



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 is undergoing habitat restoration. Previous management efforts in the lake have included the treatment of invasive vegetation, such as *Cattail* and *Hydrilla* 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 Sea & Shoreline 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, bi-monthly monitoring and maintenance have revealed that the surrounding aquatic environments are displaying substantial improvements. The project was successful in promoting SAV growth throughout the entire lake.