

The logo for the University of Florida, consisting of the letters 'UF' in white on an orange square background.

**UF**

# Community Sponge Restoration Update

A photograph of the University of Florida campus at sunset. The central focus is the tall, brick clock tower. To its left is the large, Gothic-style Old Chapel building. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and there are trees in the foreground. The entire image has a blue overlay with a white molecular structure pattern.

**SHELLY KRUEGER  
FLORIDA SEA GRANT AGENT  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS EXTENSION, MONROE COUNTY**



# *Florida Keys Environmental Fund*



15,000 SPONGES

5 SPONGE NURSERIES

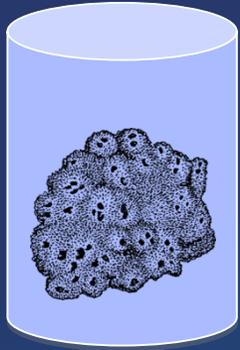
Quantify \$ per sponge restored

We continue to look for funding:

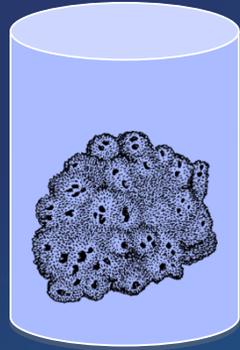
US EPA GULF OF MEXICO  
PROGRAM, \$800,000  
(UNFUNDED)



# RESEARCH – NITROGEN DYNAMICS



Sheepswool



Loggerhead

$N_2$ ,  $O_2$ ,  $NO_x$ ,  $NH_4^+$



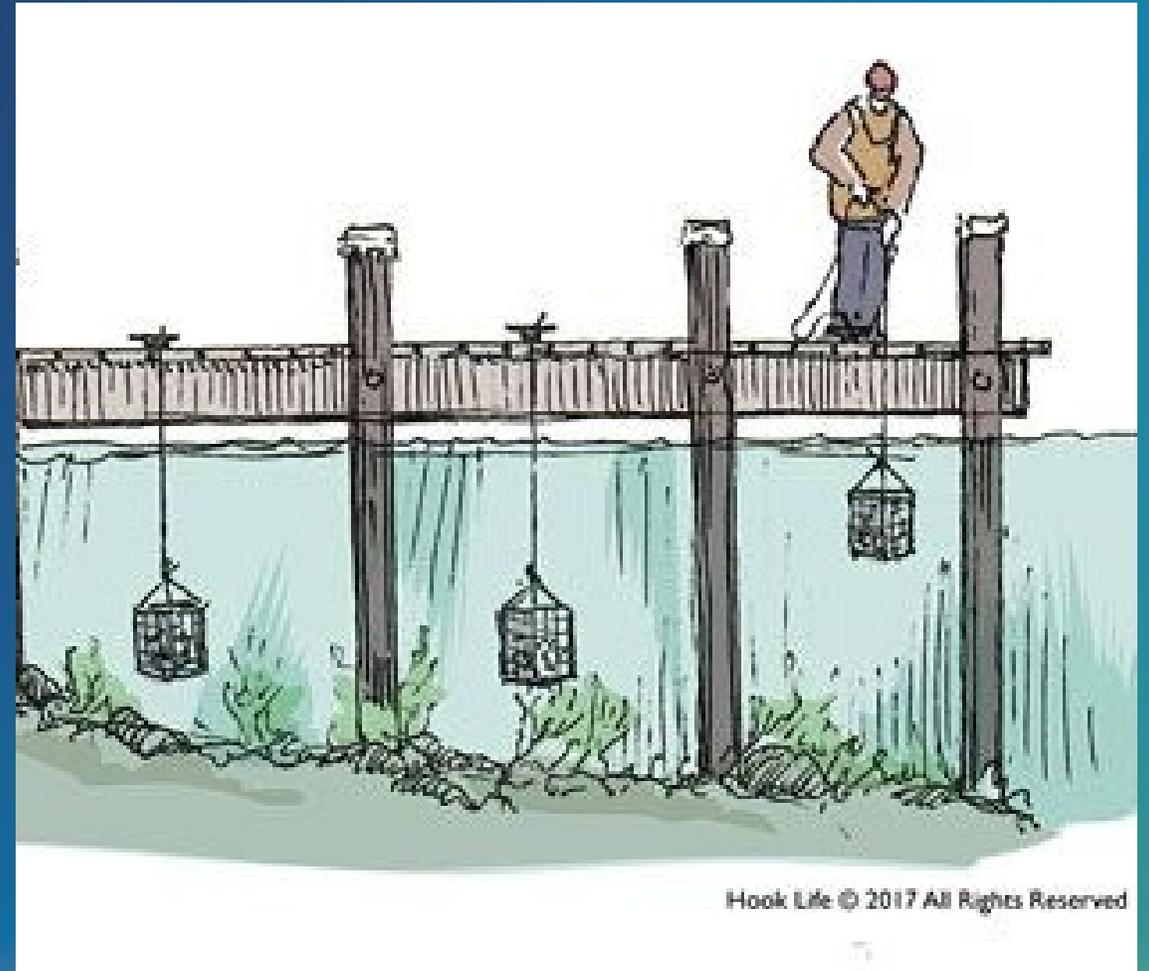
Dr. Ashley Smyth, Florida Sea Grant Affiliate

# SPONGE GARDENING

Citizen science

Alternative SPONGE  
nurseries

Residential canals



SAVE THE DATE

# HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM STATE OF THE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

AUGUST 20-21 @USGS

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

The goals are to identify:

- 1) Data gaps and areas of uncertainty
- 2) Research priorities
- 3) Triage priorities
- 4) Communication needs and strategies

The format of the symposium will allow for the development of consensus statements that will inform the governor's new task forces.