Governing Board Meeting
November 10, 2010

CONTRACT WITH FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY FOR LONG-TERM OYSTER MONITORING IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA (ITEM 29)

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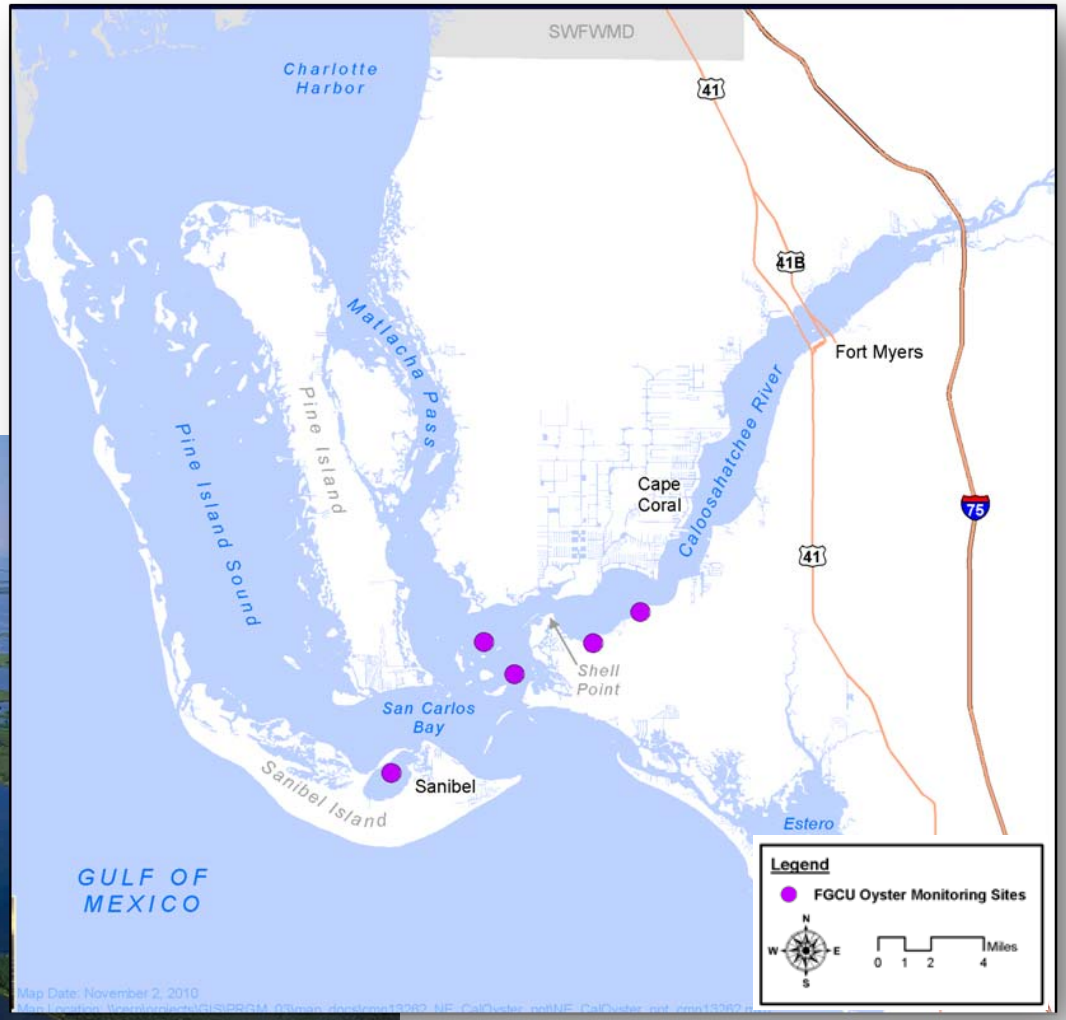
Contract Overview

- Seeking authorization to enter into a five-year contract with Florida Gulf Coast University
- To continue monitoring of oysters, which began in 2001, in the lower Caloosahatchee River and San Carlos Bay
- First year will include an assessment of data collected to date along with recommendations for optimizing the monitoring program which will be peer reviewed and implemented in year two
- Estimated District Cost is $1,320,000 of which $240,000 are dedicated funds (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Fund) budgeted in FY11, and the remainder subject to Governing Board approval of the FY12 -16 budgets

Monitoring Locations

Oysters serve as key indicators of estuarine health and restoration success

Five locations in the Caloosahatchee River and San Carlos Bay located along a salinity gradient



Monitoring Objectives

- Develop pre-CERP baseline conditions for oysters
- Define post restoration flow patterns and corresponding salinities for optimal oyster reef development and growth
- Detect ecosystem responses to water management
- Support development of technical criteria for Minimum Flows and Levels, Reservations, Total Maximum Daily Loads, and Numeric Nutrient Criteria

Governing Board Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO AUTHORIZE THE OFFICIAL RANKING OF SHORT-LISTED FIRMS AND ENTERING INTO A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY, SUBJECT TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS, FOR LONG-TERM OYSTER MONITORING OF CRASSOSTREA VIRGINICA IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,320,000 OF WHICH AD VALOREM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $240,000 ARE BUDGETED; AND THE REMAINDER IS SUBJECT TO GOVERNING BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FY12-16 BUDGETS; PROVIDING THAT, IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL WITH FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY, THE DISTRICT WILL PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS IN RANKED ORDER UNTIL A CONTRACT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.