

www.sarasotabaywatch.org

Community Scallop Restoration

Historical Presence of Scallops

The shells at the Buttonwood Harbor (Longboat Key) midden were mostly fighting conch, left-handed whelk, brown tulip, and bay scallop – Luer and Almy, Florida Anthropologist, 1979.



Community Heritage



“There was plenty of fish, and plenty of clams, and when the scallops was in, you could go out and sink the boat over there in Bird Key—that was a big flat. We would sit till ten o'clock at night opening the damn things you would get so many. Yeah, it was good about that. It was a pretty little town.”
George Luzier

Sarasota Bay Watch Great Scallop Search

Tampa Bay Watch inspired Sarasota Bay Watch to bring its community together for a boating and snorkeling scallop search event.

2008: 947 counted

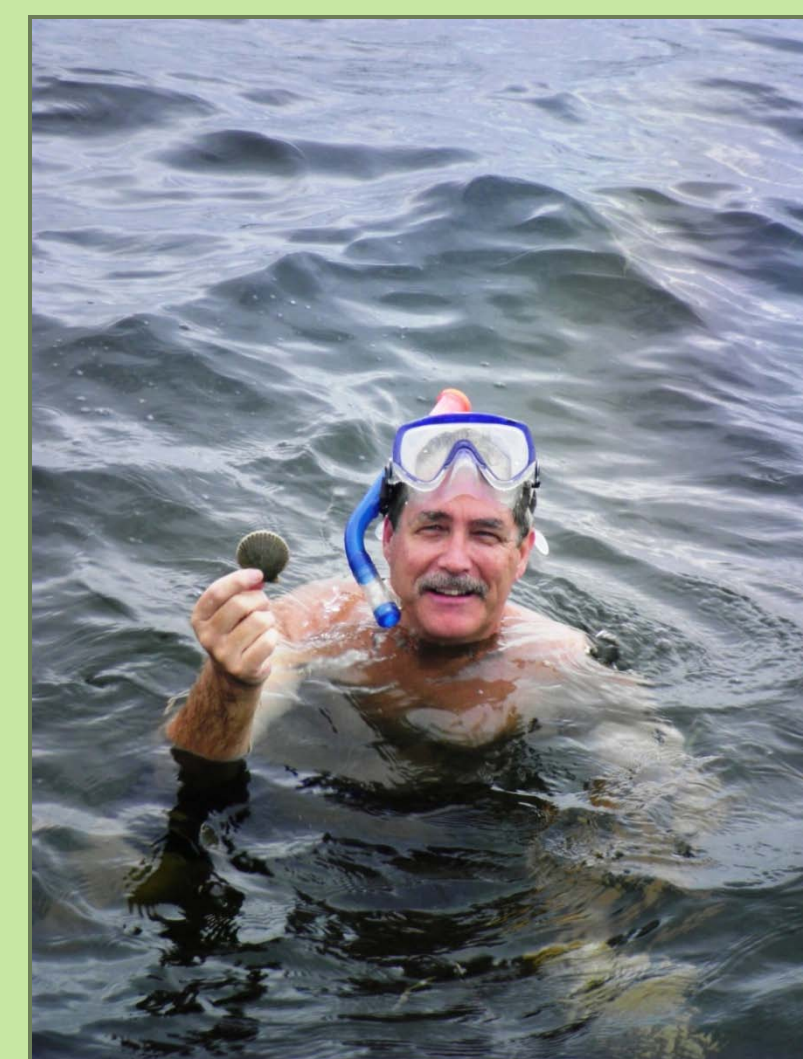
2009: 136 counted

2010: 15 counted

2011: 6 counted (We've got to do something!)

2012: Join us again this August.

Results show that the scallop population is low and highly variable. Variability is to be expected even among large populations. Our long-term goal is a population large enough, and widely distributed, to recover from cyclic events.



Our Commitment to Scallop Restoration

Goal: Ten years of larval releases, 2-4 times / year

- Proven method (variant of Leverone: 2004)
- Multiple year commitment reduces annual cycle effects (Geiger: FWRI, others)

Larvae are raised in a hatchery

- \$10,000 per batch, 2-4 million per batch

Released over wide areas of seagrass at peak of “setting” phase

- Less vulnerable than local releases (red tide, predators, fresh water, cold, and turbidity), attach immediately to blades of grass

Continuous community funding

- Not intermittent grants

Long-Term Goal: Restore all bays in SW Florida

- “No gaps” critical to a sustainable population

Anti-Poaching Campaign

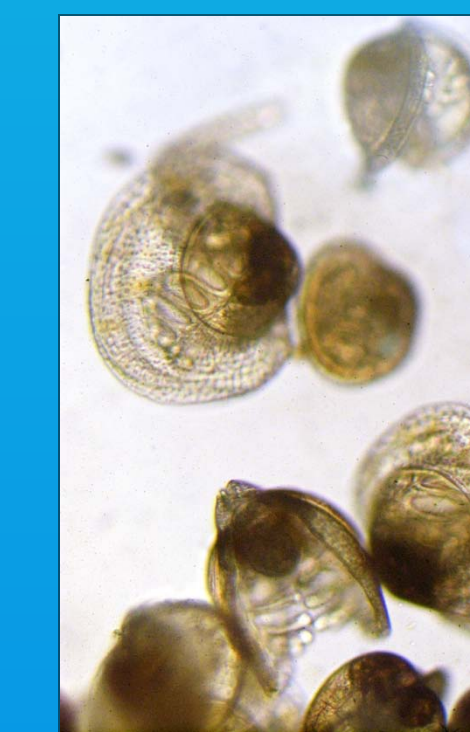
- Changing hearts and mind

Scalopalooza – Repay The Bay

- Sarasota Bay Watch has a ambitious action plan for restoration.
- Sarasota Yacht Club offers to be a part of the Heritage Driven Restoration.
- Scalopalooza held in August of 2011 at the SYC joined 186 participants and 52 businesses together for the cause.
- The funds raised fueled a release of 4 million larvae into Sarasota Bay on November 2011.
- SBW is firmly positioned to launch its ten year plan for scallop restoration.
- Scalopalooza II coming soon in 2012!

Future

- Second Larval Release planned for April 2012.
- Annual SBW Scallop Searches will monitor the success of the restoration.
- Fundraisers will provide the means to purchase scallop larvae.
- Massive larval releases.
- Engaging community spirit and resources to accomplish our goals.
- Raising awareness of scallop protection and survival.



Creating Family Memories



Thanks

The hundreds of volunteers who inspire us with their participation in our restoration efforts.

John Ryan for the vision.

Jeff Birnbach for launching the vision.

The Sarasota Yacht Club.

Curt Hemmel and Bay Shellfish Company.

Cannon's Marina.



Bay Shellfish Co.