

102 Coastal Businesses Support A New Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve

The coastal waters of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties are home to over 400,000 acres of seagrass. These lush meadows work in concert with mangrove islands, saltmarsh, oyster reef, sponge and hard bottom habitats to provide the foundation for coastal businesses, time-honored family traditions, and a way of life along Florida's Nature Coast.

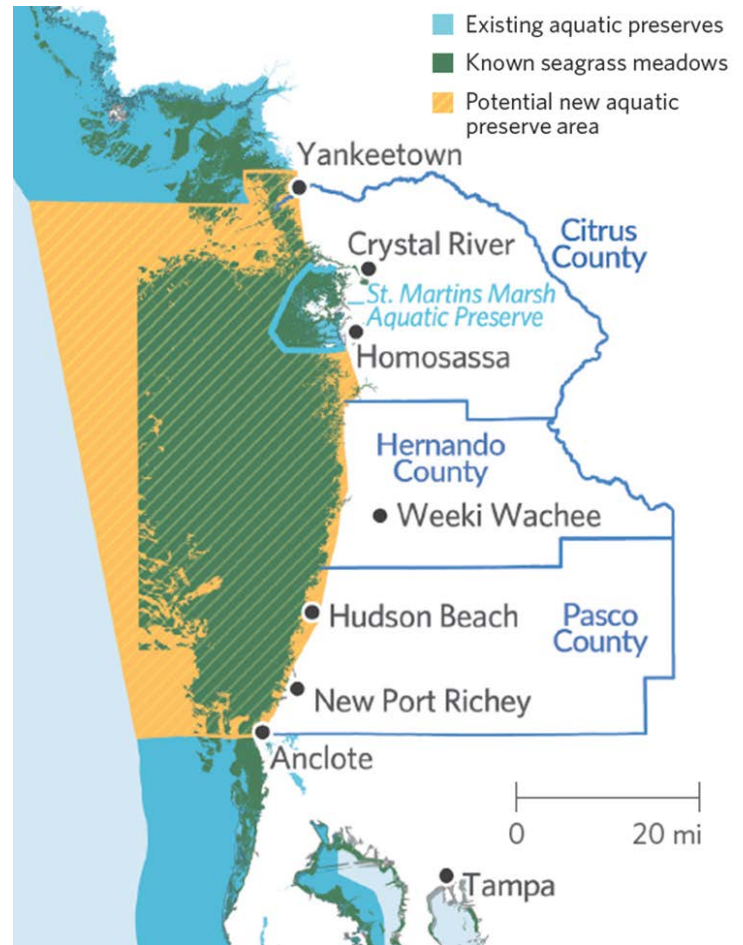
As business owners and stewards of our community, we support state legislation to create a new aquatic preserve and close the gap in protection for this valuable marine coastline.

Healthy coastal habitats foster fishing, boating, and tourism that drive our economy. 70 percent of Florida's recreationally and commercially valuable fish species, including gag grouper, spotted seatrout, redfish, tarpon, stone crab, bay scallop, and shrimp spend at least part of their life cycle within seagrass communities. These seagrass-dependent species, as well as manatees and sea turtles, support valuable fisheries, seafood production, working waterfronts, and eco-tourism that generate approximately \$600 million for the region's economy annually, provide more than 10,000 jobs, and fuel over 500 businesses.

The aquatic preserve would span the entire coast of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties, providing important coastal protections and a community-based management framework to safeguard valuable habitats, water quality, and local economies. Importantly, this designation supports all lawful and traditional public uses of the preserve, such as sport fishing, commercial fishing, boating, and swimming, that are critical to our businesses and sustain our coastal way of life. We feel a new aquatic preserve is the right tool to utilize and to conserve the region's rich coastal habitats and outstanding water quality for today and for future generations.

Please act to create a new aquatic preserve for Florida's Nature Coast.

Sincerely,



Citrus County

Matt Clemons
Aardvark Florida Kayak Company
Crystal River

Gary Rankel
Finding the Treasures of the Trails –
Kayaking Citrus County
Citrus Hills

Cody Cummins
Bird's Underwater Dive Center
Crystal River

Captain Wyn Walker
Blue Heaven River Tours
Homosassa

Bill Korade
Blue Water Bait and Tackle
Homosassa

Randy Cribbs
BWC Charters
Homosassa

Captain John Bazo
Captain John Bazo
Crystal River

Captain Jonathan Hamilton
Captain Jonathan Hamilton
Homosassa

Captain Mike Baize
Captain Mike Baize Fishing Charters
Homosassa

Captain Mike Brothers
Captain Mike's Fishing Adventures
Ozello

Captain Rick Spratt
Captain Rick Spratt Charter Fishing LLC
Homosassa

Captain Mark Zorn
Capt. Z Guide Service
Homosassa

Captain Mark Reeves
Cast N Reel Fishing Charters of Crystal
River LLC.
Crystal River

Captain Fred Lyles
charter fishing
Homosassa

Captain Kate Spratt
charter fishing
Homosassa

Captain Marvin Williams Jr.
charter fishing
Homosassa

Captain Al Hammaker
Chassahowitzka Charters
Homosassa

David Page
commercial mullet fisherman
Crystal River

Don Hamberg
Crump's Landing
Homosassa

Steve Lamb
Crystal Chevrolet
Crystal Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Crystal Commercial Sales
Crystal Ford Lincoln
Crystal Harley-Davidson
Crystal Motor Sports
Homosassa

Captain Mary Morgan
Crystal River Kayak and Dive
Crystal River

Rodney MacRae
Dock Masters of Homosassa Inc.
Homosassa

Mike Engiles
Engiles Eco Adventures, Inc., dba Crystal
River Watersports
Crystal River

Kim and Anthony Altman
Explorida
Crystal River

Captain Don Chancey
Flats Chance Charters
Homosassa

Captain Louie Argiro
Florida Fishing Adventures
Crystal River

Angela Ward
Fun 2 Dive Manatee Tours
Crystal River

Captain Ron Ross
Gulf Coast Expeditions
Crystal River

Captain Clay and Blake Shidler
Hang 'Em High Sport Fishing
Crystal River

Captain Travis Roberts
Happy Place Adventures
Crystal River

Captain Nick Warrington
High Octane Fishing Charters
Crystal River

Captain Duane Tibbetts
Homosassa Fishing
Homosassa

Captain John Bazo
Homosassa Guides Association
Homosassa

Captain William Toney
Homosassa Inshore Fishing
Homosassa

Captain Jimmy Long
Homosassa Outfitters
Homosassa

Captain Charlie Harris
Homosassa Red Fishing
Homosassa

Chris Doucette
Hunter Springs Kayaks
Crystal River

Captain Tommy Bohannon
Huntin' & Hookin' Adventures
Homosassa

Bonnie Allen
Island Bait Company
Homosassa

Carla Bernhardt
Kayak Karavan
Chassahowitzka

Steve Lamb
Kings Bay Holdings
Homosassa

Gator MacRae
MacRae's of Homosassa
Homosassa

Brandie Wooten
Manatee Eco Tourism Association
Manatee Fun Tours
Crystal River

Captain Sean Daugherty
Mellow Mangrove Charters
Homosassa

Captain Joe Bello
Merry Manatee Tours with Capt. Joe
Homosassa

Dave Moore
Moore's Bait and Tackle
Crystal River

Steve Lamb
Nature Coast Development
Homosassa

Captain Tony Matthews
Old Homosassa Guide Service
Homosassa

Captain Gary Bartell Jr.
Ozello Boats
Crystal River

John and Diane Hackney
Ozello Island Outpost LLC.
Ozello

Captain Gary Bartell Jr.
Ozello Keys Marina
Crystal River

Captain Dan Clymer
Racin Mullet Charters
Crystal River

Captain Randy Hodges
Razor Belly Fishing Charter
Crystal River

Captain Ed Brennan
Red Ed's Adventures
Homosassa

Captain Christopher Bryan McClellan
Redfish Hunter
Homosassa

Captain Leon Hampton
Reel Time Outfitters
Crystal River

Captain Gary Bartell Jr.
River Adventure Tours
Crystal River

Brandie Wooten
River Safaris and Gulf Charters
Homosassa

Brandie Wooten
River Ventures
Crystal River

Captain Mike Ziegler
Saltface Charters
Homosassa

Captain Austin Buxton
Salty Sanity Inshore
Homosassa

Captain Cephas Christian
Seven C's Charter
Homosassa

Christopher Ward
Shell Kat Deep Sea Fishing
Crystal River

Tim Edge
Shrimp Landing
Crystal River

Captain Carey Gibson
Southern Slam Outfitters
Homosassa

Captain Marrio Castello
Tall Tales Charters
Crystal River

Larry Eatough
Triton Lumber & Marine Supply
Homosassa

Wallace Phaire
Wallace's at the Greenhouse
Homosassa

Captain Duane Baker
Windsplitter Charters
Homosassa

Mike Ziegler
Ziegler Lawn and Landscape
Homosassa

Hernando County

Captain Jamie Smith
Adventure Coast Charters
Hernando Beach

Captain Jonathan Fritz
Bulldog Fishin Charters
Hernando Beach

Captain Josh Fritz
Chase N Tails Fishing Charters
Hernando Beach

Steve Lamb
Crystal Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Brooksville

Steve Lamb
Crystal Super Center
Spring Hill

Captain Joel Gant
FishDaddy Charters
Hernando Beach

Brian Stauffer
Fishhead Kayak Charters
Brooksville

David Frazier
Frazier Farms
Brooksville

Yann Milcendeau
Hernando Beach Motel
Hernando Beach

Dave Davidson
Precision Tackle
Spring Hill

Yann Milcendeau
Silver Dolphin Restaurant and Country
Store
Hernando Beach

Captain David Frazier
Southern Breeze Charters
Brooksville

Pasco County

Susan Buecler
All-Line Trailers
Hudson

Anthony Antonietti
Antonietti Marine
Hudson

Terry Moberly
Cancun Daze LLC
Hospitality Services and Consultation
Holiday

Jordan Frishkorn
Get Outside Sales and Rentals
New Port Richey

Captain Mike Rabon
Nature Coast Inshore Charters
Hudson

Sarah Brandemihl
Pelican Marine Center
Hudson

Ted Paneson
Seafood Connection
Hudson

Ken Robertson
Sunray Marine Sales and Service
Holiday

Kristin Tonkin
Sunset Landing Marina
Port Richey

Captain David Rieumont
Tarpon Fishing Outfitters
The Online Fisherman.com
The Patriotic Angler
The Patriotic Guide Service
Holiday

Wendy Longman
Windsong Charters
New Port Richey