



WACCAMAW WATERSHED ACADEMY

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Surfside Beach Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

Summary Report

April 2021



The Surfside Beach Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring team continues to provide high quality data about the Town of Surfside Beach's Myrtle Lake and Lake Dogwood.

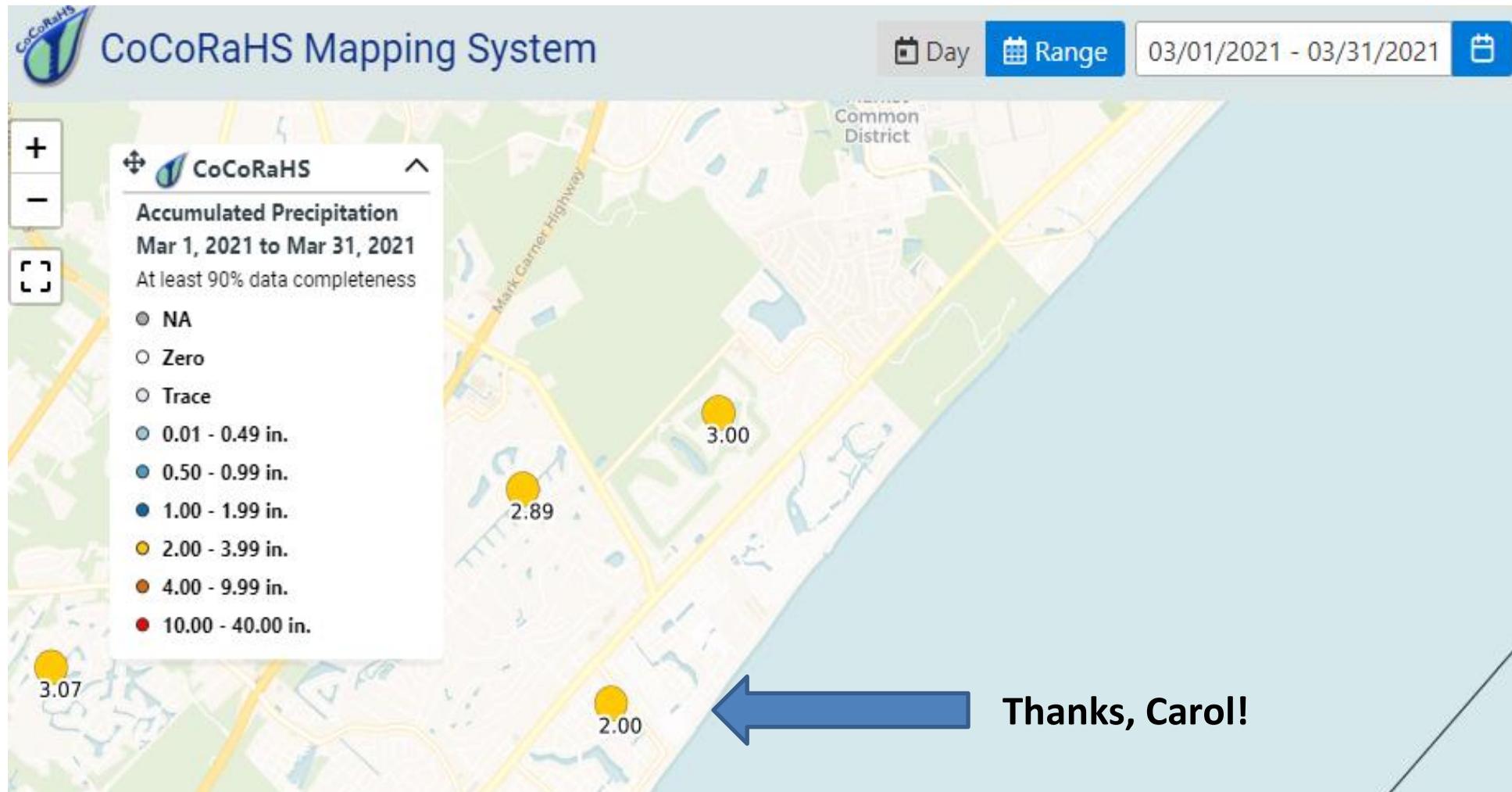
The team is led by Ken Harth with fellow monitors Carol Harth, Hoke Petree, Ron Crouch, Ron Mask and new recruit Yvette Hellyer. Special thanks to the Surfside team for their help reviewing our new Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Handbook!

Ken and Carol Harth have served the Surfside Beach watershed for over ten years! We hope to recognize the Harths and the other Surfside Beach volunteers at an in-person volunteer luncheon later this fall.

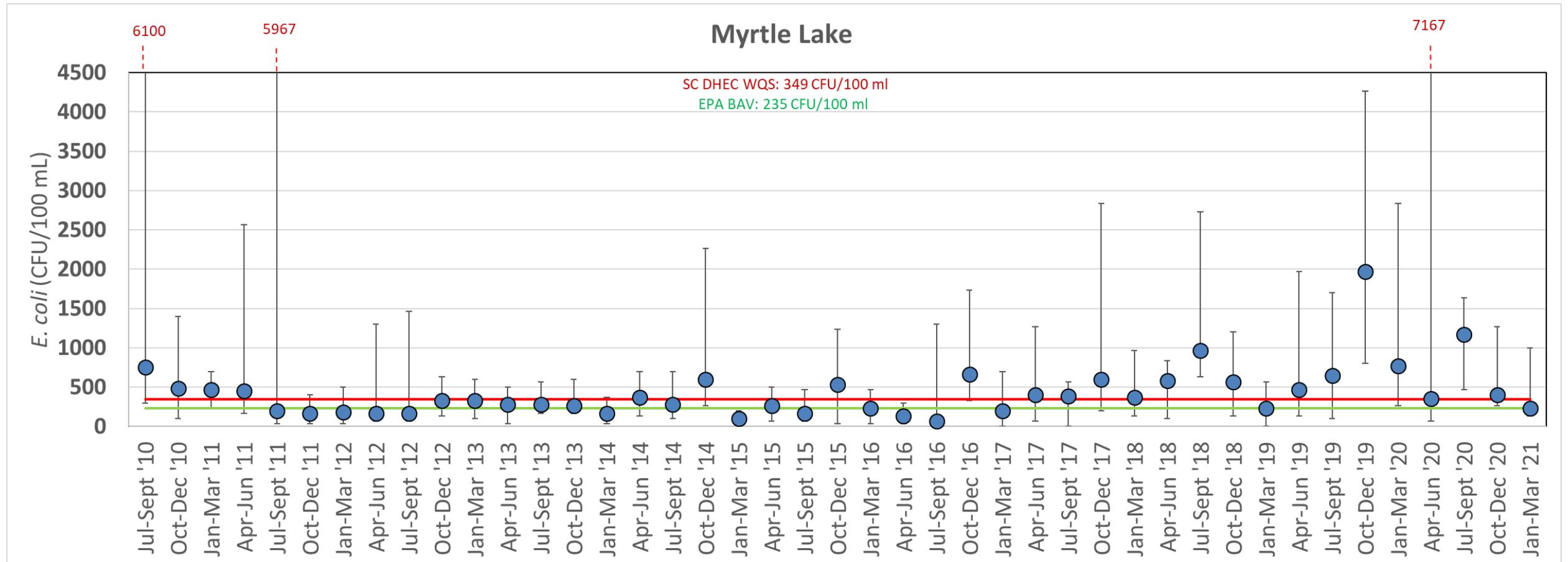
All water quality and rain data are available at: <https://www.coastal.edu/wwa/vm/programs/surfsidebeach/>

Additional citizen science projects in Surfside: Carol Harth continues to provide rain data through NOAA's CoCoRaHS volunteer rain monitoring program.

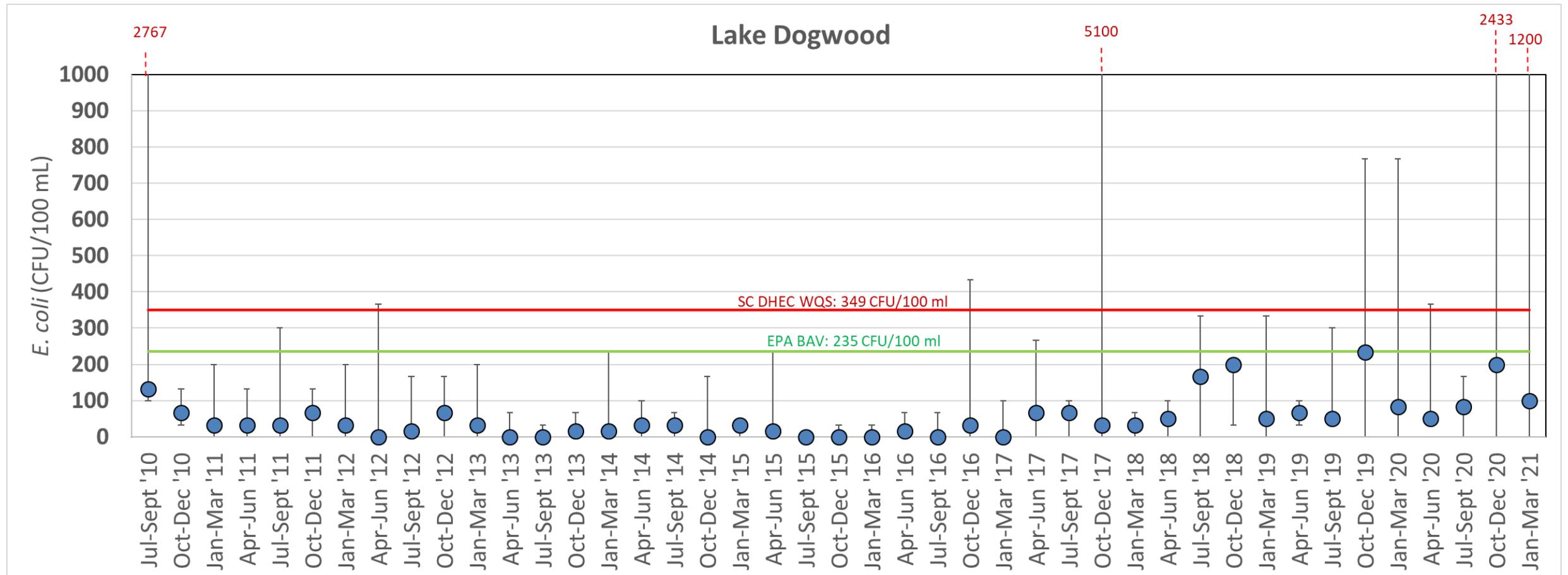
View Carol's data (and other local weather watchers) at <https://maps.cocorahs.org/>.



***E. coli* bacteria in Myrtle Lake:** The quarterly median for Winter 2021 was the first quarter since winter 2019 to not exceed the SC DHEC Class FW water quality criteria (349 CFU/100 mL). Only two of the six samples in this last quarter exceeded the water quality criteria, but this likely reflects the effect of colder temperatures on *E. coli*.



***E. coli* bacteria in Lake Dogwood:** In the first quarter of 2021, *E. coli* was well below the water quality criteria with the notable exception of the 2/9/21 sampling which followed about 2” of rain three days prior. The reported concentration of 1200 CFU/100mL was the 4th highest on record for Lake Dogwood. This sampling also had other evidence of stormwater impacts including unusually low conductivity and unusually high turbidity (33 NTU).



Turbidity in Lake Dogwood 2018 to 2021: Since 2018, turbidity has been elevated except for a brief period from May 2020 to August 2020. The fourth highest report to date was observed on 2/9/21 following about 2" rain.

The water levels of Lake Dogwood were dropped at the beginning of March to facilitate a construction project downstream at the swash. This might impact the turbidity in the Lake.

