THE PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO CONSERVING AND PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MARINE RESOURCES

SEA WATCH

FALL 26

PRESENTED BY CONTENDER



2026 S★T★A★R WRAP-UP

TAYLOR-MARTIN REEF DEPLOYED

PIRATES COVE REDFISH RELEASE

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Sea Watch is published three times a year by CCA Florida, a nonprofit state affiliate of the Coastal Conservation Association.

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200 TONS OF OYSTERS

WERE SAVED FROM WASTE BY CCA FLORIDA IN THE LAST THREE YEARS. THUS FAR, 156 OF THE 200 TONS HAVE BEEN RECYCLED AND REDEPLOYED TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL REEFS

SINCE 2010

52 ARTIFICIAL REEFS

205 HABITAT PROJECTS

MORE THAN 19,000 MEMBERS ACROSS FLORIDA'S 67 COUNTIES

181 TONS OF TRASH REMOVED

125,000 MANGROVES & SPARTINA GRASS PLANTED

150 MILLION CLAMS DEPLOYED

PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MARINE RESOURCES AND ANGLERS' ACCESS FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS

ADVOCATED GAMEFISH STATUS FOR REDFISH

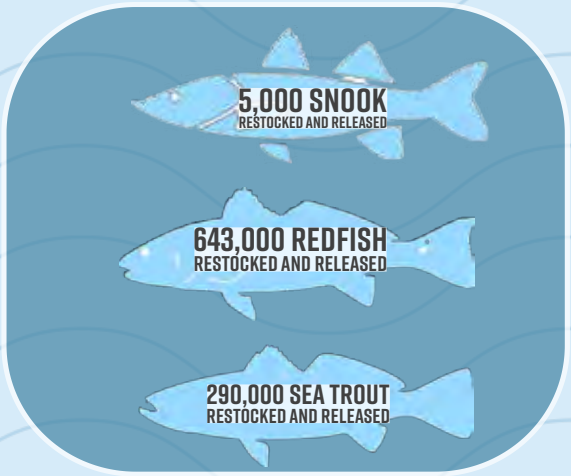
INITIATED NET BAN CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ADVOCATES AND CREATES AWARENESS FOR IMPROVING STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY

HELPED CONGRESS INTRODUCE DESCENDING DEVICE BILL AND FORAGE FISH CONSERVATION ACT

WORKED WITH FWC TO ENSURE MAXIMUM ANGLER ACCESS FOR RED SNAPPER

HELPED BAN LONGLINES FOR BILLFISH AND PELAGIC SPECIES



$1,200,000 IN CCA FLORIDA YOUTH COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED SINCE 2015





$25 FROM EACH TAG GOES DIRECTLY TO CCA FLORIDA'S STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY, HABITAT AND RESTOCKING INITIATIVES

CCA FLORIDA WORKED WITH THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO CREATE THE CONSERVE FLORIDA'S FISHERIES FLORIDA LICENSE PLATE

President Trump Announces Executive Order Elevating Saltwater Recreational Fishing

President Donald J. Trump announced the "Restoring American Saltwater Angling and Recreation" Executive Order in the White House Rose Garden Thursday night. The order establishes a national policy to elevate marine recreational fishing in federal fisheries management and directs federal agencies to pursue better data and more modern management approaches, strengthen State-Federal partnerships, remove unnecessary barriers to access and advance innovative solutions for American anglers.

"This Executive Order is a historic recognition of what millions of American anglers and coastal communities have known for decades: marine recreational fishing deserves a management system built for the way Americans fish," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "By prioritizing better data, stronger state partnerships and modern management approaches, President Trump's order builds on our conservation gains creating a path to more reliable access and opportunity in America's oceans."

Under the Executive Order, federal agencies are directed, consistent with existing law, to:

- Modernize recreational fisheries data collection by evaluating outdated survey methods, expanding electronic and mobile reporting and incorporating real-time catch, effort and observational data into federal fisheries management;
- Strengthen State-Federal partnerships and improve the use of state data, including consideration of more precise state recreational catch-and-effort data in federal management decisions;
- Improve recreational fisheries economic data so the economic value of recreational fishing, for-hire fisheries and shoreside businesses is more fully considered in federal fisheries management decisions;
- Advance technology-based approaches to marine mammal avoidance, including directing NOAA to work with the private sector to integrate new technologies that can improve marine mammal detection and avoidance;
- Fast-track artificial reef and habitat creation, including establishing a federal Reef-in-Place Program for eligible offshore structures and streamlining permitting for qualifying artificial reef projects, and
- Address shark and pinniped depredation and their impacts on recreational fishing by improving research and coordination among federal and state fisheries managers, anglers and the recreational fishing community and advancing management strategies to reduce harmful interactions.

The order also directs federal agencies to streamline permitting, remove administrative barriers to recreational fishing and habitat projects, improve the delivery of Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds, and strengthen coordination of habitat restoration efforts.

The order builds on a bipartisan history of presidential support for recreational fishing. President Bill Clinton issued Executive Order 12962 in 1995 establishing recreational fishing as a federal policy priority. President George W. Bush strengthened that order in 2008 by explicitly protecting recreational fishing as a sustainable activity on federal lands and waters.

This Executive Order recognizes the significant economic contributions of America's outdoor recreation, noting that the sector generates more than $1.2 trillion annually and supports more than 5 million jobs. Recreational boating and fishing are the nation's largest conventional outdoor recreation activity, contributing $38.4 billion in value added to the U.S. economy. Saltwater recreational fishing alone generates $145.4 billion in sales impacts and supports nearly 700,000 jobs nationwide.

"President Trump is sending a clear message that America's saltwater anglers matter. Better data, modern management and stronger state partnerships can deliver what anglers and coastal communities have needed for years: healthier public fisheries and more reliable access to them," added Angers.



"Recreational boating and fishing are the foundation of America's outdoor heritage and an important driver of our nation's recreation economy," said Frank Hugelmeyer, president and CEO of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "Today's actions further reaffirm the importance of ensuring Americans can access and enjoy our nation's waters. Access supports American manufacturing, jobs and small businesses across the country.



This Executive Order recognizes the economic contributions of America's outdoor recreation, noting that the sector generates more than $1.2 trillion annually and supports more than 5 million jobs.

Thank you to President Trump and his administration for recognizing the value of outdoor recreation and the American industries and communities it supports."

"We're grateful the Administration has taken this opportunity to emphasize the social and economic importance of recreational fishing," said Pat Murray, president and CEO of Coastal Conservation Association. "State-based management has never been more important for our federal fisheries, and we applaud this critical need being highlighted in this Executive Order."

"The American Sportfishing Association thanks President Trump for this decisive action to improve management and data collection for America's saltwater fisheries," said Glenn Hughes, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association. "This Executive Order will have long-term benefits for the sportfishing industry and America's 15.5 million saltwater recreational anglers."

"America's anglers were among the nation's first and most dedicated conservationists, and this Executive Order recognizes that commitment while charting a path towards increased access to healthy fisheries," said Jeff Crane, president and CEO of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "We thank President Trump for elevating recreational fishing as a national priority and look forward to working with the Administration to turn these directives into meaningful results on the water."

The Center for Sportfishing Policy and its partners have long advocated for federal fisheries policies that recognize the distinct nature of recreational fishing, improve the quality and use of data, promote innovation and provide meaningful public access to sustainably managed marine resources.



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- Funds from the sale of this license plate support protecting and enhancing saltwater marine resources, expanding habitat restoration efforts and promoting coastal environmental education

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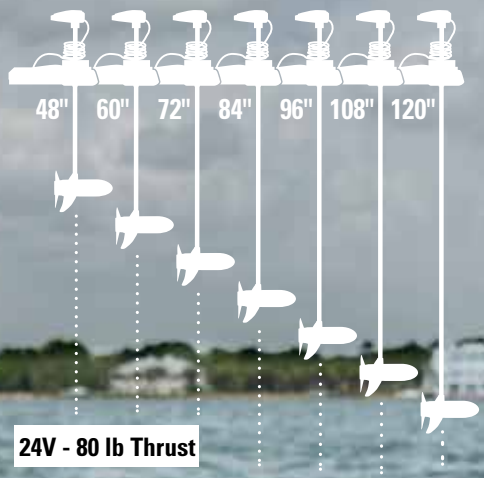
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New South Atlantic Red Snapper Pilot Programs Provide Fall Season and Recreational Data Improvements

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) and Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) today thanked fisheries officials in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina for their continued work to develop state-led red snapper data collection programs following NOAA Fisheries' issuance of new Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs).

The permits authorize participating anglers to harvest South Atlantic red snapper in state and federal waters from October 9 through October 22 while the states test approaches to collecting improved recreational catch, effort and discard information. NOAA Fisheries also announced a three-day federal recreational season from October 9 through October 11, providing harvest opportunities for anglers fishing from North Carolina. The pilot programs' results will help inform future data collection and management decisions.

On July 10, 2026, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources submitted new EFP applications after a preliminary injunction issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia halted the original programs in May. ASA and CCA intervened in that litigation to represent recreational anglers and the sportfishing industry.

"We thank the state fisheries agencies for continuing this work after the original pilot programs were halted," said Glenn Hughes, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association. "Their efforts have preserved an opportunity to test state data collection in 2026. Our focus now is on what can be learned this fall and how those findings can help lay the groundwork for more robust and predictable recreational fishing opportunities in 2027 and beyond."

"We appreciate the states' perseverance and believe that their efforts are going to pay off with better data that will increase both recreational access and faith in the fisheries management system," said Pat Murray, president and CEO of Coastal Conservation Association. "We look forward to working with the state agencies to establish the new data systems and begin building a better future for recreational angling in the South Atlantic."

Following the October season, NOAA Fisheries and the participating states will review catch data and determine whether an additional harvest opening is warranted in December.

ASA and CCA will continue working with the states, NOAA Fisheries and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council as results from the pilot programs become available, with a focus on how the findings can inform future data collection, conservation and recreational fishing opportunities.



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WINNER!



WINNER!

WINNER!

AT THE STAR AWARDS DINNER



WRAPPING UP THIS 12TH YEAR OF COMPETITION, STAR CONTINUES TO BE FLORIDA'S LARGEST FAMILY FRIENDLY YOUTH FISHING COMPETITION.





The CCA Florida STAR Youth Fishing competition presented by Yamaha culminated on October 10th in Wesley Chapel, Florida with an Awards Ceremony and dinner presented by Florida's Sports Coast.

The competition ended September 7th and STAR staff randomly drew the winners.

The highlight of the competition was the awards ceremony where STAR staff and sponsors awarded the $100,000 in scholarships in The Guy Harvey Foundation Scholarship Division presented by Realtree Fishing. There were two $25,000 scholarships awarded by Guy Harvey Foundation and Realtree Fishing as well as ten $5,000 scholarships awarded by Florida's Sports Coast, Humminbird / Minn Kota, Discover Crystal River, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Digital Sportsman, Florida Cracker / LMD Tournament, Miller's Marine, Florida





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- Power Pole
- Engel Coolers
- Bull Bay Rods
- Florida Sports Coast
- Discover Crystal River
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- Digital Sportsman
- Florida Cracker LDM Tournament
- Suncoast Classic Events
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Danco Sports

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Power Tech Propellers

Florida Fishing Products

AFTCO

Bajio

STAR Brite

Mud Hole Rod Building & Tackle Crafting

Elemental Methods

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Fish Bites

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Kingsailfish Mounts

Solid State Marine



Sportfishing Association, Drum Spots Lots-A-Spots Tournament, Sodium Fishing Gear, Suncoast Classic Events and Coastal Conservation Association. The scholarship winners also took home a Bull Bay Rod & Florida Fishing Products reel, custom fishing jersey from Tailin Toads Customs and their very own pair of danco pliers.

In addition, the winners of the Carolina Skiff Teen challenge presented by Custom Gheenoe took home boat motor packages from Carolina Skiff, Custom Gheenoe, Minn Kota, Humminbird and Power Pole. STAR also awarded the winner of the T H Marine Most Fish Division a Native Watercraft Slayer Propel and the winners of the Trash Division took home prizes



from Bajio, Engel Coolers, danco pliers and AFTCO gear. There were over 8,000 catch entries made in the 101-day, family-friendly youth fishing competition.

The state's leading organization dedicated to habitat restoration projects, water quality initiatives and fisheries advocacy has for the last 12 years produced a great competition which since its launch in 2015 has awarded over $4 Million dollars in prizes with $1.2 Million of that in Youth scholarships, boats, Yamaha motors, electronics, trolling motors and so much more going to youth anglers from Florida and other states in our catch-and-photo event.

"STAR continues to be an effective tool for CCA to bring awareness to our organization by creating conservation partnerships with our sponsors and to encourage youth anglers to implement conservation practices all while enjoying a really cool fishing competition. STAR keeps friends and families planning their summer around our event and engaging in conservation which makes me so proud" states STAR Director Captain Leiza Fitzgerald.

Not only did the Awards Ceremony celebrate our



PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO PATRONIZE THE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS OF STAR AND THE DRUM SPOTS LOTS-A-SPOTS TOURNAMENT AS WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OFFER SUCH A WONDERFUL EVENT WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT.

youth but it also awarded the "Big Kids" prizes for the Drum Spots Lots-A-Spots Tournament presented by Gulf States Automation which benefitted the STAR youth Scholarships. Over $25,000 in prizes from Solid State Batteries, King Sailfish Mounts, SUP Customs, Yamaha, Minn Kota, Humminbird, T H Marine, Engel Coolers, Relentless Knives, Hook & Gaff Watches and others were awarded to the top 6 winning anglers who landed and entered redfish with the most spots. This year's winning fish had 56 spots and took home over $10,000 in prizes including a replica mount from King Sailfish Mounts.

CCA Florida STAR Youth fishing competition presented by Yamaha is not only a fun fishing competition where any fish or bucket of trash can win the youth angler a prize but it gives everyone a chance to do their part for conservation while enjoying time on the water.

2027 STAR begins May 29 and next year will bring some BIG prizes and lots of fun for all registrants. Register TODAY at ccaflstar.com.

Start planning your fishing trips now to Citrus County (www.discovercrystal river.com) or Pasco County (www.floridassportscoast.com) they are our destination counties. For more information on STAR visit our website. www.ccaflstar.com

GUY HARVEY FOUNDATION YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DIVISION

PRESENTED BY REALTREE FISHING

1st Prize Drawing: $25,000 Guy Harvey Foundation
Jack Weiler, Gainesville, FL

2nd Prize Drawing: $25,000 Realtree Fishing
Finn Jaffe, Satellite Bch, FL

3rd Prize Drawing: $5,000 Academy Sports + Outdoors
Kailey Tripp, Palmetto, FL

4th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Humminbird / Minn Kota
Luke Worsham, Jacksonville, FL

5th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Florida Cracker / LDM Tournament
Gabe Varney, Hernando, FL

6th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Suncoast Classic Events / Sodium Fishing Gear
Rylan Larkin, St. Petersburg, FL

7th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Millers Marine
Rylie Waddell, Tarpon Springs, FL

8th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Florida Sportfishing Association
Grady Pilger, Melbourne Bch, FL

9th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Discover Crystal River
Ariana Rekully, Brooksville, FL

10th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Florida's Sports Coast
Lucas Monroe, Wesley Chapel, FL

11th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Digital Sportsman
Jack Wood, Howey In the Hills, FL

12th Prize Drawing: $5,000 Drum Spots Lots-A-Spots
Thor Person, Fernandina, FL

Each scholarship winner will also receive a Bull Bay Rod from Bull Bay Tackle, Custom Fishing Jersey from Tailin Toads Customs and pliers from danco sports

GUY HARVEY FOUNDATION YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP DIVISION HONORABLE MENTION

PRESENTED BY REALTREE FISHING

$250 West Marine Gift Card – Dylan Gaines, Stuart, FL
$250 West Marine Gift Card – Tenoch Gomez, Lynn Haven, FL
$250 West Marine Gift Card – Clint Richardson, St Augustine, FL
$250 West Marine Gift Card – Sydney Volkert, Stuart, FL
$250 West Marine Gift Card – Cayden Backhaus, Casselberry, FL

CAROLINA SKIFF TEEN CHALLENGE DIVISION

PRESENTED BY HUMMINBIRD / MINN KOTA

1st Prize Drawing: Carolina Skiff E16JVX with 75HP Yamaha, Minn Kota Trolling motor, Power Pole Sportsman 8ft & trailer plus $250 T H Marine GC
Oliver Spletzer, Osprey, FL

2nd Prize Drawing: Custom Gheenoe LT25 with 25HP Yamaha, 12V Minn Kota Trolling motor, Power Pole Micro & trailer plus $250 T H Marine GC
Elijah Booten, Tallahassee, FL

3rd Prize Drawing: Two Bull Bay Rods with Florida Fishing Products reels, $500 Academy Sports + Outdoors Gift Card for tackle box & tackle plus baits from Fish Bites
Cole Kindig, Jensen Bch, FL

MOST FISH DIVISION

PRESENTED BY T H MARINE

1st Prize: Native Watercraft Slayer Max Propel 12 gray with $500 T H Marine gift card for kayak accessories
Thor Person, Fernandina Bch, FL with 1,248 catch entries.

TRASH DIVISION

1st Prize Drawing: Engel High Performance Roll Top Back Pack Cooler, Bahio Sunglasses, danco pliers
Jackson Canestrari, Melbourne Bch, FL

2nd Prize Drawing: Engel 13Qt Live bait Pro Cooler with AP3 Rechargeable Aerator & Stainless Hardware, AFTCO gear package
Mason Haynes, Ft. Pierce, FL

3rd Prize Drawing: Engel 7.5Qt Live bait Pro Cooler with AP3 Rechargeable Aerator & Stainless Hardware, AFTCO gear package
Ryan Volkert, Hobe Sound, FL

Most Trash: Bajio Sunglasses & AFTCO gear package, West Marine $250 gift card
Sydney Volkert, Hobe Sound, FL



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PIRATES COVE REDFISH RELEASE



In June, Citrus County, in partnership with CCA Florida, Duke Energy, the Tourism Development Council (TDC) and the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce hosted the Pirates Cove Redfish Release at Pirates Cove Park.



This innovative event combined conservation, community engagement and local business promotion through an Adopt-a-Redfish Sponsorship Program.







Participating businesses sponsored one or more tagged redfish, and in total, 104 tagged redfish (ranging from 14 to 30 inches) were released.




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Each tagged fish is connected to a prize provided by the sponsoring business, creating an ongoing opportunity for anglers to interact with your brand while enjoying Citrus County's renowned fishery.



HERE'S HOW THIS PROGRAM WORKS

- Sponsors purchased tagged redfish for $100 per fish
- Provided a minimum $50 prize associated with your sponsored fish
- When an angler catches a tagged fish, they simply photograph it, report the tag number, and release it back into the water to claim your prize
- Sponsor receives recognition as a sponsor while helping support conservation and community recreation

---

Proceeds from the sponsorship program are managed through CCA Florida and directly support improvements at Pirates Cove Park, enhancing public access and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATI MARICULTURE CENTER RELEAS

The partners released 4-5 inch juvenile redfish at Ken Thompson Park

In August, CCA Florida and Duke Energy released 2,000 hatchery-reared juvenile redfish measuring 4 to 5 inches in Sarasota at Ken Thompson Park. The release was part of the partners' continuing effort to support Florida's redfish population and provide abundant recreational fishing opportunities.

In recent years, redfish populations in parts of Florida have declined as a result of water quality issues and habitat loss. To counteract these effects, CCA Florida and its partners have taken a proactive approach through habitat restoration, water quality initiatives, fisheries management and restocking efforts



ON FLORIDA AND THE DUKE ENERGY E 2,000 REDFISH IN SARASOTA

for one of Florida's most sought-after inshore fish, the redfish.

"Redfish are an iconic part of Florida's coastal waters and ensuring healthy populations for future generations requires a long-term, collaborative approach," CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. "We are proud to continue our restocking efforts in Southwest Florida and support the growth of this important fishery."

The latest restocking effort is part of the nonprofit-corporate partnership's multifunctional and multiyear strategy to rebuild and maintain game fish stocks. Since 2018, CCA Florida and Duke Energy have released more than 900,000 redfish and spotted seatrout ranging from 4 to 30 inches along Florida's coasts to help support recreational fishing opportunities.



MORE THAN JUST A FISHING TOURNAMENT



The 2026 Lines in the Lagoon Fishing Tournament once again brought young anglers together for a memorable day on the water while helping foster a lifelong appreciation for fishing and conservation.

This year's event welcomed 128 youth anglers, who combined to catch an impressive 461 fish, including 108 snook, 94 trout and 19 redfish. More than just a fishing tournament, Lines in the Lagoon provides kids with an opportunity to experience the incredible fisheries of the Indian River Lagoon firsthand and learn the importance of protecting these resources for future generations.

CCA Florida is proud to support Lines in the Lagoon and its mission of getting young people outdoors and involved in recreational fishing. The tournament, in turn, continues to support CCA Florida by donating a portion of the funds raised through the event back to the organization. These contributions help further CCA Florida's conservation work and efforts to protect and enhance the state's marine resources.

THE CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LINES IN THE LAGOON AND CCA FLORIDA DEMONSTRATES HOW FISHING, CONSERVATION AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT CAN GO HAND IN HAND—HELPING ENSURE THE NEXT GENERATION NOT ONLY ENJOYS FLORIDA'S FISHERIES, BUT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THEM.


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CCA Florida is excited to announce a new partn in effort to expand environmental educatio and invest in the next generation of conse

ARTNERS WITH FOUNDATION



nership with the Guy Harvey Foundation (GHF), on, strengthen coastal ecosystem awareness ervation leaders across the Sunshine State.



Through this partnership, the GHF has developed new, co-branded educational content aligned with CCA Florida's ecosystem restoration initiatives, spotlighting the critical role of oysters, clams, salt marsh grasses and mangroves in protecting Florida's coastal waters. The curriculum will enhance GHF's existing conservation education programming while introducing educators and students to CCA's hands-on restoration efforts and driven stewardship.

GHF has also committed a $25,000 sponsorship to





As part of the partnership agreement, CCA serves as sponsor of the Guy Harvey Foundation's Conservation Education Training (CET) sessions for teachers. These immersive, experiential training sessions provide elementary, middle and high school educators with professional development opportunities focused on environmental STEAM education, along with classroom materials, supplies and grant opportunities for field trips and conservation projects.

o support the 2026 CCA Florida STAR competition!



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The Mission of Restoring The Indian River Lagoon

Many of us can remember the days on the water in the Indian River Lagoon in 2012 and 2013 when we could see with our own eyes the devastating effects of decades of lacks coastal pollution management and the tipping point created by the freeze of January 2010. By then most of the water in the entire Lagoon system was opaque with harmful algal blooms and the progression to destroy over 60 percent of the Lagoon's seagrasses was underway. What ensued was the sequential destruction of benthic flora and fish populations of all kinds, a reduction in bird populations and marine mammal deaths.

By 2016 it was apparent that something extraordinary had to be done to stop this whole process and the citizens of Brevard County took it upon themselves to confront the problem. By then the sources of the problems with the IRL had been identified and it was a matter of addressing them. To that end, the Save Our Indian River Lagoon initiative was organized, a ballot referendum providing dedicated funding for only IRL restoration was approved and the mission of restoring the IRL began.

The Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office under the guidance of Director Virginia Barker took the leadership role along with the support of the IRL National Estuary Program, the Marine Resources Council and other concerned groups along the Lagoon. A value based project assessment program was developed that highlighted the projects that had the most "bang for buck" in removing the various pollution sources from the IRL.

Thanks to the efforts of Brevard County's Natural Resources Management Office, the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, and the Lagoon Renewal PAC, Amendment 1- IRL Sales Tax passed by an astounding 75% giving the county the future funds and the mandate to continue their work of restoring the IRL. These groups created a cohesive plan to present the sales tax renewal proposal to the public, amassed a contingent of hundreds if not thousands of volunteers and worked with energy and enthusiasm to get the ballot initiative across the finish line on November 3. CCA commends the leadership of Virginia Barker at Brevard County, Craig Wallace of the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, Vince Lamb of the Lagoon Renewal PAC and Keith Winsten of the Brevard Zoo for their tireless work over the last two years.

This was a hugely important step in the IRL renewal process. While there have been some 403 projects developed and 232 completed; there are still 171 funded jobs to be started and still much more to do beyond that. The funding raised by the sales tax extension will enable the continuation of the county's plans and projects.

To date, Brevard County has conducted the most transparent government project imaginable and we encourage everyone to visit the brevardfl.gov/saveourlagoon and follow the continuing efforts to clean up the Lagoon. We all look forward to seeing the Indian River Lagoon system return to some semblance of its former self.

For more information regarding this colossal undertaking please visit the following websites:
https://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurIndianRiverLagoon/ProjectPlan
https://helpthelagoon.org/lagoonrenewal/
https://onelagoon.org/

WHAT A RIDE!

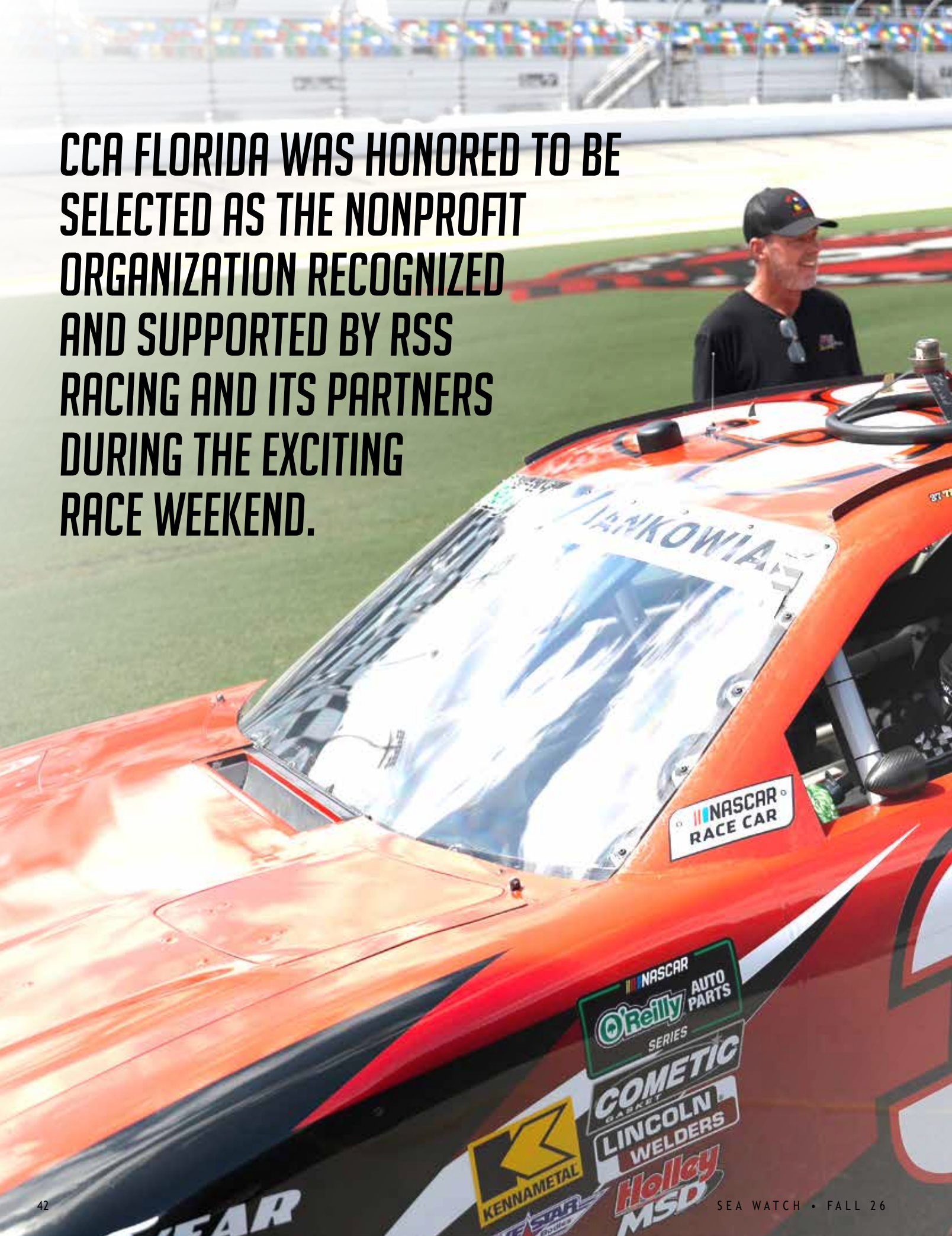
IN AUGUST, CCA FLORIDA ATTENDED THE WINN-DIXIE 250 AT DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY



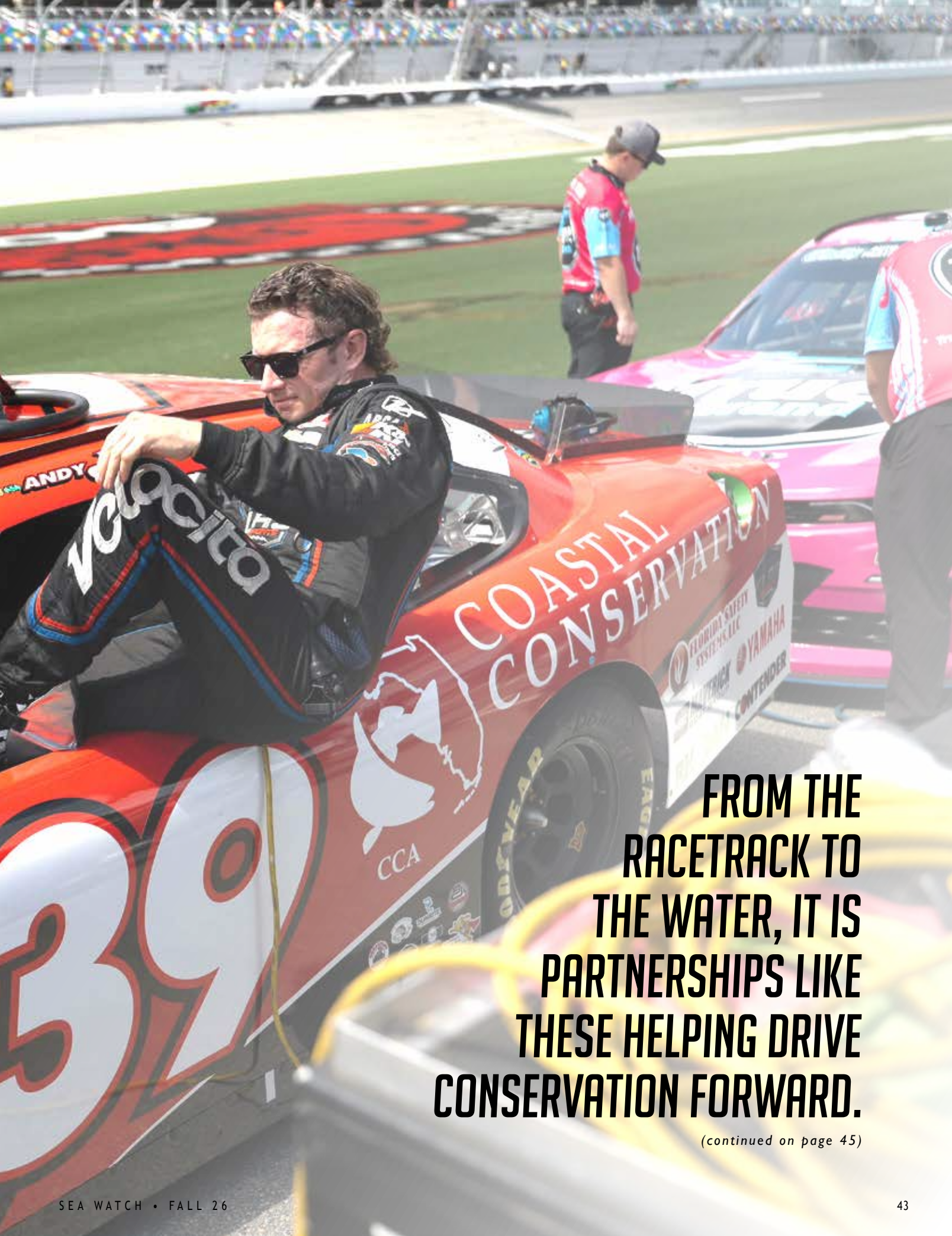
CCA PROUDLY CHEERED ON CAR NO



0. 39 DRIVEN BY ANDY JANKOWIAK



CCA FLORIDA WAS HONORED TO BE SELECTED AS THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED AND SUPPORTED BY RSS RACING AND ITS PARTNERS DURING THE EXCITING RACE WEEKEND.



FROM THE RACETRACK TO THE WATER, IT IS PARTNERSHIPS LIKE THESE HELPING DRIVE CONSERVATION FORWARD.

(continued on page 45)


Maverick
Fish the Legend.
PATHFINDER
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MAVERICK
BOAT GROUP
Maverick
Fish the Legend.
PATHFINDER
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PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE CCA FOR OVER THREE DECADES!



THE PARTNERSHIP PROVIDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE CCA FLORIDA'S CONSERVATION MISSION TO A NEW AUDIENCE WHILE HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING FLORIDA'S MARINE RESOURCES.







WE THANK RSS RACING AND ITS PARTNERS FOR HELPING SHARE CCA FLORIDA'S MISSION TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE FLORIDA'S MARINE RESOURCES WITH RACING FANS ACROSS THE STATE AND BEYOND!



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ICAST

In July, CCA Florida was proud to return to ICAST at the Orange County Convention Center!

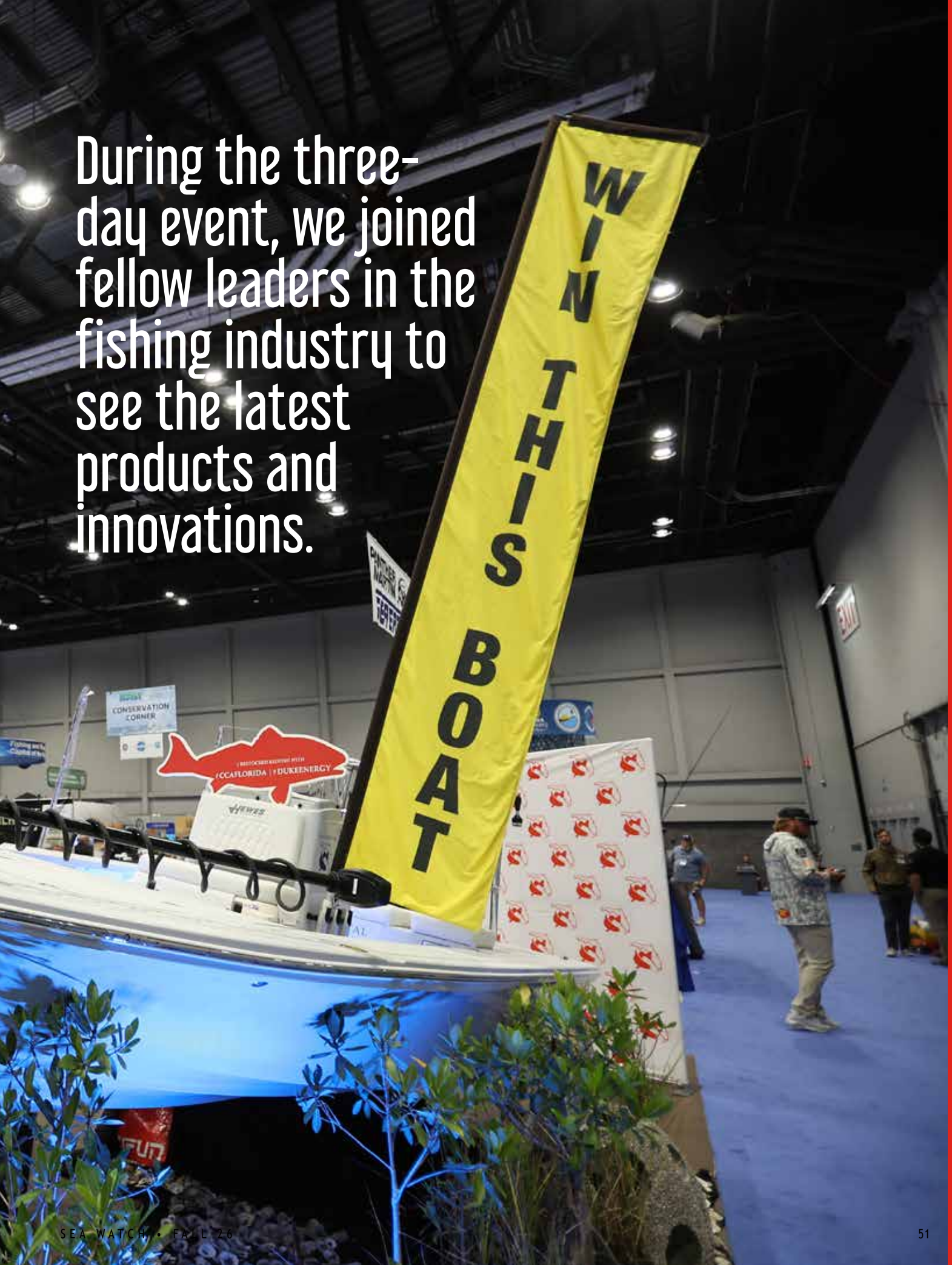




Our team participated in numerous meetings with state, federal and local officials as well as conservation organizations regarding water quality, habitat restoration and fisheries management.

ICAST


COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
BUILDING CONSERVATION TRUST
CCA's Habitat Program
CCA
100 Days of Fishing
S.T.A.R
RHODAN
Conserving the resource and anglers' access to it.



During the three-day event, we joined fellow leaders in the fishing industry to see the latest products and innovations.

ICAST



CCA's highly interactive booth highlighted redfish releases, oyster reef restoration work, offshore and nearshore reef projects, fundraising opportunities, boat partners and much more.


Starbrite
STARBRITE



The WINNER of the 2026 Hewes Redfisher raffle was also announced!





ICAST

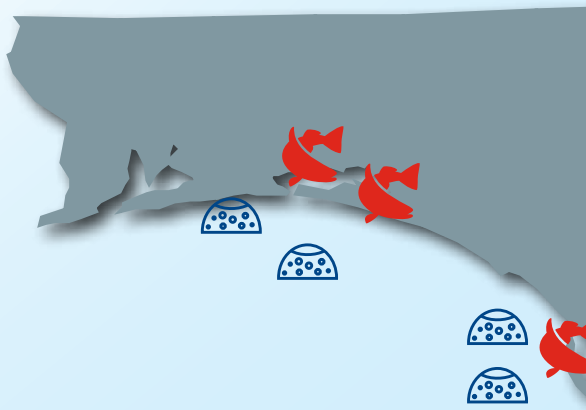
Thanks to everyone who stopped by the booth. We cannot wait for next year's show!


CONSERVE FLORIDA'S FISHERIES
CCA
FLORIDA
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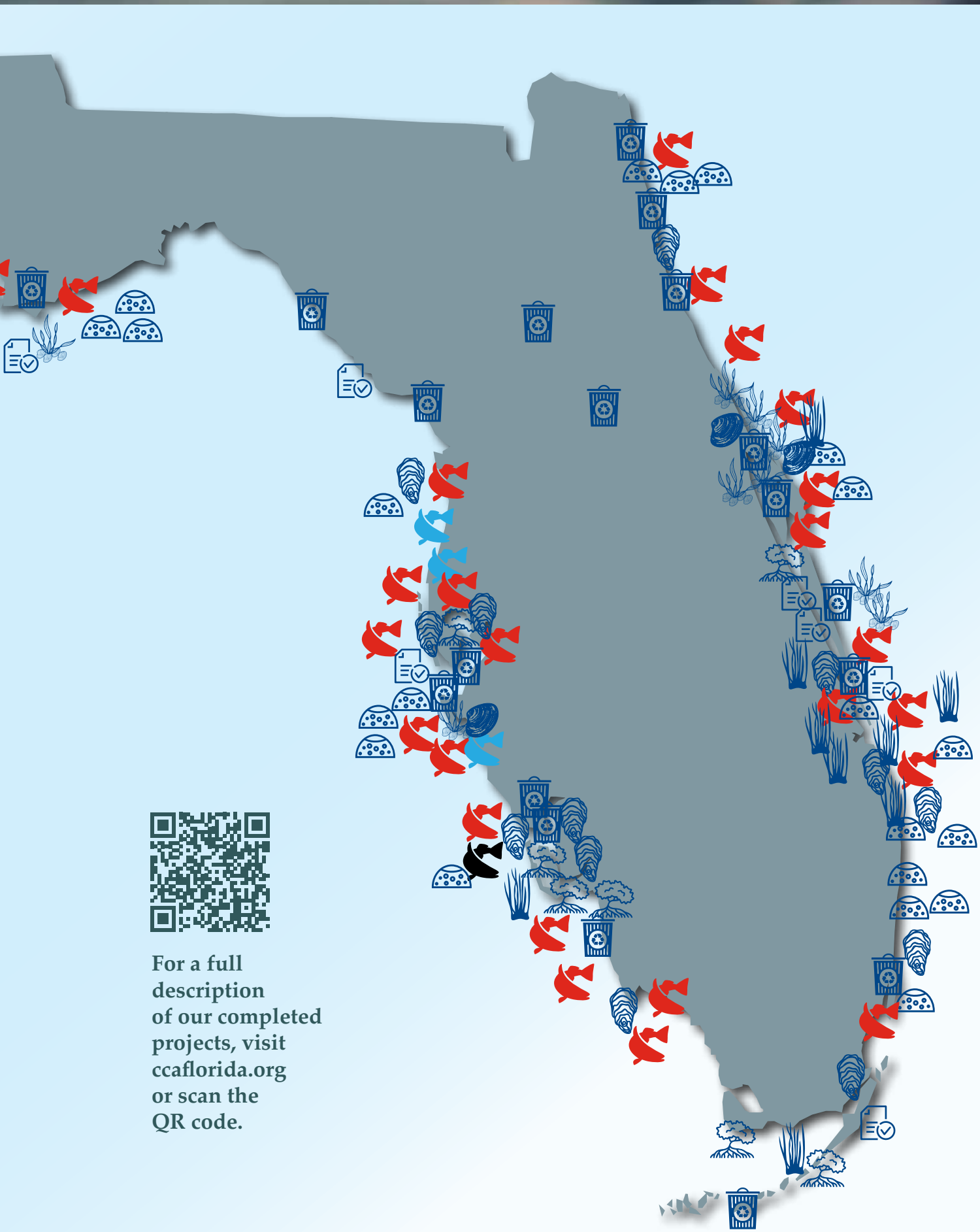
COMPLETED HABITAT PROJECTS



Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over $26 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!

- Artificial Reefs
- Coastal Cleanups
- Research/Monitoring
- Clam Restoration
- Oyster Restoration
- Mangrove Restoration
- Seagrass Restoration
- Living Shorelines

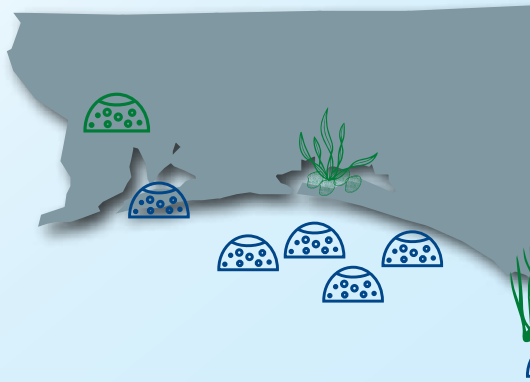
- Redfish Stock Enhancement Locations - 490,000 (3”- 30”)
- Snook Stock Enhancement Locations - 5,150 (4”- 6”)
- Spotted Seatrout Stock Enhancement Locations - 150,000 (4”- 6”)



For a full description of our completed projects, visit ccaflorida.org or scan the QR code.

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION FLORIDA
CONSERVATION | HABITAT | RESTOCKING | ADVOCACY

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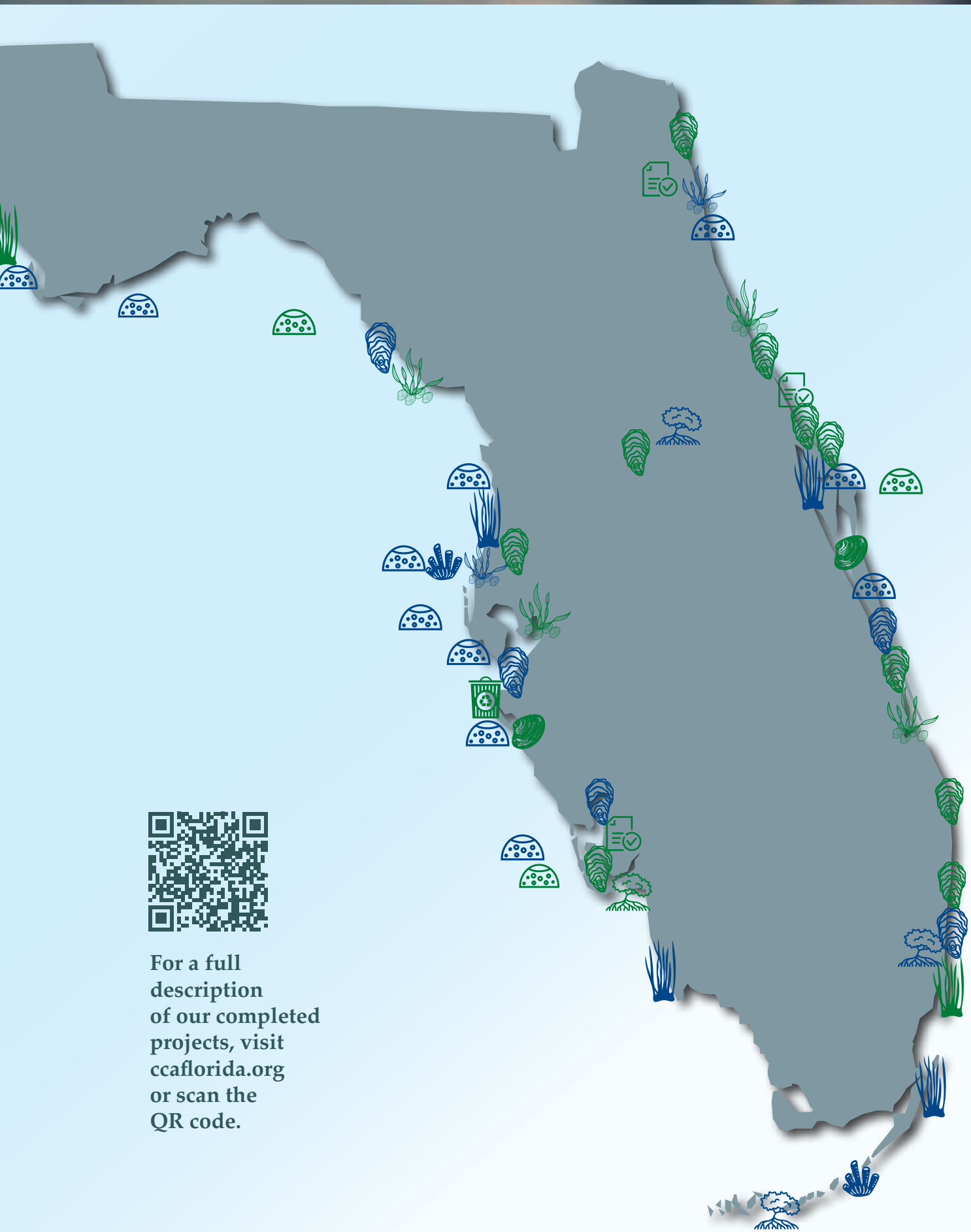


UPCOMING & ONGOING HABITAT PROJECTS

Since 2010, CCA Florida in collaboration with the Building Conservation Trust and our partners, have contributed over $26 million in habitat projects statewide. Join us in these efforts!

- Artificial Reefs
- Coastal Cleanups
- Research/Monitoring
- Clam Restoration
- Oyster Restoration
- Mangrove Restoration
- Seagrass Restoration
- Living Shorelines
- Coral/Sponge Restoration

- Upcoming
- Ongoing



For a full description of our completed projects, visit ccaflorida.org or scan the QR code.

SEAGRASS CONSERVATION THROUGH ACTIONABLE RESEARCH

Propeller scarring is causing increasing damage to seagrass habitats in the aquatic preserves along Florida's Nature Coast, raising growing concerns among managers and stakeholders. In November 2023, CCA Florida was invited to participate as a member of the SCAR MAPS Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC). SCAR MAPS is a 5-year propeller scar restoration and education project funded through the NOAA RESTORE Science Program's Actionable Science call. The SAC includes managers, end-users, representatives from small businesses, local government, NGOs, law enforcement, for-hire guides, boating groups, policy groups, researchers, and educators who can provide feedback on the research and implementation plans.

The SCAR MAPS team collects geographic, biological, logistical, and socioeconomic data with input from stakeholders through a collaborative co-production process to help fill critical data gaps and provide the information needed to support informed, science-based decisions and effective management actions. Updates and draft products are presented to the SAC twice annually during the five years of the grant. This data collection and stakeholder interaction will ultimately be used to make recommendations to resource managers about potential actions that optimize both ecosystem and economic outcomes. In year five, the team will produce implementation products and host a stakeholder summit where final scientific and implementation products will be presented.

Recreational fisheries are an important part of Florida's economy, but those fisheries are dependent on the availability of high-quality habitat. Seagrass habitat with clear, shallow waters are important for for-hire fishing captains who guide clients through seagrass habitat in pursuit of redfish, seatrout, tarpon, and snook. But power boat propellers frequently damage seagrass beds, leading to seagrass scarring. Resource managers must understand where seagrass scarring is concentrated, how seagrass scarring impacts the food that recreational fish consume, and the potential economic impacts of management actions such as pole-troll zones.

This project will improve understanding of seagrass scarring in Florida's Nature Coast by first using drones and surveys to produce a comprehensive map of sea-

(continued on page 64)







MANAGEMENT AREAS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SCARRING SCAR MAPS



grass scars in shallow coastal waters. Investigators will use this map to find seagrass scar hotspots along the coast, and then collect fish, invertebrate, and water quality information in hotspots and compare it to areas without seagrass scars. This information will give resource managers information on how seagrass scars impact habitat quality for economically important recreational fish. Finally, the project team will survey recreational anglers to determine how pole-troll zones would impact their behavior and economic livelihood.

Project investigators will compile the data collected and make recommendations to resource managers about potential management actions that optimize both ecosystem and economic outcomes, such as priority seagrass restoration locations, restoration strategies, stakeholder-supported enforcement, and policy action plans.

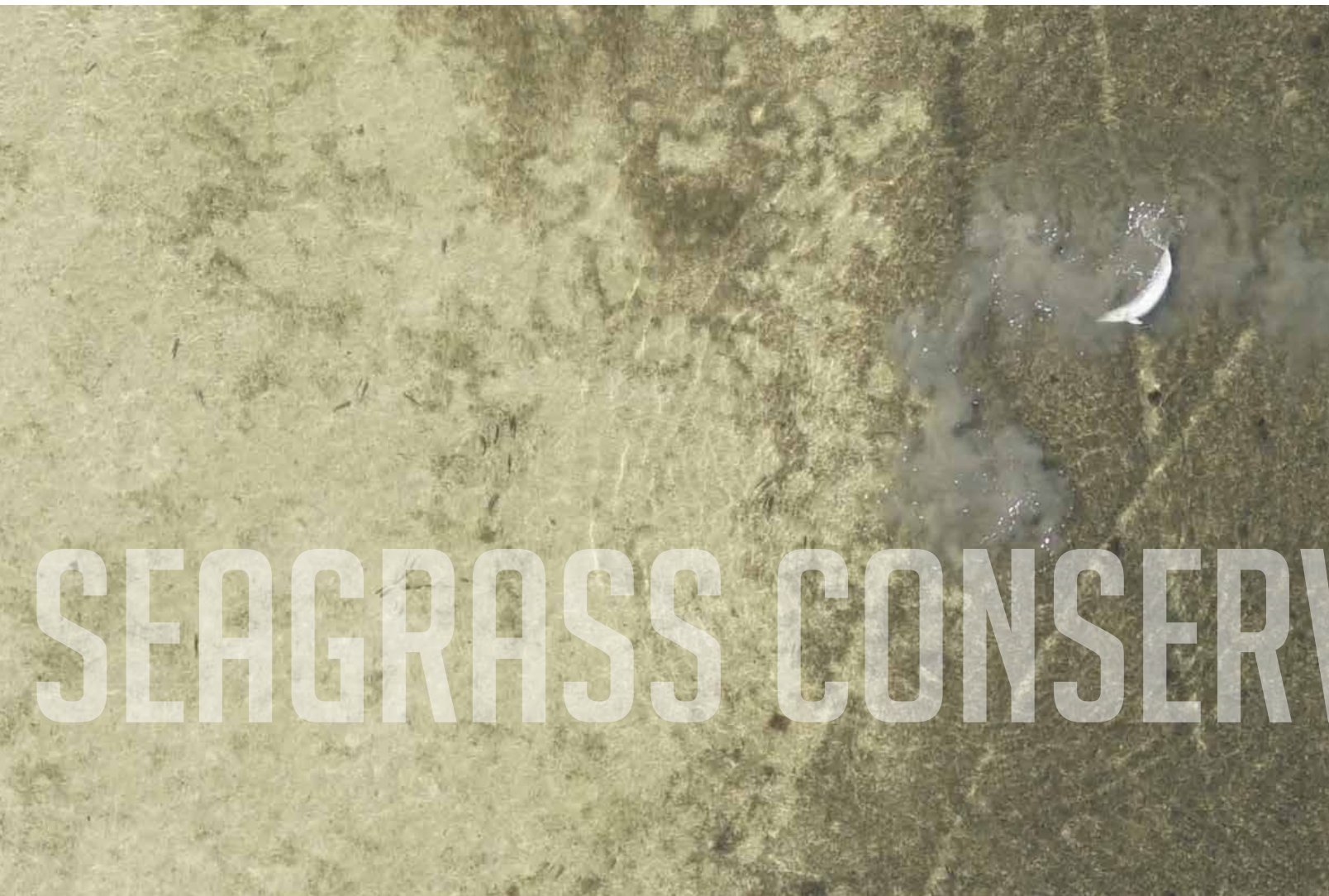
At the Spring 2026 meeting at the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, Frank Gidus of CCA Florida presented an overview to the SAC members of CCA Florida's expanding focus on habitat restoration and water quality initiatives, highlighting its role in advancing seagrass restoration efforts throughout the state.

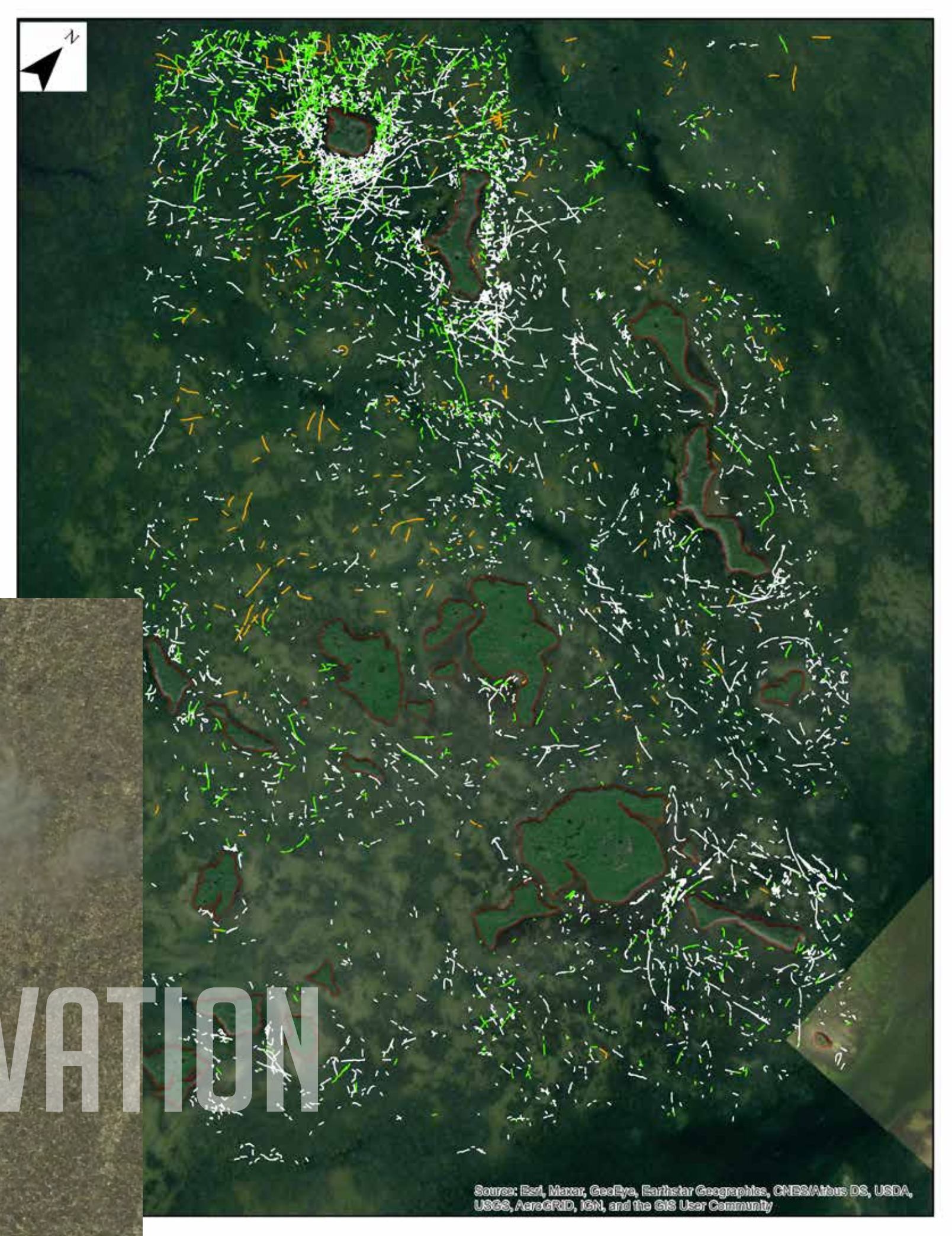
Members of the SAC received updates on ongoing efforts to map and monitor seagrass propeller scars using artificial intelligence (AI) and aerial imagery. Discussions highlighted the development of an AI-driven model capable of detecting propeller scars in drone and aerial imagery, as well as the program's transition toward long-term temporal monitoring of targeted study areas. Future objectives include improving model accuracy through the collection of additional imagery, expanded ground-truthing efforts, and application of the technology in new geographic regions.

Preliminary findings from seagrass scar recovery monitoring were also presented, including data collected from 89 identified scars and an evaluation of factors that may influence recovery rates. The committee discussed the need to establish meaningful recovery metrics, including seagrass coverage, habitat functionality, and sediment stabilization. Members agreed to develop a survey to gather additional stakeholder input on recovery benchmarks and performance measures that can inform future management and restoration decisions.

Recent findings from intercept surveys conducted at boat ramps in Citrus County was presented, focusing on recre-

(continued on page 66)

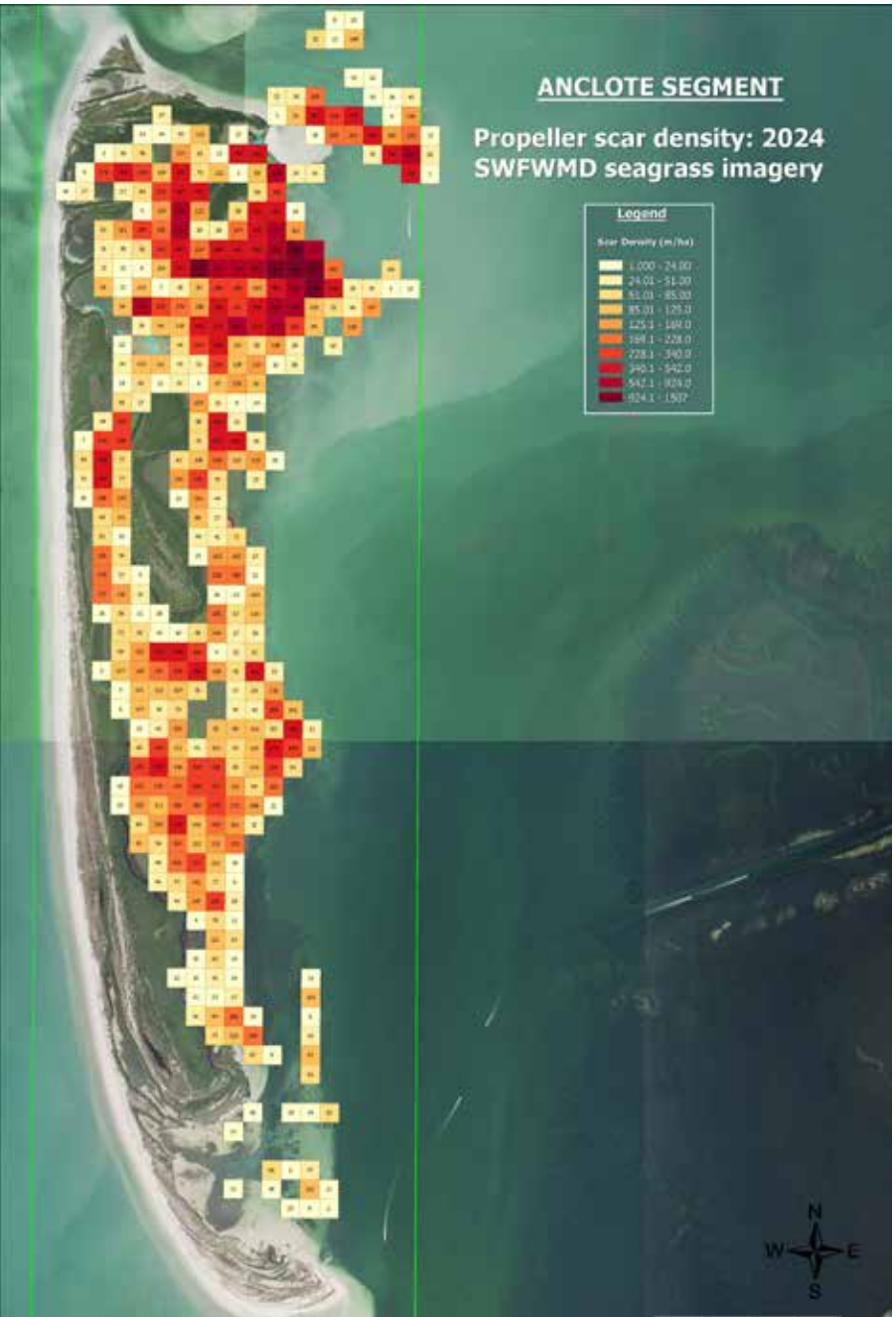



N
VATION
Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

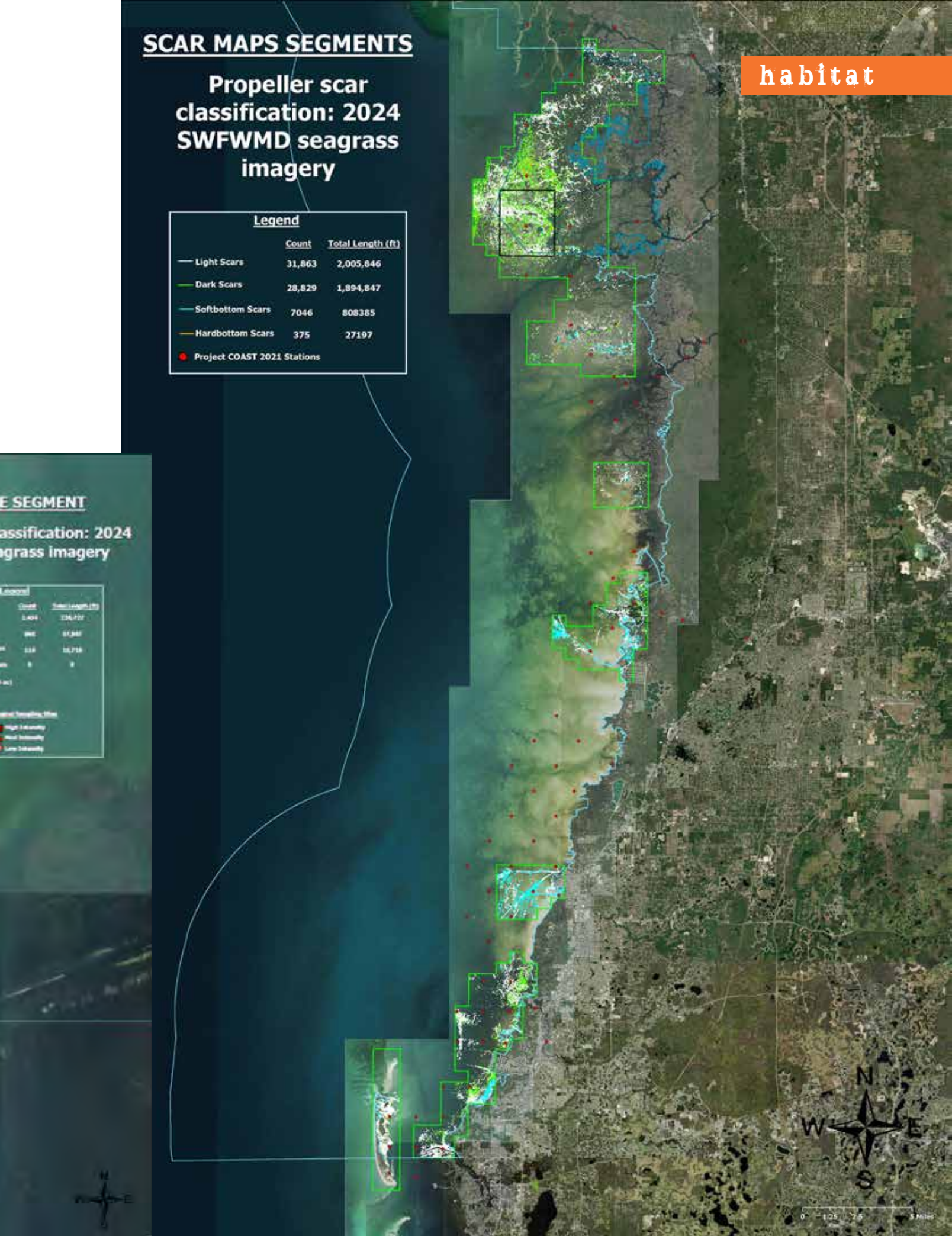
ational boating and seagrass damage. The surveys showed that 57% of respondents would not change their trips under any proposed poll control zone configurations, while 16% had mixed responses and 14% would reduce or stop trips entirely.

The CCA Florida Habitat Team (Frank Gidus, Logan Kennovin and Bobby Woodard) also attended the Fall 2026 SAC Meeting in Crystal River. The meeting focused on interactive small group discussions with an activity called Blue World Green World. The activity was centered around best- and worst-case scenarios resulting from the 5-year project and the results were presented by each group.

As the SCAR MAPS project progresses, collaboration among scientists, resource managers, stakeholders, and conservation organizations like CCA Florida will remain essential to addressing the growing challenge of seagrass propeller scarring along Florida's Nature Coast. By combining innovative tools such as AI-driven mapping with on-the-water monitoring and stakeholder input, the project is generating the science needed to support balanced, effective management decisions. Protecting and restoring seagrass habitats is critical not only for sustaining Florida's valuable recreational fisheries and coastal economy, but also for preserving the health and resilience of these ecosystems for future generations. The knowledge gained through this five-year effort will help guide practical solutions that support both conservation goals and continued public access to Florida's treasured coastal waters.






SCAR MAPS SEGMENTS
Propeller scar classification: 2024 SWFWMD seagrass imagery
Legend
Count
Total Length (ft)
Light Scars
31,863
2,005,846
Dark Scars
28,829
1,894,847
Softbottom Scars
7046
808385
Hardbottom Scars
375
27197
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50 REEF MODULES WILL C
HABITAT APPROXIMATELY 12

IDA AND PARTNERS AYLOR-MARTIN REEF ER COUNTY



REATE ESSENTIAL MARINE MILES FROM GORDON'S PASS



THE REEF MODULES ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE DURABLE, COMPLEX HABITAT WHERE FISH AND OTHER MARINE ORGANISMS CAN SHELTER, FORAGE AND GROW.

In August, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida, the Collier Community Foundation and Collier County deployed 50 concrete reef modules approximately 12 miles offshore from Gordon's Pass. The CCA Florida Taylor-Martin Reef expanded artificial reef habitat off Collier County to support marine life and recreational angling in Southwest Florida.

The $110,100 project was funded through a combination of $53,100 from CCA Florida, $50,000 from the Collier Community Foundation and $7,000 from Collier County. The project includes the fabrication and deployment of 50 engineered artificial reef modules, consisting of 32 Goliath Reef Balls and 18 Supra Reef Balls. All reef modules were manufactured and deployed by Reef Innovations, part of the Reef Ball Foundation Network.

"Wright Taylor and Denny Martin are pillars of our Naples chapter providing invaluable leadership to CCA at the local, state and national levels," CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski said. "Naming this reef in their honor is a fitting tribute for their decades of service and shared commitment to conserving Florida's marine resources. The Taylor-Martin Reef will not only honor a legacy but will create lasting habitat for marine life and new opportunities for recreational anglers."

The reef modules are designed to provide durable, complex habitat where fish and other marine organisms can shelter, forage and grow. Their openings and

(continued on page 73)


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THE TAYLOR-MARTIN REEF WILL NOT ONLY HONOR A LEGACY BUT WILL CREATE LASTING HABITAT FOR MARINE LIFE AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATIONAL ANGLERS. — *CCA Florida Executive Director Brian Gorski*

textured surfaces create habitat at multiple scales while adding long-lasting structure to the seafloor.

"Artificial reefs not only create habitats that can enhance fishery resources but may also reduce fishing pressures on natural reefs." Collier County Transportation Engineering Field Inspector II Christopher D'Arco said. "This long-term investment will provide benefits for future generations of Collier County residents and visitors alike thanks to the generous support of the Collier Community Foundation and the Coastal Conservation Association."

The reef modules were deployed in approximately 40 feet of water within an area bounded by the following coordinates:

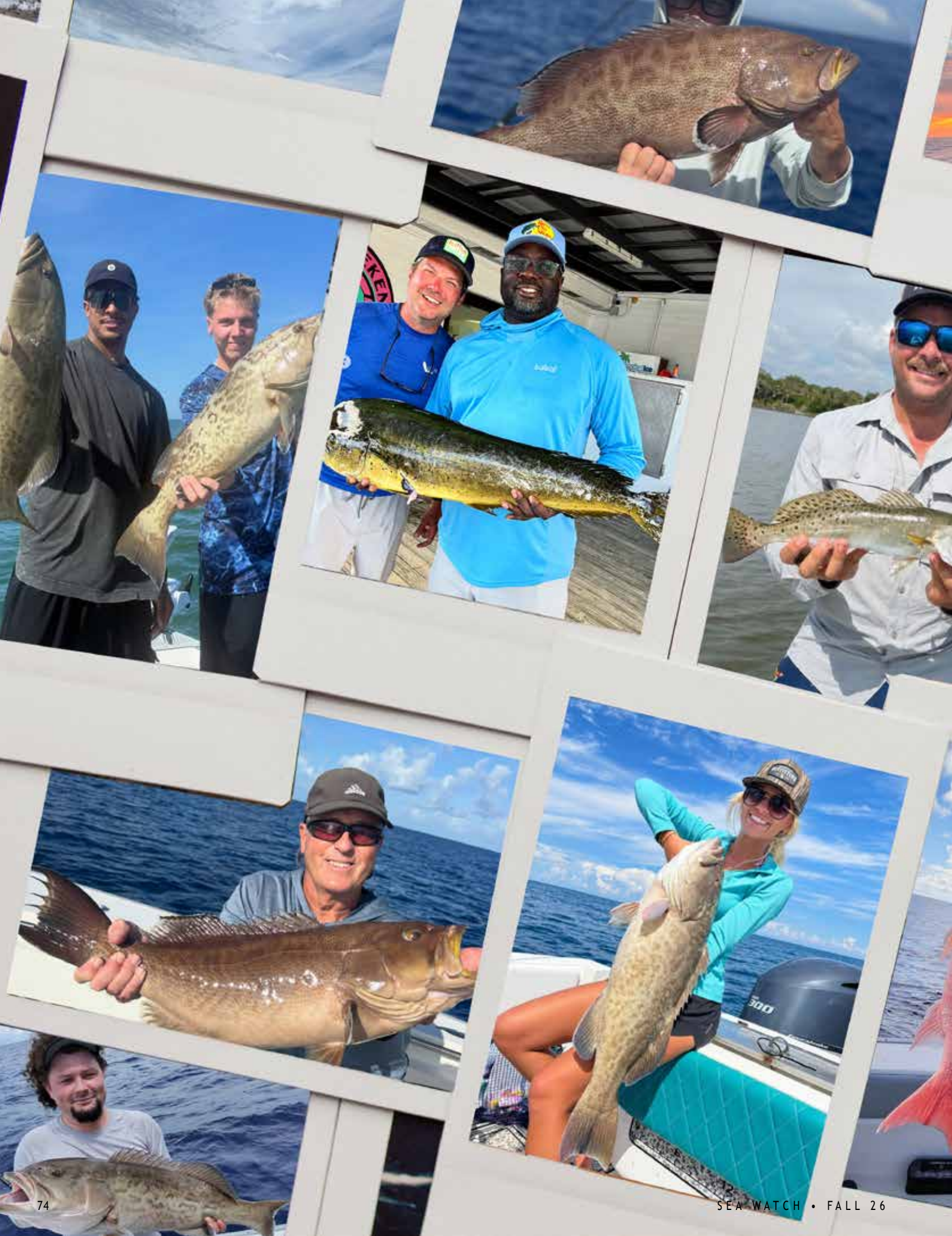
Northwest corner, 26° 7.873' N, 82° 2.396' W

Northeast corner, 26° 7.873' N, 82° 2.300' W

Southwest corner, 26° 7.849' N, 82° 2.396' W

Southeast corner, 26° 7.852' N, 82° 2.300' W.

"Healthy coastlines are essential to the quality of life and economy of Collier County," said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, President and CEO of the Collier Community Foundation. "By investing in projects like the Taylor-Martin Reef, we're helping protect and strengthen our marine environment while creating lasting benefits for future generations. Conservation is one of the most meaningful ways we can ensure our community remains vibrant, resilient and connected to the natural resources that make Collier County such a special place to live, work and visit."




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$500 - Three (3) Contender 28T tickets, Four (4) Pathfinder 2200 TRS tickets, four (4) Contender 24S tickets and Six (6) Hewes Redfisher 16 tickets ($320 savings)



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$100 - One (1) Pathfinder 2200 TRS ticket, One (1) Contender 24S ticket and Two (2) Hewes Redfisher 16 tickets ($50 savings)





As a CCA Florida Life, Heritage or Legacy member, you help support Florida's marine fisheries, habitat, waterways, coasts and more.
Join us as we continue to work toward enhancing these resources and Florida's fishing future.



SAVE THE DATE

NOV
- 12 Treasure Coast Banquet
- 12 Clermont Banquet
- 19 Dade County Banquet
- 19 Pinellas County Banquet

DEC
- 3 Lake Mary Banquet
- 7 Black Diamond Golf Tournament
- 9 Pensacola Banquet

FEB
- 4 Mid Coast Banquet
- 12 South Walton Banquet
- 18 Charlotte County Banquet
- 18 Keys Banquet
- 25 Manatee County Banquet

MAR
- 4 Citrus County Banquet
- 5 Ocala Banquet
- 12 Martin County Banquet
- 18 Fort Myers Banquet
- 18 Tampa Banquet
- 19 Quail Creek Fun Shoot
- 25 Steinhatchee Banquet

APR
- 1 Polk County Banquet
- 1 Homestead Banquet
- 8 Big Bend Banquet
- 15 Lake County Banquet
- 22 Hernando County Banquet
- 23 Orlando BBQ

MAY
- 1 Naples Banquet
- 4 Sarasota Tarpon Tournament
- 12-15 Life Member Outing

JUNE
- 3-7 Inter-Chapter Challenge
- 15-19 Youth Scholarship Program

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