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Marina, yacht club planned for Tiki island

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Hot to yacht: Could this be a sign the economy is in for smoother sailing? Yacht Clubs of the Americas is launching a 400-slip marina on Tiki Island.

The marina, on 5 acres along West Bay, will include 250 dry slips accommodating vessels up to 50,000 pounds and 45 feet long. For mega-yachts, the marina will boast 150 covered wet slips for vessels up to 100 feet long.

Fort Myers, Fla.-based Yacht Clubs of the Americas is known for buying and developing marinas and converting them into private membership yacht clubs at which members can own slips and storage for boats. The Tiki Island Yacht Club is the first marina development outside Florida and The Bahamas for Yacht Clubs of The Americas.

But this isn't the first time developers have wanted to build an upscale marina on Tiki Island. Yacht Clubs of The Americas purchased the property from Tiki Ventures Ltd., which was part of a planned a 90-unit condominium, dubbed The Marina Condominiums. The mid-rise project, which never rose, would have included a 150-slip marina.

Slip owners in the Yacht Clubs of The Americas typically enjoy such amenities as martini/cigar lounges, waterfront cocktail bars, fitness centers and more.

Tiki Island Yacht Club sales begin with a crawfish barbecue and open house from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at 615 Tiki Island Drive. The event continues from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.