

Hurricane Ian and Water Quality: Collaborations, Initial Thoughts, and Lessons Learned

A large, stylized graphic in the background features a yellow sun with rays on the left, and several green leaves of varying sizes on the right, all set against a light blue wave-like shape at the bottom.

February 20, 2024



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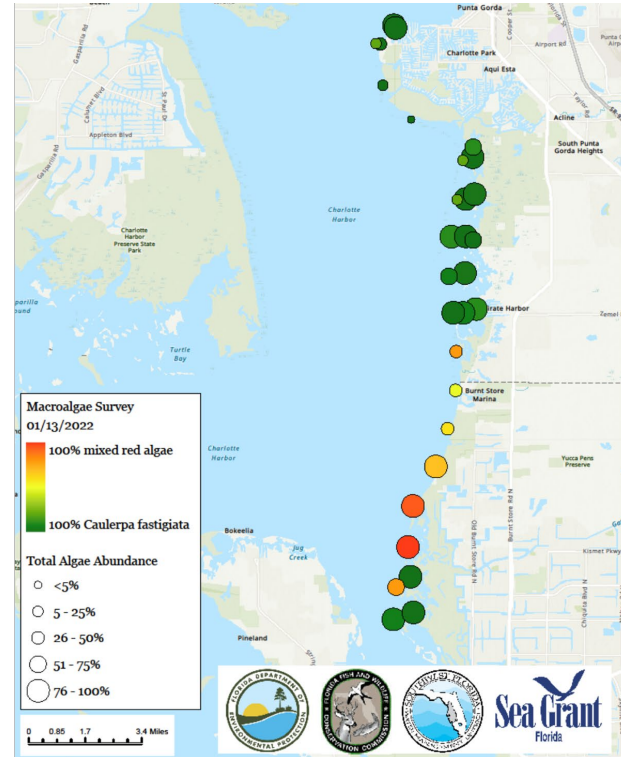
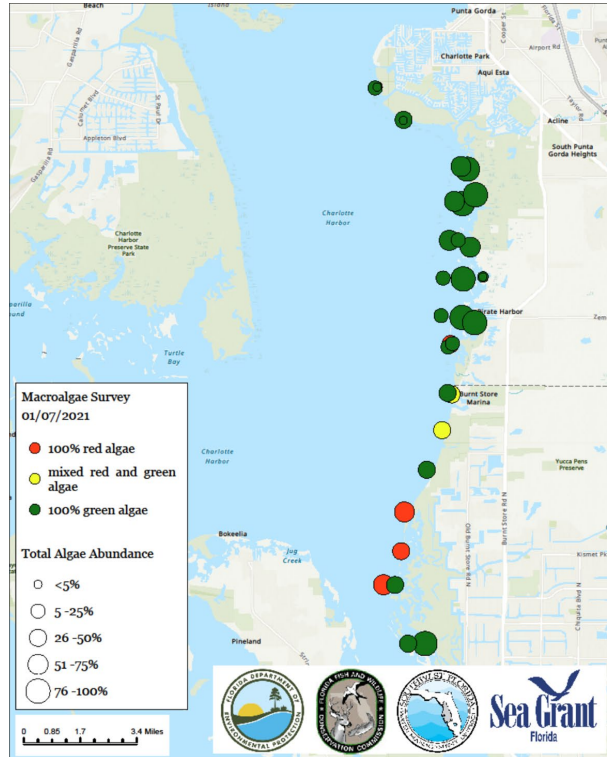
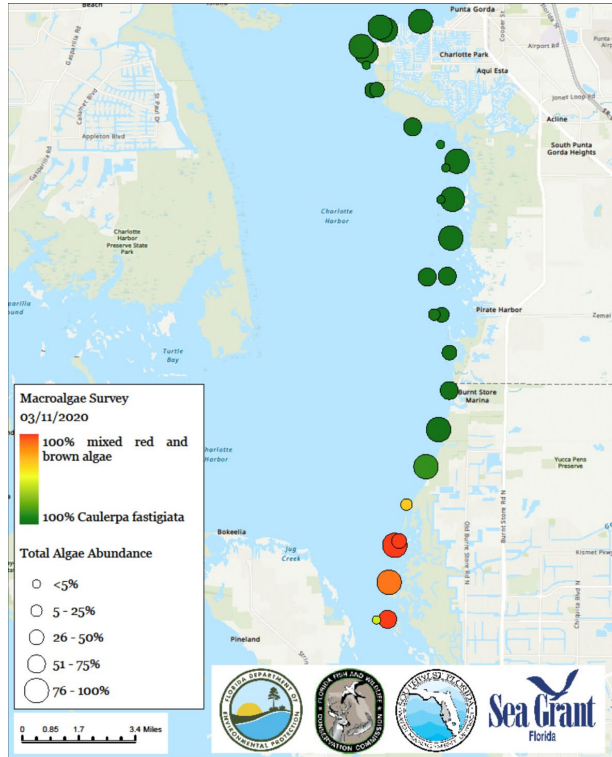


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Evidence of Imbalance in the System



Charlotte Harbor

2022

Segments	2020	2022	Δ Acres	% Change
East Wall North	1,770	1,593	-178	-10%
East Wall South	1,258	1,183	-76	-6%
Myakka River	189	148	-40	-21%
Peace River	349	244	-105	-30%
Placida	4,029	3,881	-148	-4%
Southern Charlotte	2,079	2,112	+34	+2%
Turtle / Bull Bay	4,178	3,944	-233	-6%
West Wall	1,421	1,807	+386	+27%
Total	15,273	14,913	-360	-2%

Mapped Seagrass Acreage - Charlotte Harbor



Source: SWFWMD Seagrass Mapping Program, 2023



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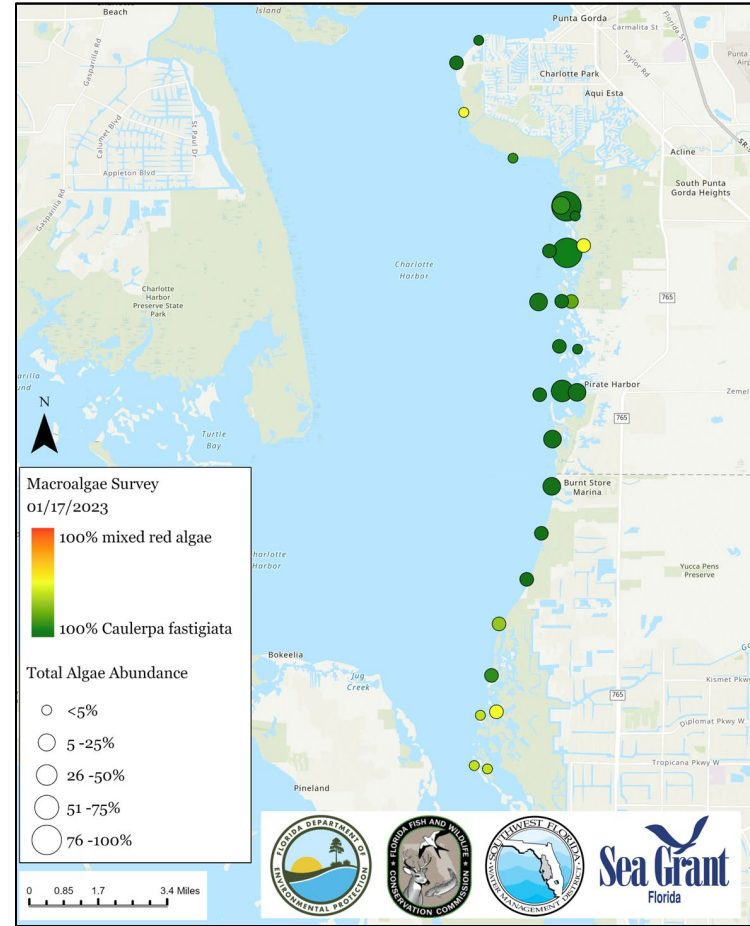
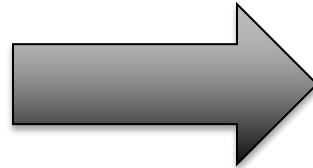
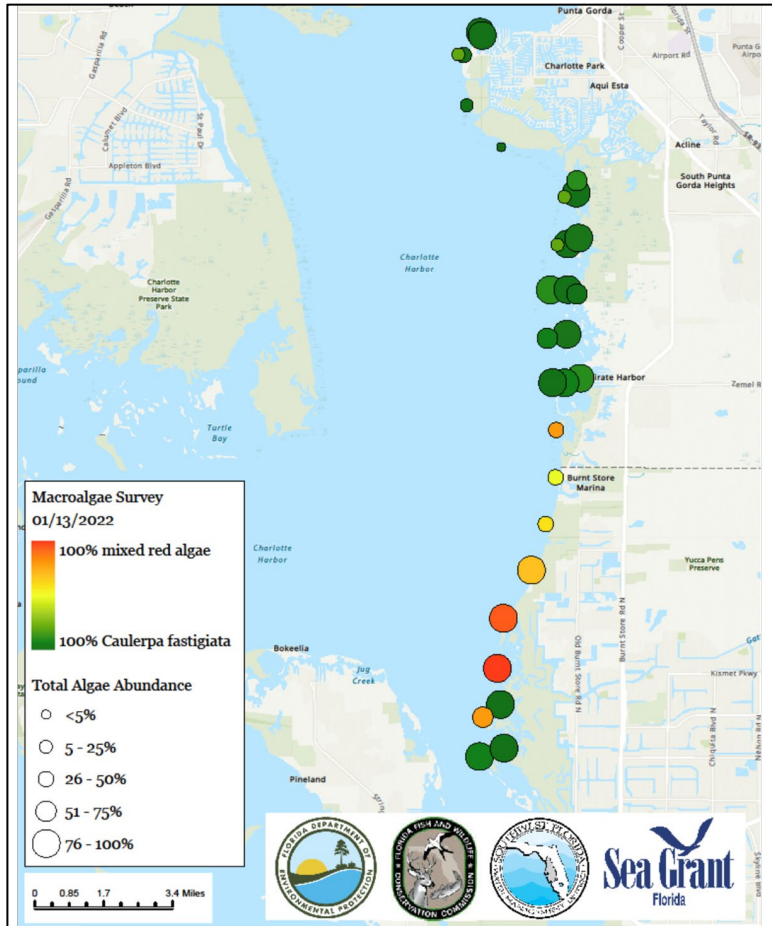


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Ian As A Flushing Event??

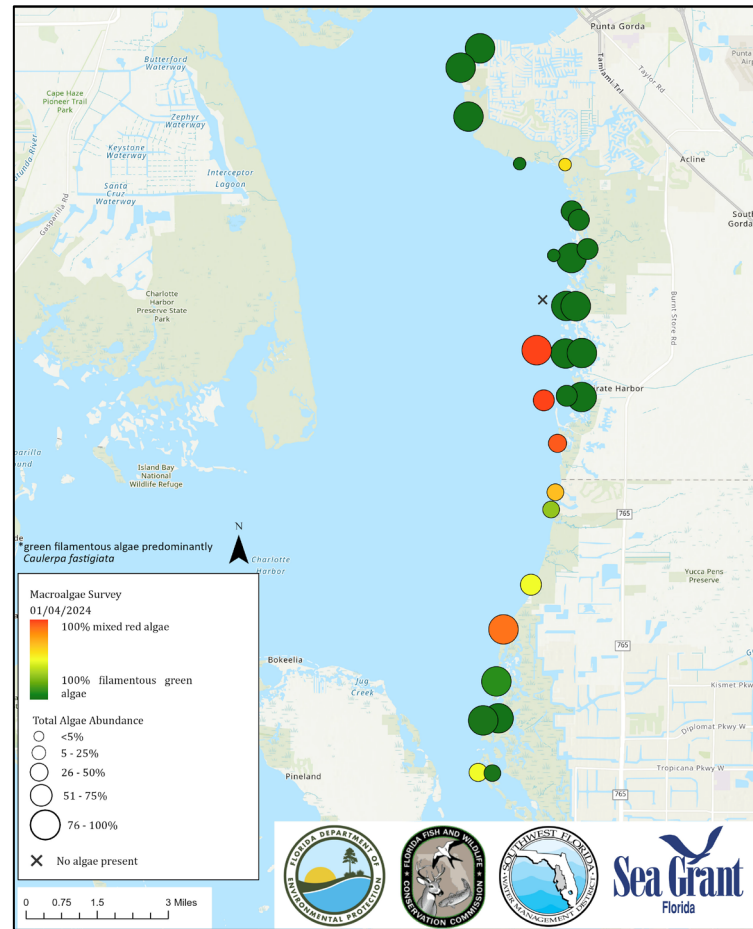
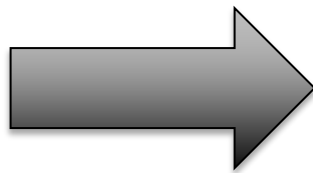
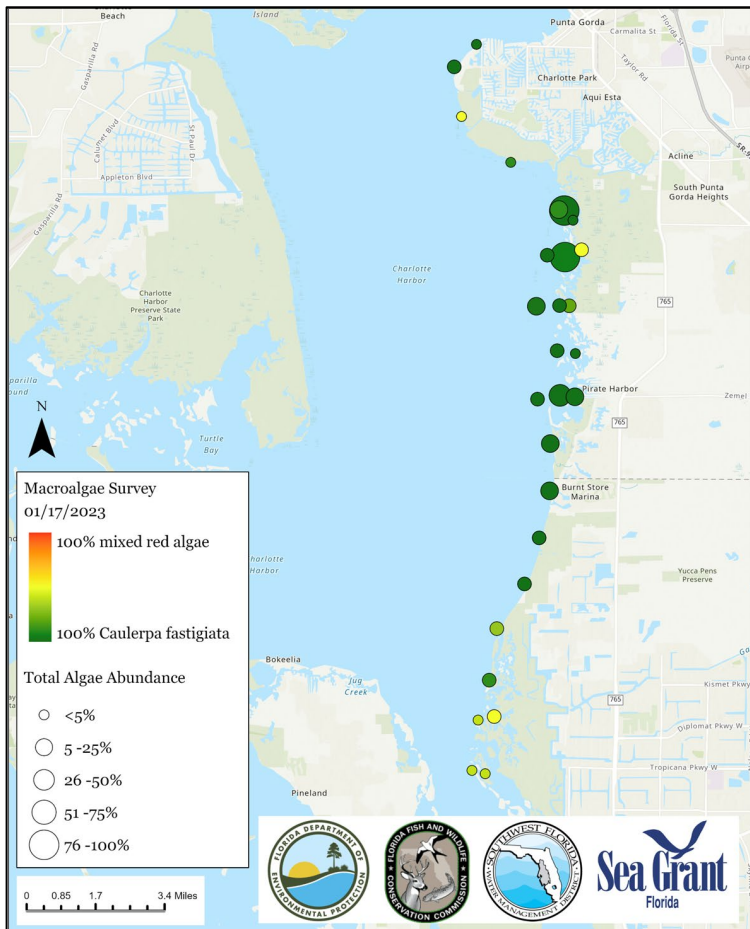


...Or Not So Much



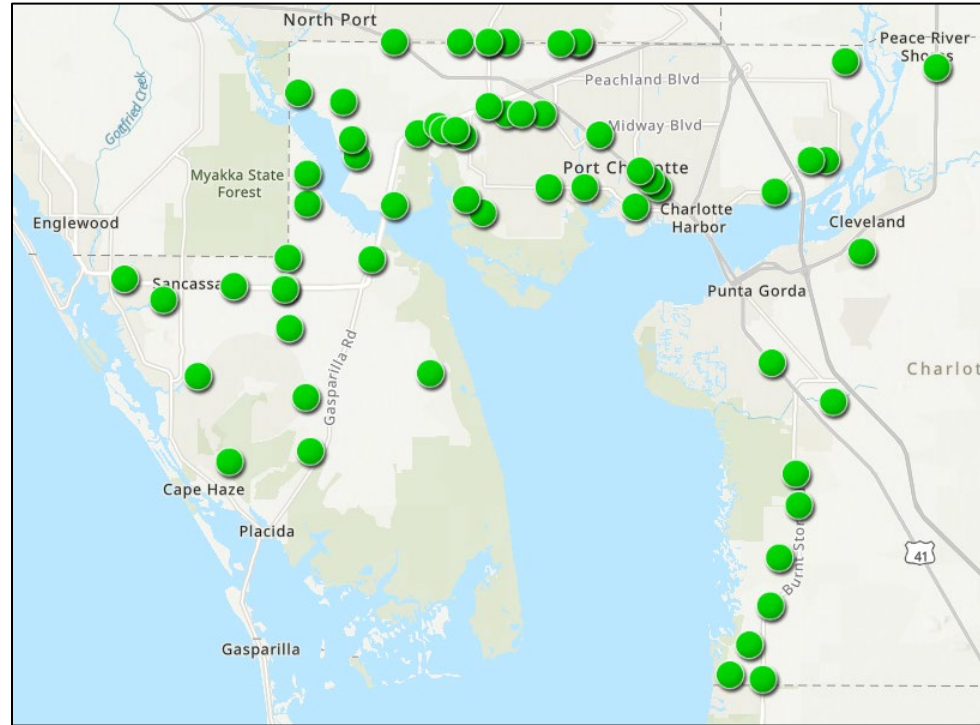
Source: FWC FIM Program, June and July 2023

Return of the Macroalgae



Responding to the Imbalance: The County's Role

- AWT Implementation: reduce reclaim irrigation nutrient concentrations
- Central sewer expansion for coastal/canal communities: ongoing since 2017
- County ambient monitoring: non-mandated surface water sampling project tracking possible input concerns
- One Charlotte, One Water



Gaps, Needs, And The Take-Home

- Agency storm sampling response was fantastic, and highlighted the need for continued partnerships to:
 - Maintain resources for compiling and sharing data;
 - Establish common/comparable methods for collection and analysis
- Long-term tracking of flora/fauna response to inputs is vital, and established, ongoing, funded partnerships are the only way to make it happen

