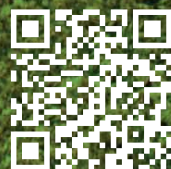


# What can you do?

- Apply fertilizers responsibly
- Limit use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Conserve water
- Install a rain barrel
- Do not harm or harass protected species
- Do not sweep leaves down storm drain
- Wash cars and boats on lawn not driveway
- Protect wetlands
- Do not release exotic plants or animals
- Collect pet droppings
- Monitor and maintain septic tank system
- Conserve energy
- Limit footprint of docks and bulkheads
- Do not discard monofilament fishing line into the water
- Practice proper catch-and-release techniques
- Landscape with native plants
- Place all litter and cigarette butts in trash cans
- Discard hazardous household materials (gas, paint, drug, etc.) at waste pick-up sites
- Keep all vehicles tuned

The State of the River Report was funded through the City of Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board (EPB). It is one component of a range of far-reaching efforts initiated by Jacksonville Mayors John Delaney and John Peyton and the River Accord partners to improve the health of the Lower St. Johns River Basin, Florida (LSJRB). River Accord partners include the City of Jacksonville, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), JEA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Department of Health in Duval County and local governments and utilities.



# 2019

## River Report

State of the Lower St. Johns River Basin, Florida

- Water quality
- Fisheries
- Aquatic life
- Contaminants

## The Lower St. Johns River Basin

The Lower St. Johns River Basin in Northeast Florida has long been recognized as a treasured watershed providing enormous ecological, recreational, economic and aesthetic benefits. However, during recent years, it has also been recognized as a threatened watershed. Though designated as an American Heritage River in 1998 by the U.S. EPA, the St. Johns River is critically in need of resource conservation, water quality improvement and careful management.



### WHERE TO REPORT PROBLEMS YOU SEE ON THE RIVER

#### FISH KILLS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (800) 636-0511  
[myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-hotline/hotline/](http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-hotline/hotline/)

#### PROTECTED SPECIES CONCERNS

To report an *injured, stranded or dead marine mammal, abandoned calf, sea turtle or stranded hatchlings* please call the FWC Wildlife Alert Number at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922). You may also send a text to [Tip@MyFWC.com](mailto:Tip@MyFWC.com)

#### ALGAL BLOOMS

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
 (407) 897-4177 or (407) 897-4183  
[floridadep.gov/algalbloom](http://floridadep.gov/algalbloom)

#### CHEMICAL SPILLS AND WATER POLLUTION

City of Jacksonville (904) 630-2489  
<http://630city.coj.net/>

# RIVER HEALTH INDICATORS

The River Report describes the health of the Lower St. Johns River Basin on a number of broad indicators including aquatic life, water quality, fisheries and contaminants. The current status and historic trends for each indicator were assessed.

## Aquatic Life






-  **SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **MACROINVERTEBRATES**  
*Current status uncertain  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **WETLANDS**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions worsening*
-  **FLORIDA MANATEE (threatened)**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions improving*
-  **BALD EAGLE**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions improving*
-  **WOOD STORK**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions improving*
-  **NONNATIVE SPECIES**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions worsening*

The bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list in 2007 due in part to reduced pesticide use.

## Contaminants

Contaminants released into the environment may end up in air, water, soil, sediment, plants or animals.

### SEDIMENT CONTAMINANTS

-  **POLYAROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAHs) NORTHERN LSJRB**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **POLYAROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAHs) SOUTHERN LSJRB**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS)**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDES**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **METALS**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*

### WATERBORNE CONTAMINANTS

-  **METALS IN THE MAINSTEM FRESHWATER (arsenic, cadmium, nickel, lead, zinc, copper, silver)**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **METALS IN THE MAINSTEM SALTWATER (arsenic, cadmium, nickel, lead, zinc, copper, silver)**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions worsening*
-  **METALS IN THE TRIBUTARIES (arsenic, cadmium, nickel, lead, zinc, copper, silver)**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*

### TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY

-  **TO ATMOSPHERE**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions improving*
-  **TO SURFACE WATERS**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*

## Fisheries

The Blue Crab is the largest commercial fishery in the region.

-  **RED DRUM**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **SPOTTED SEA TROUT**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **LARGE MOUTH BASS**  
*Current status uncertain  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **CHANNEL AND WHITE CATFISH**  
*Current status uncertain  
Conditions worsening*
-  **STRIPED MULLET**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions improving*
-  **SOUTHERN FLOUNDER**  
*Current status uncertain  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **SHEEPSHEAD**  
*Current status uncertain  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **ATLANTIC CROAKER**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **BAITFISH**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **BLUE CRAB**  
*Current status uncertain  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **PENAEID SHRIMP**  
*Current status uncertain  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **STONE CRAB**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*








For detailed explanations and statistical analyses of status and trend ratings, see the full technical report at [www.sjrreport.com](http://www.sjrreport.com).

## Water Quality

Algal blooms are the rapid increase of algae usually caused by an overabundance of nutrients.

-  **MAINSTEM-MARINE/ ESTUARINE AND FRESHWATER**  
*Satisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **TRIBUTARIES**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **NITROGEN MAINSTEM**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions improving*
-  **NITROGEN TRIBUTARIES**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions worsening*
-  **PHOSPHORUS MAINSTEM MARINE/ESTUARINE**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions worsening*
-  **PHOSPHORUS MAINSTEM FRESHWATER**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions improving*
-  **PHOSPHORUS TRIBUTARIES**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **ALGAL BLOOMS**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **TURBIDITY**  
*Current status uncertain  
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **FECAL BACTERIA TRIBUTARIES**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions unchanged*
-  **SALINITY**  
*Unsatisfactory status  
Conditions worsening (Impacts increasing)*

## LEGEND

-  Green indicates a satisfactory status
-  Red indicates an unsatisfactory status
-  Gray indicates an uncertain status
-  Arrow pointing upward indicates an improving trend
-  Arrow pointing downward indicates a worsening trend
-  Arrow pointing to the side indicates an unchanged trend
-  Question mark indicates an uncertain trend