



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Project Location: Homosassa, FL

Name of Owner: UF|IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation: Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Owner Contact: Joshua Patterson, Ph.D.

Construction Date: 03/06/2017 - 03/06/2027

Scope of work

1. Project Design
2. Locate suitable scars for repair
3. Deploy cautionary buoys
4. Deliver and install 7,039 sediment tubes
5. Install 6,000 planting units into sediment tubes
6. Create public awareness
7. Collaborate with UF Research team
8. Secure State and Federal Permits

UF IFAS Nature Coast Big Bend scarring restoration



Sea & Shoreline LLC. was contracted to permit and repair 100 miles of propeller scars and blowouts over a 10 year period in Florida's Big Bend region. With the intentions of repairing and sustaining a healthy ecosystem, Sea & Shoreline installed and maintained over 7,000 sediment tubes and 6,000 mechanical planting units of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) in Homosassa, Florida. The sediment tubes were used to stabilize damaged seagrass meadows by preventing further erosion, and creating conditions suitable for natural seagrass re-colonization and recruitment. Since "prop scar" restoration is such a new and innovative way to repair seagrass meadows, Sea & Shoreline partnered with the University of Florida to conduct research regarding the effects of introducing nutrient-rich additives to propeller scars and/or planted sediment tubes. With this research, Sea & Shoreline will be able to observe the effects and determine new ways to enhance the existing restoration approaches. In order to prevent further damages to the restored seagrass meadows, "cautionary seagrass area" buoys were installed prior to the installation of the sediment tubes. In addition to the buoys, signs displaying the phrase "Scars Hurt" were also posted along the coastal regions to create public awareness and to illustrate the proper way for boaters to maneuver their vessel if they happen to become grounded upon shallow seagrass areas. Likewise, the public is taught the importance of seagrass habitats and shallow water vessel operation at the website: www.beSeagrassSafe.com which is displayed on the signs as well.