

Damage Costs in Seagrass Habitats



- ❖ Grounding and prop dredging in seagrass habitat has consequences to both habitat and personal property.
- ❖ Damage to vessel engines, hulls, and propellers often occur when a vessel grounds in seagrass or shallow bottom habitat.
- ❖ Gouging of seagrass habitat by propellers damages the blades and underground roots of the plant.
- ❖ Seagrasses require anywhere from 2 to 10 years to recover from propeller damage depending on the species of seagrass.
- ❖ Towing fees charged by companies who assist grounded vessels cost approximately \$125/hr. dock to dock during the day, and \$150/hr. dock to dock at night. The fee for refloating a grounded vessel is \$5-10/foot of vessel.
- ❖ Groundings resulting in damage to seagrass habitats are offenses subject to both federal and state fines and penalties including civil penalties, and costs of assessment of damage, restoration of habitat, and long-term monitoring of restored habitat.