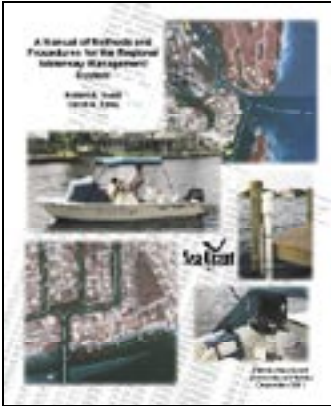


## *The Boating and Waterway Management Program: Working for Sustainable Boating and Coastal Communities*

Florida Sea Grant has developed a vibrant and productive program to address the diverse boating needs and issues that face Florida and the nation. This innovative and award-winning program blends research and outreach to develop products and solutions that serve boaters, the marine industry, resource managers, and policy makers. A key to program success has been the collaborative partnerships established with a diversity of organizations. Below is a sample of the many products and activities developed with our partners over the past few years.

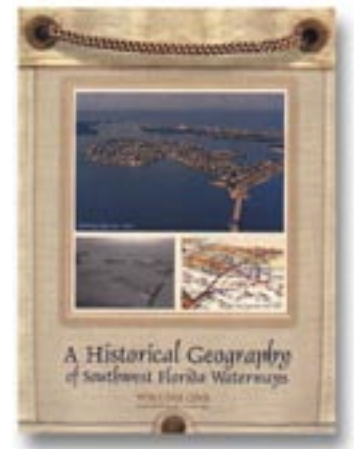


### **The Regional Waterway Management System**

- Science-based procedures for managing and sustaining coastal waterways.
- Combines advanced information sources, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Global Positioning System (GPS) tools.
- Applied to over 1000 miles of waterways; census of over 45,000 boats.
- Training and education provided to resource managers and policy makers.
- Development of innovative maintenance dredging policy that was incorporated into state law.
- Creation and distribution of map- and web-based products for boaters.
- Partners: Florida Department of Environmental Protection; NOAA Coastal Services Center; West Coast Inland Navigation District; departments of natural resources or environmental management for Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.

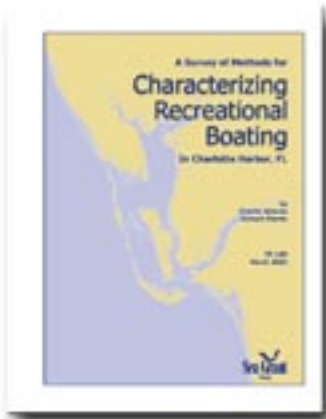
### **A Historical Geography of Southwest Florida**

- A two-volume history of southwest Florida waterways between Anna Maria Sound and Marco Island.
- A visual depiction of the man-made changes that have taken place along southwest Florida's waterways, designed to engender appreciation of the boating environment and foster stewardship by boaters, area residents, and visitors.
- Over 10,000 copies distributed to the public, including boaters and elected and appointed officials.
- Inspired an evolving Caloosahatchee River navigation and restoration project.
- Partners and collaborators: West Coast Inland Navigation District; NOAA, Library of Congress; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Florida State Archives; Florida Department of Transportation; Manatee County Records Library; Ringling Museum of Art; Soil Conservation Service; New College of Florida; Florida Marine Research Institute; Southwest Florida Water Management District; Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association; and various local, county, and regional archives and historical societies.

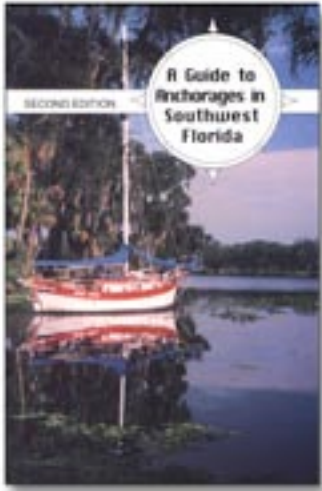


### **Characterizing Recreational Boating**

- Development of research methods to map recreational boating populations and their activities, both in time and geographic space.
- Collaborative, statewide workshops to identify boating information needs from both business and resource management perspectives.
- Design of enhancements to the State Vessel Title Registration System to better serve Florida's management and planning needs.
- Development of survey methods and statistical techniques to forecast recreational boating trends.
- Partners: Florida Marine Industries Association; Brunswick Corporation; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Florida Marine Research Institute; Mote Marine Laboratory; Florida Department of Community Affairs; and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council.



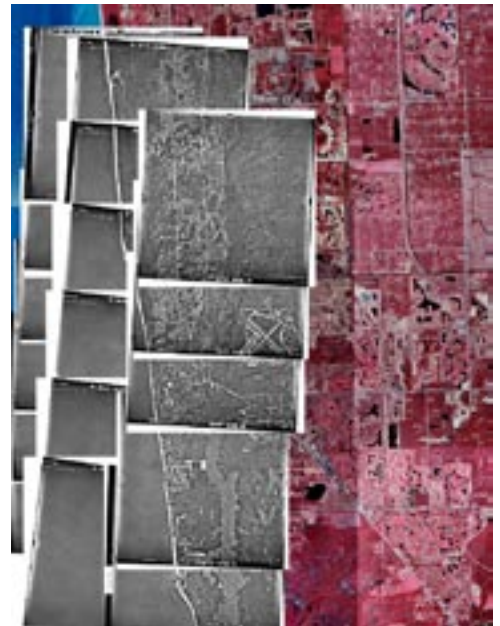
## Anchorage and Waterway Management Policy



- Conducts policy research into the federal, state, and local regulatory regime for anchoring and anchorage management in Florida.
- Founding member of, and acts as scientific advisor to, a Regional Harbor Board created to resolve conflicts arising from inconsistent local government regulation of anchorages.
- Developed policy and planning templates that include a Model Harbor Ordinance and Harbor Management Plan that assists coastal communities to implement anchorage management plans.
- Conducts workshops on legal and regulatory issues that relate to recreational boating, waterway management, and the environment, such as manatee litigation, dredging and protected species, waterway management, marine zoning, and marina siting.
- Partners: Southwest Florida Marine Advisory Committee; University of Florida Center for Governmental Responsibility; Boaters' Action and Information League; West Coast Inland Navigation District; and the Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association.

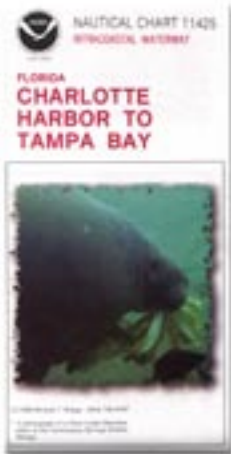
## Rescuing Coastal Data and Information

- Development of a historical digital data library to serve a broad community of users, such as the general public, resource managers, policy makers, and scientists.
- Rescues valuable information sources from archives and publishes to a wide variety of users via the Internet.
- Rescued information includes historic maps, imagery, bathymetry, land use/land cover, and topographic and hydrographic data.
- Covers geographic area in southwest Florida that extends from Tampa Bay to Cape Romano.
- Partners and Collaborators: West Coast Inland Navigation District; NOAA; Library of Congress; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Florida State Archives; Florida Department of Transportation; Manatee County Records Library; Ringling Museum of Art; Soil Conservation Service; New College of Florida; Florida Marine Research Institute; Southwest Florida Water Management District; Southwest Florida Marine Industries; and various local, county, and regional archives and historical societies.



## Additional Program Activities and Products

- Developed a 5-year Strategic Plan for the West Coast Inland Navigation District.
- Completed a manual of methods and procedures to implement the Regional Waterway Management System in Florida's coastal canals and waterways.
- Enhanced and standardized field collection methods for bathymetric data to assist the coastal resource community's management of southwest Florida's waterways.
- Inventoried and mapped 25 recreational boating anchorages and produced large-scale photomaps of important anchorages for public distribution as restaurant placemats and web-based materials.
- Re-designed the small-craft navigational chart in collaboration with NOAA to meet the needs of a growing and diverse boater community, based on input from focus groups and boaters.



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