

Matagorda Bay

SUMMARY

Matagorda Bay is characterized by high-chlorophyll-a concentrations, an increase from the 1999 assessment rating of moderate. Dissolved oxygen levels are healthy, and symptom expression of nuisance/toxic blooms and SAV are low. Nutrient loads are expected to increase slightly in the future and conditions are expected to worsen.

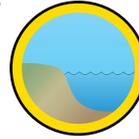
Influencing Factors

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



Eutrophic Conditions *

Primary symptoms high but problems with more serious secondary symptoms still not being expressed.



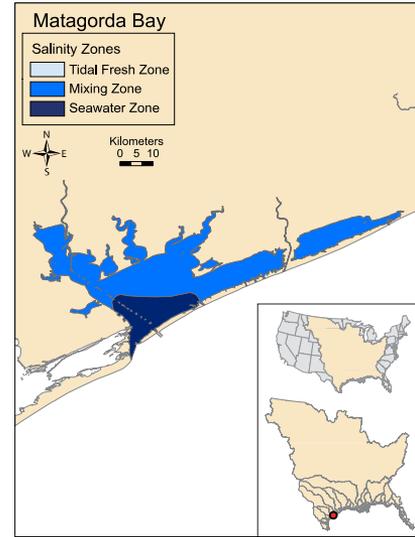
Future Outlook

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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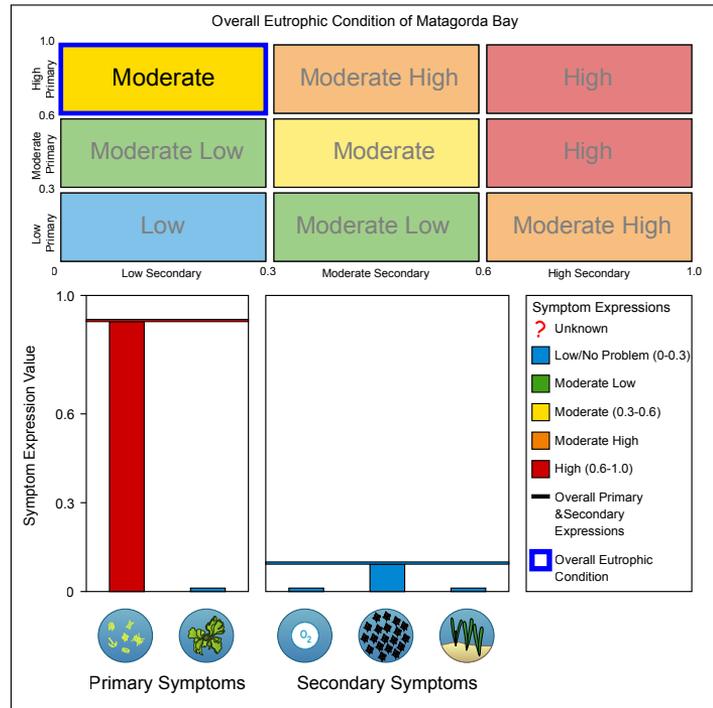
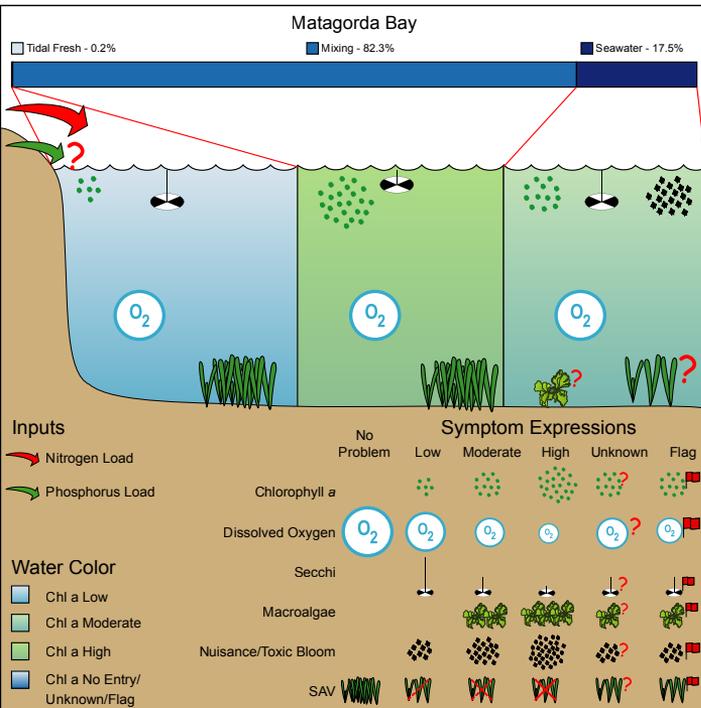
Unknown

Low

Moderate

High

EUTROPHIC CONDITION



WATERSHED AND ESTUARY CHARACTERISTICS

Estuary		Landuse / Population		Watershed Details / Input Loads	
Area (km ²)	1,115	Urban (km ²)	4,841 (4%)	Area (km ²)	121,762
Tidal fresh zone area (km ²)	2	Agriculture (km ²)	36,115 (29.8%)	Mean elevation (m)	619
Mixing zone area (km ²)	918	Forest (km ²)	21,261 (17.5%)	Max. elevation (m)	1,374
Saltwater zone area (km ²)	195	Wetland (km ²)	443 (0.4%)	Watershed: estuary ratio	109.2
Volume (1,000 x m ³)	1,572,150	Range (km ²)	58,575 (48.3%)	TSS (tonne y ⁻¹)	1,140,000
Depth (m)	1.41	Barren (km ²)	0 (0%)	TN (kg y ⁻¹)	44,970,000
Tide Height (m)	0.20	Total (km ²)	121,235 (0%)	DIP (kg y ⁻¹)	Unknown
Residence Time (d)	38	Population	1,432,800	TSS/est. area (tonne km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	1,022
		Popn: est. area ratio	1,285	TN/est. area (kg km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	40,332
				DIP/est. area (kg km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	Unknown