

Indian River Lagoon Program

Fall 1998

Fast Facts

156 miles long -- 40% of Florida's east coast.

Includes 31 municipalities, Palm Bay is the largest.

Population growth: 700,000 in 1990 to more than 1 million by 2010.

More than 4,000 plants and animal species.

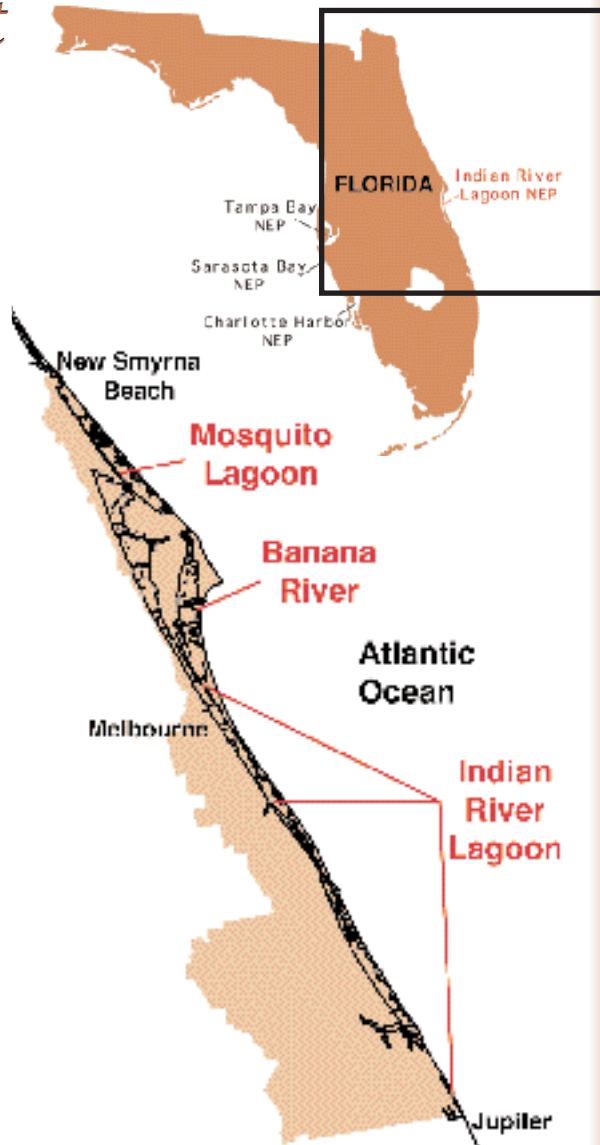
7 species of seagrass out of 50 represented worldwide.

Lagoon-related activities, including fishing, swimming and tourism, pump \$731 million into the regional economy.

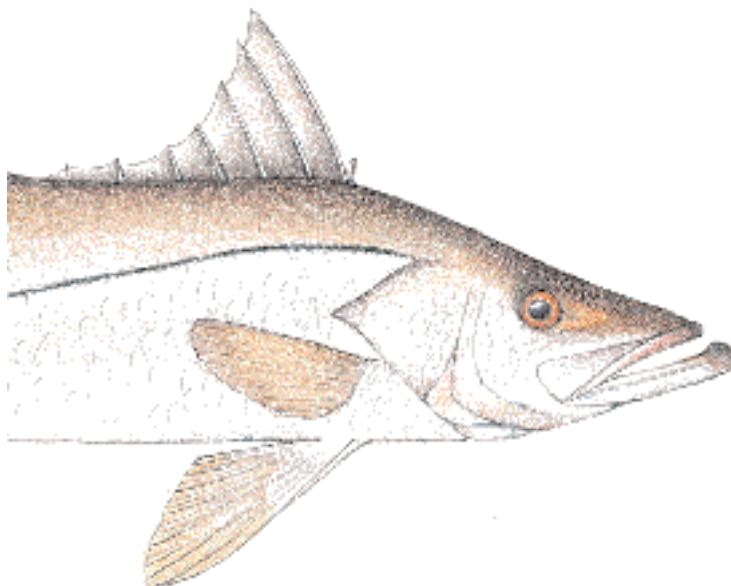
Status Update & Next Steps

Here is a brief update on the status and trends of the Indian River Lagoon systems located on Florida's east central coast:

- Seagrass is the primary ecological community of concern in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL).
- With declining water quality, primarily due to stormwater runoff, seagrass acreage has decreased in many areas.
- Stormwater runoff will increase by more than 30% by the year 2010.
- The establishment of pollutant load reduction goals for the Lagoon will promote improvements in water quality which will improve the growth of seagrasses.



Lagoon watershed. Courtesy of USEPA.



For more information regarding the Indian River Lagoon Program, call 800-226-3747 (in Florida), or 321-984-4950, write 1900 South Harbor City, Suite 107, Melbourne FL 32901 or email us at ian_smithson@district.state.fl.us



ASSOCIATION OF
NATIONAL ESTUARY
PROGRAMS



Association of National Estuary 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.