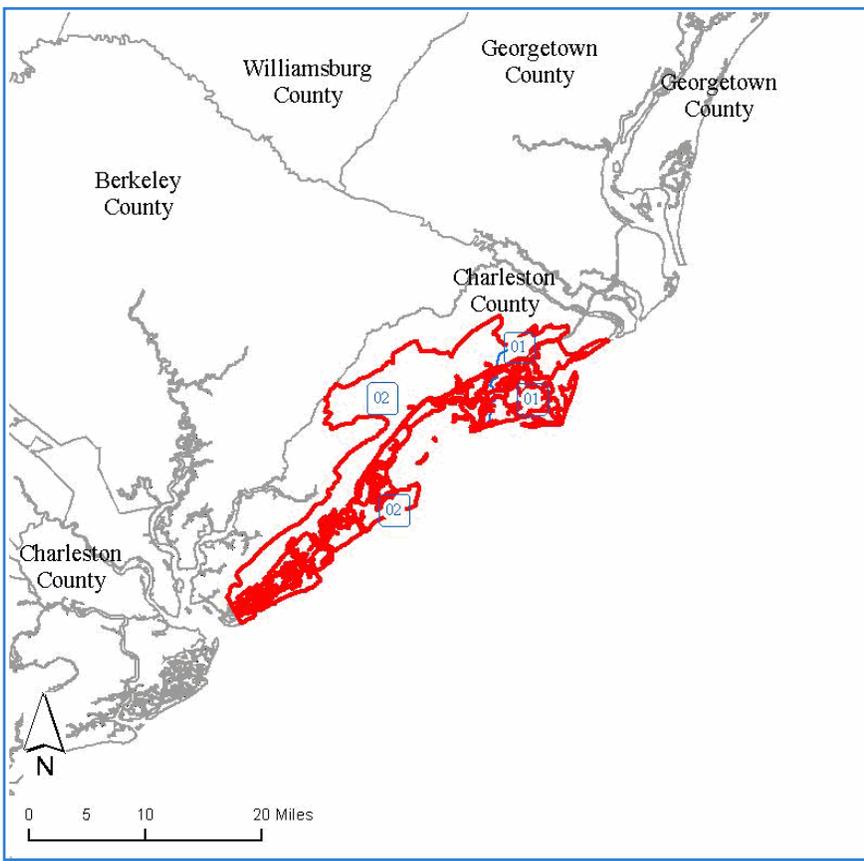


BULLS BAY Subbasin

August 31, 2007

An Assessment of the Bulls Bay Subbasin

Hydrologic Unit Code (8 Digit): 03050209



WATERSHED (10-digit HUC)
(E.g., 01 = 0305020901)

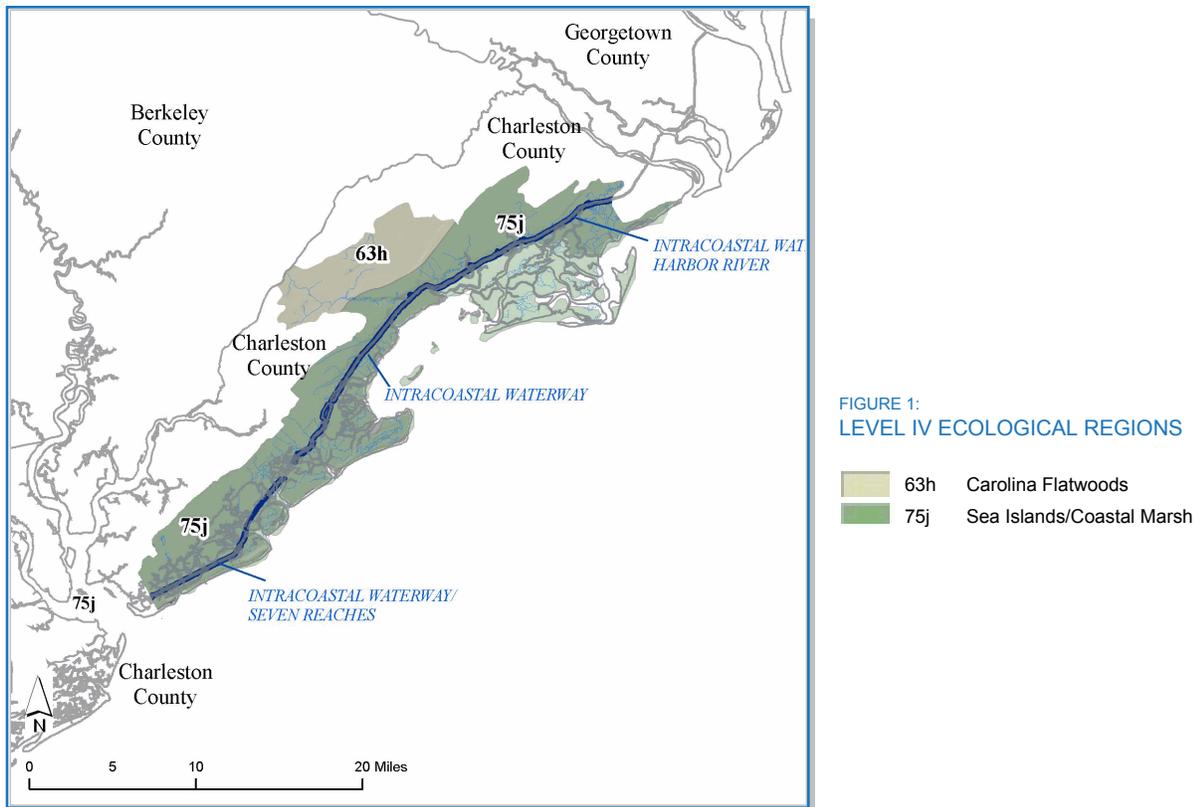
- 01 Cape Romain
- 02 Bulls Bay

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Watershed Description

This watershed is primarily comprised of a number of small coastal islands separated by coastal creeks and canals; the only creek draining from inland is the Awendaw creek whose headwaters are no more than 10 miles inland. The watershed drains 189 square miles (121,062 acres).

The Awendaw Creek runs through Carolina Flatwoods (63) and the rest of the subbasin lies in the Southern Coastal Plain (75) ecoregions (Figure 1). A brief description of the Level III ecoregions in this watershed is available in this document's appendix. A more detailed description of the Level III and Level IV Common Resource Areas (Ecological Regions) is available online (See Griffith *et al.* 2002 in References section.).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Land Use/Land Cover

The majority of the subbasin is covered by the Francis Marion National Park and the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, while the southwest of the watershed is covered by Charleston and North Charleston (Figure 2)

The amount of farmland in this subbasin is negligible (Table 1)

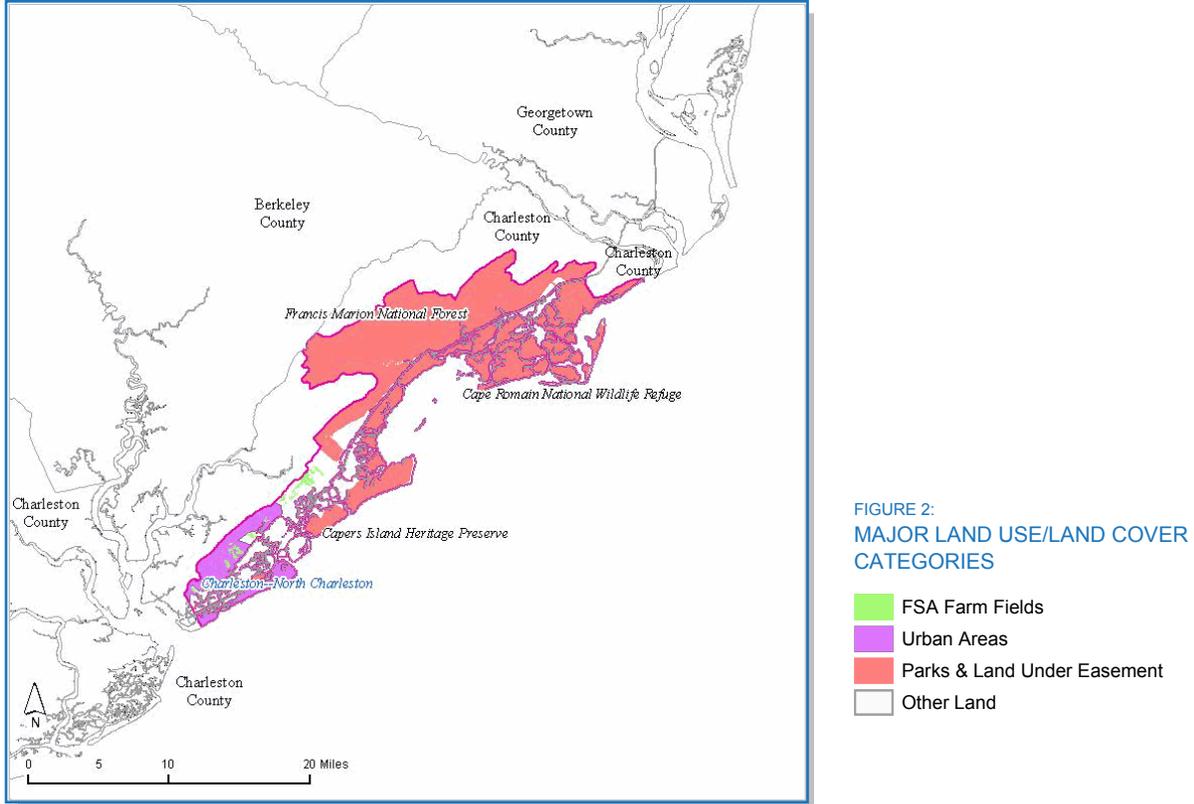


FIGURE 2:
MAJOR LAND USE/LAND COVER
CATEGORIES

- FSA Farm Fields
- Urban Areas
- Parks & Land Under Easement
- Other Land

Table 1:
MAJOR LAND USE/LAND COVER CATEGORIES

	Acres	% of Watershed
Watershed (Total)	121,062	-
Urban Area	11,441	9%
Parks/Land Under Easement (not NRCS)	88,635	73%
Farm Service Agency Designated Farm Fields	1,415	1%

Table 2:
AGRICULTURAL LAND USE: FSA ACREAGE AND ESTIMATED FARM FIELD USE FROM THE 2002 AG CENSUS
(NASS Whole County Data Used. Cropland includes: Field Crops, Orchards, and Specialty Crops.)

County	FSA Fields (Acres)	% Pasture (Estimated)	% Cropland (Estimated)	% Hayland (Estimated)
Charleston	1,415	18%	71%	11%

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summary of Resource Concerns

The following is a summary of resource concerns for the watershed. Each resource concern has a more detailed analysis provided in its corresponding section.

Soils

Land capability limitations are dominated by wetness in this small subbasin and are typical of an area within the Coastal Plain. Hydric soils or partially hydric soils comprise 94% of the subbasin and are the key resource concerns. Erosion is not a major resource concern.

Water Quantity

Awaiting SCDNR's new state water assessment.

Water Quality

Fecal coliforms for shellfish harvesting. Cape Romaine is considered an EPA Priority Watershed.

Plant Condition

There is a small amount (~1,400 ac) of farm field acreage in the subbasin.

Fish, Wildlife and Native Plants

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: Biologists have identified habitat protection as one of the most important actions to ensure the protection of South Carolina priority species. Loss and fragmentation of habitat have been identified as a major threat to many of the species listed as threatened and endangered in South Carolina.

Domestic Animals

Farming livestock in the subbasin is negligible.

Economic and Social Factors

Urban growth/sprawl.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Progress on Conservation

Table 3:
A SUMMARY OF NRCS APPLIED CONSERVATION TREATMENTS (ACRES)
 (See Appendix for NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories.)
 (Applied practice data is reported on a fiscal year basis commencing on October 1st)

Conservation Treatments	2004	2005	2006	Total
Buffers and Filter Strips	-	-	-	-
Conservation Tillage	-	-	-	-
Erosion Control	-	-	-	-
Irrigation Water Management	-	-	-	-
Nutrient Management	-	-	-	-
Pest Management	-	-	-	-
Prescribed Grazing	-	-	-	-
Trees and Shrubs	-	-	-	-
Wetlands	-	-	-	-
Wildlife Habitat	-	-	-	-

Table 4:
LANDS REMOVED FROM PRODUCTION BY FARM BILL PROGRAMS (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN)

County	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Conservation Reserve Program (ac) 1986 - 2005	Grassland Reserve Program (ac) 2005	Farmland & Ranch Protection Program (ac) 2005	Wetland Reserve Program (ac) 2005
Charleston	547	9,565	-	-	46

Table 5:
APPROVED TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)
 (See SCDHEC 2007 (a) in Reference Section.) - SCDHEC Contact: Matt Carswell - (803) 898-3609

TMDL Document	Number of Stations	Parameter of Concern	Status	WQMS ID Standard Attained
-	-	-	-	-

Table 6:
OTHER PLANS, ASSESSMENTS, AND PROJECTS IN THE WATERSHED

Organization	Description	Contact	Telephone
SCDHEC	Watershed Water Quality Assessment: Santee River Basin (2005)	Andy Miller	803-898-4031

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Other Watershed Considerations

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Soils

A majority (78%) of land in this small Coastal Plain subbasin in Charleston County has limitations due to wetness. Over half of this area is a salt marsh and has wetland limitations so severe that the use of the land is limited to only wildlife habitat (Table 7). The remaining wet areas are associated with hydric soils in low-lying areas in the upper part of the subbasin (Figure 5). Droughtiness is a concern in about 14% of the area (Table 7) and occurs in the sandy soils along the upper edge of the subbasin and on stream terraces along the Intercoastal Waterway. Erosion is not a resource concern as 93% of the land is classified as not highly erodible (Table 9). Only 13% of the land in the Bulls Bay subbasin is either prime farmland (1%) or statewide important farmland (12%) and occurs in the middle part of the subbasin north of the Intercoastal Waterway (Figure 3, Table 8).

Table 7:
LAND CAPABILITY CLASSES (See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in References section.)

Percentages are based on the whole watershed (121,062 ac).

Land Capability Class 1	Acres		Percent			
1 - Slight limitations	23		0%			
% Land by Subclass Limitation						
Land Capability Classes 2-8	Erosion (e)		Wetness(w)		Droughtiness (s)	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
2 - Moderate limitations	43	0%	2,295	2%	317	0%
3 - Severe limitations	-	-	24,271	20%	13,446	11%
4 - Very severe limitations	2,358	2%	14,045	12%	-	-
5 - No erosion hazard, but other limitations	-	-	175	0%	-	-
6 - Severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to pasture, range, forest	-	-	2,420	2%	-	-
7 - Very severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to grazing; forest, wildlife habitat	-	-	499	0%	2,617	2%
8 - Miscellaneous areas; limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply	-	-	51,296	42%	959	1%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Prime Farmland

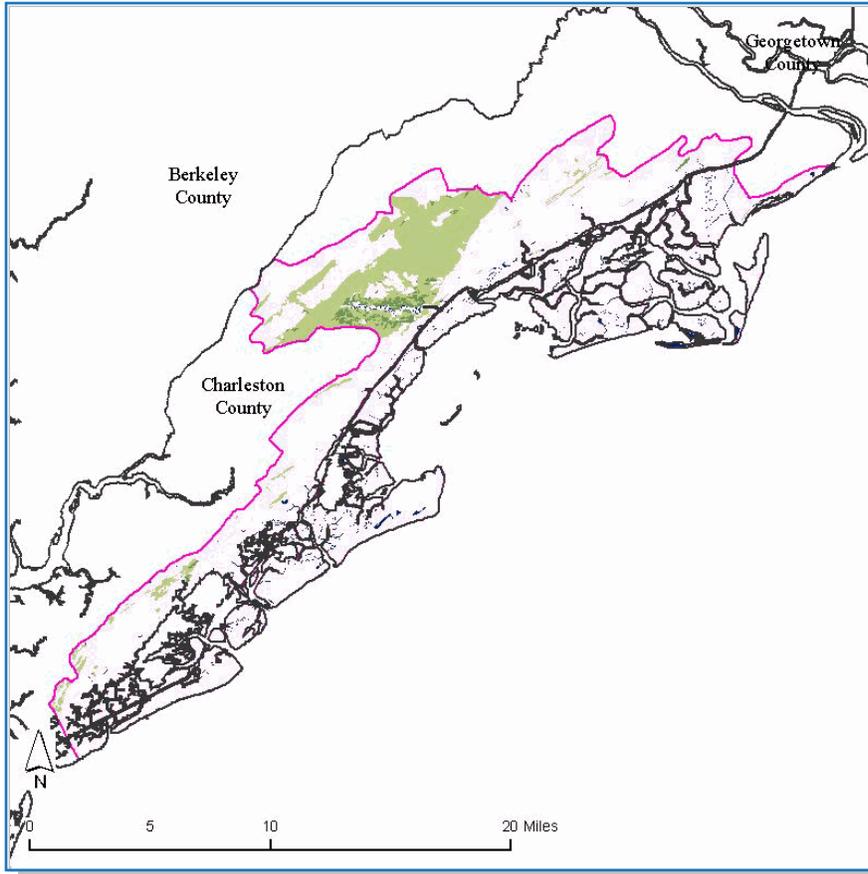


FIGURE 3:
PRIME FARMLAND
(See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in
References section.)

Table 8:
PRIME FARMLAND

Prime Farmland Categories	Acres	Percent of Land
All areas are prime farmland	1,447	1%
Farmland of statewide importance	14,425	12%
Not prime farmland	105,157	87%
Prime farmland if drained	14	0%
Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	0	0%
Prime farmland if irrigated	0	0%
Prime farmland if irrigated and drained	0	0%
Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	0	0%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Highly Erodible Land

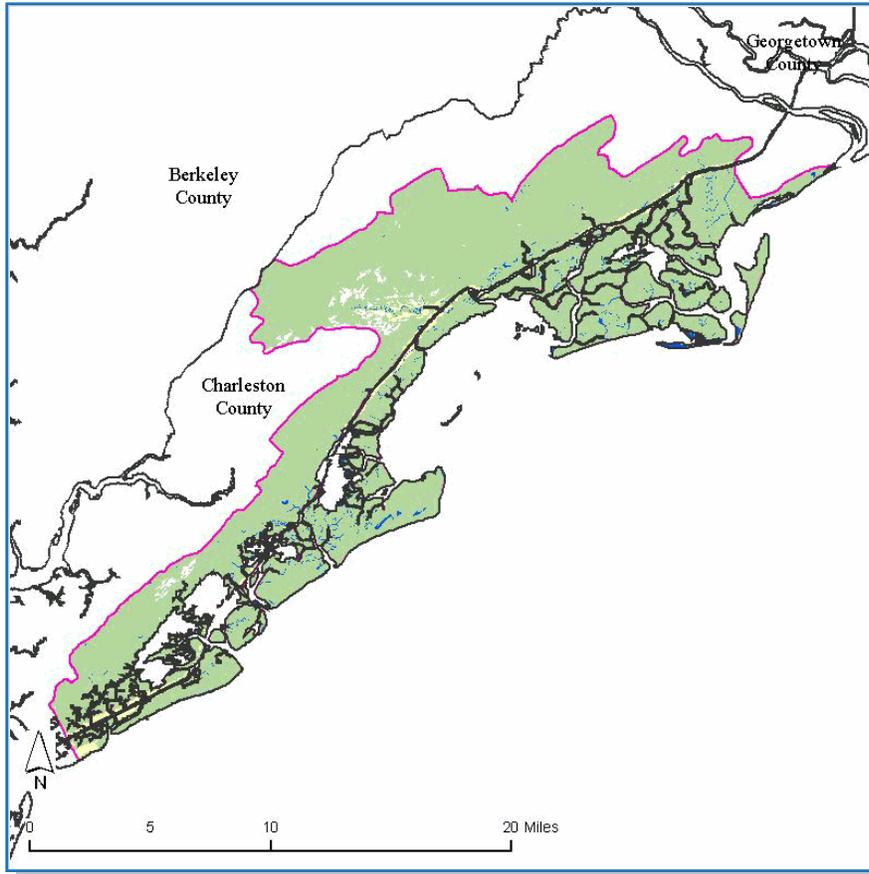


FIGURE 4:
HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND
(See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in
References section.)

Table 9:
HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

Highly Erodible Land Categories	Acres	Percent of Watershed
Highly erodible land	0	0%
Not highly erodible land	113,187	93%
Potentially highly erodible land	2,793	2%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Hydric Soils

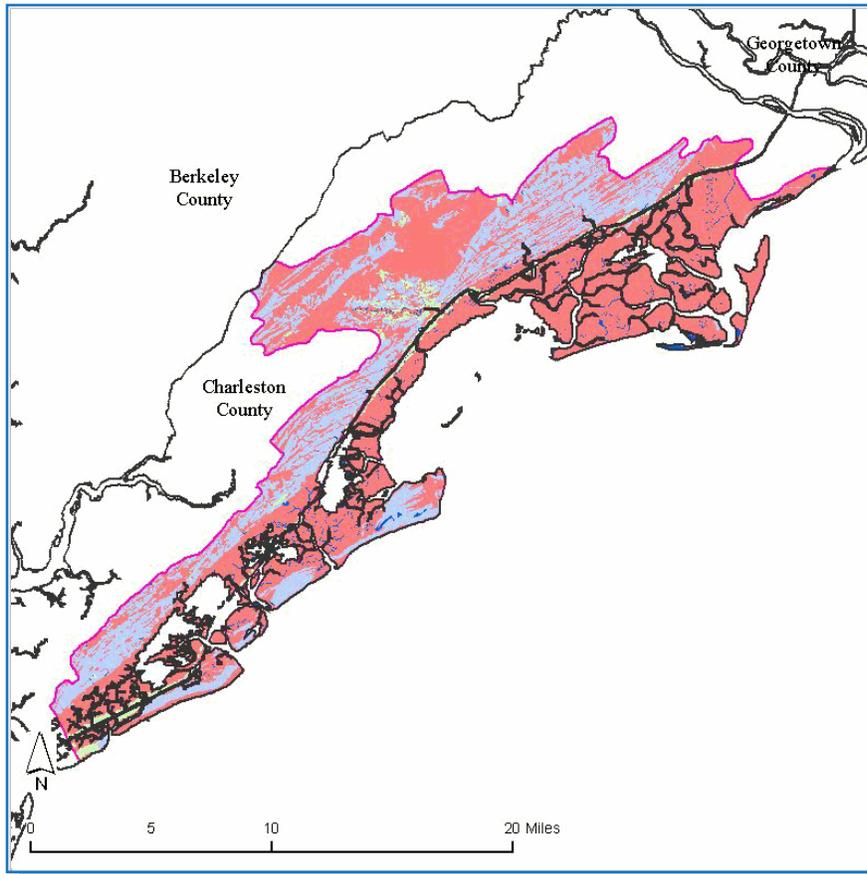


FIGURE 5:
HYDRIC SOILS
(See NRCS 2007 [a] and [b] in
References section.)

Table 10:
HYDRIC SOILS

Hydric Soils Categories	Acres	Percent of Watershed
All Hydric	79,242	65%
Not Hydric	7,194	6%
Partially Hydric	34,606	29%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Water Quantity

Narrative awaiting SCDNR's new state water assessment.

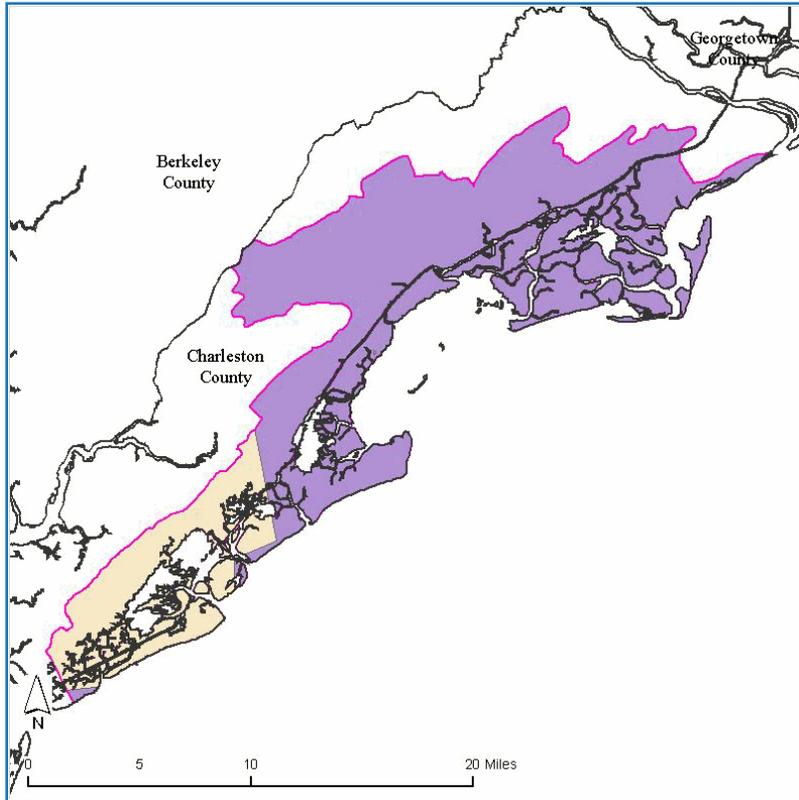


FIGURE 6:
WATERSHED RELATIVE TO CAPACITY
USE AREAS, NOTICE OF INTENT
AREAS, AND CONES OF DEPRESSION

Table 11:
CAPACITY USE, NOTICE OF INTENT, AND CONES OF DEPRESSION AREA IN WATERSHED
(See SCDHEC 2007 [c] and SCDNR 2004 in References Section.)

Area	Percent of Watershed
 % Watershed in Cone of Depression and Capacity Use (CU) Area	20%
 % Watershed in SCDHEC Capacity Use (CU) Area	79%
 % Watershed in SCDHEC Notice of Intent (NOI) Area	0%

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Water Quantity Cont.

Table 12:
INDICATORS OF IRRIGATION WATER USAGE (WHOLE COUNTY DATA ARE USED)
(See NASS 2002 and SCDNR 2004 in References Section)

County	Total Irrigated Water Used MGD	Total NASS Cropland (ac)	Cropland Under Irrigation (ac)	Percent Cropland Under Irrigation	Water Use Gal/Ac/Day for Irrigated Land
Charleston	8.04	12,397	1,666	13.4	4,826

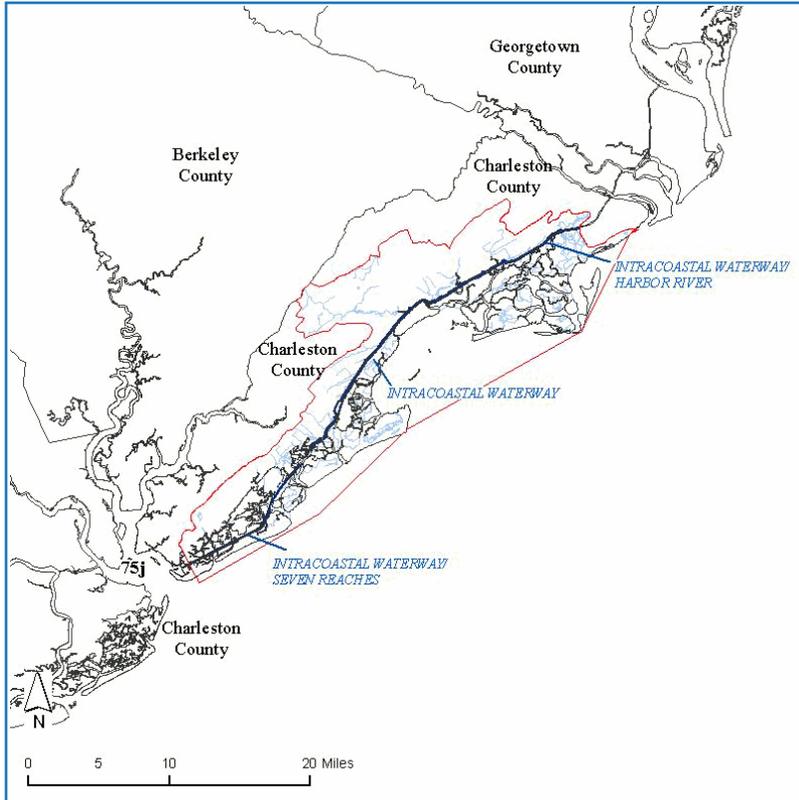


FIGURE 7:
NRCS ASSISTED FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES IN WATERSHED

-  Flood Control Structure
-  Main River
-  Hydrography

Table 13:
NRCS IMPLEMENTED FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES

Number of Structures (in Watershed)	Maximum Storage (AcFt)	Number of Structures by Hazard Class			
		High	Low	Significant	Unclassified
0	-	0	0	0	0

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Water Quality

The number of surface water quality impairments is shown in Table 15 resulting in a "303(d)" listing of that Water Quality Monitoring Site (WQMS). Table 5 indicates what progress has been made to address surface water quality through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. Once a TMDL plan is approved, the WQMS is removed from the 303(d) list even though the standard may not have been attained.

The most frequent impairments in the subbasin are for fecal coliform exceeding shellfish harvesting criteria (Table 15).

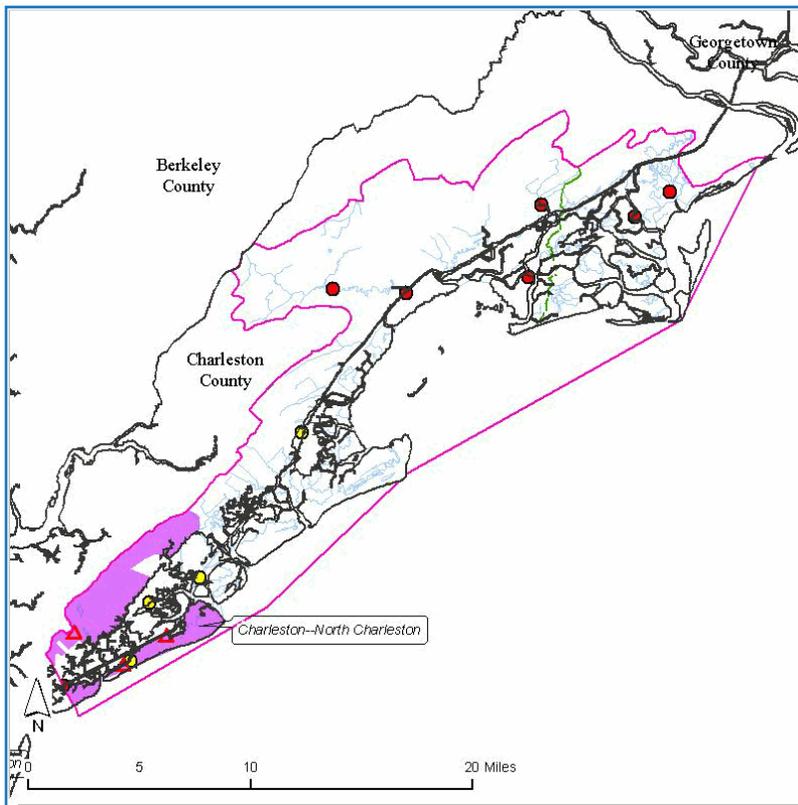


Table 14:
WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES

Permanent Water Quality Monitoring Sites (WQMS)	10
Random Water Quality Monitoring Sites (WQMS)	37

FIGURE 8:
PERMANENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES

- WQMS (No Impairment)
- WQMS (303d Listed)
- WQMS (Approved TMDL)
- ▲ Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Hydrography
- Hydrologic Unit Code 10 Boundary

Table 15:
NUMBER OF MONITORING SITES SHOWING SURFACE WATER QUALITY IMPAIRMENTS
(See SCDHEC 2006 in References for the state 303(d) list.)

Recreational Use Standard		Fish Tissue Standard		Shellfish Harvest Standard	
Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Fecal Coliform	2	Mercury	0	Fecal Coliform	42
		PCB's	0		
Aquatic Life Use Standard					
Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments	Parameter	Impairments
Biological	0	Dissolved Oxygen	1	Total Phosphorus	0
Chlorophyll A	0	Ammonia Nitrogen	0	pH	0
Chromium	0	Nickel	0	Turbidity	5
Copper	4	Total Nitrogen	0	Zinc	0

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Plant Condition

Plants of Economic Importance

Plants of economic importance are shown in Table 16. The crops shown in this table are from NASS data where the top five crops, by acres, in each county are displayed. The timber statistics (see Clemson Extension Forest Services 2003 in References) indicate the relative importance of the timber industry within the state and the importance of the timber industry compared to agriculture within the county.

Note that Charleston County is the second producer of tomatoes, and a top vegetable and sod producer in the state.

Native Plant Species

According to SC DNR's "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section), the following applies to this subbasin: Coastal Plain pine and hardwood forests typically extend into the Coastal Zone, but vary due to coastal influences or land management practices that are characteristic of the Coast. The types of forest include Pine Woodland, Bottomland Hardwoods, Upland Oak-hickory forest, Southern Mixed Hardwood Forest, Marl Forest and Calcareous Cliff, and Cypress-tupelo swamp types. Cypress-tupelo swamps within the Coastal Zone may be influenced more by tidal activity than by river flows, but the water is typically fresh.

In the forests of the immediate Coastal Zone, barrier islands and inland dune systems, characteristic trees include live oak, laurel oak, cabbage palmetto, southern magnolia and southern red cedar. These evergreen-dominated forests are salt-tolerant and often support shrub thickets with yaupon holly, red bay and wax myrtle.

Table 16:
WHOLE COUNTY DATA OF PLANTS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN SUBBASIN
 (See: USDA NASS 2002 & Clemson University Forest Extension Services 2003 in References section)

Plant	Counties
All Vegetables harvested	Charleston
Corn for grain	Charleston
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	Charleston
Sod harvested	Charleston
Tomatoes	Charleston

Table 17:
FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES IN WATERSHED
 (See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	Endangered
Sea-beach amaranth	<i>Amaranthus pumilus</i>	Threatened
Chaff-seed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	Endangered
Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	Endangered

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Fish and Wildlife

For additional information, the SC Department of Natural Resources has completed a "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005 - 2010" (see SCDNR 2005 in References section).

In 2005, mercury advisories were issued for 57 water bodies in South Carolina. Higher concentrations of mercury in fish tissue tend to occur in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina with relatively lower concentrations (and therefore fewer advisories) in the Piedmont. For more details on fish advisories, please refer to the SCDHEC fish advisory website at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/fish/>

Table 18:

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE SPECIES IN WATERSHED

(See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Endangered
West Indian manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Endangered
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Endangered
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened, Critical Habitat
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	Endangered
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii*</i>	Endangered
Flatwoods salamander	<i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i>	Threatened
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea*</i>	Endangered
Bachman's warbler	<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>	Endangered
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas*</i>	Threatened

Table 19:

FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AQUATIC SPECIES IN WATERSHED

(See USFW 2006 in References section.)

Common Name	Latin Name	Status
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered

RESOURCE CONCERNS

Domestic Animals

Domestic livestock populations in the subbasin are negligible compared to the human population.

Table 20:
WHOLE COUNTY GRAZING ANIMAL POPULATION DATA FROM 2002 AG. CENSUS
 (See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Cows/Calves	Grazing/Forage (ac)	County Rank in State
Charleston	1,750	2,195	(D)

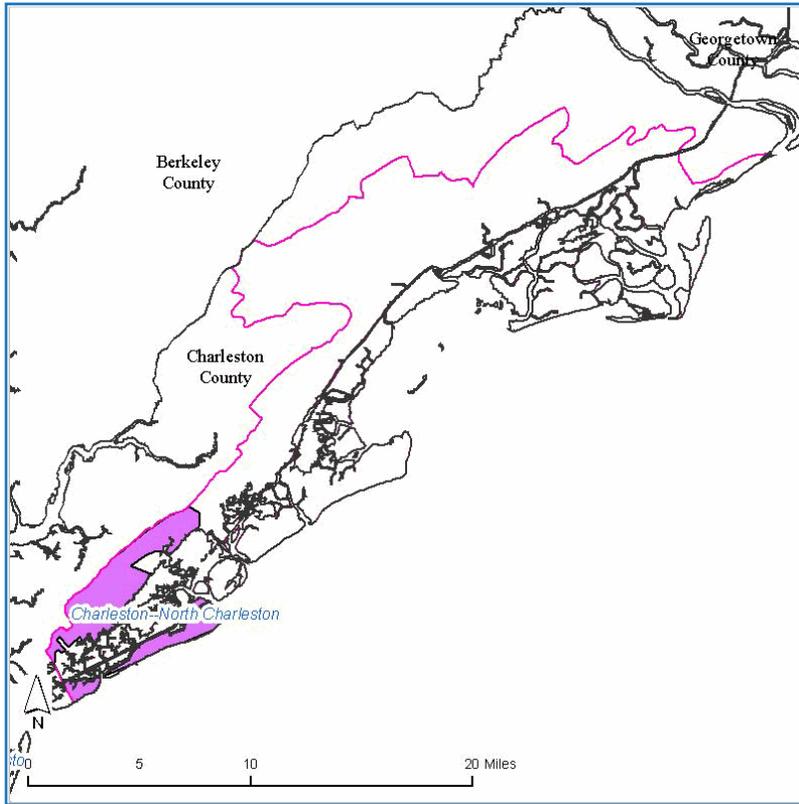


Table 21:
CONFINED ANIMAL POPULATION [As given by SCDHEC] (Au = Animal Unit = 1,000 lbs)

Beef Live Weight (Au)	-
Dairy Live Weight (Au)	-
Horse Live Weight (Au)	-
Poultry Live Weight (Au)	-
Swine Live Weight (Au)	-
Turkey Live Weight (Au)	-

FIGURE 9:
TYPE AND SIZE OF CONFINED ANIMAL OPERATION

Permit Design Count (Live Weight AU)	Animal Type
0 - 163	Beef
164-372	Dairy
373 - 680	Other
681 - 1360	Poultry
1361 - 7076	Swine
	Turkey

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL FACTORS

The subbasin is too small to make any inferences from county-level agricultural census statistics.

The relative importance of crop and livestock commodity groups in the watershed is shown in Tables 24 and 25; a *qualitative* indication of the relative importance of timber is provided on Table 16.

For more economic and farm information from the 2002 Agricultural Census, more detailed reports for all South Carolina counties can be found at:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/profiles/sc/index.htm>



Table 22:
2002 FARM CENSUS DATA (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN) (SC average farm size = 197 ac)

County	Total Number of Farms	% Full Time Farmers	% Farms > 180 (ac)	Average Farm Size (ac)
Charleston	417	42%	14%	114
Weighted Avg*	417	42%	14%	114

Table 23:
2002 FARM CENSUS ECONOMIC DATA (WHOLE COUNTY DATA SHOWN) (Results in \$1,000)

County	Market Value of Ag Products Sold	Market Value of Crops Sold	Market Value of Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products	Farms with sales < \$10,000
Charleston	18,068	15,983	2,085	321
Weighted Avg*	18,068	15,983	2,085	321



Table 24:
VALUE OF CROP COMMODITY GROUPS - COUNTY RANK IN STATE
(See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Value of All Crops	Grains & Oilseeds	Tobacco	All Cotton	Vegetables & Melons	Fruits, Nuts, & Berries	Nursery, Etc.	Christmas Trees & Woody Crops	Hay & other Crops
Charleston	15	(D)	-	-	4	9	9	(D)	(D)

Table 25:
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMODITY GROUPS - RANK IN STATE
(See NASS 2002 in References section. "D" in table = "Cannot be disclosed".)

County	Value of Livestock, poultry	Poultry, Eggs	Cattle & Calves	Milk & Dairy	Hogs & Pigs	Sheep & Goats	Horses, etc.
Charleston	37	39	(D)	-	37	26	(D)

* Weighted averages are estimated based on agricultural land use area.

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APPENDIX

Level III Common Resource Area (Ecological Region) Descriptions

Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain (63)

The Middle Atlantic Coastal consists of low elevation, flat plains, with many swamps, marshes, and estuaries. Forest cover in the region, once dominated by longleaf pine in the Carolinas, is now mostly loblolly and some shortleaf pine, with patches of oak, gum, and cypress near major streams. Pine plantations for pulpwood and lumber are typical, with some areas of cropland. In South Carolina, the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain is divided into three level IV ecoregions: Carolinian Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes (63g), Carolina Flatwoods (63h), Mid-Atlantic Floodplains and Low Terraces (63n).

Southern Coastal Plain (75)

The Southern Coastal Plain extends from South Carolina and Georgia through much of central Florida, and further along the Gulf coast. It is a heterogeneous region also containing barrier islands, coastal lagoons, marshes, and swampy lowlands along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. The South Carolina portion of the Southern Coastal Plain contains two level IV ecoregions: Floodplains and Terraces (75i), and Sea Islands/Coastal Marsh (75j).

NRCS Conservation Practices used for Conservation Treatment Categories in Table 3

Report Category	Practice Codes
Buffer and Filter Strips	332, 391, 393, 412
Conservation Tillage	324, 329, 329A, 329B, 344, 484
Erosion Control	327, 328, 330, 340, 342, 561, 585, 586
Irrigation Water Management	441, 449
Nutrient Management	590
Pest Management	595
Prescribed Grazing	528, 528A
Trees and Shrubs	490, 612, 655, 656, 66
Wetlands	657, 658, 659
Wildlife Habitat	644, 645

Hydrologic Unit Numbering System

In 2005, the NRCS in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the U.S. Forest Service updated the South Carolina part of the USGS standard hydrologic unit map series. The report, "Development of a 10- and 12- Digit Hydrologic Unit Code Numbering System for South Carolina, 2005", describes and defines those efforts. The following is from the Abstract contained in that report: "A hydrologic unit map showing the subbasins, watersheds, and subwatersheds of South Carolina was developed to represent 8-, 10-, and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes, respectively. The 10- and 12-digit hydrologic unit codes replace the 11- and 14-digit hydrologic unit codes developed in a previous investigation. Additionally, substantial changes were made to the 8-digit subbasins in the South Carolina Coastal Plain. These modifications include the creation of four new subbasins and the renumbering of existing subbasins." The report may be obtained at http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/HUC_report.pdf. See Table 2 in the report for a cross-reference of old to new 8-digit HUC.

This subbasin profile uses the new HUC 8 numbering system with its modified and newly created subbasins. The NRCS reports implemented practices by 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code. All NRCS reported Conservation Practices were reported using the older numbering system. 2005 and 2006 data were converted to the new HUC 8 numbering system through the Latitude and Longitude data reported with the applied practice. The use of these differing numbering systems has resulted in some NRCS implemented practices being credited in this report to an 8-digit HUC as reported by the NRCS but not correctly credited in the new numbering system. Likewise, the newly created 8-digit HUC will not be credited with the 2004 applied practices.