

**Technical Priorities
For
Special Appropriations
Lower St. Johns River TAC
Revised August 2004**

The Lower St. Johns TAC defined the following priorities during their June 2003 meeting and revised them in August 2004:

I. Priorities for Restoration Tools and Investigations

1. *Technical Linkages and Coordination*

- A. Linkage between system health indicators (e.g. chemical, biological, sediments);
 - B. Coordination and collaboration—a holistic approach to ecosystem assessment by design (how do we do it?).
- 2. *Tool development/refinement*** (e.g. LSJRB water quality model, estuarine bio-indicators, IBI).
- 3. *Effectiveness of Management Efforts***
- A. Effectiveness of current BMPs for urban and construction pollution sources; and
 - B. Effectiveness of assessments (How well are we doing? How effective are our assessment tools?); and
 - C. Toxicity testing.

II. Priorities for Aquatic Habitat

- 1. *Critical habitat thresholds for a healthy ecosystem--both quality and quantities.*** (e.g. How many wetlands do we need? How many acres of SAV?)
- 2. *Develop indices of aquatic health.***
- 3. *Expand education efforts on aquatic habitat (high priority at 2003 River Summit).***

Note: Critical aquatic habitats, as defined here, include: submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV); wetlands (headwater and floodplain); tidal creeks; oyster bars; and open bottom/sediments.

III. Priorities for Water Quality/TMDL Implementation

- 1. *Reducing algae.***
 - A. Prevention of algal species shift to undesirable species.
 - B. Reducing cultural eutrophication as reflected in elevated chlorophyll-*a* concentrations.
- 2. *Develop and implement a structure to evaluate and limit potentially toxic characteristics in sediment.***
- 3. *Develop a better understanding of the fate and impact of other non-nutrient contaminants on water quality and the ecological health of the river.***
- 4. *Maximize water resource conservation, including reuse.***
- 5. *Pollutant source tracking, including runoff coefficients.***
- 6. *Reduce anthropogenic sources of bacteria through source identification and source abatement measures.***