



FLORIDA PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

ACFHP works to restore and conserve fish habitat in FL and along the Atlantic Coast.

RESTORATION OF DRAGLINE DITCHED COASTAL WETLANDS - **ENDORSED**

BEFORE



AFTER



PROBLEM: Northeast Florida is home to thousands of acres of soil piles, dug in the mid-1900's to control mosquito populations. These soil piles prevent salt marshes from establishing and flourishing.

ENHANCE: By converting the spoil piles to intertidal salt marsh, sediments can accrete, absorb nutrients from the system, and provide oxygen to the surrounding waters. This work will increase the production, protection, and effective passage of resident and transient fish and invertebrate species, especially vulnerable juveniles. Approximately **625 acres** of dragline ditches have been restored to yield approximately **250 acres** of new tidal wetland.

PROJECT LED BY: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), St. Johns Regional Watershed Management District (SJRWMD), Florida State Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the local community

MOORE'S CREEK SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION RESTORATION - **FUNDED**

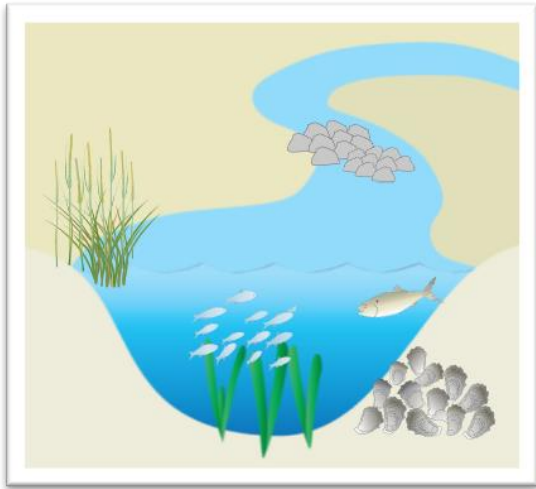
PROBLEM: Moore's Creek discharges into the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), often bringing pollutants to this sensitive ecosystem. The IRL is one of North America's largest and most diverse estuaries, and in recent years has suffered from poor water quality. This has led to extensive loss of seagrass, an important nursery habitat for many fish species.

RESTORATION: So far, **1,190 eelgrass** and **50 widgeongrass** plants have been restored within exclosures. These exclosures are required to exclude herbivores and allow time for plants to establish. These plantings within Moore's Creek will provide a natural filter that will help to remove nutrients and sediment from the water before it enters the IRL.

PROJECT LED BY: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).



ACFHP's PRIORITY HABITATS IN FL



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Coral and Live/Hard Bottom

Tidal Vegetation

Riverine Bottom

Marine and Estuarine Shellfish Beds



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