

**2025**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**CONCH REPUBLIC MARINE ARMY**

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# A Message from the Executive Director

This past year marked another important chapter for the Conch Republic Marine Army (CRMA). With grit, determination, and an unwavering commitment to our waters, our crew and volunteers removed **41.2 tons of debris from fragile marine habitats, including 41 miles of trapline and 4 refrigerators.**

There is so much to be thankful for this year and I don't often find myself in a position to speak to our Army of volunteers. You are all amazing, and I am so honored to be working alongside you! Your commitment to our mission is inspiring!

As the new Executive Director, 2025 has been a year of transition. Onboarding additional staff, streamlining registrations and enhancing our communications have put us in position to make 2026 a year of expansion. I've been focused on making our organization sustainable and scalable to fulfill our mission of cleaning the entire Florida Keys.

Our work is simple in concept but powerful in impact: we go where others cannot, remove what does not belong, and give nature a fighting chance to recover. None of this would be possible without the trust and support of our donors, partners, board members, volunteers, and crew. Thank you for standing with us in defense of our marine environment.

As you review the programs and impact highlights for this year, I know that you will be remembering the great times you had meeting new friends while giving back to the beautiful backyard of the Florida Keys! Your efforts, your continued support, your sharing is the foundation of our success! To that, I say, **THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,

**Carla Burns**

**Conch Republic Marine Army Executive Director**

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# The Conch Republic Marine Army is dedicated to cleaning and restoring the mangrove habitats of the Florida Keys.

## 2025 Impact Highlights

Marine debris and abandoned materials continue to threaten mangroves, seagrass beds, and nearshore habitats throughout the Florida Keys. These ecosystems are critical nurseries for fish, buffers against storms, and essential to the region's economy and way of life. Many impacted areas are remote and inaccessible, requiring specialized boats, trained crews, and local knowledge to address effectively.

**CRMA fills this gap by deploying small, agile teams capable of reaching shallow waters and sensitive habitats where traditional cleanup efforts cannot operate.**

### Marine Debris Removal

Conducted **156 cleanup missions**

Removed **41.2 tons of debris** from mangroves, shorelines, and shallow waters

**Countless containers** of hazardous material preventing them from being released and damaging sensitive habitats

### Community Engagement

Engaged **1,487 volunteers** across **3 locations**

Partnered with local organizations, agencies, and schools to promote stewardship

Raised awareness about marine debris and prevention through **hands-on action**

## Keeping it Simple...

**Implemented online:** Registration, Waivers, Merchandise sales, Donations, and Membership

Digitized historic paper waivers for **long-term liability storage**

**HUGE shout out** to our Social Media Coordinator, Jenny Lorenz from Overseas Media Group. She keeps every one of our **12,000+ followers** informed about our impact and upcoming events

With much work being completed in November and December, **our new website launched on January 24, 2026**



# Isla Bella Beach Resort has been honored multiple times in 2025 for its partnership with the Conch Republic Marine Army.

## Florida Tourism Industry Awards:

Best of Show Flagler Award, and Sustainability Silver, **The only private entity recognized statewide**

## HSMIA Gold Adrian Award

Chosen from more than **800 entries**, Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International recognized Isla Bella Beach Resort and CRMA's partnership for the Gold Adrian Award for excellence in travel and sustainable marketing

## Community Foundation of the Florida Keys (CFFK)

### Unsung Hero Award

Sandra Lovely has been selected by CFFK to receive the Unsung Hero Award in recognition of the countless hours she has dedicated to supporting our work on the water. We look forward to joining her and the other honorees at a luncheon celebrating the incredible impact our volunteers make every day.





## 2025 Events

### ICARE

We participated for the **first time** in the ICARE trash derby, and of course, removed the most marine debris. Our two boats removed **8,862 pounds of debris** in just 2 days, winning us 'the most debris removed, and first Place for total weight

### International Coastal Clean-up Day

We celebrated International Coastal Cleanup Day by collaborating with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Coastlove to remove over **3,300 pounds of debris** from the shallow water shores of Long Beach State Park

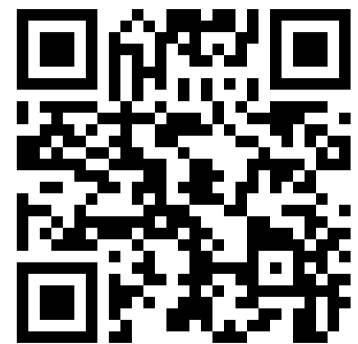
### Earth Day 5K

The Annual Earth Day 5K walk/run held at the Truman Annex netted **over \$5,000** in funding!

**We'll do it again this year on  
Saturday, April 18th**

**Volunteers are needed!** Signup details will be sent shortly.

Runner's Registration



[runsignup.com/Race/FL/KeyWest/ED5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/KeyWest/ED5K)



## Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party Saturday, February 14th | 4 PM to 8 PM 29196 Tulip Lane, Big Pine Key

Each year, we take a moment to gather our volunteer army and show our appreciation for your commitment to our common goal. This year and going forward, we will use the Saturday after the NFL final game of the season, I don't think I'm allowed to use the name 😞, to celebrate our joint success. Let's grab some grub, share some stories and toast our year together!

**Admission is a CRMA shirt.  
Shirts will be available for sale at the event.**

T-shirt \$30 | Tank top \$30 | Sun shirt \$50 | Sweatshirt \$60

\*\*Sale on older style shirts\*\*

**Scan the QR code to RSVP** or visit  
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-volunteer-appreciation-party>



# Financial Overview

## Operating Snapshot

Average cost per cleanup mission: **\$1,200**

Includes certified captain, trained deckhand, fuel, safety gear, supplies, insurance, and vessel operating costs

## Revenue Sources

Individual contributions, Foundation and corporate grants, and Community and partner support

**CRMA maintains strong fiscal oversight and stewardship, ensuring every dollar directly supports on-the-water impact.**

Our IRS Form 990 can be found on our website

[www.conchrepublicmarinearmy.org](http://www.conchrepublicmarinearmy.org)

(Additional detailed financial statements available upon request.)

## Looking Ahead

**In the coming year, CRMA aims to:**

Expand cleanup operations in high-priority areas by using our new boat to travel to various locations up and down the Keys.

**Increase** volunteer and community engagement opportunities

**Strengthen** partnerships with funders and local stakeholders

**Invest** in equipment and training to improve efficiency and safety

**The challenges facing our marine environment are significant, but with continued support, our impact will grow.**

# Together, we are defending the waters of the Conch Republic — one cleanup at a time.

We extend our deepest thanks to our donors, volunteers, partners, and board members. Your belief in our mission fuels every mission we run and every pound of debris we remove.

## Our Donors, Sponsors and Partners

**Platinum Corporate Sponsor** : Isla Bella Beach Resort and Spa

### **\$25,000 - \$49,999.99**

- Yamaha Wright Waters
- Four Son's Marine
- Various Family Foundations

### **\$10,000 - \$24,999.99**

- Community Foundation of the Florida Keys
- Private Donors
- Private Foundations

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999.99**

- Rick's Bar
- Brenda Donnelly Real Estate
- Ocean Reef Conservation Association
- Family Foundations

### **\$1,000 - \$4,999.99**

- Sunset Pier
- Docs Tatooz
- Action Keys
- Key West Women's Club

### **\$500 - \$999.99**

- Southern Most Coconut Castaways
- The Boardwalk
- Mile 0 CrossFit
- Sales Sense Payment Inc.
- Ocean Key Resort and Spa
- Fury Water Adventures
- Invasive EnVogue
- RNDC
- Dream Builders of the Florida Keys
- Danger Charters
- Perfect Pedicab

### **\$100 - \$499.99**

- Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate
- Lucuma Designs
- Keyboard Advertising Specialties
- Waste Management
- Blue Heaven
- Marci Rose
- First State Bank of the Florida Keys
- Lower Keys Women's Club
- Paul S. Mills CPA
- Doubletree Grand Key Resort
- Qropeza Chiropractic Center
- Bascom Grooms
- Baudoux Flies
- Big Pine Kayak Adventures
- Atocha Shipwreck Treasures

### **Other Sponsors**

- The Perry Marina
- Winn Dixie
- Marathon Garbage Services
- Southern Most Runners Club