



CENTRAL PANHANDLE PRIORITY RESTORATION PROJECTS

Marine Debris Prevention

Partners:

FDEP/FCO/CAMA, FWC

Funding Required:

\$250,000

Location:

Bay County; 30.1805° N,
85.6846° W

Project Timeline:***Project Objectives:***

Marine Debris Prevention in Bay County, Florida (St. Andrews Bay). The purpose of this project is to educate the community in Bay County of the effects of marine debris, with specific focus on the practice of illegal dumping. This funding will support an internship position from a local university that will work with managers from the Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves (CPAP) and the Northwest Florida Aquatic Preserves (NFWLAP), as well as provide funding for education and outreach materials and interpretive signage. We plan to address the effects of illegal dumping activities through a variety of education and outreach events. Public workshops will be held to not only address the harm of illegal dumping, but to garner public input on how to best remedy the issue. The issues to be addressed will focus on derelict fishing gear and traps, suitable fishing habitat in lieu of illegal dumping activities, and locating possible sites for an appropriate artificial reef structure. We also plan to organize several shoreline clean-up events to further address the environmental impacts of marine debris and to increase public involvement in marine debris prevention. We will also work closely with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to address concerns with marine debris and its prevention.

Project Outcomes: