

Estuary Exchange

June 2025



**ST. ANDREW & ST. JOSEPH BAYS
ESTUARY PROGRAM
at FSU PANAMA CITY**

Together for the Bays

JUNE 2025



St. Andrews State Park, Darryl Boudreau

Welcome to the June edition of the *Estuary Exchange*! As the weather heats up, so do opportunities to explore, learn, and connect with our local waterways. This month, we're kicking off summer with fresh updates, opportunities, and more.

Safeguarding Our Bays Update



We recently had the chance to chat with WMBB about the arrival of our new LittaTraps—part of our Safeguarding Our Bays marine debris prevention grant. These storm drain inserts are being installed in locations selected by our partnering cities in Parker, Springfield, Lynn Haven, and Panama City. Designed to capture litter and debris before it enters the infrastructure and ultimately our waterways, LittaTraps will help us protect the health of our bays and keep debris from getting clogged, exacerbating flooding issues. We will be gathering valuable data to support long-term solutions. Learn more and check out the story [here](#).



License Free Fishing Days

Go Fishing for Free This June!

Take advantage of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's license-free fishing days—no fishing license required! Head out for saltwater fishing on June 7–8 or freshwater fishing on June 14–15.

Just remember to follow all harvest limits and regulations—and enjoy the catch!

<https://myfwc.com/license/recreational/do-i-need-one/free-fishing/>

[Learn More](#)

Race for the Bays: Registration is now open!



Join the Estuary Program in celebrating National Estuaries Week! Sign up to walk or run through Panama City Beach Conservation Park on September 27th, 2025 and support the Estuary Program in our efforts to continue to improve our natural resources.

[Register to Run](#)

[Sponsor the Event](#)

Science Corner



What is the National Coastal Condition Assessment – NCCA

The Estuary Program is gearing up to participate in the National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) led by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency this month!

The NCCA is a survey of the condition of marine and Great Lake resources across the U.S that is conducted every 5 years. We are helping increase the number of sampling stations in St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays which will help us fill some data gaps and provide a more robust assessment of condition. We'll be sampling water quality, sediment quality, benthic community condition, and fish tissue contaminants to understand the ecological and recreational condition of our waters. Stay tuned for updates on sampling and maybe we'll see you out on the water in June!

[Learn more about the NCCA:](#)

<https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/what-national-coastal-condition-assessment>

Recent Relevant Research

Click the images to view articles.



Denning black bear response to anthropogenic disturbance and implications for cub survival in Florida

The creation and utility of a mobile application as a reporting tool in the charter for-hire fishery



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

Question: "How do scientists track where marine debris comes from?"

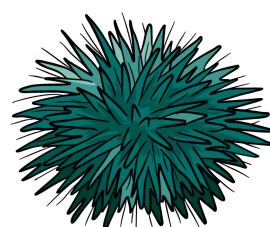
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Answer:

One way scientists can track where marine debris comes from is to identify potential sources and conduct sampling along transects to determine if there is a trend in debris associated with that potential source. Ridall et al., looked at microplastics near wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) and found that locations closest to the WWTP had mostly polypropylene fragments from items like food containers, bottles, and packaging, and then as they moved further away from the source, they found different types of microplastics.

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Ridall A, Farrar E, Dansby M, Ingels J. Influence of wastewater treatment plants and water input sources on size, shape, and polymer distributions of microplastics in St. Andrew Bay, Florida, USA. *Mar Pollut Bull.* 2023 Feb;187:114552. doi: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2022.114552. Epub 2023 Jan 7. PMID: 36621301.



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!

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.



Florida Healthy Beaches Program



Red Tide Sampling



Beach Flags



Rip Current Safety

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



June 16th, 2025

Floodplain Restoration in Upper Tributaries of Martin Lake Public Outreach Workshop

The City of Springfield has been working with the St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary Program to identify projects that will help alleviate flooding and increase water quality. One major project identified focuses on restoring the floodplain by enhancing stream and wetland habitat in the upper tributaries of Martin Lake. At the workshop, BDI and Coastal hydrology will present the 30% draft designs for public input. Join us to learn more and provide your feedback!

When: June 16th 10am-2pm CDT

Where: 408 School Ave. Panama City, FL

[Learn More](#)

July 19th, 2025

Gulf County Coastal Community Association Annual Meeting

Join the South Gulf County Coastal Community Association Annual Meeting to hear from presenters on pressing topics as well as interact with local environmental groups during table talks!

When: July 19th, 2025 from 10am - 12pm EDT

Where: Centennial Building, 300 Allen Memorial Way

Upcoming Meetings

Policy Board Meeting

June 25th, 2025

1:00pm-3:00pm CST; Room A301 Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/99473243671> o Meeting ID: **994 7324 3671** o Passcode: 342269

[Join Zoom](#)

Management Council Meeting

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June 6th, 2025

10Am-12pm CST; Room A301, Deans Conference Room; FSU PC Holley Building Join Via Zoom: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/99362305989> Meeting ID: 993 6230 5989

Join Zoom

Science and Technical Committee Meeting

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August 21st, 2025

1:00 - 2:30 PM CDT; FSU PC Administrative Building Conference Room 108; Zoom Meeting ID: 935 2145 7426

Join Zoom

Stormwater Working Group

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August 13th, 2025

10am-11am CDT; Virtual only. Join on Teams: o Meeting ID: 268 804 956 253 o Passcode: g4zt9qd7

Teen Outreach Committee Meeting

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Meeting Date TBD

Our first meeting date for the 2025-2026 school year is to be determined.

Join the TOC

Tides and Talks

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August 14th, 2025

Tides and Talks is taking a break for the summer and will be back in August!

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

Florida State University Panama City Campus Map

Volunteer Opportunities

[Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance - Volunteers Needed for Grasses in Classes!](#)

[Jetties Cleanup at St. Andrews State Park](#)



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

Job Opportunities

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

- [Education and Outreach Specialist](#)
- [Ecology Technician](#)

Emerald and Forgotten Coast Adventures

- [Marine Science Camp Instructor](#)

FWC

- [OPS Northwest CWA Biological Scientist I](#)

Sea Grant

- [County Extension Director and Extension Agent II - IV](#)

Contact us at estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu



St. Andrew and St. Joseph Bays Estuary

estuaryprogram@pc.fsu.edu

Program

4750 Collegiate Drive

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