



Volunteer BOAT CAPTAINS and SNORKELERS Needed

Great Bay & Sound Scallop Search



Photo: Mote Marine Laboratory



Saturday, September 12, 2009
9:00am – 1:00pm
ELDRED'S MARINA

Join the Charlotte County UF/IFAS Sea Grant Extension program, by participating in our 1st Great Bay & Sound Scallop Search, a resource-monitoring program where volunteers snorkel, looking for scallops in select areas within Gasparilla Sound and lower Lemon Bay. The purpose of this program is to monitor and document the health and status of the bay scallop population. Modeled off of the successful Great Bay Scallop Search conducted in Tampa Bay since 1993, this event is designed to be a fun family event. **Reservations are required to participate in the event.** Space is limited so reserve your spot today.

About 40 boats are needed with up to 150 participants to search selected sites in Gasparilla Sound and lower Lemon Bay for the elusive bay scallops. Bay scallops, or the *Argopecten irradians* disappeared from Southwest Florida waters decades ago due to degraded water quality and declines in seagrass coverage. Water quality and seagrass beds have since improved in many areas to levels that will once again support these fragile creatures.

Scallop searchers will meet at 9:00am at Eldred's Marina to receive survey equipment and instructions for the monitoring event. We will provide you lunch once you return to shore.

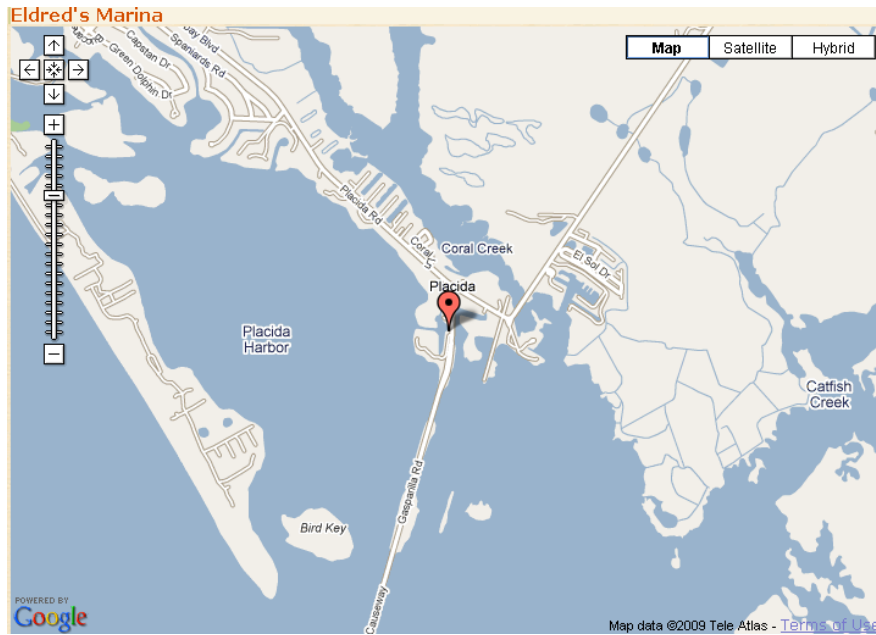
We are recruiting:

- Volunteers with **shallow draft boats**. Please let us know the style and size of **your boat**. Canoes and kayaks are also welcome, but sites are very limited, please sign up early. Jet skis are not allowed in the search. Please bring a dive flag if you have one.
- **Please let us know how many additional people you can take on your boat** so we can pair you up with additional snorkelers.
- Snorkelers without boats are welcome, however space is limited. **Volunteers need to bring:** a mask and snorkel and be able to snorkel/swim 50 meters (about 150 feet) - fins and weight belt are optional.

THIS IS A NO HARVESTING EVENT

Reservations are required and survey sites and equipment are limited. The Scallop Search **promises to be a popular event—so sign up early!**

Sign up today by emailing Betty at staugler@ufl.edu or by calling the Charlotte County Sea Grant Extension office at 941.764.4340 and pressing option 4.



Eldred's Marina

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Event Partners:

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Eldred's Marina
Tampa BayWatch

Event Sponsors:



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