

Choctawhatchee Bay

SUMMARY

Though only chlorophyll-a and dissolved oxygen data were available for Choctawhatchee Bay, both symptom expressions are low, suggesting that eutrophication may not be a problem. Chlorophyll-a symptom expression has improved since 1999. However, population increases, stormwater runoff, and *Karenia brevis* blooms may contribute to extended fish kills.

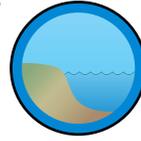
Influencing Factors

Nutrient load is unknown and influencing factors cannot be calculated.



Eutrophic Conditions *

Level of expression of eutrophic conditions is minimal.



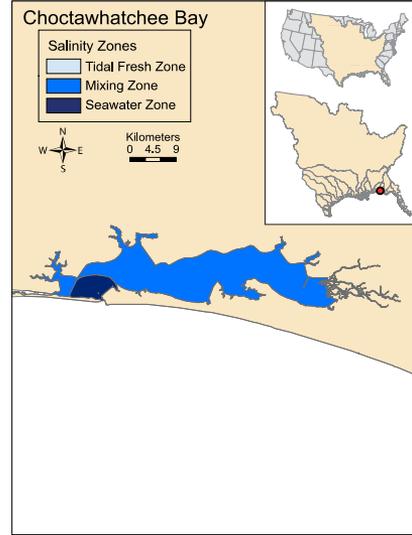
Future Outlook

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

Reliability and Confidence

ASSETS

Unknown

High

Good

Moderate

Poor

Bad

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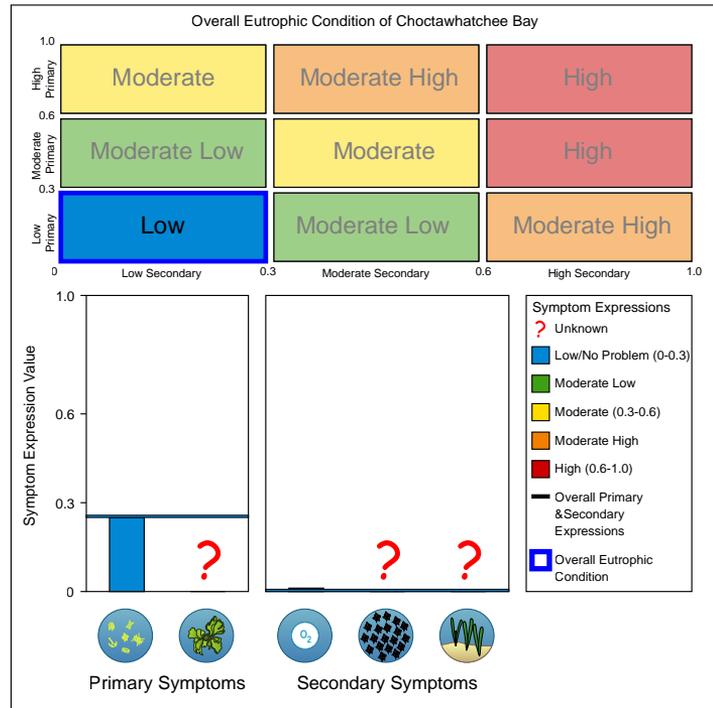
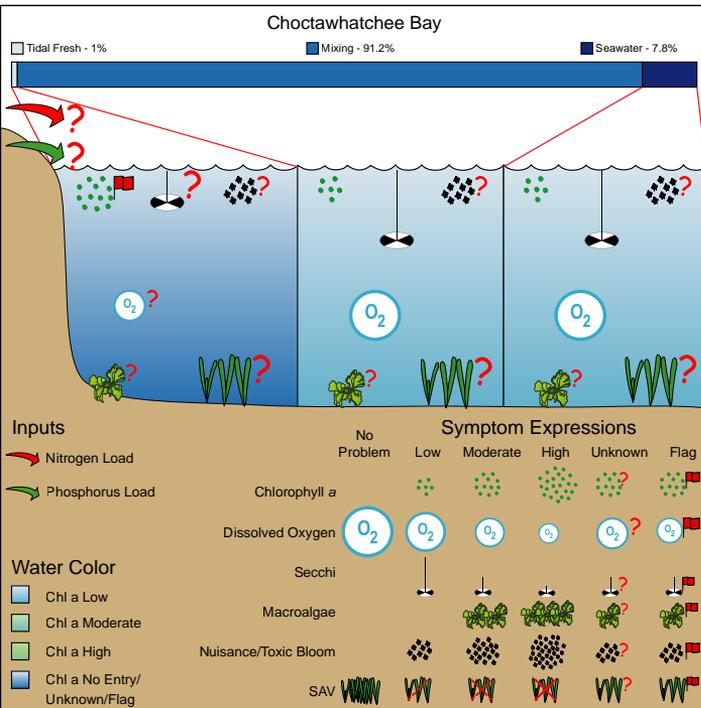
Unknown

Low

Moderate

High

EUTROPHIC CONDITION



WATERSHED AND ESTUARY CHARACTERISTICS

Estuary		Landuse / Population		Watershed Details / Input Loads	
Area (km ²)	340	Urban (km ²)	635 (4.7%)	Area (km ²)	13,496
Tidal fresh zone area (km ²)	3	Agriculture (km ²)	4,359 (32.5%)	Mean elevation (m)	78
Mixing zone area (km ²)	310	Forest (km ²)	7,664 (57.2%)	Max. elevation (m)	199
Saltwater zone area (km ²)	27	Wetland (km ²)	746 (5.6%)	Watershed: estuary ratio	39.7
Volume (1,000 x m ³)	1,292,000	Range (km ²)	3 (0%)	TSS (tonne y ⁻¹)	640,000
Depth (m)	3.80	Barren (km ²)	0 (0%)	DIN (kg y ⁻¹)	Unknown
Tide Height (m)	0.15	Total (km ²)	13,406 (0%)	DIP (kg y ⁻¹)	Unknown
Residence Time (d)	59	Population	324,467	TSS/est. area (tonne km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	1,882
		Popn: est. area ratio	954	DIN/est. area (kg km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	Unknown
				DIP/est. area (kg km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	Unknown