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Warmer-than-average water temperatures in Sarasota Bay

Wednesday, August 2nd 2023, 5:51 PM EDT

By Alex Vaughn

SARASOTA, Fla. (SNN) - Over the past 50 years, the Sarasota Bay has been getting warmer, and for 10 out of the 12 past months, it's been warmer than average. Algal blooms, tourism, the ecosystem, and coral are just a few things that are impacted by the warming water.

“It definitely feels like a hot tub right now. It’s almost not very refreshing, when you’re lying in the sun for a while, then you think you can cool off. You don’t really get to cool off,” said Alexandra Greig.

David Tomasko, Director of Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, says Manatee Bay had a temperature reading of over 101 degrees.

These warmer water conditions are having an impact on algae. Algal blooms are fed by two things, warmer water temperatures and nutrients. Because of the warmer water temperatures, algal blooms have more time to grow. Along with algae, coral is also being impacted.

“In my adult lifetime, I’ve been able to go down to the Florida Keys and see beautiful coral reefs. They just don’t exist like that anymore. There is still coral. There is still soft coral for example. But that beautiful coral reef, with the branching elkhorn and staghorn coral, that’s just not found anymore,” said Tomasko.

Tomasko says huge investments are being made when it comes to wastewater. He says the nutrient load from wastewater is going to be dramatically reduced over the next year.

“Don’t over fertilize your lawn. Don’t fertilize in the wet season. Don’t put your grass clippings out into the water, or don’t blow them into the street where they go down to the curb. Pickup after your dog. If you live on a waterfront, contact us, and get some vertical oyster gardens,” said Tomasko.

The warmer waters also mean there is less oxygen for fish. A Sarasota fisherman shared his thoughts on the warming waters.

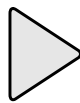
“The coral reef in southern Florida is the second or third largest in the world. Once that coral is destroyed, smaller fish cannot inhabit the area. Therefore, larger fish can’t, then even larger fish. And that affects basically the population,” said Keith Noodle.

Bleached coral is more susceptible to disease.

Around the Web



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The Senior Scoop

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A 70-year-old Grandmother Designed a Bra for Women That is Popular All over Sursell

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The American Observer

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August 1st, 5:04 PM EDT by Sydney Roell

Deputies: Lakewood Ranch man shoots and kills wife and stepdaughter, then commits suicide

(<https://www.snntv.com/story/39240560/deputies-lakewood-ranch-man-shoots-and-kills-wife-and-stepdaughter-then-commits-suicide>)

Skeletal remains found in 2007 identified

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17 hrs 11 mins ago by Don Brennan

Sarasota's Project 180 buys third home for recovering addicts


(<https://www.snntv.com/story/49321907/sarasotas-project-180-buys-third-home-for-recovering-addicts>)

August 1st, 5:54 PM EDT by Kaitlynn Berning

Bradenton pedestrian dies after going through bus windshield; man arrested

(<https://www.snntv.com/story/49313514/bradenton-pedestrian-dies-after-going-through-bus-windshield-man-arrested>)

July 31st, 7:21 PM EDT by Sydney Roell

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NEW Caddy's Happy Hour!

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Thursday Musical Bingo!

Caddy's Bradenton

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Thu, Aug 03

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August 2nd, 10:33 AM EDT by Kathy Leon

Sarasota's Project 180 buys third home for recovering addicts

(<https://www.snnv.com/story/49321907/sarasotas-project-180-buys-third-home-for-recovering-addicts>)

August 1st, 5:54 PM EDT by Kaitlynn Berning

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August 1st, 6:35 PM EDT

Suncoast Weather Authority Forecast

(<https://www.sntv.com/clip/15411760/suncoast-weather-authority-forecast>)

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August 2nd, 8:09 AM EDT by Leslie London

Skeletal remains found in 2007 identified

(<https://www.sntv.com/clip/15411955/skeletal-remains-found-in-2007-identified>)

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July 31st, 9:49 PM EDT

SPORTS

All Elite Wrestling set for Tampa debut

(<https://www.sntv.com/story/49322508/all-elite-wrestling-set-for-tampa-debut>)

August 1st, 9:42 PM EDT by John Reynolds

From Fan to Family: Monteasys' Wrestling Journey

(<https://www.sntv.com/story/49322400/from-fan-to-family-monteadys-wrestling-journey>)

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3-star WR Zy'marion Lang commits to South Carolina

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July 31st, 9:38 PM EDT by John Reynolds

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(<https://www.sntv.com/story/49313727/rays-acquire-aaron-civale-from-cleveland-guardians>)

July 31st, 9:31 PM EDT by John Reynolds

Pete Dombroski stepping down as Venice AD, Larry Shannon named replacement

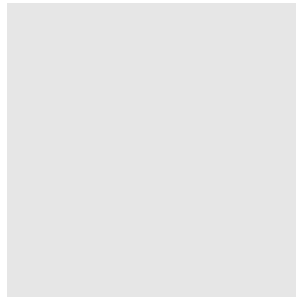
(<https://www.sntv.com/story/49313673/pete-dombroski-stepping-down-as-venice-ad-larry-shannon-named-replacement>)

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