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

For further information, please visit our website or call us at (850) 245-8433.

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/

We are grateful to the citizens, and public and private entities that provide us access to sample for regional and statewide water quality.

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Watershed Monitoring Section
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Background

Good science is the foundation of Florida’s environmental assessment and restoration programs, and water quality monitoring serves as an important cornerstone. Since 1999, the Watershed Monitoring Section at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has partnered with state agencies, counties, and water management districts to assess Florida’s water resources.

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration

Water Quality Status Monitoring Network

FDEP’s Watershed Monitoring Section (WMS) has developed two statewide water sampling networks to monitor Florida’s surface and ground water. Each network is designed to monitor ambient or background water quality. The Status Monitoring Network provides a snapshot of current water conditions in the state; the Trend Monitoring Network measures long-term patterns in water quality. The latter is described in the brochure, “Water Quality Trend Monitoring Network”. Information collected through both networks is used to develop watershed-based aquatic resource goals to protect and restore our water resources.

Status Monitoring Network

The objective of the Status Monitoring Network is to broadly characterize Florida’s aquatic resources with a known statistical confidence. Because it is fiscally and logistically impossible to sample every waterbody and well in Florida each year, a random-site monitoring design is a cost-effective way to accomplish this goal. In this type of design, water sampling sites are chosen in a random and unbiased manner from the state’s six reporting units, or zones (see map). In each zone, samples are collected from several water resource types: rivers, streams, large lakes, small lakes, unconfined ground water aquifers, and confined ground water aquifers. In
Results and Reporting

FDEP’s Watershed Monitoring Section analyzes the environmental data collected each year to infer current surface and ground water conditions. Data from the Status Network are included in Florida’s biennial Integrated Water Quality 305(b)/303(d) Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which informs Congress and the public about state and national water quality conditions. The data are also summarized and presented in annual reports on the condition of Florida waters. Increasingly, Status Network data are used by other FDEP programs to develop water quality standards and monitoring criteria.

Results from previous years’ monitoring are posted on the WMS web page: www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring

Over 700 water samples (including quality assurance samples) are collected statewide each year. The data generated from these samples are used in statistical models to infer statewide and regional water quality condition. The Network addresses statewide and regional questions; it is not designed to evaluate specific waterbodies or wells. FDEP uses several indicators to characterize the health of each resource based on its designated use. These indicators include chemical, biological, and physical measurements (see table).

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 us access to lakes, rivers, streams, canals and wells. Together we can ensure cleaner water for generations to come.