



# Angler Action Foundation

PO Box 1108, Lake Worth FL 33460  
(561) 707-8923

## ANGLER ACTION FOUNDATION SEAGRASS INITIATIVE TARGETS ALGAE-LADEN RIVER, SEEKS TO RESTORE HABITAT, HELP CLEAN WATER

*Two types of seagrass will be planted over 20 acres to enhance habitat, stabilize the river bottom and help remove carbon from the Caloosahatchee River*

### Officers

*Chariman:*  
Mike Readling

*Vice Chairman:*  
Pete Quasius

*Vice Chairman:*  
Dave Nickles

*Secretary:*  
Justin Tramble

*Treasurer:*  
Mike Green

*Directors*  
Maria Quasius

Jay Gardner

JJ Grey

Erik Rimblis

Jennifer Rehage,  
PhD

Paul Arena, PhD

Capt. Charlie

Phillips

Marjorie Levine

October 9, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brett Fitzgerald (561) 707-8923

[brett@angleraction.org](mailto:brett@angleraction.org)

The Angler Action Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection and biologists from Sea and Shoreline, LLC, will begin planting eel grass and widgeon grass in three areas within the upper basin of the Caloosahatchee River with the goal to restore grass flats lost to freshwater outflows from Lake Okeechobee and to reclaim marine habitats lost during those periods.

The Angler Action Foundation Seagrass Initiative is the first phase in the foundation's mission to replace lost marine habitats across the state. Subsequent phases are currently slated for the Indian River Lagoon.

"This isn't a pilot project. There have been pilot projects for the past 10 years that have shown that this project will work," said Carter Henne, president of Sea and Shoreline, LLC. "Those previous pilot projects have performed well and not been negatively impacted by blue-green algae blooms of the past."

This \$1 million project, funded by the Department of Environmental Protection, will be centered around three sites, two east I-75 and one west. Those sites will feature a seagrass that is tolerant to freshwater and a freshwater grass that is amenable to brackish water.

It will also feature Sea and Shoreline's trademark "Exclusion Devices", essentially cages built around the newly planted grasses that prevent predation by manatees, turtles, ducks and other animals that eat plants. The cages allow the grasses to grow closer to the surface of the water and seed other areas downstream.

"From an Angler Action Foundation perspective, this is one of the most unique and successful approaches to habitat revitalization," said Brett Fitzgerald, executive director of the Angler Action Foundation. "Our mission is to protect and preserve habitats and this project will not only do both of those things, but create more habitat as the grasses spread with the tide."

The project will be independently documented by Johnson Engineering, which will track a litany of metrics, including fish, shrimp and crab recruitment, sediment stabilization and nitrogen, phosphate and carbon uptake, among others.

"I have been investigating *Vallisneria* restoration in the Caloosahatchee River since 2002 and conducted five pilot projects over 15 years," said David Ceilley, Senior Aquatic Ecologist for Johnson Engineering. "This project will be beneficial to the Caloosahatchee on many different levels."



Research



Education



Conservation

Email: [info@angleraction.org](mailto:info@angleraction.org) website: [www.angleraction.org](http://www.angleraction.org)

*The Angler Action Foundation improves angler access, fisheries science and marine habitat through collaborative Research, Education and Conservation programs.*

Florida registration: CH11670.