MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA AND GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE  
ALLIANCE RELEASE NEW NUMBERS IN UPDATED ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY PRODUCED  
BY THOMAS J. MURRAY AND ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**Fort Lauderdale, FL** – A new study on the economic impact of the marine industry in South Florida indicates steady growth in major categories like total economic output, marine-related sales, and job numbers since 2014, when the study was last released.

Phil Purcell, CEO/president of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (“MIASF”), presented the results at a member business luncheon hosted by MIASF on Wednesday in Miami, where marine-related sales increased an unprecedented 124%. “We know the marine industry is a powerhouse here in South Florida, but its important that we routinely have an economic impact study conducted to confirm the numbers and offer insight into trends that we can then share within the industry and with the community and our elected officials.” he said.

Regionally, the marine industry economic output increased from \$11.5 billion to \$12 billion and marine sales of \$2.979 billion represented more than 44% of the State’s total. Additionally, regional job numbers increased by nearly 6,000 for a total of 141,788.

“With outdoor recreation comprising 2% of the U.S. GDP, and recreational fishing and boating representing half of that, it’s evident that we need to continue to protect and support our working waterfront, while subsequently offering a meaningful career path for skilled trade professionals,” Purcell added.

For additional information, an executive summary of the Economic Impact of the Recreational Marine Industry in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties can be accessed at [www.miasf.org/about/library/](http://www.miasf.org/about/library/).

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The Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) is the largest trade organization in the Southeast United States dedicated to promoting, protecting, and growing the 111,398 middle class jobs in Broward County and 141,788 jobs regionally driving the economic output to \$12 billion regionally. Created in 1961, the not-for-profit trade group is focused on the sound growth of the marine industry in the South Florida Region to benefit its members and their customers, communities, and the environment. The Association has over 500 members in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties and is the owner of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show.