



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Lake Istokpoga Eelgrass Restoration



Project Location: Highlands County, FL
Name of Owner: Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Owner Contact: Carly Althoff
Construction Date: 06/21/2018 - 06/21/2019

Scope of work

1. Locate restoration sites
2. Deploy PVC marker poles
3. Deliver and install 50 GrowSAV™ Herbivory Exclusion Devices
4. Install 250 four-inch (4") Peat Pot planting units
5. Provide bi-monthly monitoring and maintenance reporting



Lake Istokpoga is a 26.762-acre lake in Highlands County, Florida that desperately needed aquatic habitat restoration. Previous management efforts in the lake have included the treatment of invasive marsh plants, such as cattail and pickerelweed, and the transplanting of beneficial emergent aquatic vegetation such as spikerush. While the treatment of the invasive species and transplants were valuable to the lake, researchers concluded that the Lake needed further attention. Sea & Shoreline was then contracted by FWC to re-establish submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in five separate areas of the Lake. A total of 50 GrowSAV™ Herbivory Exclusion Devices were deployed within those permitted areas to prevent damage to the 250 nursery-grown four-inch (4") Peat Pot planting units of *Vallisneria americana* that were later planted beneath them. Since the planting was completed in July 2018, bi-monthly maintenance has revealed that the overall water quality and surrounding aquatic environments are simultaneously displaying substantial improvements and the restoration project has been deemed successful. In the future, Sea & Shoreline plans to expand this project and promote SAV growth throughout the entire lake.