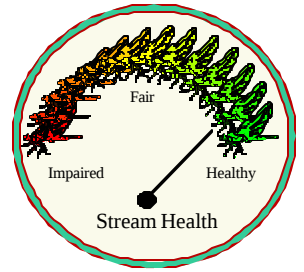




EcoSummary

Ocklawaha Creek

8/1/94-9/9/98



Background

Since 1992, minimally disturbed reference streams have been sampled throughout Florida for the purpose of establishing biological community expectations and identifying specific thresholds for assessing stream health. The Stream Condition Index (SCI) has been the primary assessment method, which consists of collecting 20 D-frame dipnet sweeps (0.5 m in length) of the most productive habitats in a 100 m reach of stream. The organisms are sub-sampled, sorted, and identified to the lowest practical taxonomic level. Seven measurements of invertebrate health are calculated and compared with the expectations established by the reference site sampling. These reference streams are sampled periodically to maintain accurate expectations to which other streams in the same region are compared. Ocklawaha Creek is located in Gadsden County west of State Road 267 and west of Tallahassee. Ocklawaha Creek drains into Lake Talquin and is located in the Tifton Upland/Tallahassee Hills Subregion.

Ocklawaha Creek was sampled six times from August 1994 to present. Stream Condition Index (SCI) sampling was conducted; see Figures 2 & 3. Water chemistry samples were taken for ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), total phosphorus, and turbidity analysis; see Figure 2.

Figure 1: Overview Map of the Ocklawaha Creek Area

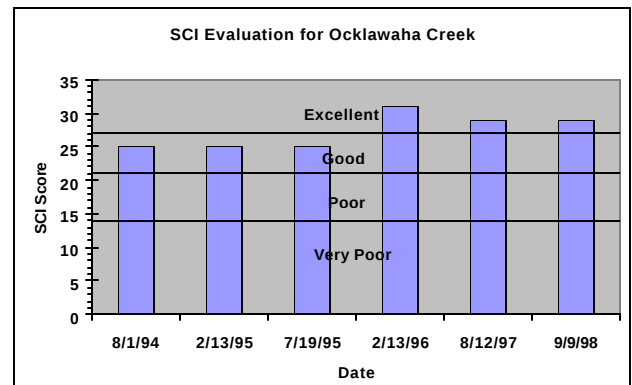


Figure 2: Data Table

Ocklawaha Creek						
Station	Ocklawaha Creek					
Station Nickname	OLKREF					
STORET	22020062					
Date Sampled	8/1/94 - 9/9/98					
Date	8/1/94	2/13/95	7/19/95	2/13/96	8/12/97	9/9/98
SCI	25	25	25	31	29	29
Temperature (deg. C)	24	10.8	24.1	8.9	25.1	23.1
pH (SU)	4.49	5	-	5.3	4.3	3.72
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	6.7	9.3	7.3	10.2	6.6	7.1
Specific Conductivity (umho/cm)	30	22	22	10	40	8
Turbidity (NTU)	1.7	-	-	1.4	2.2	1.2
TKN (mg/L)	0.47	0.74	0.32	0.20	0.66	0.37
Nitrate-Nitrite (mg/L)	0.023	0.000	0.010	0.050	0.000	0.020
Ammonia (mg/L)	0.024	0.022	0.018	0.040	0.026	0.010
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.013	0.041	0.012	0.004 BDL	0.018	0.016

"BDL" - Below detection limit.

Figure 3: SCI Evaluation



Results and Discussion

Water quality parameters (low nutrients, sufficient dissolved oxygen, etc.) were consistently good in Ocklawaha Creek. Stream Condition Index results indicated that Ocklawaha Creek scored in the "excellent" or "good" category for all six sampling events.

In conclusion, Stream Condition Index and water quality data indicated that Ocklawaha Creek is a healthy aquatic ecosystem.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Shannon Gerardi, FDEP Environmental Assessment
Section

2600 Blair Stone Road MS#6511 Tallahassee, FL 32399-
2400 (850) 245-8071

shannon.gerardi@dep.state.fl.us