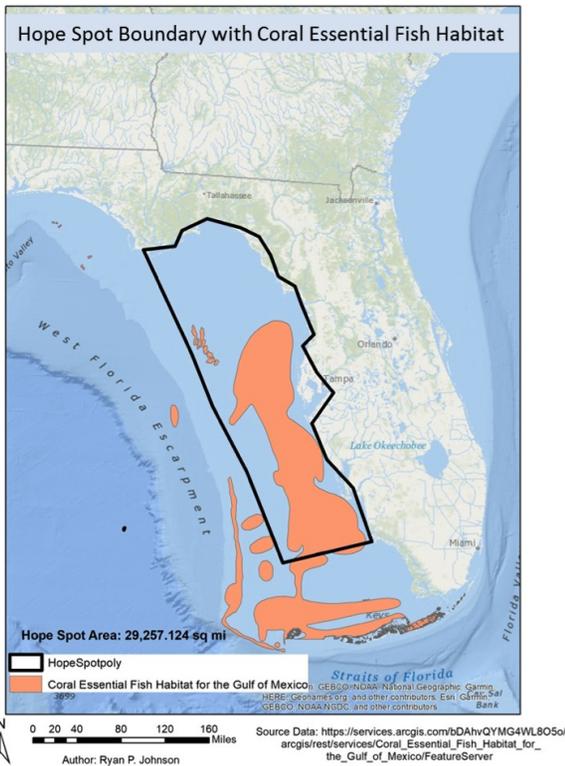




To enter the challenge, go to www.bluegreenconnections.org



The Hope for the Future Challenge is a collaboration of:



Blue-Green Connections is a non-profit organization whose goal is to educate and inspire people to protect our land and waters.



The mission of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program is to build partnerships to restore and protect Tampa Bay, Florida's largest open-water estuary and an "estuary of national significance."



Protect Our Florida Gulf Coast Hope Spot!

For Tampa Bay Area
Students K-12

Hope Spots are special places that are critical to the health of the ocean. The Florida Gulf Coast Hope Spot extends from Apalachicola Bay in the north to Ten Thousand Islands in the south and includes the Tampa Bay area.





What are the threats to the Florida Gulf Coast Hope Spot?

- ◆ Loss of habitat
- ◆ Ocean trash
- ◆ Algal blooms
- ◆ Urbanization
- ◆ Storm water run-off
- ◆ Ocean acidification
- ◆ Exotic species
- ◆ Water quality
- ◆ Sea level rise
- ◆ Over fishing
- ◆ Offshore drilling
- ◆ Ocean warming

Here are some organizations to help you learn more about these threats.

[Blue-Green Connections](http://www.bluegreenconn.org/)

www.bluegreenconn.org/

[The Tampa Bay Estuary Program](http://www.tbep.org/)

www.tbep.org/

[The Ocean Conservancy](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/)

www.oceanconservancy.org/

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife](https://www.fws.gov/)

<https://www.fws.gov/>

[Gulf Coast Preservation Society](https://gulfpreserve.org/)

<https://gulfpreserve.org/>

[International Union for Conservation of Nature](http://www.iucn.org/) www.iucn.org/



How can you help? Join the challenge!

- ◆ Learn about the our designated Florida Gulf Coast Hope Spot and the issues that threaten it.
- ◆ Choose a threat of interest to you and learn more about it.
- ◆ Help protect our Hope Spot by designing a project that will help others learn about the threat and how to decrease it.

Types of Projects

- ◆ Video
- ◆ Song
- ◆ Artwork
- ◆ Photograph
- ◆ Game
- ◆ PowerPoint
- ◆ Your own idea
- ◆ Poster
- ◆ Flyer
- ◆ Brochure
- ◆ Essay
- ◆ Letter
- ◆ Poem
- ◆ Science Fair Project

Multiple ways to participate

- ◆ As an in-person or at home student
- ◆ As a Florida Virtual School student
- ◆ As an extra credit or homework assignment
- ◆ As an individual or group project



Who can win?

- ◆ 15 students with most creative and influential projects each win \$100.
- ◆ 3 teachers with the most participants each win \$100.
- ◆ Winning students will be publicly recognized as well as participating schools and teachers.
- ◆ Select winning projects displayed in Tarpon Springs Aquarium.
- ◆ Your family, friends, and community win as they are educated about the Hope Spot and how to protect it.

How can you win?

Your project should address the following questions.

- ◆ Why is the ocean important to you and to everyone?
- ◆ How do our human actions affect our waters—positively or negatively?
- ◆ How would your idea for changing our everyday behaviors help make our Gulf waters cleaner and healthier for us and the many animals that call it home?
- ◆ How creative is your project?
- ◆ Does your project have the ability to influence others?