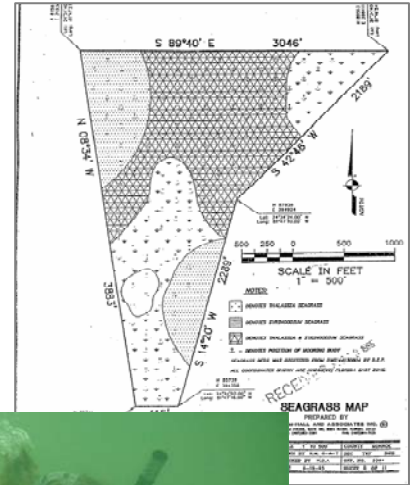


# SEAGRASS MONITORING

## City of Key West Mooring Field Key West, Monroe County, FL

Sandra Walters Consultants, Inc, (SWC) recently completed 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. Results indicated that use of the mooring field had no effects on the underlying seagrass beds.



## Smathers Beach Seagrass Mitigation Key West, Monroe County, 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 also reviewed historic aerial photographs of the Salt Ponds to ascertain connectivity of new seagrass, and annually examined the toe-of-slope of the beach renourishment project to document the final total extent of seagrass loss at that location.



SWC completed a three-year process focused on monitoring colonization, health and density of seagrasses at the restoration site. The data demonstrates the project is an overwhelming success and considerably exceeded the goals established in the mitigation plan.

