CHNEP Water Atlas
Maintenance and Enhancements

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Location: CHNEP Area

Partners: University of South Florida Water Institute, University of Florida Center for Coastal Solutions (UF CCS), Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network, CHNEP Management Conference Members

Implemented: 2011-Present

Status: Ongoing

CHNEP Cost: $88,038

Funding Source: Environmental Protection Agency


Summary

The CHNEP Water Atlas is a web-based resource center providing both technical users and interested community members with a one-stop shop to find everything from water quality, flow, and habitat data to information about educational events and volunteer resources in Central and Southwest Florida. This site is a readily accessible way to find more information about local waterways with real-time and up to date data and water quality and flow trend information.

The site is a resource that Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) continues to provide for local scientists, resource managers, elected officials, and the public through various user-friendly maps and charts. CHNEP provides the funding necessary to maintain and annually update the site to ensure continued access to water quality data and analyses. Outlined below are a few of the newest additions and improvements featured on the CHNEP Water Atlas.

New Features and Enhancements

**Water Quality Trend Analysis**: This interactive mapping tool presents an analysis of water quality trends over a ten-year period, showing areas of improvement and decline.

**Water Quality Dashboard**: A map-based water quality dashboard presents recent water quality sampling data for waterbodies within the CHNEP area and water quality values exceeding certain environmental management thresholds.
**Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) Calculator:**
This analysis tool estimates whether nutrient levels in each waterbody are meeting or exceeding regulatory limits.

**Habitat Restoration Needs (HRN)/Habitat Resiliency to Climate Change (HRCC) Interactive Mapping Tool:**
CHNEP Water Atlas users can view maps of strategic conservation opportunities and management/restoration targets from the Habitat Restoration Needs plan for the CHNEP area. A climate change interactive map story is available to help users understand management implications based on the findings and plan for the future.

**Harmful Algae Bloom and Estuary Water Quality Map:**
The CHNEP Coastal Conditions Map shows recent water quality data for bays and inshore portions of the Gulf of Mexico, with a focus on health and safety. Water quality information related to red tide, blue-green algae, fecal bacteria, and wastewater spills is combined here for ease of access.

**Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee Release Levels Tracker:**
This page shows recent lake levels of and the corresponding rate of discharge of water into the Caloosahatchee River, as compared to Lake Management Bands defined in the LOSOM and optimum ranges for ecological health.

**Seagrass Maps:**
The CHNEP Water Atlas now features seagrass pages that include current and historical aerial maps as well as data collected in the field and analysis to help users understand the importance of seagrass monitoring as an indicator of water quality and recovery.

**Clam Habitat Suitability Map:**
This interactive map shows areas of suitable and unsuitable clam habitat to indicate which areas clam restoration would have the best chance of success.

Visit the CHNEP Water Atlas at [www.chnep.wateratlas.usf.edu](http://www.chnep.wateratlas.usf.edu)

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*Uniting Central and Southwest Florida to protect water and wildlife*