The State of the River Report was funded through the City of Jacksonville’s Environmental Protection Board (EPB). It is a 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); SJRWMD, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Department of Health in Duval County and local governments and utilities.

The Lower St. Johns River Basin

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/

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

ALGAL BLOOMS
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (407) 897-4177 or (407) 897-4183 floridadep.gov/algalbloom

CHEMICAL SPILLS AND WATER POLLUTION
City of Jacksonville (904) 630-2489 http://630city.coj.net/

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

Conserving energy Limit distance of docks and bulkheads Do not discard motor oil 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

Chemical spills and water pollution
City of Jacksonville (904) 630-2489 http://630city.coj.net/
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
- **Macrophytes**: Current status uncertain, condition trend uncertain
- **Wetlands**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions worsening
- **Florida Manatee**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions improving
- **Bald Eagle (threatened)**: Conditions improving, satisfactory status
- **Wood Stork**: Unsatisfactory status, condition trend uncertain
- **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

#### Sediment Contaminants
- **Polychromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)**
  - Northern SLRB: Unsatisfactory status, condition trend uncertain
  - Southern SLRB: Unsatistactory 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**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions improved
- **Metals in the Mainstem Saltwater**: Unsatisfactory status, condition trend uncertain
- **Metals in the Tributaries**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions unchanged

#### Toxics Release Inventory
- **To Atmosphere**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions unchanged
- **To Surface Waters**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions unchanged

### Fisheries

- **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, condition trend uncertain
- **Striped Mullet**: Satisfactory status, conditions improving
- **Sheephead**: Current status uncertain, condition trend uncertain
- **Neptune**: Current status uncertain
- **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

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

### Water Quality

#### Dissolved Oxygen
- **Mainstem-Marine**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions improving
- **Tributaries**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions worsening

#### Nutrients
- **Nitrogen Mainstem**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions worsening
- **Nitrogen Tributaries**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions worsening
- **Phosphorus Mainstem**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions worsening
- **Phosphorus 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**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions unchanged
- **Salinity**: Unsatisfactory status, conditions worsening (impacts increasing)

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