



Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

Tim Jones, AP Manager
March 9, 2021



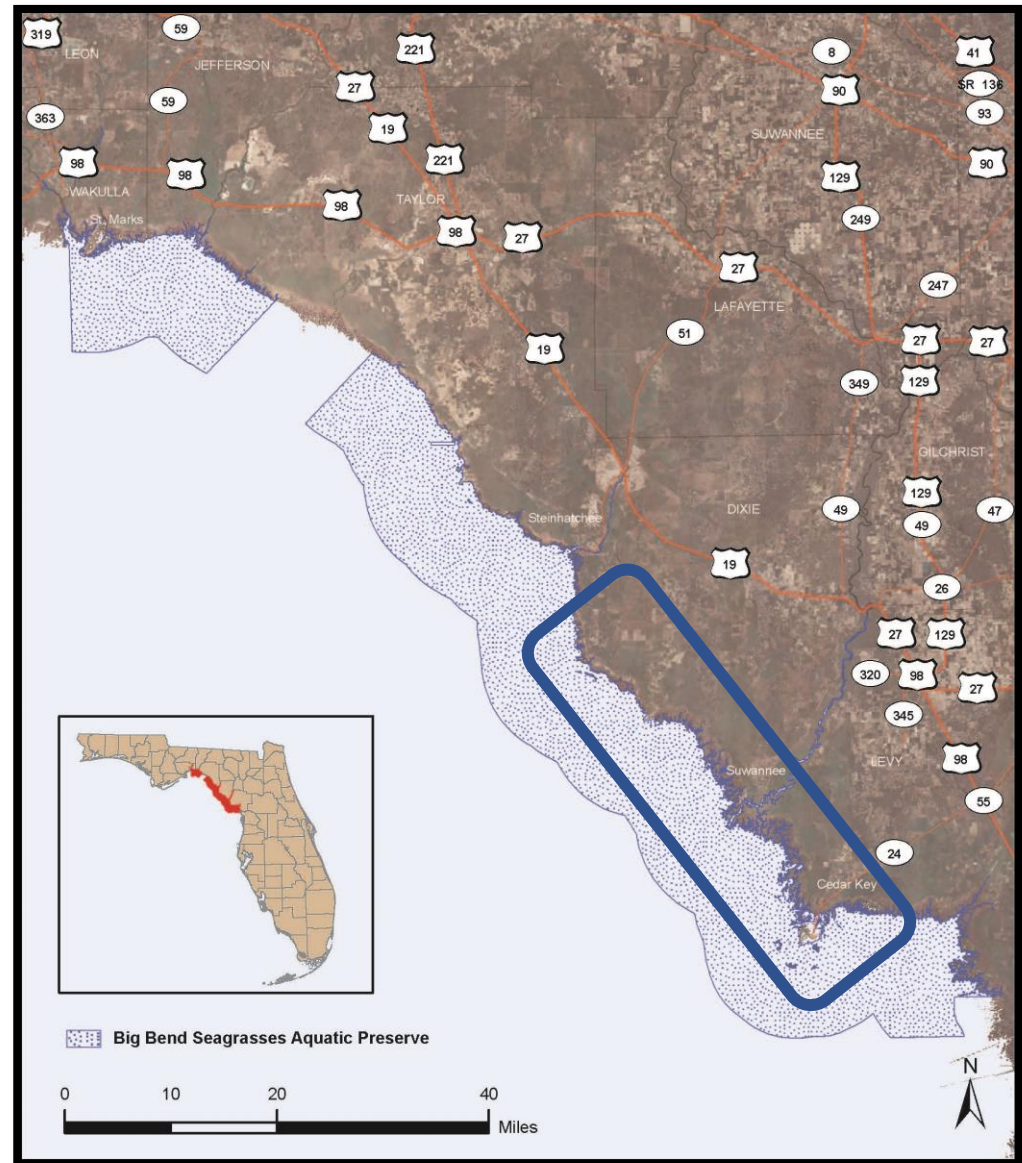
Florida's Aquatic Preserves





Big Bend Seagrasses AP

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





Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

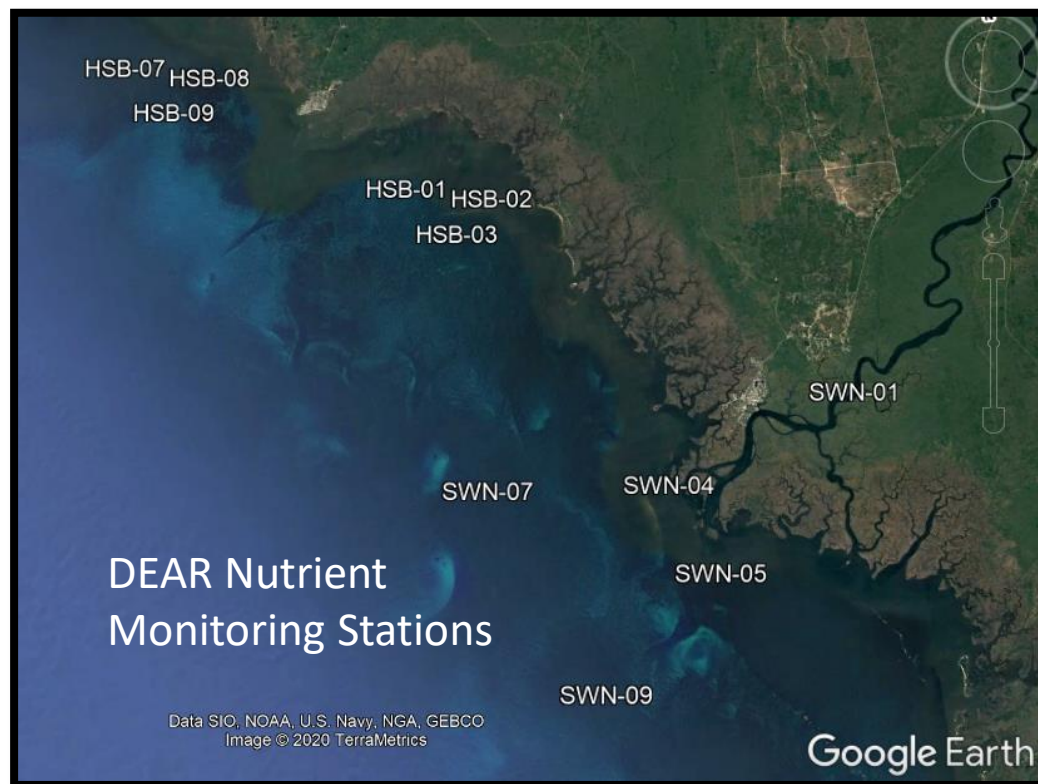
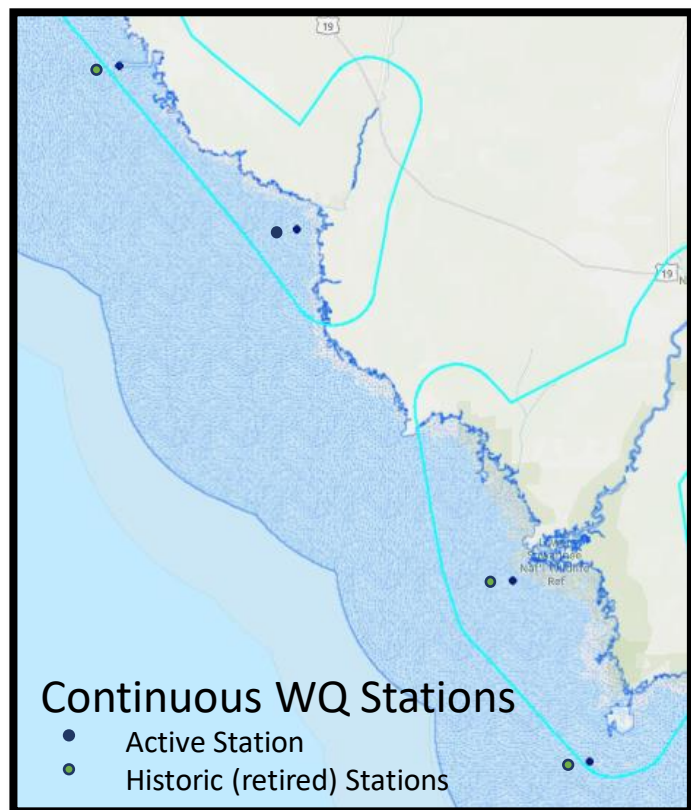
Existing Work & Notable Trends for this Region

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



Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

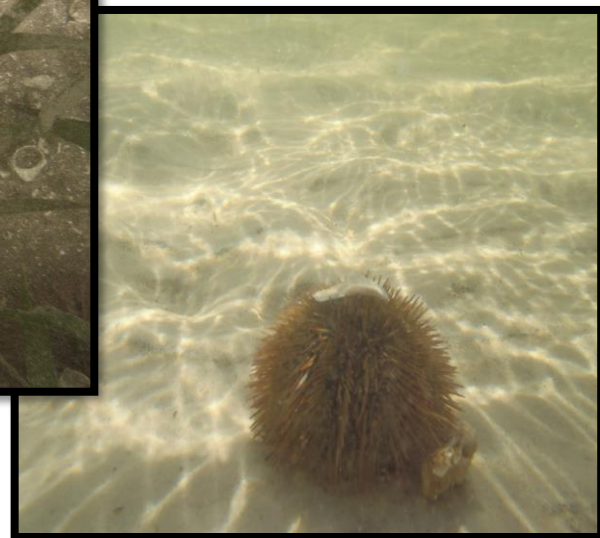
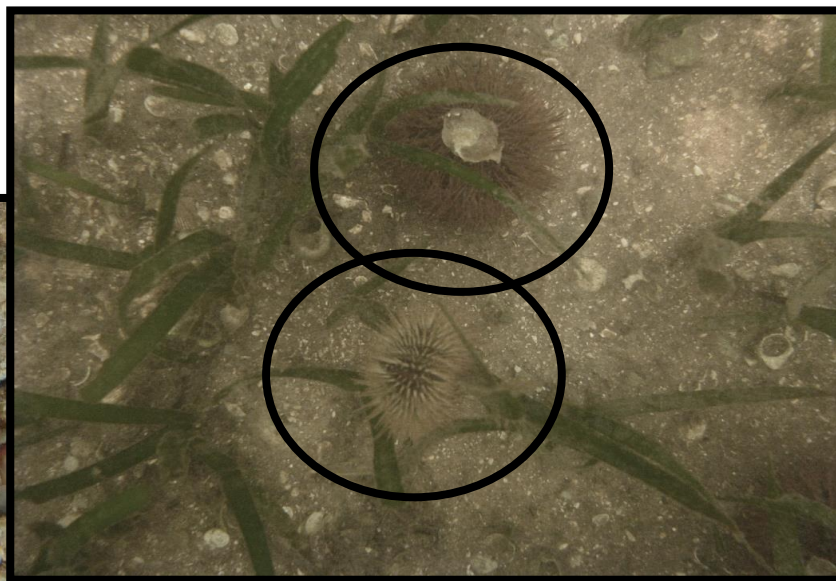
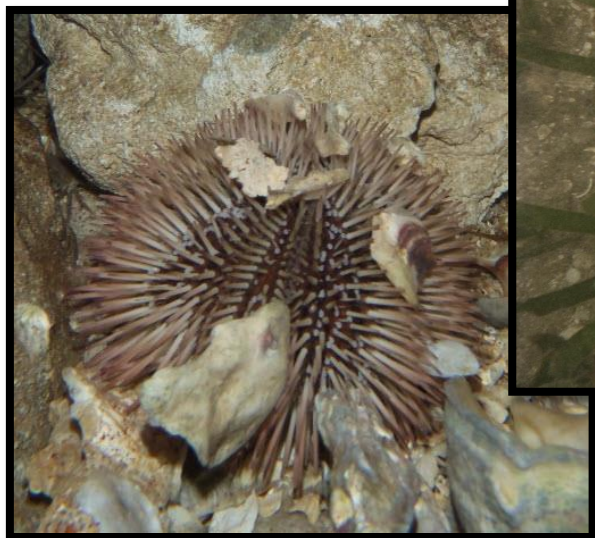
Water Quality Efforts





Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

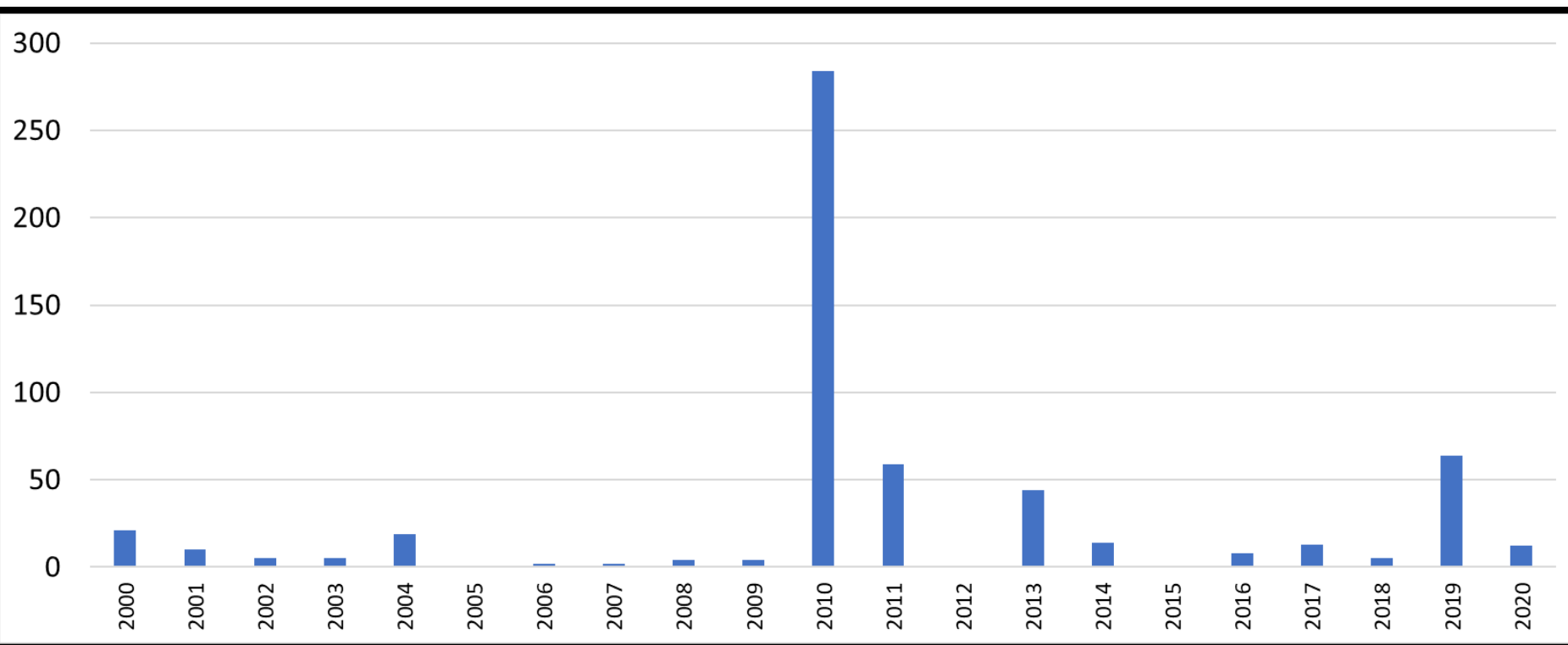
Trends in Steinhatchee





Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

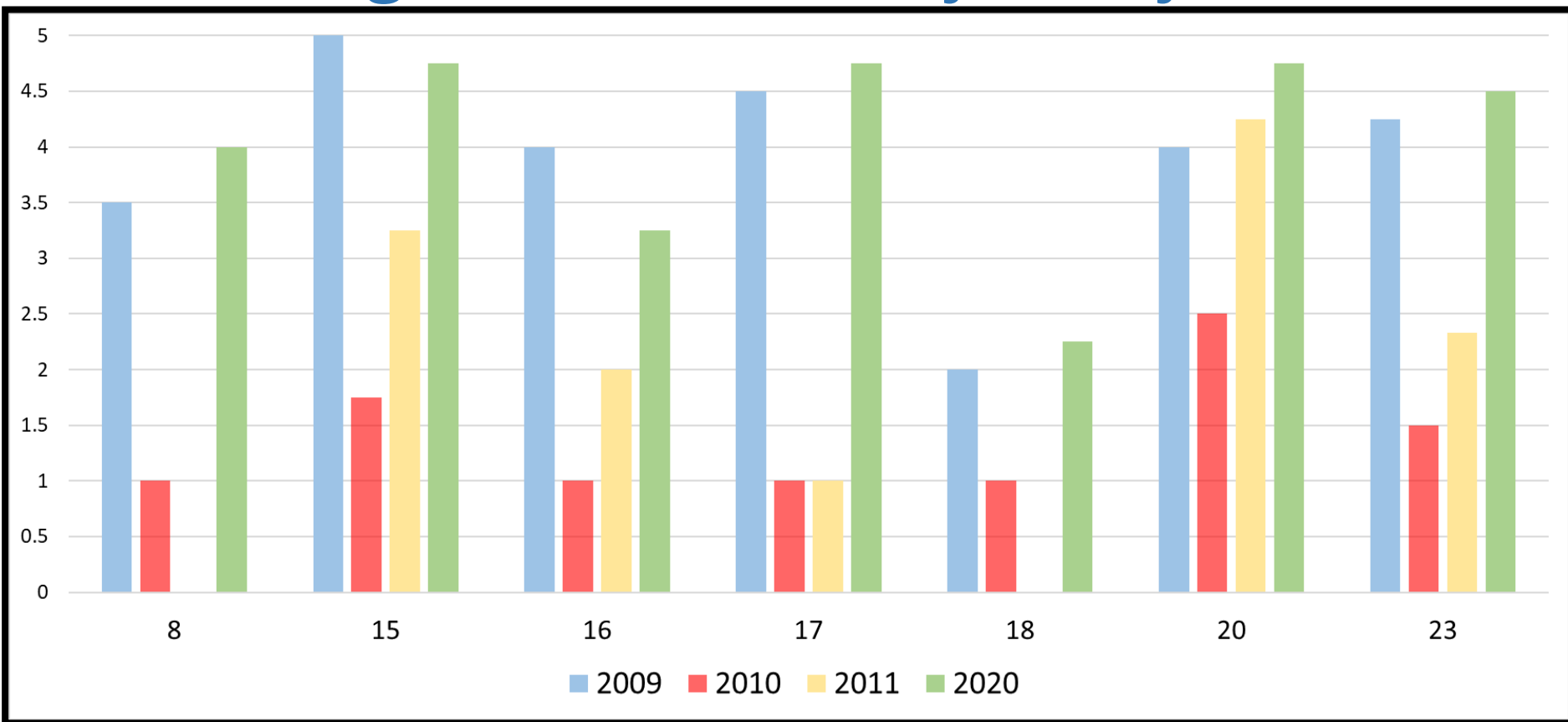
Urchin Count by Year - Steinhatchee





Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

Seagrass B&B Scores by Site by Year

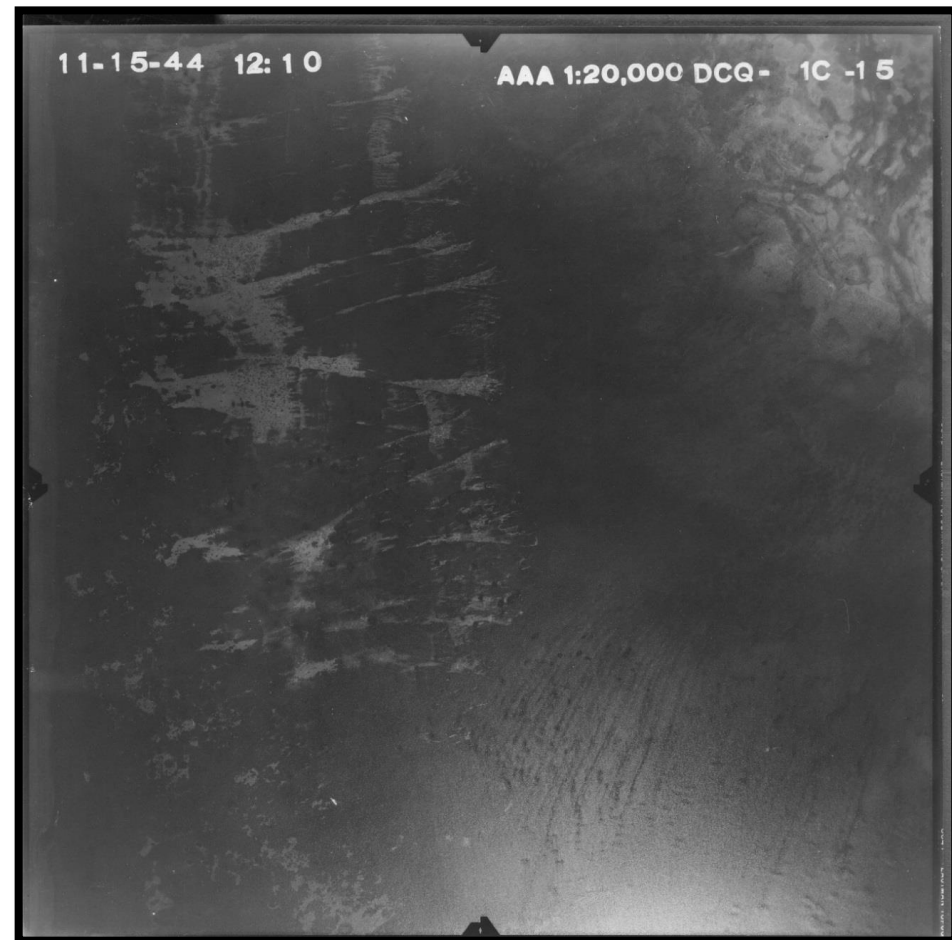




Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

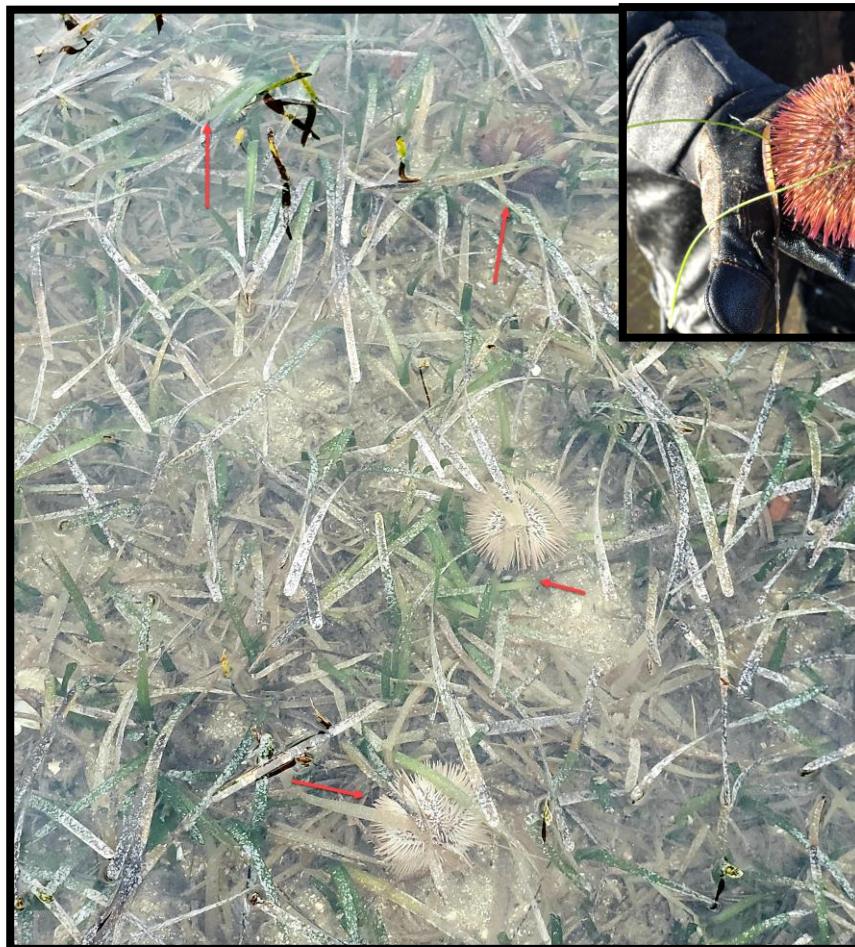
Urchins in Steinhatchee

- Historical Imagery
- Pepperfish Keys – 1944
- Grazing Trails





Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

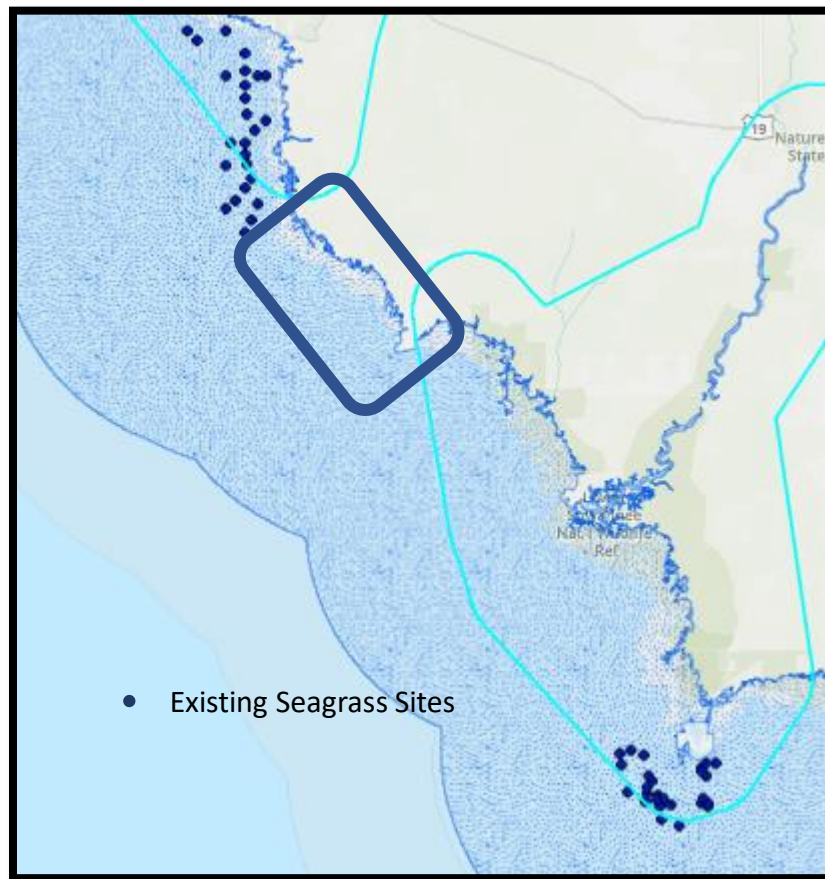




Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve

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!

Timothy.W.Jones@FloridaDEP.gov