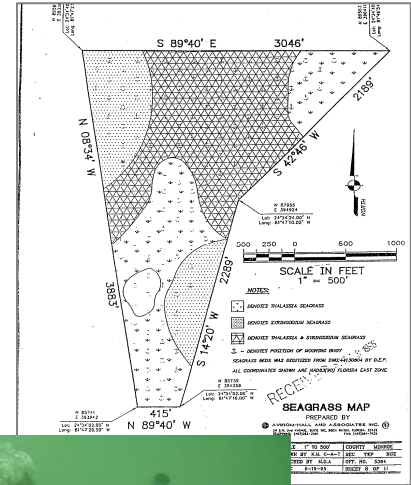


SEAGRASS MONITORING

City of Key West Mooring Field Key West, FL

SWC (Sandra Walters Consultants, Inc.) conducted a three-year ecological monitoring study of seagrass beds at the Key West Mooring Field. The goal of this monitoring project was to assess potential shading impacts caused by boats moored at specific buoy locations. SWC used underwater photography as well as shoot density counts to assess seagrass health.



Smathers Beach Seagrass Mitigation Key West, FL

The Smathers Beach mitigation site is the former location of a Navy blimp landing pad near the Key West Airport that was restored to elevations similar to the adjacent Salt Ponds. Seagrass (primarily *Halodule*), removed from the area of Smathers Beach impacted by beach renourishment activities, was planted in a deeper section. SWC tasks included:

- establishing monitoring locations at the Blimp Pad mitigation site and taking photographic documentation and shoot counts within meter quadrats,
- comparing historic and current aerial photographs to compare condition of seagrass in adjacent Salt Ponds to that within mitigation area,
- conducting annual toe-of-slope benthic surveys along restored beach which involved swimming toe of slope, taking photographic documentation of habitat condition, and preparing reports,
- supervising surveyor who conducted beach profiles and cross sections and coordinating with DEP to prepare and submit surveys in required formats,
- reviewing beach surveys to determine compliance with annual permit performance standards,
- assisting with preparation of annual monitoring reports, and
- serving as local liaison with City project manager.

