More than 80 percent of all recreationally and commercially important fish species are dependent upon seagrass at some point in their lives. Seagrass improves water quality, traps sediment, provides shelter for many juvenile fish species, and provides a food source for other marine life.

Avoid damaging seagrass by knowing your boat’s operating depth and navigating in marked channels. Anchor only in bare sandy bottoms. If you run aground in shallow water:

- Stop your boat
- Pole your boat to deeper water

Destruction of seagrass in Aquatic Preserves is a violation of Florida Law (Section 253.04(3)(a) F.S.) and carries a penalty of up to $1,000.00.

For more information about Aquatic Preserves go to www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/
For information on seagrass in Florida waters go to research.myfwc.com/features