



CHARLESTON
WATERKEEPER®

A young boy with dark hair, seen from behind, is running into the ocean waves. He is wearing patterned swim trunks with a blue and brown floral design. The water is splashing around his legs as he runs. The background shows the ocean with white-capped waves under a clear sky.

2013
RECREATIONAL
WATER
QUALITY
SCORECARD



Passing the Test

Our tidal creeks and rivers are frequently used for swimming, paddle boarding, and kayaking. Residents and visitors enjoy these activities despite the risk of fecal pollution in developed tidal creeks. Our goal is to generate accurate, up-to-date data to inform the public about recreational water quality.

The Clean Water Act requires South Carolina to develop a list of impaired waterways every two years. An impaired waterway is one that does not meet its water quality standards. The most recent list shows that many of our local waterways are impaired by high levels of bacteria.

We test for the fecal indicator bacteria *Enterococcus* because it is commonly found in human and animal feces. Although enterococci bacteria are generally not harmful, they indicate that pathogenic (disease-causing) bacteria, viruses, and protozoans that also live in human digestive systems may be present. The presence of enterococci bacteria above certain levels suggests that swimming and other primary contact recreational activity may pose a health risk.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

<http://www.charlestonwaterkeeper.org/what-we-do/programs/water-quality-monitoring>





Take Action—Write to DHEC!

The Clean Water Act requires DHEC to develop restoration plans (known as TMDLs) to clean up impaired waterways. DHEC needs our help.

SC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

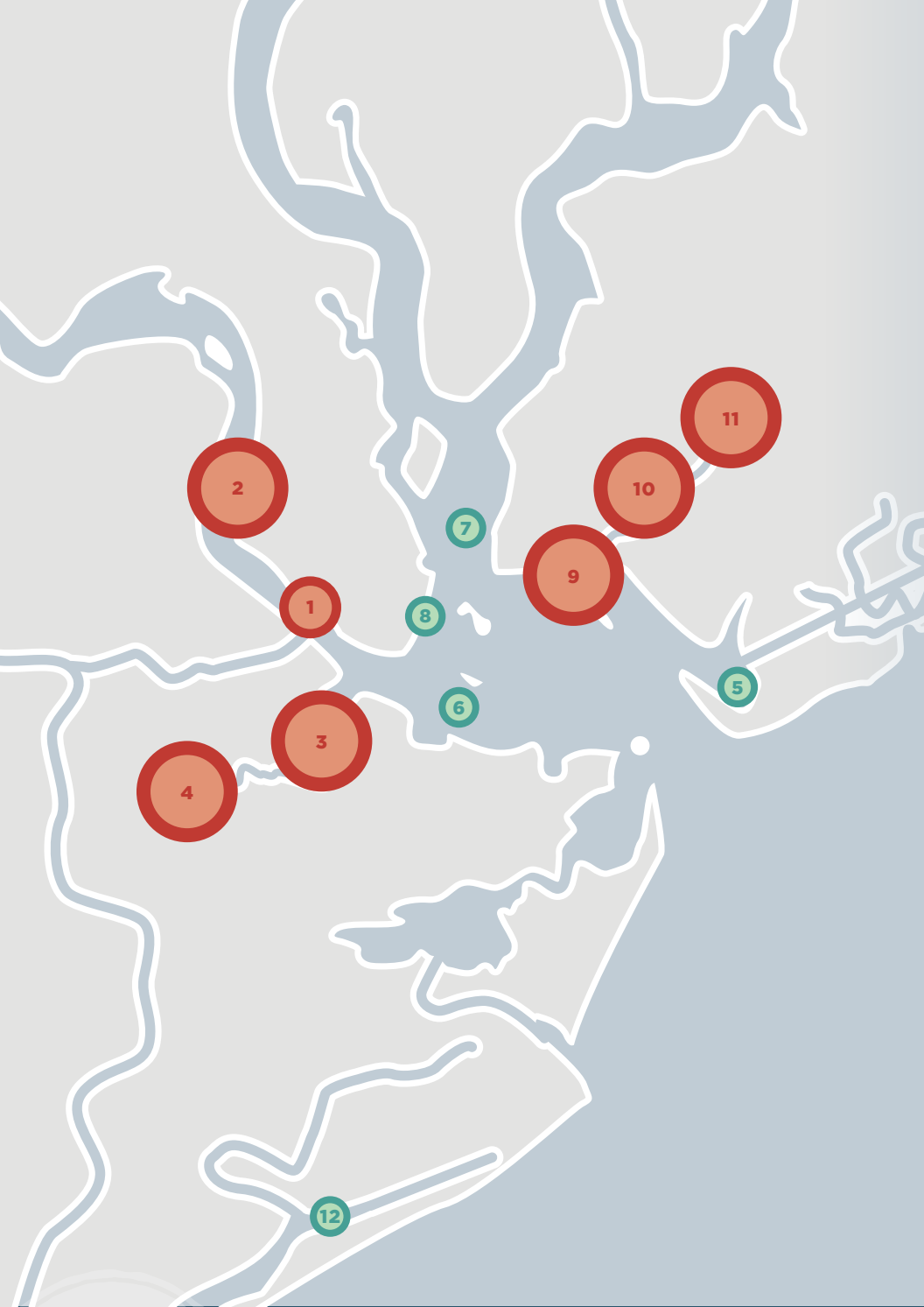
Bureau of Water: TMDL & 303(d) Section
c/o Wade Cantrell
2600 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29201

PHONE: (803) 898-4300

EMAIL: cantrewm@dhec.sc.gov

Tell DHEC that you are concerned about the quality of your waterway for swimming, paddle boarding, or whatever your favorite activity is. Let DHEC know that you are ready to take steps to improve local water quality. Specifically, ask for a TMDL restoration plan to be developed and implemented for your waterway.

TIP! *Make it personal, the more personal the better. Be respectful and courteous and talk about your love for your waterway, knowledge of it, how long you've lived there, etc. Don't forget to include the data for your waterway!*



WATER QUALITY SAMPLE SITE DATA FOR 2013

South Carolina's recreational water quality standards are based on a waterway's classification. The sites we test are classified as Saltwater Class **(SA)**, Saltwater Class **(SB)**, or Shellfish Harvesting **(SFH)**. For enterococci bacteria in SA and SFH waters, no more than 10% of samples may exceed a Geometric Mean of 35/100 mL, or a Single Sample Maximum of 104/100 mL. In SB waters, no more than 10% of samples may exceed a Geometric Mean of 35/100 mL, or a Single Sample Maximum of 501/100 mL.

SITE DESCRIPTION	WATER CLASS	PASS/FAIL *
1 ASHLEY RIVER 1	SA	FAIL (33%)
2 BRITTLEBANK PARK	SA	FAIL (100%)
3 JAMES ISLAND CREEK 1	SA	FAIL (100%)
4 JAMES ISLAND CREEK 2	SA	FAIL (100%)
5 COVE CREEK	SB	PASS (0%)
6 MELTON PETER DEMETRE PARK	SB	PASS (0%)
7 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON SAILING	SB	PASS (0%)
8 BATTERY BEACH	SB	PASS (0%)
9 SHEM CREEK PARK PUBLIC DOCK	SB	FAIL (100%)
10 SHEM CREEK PARK BOAT LANDING	SB	FAIL (100%)
11 SHEM CREEK 3	SB	FAIL (100%)
12 FOLLY BEACH PUBLIC BOAT LANDING	SFH	PASS (0%)

* The above table projects which sites are likely to pass and which are likely to fail their water quality standard for enterococcus bacteria based on our data from the 2013 sampling season.

VIEW THE ENTIRE 2013 DATASET AT: <http://www.charlestonwaterkeeper.org/2013data>

Potential Sources of Fecal Pollution in our Tidal Creeks

Stormwater: Wild and domestic animal waste

Illicit discharges to stormwater drains

Sanitary sewer overflows

Malfunctioning sewage treatment plants

Failing septic systems

Boat and vessel discharges

Ways You Can Help Protect Your Local Waterway

Have your septic system inspected every 1-2 years and pumped every 3-5 years.

Create rain gardens.

Pick up and properly dispose of pet feces: in a toilet, wrapped in plastic in the trash, or buried at least 5 inches deep in your yard.

Collect rain water in barrels.

Use Charleston Waterkeeper's mobile pumpout service.

Divert stormwater into vegetated buffers.

Support water and sewer infrastructure spending.

Minimize the impervious surface on your property.

Report sanitary sewer overflows to treatment authorities.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



About Charleston Waterkeeper

Charleston Waterkeeper is a data-driven nonprofit organization. Our mission is to protect and promote Charleston's waterways. We do this through water quality monitoring, community outreach, and direct intervention aimed at safeguarding the public's right to swimmable, drinkable, fishable water. We rely on your financial support to monitor the quality of our waterways. Please support this work by making a donation to:

CHARLESTON WATERKEEPER

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WEBSITE: www.charlestonwaterkeeper.org

Thank you to the following folks who helped make this work possible:

The College of Charleston: Dr. Tim Callahan, Environmental Studies Program, Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, Dr. Vijay Vulava - Lab Director, Environmental Geochemistry Lab, Mary Edna Fraser, Jay Cabaniss, Diane Gould, Criscuolo Family, City Marina, Cheryl Carmack - Water Quality Graduate Assistant, Laboratory Analysts - Andrea Sassard and Josh Hoke, Field Investigators - McKenna Nokes, Si Wofford, Dalton Weinstein, and Nat Gunter.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION TO THIS PROGRAM!