

## Florida Keys Canal Water Quality Issues



Accumulation of seaweed in many Keys canals causes water quality impairments such as anoxic conditions and low visibility. Additionally, methane and hydrogen sulfide gases are released during decomposition.



Canal water quality impacted by seaweed and lack of flushing.

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Dead end finger canals accumulate seaweed and other flotsam that become trapped and ultimately decay impacting water quality. This is a problem throughout the Keys. This photo was taken in the Upper Keys. Below photo was taken in the Middle Keys.



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An existing weedgate/air bubble curtain, located on Avenue J Canal in Big Pine, Florida Keys, shows how effective the system is in keeping the seaweed (left side of photo) from entering the canal (right side of photo). This system is operated by the homeowners that live along the canal.

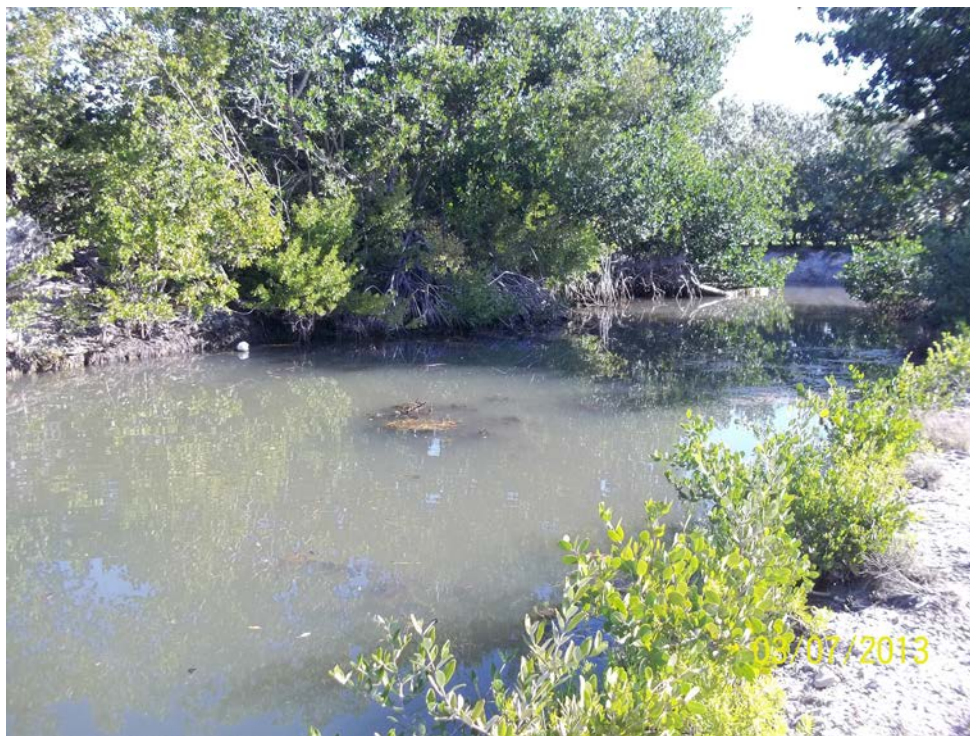


Weedgate/air bubble curtain located at the Big Pine Fish Camp, Big Pine, Florida Keys. View is leaving the canal to open water.

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Weedgate/air bubble curtain located at the Big Pine Fish Camp, Big Pine, Florida Keys. View is entering the canal.



Other canals have poor water quality due to the lack of flushing and will require culvert or pumping systems to enhance the natural tidal exchange in the near shore waters.