



Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council – Salinity Network Workgroup (SNW) Meeting

Meeting Summary

When: Wednesday, May 9 – 1:00 PM
Where: webinar/teleconference

Meeting Objectives:

- Figure out next steps for getting groundwater data into WIN
- Evaluate the role of this group in developing a dynamic, statewide coastal salinity monitoring product
- Assess the need for the development of Special Sampling Protocols

Participants

The following people participated in the May 9 Salinity Network Workgroup Meeting (19 participants):

- Rick Copeland (DEP)
- Jay Silvanima (DEP)
- Carolyn Voyles (DEP)
- Debra Harrington (DEP)
- Scott Prinos (USGS)
- Joseph Bauer (DEP)
- Alex Whann (Alachua County)
- Greg Owen (Alachua County)
- Jim Hatchitt (Alachua County)
- Tony Countryman (NFWFMD)
- Edward Chelette (NFWFMD)
- Kim Hanes (SFWMD)
- Jon Shaw (SFWMD)
- Mark Hinz (SRWMD)
- Kevin Mouyard (SJRWMD)
- David Dewitt (SWFWMD)
- Granville Kinsman (SWFWMD)
- Sandie Will (SWFWMD)
- Steven DeSmith (SWFWMD)



- Asmita Shukla (SWFWMD)
- Catherine Wolden (SWFWMD)
- Dan Dourte (The Balmoral Group)

Summary

- Rick Copeland welcomed participants and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Dan Dourte explained the objectives of the meeting
- Roll Call – participants introduced themselves (see list above based on roll call and webinar registration)
- Scott Prinos demonstrated the functionality of USGS's Water Level and Salinity Analysis Mapper web application <https://fl.water.usgs.gov/mapper/>. Several draft data visualization options were previewed. The data from the coastal salinity monitoring network could be added to this tool (hosted/maintained by USGS) OR the code could be provided to setup a similar tool based on a different network of wells having different sampling protocols (host/maintained by DEP or something less formal through the Water Council).
- The Groundwater Level Percentile Ranking Index (GWLPRI) status and two methodologies for producing the index was reviewed (Rick Copeland). Two issues are currently impeding production of GWLPRI maps: 1) groundwater data not yet being uploaded into WIN, and 2) the concern about confusion with publishing two GWLPRI products with different methods. The status of WIN data uploads was summarized (Dan Dourte).
- The Coastal Salinity Monitoring Network status was presented, including well locations and who will do the monitoring.
- During the Mapper demonstration, it was pointed out that certain wells are used to delineate the 250 mg/L isochlor line, and how the line changes position over time. For these specific wells, the objective is to obtain a sample in the well where the salinity is maximum, and to not move the isochlor line by purging the well. Current Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for sampling were explained. Unfortunately, they do not address situations where these wells do not have in-place plumbing or have greater than 10 feet of open hole. For these special sampling situations, two proposed sampling procedure options were discussed. The two procedures were previously presented to the Workgroup but later were tabled. During the May



9 meeting, the two procedures were revisited. The situation is as follows. To be useful the two methods will need to be included in the Department's sampling procedure rule by modification to the rule. The process for rule modification is long and takes many steps. To begin the process, Debra Harrington of DEP will send out an explanation of the proposed revisions, including an explanation of the rule revision process, and a questionnaire. The first step is for SNW participating agencies to complete the questionnaire. Debra will send information to each participating agency within a few weeks.

- A Groundwater Quality Index (GWQI) was previewed as a potential data product that could be produced by the Salinity Network using the data from the Coastal Salinity Monitoring Network. The GWQI could be a 3-class product that describes quality as fresh, brackish, or salty based on chloride concentration. Other solutes could be added later (Rick Copeland).
- A potential advisory role or data access role of the Salinity Network Workgroup was discussed related to surface water quality along Florida's coasts, including estuaries. More information will be shared as soon as this gets developed.

Link to SNW website:

<https://floridadep.gov/dear/watershed-monitoring-section/content/salinity-network>

Action Items

- Dan Dourte and Rick Copeland to coordinate with SWFWMD on handling of two methods for GWPRI.
- Debra Harrington to deliver questionnaire on SOPs for fresh/saline groundwater monitoring.
- Groundwater data uploads to WIN to proceed as availability allows (all).
- Dan Dourte to follow-up with SRWMD and NFWMD on possibilities of sharing database interface software.
- Rick Copeland to deliver information regarding the proposed Saline Groundwater Quality Index.