

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Fall 1998

Fast Facts

One of the largest Florida watersheds, covering 4,400 square miles.

Includes 18 cities and several important basins: Lemon Bay, Myakka River, Peace River, tidal Caloosahatchee, Estero Bay and Charlotte Harbor proper.

The area supports a wide variety of economic uses such as tourism, ranching, citrus, phosphate mining, vegetable crops, residential development and urban areas.

Current population of 1.1 million (1997) expected to grow 1.65 million by 20

World famous for tarpon and snook fisheries

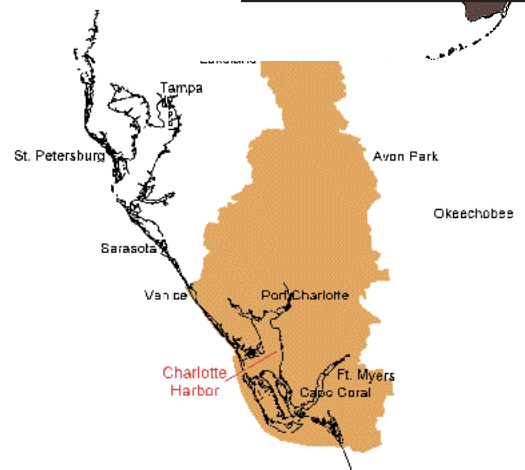
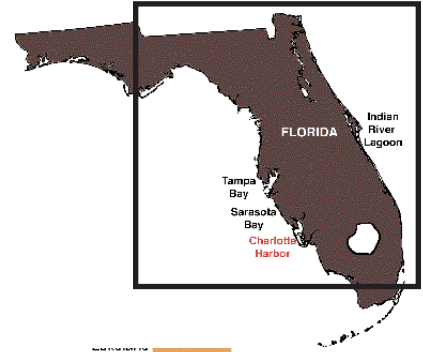


ASSOCIATION OF
NATIONAL ESTUARY
PROGRAMS

Status Update & Next Steps

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is developing a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to address the following local issues:

- Hydrologic Alterations**
 Adverse changes to amounts, locations, and timing of freshwater flows, the hydrologic function of floodplain systems, and natural river flows.
- Water Quality Degradation**
 Including but not limited to pollution from agricultural and urban runoff, point source discharges, septic tank system loadings, atmospheric deposition, and groundwater.
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Loss**
 Degradation and elimination of headwater streams and other habitats caused by development, conversion of natural shorelines, cumulative impacts of docks and boats, and



Charlotte Harbor watershed. Courtesy of USEPA.

compiling a directory of public and private monitoring programs, assessing the programs and agencies that manage resources, and holding a public and

Advisory Committee has set resource objectives, information about local issues, presentations to civic groups targeting public education

The Technical Advisory Committee, resource managers, and local governments, the plan will detail specifications to be implemented, cost of these actions, who is responsible, and the environmental benefits. For information regarding the NEP, call (941) 995-4980 Bay County, Florida, or visit our website at www.charlotteharbor.org



Association of National Estuary Programs

Programs

The Association of National Estuary Program (ANEP) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible stewardship and a common vision for the preservation of our nation's bays and estuaries.

ANEP's Mission

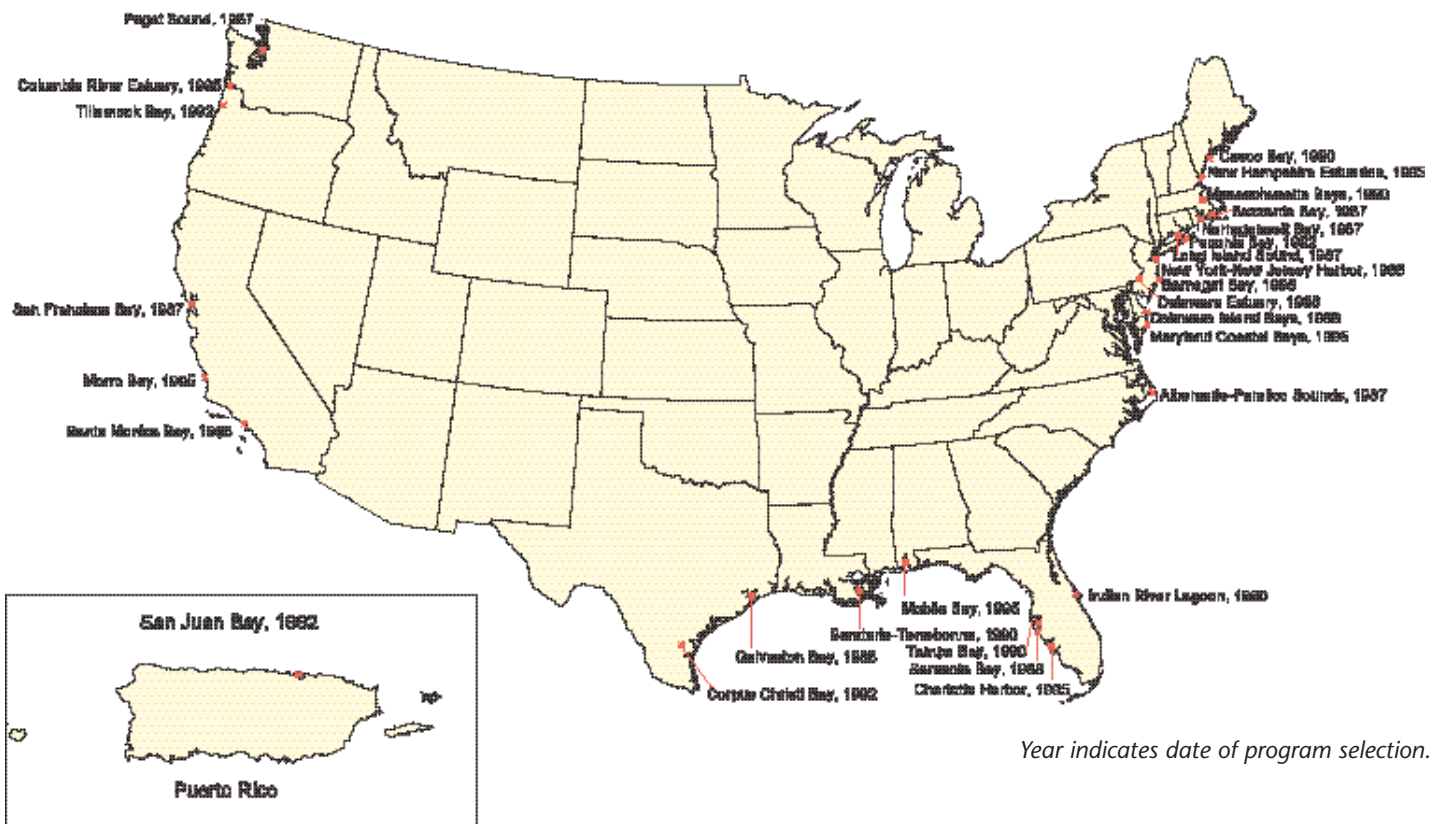
Bring consistency to estuarine data collection and management, and turn data into useful information that is consolidated into meaningful status and trends at the national scale. Ensure that data are reliable, objective, and goal-directed. Achieve recognition of the critical roles for continued monitoring and assessment.

Educate the public on the meaning and practical application of "responsible stewardship." Ensure that the public understands the long-term nature of solutions to the environmental problems now facing bays and estuaries.

Achieve mutual support and coordination among all coastal programs. Enhance communication among NEPs and between NEPs and other coastal programs. Report both successes and failures to Congress and the American public, while understanding that through 'adaptive management' we can achieve effective management of our nation's bays and estuaries.

Seek explicit congressional support and commitment to implement Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs). Capitalize on the hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours invested thus far, nationwide, and recognize the important role that Management Conferences play as a continuing forum for all stakeholders.

Achieve sufficient federal funding to strengthen the federal/state/local and public/private partnerships that have been fledged across the nation. Achieve stable funding for core program operations, project implementation, and local government pass-through dollars as incentive for regional, multi-jurisdictional cooperation.



Year indicates date of program selection.