

Project Name

Restoring Oyster Reefs through Reclamation of a Shellfish Aquaculture Industry in the Big Bend of Florida's Gulf Coast

Contact Information

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Project Location

Coastline from Horseshoe Beach, Dixie County, through Waccasassa Bay, Levy County, Florida influenced by the Suwannee River and nearby coastal watersheds. The Suwannee Reef and Lone Cabbage Reef form an extensive non-contiguous, intertidal reef complex in the Suwannee Sound and Corrigan's Reef forms a similar complex in Waccasassa Bay. Additionally, this region of the Gulf of Mexico supports extensive hard clam aquaculture activities located in designated high-density lease areas. Project is roughly centered on Cedar Key, Florida (29.141182°N, 83.029076°W). See attached maps.

Additional Information

Figure 1. Location of proposed restoration sites (red stars) in Dixie and Levy Counties.

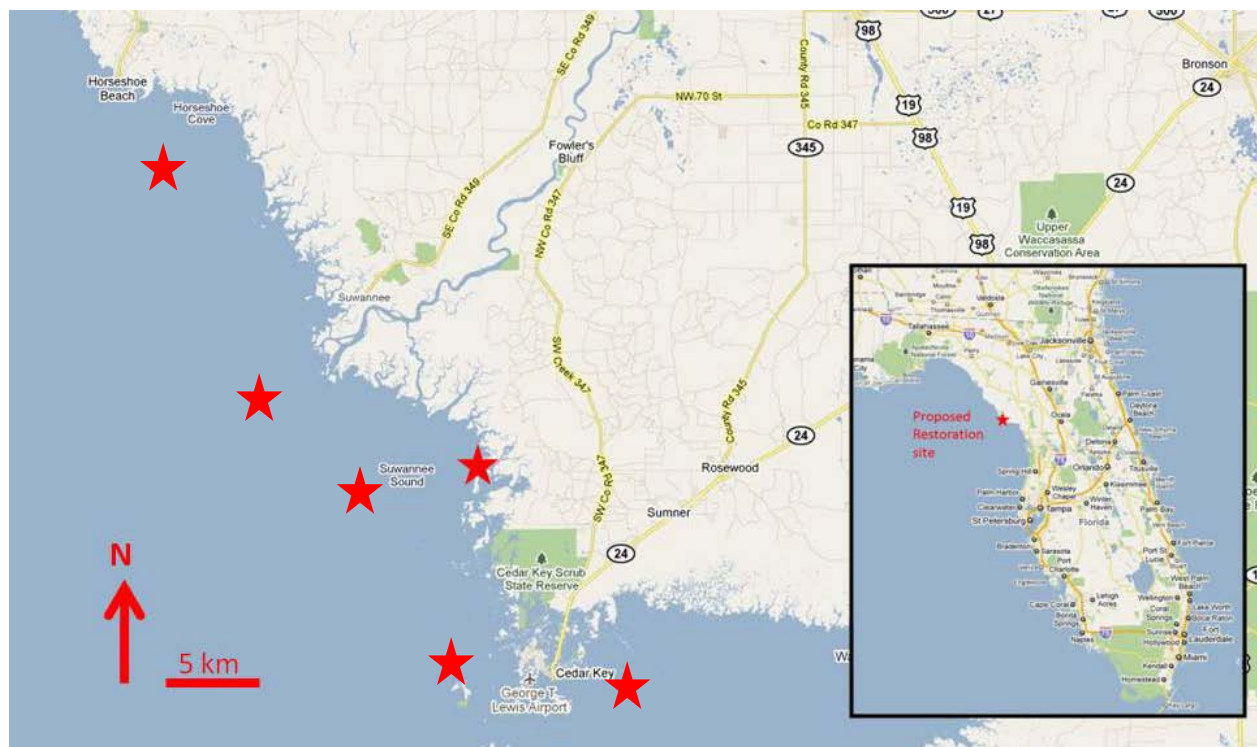


Figure 2. Location of existing clam aquaculture lease areas, existing Atsena Otie oyster reef site, and proposed locations of oyster restoration sites at Suwannee Reef, Lone Cabbage Reef, and Corrigan's Reef in Levy County.

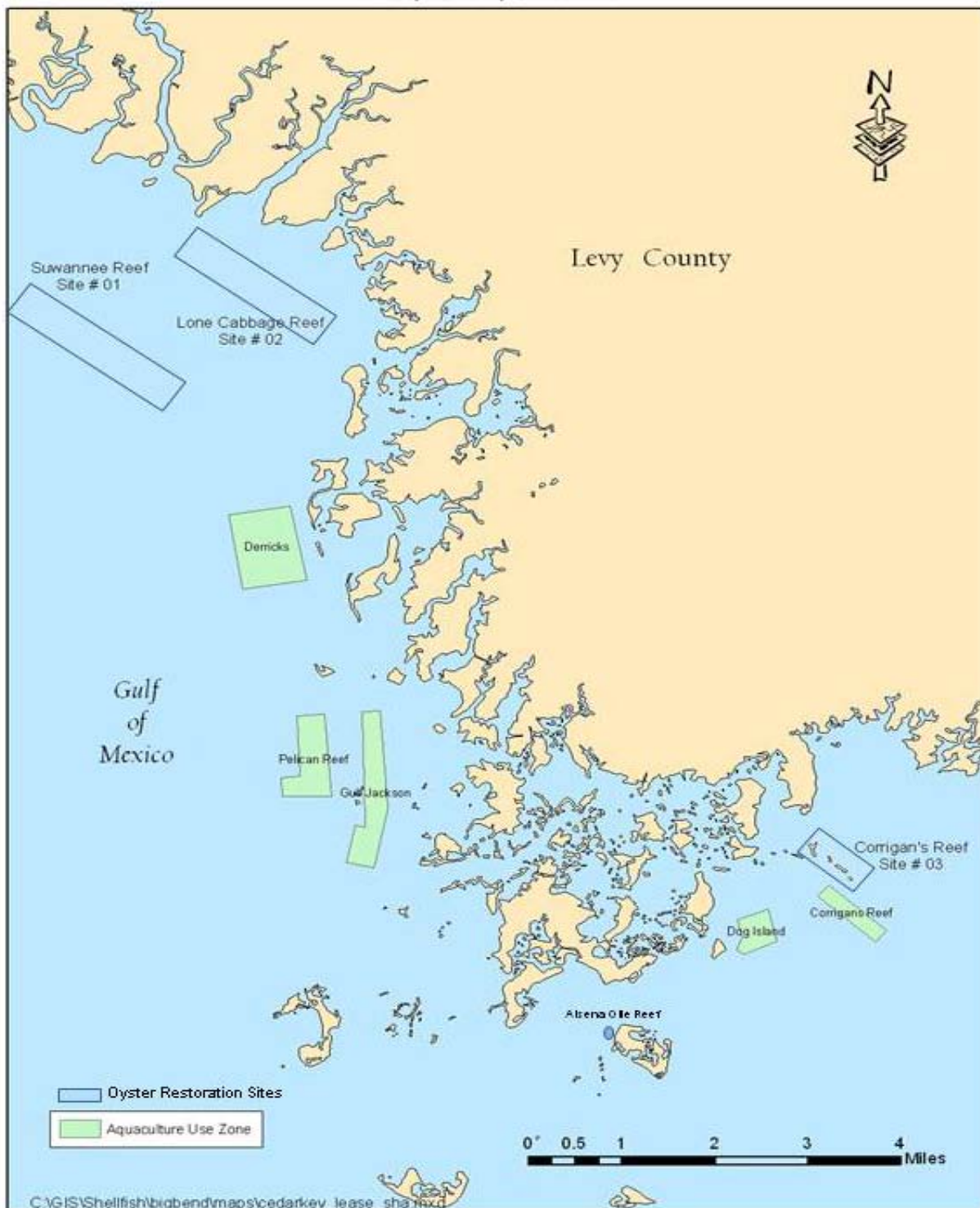


Figure 3. Atsena Otie oyster reef nearby Cedar Key, Florida, two years post construction (below). Note oysters growing through the recovered clam bags (below left) and American oystercatchers foraging on Atsena Otie oyster reef (below right). This project was built with oyster-encrusted clam bags and has shown successful growth over time.

