

## President's Message: November 2024



Fishing is becoming frustrating! Due to many factors, it is becoming increasingly harder to find a place to fish that isn't affected by Red Tide, flesh eating bacteria or fecal matter in the water. Runoff from the hurricanes has literally flooded the bay with nutrients that have spurred these bacteria blooms. Furthermore, outdated and over capacity sewage treatment facilities released millions of gallons of raw sewage into the bay.

Unfortunately, these issues are not going away anytime soon. The water that flows into Tampa Bay comes from multiple counties, so until harsher regulations are in place and all the counties are on the same page; the waters flowing into the bay will continue to be a major issue. For example, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties have a fertilizer ban during the summer months but Pasco County does not. The water shed for the northern part of the bay extends well into Pasco county. This is just one example.

On another front, the Tampa Bay Area suffers from over development. Hundreds of thousands of new residences are being built every year, many built in areas that used to be natural filtration for runoff. Now that runoff fills storm drains that dump it into the bay. These new residences also create a massive increase in raw sewage waste. Current sewage treatment facilities are inefficiently designed to handle this increase in sewage waste, we have seen the effects of their incapability far too many times.

These are just a couple of examples of issues that affect Tampa Bay, I'm sure we all could list many more. So, sorry for my soap box session, like I said at the beginning, it's frustrating! Man has no problem messing up the bay if he can make a buck while doing it, but is far too reluctant to spend a buck to fix it.

Enjoy Every Day,

*David*

David Redd