



# ON THE WATER GUIDE TO PROTECTING OUR RIVERS AND COASTS



# St Johns River & Marine Environment

## Estuary & Bay Communities

The Lower St. Johns River is an elongated estuary that extends about 101 miles from its union with the Ocklawaha River to the Atlantic Ocean. An estuary is a body of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with the seawater. Estuarine communities include seagrasses, oyster bars, salt marshes, mud and sand bottoms. Estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems in nature and without them many important fisheries would disappear.



## Florida Springs



There are approximately 85 springs in the watershed of the St. Johns, providing an important source of freshwater to its flow. A spring is formed when the ground water, which is under pressure, flows out through a natural opening in the ground. Springs are extremely pure because the rocks act as a filter. The Spring's constant 70 degree water provides a warm water refuge for many

animals including the Manatee and Loggerhead Musk Turtle.

## Coral Reefs

Florida is the only place in the continental United States where living coral reefs can be observed and its reefs are the third largest living coral system in the world. Of all the ocean's habitats, coral reefs are the most colorful. They are built by millions of tiny animals (coral polyps) and plants (coralline algae). Many of Florida's fish species and other marine life spend significant parts of their lives around coral reefs.



# 5 Steps to 'Green' Boating

## Stop the drops

A single gallon of fuel can contaminate over a million gallons of water. Prevent fuel spills by filling tanks slowly and using absorbent pads or rags to catch drips and spills. Don't "top off" or overflow your fuel tank. Use drip pans with absorbent pads when draining oil from bilges.

## Follow the law

Observe idle speed/no wake zones and manatee protection rules and don't harass, disturb, or feed wildlife.

## Minimize boat cleaning and maintenance

Save maintenance projects for the boatyard. When performing work on the water, minimize your impact by containing waste.

## Protect the grasses

Use navigation charts and polarized sunglasses to avoid sensitive areas. Boat propellers and wakes can damage submerged aquatic vegetation and cause shoreline erosion. Seagrass is critical to the health of our waterways and fisheries.

## Stow it, don't throw it

Secure loose items & trash, so they do not blow overboard. Carry trash bags and dispose of cigarette butts, monofilament line & waste.



# What a waste!

Take part in this word search to see the types of waste that are harmful to wildlife living in our oceans and rivers and along the shoreline. Make sure when you're on the beach you only leave footprints behind!

Z P P B G O M I E Y  
V C B A L L O O N S  
T A I Z A V L Z W G  
T N M B S S M L F A  
U D S E S E O B E B  
B Y W V B R K T N C  
E W A E O I S X I I  
T R R R T T T G L T  
T A T A T Z Y E G S  
E P S G L R R A N A  
R P X E E D O J I L  
A E U C S X F C H P  
G R T A Y W O L S L  
I S C N S I A C I U  
C L S S D N M S F I

PLASTIC BAG  
CIGARETTE BUTT  
FISHING LINE  
GLASS BOTTLES  
BALLOONS  
BEVERAGE CANS  
STYROFOAM  
CANDY WRAPPERS  
STRAWS  
TIRES

## Powerboat P1 USA races

Tampa 12/13 July

Cocoa Beach 23/24 August

St Cloud 20/21 September

St Johns Riverkeeper  
[www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org)

Marine Science Research Institute  
[www.ju.edu/msri](http://www.ju.edu/msri)

For more information go to:  
[www.p1superstockusa.com](http://www.p1superstockusa.com)

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