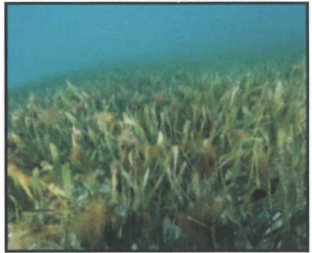




# Seashore Seagrasses



Shoal Grass  
(*Halodule wrightii*)



Turtle Grass  
(*Thalassia testudinum*)



Manatee Grass  
(*Syringodium filiforme*)

## What is Seagrass?

They are flowering plants that grow underwater in shallow waters on the north sides of the barrier islands. Named for their grass-like appearance, seagrass has a strong root structure that helps them withstand currents and waves on the sandy sea floor.

## Why is Seagrass Important?

Seagrass meadows serve as nursery grounds, and shelter for shrimp, crabs and many species of fish. A variety of birds, sea turtles and other wildlife depend upon them to live. Seagrass also promotes water clarity. The plants' extensive system of roots and rhizomes help stabilize bottom sediments.



Propeller Scars in seagrass bed



Blowhole created by a propeller

Seagrass habitat is declining. Seagrasses grow in shallow coastal waters and can be damaged by boaters with wakes, anchors, propellers and fishing equipment that disturb and scar the seabed. Scaring exposes the seagrass roots which allows waves and currents to erode the seabed, resulting in the loss of seagrass habitat.

## You can Help - Boating Tips

- Know the waters well and where you plan to boat.
- Look before you drop your anchor in a seagrass habitat.
- *If you run into a seagrass flat, stop immediately. If you get in too shallow, stop your motor and trim it up.*
- “Push, Pull, Drift, and Troll” your boat to deeper water.
- Never try to power off, because that creates more damage.