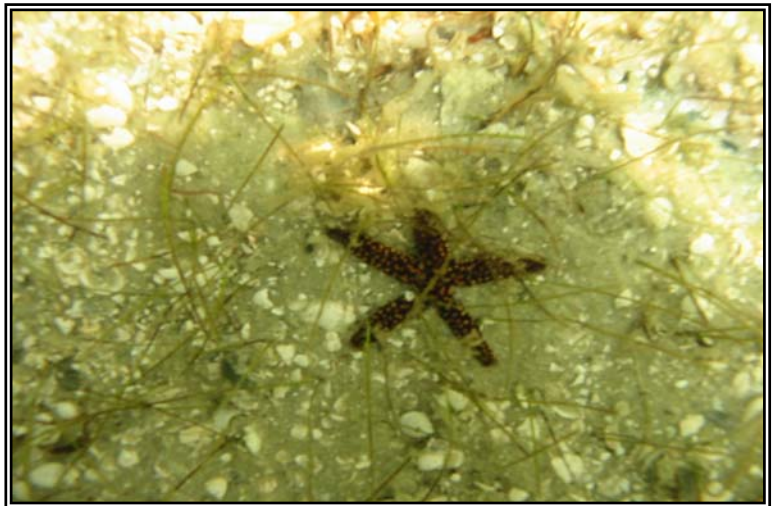


PORT RICHEY CANAL DREDGING PROJECT Pasco County, Florida

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The City of Port Richey's engineering consultant was working to obtain permits to dredge many of its existing canals and Scheda scientists were instrumental in performing a comprehensive benthic survey for each of these areas. Our scientists noted bottom type, presence/absence species, and abundance of any seagrasses or algae, oysters or other sessile marine fauna/flora. Scheda scientists also approximated the amount of silt that had accumulated in some of the more confined canals in efforts to groundtruth earlier geotechnical work. In certain canals, exposed limestone was evident, and these areas were noted so engineers could determine the most appropriate means of dredging. Scheda also mapped the seagrasses within proposed new channels north of the project area.



Mitigation for seagrass impacts was anticipated because of the new channel corridors. Scheda scientists calculated potential anticipated seagrass impacts using GIS software and identified potential seagrass mitigation areas. Several locations were reviewed and characterized, which included a heavily prop scarred area just south of the main channel (located to the southeast of Durney Key) as this area could provide sufficient mitigation to address the anticipated seagrass impacts. Three other larger areas were located outside of the project limits (two to the north and one to the south) that could potentially be used as seagrass recipient locations. Seagrass transplant methods were also researched and preliminary cost estimates for mitigation were calculated.

