

Seagrass

- Provides habitat
- Provides food
- Provides oxygen
- Stabilizes sediment
- Improves water clarity
- A single acre of seagrass may support as many as 40,000 fish
- Nearly every fish is dependent on seagrass at some point in its lifespan

Boat Wisely

- Know where resources are located, such as seagrass and oyster beds
- Check tides and weather conditions before going out
- Know your boat's draft on and off plane
- Know the speed of your vessel that produces the minimum wake
- Stay in marked channels; troll or pole when out of channels
- Wear polarized sunglasses to reduce glare on the water
- Observe manatee zones and No Internal Combustion Motor Zones or Pole and Troll Zones
- Take a boating safety class
- Use a push pole or trolling motor in shallow water
- Observe posted speed limits

Made possible by the friends of Estero Bay



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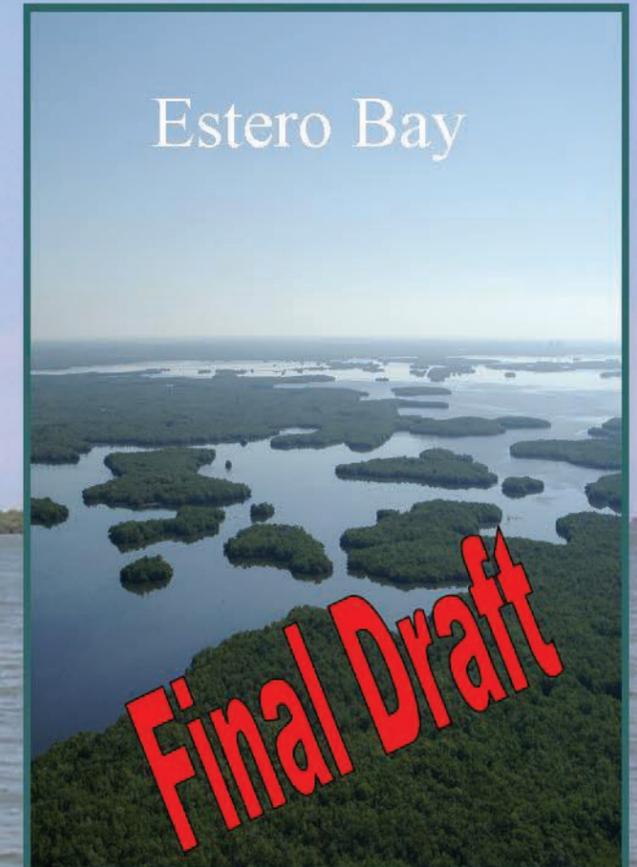


www.TheFishTaleMarina.com
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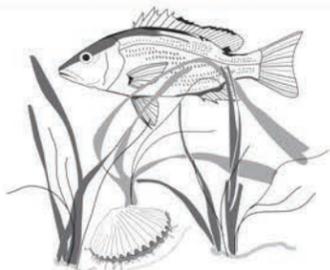


Your guide to Seagrass and its importance.
Know what's under the surface.....

Estero Bay



Boats damage seagrass.
The fish you catch depend on seagrass.

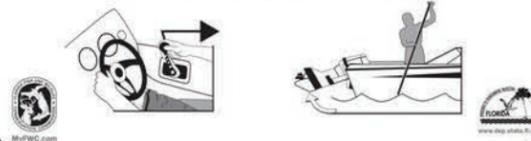


You are entering a shallow water Aquatic Preserve.
Destruction of seagrass in Aquatic Preserves is a violation of Florida Law (Section 253.04(3)(a) F.S.) and carries a penalty of up to \$1,000.

Avoid damaging seagrass by knowing your boat's operating depth and navigating in marked channels. Anchor only in bare sandy bottoms.

If you run aground in shallow water:

reduce your throttle speed pole your boat to deeper water



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I am I, plus my surroundings and if I do not preserve the latter, I do not preserve myself.
-- Jose Ortega y Gasset

NICMZ

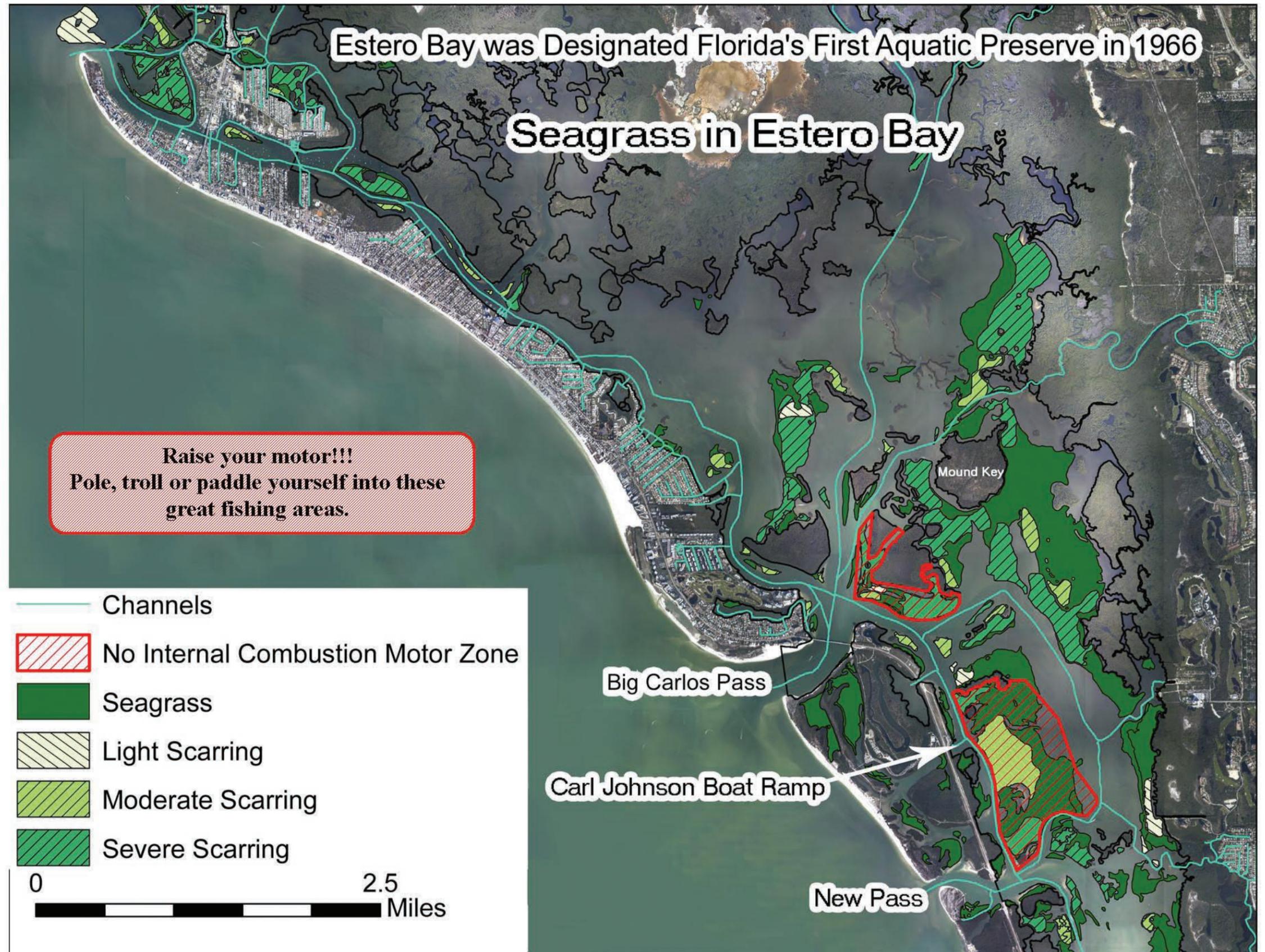
(No Internal Combustion Motor Zones)
Or
Pole and Troll Zones

- Provide quiet areas to fish
- Protect resources such as seagrass for future generations
- Preserve habitat for fish
- Protect feeding grounds for birds and marine mammals
- Promote Birding and Kayaking
- Channels provide access to and from NICMZ
- Allow for re-growth of previously damaged seagrass



Prop Scarring

Careless boating practices can result in damage to sea grass beds such as prop scarring. Damage may only take seconds to create, but seagrass recovery takes years.



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