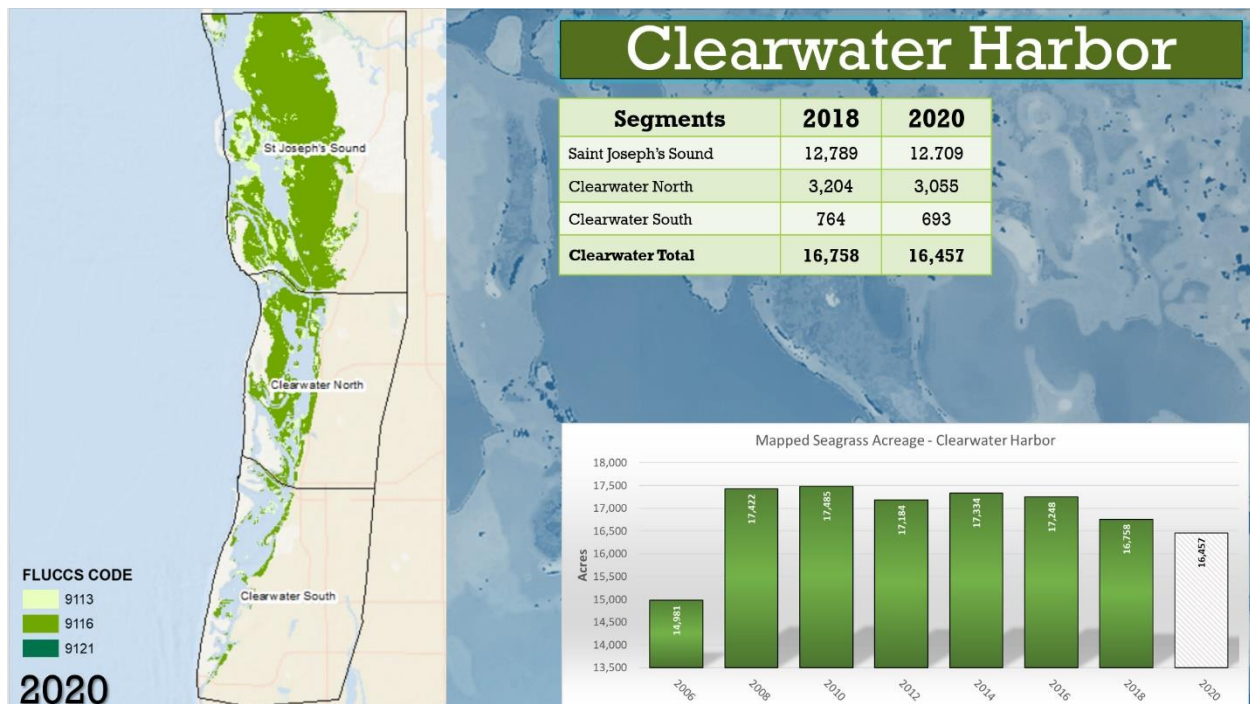


John,

Thanks for reaching out.

Our seagrass maps are produced every two years from Tampa Bay southward to Charlotte Harbor. The last aerial survey was completed in 2020. We recently completed aerial image acquisition for the 2022 maps and hope to have preliminary numbers by late summer/early fall. Currently we are post-processing the aerial imagery collected last month with photointerpretation to follow.

The purpose of our seagrass maps is to provide an estuary-level view of seagrass acreage. For the Clearwater Harbor/Saint Joseph Sound area, seagrass totals have remained relatively consistent since 2008 though we have seen a slight decline over the past 4 years.



The 2020 map (below) shows a linear seagrass meadow adjacent to Coachman Park. I looked at all the previous maps going back to 2006 when we started mapping this area and it is consistently mapped as seagrass.



With respect to the condition of the seagrass beds, our maps only provide an estimate of spatial extent. In other words, the dark green polygons represent areas where the photographic signature is that of a continuous seagrass meadow (>25% cover). The light green represents patchy seagrass (<25% cover). To determine the condition of the grass, one would have to get in the water and examine the beds up close. While we do a considerable amount of field verification (>1,200 points in 2020), unfortunately we did not collect field data in this area.

If you haven't done so already, I suggest reaching out to Rob Burnes at Pinellas County. The County has a robust seagrass monitoring program and may have information on this area.

**Rob Burnes**  
Pinellas County  
Environmental Management  
(727) 453-3149  
[rburnes@pinellascounty.org](mailto:rburnes@pinellascounty.org)

Let me know if you have any questions. Happy to chat with you more.  
My office number is (813) 985-7481 x2029 and my cell is (813) 310-6809.

---

**Chris J. Anastasiou, PhD**

Chief Scientist  
Water Quality & Seagrass  
SWIM Program  
SW FL Water Management District

---

