



The Flexibility is the Intracoastal Waterway By Chuck Purse

As mentioned in previous articles, we benefit from our location in southeast Florida. The proximity to the Gulf Stream, our location at Hillsboro Inlet, and the availability of services up and down the Intracoastal Waterway contribute to making this one of the best locations for boating in the USA. We enjoyed an additional benefit during a recent cruise – when the Atlantic turns rough, the Intracoastal presents a safe and comfortable way to move around.

We had planned for some time to take a week-long cruise up to Vero Beach with a stop for a couple days in Palm Beach. Looking ahead at the weather using the app Sailflow, we saw that the waves offshore were expected to build to over five feet coming from the East. These are not great conditions for cruising.

We decided on a change of plans. After a calm and quick ride up the coast to Lake Worth Inlet, we decided to cut the boating short and leave Coquina at Old Port Cove Marina in North Palm Beach. Friends drove our rental car up from Hillsboro to join us for dinner that night. They took an Uber back to the Club. We then went by car the rest of the way to Vero Beach. After a few days there, we drove back to the marina and I brought the boat back to Hillsboro through the Intracoastal Waterway. It was howling outside, but it was super nice inside on the Intracoastal!

The ability to make plans and then adjust because of the weather is a fundamental part of safe boating. Knowing the limits of both your boat and yourselves are critical to staying away from trouble and enjoying time on the water. Our wonderful location with the Atlantic Ocean to our east and the Intracoastal Waterway to our north, south, and west adds to the diversity, safety and enjoyment of boating at Hillsboro Club.