

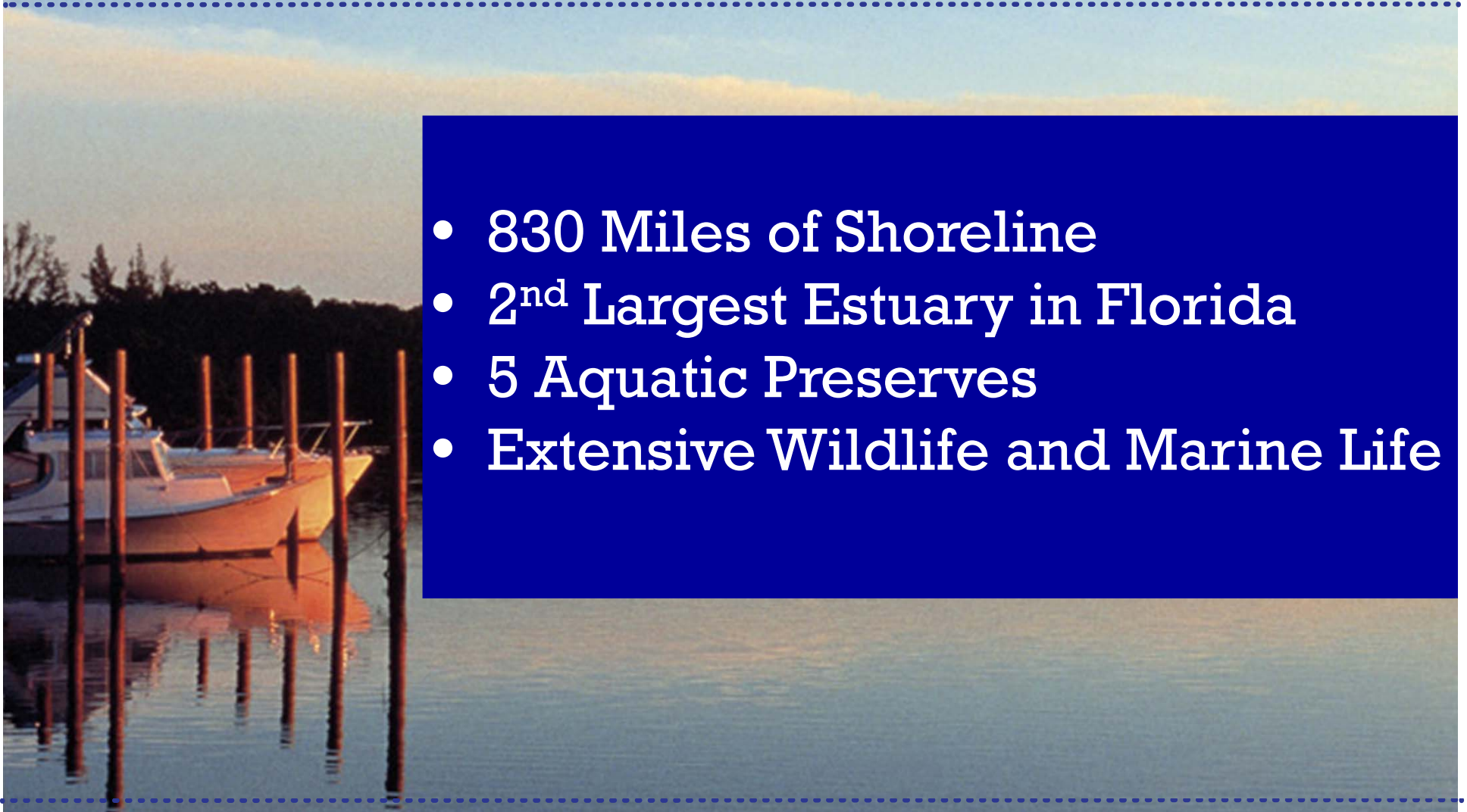
Charlotte Harbor

PROTECTING THE HEART OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY



Charlotte Harbor: An Environmental Treasure

- 830 Miles of Shoreline
- 2nd Largest Estuary in Florida
- 5 Aquatic Preserves
- Extensive Wildlife and Marine Life



Charlotte Harbor: An Economic Engine

- 
- \$526 Million in Annual Economic Impact (2015)

Water Quality Threats

- Nutrient Loading
 - Algae Blooms
 - Red Tide
 - Fish Kills

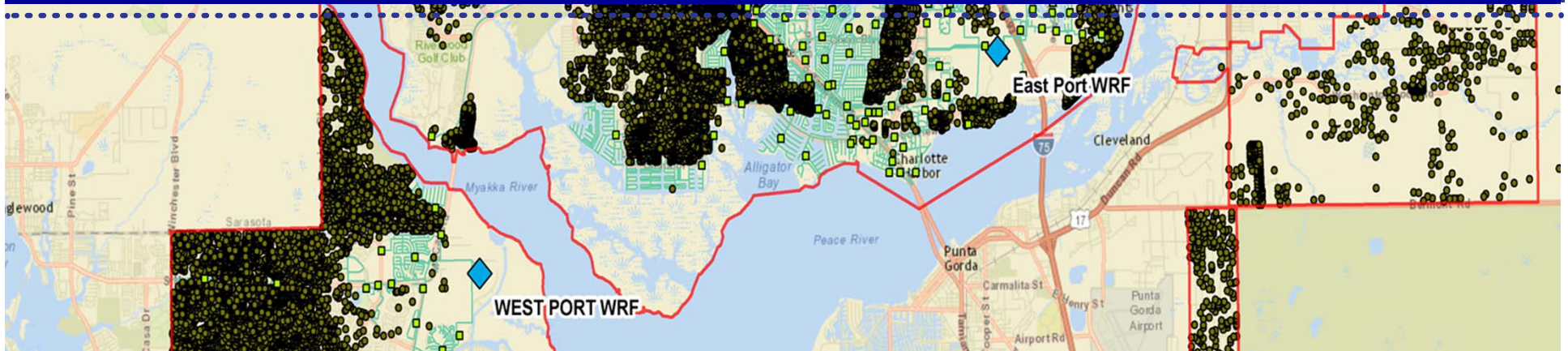
DANGER

Beach
Closed

- Results in...
 - Closed Beaches
 - Reduced Tourism
 - Reduced Fishing



Septic Tanks: A Primary Nutrient Source



- 28,000 septic tanks within 3,175 of water body connected to the Harbor
- 96,485 residential lots at risk
- Septic tanks designed to discharge nutrients
- Local water table 2.35 feet below surface

Evidence of Septic System Impact

- High concentration of total nitrogen, nitrate, BOD, and ammonia down gradient of septic systems
- Targeted reconnaissance sampling using stable nitrogen isotopes and sucralose as a chemical tracer
- Population increases correlate strongly with rising levels in nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll a
- Increasing levels of fecal contamination

A background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sun is on the right, casting a bright glow. The sky is orange and yellow. In the foreground, the water is dark with some ripples. A white boat is visible in the bottom right corner. The title text is overlaid on a dark blue horizontal band at the top.

Moving Forward: Our Sewer Master Plan Goals

- An affordable, sustainable, and healthy way to handle wastewater

Florida's Water Resources

- **Priorities & Challenges**
 - Protecting the state's economy and quality of life
 - Restoring already impacted natural systems
 - Rivers, wetlands, lakes, springs, and estuaries
 - Developing alternative supplies of water to support sustainable economic growth
 - Repairing or replacing aging infrastructure
- **Largest challenge is funding for critical infrastructure for water quality - estimates exceed \$48 billion over the next 20 years**

Florida's Solutions To-Date

Florida Water Protection & Sustainability Program

- Enacted in 2005
- Provides \$100M recurring funds for:
 - Alternative water supply development
 - Development and Implementation of TMDL's
 - Surface water improvement project support
 - Small disadvantaged community wastewater projects

Amendment 1: Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative

- Dedicates 33% of state-wide doc stamp revenues to LATF
- Projected revenues for FY17 are \$854M and expected to exceed \$1B annually by 2022
- Enacting legislation in FY16 designated funds for Everglades projects, springs restoration, protection and management projects, and restoration of Lake Apopka

Charlotte County Participation in State Funding Programs

- Water Appropriations
- TMDL Grants
- Other grant programs
- Participation in state loan programs





Looking Forward – FY17 State Legislative Session

Water quality will continue to be a focus for the 2017 Legislature

- Governor's local government matching program
- Small County matching program
- DEP's focus on estuary protection
- Preservation of existing funding sources (grants and loan programs)

A Community Commitment

- Residents
- Business Community
- Governmental Community
- Environmental Community
- Educational Community
- Tourist Population



How Can You Help?

- Be A Vocal Champion
- Provide Feedback and Ideas
- Assist with Education
- Stay Engaged



Charlotte Harbor

PROTECTING THE HEART OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Questions

