

Jupiter firm operating 'Clean Marinas'

**By staff report
January 7, 2007**

A Jupiter company's South Florida marinas are flying flags for protecting the surrounding waterways. Seven Kings Holdings' Loggerhead Clubs & Marinas in Lantana, Riviera Beach and Hollywood recently were designated "Clean Marinas." The designation is a part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Boating program, a partnership between the agency and private and public organizations within the marine industry.

"It assures the public that what they're doing isn't harming the environment and that they're selecting a boating facility they can feel good about," company spokesman Leslie McKerns said.

To qualify for the designation, marinas like Loggerhead adhere to environmental regulations that help keep solvents, sewage and fuel out of the water and help protect marine life, according to information provided by McKerns.

"If the waters are so polluted they cannot be used for recreation, boaters will go elsewhere," the DEP Web site reads.

Seven Kings has nine Loggerhead Clubs & Marinas between Miami and Vero Beach. Of them, six including Palm Beach Gardens are clean marinas, one is under construction and two are in the process of earning the designation, McKerns said.

"It is our pleasure at DEP and the Clean Boating Partnership to award the Clean Marina designation to three additional Loggerhead Club & Marina facilities," DEP Clean Marina Coordinator Bill Richards said in a news release. "They should be proud of this environmental award, designating them as leaders in the protection of our waterways."

Palm Beach County Commissioner Warren Newell in mid-December presented Raymond Graziotto, the company's chief operating officer, and colleagues with the signature Clean Marina flags, plaques and pins.

"We are gratified to be awarded the Clean Marina designation in a program that is instrumental to the future of Florida," Graziotto said in the news release. "Those of us with a passion for clean water and protecting our marine habitat, greatly appreciate the dedicated efforts of the DEP and their Clean Marina program."