

TAMPA BAYSIDE MARINA Tampa, Florida



DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Expansion of this existing marina required the construction of new boat storage areas, two new boat-drop areas, approximately 10,000 square feet of additional floating docks, new and maintenance dredging, and installation of underwater plastic sheetpile wall, and additional concrete seawall. Permits were required from the United States Coast Guard, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tampa Port Authority, City of Tampa, and the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC).

Scheda scientists completed a comprehensive benthic survey to locate seagrass habitat, and determine extent and health. All benthic communities were mapped and assessed.

The new boat drop areas necessitated impact to a small strip of mangroves and a patchy bed of shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*), while the boating activity posed a potential threat to the endangered Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*).

The seagrass impact required a unique approach to providing the regulatory mitigation compensation, the transplantation of the small seagrass bed (0.28 acres), including 8 inches of sediments, in 4-foot by 5-foot units to a nearby restored location that historically supported seagrasses. This was the first time in the EPC's 33-year history that they approved a seagrass bed impacted by a non-governmental entity.

