



Southwest FL Oyster Working Group Subcommittee
Thursday May 7, 2014 1 - 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
SWFRPC, 1926 Victoria Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901

To Join the Meeting Remotely:

- **View via PC & Internet:** Click on this link <https://suncom.webex.com/suncom/j.php?J=649590788> & then click on “Join” & follow the instructions on your screen. No password is required.
- **Hear via Phone:** Call In to. 1 (888) 670-3525 & Enter Attendee Access Passcode: 441 775 3282# when prompted.

Goal: Implement the CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan by identifying priority restoration sites and objectives that will be integrated into a comprehensive permit application which will be used to initiate regulatory discussions in anticipation of receiving restoration funding support.

Expected Outcomes:

- List & map of priority oyster habitat restoration sites for the next 5 years totaling approximately 20 acres and distributed throughout the CHNEP.
- List of potential objectives for each priority oyster habitat restoration site, considering a diversity of sites & multiple restoration objectives.
- List of potential methodologies, sizes, partners & costs for each priority oyster habitat restoration site.

Background Materials:

- CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan (available on CHNEP FTP site – directions below)
- CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Suitability Model Results Map (attached)

Homework Prior to Meeting:

- Review CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan & Suitability Model Results Map.
- Think about potential locations of priority oyster habitat restoration sites within the CHNEP.
- Think about potential objectives, methodologies, sizes & partners for priority oyster habitat restoration sites.

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introductions – Judy Ott, CHNEP
 - Meeting Purpose & Goals – Anne Birch, TNC
 - CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Suitability Map – Jaime Boswell, Jaime Boswell LLC
 - Activity: Participants Map Priority Oyster Habitat Restoration Sites – Judy Ott, CHNEP
 - Identify Gaps in Geographical Distribution of Priority Oyster Habitat Restoration Sites – Anne Birch, TNC
 - Discuss Diversity in Oyster Habitat Restoration Objectives – Anne Birch, TNC
 - Identify Potential Objectives, Methodologies, Sizes, Partners & Costs for Priority Oyster Habitat Restoration Sites – Anne Birch, TNC
 - Next Steps – Judy Ott, CHNEP
- Follow-up subcommittee meeting to prioritize projects & develop project details – early July
Full SW FL Oyster Working Group meeting to present results & seek partners – early August

Directions to CHNEP FTP Site:

- Address: <ftp://ftp.swfrpc.org>
- User Name: chnep
- Password: chnepaccess
- Folder: CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan Final 2012 12 17

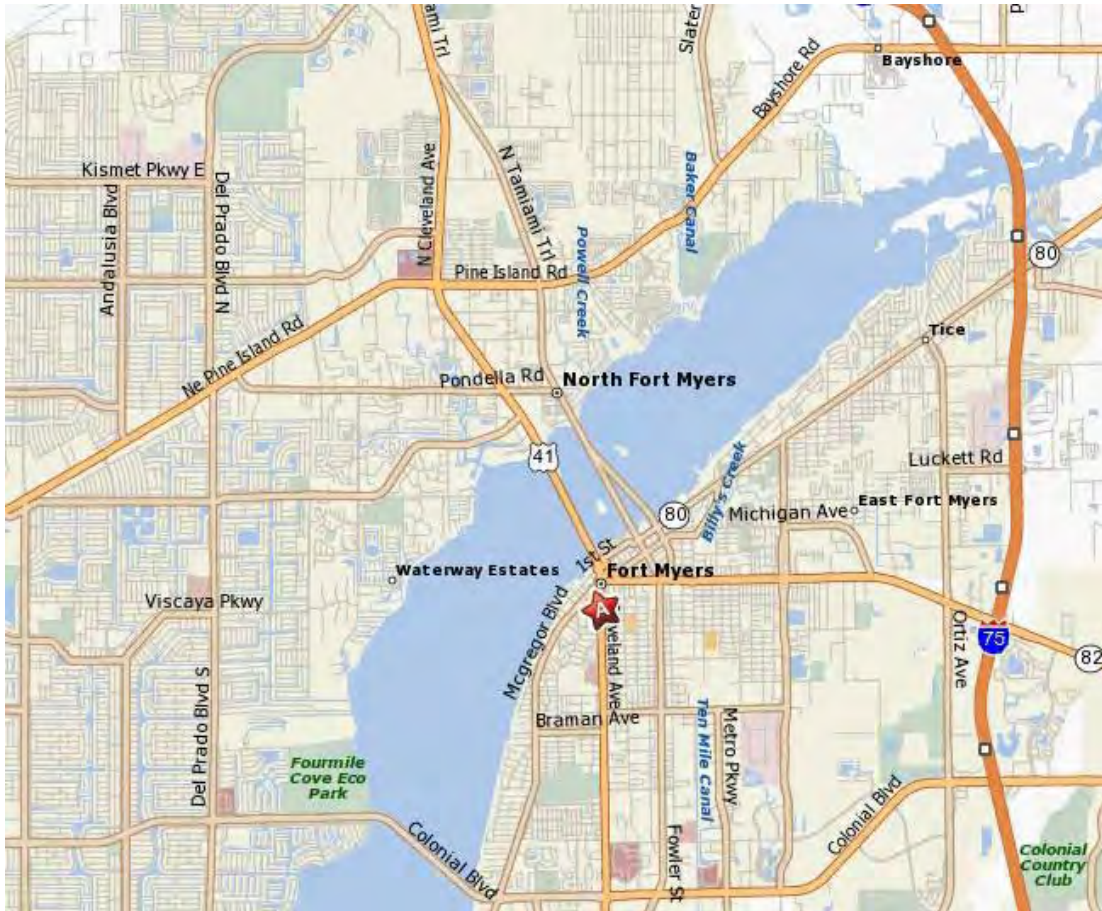
THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Two or more members of the Everglades West and Caloosahatchee Basin Working Groups, Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee, Peace River Basin Management Working Group, or Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council may be in attendance, and may discuss matters that could come before the respective body.



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DIRECTIONS



Simplified Directions: For more detailed directions, please consult a mapping program.

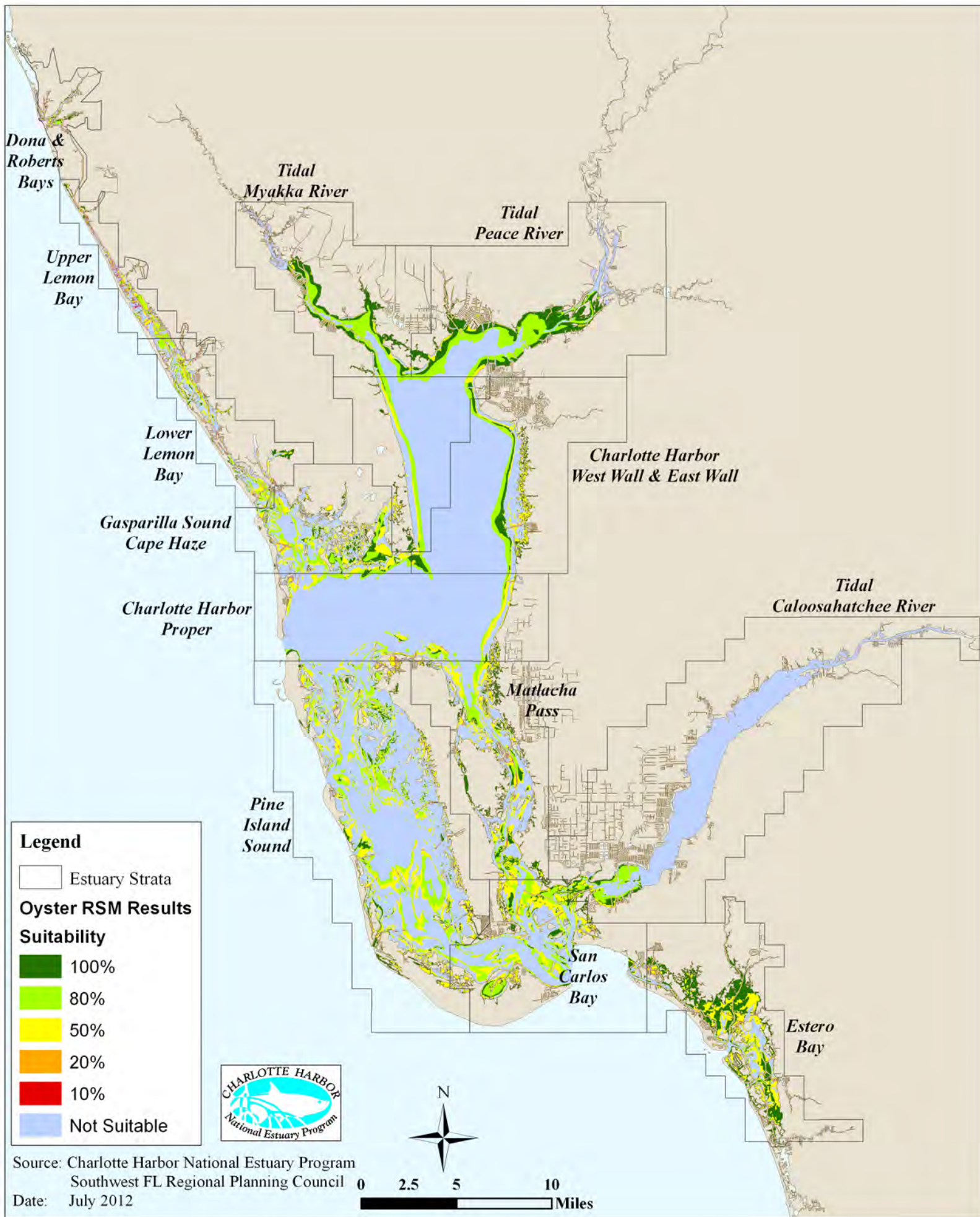
From the North:

1. Follow I 75 south to Exit #143/SR 78/Bayshore Rd. & turn right (west) on SR 78/Bayshore Rd.
2. Follow SR 78/Bayshore Rd. west 6.3 miles to US 41/Cleveland Ave & turn left (south) on US 41/Cleveland Ave.
3. Follow US 41/Cleveland Ave. south 3.5 miles, across the Caloosahatchee River to Victoria Ave. (2nd light south of bridge).
4. Turn right (west) on Victoria Ave. and watch for the SWFRPC building immediately on your left at 1926 Victoria Ave. Parking is in the rear.

From the South:

1. Follow I 75 north to Exit #136/Colonial Blvd. & turn left (west) onto Colonial Blvd.
2. Follow Colonial Blvd. west 4.5 miles to US 41/Cleveland Ave. & turn right (north) on Cleveland Ave.
3. Follow US 41/Cleveland Ave. north 2.8 miles to Victoria Ave (with a light).
4. Turn left (west) onto Victoria Ave. & watch for the SWFRPC building on your left at 1926 Victoria Ave. Parking is in the rear.

CHNEP Oyster Restoration Suitability Model Results





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CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Plan Refreshers – Dec. 2012

Purpose of Plan: Provide technically sound, consensus-based approach for identifying oyster habitat restoration goals, methods & partnerships within the CHNEP.

Restoration Suitability Model: Developed to guide future restoration decisions within CHNEP & progress towards restoration goals. RSM uses best-available GIS data to map the locations of suitable restoration areas on a scale of 0-100% suitability. RSM results indicate there are over 40,000 acres of highly suitable oyster restoration acres within CHNEP. Prior to restoration, site-specific field evaluations should be conducted to evaluate site suitability & select best restoration method for site.

CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Long Term Goal: Enhance & restore self-sustaining oyster habitat & related ecosystem services throughout CHNEP estuaries, tidal rivers & tidal creeks. Estimates provide that the CHNEP should have 1,000-6,000 acres of oyster habitat under ideal conditions.

CHNEP Oyster Habitat Restoration Short Term Actions:

- Map oyster habitats by type throughout the CHNEP by 2020.
- Design, implement & monitor pilot oyster restoration projects in 50% (7) of the CHNEP estuary segments by 2020.
- Increase public awareness of the ecosystem value of native oyster habitats by including community stewardship components in each oyster restoration project.
- Assist partners in seeking state, federal & organizational funding opportunities to support oyster habitat restoration projects.

In recognizing that there are many unknowns about oyster habitat restoration in southwest Florida, this plan is intended to be adaptive, incorporating lessons learned into future updates; the next update is planned to be completed no later than 2020.

Notes from Previous Discussions about CHNEP Priority Restoration Sites – June 2012

Estero Bay: Hell Peckney Bay, Hurricane Bay, Estero River & Spring Creek.

- High quality potential oyster restoration habitat near Estero River & Spring Creek.
- Good quality potential oyster restoration habitat in Hell Peckney & Hurricane Bays.
- Low potential oyster restoration habitat in Imperial River, Mullock Creek & Hendry Creeks because of high flows & unstable salinities.

Caloosahatchee River: River mouth, north side of river near Cattle Dock Point.

- Currently, low potential oyster restoration habitat throughout most of the river upstream from Cattle Dock point due to high flows & unstable salinities.
- Future, better potential oyster restoration habitat might be possible between Midpoint & Cape Coral bridges if CERP were implemented & flows & salinities stabilized.

Pine Island Sound: Throughout estuary near existing reefs.

- Add substrate near existing reefs near York Island (NW), MacKeever Keys, Regla Island, Tarpon Bay (shallow cut), Buck Key (NE), Demere Key (S), Captiva Rocks, Pineland (fish houses) & between Cayo Costa & Cabbage Key.

Matlacha Pass: North of power lines, outside navigation channel in adjacent shallow areas.

- Low quality potential oyster restoration habitat south of the power lines, near Caloosahatchee River due to unstable salinities.
- Avoid Pine Island Creek due to presence of American Crocodile.

Gasparilla Sound/Lower Charlotte Harbor: Bokeelia, Cape Haze & Cayo Pelau.

- Add substrate near sandbars north of Bokeelia, south of Cape Haze & west of Cayo Pelau.
- Avoid Turtle Bay due to manatee natality area.

Upper Charlotte Harbor: Pirate Harbor.

- Add substrate to fringing reefs north of Pirate Harbor.
- CCA is a citizen's group interested in oyster restoration in this area

Myakka River: Tippecanoe Bay.

- High quality oyster habitat exists throughout Myakka River but could add substrate reefs in Tippecanoe Bay west of SR776 bridge.

Peace River: Punta Gorda Isles, Alligator Bay & Hog Island.

- High quality potential oyster restoration habitat northwest of Punta Gorda Isles, north of Hog Island, in Alligator Bay & up river to I-75 bridge.

Lemon Bay: All tributaries.

- Coral Creek restoration activities should benefit oyster habitat.

Dona & Roberts Bays: East of US41.

- Oysters are most abundant east of US41 & end at intersection with Fox Creek.
- Blackburn Canal hydrology may affect success.