

Light Penetration

Site	25% Iz	Target Values	Turbidity	Target Values
	meters			NTU
Fort Myers	1.1	> 1	2.5	< 18
Shell Point	2.1	>2.2	1.8	< 18
Causeway	4.0	> 2.2	2.2	< 5

25% Iz is the depth (z) where irradiance (I) is 25% of surface irradiance. Target values indicate the depth of light penetration needed for healthy seagrass.

Upper Estuary Conditions: The 30-day moving average surface salinity at the Fort Myers Yacht Basin has been over 10 psu for **109 days** and was **17 psu**, **above the suitable range for tape grass**. The weekly average was 17 psu.

Lower Estuary Conditions: The weekly average salinity at the Shell Point RECON was **33 psu**, in the optimal range for seagrass but **above optimal for oysters**. The phytoplankton in SCCF samples from Sanibel beaches during the week included mainly small diatoms with *Thalassionema* dominant, few *Pseudo-nitzschia* and no *Karenia*.

Water Quality Conditions:

Monitor Site	Salinity (psu) ^a [previous week]	Diss O ₂ (mg/L) ^b	FDOM (qsde) ^c	Chlorophyll (µg/L) ^d	Temperature (°F)
Beautiful Island	7.8-12 [7.1- 12]	----	105	7.5	82.0 - 87.5
Fort Myers Yacht Basin	14- 19 [14- 19]	2.9 –6.2	75	3.7	77.1 – 81.8
Shell Point	27- 35 [29- 35]	4.8 - 6.9	25	1.5	77.9 – 81.4
McIntyre Creek	34.7 – 35.4 [34.0 – 35.2]	2.4 – 9.0	9.4 – 20.5	1.0 – 2.2	77.1 – 82.7
Tarpon Bay	34.6 – 35.7 [34.2 – 35.4]	4.1 – 7.0	10.0 – 27.8	0.9 – 6.2	77.7 – 82.0
Wulfert Flats	---- [----]	----	----	----	----

Red values are outside of the preferred range.

^a Salinity target values: BI < 5, FM < 10, SP = 10 – 30

^b Dissolved O₂ target values: all sites > 4

^c FDOM target values: BI < 70, FM < 70, SP < 11

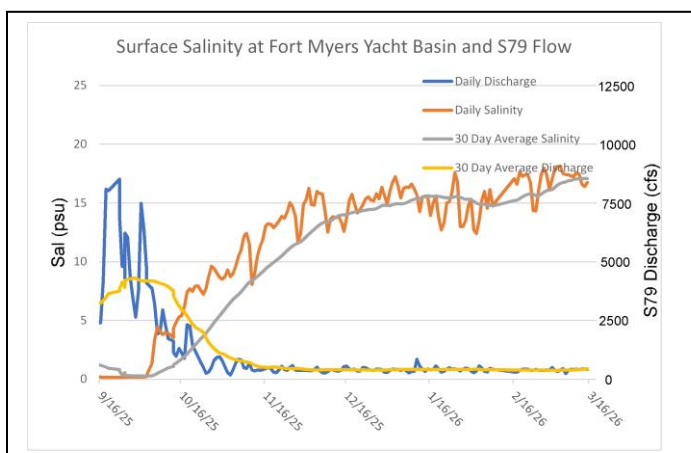
^d Chlorophyll target values: BI < 11, FM < 11, SP < 11

^f Temperature target values: < 90

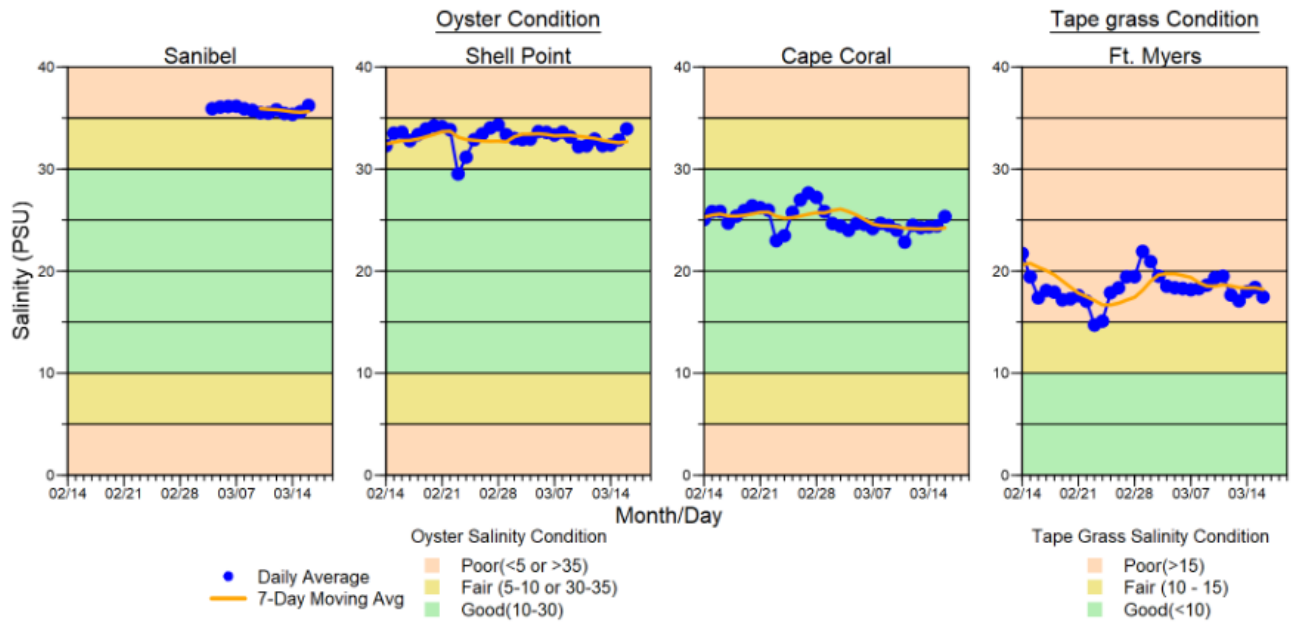
^s Single sonde lower and surface layer or surface grab lab measurement
ND: no data

Wildlife Impacts: In the past week, the CROW wildlife hospital on Sanibel admitted **3 patients** for suspected red tide/toxicosis: 1 juvenile herring gull (deceased), 1 juvenile Wilson’s plover (still in care) and 1 adult northern gannet (deceased).

Shellfish Advisory: Shellfish harvest area #6212 (Pine Island Sound Section 1); Aquaculture Lease and Public Reef is **OPEN** by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as of 9/24/25. SHA #6222 (North Matlacha Pass) and SHA #6232 (South Matlacha Pass) are **OPEN** as of 12/6/25.



USACE Daily Reports			
Date	S79 Flow (cfs)	S78 Flow (cfs)	S77 Flow (cfs)
3/10/26	438	172	407
3/11/26	699	50	420
3/12/26	490	156	367
3/13/26	435	313	437
3/14/26	1130	197	336
3/15/26	486	230	282
3/16/26	753	220	166
7-day avg	633	191	345



Daily average bottom salinity data for the last 14-days from sampling locations within the tidal Caloosahatchee River Estuary relative to oyster health (Sanibel, Shell Point and Cape Coral) and tape grass (*Vallisneria americana*) health (Ft. Myers only) conditions.

*Ft. Myers sensor is in the lower strata



Water clarity at Lighthouse Beach Park on 3-16-26 at 12:12 PM on a slack tide (1.6 ft).