

St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve



Seagrasses are considered to be the most productive ecosystems in the world. They are a vital component to Florida's coastal ecology and economy.



Endangered, juvenile green sea turtles feed on the bay's lush seagrasses year round. Adults nest on the peninsula every other year.



Prop scar damage caused by a boat's propeller is a serious threat to Florida's seagrasses. Damage can take 10 years to repair and may never completely recover. St. Joe Bay has over 6,600 acres of seagrass habitat. Almost 2,000 acres are lightly to severely scarred.



St. Joseph Bay has the densest concentrations of marine grasses in the panhandle. Together we can help protect the valuable resources in the bay.

Florida is fortunate to have 41 aquatic preserves, designated by the state to be maintained and preserved in their natural condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. These exceptional waters encompass almost 2,000,000 acres of submerged lands.



The St. Joseph Bay ecosystem is viewed by many as one of the most diverse, productive, and important natural areas in Florida. The crystal clear waters of the bay support an abundant and biologically diverse ecosystem that includes lush seagrass habitat, saltmarsh, coral, mangroves, benthic communities, commercial and recreational fish species, sea turtles, rays, sharks, and dolphins. This area also serves as an important feeding, breeding, nesting and stop-over area for a variety of bird species. Come explore the bay!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Boat responsibly ~ Know before you go ~ Recycle fishing line
Pick up trash ~ Keep out exotics ~ Volunteer ~ Leave no trace



St. Joseph Bay has one of the healthiest populations of bay scallops in the state. Scallop season is from July 1st – Sept 10th.



LIGHTS OUT FOR SEA TURTLES! May 1st—October 31st.
St. Joseph Peninsula has the densest concentration of nesting female loggerheads in the panhandle. Help protect nesting females and hatchlings by removing recreational gear from the beach at night and avoiding the use of bright lights/flashlights/bonfires during the season.

