

Oscar Winner Gore Speaks At UM On Global Warming

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CORAL GABLES, Fla. -- Fresh off an Oscar win and up for a Nobel Prize, former Vice President Al Gore speaks in South Florida Wednesday evening.

Gore isn't allowing media outlets to cover his speaking event, held at the University of Miami.

But the former vice president has trained a few hundred other folks to pass on his message about global warming, including a longtime Miami boat captain.

"Lousy fishing Saturday," Dan Kipnis said.

Kipnis has been a captain fisherman and fishing tournament organizer for decades now and has trained with Gore himself on how to spread the global-warming alarm of "An Inconvenient Truth"... particularly to his crowd of fishermen and boaters.

"It's not always an easy mission," Kipnis said about boat owners who tend to be Republican and skeptical.

On the other hand...

"The first people that see this happening are the fishermen and hunters," Kipnis added.

"They're in the woods and on the water."

Kipnis said he noticed higher water levels on the docks back in the 70s and is convinced that we're courting long-range environmental catastrophe.

"I'm not a scientist. I'm a boat captain and a preacher," Kipnis said. "I think we've got a problem though."

He outlines the problem in a half-hour power-point talk, showing how temperature and carbon dioxide levels track together through the ages, and how Florida's map would change if an ice melt raises water levels 15 inches.

That's info right out of Gore's playbook and Kipnis said his three days of training with Gore was invaluable.

But he said he adds lots of info with a fishing focus, including how warming turns oceans more acidic and harms the tiny organisms at the bottom of the food chain. Also, he shows how offshore flats fishermen love could disappear if sea levels rise.

Kipnis said that boats today are more fuel-efficient than ever and boaters should and could help conserve.

"Don't idle your boat a lot," he said. "Make sure your tires are inflated on your car and trailer."

Kipnis himself said he buys carbon credits on the Internet and contributions to non-polluting power-generating facilities to offset his fuel use.

Others boaters said they are less concerned with global warming. Alex Trimper said he cruises the dock on non-polluting wheels, but doesn't worry about the fuel his boat uses.

"What are we going to do-- sell the yacht?" Trimper said. "There are enough people out there, trying to save the world. I'm just trying to relax and enjoy."

Kipnis said he thinks half of boaters believe global warming's real, and at least partly man-made, but predicts numbers will grow.

Kipnis said that he would be attending Gore's speaking event Wednesday at UM even though the event was sold out. He also said that he doubts Gore will get into the upcoming presidential race because he's fully focused on environmental work. To have Kipnis come out and speak on global warming as it affects fishing and boating, e-mail [Captain Dan](#).

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