FACT SHEET: Lower St. Johns River Basin Tributaries Basin Management Action Plan II Adopted by the DEP

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced adoption of the Lower St Johns River Basin Tributaries Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) II. This action plan, developed in partnership with the City of Jacksonville; City of Jacksonville Beach; City of Atlantic Beach, City of Neptune Beach, Naval Station Mayport; JEA; the Duval County Health Department; and the Florida Department of Transportation, identifies projects and management actions needed to decrease bacteria in fifteen Waterbody Identification units (WBIDs) for the tributaries of the Lower St. Johns River Basin, and is the second action plan developed to address bacteria impairments in tributaries to the basin.

> ***Where are the Lower St Johns River Tributaries located?*** *The tributaries in this BMAP are urban tributaries of the City of Jacksonville, City of Jacksonville Beach, City of Atlantic Beach, and City of Neptune Beach, part of the Ortega, Trout, North Mainstem, and Intracoastal Waterway planning units.*

The Lower St. Johns River Basin Tributaries BMAP was developed under DEP's comprehensive approach, building partnerships with local, regional and state interests to identify and restore polluted waterbodies. In other areas of the state, similar efforts are currently underway.

Why was a BMAP needed in the Lower St. Johns River Basin?

The tributaries of the Lower St. Johns River are Class 3 waterbodies suitable for recreational use and the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. Due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria, these fifteen tributaries in the Lower St. Johns River Basin did not support these uses. In 2006, 2009, and 2010 the DEP adopted water quality restoration targets, called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that provided numerical water quality restoration targets for these fifteen WBIDs. The BMAP is the implementation plan that identifies the actions needed to achieve restoration.

Who was involved?

The action plan, developed in partnership with the City of Jacksonville, City of Atlantic Beach, City of Neptune Beach, City of Jacksonville Beach, Naval Station Mayport, JEA, the Duval County Health Department; and the Florida Department of Transportation identified projects and management actions needed to decrease bacteria in these fifteen tributary WBIDs of the Lower St. Johns River Basin.

What will the BMAP accomplish?

Identification, elimination, and prevention of discharges of fecal coliform bacteria into these waterbodies will help achieve water quality standards and designated uses established by the DEP. The phased approach outlined in the BMAP involves implementation of projects like the removal of septic tanks close to surface waters alongside activities such as intensive inspection programs for OSTDS and sewer infrastructure to better prevent and eliminate fecal coliform sources. The combined implementation of BMAP projects and management actions and the five-year BMAP milestone evaluation will control sources and decrease levels of fecal coliforms of the Lower St. Johns River Basin Tributaries BMAP WBIDs.

Specific actions in the BMAP include highly integrated local stakeholder communication and response source identification protocols; wastewater infrastructure repair and upgrade, increased stormwater system maintenance and management; septic tank regulations, ordinances and certified operator programs;, public education and outreach; and continued water quality monitoring.

Where can you find more information?

The Lower St. Johns River Basin Tributaries Management Plan is available at:

http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/LowerStJohns/Tributaries%20Fecal%20Coliform%20BMAPs/Tribs_FC_BMAP_II/

The following websites contain more information about water quality protection and restoration activities in the Lower St. Johns River Basin Tributaries:

City of Jacksonville Environmental Quality and Compliance Division:
http://www.coj.net/Departments/Environmental+and+Compliance/Environmental+Quality/Surface+Water+Quality/Tributary+Program.htm

City of Atlantic Beach:
http://www.ci.atlantic-beach.fl.us/

City of Neptune Beach Public Works:
http://www.ci.neptune-beach.fl.us/public_services.htm

City of Jacksonville Beach:
http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/

Naval Station Mayport:
http://www.cnic.navy.mil/mayport/index.htm

Duval County Health Department:

http://www.dchd.net/environmentalhealth.htm

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Northeastern District Office:
http://www.dep.state.fl.us/northeast/trib/trib_watch.htm