

Estuary Exchange

September 2025



ST. ANDREW & ST. JOSEPH BAYS

ESTUARY PROGRAM

at FSU PANAMA CITY

Together for the Bays



September ESTUARY EXCHANGE

September is here, and with it comes a month full of ways to connect with our bays!

Our committees are back in session, offering a great way to get involved in guiding the program. September also means scallop season in Gulf County. A favorite activity that is best enjoyed while following harvesting guidelines. Don't miss this month's *Tides & Talks: Tides & Turtles*, where we'll learn from local organizations about sea turtle nesting, monitoring, and research.

Later this month, we're gearing up for National Estuaries Week (September 20–27), which brings exciting events like International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 20 and the much-anticipated [Race for the Bays 2025](#) on September 27th.

Stay tuned to discover how you can join the celebrations and make the most of this month's activities!

ST. ANDREW AND ST. JOSEPH BAYS ESTUARY PROGRAM

International Coastal Cleanup Day Events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER
20TH

LAKE POWELL COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

2025 LAKE POWELL CLEAN UP

8AM-12PM CDT

LAKE POWELL PARK

ST. ANDREW BAY WATCH

LOVE THE BAY CLEANUP DAY

8AM-12PM CDT

ST. ANDREWS MARINA

ST. JOSEPH BAY STATE BUFFER PRESERVE

**BUFFER PRESERVE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

8:00AM-10:00AM EDT

ST. JOSEPH BAY STATE BUFFER PRESERVE

PATRONIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**PATRONIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COASTAL
CLEANUP**

8:30AM-9:30AM CDT

PINEAPPLE WILLY'S

Saturday, September 20th is International Coastal Cleanup Day! This global event brings communities together to remove trash from beaches and waterways. Several cleanups are happening locally. Check the list and find one near you to join the cause! Do you know of any others? Tag us on [Facebook](#) and we'll spread the word!

Tides & Talks



Tides & Talks

WHERE CONVERSATION STARTS

AND STEWARDSHIP FLOWS



September Topic: Sea Turtle Conservation

When: Thursday, September 11th, 3:00PM CDT

Where: Destination Panama City, 101 West Beach Dr.

For more info go to:
sasjbep.org/events/tidesandtalks

This month's Tides & Talks will feature Panama City Beach Turtle Watch and Florida Coastal Conservancy, two dedicated organizations working to monitor and protect nesting sea turtles in the St. Andrew Bay Watershed. Join us to learn about their efforts, the challenges sea turtles face, and how you can help support their missions.

When: September 11th, 3-4 pm CDT

Where: Destination Panama City

[Facebook Event](#)

[Zoom](#)

[Youtube](#)

Environmental Ad Campaign Competition



TEEN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Third Annual ENVIRONMENTAL AD CAMPAIGN COMPETITION



ST. ANDREW & ST. JOSEPH BAYS
BAY SPILL PREVENTION
& RESPONSE TEAM

Raise awareness of our
bays with art!

REQUIREMENTS:

- Open to all middle and high school students in Bay and Gulf County.
- Entries judged in junior and senior divisions.
- Works must include text - less than 50 words
- For more details regarding requirements, go to: <https://sasibep.org/tocadcampaign>

Learn more and
submit your work



SUBMISSIONS DUE 9/28

For questions, contact: estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu

PRIZES:

- Winners will receive an **estuary program swag bag** and certificate!
- Top 3 senior division winners will also receive
- scholarships to **FSU Panama City!**

1st place - \$750, 2nd place - \$500, 3rd place - \$250

TOPIC CHOICES:

- Water Quality
- Community Engagement
- Habitat Loss
- Seagrass Degradation
- Species Conservation
- Marine Debris



It's time for teens to get creative for a cause! The Estuary Program's Teen Outreach Committee is hosting its Environmental Ad Campaign Competition, which gives middle and high school students the opportunity to showcase their talents while helping the Estuary Program raise awareness about issues we are focused on addressing. All entries will be displayed at Public Eye SOAR this November, and high school winners will earn scholarships to FSU Panama City, along with Estuary Program prizes. Submissions are open now through September 28, 2025.

Learn more about requirements and submit your work at the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Race for the Bays: Registration is now open!



We're just a few weeks away from our second annual Race for the Bays! Join us in celebrating National Estuaries Week with a walk or run through the scenic wetlands of Panama City Beach Conservation Park. Proceeds from the Race will go to benefit the Estuary Program and help us fund projects to protect and restore our bays. Sign up to run before the price increases on

September 20th!

[Register to Run](#)

[Sign up to Volunteer](#)

Science Corner



Pinfish Media

National Estuaries Week: What is it, anyway?

National Estuaries Week celebrates the nation's estuaries and all the benefits they provide! This year, National Estuaries Week falls from September 20th through the 27th. This week started as just a single day back in 1988 and has since grown into a week of celebration. To celebrate our estuaries during this time, many organizations across the nation host estuarine restoration and cleanup efforts. Here in our watershed, you can help celebrate and #wadein by joining a clean-up event or joining our Race for the Bays event!

Learn more about National Estuaries Week here:

<https://estuaries.org/get-involved/national-estuaries-week/>

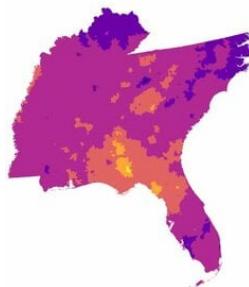
Recent Relevant Research

Click the images to view articles.

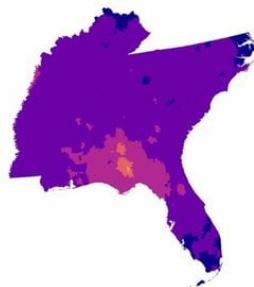


The Relationship Between Abiotic Conditions, Seagrass Genetic Variation, and Production Reveals Population Differentiation is Predicted by Temperature Range.

A. Wildland Fire



B. Prescribed Fire



Impacts of climate change on land management and wildland fire smoke in the Southeastern United States.



Ask A Scientist!

Have a question about our bays, local wildlife, or want to know more about the estuary program? We've got answers! Submit your questions, and our scientists will answer them in next month's newsletter! Let's explore the science of our watershed together!

[Ask a Scientist](#)

Water Safety

Summer is here! Please remember to exercise water safety when visiting the beach. Click the images below to view resources that keep you safe and updated.



Vibrio Fact Sheet



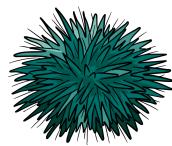
Red Tide Sampling



Beach Flags



Rip Current Safety



Sea Urchin Survey

Help us monitor the sea urchin population and support the recovery of seagrass in both St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays by reporting sea urchin sightings.

[Click here to report your sightings.](#)

Thank you for your participation!

Community Events

Click the images to explore upcoming events throughout the St. Andrew Bay Watershed!

[Events in Panama City](#)

[Events in Panama City Beach](#)



Events in South Walton County



Events in Gulf County



Events in Mexico Beach



Gulf County Chamber of Commerce - Events

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting

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October 22nd, 2025

1:00pm-3:00pm CST; Room A301 Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/93469785995>

Join Zoom

Management Council Meeting

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October 10th, 2025

10am-12pm CST; Room A301, Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building Join Via Zoom: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/91728868009> Meeting ID: [917 2886 8009](#)

Join Zoom

Science and Technical Committee Meeting

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October 16th, 2025

1:00 - 2:00 PM CDT; Virtual Only

[Join Zoom](#)

Stormwater Working Group

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November 12th, 2025

10am-11am CDT; Virtual only. Join on Teams: o Meeting ID: [269 531 401 617](#) o Passcode: aq2fz3Ni

Teen Outreach Committee Meeting

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September 20th, 2025

International Coastal Cleanup participation. Join the TOC to stay up to date!

[Join the TOC](#)

Tides and Talks

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September 11th, 2025

The Florida Coastal Conservancy and Panama City Beach Turtle Watch will be presenting on sea turtle nesting and conservation.

[Learn More](#)

To access all past meeting materials, notes, and presentations, visit our Library of Resources page on our website. Link directly by clicking below!

[Library of Resources](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

International Coastal Cleanup Day Opportunities



The SASJ Bays Volunteer Network connects organizations with passionate members of the community that are interested getting involved. Join the email list to receive updates on upcoming volunteer opportunities from across the partners across the watershed and share organized events with others!

[Join the Email List](HTTP://LISTS.FSU.EDU/MAILMAN/LISTINFO/VOLUNTEER-SASJBEP)

Job Opportunities

FSU Coastal Marine Lab

- [Restoration Coordinator](#)

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

- [Ecology Technician](#)

- [Marine Science Instructor](#)

Contact us at estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu



St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary
Program

4750 Collegiate Drive
Panama City, FL 32405

estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu

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