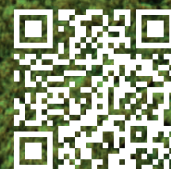


What can you do?

- 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.



2023

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
<https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-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

REPORT ALGAL BLOOMS

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
 (855) 305-3903

You can also contact the FDEP at
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3444948/Algal-Bloom-Reporting-Form>

CHEMICAL SPILLS AND WATER POLLUTION

City of Jacksonville (904) 630-2489
<https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/environmental-quality.aspx>








RIVER ECOLOGICAL ZONES

- Meso-polyhaline riverine
- Oligohaline lacustrine
- Freshwater lacustrine south of Palatka, freshwater riverine

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*






Wetlands help minimize the impacts of local flooding and harbor numerous estuarine species.

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

Contaminants

SEDIMENT CONTAMINANTS


-  **POLYAROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAHs)**
*Current status uncertain
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS)**
*Unsatisfactory status
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDES**
*Unsatisfactory status
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **METALS**
*(arsenic, copper, cadmium, lead, nickel, silver, zinc)
Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **MERCURY**
*Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*

WATERBORNE CONTAMINANTS

-  **ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDES**
*Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **TOTAL PESTICIDES**
*Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **METALS IN THE MAINSTEM FRESHWATER**
*(Arsenic, copper, cadmium, lead, nickel, zinc)
Satisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **METALS IN THE MAINSTEM MARINE/ESTUARINE**
*(Copper, cadmium, lead, nickel, silver)
Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **(Aluminum, arsenic, zinc)**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **METALS IN THE TRIBUTARIES**
*(Arsenic, copper, cadmium, lead, nickel, silver, zinc)
Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*

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

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 unchanged*
-  **SOUTHERN FLOUNDER**
*Current status uncertain
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **SHEEPSHEAD**
*Current status uncertain
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **ATLANTIC CROAKER**
*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*

Striped Mullet is the largest fin fishery in the region.













For detailed explanations and statistical analyses of status and trend ratings, see the full technical report at www.sjrreport.com.

Water Quality

DISSOLVED OXYGEN

-  **MAINSTEM-MARINE/ESTUARINE AND FRESHWATER**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **TRIBUTARIES**
*Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*

NUTRIENTS

-  **NITROGEN MAINSTEM ESTUARINE**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions improving*
-  **NITROGEN MAINSTEM FRESHWATER**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions worsening*
-  **NITROGEN TRIBUTARIES**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **PHOSPHORUS MAINSTEM/ ESTUARINE**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions worsening*
-  **PHOSPHORUS MAINSTEM/ FRESHWATER**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **PHOSPHORUS TRIBUTARIES**
*Unsatisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **ALGAL BLOOMS FRESHWATER**
*Unsatisfactory status
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **ALGAL BLOOMS ESTUARINE**
*Satisfactory status
Condition trend uncertain*
-  **TURBIDITY**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **FECAL BACTERIA TRIBUTARIES**
*Unsatisfactory status
Condition trend unchanged*
-  **FECAL BACTERIA MAINSTEM**
*Satisfactory status
Conditions unchanged*
-  **SALINITY**
*Unsatisfactory status
Condition worsening
"Long-term impacts increasing"*

Algal blooms are the rapid increase of algae usually caused by an overabundance of nitrogen and phosphorus.