

Summary of
Charlotte Harbor Public Conference and Technical Symposium
March 15-16, 1997 at the Holiday Inn in Punta Gorda, Florida

The event was considered an important first step in the NEP process of bringing public and private stakeholders together to discuss critical environmental issues facing the region. Concurrent sessions were held for the public and for a technical audience. More than 60 presentations were made on Southwest Florida's geography, natural history, geology, biology, hydrology, and natural resource management challenges. More than 100 papers were contributed to the proceedings. Approximately 200 people attended.

Organizers recognized were:

- Charlotte Harbor NEP
- Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Polk County Natural Resources Division
- Environmental Quality Laboratory
- Mote Marine Laboratory
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

Symposium sponsors recognized were:

- Charlotte Harbor NEP
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- South Florida Water Management District
- Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Coffee break sponsors recognized were:

- IMC-Agrico Company
- Camp, Dresser & McKee
- Coastal Environmental, Inc.
- U.S. Agri-Chemicals

Presentations at the Technical Symposium covered history and geography, geological structure and process, water supply, discharge to the estuary, living resources and water quality. Presentations during the Public Conference focused on economic activity in the Peace River Basin, ecosystem management efforts, environmental education centers and programs, boating, and citizen groups. A proceeding was published after the conference.

NOTE: We are working to obtain more detailed information to share with the committee on April 23, 2001.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Saturday, March 15

TARPON ROOM

Plenary Session I. Transferring NEP Knowledge
Tiffany Lutterman, Chair

- 09:00 *Tampa Bay NEP: Successes and Costs.* Holly Greening.
09:20 *Lessons Learned and Future Directions for Wastewater Management in Sarasota Bay.*
Mark Alderson.
09:40 *A Brief Review of Indian River Lagoon Development Strategies: The Good, the Bad, and
the Ugly.* Bob Day and Derek Busby.
10:00 *Integrating Research into Resource Management at Rookery Bay.* Todd E. Hopkins

**Public Conference Session 1. Our Working Watershed: Economic Activity in the Peace
River**
Basin Brian Sodt, Chair

- 10:30 *Economy of the Peace River Basin.* R. Douglas Leonard.
10:50 *The Role of Agriculture in the Peace River Basin.* Dr. Steven Rogers.
11:10 *The Phosphate Industry and the Peace River Basin.* Roger Sims, Steve Susick, and James
Sampson.
11:30 *Growth of the Electric Power Industry in the Peace River Basin.* Kent Hendrick.
11:50 *Future Economic Trends in the Peace River Basin.* Panel Discussion of the Presenters.

12:10 Lunch

Public Conference Session 2. Ecosystem Management
Pat Fricano, Chair

- 1:15 *A Statewide Framework for Establishing Ecosystem Management Areas in Florida.* Pat
Fricano.
1:35 *The SWFWMD Comprehensive Watershed Management Initiative for the Peace River
Basin.* Linda Hawk.
1:55 *The SWFWMD Comprehensive Watershed Management Initiative for the Myakka River
Basin.* Ian McDonald.
2:15 *Ecosystem Management Activities Within the Peace River Basin.* Diane McCommons-
Beck.
2:35 *Making Connections in the Hillsborough River Ecosystem.* Kathy Liles.

Public Conference Session 3. Environmental Education Centers and Programs
Joy Duperault, Chair

- 3:00 *Mote Marine Laboratory: The Jason Project.* Ray Thacker.
3:20 *Calusa Nature Center: Watershed Weekend.* Susan Beckman.
3:40 *Ostego Bay Foundation.* Joanne Semmer.
3:40 *Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center: Peace River Basin Education.* Joy Duperault.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 15

MANATEE ROOM

Technical Symposium Session 1. History and Geography Seen as Scales in Time and Space **Wayne Daltry, Chair**

- 10:30 *Charlotte Harbor's Human Prehistory.* Robin Brown.
10:50 *Charlotte Harbor History: European Settlement to World War II.* Vernon Peoples.
11:10 *The Social Geography of Charlotte Harbor.* Edward A. Fernald.
11:30 *Transportation Impacts of the Build-Out Scenario for Charlotte County, Florida.* Lisa Beaver.
11:50 *Future Shock—Population 3 million!* Wayne Daltry.

12:10 Lunch

Technical Symposium Session 2. Geological Structure and Process in Southwest Florida **Mark Evans, Chair**

- 1:15 *Late Neogene Geology of the Southeastern Margin of Charlotte Harbor, Lee and Charlotte Counties, Florida.* Thomas Missimer.
1:35 *Depositional Environments and Quaternary Infilling of the Charlotte Harbor Estuarine System.* Mark W. Evans.
1:55 *Landforms, Soils, and Land Management in the Charlotte Harbor Watershed.* Howard Yamataki.
2:15 *Charlotte Harbor Sediment Quality — Data Review and Evaluation.* Steve Schropp.
2:35 *Core Evidence of Sea Level High Stands in Southwestern Florida During the Last 5,000 Years.* Hugh J. Mitchell-Tapping, Aleta M. Mitchell-Tapping, Thomas J. Lee, and Cathy R. Williams.

Technical Symposium Session 3. Hydrology: Water Supply in the Charlotte Harbor Basin and Discharge to the Estuary

Eric G. Flaig, Chair

- 3:00 *Overview of Regional Hydrology for the Charlotte Harbor Basin.* Kathy Hammett.
3:20 *Observation and Possible Links to Rainfall Cycles over Southern Florida.* Geoff Shaughnessy.
3:40 *Living Resource-Based Fresh Water Inflow and Salinity Targets for the Tidal Peace River.* Anthony Janicki, Douglas Heimbuch, and Andrew Squires.
4:00 *Low-Flow Trends of the Peace River at Arcadia, Florida.* Kurt O. Thomsen.
4:20 *Historical Trends and Current Management of Water Use in the Upper Charlotte Harbor Basin.* Mark D. Barcelo and Michael S. Flannery.
4:40 *Water Use and Runoff in the Caloosahatchee Estuary Watershed.* Eric G. Flaig and John C. Capece.
5:00 *Freshwater Inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary and the Resource-Based Method for Evaluation.* Robert H. Chamberlain and Peter H. Doering.
5:20 *A Review of Circulation in the Charlotte Harbor Estuarine System.* Y. Peter Sheng.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 16

TARPON ROOM

Public Conference Session 4. The Harbor Boating Scene: Using Science and Education to Promote Sustainable Boating and Waterfront Living

Gustavo Antonini, Chair

- 1:00 *Providing Access and Shore Facilities for the Harbor's Future Boaters: The Charlotte County Approach to Marine Use Site Planning.* Elliot Kampert and Robert Swett.
- 1:20 *A Regional Waterway Management Strategy for Southwest Florida.* Charles Listowski and Gustavo A. Antonini.
- 1:40 *The Five-Year Pilot Anchorage Project: A Non-Regulatory Approach.* Will White and Gustavo A. Antonini.
- 2:00 *Panel: Options to Improve the Boating Experience.* Gustavo A. Antonini, Adam Cummings, Margaret Davidson, Sue Dudley, Gary Lytton, Walter Stilley, and Marion Clarke (Moderator).

Public Conference Session 5. Citizen Groups: Protecting the Harbor for More Than Three Decades

Chauncey Goss, Chair

- 2:40 *The First Thirty Years.* Erik Lindblad.
- 3:00 *Environmental Activism Does Work.* Gloria Rains.
- 3:20 *A Comprehensive Approach for Charlotte Harbor Advocacy.* Becky Ayeach.
- 3:40 *Increasing Public Awareness of a Healthy River.* Rae Ann Scholle.
- 4:00 *Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association.* Chauncey Goss.

Plenary Session II. Lessons Learned from The Conference and Symposium

Ralph Cantral, Moderator

- 4:30 Panelists: Thomas Fraser, Robert Croft, Ernest D. Estevez, and Tiffany Lutterman.

MANATEE ROOM

Technical Symposium Session 4. Living Resources of the Charlotte Harbor Region

James W. Beever III, Chair

- 09:50 *Status and Trends of Seagrass Distribution in Charlotte Harbor.* Thomas Reis.
- 10:10 *Abundance and Productivity of the Seagrass (*Thalassia testudinum*) Along a Gradient of Freshwater Influence in Charlotte Harbor, Florida (USA).* David A. Tomasko, Margaret O. Hall-Ruark, and Jeffrey R. Hall.
- 10:30 *Preliminary Estimate of Optimum Freshwater Inflow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary: A Resource Based Approach.* Robert Chamberlain and Peter Doering.
- 10:50 *Simulation of Shallow Estuarine Assemblages in Mesocosms: an Experimental Technique for Evaluating the Ecological Effects of Changes in Water Quality.* William A. Dunson and C.L. Rowe.
- 11:10 *Seasonal Abundance and Distribution of Fishes in Charlotte Harbor.* Michael E. Mitchell.
- 11:30 *Fishes of the Peace River.* Thomas Champeau.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Sunday, March 16

11:50 Lunch

- 1:00 *Living Resources of the Myakka River System.* Chris Becker.
- 1:20 *Regional Protection of Listed Wildlife Species and Other Wildlife Resources in the Greater Charlotte Harbor Ecosystem.* Kim Dryden and James W. Beever III.
- 1:40 *Abundance, Distribution, and Ranging Patterns of Bottlenose Dolphins (Tursiops truncatus), in Charlotte Harbor, Florida, 1990-1994.* Kim Bassos-Hull and Randy Wells.
- 2:00 *Florida Manatees (Trichechus manatus latirostris) in Charlotte Harbor.* Jessica Koelsch and Thomas Pitchford.

Technical Symposium Session 5. Charlotte Harbor Water Quality: Is Cultural Eutrophication A Significant Resource Management Issue?
Gerold Morrison, Chair

- 2:30 *Loadings of Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, and Total Suspended Solids to Charlotte Harbor.* A. Squires, J. Pribble, S. Janicki and H. Zarbock.
- 2:50 *Water Quality Conditions and Trends in Charlotte Harbor.* G. Morrison, R. Montgomery, A. Squires, R. Starks, E. DeHaven, and J. Ott.
- 3:10 *Hypoxia in Upper Charlotte Harbor.* M.G. Heyl, A. Janicki, and H. Zarbock.
- 3:30 *Sources of Nutrient Loading to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.* John C. Capece, Eric G. Flaig, John Cassani, and Keith Kibbey.
- 3:50 *Water Quality in the Caloosahatchee Estuary, San Carlos Bay, and Pine Island Sound.* P.H. Doering and R.H. Chamberlain.
- 4:10 *A Comparison of the Ecological Condition of Estuarine Resources in the Gulf of Mexico, Gulf Coast of Florida, and Charlotte Harbor.* J.K. Summers.
- 4:30 *Plenary Session II begins in the Tarpon Room*

POSTERS AND EXHIBITS
Saturday March 15 and Sunday March 16

PANTHER ROOM

Melissa Upton, Coordinator

- *A Mechanistic Water Quality Model for the Tidal Peace and Myakka Rivers.* J.R. Pribble, D.L. Wade, A.P. Squires, and A. J. Janicki.
- *Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves.* FL Department of Environmental Protection.
- *Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.*
- *“Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- *Fishes of the Charlotte Harbor.* Department of Environmental Protection.
- *Hourly Dissolved-Oxygen Measurements in Central Estero Bay, Lee County, Southwestern Florida.* H.J. Mitchell-Tapping, T.J. Lee and C.R. Williams.
- *Manatee Management.* Department of Environmental Protection.
- *Mote Marine Laboratory.*
- *Phosphate Feeds You.* C.F. Industries Inc., IMC-Agrico Co., Agri-Chemicals Corp. and Members of the Phosphate Council
- *Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program.*
- *Watershed Management.* Camp, Dresser, and McKee.