

## WHAT THE BBCC DOES

The **Big Bend Coastal Conservancy** is dedicated to the conservation of our natural coastal resources for recreation and sustainable business practices and to be the primary advocate for the Big Bend estuarine and coastal waters. Although the Big Bend area's waters are surrounded by natural shorelines and very little development is within the area, numerous threats exist to the long term health and sustainability of our ecosystems, our fisheries and the environmental heritage that we will be passing on to our future generations. This environmental heritage is what defines our coast.

*Our goal is to be recognized as the key advocate for the Big Bend coastal region via environmental education and employment of sound scientific methodologies for this region.*



## PROTECTING OUR COAST

The **Big Bend Coastal Conservancy** (BBCC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) whose goal is to “*Conserve Natural Resources for Future Generations.*” The BBCC has adopted a 5 county coastal area from St. Joseph Bay to the Suwannee River covering ~180 coastal miles and extending ocean ward 200 miles. Headquarters for the BBCC is the City of St. Marks, which is just 17 miles south of downtown Tallahassee.

The BBCC is the unbiased, scientific advocate for this region's resources and promotes estuarine, coastal and marine science, education, conservation and sustainability for this valued region.

BIG BEND COASTAL CONSERVANCY

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***PROTECTING NATURAL  
AREAS FOR FUTURE  
GENERATIONS***



***St. Joseph Bay to Suwannee***



## WHERE THE BBCC DOES IT

### On the Coast and on the Water

The BBCC's headquarters are in the City of St. Marks, Florida.

With the development of this program, stewards of each of the major river systems are instrumental in the oversight of the water quality and the other numerous upstream issues which affect the freshwater sources that flow into the coastal systems.

Starting with the St. Joseph Bay and progressing east and southeasterly, all the major and minor inputting waterways into the coastal system affect the coastal systems. These include the Carrabelle, Ocklocknee, St. Marks/Wakulla, Aucilla, Ecofina, Fenholloway, Steinhatchee and Suwanee Rivers.

These waters know no boundaries, the fish and mammals have no boundaries, nor do the pollution threats or the weather systems. We have adopted over 180 miles of our coast and with support and involvement from vested coastal communities we will address the important issues; we will make a positive impact.

## HOW THE BBCC DOES IT

**Our mission is to conserve the natural habitats and resources of the watersheds and communities of coastal Big Bend Florida for present and future generations**

The BBCC program began in mid-2010, based on observation, community discussion, and research focusing on protection and conservation of the coastal ecosystem.

Program development has been based on the specific needs of our areas. The extensive areas adopted were strategically chosen to specifically be flanked by two established river conservation groups, the Apalachicola River and the Suwannee River. The area of the coast selected by the BBCC has desperately needed a voice and advocate that will promote and protect our coastal waters for future generations.

## PROGRAMS

- Water Quality Sampling
- Red Tide Sampling - Offshore
- Species surveys and sampling
- *Clean Wake* Program
- Shark tagging program
- Education and Outreach
- Regulatory issues
- Advocate for the needs of the Big Bend Coast
- Promote healthy marine communities

***Our future generations need to understand the importance and significance of our oceans;***

***Why? Because they cover 71% of our Earth and contain 97% of the planet's water***