

Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN)



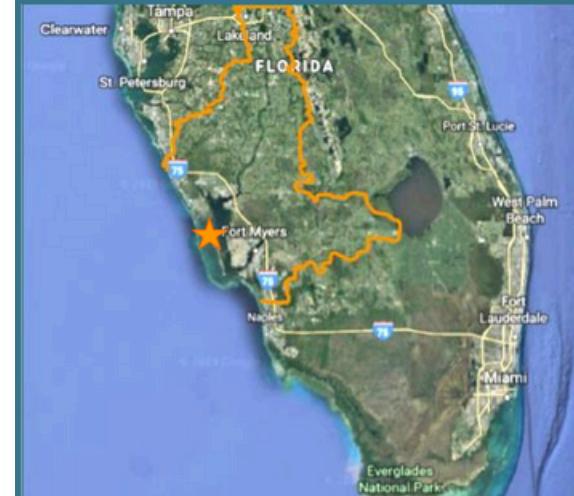
Summary

The Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN) is a regional partnership of agencies (managed under CHNEP) that collect monthly water quality data using consistent, technically-sound sampling design. The long-term random sampling of strategically located stations allows for the scientific assessment of water quality status and trends. The CCHMN was created to fill gaps in coastal water monitoring and initiate a unified sampling approach throughout the CHNEP area.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), CCHMN partners, and CHNEP have been conducting long-term water quality and quantity monitoring in the Upper and Lower Charlotte Harbor since 1993, leading to the initiation of the CCHMN in 2001. Through this program, field and laboratory partners collect and analyze water samples from 60 randomly selected field sites throughout 10 waterbodies each month, including Lemon Bay, Gasparilla Sound, Charlotte Harbor, Pine Island Sound, Matlacha Pass, San Carlos Bay, Estero Bay, Tidal Myakka, Peace, and Caloosahatchee Rivers. Fifteen water quality parameters are measured and analyzed using consistent field and laboratory methods.

CHNEP contributes to this project by assisting in the monitoring of lower Charlotte Harbor within the project area. CHNEP creates Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) documents for the CCHMN, conducts annual field audits and meetings, contracts and assists with field sampling, and compiles and analyzes collected water quality data through the CHNEP Water Atlas.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



Location: Charlotte and Lee Counties

Partners: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Charlotte County, Cape Coral Environmental Resources Division, and Lee County

Implemented: 2001-Present

Status: Ongoing

CHNEP Cost: \$13,000

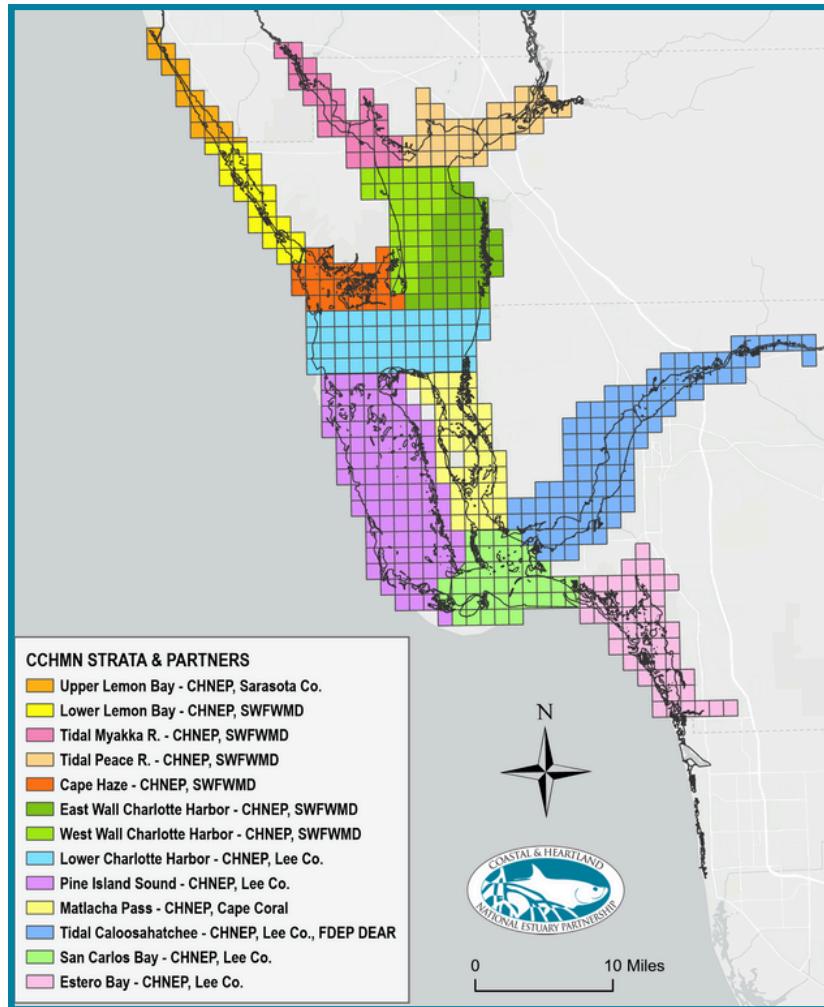
Funding Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

2025 CHNEP Plan Activity:

Water Quality Improvement 1.1: Assist with the consistent and efficient collection of technically-sound long-term water quality data throughout the CHNEP area.



COASTAL & HEARTLAND NATIONAL ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP



Anticipated Results and Benefits

Outreach Opportunity:

This project uses a random sampling technique to gather snapshots of water quality data in the project region. At each sampling location, field measurements and water samples are collected from the water column and are transported to certified labs for analyses. The results from this project are accessible to the general public through the CHNEP Water Atlas, allowing residents and visitors to view updated water quality status reports of nearby watersheds and view overall water quality trends.

Informed Decision Making:

The CCHMN data is entered into the state Watershed Information Network (WIN) database and is used to evaluate status and trends of state, regional, and local estuarine conditions. The data is used locally by CHNEP to develop future water quality targets and numeric nutrient data. Charlotte Harbor is also a Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) priority Water Body.

Improved Water Quality:

The continuation of consistent data collection throughout this project area will help to assess impairments, determine total maximum daily load limits (TMDL), and develop basin management action plans for the watershed. The gathering of water quality data results in valuable information that is used for guidance on the improvement of water quality based on records starting in 2000.

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Uniting Central and Southwest Florida to protect water and wildlife