HELP KEEP SEAGRASS BEDS HEALTHY

FOR FISH, WILDLIFE, AND YOU!





THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE (SEAGRASS) HOMES...

New Pass

Lido



70% of the Florida fish you eat or catch, like snook, snapper, stone crab, and grouper, rely on seagrasses to survive.

A seagrass bed the size of a 3-car garage (600 sq ft) produces all the oxygen one person needs to breathe every day. There are enough seagrasses in Sarasota Bay to do this for the entire population of Manatee and Sarasota counties.

When seagrasses are ripped out, it can take years for them to grow back. Sometimes they never do.

- Seagrasses... provide over \$276 million in economic benefits to our coastal
- community every year.
- remove pollution from water. They can also kill bacteria and other human pathogens.

41 Whitaker Bayou

Fruitville Rd.

- stabilize the seafloor and protect us during storms.

Damaging seagrasses in aquatic preserves, like Terra Ceia or Lemon Bay, can result in up to \$1,000 fine. Running aground can cost \$350/hr for towing + damage costs.



- · Wear polarized sunglasses to see under the water's surface
- Stay in the channel & use your navigation charts
- Tilt your engine up in 2.5 ft of water or less
- Look for water color: greener = shallower bluer = deeper **brown** = bad, you're stirring up the bottom

SANTA SANTA

| NATURAL & HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST Boaters can anchor, dock or see by the water | Access/ ICW Marker No. | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 7. KEN THOMPSON PARK | | |
| Boardwalk trails, restrooms, restaurants, picnic areas, playground, fishing, wildlife viewing & wetland restoration area. | Anchor/ Marker#12 | |
| 8. OTTER KEY | | |
| Natural area for wildlife and bird viewing, kayaking, and fishing. | Anchor/ Marker#6 | |
| 9. Ted Sperling Park/South Lido Beach | | |
| Natural beach & picnic area overlooking Big Pass. Restrooms, food, fishing and wildlife viewing. Strong current. | Anchor/ Marker#6 | |
| 10. Edwards Islands | See from | |
| Bird rookery and designated wildlife area. | water/ Marker #81 | |
| 11. Neville Preserve | Anchor/ | |
| Mangrove islands with a small beach, coastal birds, plants, fishing, wildlife viewing, and trails. | Caution: shallow! Marker #41 | |
| 12. Midnight Pass Beach | Anchor/ | |
| Undeveloped beach along the Gulf of Mexico. Wildlife viewing. | Caution: shallow! Marker #41 | |
| 13. Osprey Fishing Pier | Anchor/ | |
| Boat launch, fishing, & wildlife viewing area. | Marker #39 | |
| 14. North Jetty Beach Park | _ | |
| Beach picnic spot on Venice inlet where the Intracoastal Waterway meets the Gulf of Mexico. Restrooms and food. | Anchor Gulf-side/ Marker#4 | |
| 15. Snake & Bird Islands | | |
| Small islands in the mouth of Venice inlet. Fishing and wildlife viewing. Restoration on Snake Island. | Anchor/ Marker #4A | |
| 16. Higel Marine Park | Da ala/ | |
| Boat launch and picnic spot overlooking Intracoastal Waterway. Restrooms, fishing and wildlife viewing. | Dock/ Marker #3 | |
| | | |

| Waterway. Restrooms, fishing and wildlife viewing. | | | |
|--|---|-----|--|
| | | | |
| # MARINAS WITH RESTAURANTS | | | |
| 7 | Marina Jack GLEANMARINA | FSM | |
| 8 | Siesta Key Marina | FSM | |
| 9 | Hidden Harbor Marina | FSM | |
| 10 | Turtle Beach Marina | | |
| 11 | Casey Key Marina | FSM | |
| 12 | Dockside Store/ Gulf Harbor Marina | | |
| 13 | Crow's Nest Rest & Marina | FSM | |
| 14 | Tarpon Marina | | |
| 15 | Fisherman's Wharf Marina & Dockside Grill | FSM | |
| Clean Marina Designation is given by the Florida Department of | | | |

Environmental Protection to marinas that meet federal and state environmental regulations and provide environmental

education and services to boaters. For more information, visit: www.dep.state.fl.us/ cleanmarina/ FSM: Full Service Marinas: Gas, restaurant or

snacks, restrooms, bait & tackle, available.

| ij | RESTAURANTS WITH DOCKING | Marker No. |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 12 | Oleary's Tiki Bar & Grill | #10 |
| 13 | Phillippi Creek Oyster Bar | #73 |
| 14 | The Boatyard Waterfront Bar & Grill | #61 |
| 15 | Waterfront Restaurant | #51 |
| 16 | Turtles Restaurant | #49 |
| 17 | Ophelia's on the Bay | #37 |
| 18 | Evie's at Spanish Point | #37 |
| 19 | Casey Key Fish House | #33 |
| 20 | Pelican Alley | #10 |
| 21 | Pop's Sunset Grill | #10 |
| | v | |



SEAGRASS SAFE BOATING

Watch how to avoid seagrasses and learn what to do if you get stuck. Go to sarasotabay.org and click on "Videos".

Whenever possible, avoid seagrass beds and utilize navigation channels or deeper water.

If over seagrass beds in shallow water, be sure to trim your motor up.

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is dedicated to restoring and protecting the region's most important natural assets: our bays.

Striving to improve water quality, increase habitat, and enhance natural resources of the area for the use and enjoyment of the public.

If aground:

Boating. Fishing.

Always contact your boat rental company first!

CALLING FOR HELP:

• Sea Tow Sarasota:

VHF Marine Radio:

Tow Boat U.S. Sarasota:

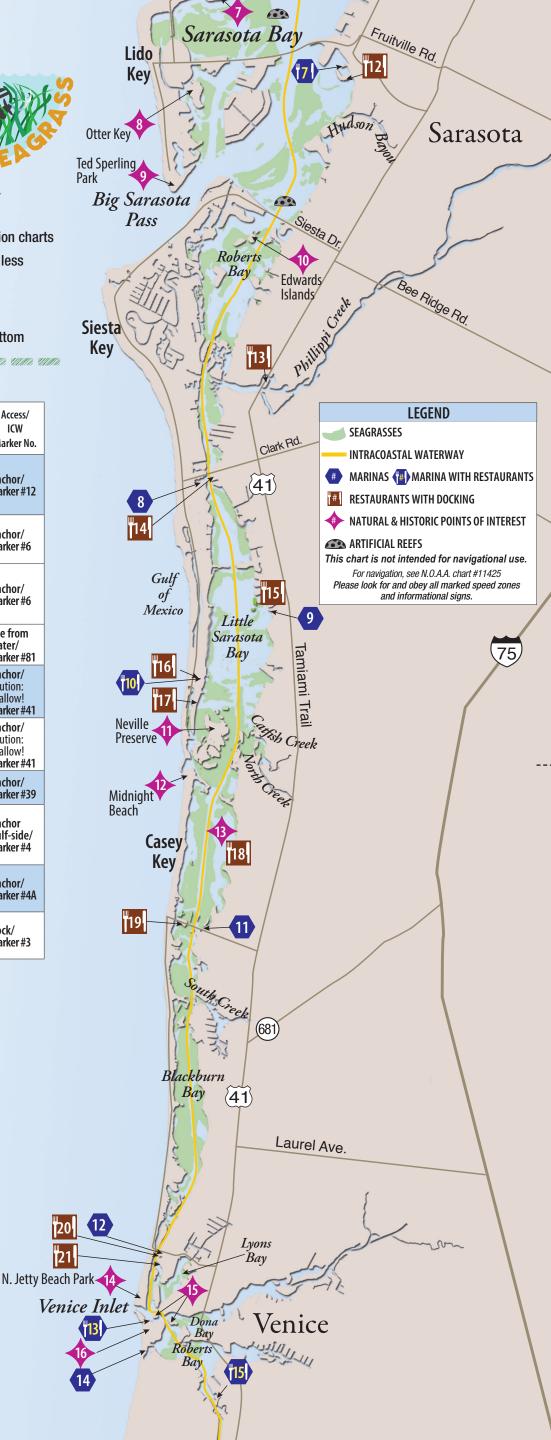
1. Stop your engine and tilt it up.

941.756.3422

941.374.5745

Channel 16

- 2. Use a pole to go back the way you came.
- 3. Get off & push your boat (Wear sturdy shoes, there may be oysters!)
- 4. Call for help.



Alligator Cred











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