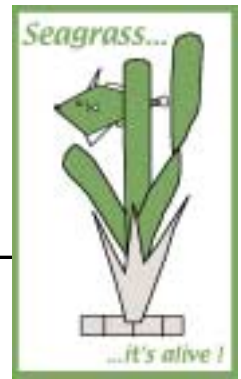


Your Connection to Seagrass Habitats



- ❖ The State of Florida has 2,658,290 acres of seagrass.
- ❖ Seagrasses, which are a valuable part of Florida's marine environment, are disappearing at an alarming rate.
- ❖ Threats to seagrasses include dredge and fill projects, degraded water quality, and physical impacts by boat propellers.
- ❖ Recent biological surveys show that seagrasses are being destroyed at an alarming rate by careless boating activity in the nearshore waters of the State of Florida.
- ❖ Seagrass destruction is a serious problem and has become more intense and widespread near shoreline communities and popular boat access areas.
- ❖ Damaging seagrass with your boat's propeller will fragment the grass bed and severely restrict the movement of marine wildlife in needed habitat. This can create barren areas where fish and other species once flourished.
- ❖ Boats are becoming more numerous, larger, and more powerful, compounding the problem.
- ❖ Seagrass loss has a direct, long-term economic impact on commercial and recreational interests in the State of Florida.
- ❖ Damage to seagrasses compound with each grounding or prop dredging incident.
- ❖ Sediment plumes behind boats are a sign of an inexperienced or careless boater...Look over your shoulder and size up your boating skills.
- ❖ The damage caused by a boat propeller in 10 seconds can take years to heal.
- ❖ The destruction of seagrass can be stopped...**It's up to you!**