



Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

Tim Jones, AP Manager
March 9, 2021



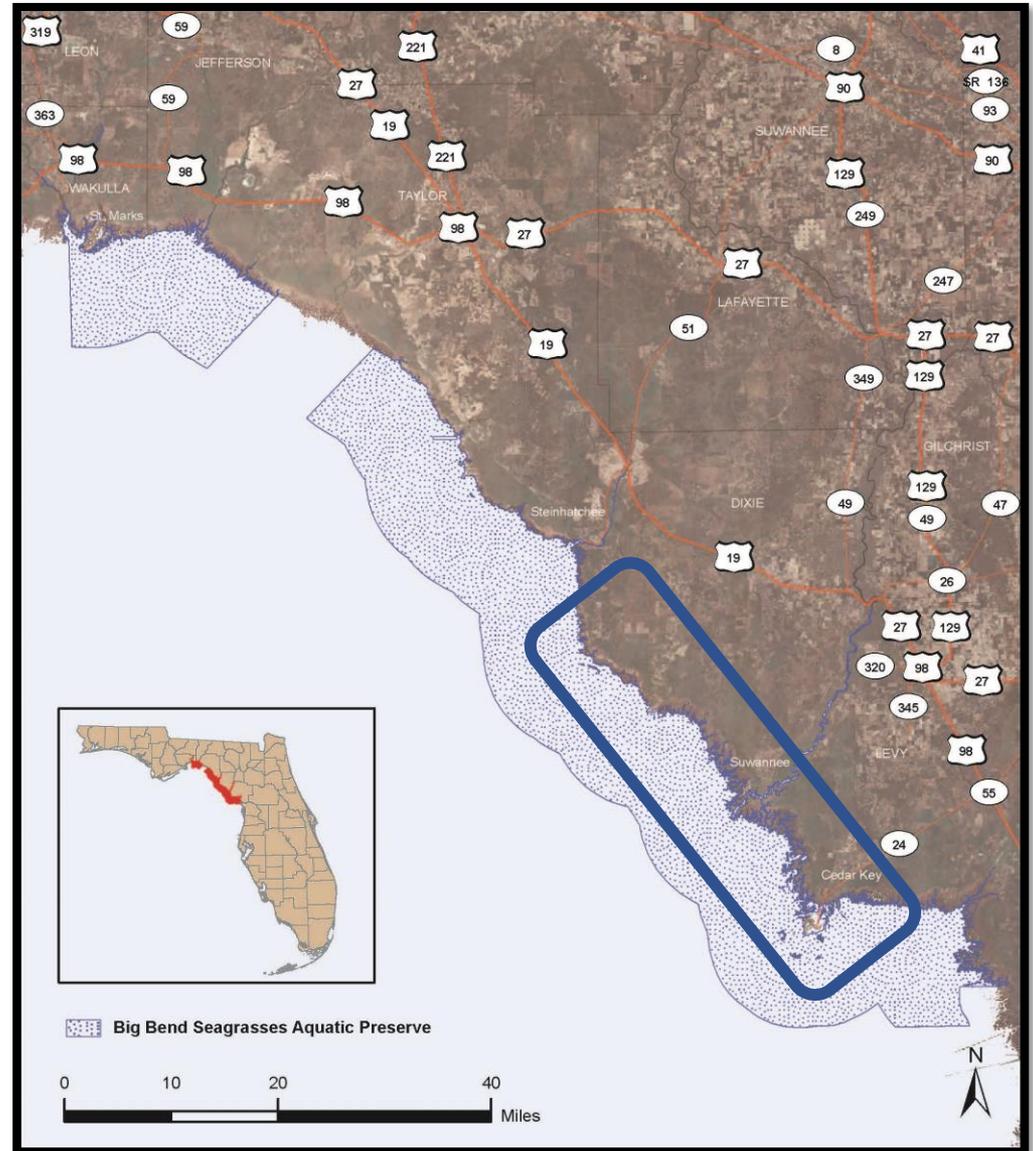
Florida's Aquatic Preserves





Big Bend Seagrasses AP

- Established in 1985
- Approximately 985,000 acres
- 5 counties
- 7 contributing rivers





Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

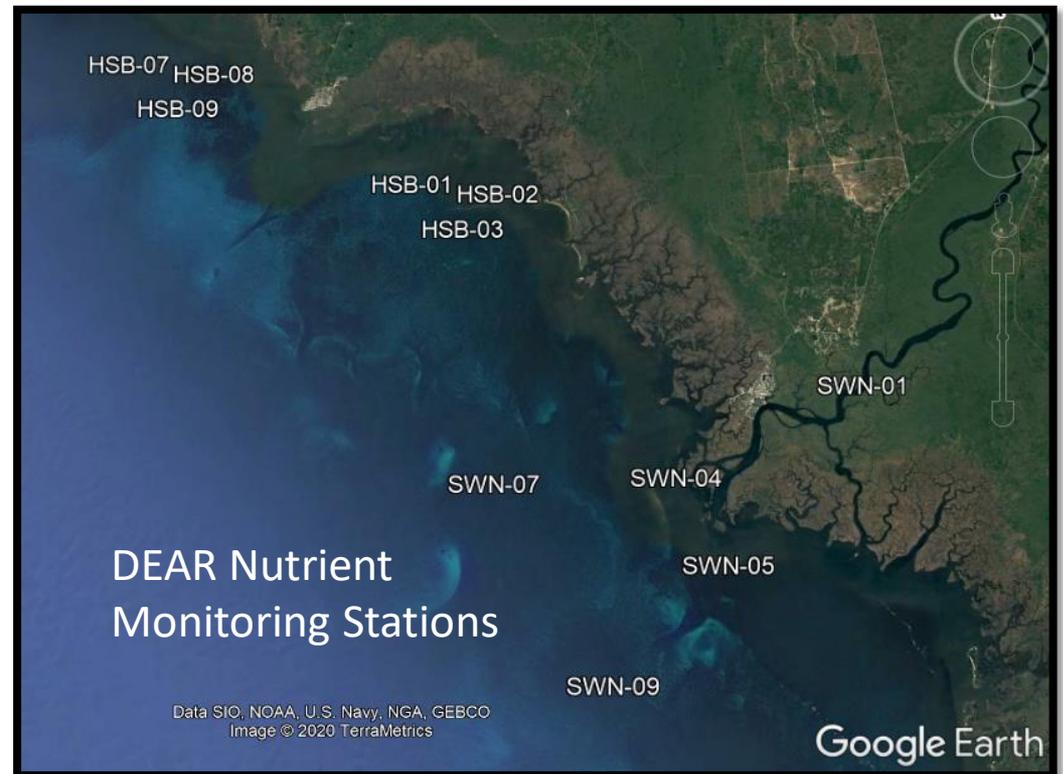
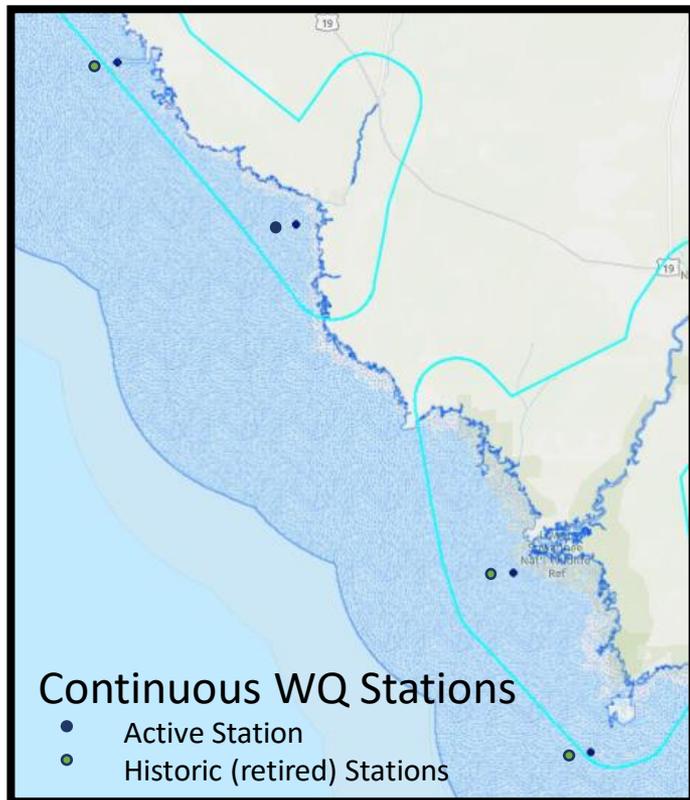
Existing Work & Notable Trends for this Region

- **Work**
 - Continuous Water Quality Monitoring Dataset
 - Historical
 - DEAR Nutrient Sampling Partnership
- **Trends**
 - Seagrass Abundance Fluctuation North of Horseshoe Cove



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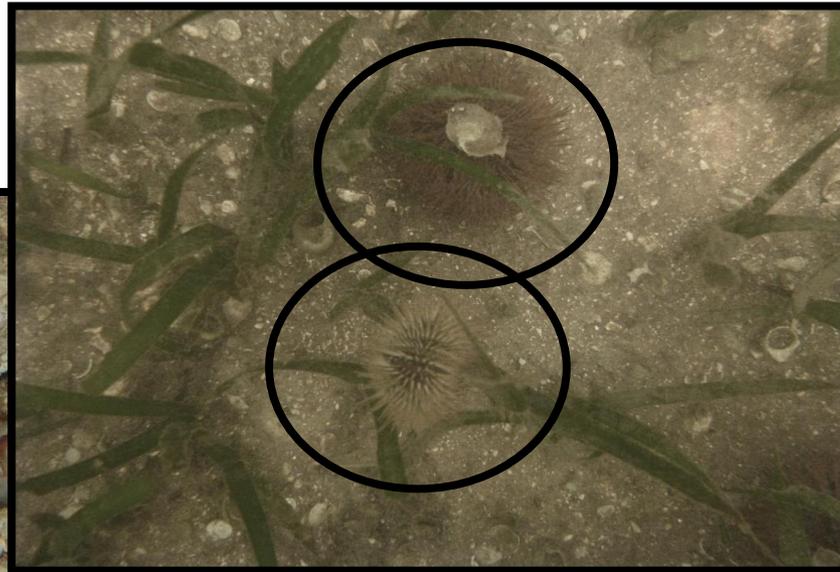
Water Quality Efforts





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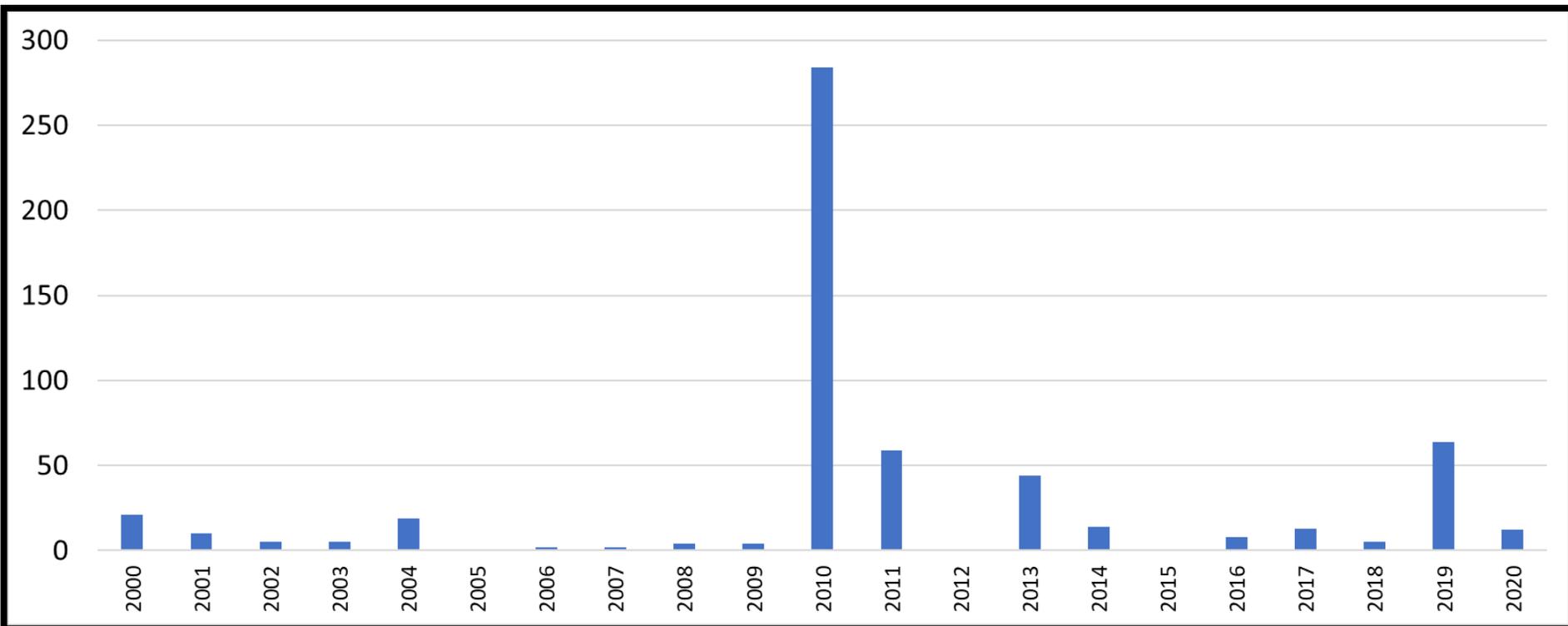
Trends in Steinhatchee





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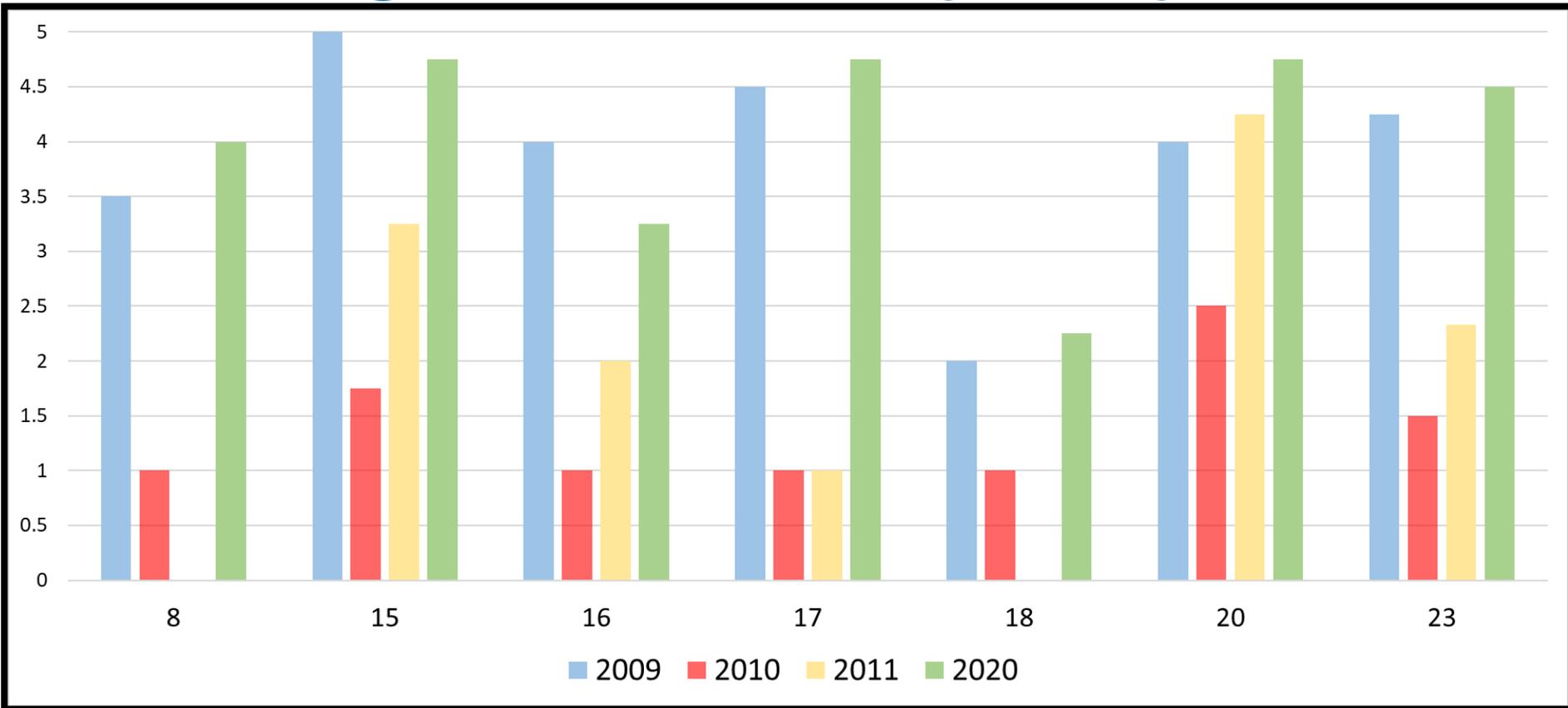
Urchin Count by Year - Steinhatchee





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Seagrass B&B Scores by Site by Year

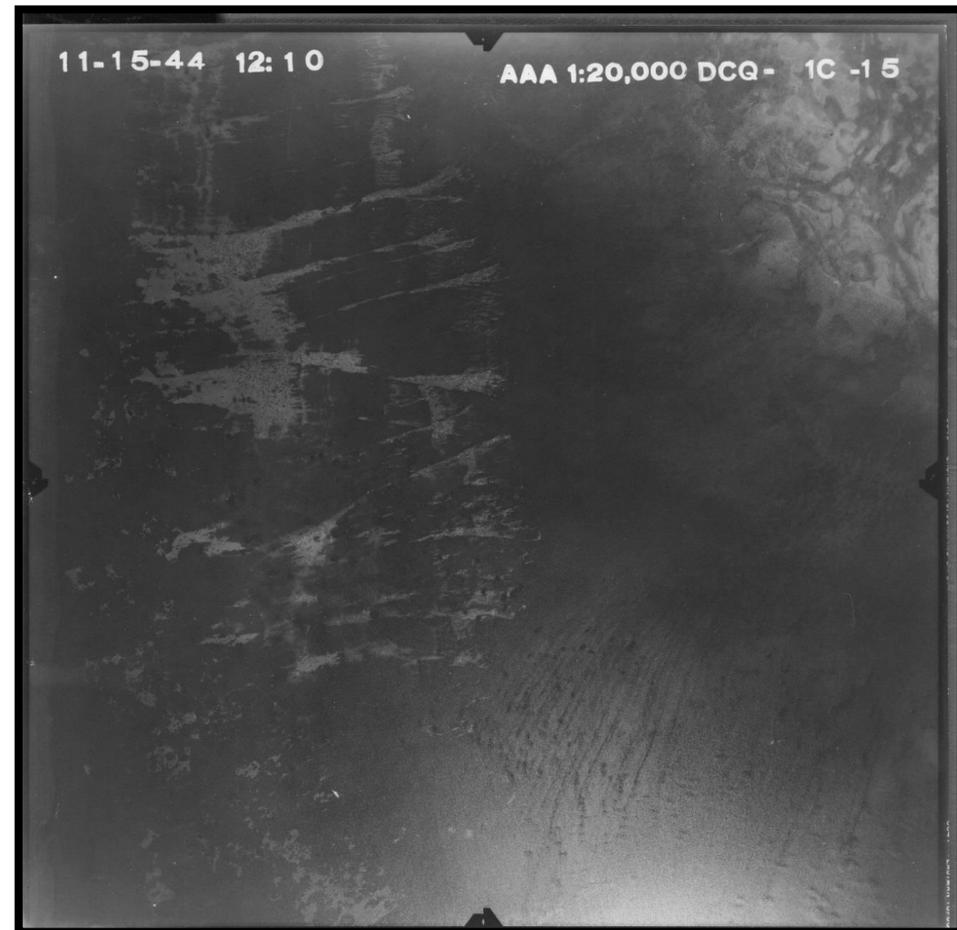




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Urchins in Steinhatchee

- Historical Imagery
- Pepperfish Keys – 1944
- Grazing Trails





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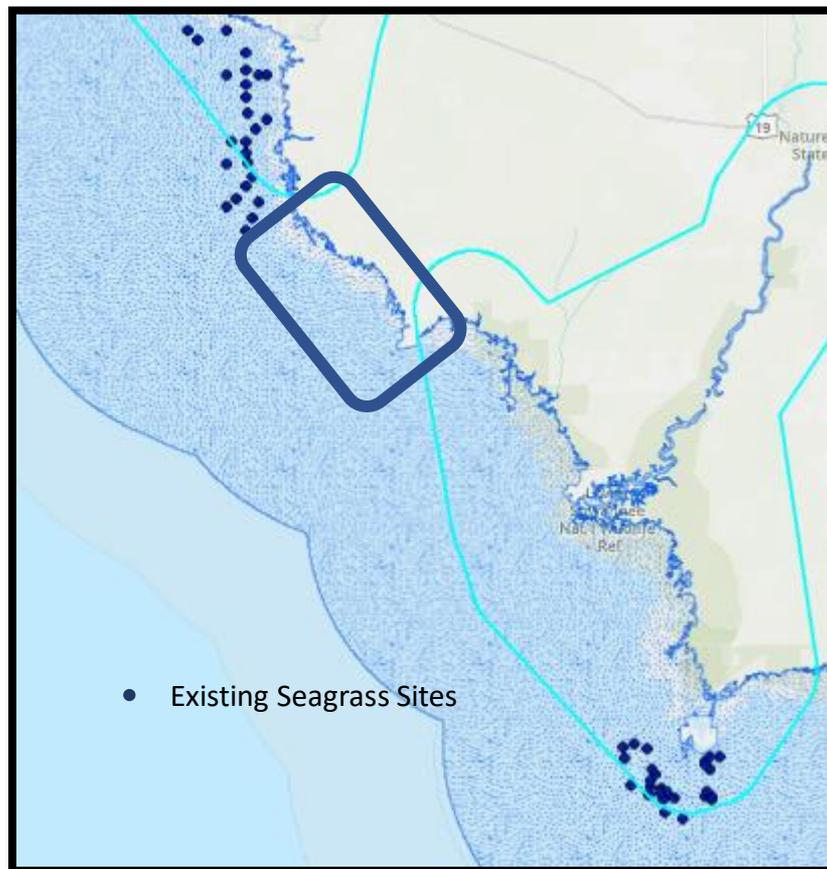




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Future Plans

- Implement Seagrass Monitoring in Horseshoe Beach
 - 25 sites to be established in 2021





Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

Management for the Future

- Land Acquisitions
- Hydrological Management
- Baseline Datasets
- Partnerships/Stewardship



Thank you!

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