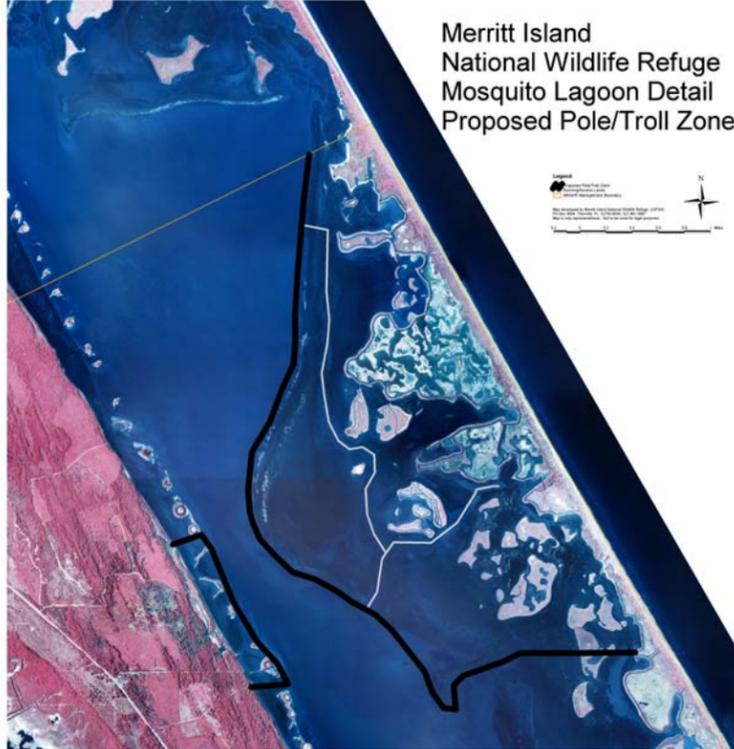


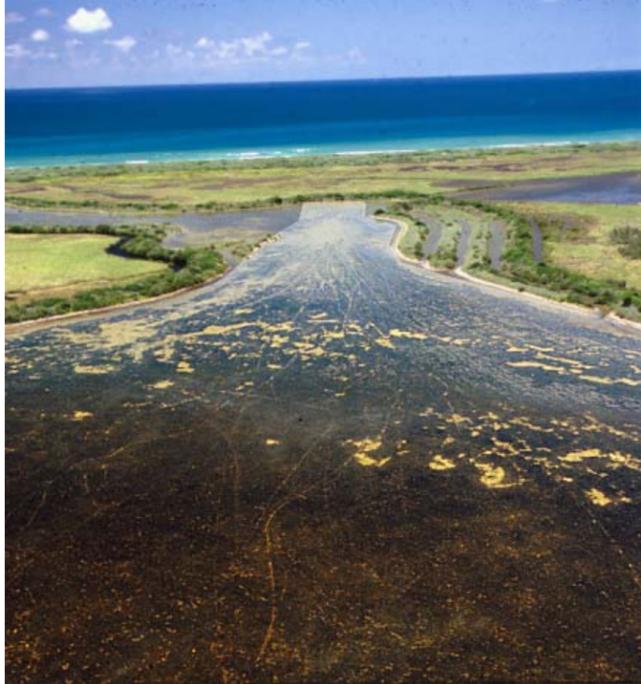
# What should we do for Mosquito Lagoon?

## Quick Mosquito Lagoon Facts:

21,000 Estuarine Acres  
~1/2 <3 Feet Deep  
Intracoastal Waterway Corridor  
Highest Quality Seagrass Beds  
Essential Fish Habitat Designation  
National Seashore Overlay  
Redfish Capital of the World  
Estimated >123,000 Annual Boats  
>2 Million People Live Nearby  
~50 Commercial Recreational Fishing Guides



*Southern Mosquito Lagoon, Merritt Island NWR*



*Prop Scars-South of Three Cabbage Island, 2000, FWS*

## Priority Mosquito Lagoon Issues:

High & Increasing Public Use Activities & Demand  
Decreasing Quality of Public Use Opportunities  
Increasing User Conflicts  
Improving Technology to Find & Access Fish  
Increasing Impacts to Wildlife & Habitats  
Decreasing & Altered Wildlife Use  
Prominent Prop Scarring  
Water Quality Concerns

## The quality of the fishing experience is declining.

- Use of Mosquito Lagoon is increasing: from 1990-2000 use nearly tripled to >120,000 boats annually.
- Running the flats is more common.



*Prop Scars-South of Three Cabbage Island, 2000, FWS*

## Wildlife and habitats are experiencing impacts.

- Wildlife are changing from normal behaviors: lesser scaup are shifting to night feeding.
- Migratory bird use of Mosquito Lagoon has declined.
- Bird use of historic rookeries has declined.
- Prop scarring is prominent.



*Bird Island, 2004, FWS*

## Public Meeting Mosquito Lagoon Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

To follow up public meetings from earlier this year, join Refuge staff to review and provide input on the proposed pole/troll zones in Mosquito Lagoon. Call 321.861.0667 for more information.

**Monday, November 22, 2004**  
**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
**New Smyrna Beach Public Library**  
**1001 South Dixie Freeway**  
**New Smyrna Beach, FL**