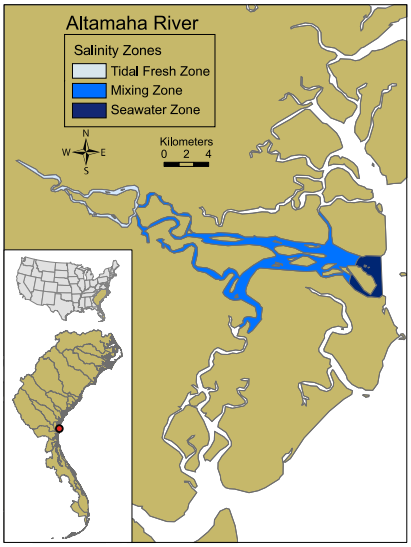
Altamaha River

SUMMARY

The Altamaha River exhibits a low eutrophic condition, due to some low dissolved oxygen events but no problematic blooms. Chicken production in the upper portion of the system and increased population may present future nutrient loading issues. Changes since the 1999 assessment cannot be determined.

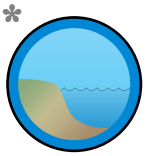


Influencing Factors

Moderate to high nitrogen input and moderate to high susceptibility (low ability for dilution and flushing of nutrients).

Eutrophic Conditions **

Level of expression of eutrophic conditions is minimal.



Future Outlook

Nutrient related symptoms observed in the estuary are likely to substantially worsen.

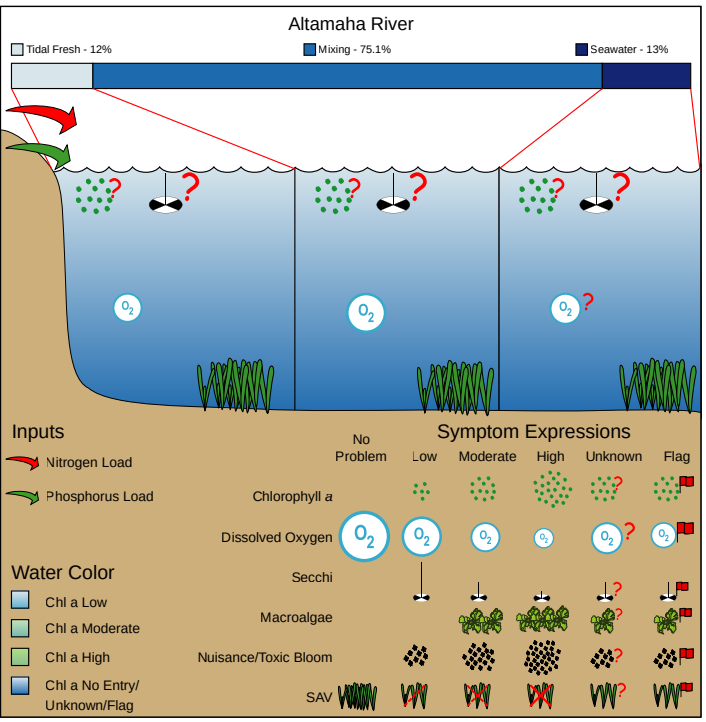
ASSETS Rating

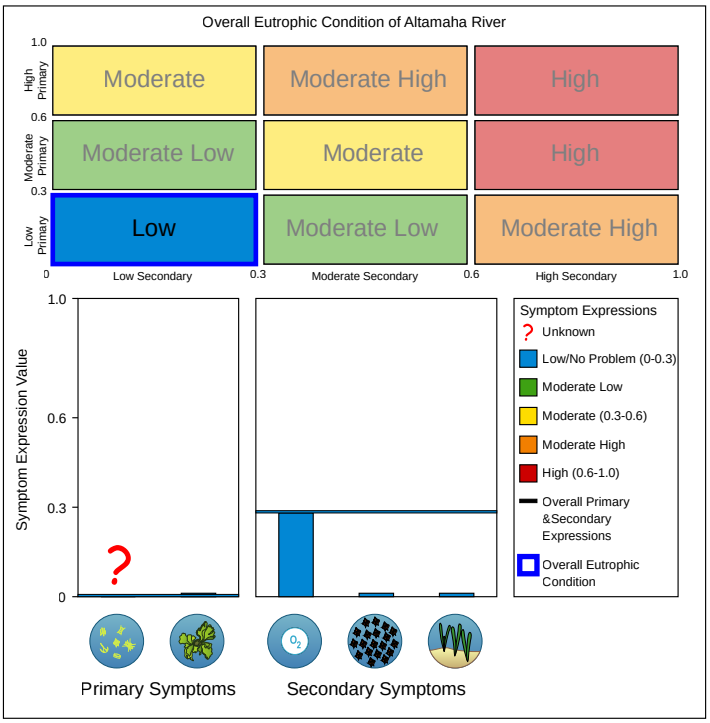
Assessment of Estuarine Trophic Status based on the three factors evaluated in NEEA.

Influence/eutro/future	Unknown	Low	Mod Low	Moderate	Mod High	High
ASSETS	Unknown	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad

Reliability and Confidence: ? Unknown; * Low; ** Moderate; *** High

EUTROPHIC CONDITION





WATERSHED AND ESTUARY CHARACTERISTICS

Estuary		Landuse / Population		Watershed Details / Input Loads	
Area (km^2)	39	Urban (km^2)	2,147 (5.8%)	Area (km^2)	36,962
Tidal fresh zone area (km^2)	5	Agriculture (km^2)	9,547 (26%)	Mean elevation (m)	133
Mixing zone area (km^2)	29	Forest (km^2)	23,123 (62.9%)	Max. elevation (m)	459
Saltwater zone area (km^2)	5	Wetland (km^2)	1,932 (5.3%)	Watershed: estuary ratio	947.7
Volume (1,000 x m^3)	76,440	Range (km^2)	5 (0%)	TSS (tonne y^{-1})	1,960
Depth (m)	1.96	Barren (km^2)	0 (0%)	DIN (kg y^{-1})	4,789,299
Tide Height (m)	1.90	Total (km^2)	36,755 (0%)	TP (kg y^{-1})	1,242,006
Residence Time (d)	0	Population	1,681,584	TSS/est. area (tonne km^{-2} y^{-1})	50
		Popn: est. area ratio	43,118	DIN/est. area (kg km^{-2} y^{-1})	122,803
				TP/est. area (kg km^{-2} y^{-1})	31,846