The Boating Life Rebounds Following

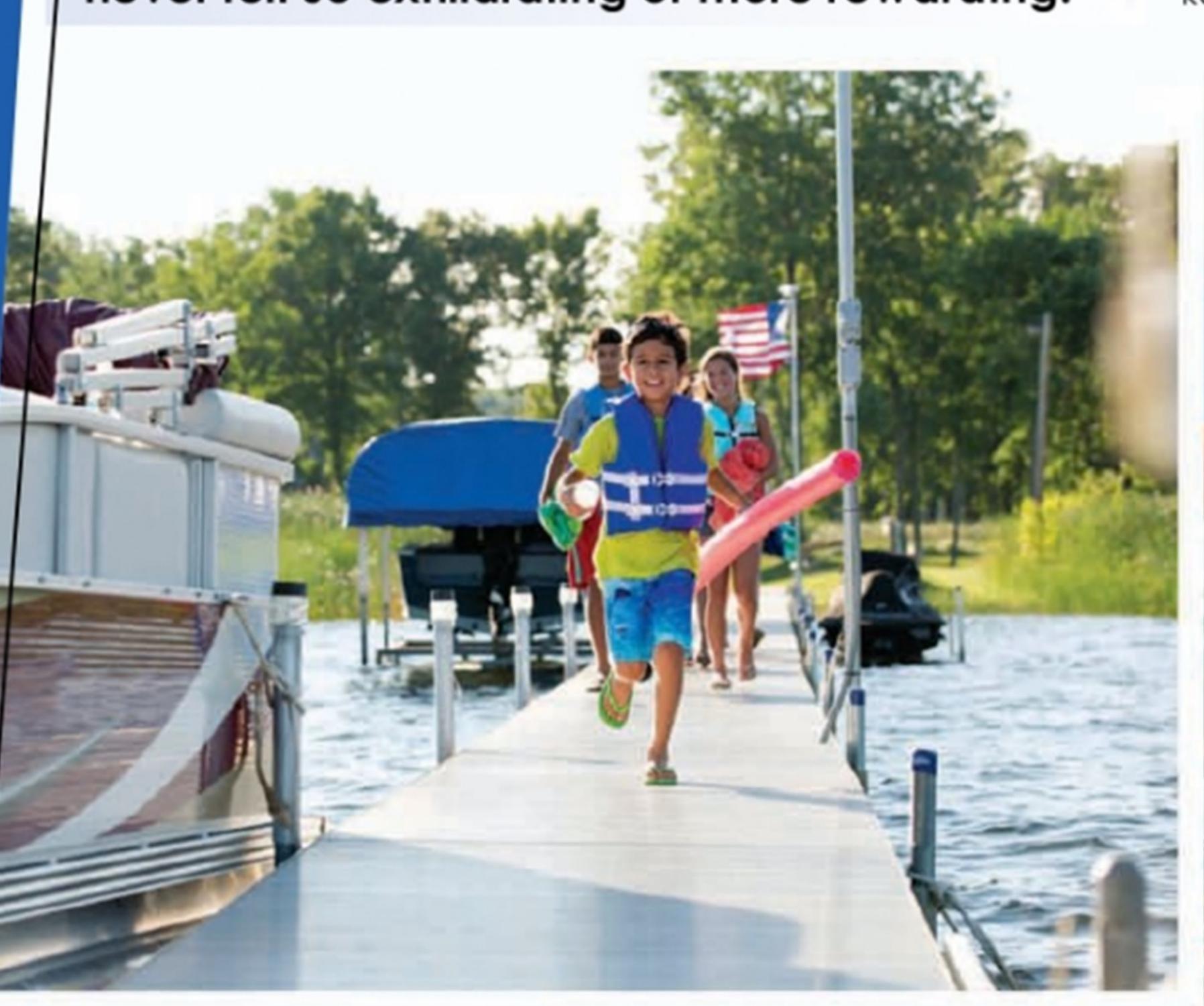
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Boating on the Emerald Coast Has Never Been Better!

by Wanda Kenton Smith

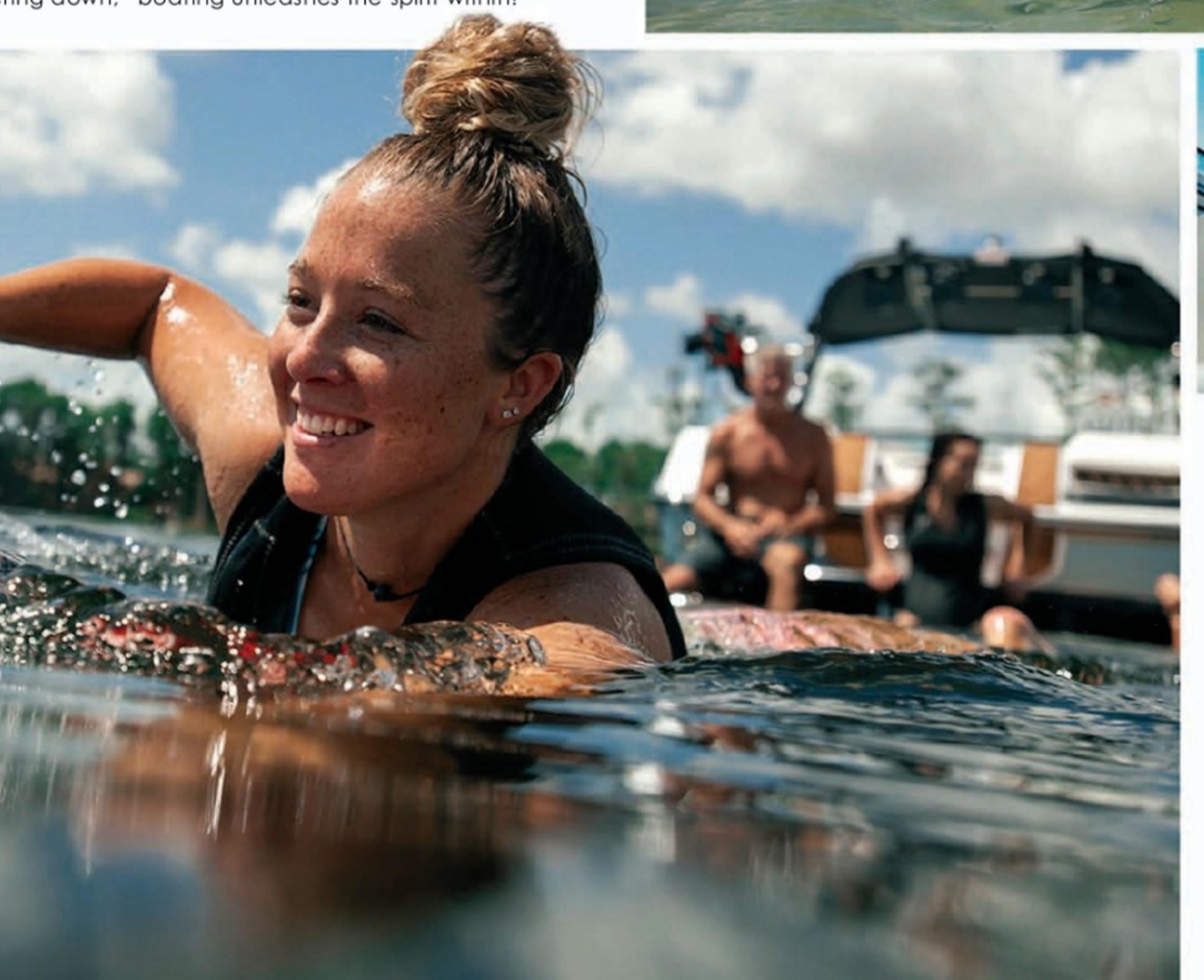
eing confined to our homes due to the THE COASTAL BOATING LIFESTYLE coronavirus made many of us really appreciate the freedoms we enjoy, including recreation in the great outdoors. For active boating enthusiasts, the opportunity to escape and celebrate life on the water has never felt so exhilarating or more rewarding!

Seasoned salts and newcomers to the boating lifestyle can enjoy the best of boating on the stunning waters of the Emerald Coast. From world-class fishing to cruising and a whole host of watersports, our coastal waters, inlets, rivers, and lakes offer ideal playgrounds to relax and enjoy life. Instead of "hunkering down," boating unleashes the spirit within!



Images Courtesy DiscoverBoating.com

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FISHING FUN

With year 'round good weather marketplace. and a resplendent variety of species terways.

found hanging around countless in pursuit of game fish, or are more inmore serious anglers invest in a boat mackerel, cobia or tasty red snapper, outfitted for their lifestyle. From mil- or prefer fishing for trout and bull reds lion-dollar-plus sportfishers with all on the bay, boats are available for more economical bay boats to the budget."

highly popular center consoles, there are plenty of new and premium preowned boats available for sale in the

"Fishing boats are definitely in high in our warm waters, it's no wonder demand on the Emerald Coast," said that fishing is such a popular pastime | Shawn Talpey, president of Emerald that lures millions of visitors annually to Coast Marine Group with locations our famous sun-kissed shores and wa- in Niceville and Destin, FL, and at The Wharf in Orange Beach, AL. "Wheth-While fishing enthusiasts can be er you're looking to venture offshore piers or casting right from the beach, terested in nearshore fishing for king the electronic bells and whistles to your particular interests, lifestyle, and



WATERSPORTS MECCA!

the Gulf Coast love their watersports! are scattered along the coast, offer-

boarding, kayaking, paddleboard-popular pontoons and runabouts. ing, windsurfing, or sailing, there are Serious water sports enthusiasts let loose!

endless waves for surfing."

One thing is for sure ... locals along! In addition, boat rental facilities Whether water skiing, tubing, ing hourly and day rates on everywakeboarding, wake surfing, kite- thing from jet skis and daysailers to

plenty of protected inlets, bayous, from around the world converge on out islands, or wide-open spaces to the famous Pickos Waterski School in Santa Rosa Beach to train with for-"Our water conditions make this a limer world champion Cory Pickos and fantastic area for water sports," said his instructors on a freshwater, man-Talpey, "and more boaters are choos- made ski lake, site of several national ing boats designed for these activities; and international tournaments. Sinlike our Nautique models with custom | gle, half-day, and full-day sessions are hull designs and capability to create | also available for first-time skiers and recreational enthusiasts.

If the boating lifestyle appeals, but you're not ready for boat ownership, the boat club offers an affordable way to get your feet wet.

Clubs generally require a one-time initiation fee, followed by affordable monthly payments; the only additional cost usually includes fuel. Members enjoy free training, access to online reservations, and a full fleet of diverse boat

"Boat clubs provide the best of boating with access to a variety of boat types without any service, storage or maintenance costs," said Annamarie Worrell, manager of Emerald Coast Boat Club in Niceville, FL.

LIFE IS BETTER ON A BOAT!

Whatever your boating preference, the Emerald Coast offers a wealth of activities, resources, products, services, and locations to experience and enjoy the coastal lifestyle!



MARINE Soundings Trade Only, formar adillar of WaterSki Magazine and WindSurf Magazine, and two national marine trade publications, She is also president of

For additional information on new and used boats, the Virtual Boat Show or the Emerald Coast Boat Club, visit e meraldcoast marine.com

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