

Bay PRP 2014-042

Proposal Summary

Restore St. Andrew Bay submerged grass beds that have been damaged by prop scarring:

- 1.) Planting sea grass plugs and/or tubes; and
- 2.) Posting the area with shoal grass bed warning signs using floating buoys and/or fixed signage

Project area is located in St. Andrew Bay on the Bay side of Shell Island, east of the shipping channel

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Project Area





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Sea Grasses Are Essential

Significant functions of sea grasses include:

- Maintain water clarity
- Stabilize the bottom
- Provide habitat for many fishes, crustaceans and shellfish
- Sea grasses and the organisms that grow in them are food for many marine animals

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Sea Grasses Are Essential

Most importantly:

- **Sea grasses are nursery areas for much of Florida's recreationally and commercially important marine life**

(Above and previous slide from our Exhibit 1
"The Underwater World of Florida's
SEAGRASSES")

The Fish Nursery

Juvenile Groupers and Snappers





Gag settle and undergo metamorphosis in sea grass beds

Lane Snapper



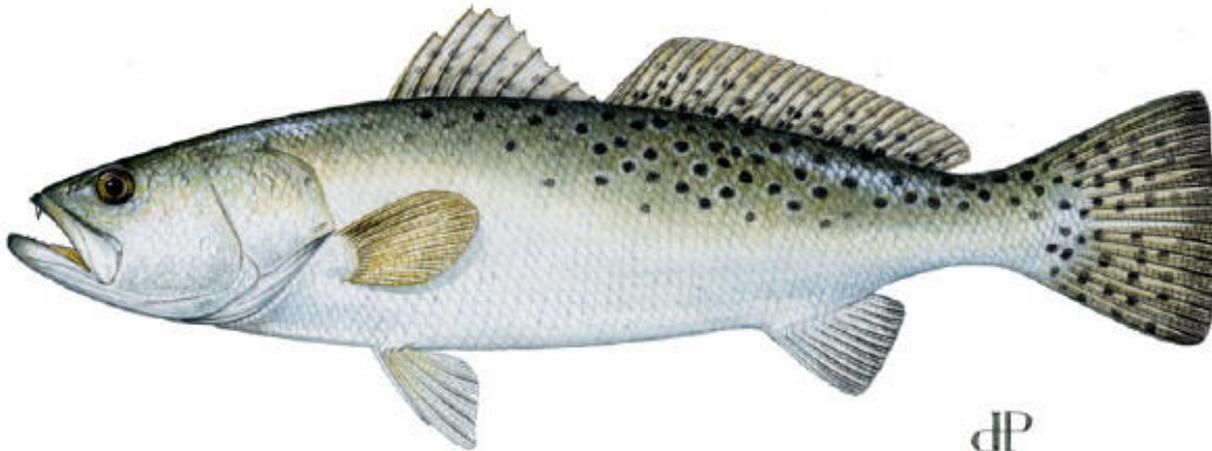
Gray Snapper



Flounders



Sea Trout



JP

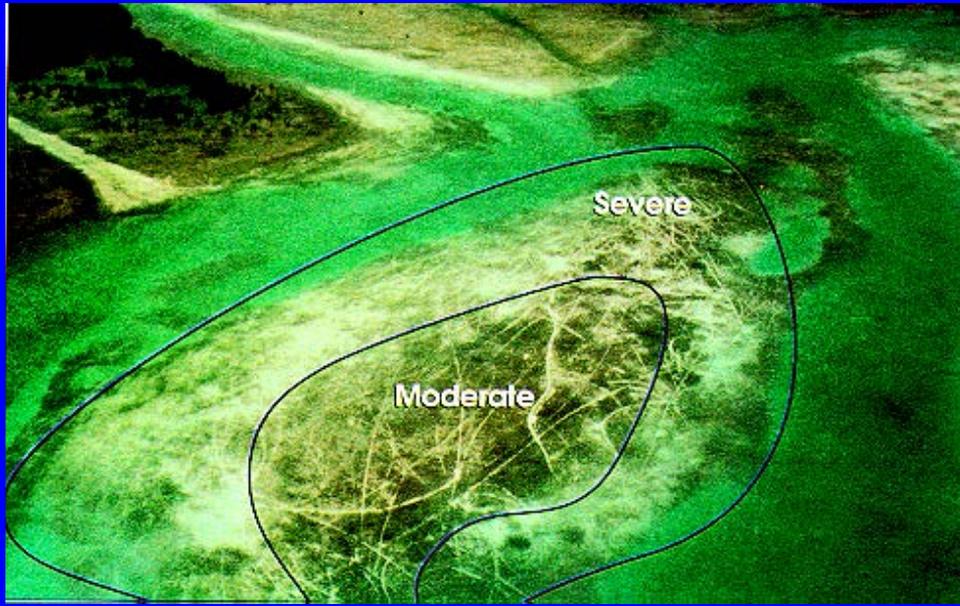
SPOTTED SEATROUT

Cynoscion nebulosus



Invertebrates

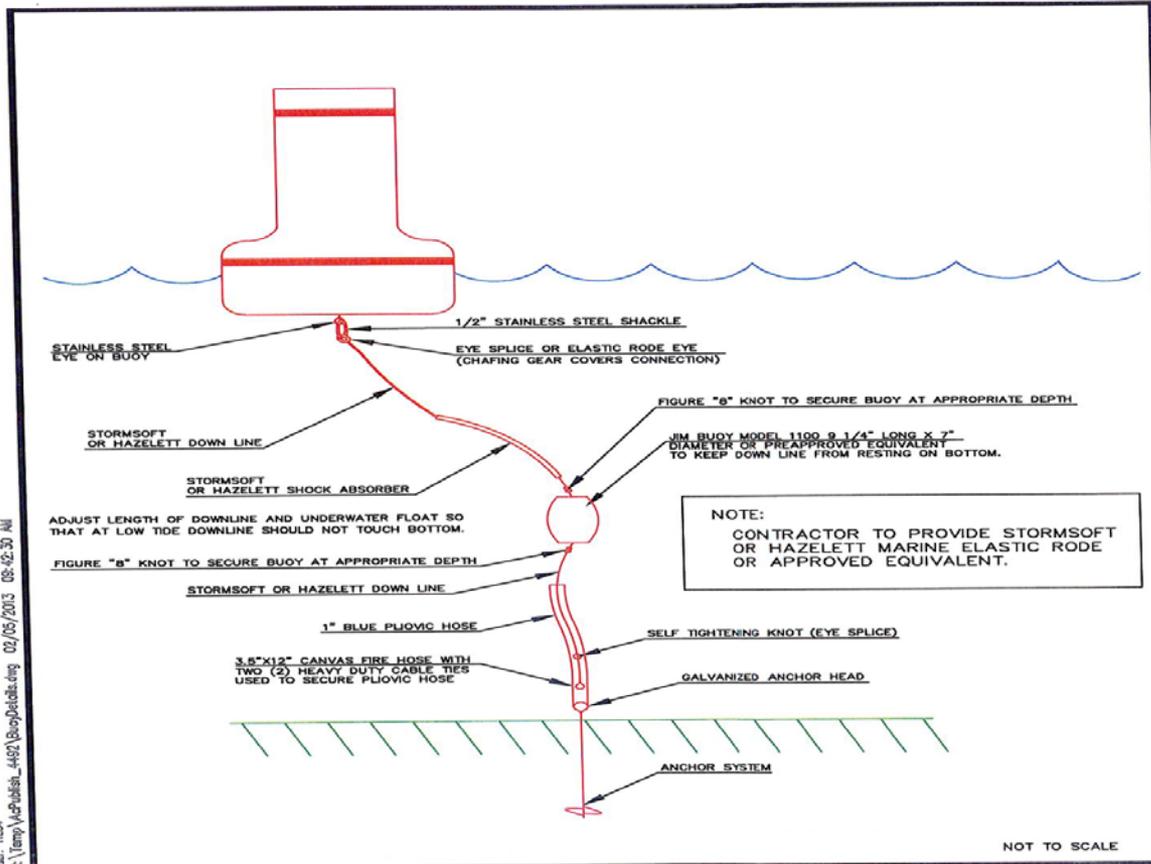




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Floating Buoys

EXHIBIT 2



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Waterway Marker
Construction Service
Uniform Waterway Marker Details

"Elastic"
Buoy Mooring System

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Sea Grass Losses

Sea grasses are a very important part of the St. Andrew Bay marine environment, but they are disappearing at an alarming rate.

Degrading water quality, development activities as well as prop scarring impacts are responsible for their decline.

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Conclusion

This proposal to restore and repair existing prop-scarred damage to the submerged grass beds will go a long way in maintaining the sensitive marine ecosystem that is so vital to Bay County.