

SAVE OUR SPORT



SAVE OUR SEAGRASS

Seagrass is the foundation of life in the Gulf of Mexico. Underwater meadows of seagrass in bays and estuaries near shore serve as nurseries for the shrimp, shellfish, and sportfish prized by anglers, including redfish, drum and sea trout. Ducks and other waterfowl, sea turtles and crabs also depend on seagrass to thrive.

The declining quantity and quality of these seagrass habitats now represent a serious threat to wildlife, recreation and the economy along the Gulf Coast.

A program developed in the Laguna Madre by The Nature Conservancy and partners will enable recreational boaters in this area to help protect seagrass for future generations through **voluntary use of marked preferred access lanes**.

Partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coastal Conservation Association, the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and its Seagrass Working Group.

Front cover photo: Gulf Coast fisherman. (©Chase Fountain/Texas Parks and Wildlife Department); Right: Propeller scars on seagrass bed. (©Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)



WITH YOUR HELP

Prop scar damage is caused by boat propellers hitting the bay bottom and seagrass beds. This not only damages the plants but destabilizes bay bottom and sediments, which inhibits seagrass growth and impacts wildlife habitat.

The shallow flats on the Texas coast spawn some of the best fishing in the nation. Seagrasses are a big part of the reason why. But running boats in the shallows can destroy these grasses. Propeller scars remain for years. So when you come to shallow water, **stop your engine, lift your prop, drift with the wind, pole or troll. Protect the seagrass.**

Visit saveourseagrass.org today to learn more about how to help.

CONSERVING SEAGRASS IN THE LAGUNA MADRE

INFORMATION FOR BOATERS



USING THE MAP

Small navigational signs in the Upper Laguna Madre just north of the JFK Causeway and Pita Island identify preferred access lanes where boaters can run safely without impacting seagrass beds.

The map to the right provides an aerial view of the program area. Small navigational aids mark the preferred access lanes.

Using the new boat lanes in the upper Laguna Madre is voluntary for boaters who want to help save seagrass for wildlife and other recreationists.

About 10 miles of boat lanes will be marked, protecting over 5,000 acres of seagrass beds. Plans are underway to expand this project to protect seagrass in other parts of the Gulf of Mexico.

Visit saveourseagrass.org to access map coordinates.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Conservancy's seagrass work, please visit:

saveourseagrass.org

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The Nature Conservancy 
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