

# Timucuan Area. -- Nassau River / ICWW / Ft. George River River Field Brief

City of Jacksonville, Environmental Quality Division  
Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Team

June 19, 2012



*TIM1 - Confluence of Nassau R. & Thomas Creek.*



*TIM11 – Ft. George River*

**Area of Coverage:** This is our “Timucuan Run” with sites within the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. There are eight sites in the Nassau River and tributaries, beginning upstream of Interstate-95 at the confluence with Thomas Creek (TIM1), then downstream to Nassau Sound (TIM8), two sites in the Intracoastal Waterway, one site in Ft. George River, one site in Garden Creek.

**Weather:** Warm, breezy, partly cloudy. Heavy rain in last 7 days, cloudy the past 24 hours.

**Water appearance:** Water color was extremely dark brown at sites TIM1 and TIM2, then quickly became more typically light tea-colored, except near the ocean which was a drab greenish brown. No excessive or unusual foam present.



*Dark brown water at site TIM1*



*Comparing water samples from TIM1 and TIM4*

**Water quality:**

DOs were low in the Nassau River, particularly at upstream sites (below 5.0 mg/L, 40% to 70% saturation). DOs were higher in Alligator Creek, ICWW, and Ft. George River (5.5 – 6.5mg/L, and 75 – 100 % saturation). pH ranged between 6.8 – 7.7. Water temperature was 26 degrees Celsius in Nassau River, 27-29 degrees Celsius in ICWW. Salinity at the two darkest upstream Nassau River sites measured 3.5 to 7 ppt; salinity was much higher at the remaining sites (26-34 ppt).

**Phytoplankton Blooms/HAB:** None observed.

**Fish Kills:** None observed.

**Wildlife:** Dolphin activity noted at site TIM1 upstream near I-95, and TIM9A in ICWW. Numerous birds seen during the day including red-winged blackbirds, herons, egrets, wood storks, seagulls, and osprey. Fish were actively jumping in Lofton Creek. There was possibly a manatee in the ICWW.



*Birds in Lofton Creek, site TIM4*



*High water levels obscured many sandbars*

**Other Agency Information:** COJ/EQD collects chlorophyll samples for the National Park Service on this sampling run. Our boat operator Scott Harrell is with the City Parks Department.

**Other notes:** Water levels were high, and currents were predominantly flood current then changing to near-slack. Several boats were stranded on sandbars in this tricky area. The high water levels were concealing bars that are sometimes exposed and the dark water also reduced visibility. Sandbars were particularly abundant in the Ft. George River. A large amount of seaweed was floating in the vicinity of sites TIM7 & TIM8, near Alligator Creek and the Nassau Sound.



*Seaweed floating near Nassau Sound provides shelter for juvenile shrimp.*

**Projected areas of operation for next report:** St. Johns River in Duval County in July.

For questions, comments or suggestions please email [betsy@coj.net](mailto:betsy@coj.net).

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Captain Scott



Scientists Cici, Betsy, and Jim at site TIM12  
( 6 X 2 = 12 )