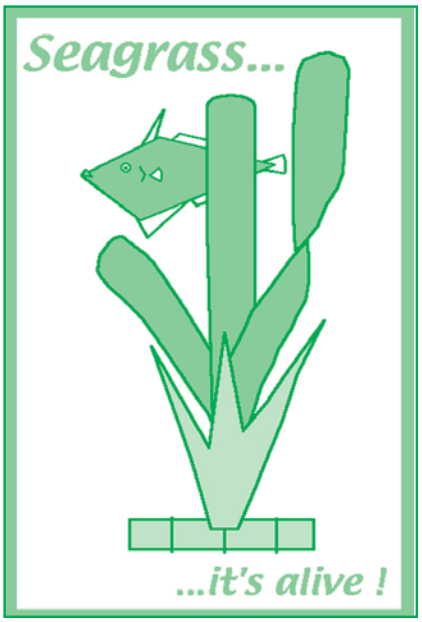
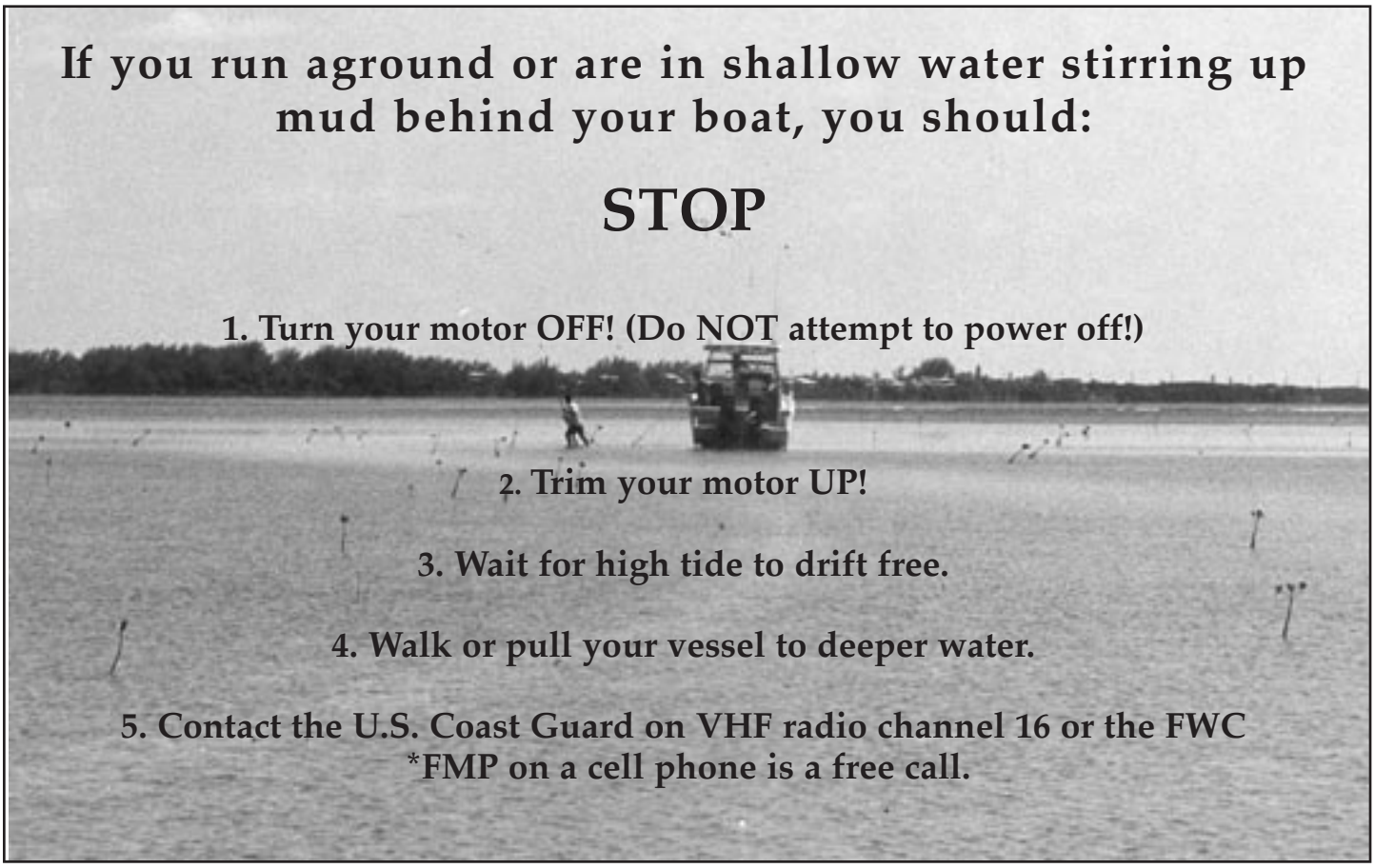
Seagrass is Alive.....

Seagrass Outreach Partnership

The Seagrass Outreach Partnership was formed in 1997 to address the issue of damage to seagrass beds done by propellers and boat hulls. The purpose of the partnership is to educate people about the importance of seagrasses to the local economy and ecology and to provide information that helps boaters minimize their impacts to the many shallow seagrass beds in Florida waters. In March 2000, the Partnership sponsored Seagrass Awareness Month in Monroe County. Agencies and organizations participating in the Seagrass Outreach Partnership include the following:

Florida Keys Guides Association
Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Florida Park Service
Department of Environmental Protection
Monroe County Cooperative Extension 4-H program
Save the Manatee Club
Everglades National Park





If you run aground or are in shallow water stirring up mud behind your boat, you should:

STOP

1. Turn your motor OFF! (Do NOT attempt to power off!)

2. Trim your motor UP!

3. Wait for high tide to drift free.

4. Walk or pull your vessel to deeper water.

5. Contact the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF radio channel 16 or the FWC *FMP on a cell phone is a free call.

Note: These Seagrass Partnership graphics appeared in the Autumn 2000 issue of the newsletter of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, **Sounding Line,** *For more information, visit:* floridakeys.noaa.gov**.**