

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Statewide data is available by request. There is no charge for this service.

For further information, please visit our website, or call us at **(850)245-8505**.

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm>

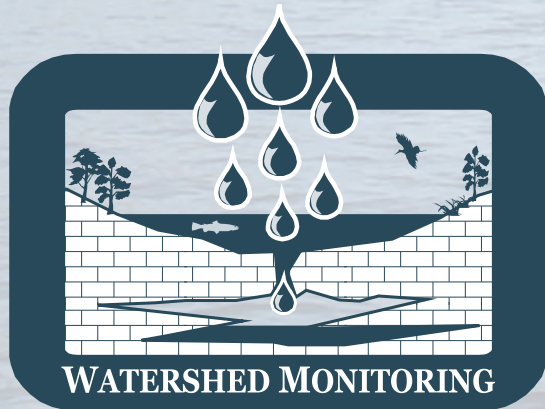


Division of Water Resource Management

***We are grateful to the citizens, county and city governments, and regulated facilities that provide us access to sample for regional and statewide water quality.**

STATUS MONITORING NETWORK

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Watershed Monitoring & Data Management
2600 Blair Stone Road
Mail Station 3525
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400



Background

Good science is the foundation of Florida's water resource management program. Monitoring is one cornerstone of this foundation. The Division of Water Resource Management's Watershed Management Program implements the Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) comprehensive water resource monitoring strategy. The Watershed Management Program is responsible for fostering better stewardship of Florida's ground and surface water resources.

Working in watershed-based partnerships across the state, the Watershed Management Program coordinates many activities, including monitoring programs, to assess the health of Florida's surface and ground water resources, develop watershed-based aquatic resource goals and pollutant loading limits, and develop and implement basin management action plans to protect and restore water resources. All of these activities are undertaken using a five year rotating basin approach. This approach assures that the state's waters and watershed plans are evaluated and updated every five years.

The Status Network is an integral component of FDEP's water quality monitoring program. The purpose of the Status Monitoring Network is to characterize the environmental condition of Florida's fresh water resources, and is designed to address questions at different scales: the entire state; and Florida's watersheds/basins. It is not designed to monitor site-specific conditions as part of any regulatory program.



SJRWMD staff sample a waterbody.

The Status Network water quality monitoring program adopted the rotating basin design which divides the state into 29 basins (see map). FDEP, Water Management Districts, and county governments sample one or more basins per year. The entire state will be sampled over five-year periods in any individual "cycle" (2004-08, 2009-13, etc.). Within each basin, random samples are collected from six resource types.

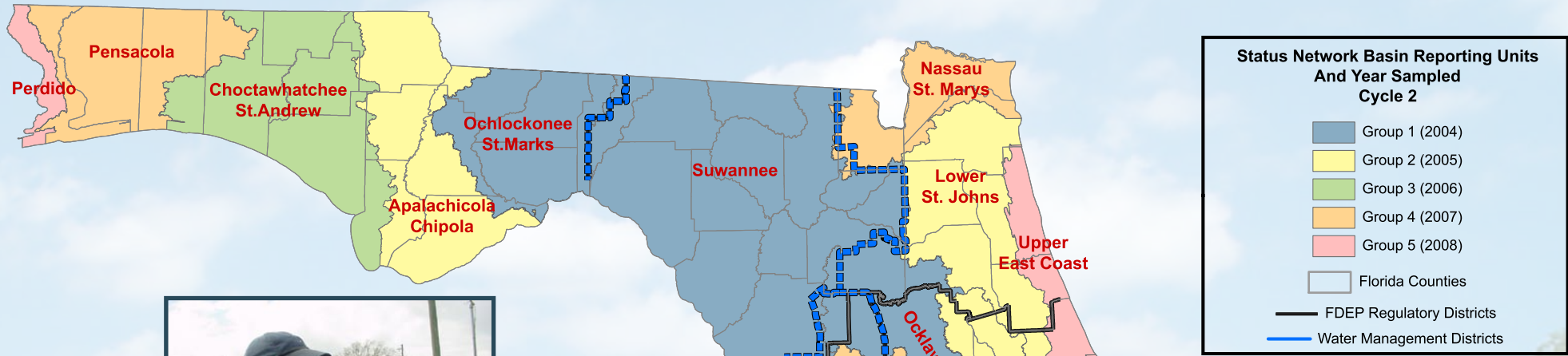


FDEP staff collecting groundwater samples.

“FDEP has made a commitment to monitor fresh water resources, including both surface and ground water.”

Table 1. Indicator Analytes

	<u>Lakes (Small and Large)</u>	<u>Rivers/Streams</u>	<u>Ground Water</u>
<u>Water Clarity</u>	X	X	X
<u>Field Measurements (O₂, temp)</u>	X	X	X
<u>Bacteria</u>	X	X	X
<u>Metals</u>			X
<u>Nutrients</u>	X	X	X
<u>Ecological Integrity</u>	X	X	



Regional local governmental partners in water quality monitoring.

These resource types are: 1) unconfined aquifers, 2) confined aquifers, 3) small lakes, 4) large lakes, 5) small streams, and 6) large rivers. In any given year, over 1100 samples statewide (including quality assurance samples) are collected and analyzed. Resource-specific indicator analytes are used to characterize the health of each resource based on its designated use. These indicators include chemical, biological, and physical measurements (see Table 1).

The environmental data gathered each year are analyzed by the Watershed Monitoring Program staff and used to estimate the current condition of surface and ground waters. Data from the Status Network are used as a part of Florida's biennial Water Quality Assessment 305(b) Report to the USEPA, which is used to inform Congress and citizens about state and national water quality conditions. FDEP

sends individual site analysis reports to property owners upon request (allow several months for data analysis and quality review). Basin-wide results are posted on FDEP's Water Resource Management web page. <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm>.

Florida's monitoring entities, citizens, and businesses are FDEP's partners in providing scientific data necessary to assess and manage our water resources. Our partners make the annual water quality evaluations possible by providing access to lakes, streams, rivers and wells. Together we can ensure cleaner water for generations to come.

