



Updates for our flagship programs and additional projects are as follows:

Flagship Programs

FLOOR

- Our shell recycling program is still on hold. We look forward to starting the program back up once restaurants are up and running again.
- Dr. Coldren surveyed a site at Mariner Bay to determine its suitability for oyster habitat restoration (living shoreline installation). He wrote up a plan to present to their board of directors and we are awaiting their decision.
- Staff have been working with the Development department on updating the visitor seagrass signs and the FLOOR brochure.

FOSTER

- Staff have been cleaning the tanks and wet lab culverts as that volunteers have been suspended at this time.
- Finishing touches have been taking place to the seagrass nursery and quarantine tanks. Final plumbing tasks are nearly complete and shell rock is scheduled to be put down in the seagrass nursery (visitor side) mid-May.
- Staff have been working with the Development department on updating the visitor seagrass signs and the FOSTER brochure.

Water Quality

- We suspended water quality monitoring at public locations in mid-March, but private testers are still hard at work. We have been receiving reports from 15 – 17 testers a week.
- Dr. Tiling is still publishing weekly water quality reports and working on updating protocols. She has also been busy driving around dropping off chemical refills and equipment to testers in the area.



Water quality is looking good!

St. Lucie River Estuary Water Quality Report

This information is provided by the Florida Oceanographic Society with support of the Marine Resources Council. It is collected by the Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network. For historical data go to our website at: <http://www.floridaocean.org>
For sample results related to bacteria levels go to: <http://martin.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/> and click on the Environmental Health link.

Posted: 04/23/2020

Overall Grade:	87%	B+	GOOD
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Zone and Location	Water Temp. (°F)	pH	Visibility (Secchi) Meters	Salinity (ppt)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Location Score	Grade
1. Winding North Fork			Data	Not	Available		
2. North Fork	81	8.0	0.9 Fair	16 Good	6.1 Good	87%	B Good
3. South Fork	80	8.1	0.6 Fair	16 Good	4.2 Fair	81%	B Good
4. Winding South Fork	81	8.0	0.8 Fair	7 Good	5.3 Good	87%	B Good
5. Wide Middle River	81	7.9	0.6 Fair	27 Good	5.2 Good	87%	B Good
6. Narrow Middle River	81	8.3	1.1 Good	30 Good	5.8 Good	97%	A Ideal
7. Manatee Pocket	79	7.9	1.0 Good	25 Fair	6.8 Good	87%	B Good
8. Inlet Area	78	8.1	0.8 Fair	34 Good	6.0 Good	87%	B Good
9. Indian River Lagoon	78	8.0	0.7 Fair	35 Good	5.3 Good	87%	B Good
10. Intracoastal Waterway South			Data	Not	Available		

Overall Grading				
A	B	C	D	F
100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	59-0
IDEAL	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	POOR	DESTRUCTIVE

Salinity (ppt) Grading				
Zones	Description	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1 & 4	Upper North & South Forks	2 - 8	1 - 2 or 8 - 15	< 1 or > 15
2 & 3	Lower North & South Forks	15 - 25	10 - 15 or > 25	< 10
5	Wide Middle River	> 20	15 - 20	< 15
6	Narrow Middle River	> 25	20 - 25	< 20
7	Manatee Pocket	> 27.5	20 - 27.5	< 20
8	Inlet	> 30	25 - 30	< 25
9	IRL & Intracoastal Waterway	> 30	25 - 30	< 25

Comment: The data above may indicate areas of concern in the St. Lucie Estuary. Citizens should call the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at 871-7662 or the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) 223-2600 to ask about the quality of a specific area and report observations of pollution.



Florida
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Research and Conservation
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Additional projects:

Impact 100 – Due to COVID-19, Impact 100 deviated from their traditional grant process and directed their funds to help the local non-profits in Martin County. While heartbreaking, we are happy that the funds will make it into the hands of our neighbors that desperately need it at this time. We are currently looking into other funding opportunities to help offset the cost of our growing living shorelines program.

Microplastics – Samantha Smith just finished up the last of the microplastic samples and sent the data off to UCF.

Research Lab Replacement – The new lab is now inventoried, and organization is coming along. We ran into a permitting problem for the carport installation, so we are now drawing up plans for an outdoor, shaded area. This outdoor space will be necessary for our outdoor research activities, projects, and outreach.

Summer Interns – Due to these uncertain times, we do not yet know what the summer holds. Therefore, applications have been collected, but interviews have not been held. In the interim, we are working on an internship manual and toward a more structured, streamlined program.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – Dr. Simpson put in a pre-proposal to NFWF with collaborators from the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, in St. Augustine Florida. They are proposing to restore clam populations, in conjunction with seagrass beds in the southern IRL.

Further details on all projects and programs are available by contacting Dr. Simpson.

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