

Ceitus Barrier Replacement Update: #3

**SAVE MATLACHA PASS
PROTECT OUR FISHERIES**

**FISH, CRABS, AND SHRIMP NEED CLEAN
WATER TO LIVE**

**HEALTHY FISHERIES NEED HEALTHY
HABITATS**

**TAKE ACTION TO KEEP OUR HEALTHY
FISHERIES**

**REMOVAL OF THE CEITUS BOATLIFT IN
CAPE CORAL IS ALLOWING TOO MUCH
POOR QUALITY FRESHWATER
INTO MATLACHA PASS**

**RE-INSTALLING THE BARRIER WILL
RESTORE HEALTHY FRESHWATER
FLOWS TO MATLACHA PASS**

**HEALTHY FRESHWATER FLOWS MEAN
HEALTHY FISHERIES**

**TELL FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO
REINSTALL THE CEITUS BARRIER**

**THE QUALITY OF YOUR FISHING
DEPENDS ON IT**

**CONTACT FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
TELL THEM TO KEEP MATLACHA'S WATER
CLEAN.**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.GPICA.ORG**

To the left is a reproduction of a propaganda flyer that is being distributed around Pine Island and Matlacha by those people and organizations that are in support of replacing the Ceitus Barrier. You will find the information to be incomplete, inaccurate and misleading. The emphasis is on the need for "healthy freshwater flows to Matlacha Pass." The implication is that the water from the Cape Coral canal system is "poor quality" and that somehow the replacement of the barrier will magically "restore healthy freshwater." Lost in all of this blather is the fact that all of the water coming from Cape Coral, whether it is polluted or not (and it is not--see **note below**) will eventually flow into Matlacha Pass regardless of whether a Barrier is in place or not. A Barrier will not alter, change, or improve the condition of the water flowing into or out of the Spreader Canals. This past year storm water overflowed the Burnt Store Road weirs for only 60 days. The water in the canals during the remaining 300 days is due to natural tidal movement between Matlacha Pass and the Spreader Canal System. It's the same water, folks. The waters of Matlacha Pass and the Spreader Canal System can no longer be separated. The Spreader Canal is full of leaks (13 identified) and breaches, and it no longer is capable of "holding" water.

Note: To scientifically address the issue of water pollution three separate graphs (nitrates, phosphorus and fecal streptococcus concentrations in both Matlacha Pass and the North Spreader Canal System versus Clean Water Standards) are being prepared by city staff. They will be introduced by Oliver Clarke at the January 20th NWNA meeting at 7 PM at Mariner High School. The meeting will be in the cafeteria. Doors will be open at 6:30pm.