

New Seagrass Protection Regulation in Effect May 1, 2006

“Within the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area (RBSSA), no person shall cause or allow any rooted seagrass plant to be uprooted or dug out from the bay bottom by a submerged propeller. No person may alter or destroy any sign or marker placed by the Department within the area. Violation is a Class C Misdemeanor subject to a fine up to \$500.”

Seagrass meadows provide high quality habitat for marine life. Valuable seagrass habitat is being damaged by boat propellers digging into the bay bottom and uprooting seagrass roots creating propeller scars. These “prop scars” can take years to recover.

It is the responsibility of each *BOATER* to determine when and where they can operate without uprooting seagrass. **There are no closed zones, boating access is allowed throughout the RBSSA.** It is **not** a violation to anchor or use trolling motors.

FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO AVOID UPROOTING SEAGRASS

- Know the depth of water required to keep your boat propeller from digging into the bottom while on plane and at takeoff. A minimum depth of sixteen inches for running and thirty inches for takeoff is recommended.
- Use the existing deeper man-made cuts shown on the adjacent map to access shallow areas in the RBSSA.
- Avoid running across shallow water. Look for indications of shallow areas such as changes in water color and wading birds.
- Watch your propeller wash; it should be white, not brown.
- Determine wind direction and tides when drift fishing to ensure adequate water depth for takeoff.
- When you have to maneuver in shallow water, **LIFT** your motor, **DRIFT**, **POLE** or **TROLL**.



Run to the flats, not through the flats.

