



Florida Marine Fisheries Enhancement Initiative

The Florida Tech – Vero Beach Site



The Florida Marine Fisheries Enhancement Initiative is a long-term statewide plan to secure and enhance the future of recreational fishing in Florida. It has two key components: hatcheries and habitat restoration.

Our core strategies are:

- Implement a statewide system of Marine Enhancement Centers
- Prioritize ecosystem restoration efforts that enhance marine fishery habitat
- Partner with like-minded marine research organizations
- Educate current and future generations about the importance and value of the resource
- Be guided by the best available science in all decision-making

The Florida Tech site in Vero Beach is one of the 14 proposed sites for Marine Enhancement Centers. 9 sites are under contract and another 5 are in the negotiations and design stage.

The short-term plan for Vero Beach is twofold:

Red Snapper Enhancement Program \$145,200

Current Goals:

1. Collect adult red snapper for aquaculture broodstock program
2. Renovate existing broodstock culture facilities
3. Initiate red snapper spawning program

Habitat Restoration Program \$54,800

Current Goals:

1. Sea grass culture program for research on methods to produce sea grasses for restoration of natural habitats
2. Dune restoration program - culture and planting of dune vegetation for use at the Vero Beach Marine Laboratory and other habitats
3. Make these efforts the focus of students in the Sustainability Program at Florida Tech



WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

Established by the Florida Legislature 1994

WildlifeFlorida.org

The Wildlife Foundation of Florida is committed to the long-term success of the initiative and this project. It is also vital to keep the wheels rolling in the short term. So we are asking the community of Vero Beach to become involved and help support this facility. We are looking to raise a total of \$200,000 for operational expenses for the next year. Here are the elements of our budget request. Take a leadership role and support a part of this vision for the future.

Red Snapper Enhancement Program \$145,200

Operational Budget, June 2011 - May 2012

Staff

Graduate students	46,000
Undergraduate student assistants	15,600
Senior staff	16,900

Equipment and supplies

Transport tanks to bring fish to lab	7,000
Tank filters and aerators	5,000
Freezers/refrigerators	2,000
Canopies over tanks	2,000
Tank chillers	5,000
Feeds, medicines, etc	8,000
Aquaculture supplies	6,000
Electrical service renovation	4,000

Travel

Broodstock collection trips	7,000
Meetings	1,700
Laboratory fees	19,000

TOTAL	145,200
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Habitat Restoration Program \$54,800

Operational Budget, June 2011 - May 2012

Staff

Graduate students	30,000
Senior staff	2,600

Supplies and equipment

Seagrass culture system	12,000
Dune restoration system	3,000
Seed/seedling stock	2,000
Facilities fees	1,200
Travel (collection and meetings)	4,000

TOTAL	54,800
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For these tasks we have a proposed combined annual budget cost of: \$200,000. We need your support to help make this site a reality. Our long-term financial goal to complete a world class facility in Vero Beach is \$5 million over 5 years. Please become a part of this exciting and vital initiative. Working together we can make sure that the \$7 billion Industry that is sports fishing in Florida survives and thrives for future generations.

Contact: the Wildlife Foundation of Florida to make your contribution.

1-800-988-4889 or info@WildlifeFlorida.org

Thanks for being a part of the solution! And tell a friend.

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