NEARSHORE HARDBOTTOM RESOURCES IN FLORIDA

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WHAT IS NEARSHORE HARDBOTTOM?

- Rocky substrate 0 to 4m depth, ~400m from shore
- Exposed, shore-parallel features
- Sand/coquina OR carbonate limestone.
- Shoreline stability
WHERE IS HARDBOTTOM?

- **Patchy**
  - Coquina and Limestone Hardbottom
  - Octocoral Hardbottom
  - Vermetid (Gastropod) Reef

- **Extensive**
  - Worm Rock Reef

Map copyright 2012 by Dawn Witherington
WHAT IS NEARSHORE HARDBOTTOM?

• Supports diverse biological community: algae, invertebrates, fishes, and sea turtles

• Ecological functions: spawning sites, settlement areas, nurseries, feeding and shelter areas
REPRESENTATIVE HARDBOTTOM FAUNA
EXAMPLES OF FLORIDA NEARSHORE HARDBOTTOM
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Palm Beach

Broward
EXAMPLES OF FLORIDA NEARSHORE HARDBOTTOM
Thank You

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