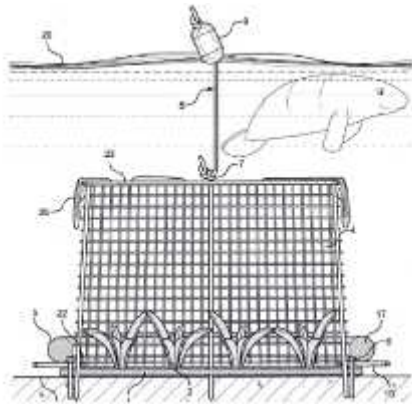




## Herbivory Exclusion Cage

Transplanting Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) is an effective method for restoring aquatic habitat. Restoration typically involves planting viable seeds, or seedlings, grown in tanks. Mature plants taken from healthy donor beds can also be used for transplanting areas void of SAV, provided that such donor material is available and permitted by applicable regulatory agencies. Proper site selection is paramount and should be carefully observed. Site selection considerations should include salinity fluxuation, herbivory pressure, wave energy susceptibility, and likelihood of human interaction. After new plants are installed herbivory issues sometimes occur. Animals such as fish, turtles, sting rays, snails, and manatees may consume the freshly planted units. The Exclusion Cage was developed to be used as a useful tool that protects plantings from



grazing pressure. The Exclusion Cages are installed by placing the open ended cage over the top of freshly planted units. The cage protects the planting units from disturbance. The Exclusion Cages give the planting units a chance to establish a robust root system in the protected planted location. Multiple Exclusion Cages in use will create multiple founder colonies of SAV developing into lush SAV meadows for future generations to enjoy. The contribution submerged aquatic vegetation make to food chain, water quality, and carbon sequestration make for a healthier environment.

Seagrass, eelgrass, and other SAV planting units need protection after transplanting in order to withstand grazing pressure. By providing the planting units a temporary refuge plants will begin to reproduce though seeds. Once seeding occurs the reproduction rate quickly out paces grazing pressure.



**GROW  
SAV™**