

**COMPENDIUM OF  
EXISTING MONITORING PROGRAMS  
IN THE  
GREATER CHARLOTTE HARBOR WATERSHED**

**Prepared for:**

**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program  
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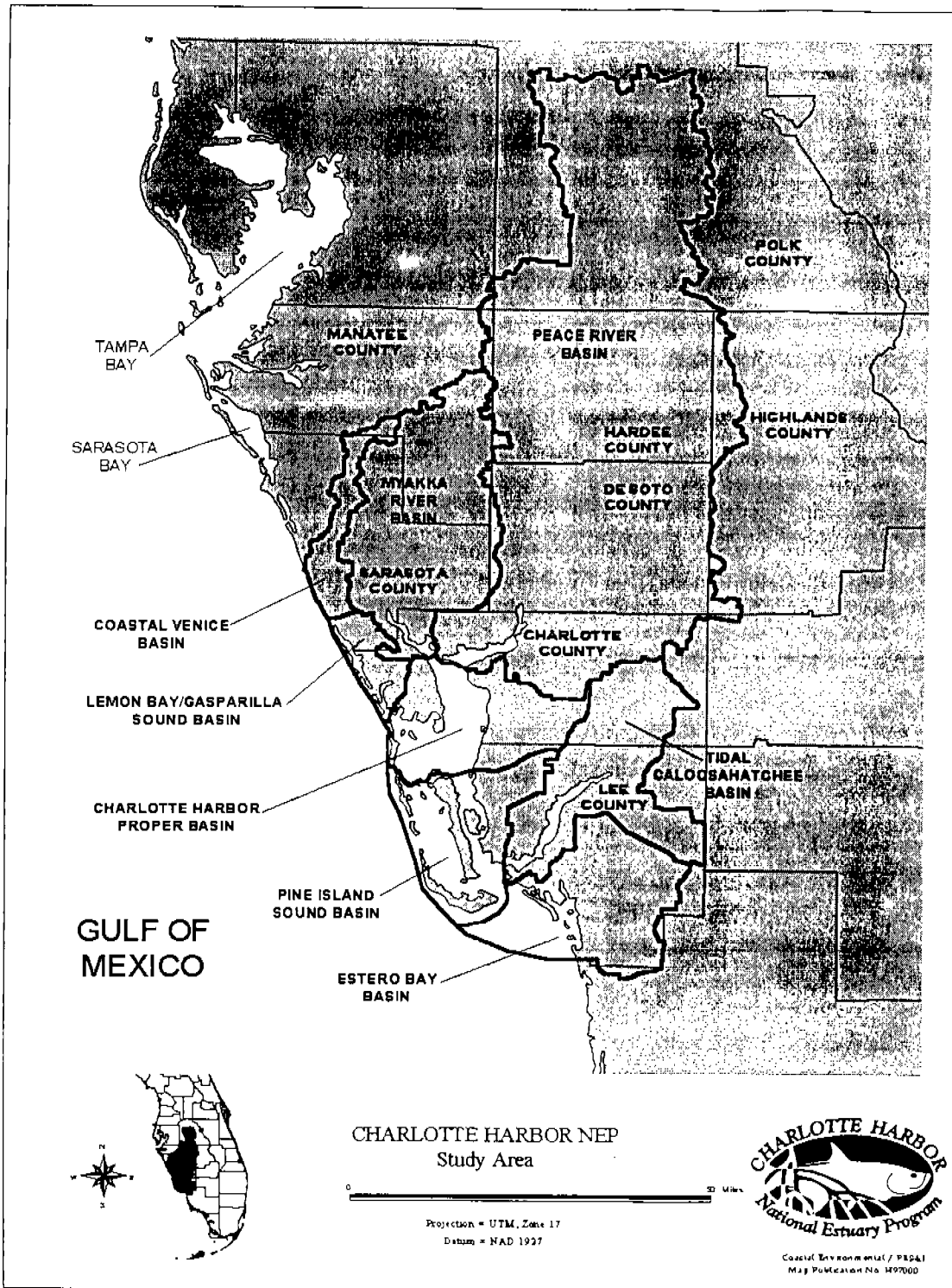
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# CHARLOTTE HARBOR NEP STUDY AREA



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## INTRODUCTION

The primary goals of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) are listed below:

1. Improve the environmental integrity of the Charlotte Harbor study area.
2. Preserve, restore and enhance seagrass beds, coastal wetlands, barrier beaches, and functionally related uplands.
3. Reduce point and non-point sources of pollution to attain desired uses of the estuary.
4. Provide the proper fresh water inflow to the estuary to ensure a balanced and productive ecosystem.
5. Develop and implement a strategy for public participation and education.
6. Develop and implement a formal Charlotte Harbor management plan with a specified structure and process for achieving goals for the estuary.
7. Develop an accessible information management system that integrates data on the Charlotte Harbor study area pertinent to Harbor and watershed management.

This report describes existing monitoring programs for the Charlotte Harbor NEP study area. Agencies and organizations that have or had such programs were invited to participate in a workshop held in conjunction with a Technical Advisory Committee meeting in June 1997.

The objectives of this report are:

- to identify and describe all existing land, air, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and vegetation, and water monitoring programs that pertain to the study area;
- to provide a summary of those programs temporally and geographically;
- to help identify areas where monitoring is lacking or where protocols are inconsistent; and,
- to assist existing programs in coordinating their efforts and increase understanding of programs across organizations.

Although many individual organizations have collected information about Charlotte Harbor's watershed and coastal waters, not all data is known to the technical community. Information is collected by a wide variety of private and public sector organizations for a variety of purposes. When using data for specific scientific purposes, however, information must be collected through a similar protocol. To be analyzed statistically, sampling sites should be selected by a technique that prevents spatial or temporal bias from being introduced. Also, data sets collected continuously and over long periods of time are more useful than short term or one-time collection efforts.

Therefore, it is advantageous for the Charlotte Harbor NEP to:

- have access to large amounts of information about the watershed;
- encourage organizations to use similar sampling protocols for like data;
- support long-term, continuous monitoring efforts; and,
- encourage existing organizations to coordinate data collection efforts and to share data.

As a step towards targeting specific issues and selecting strategies for its management plan, the Management Conference will base its analyses on the best available information. Technical programs in the Charlotte Harbor NEP study area have been invited to participate and be included in the Compendium. This project will ensure that the Management Conference is well-informed with available information and encourage the coordination of further data collection efforts, especially with regard to protocols, when possible.