

Water Testing Information

Neil Arnott and Kathleen Reed have been keeping up on the water testing. Problem is the red tide a year ago really dealt our waterways a death blow. The red tide combined with the commissioners not funding storm water runoff fixes and continued allowance of rezoning of agriculture and residential property to multi-family will not let our waterways cleanse themselves. Our bayous, bay, sound, creeks and Destin Pass are brownish red instead of emerald and sea life is suffering mightily. Blue crab, shrimp, turtles, mullet, flounder, speckled trout, redfish and sea grass are gone. A few minnows and dolphins are barely surviving. It's possible that when water turns warm this summer we may have further deterioration. Our testing does no good in the absence of positive fixes to stop all the nutrients we continue to allow into our waterways. Septic tanks continue to flow raw feces into our waterways. There still is a toxic waste site out by the old Florida auto parts junk yard and wastewater spray fields provide bad nutrients to Lighter Knotwood and Garnier creeks. The Mooney golf course now has 36 holes that are heavily fertilized and send bad nutrients into Bass lake, Dons Bayou and Chula Vista Bayou. The few beaches (Garnier) that the Okaloosa county health department tests usually are high in fecal count. No fixes have been funded. We have found Oxygen dead zones at the entrance to Pequito and Dons Bayous and under the Shalimar bridge.

CBA is trying to help by building oyster reefs and planting sea grass.