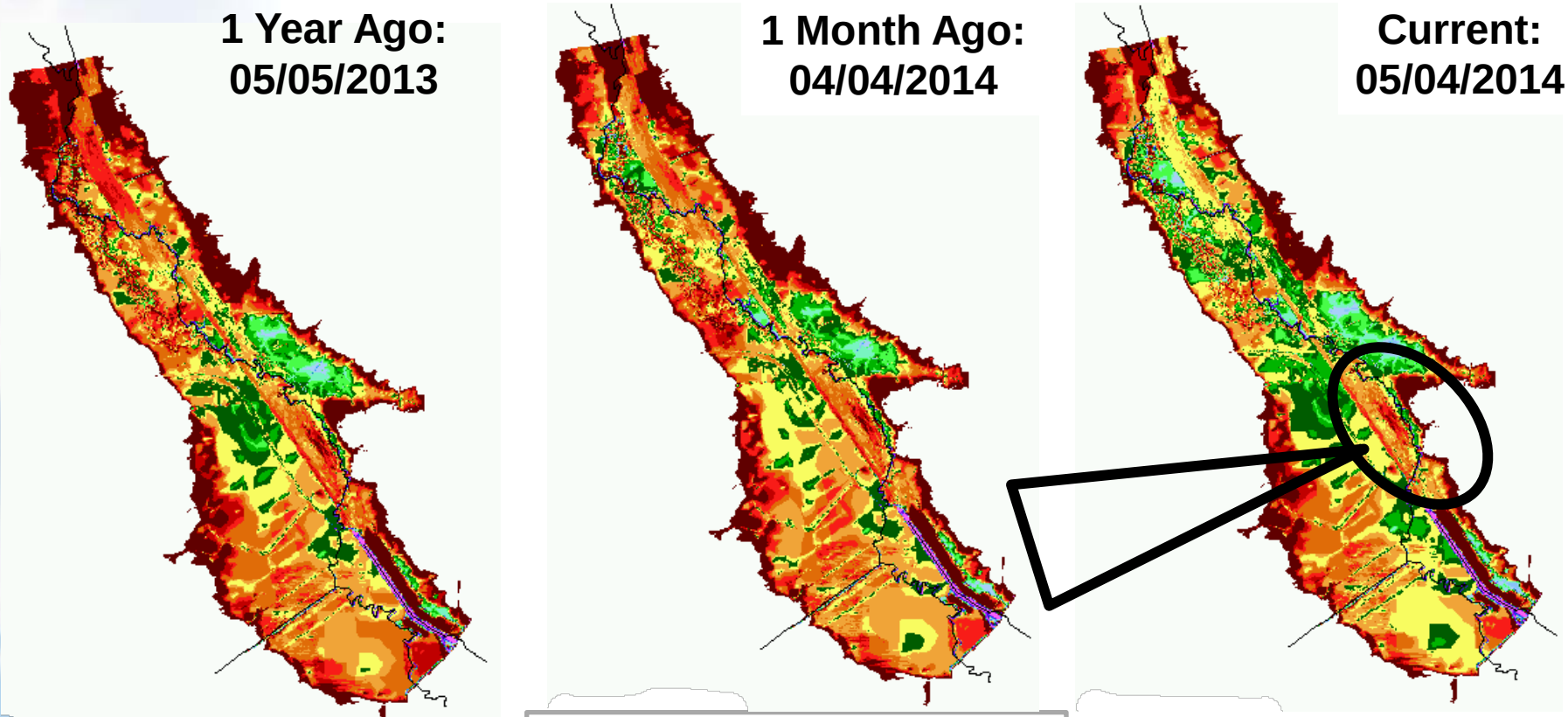
May 2014 - Governing Board Meeting

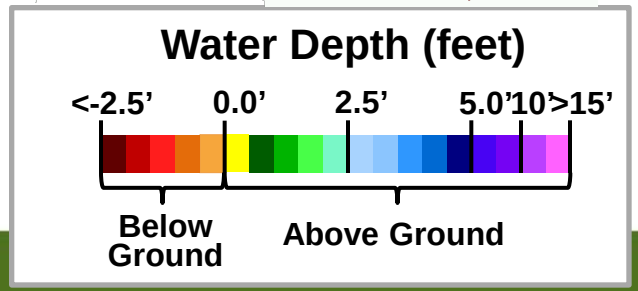
Ecological Conditions Update

TERRIE BATES
Director Water Resources Division

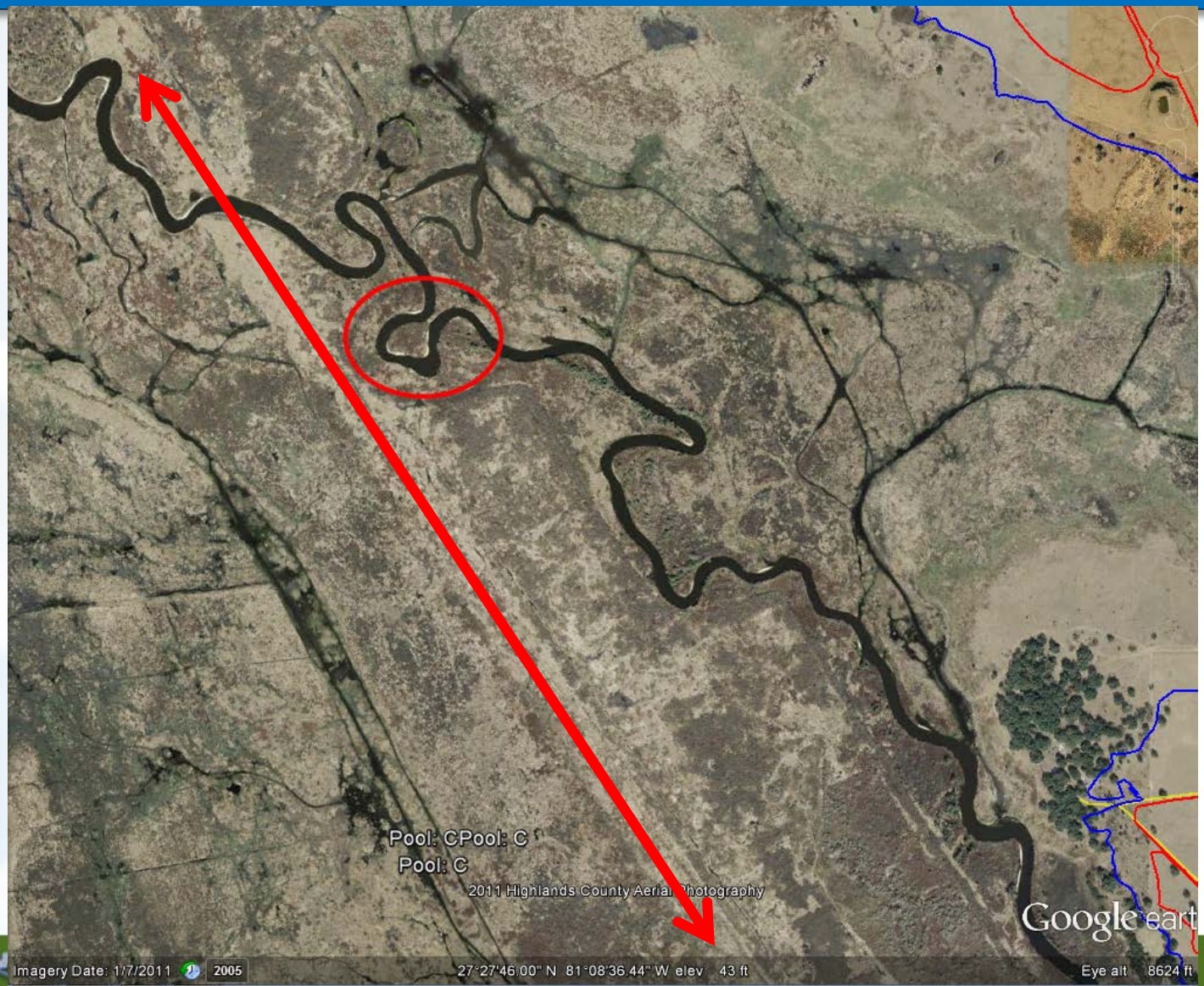
Kissimmee River (Pool C)

Monthly Water Depth Maps



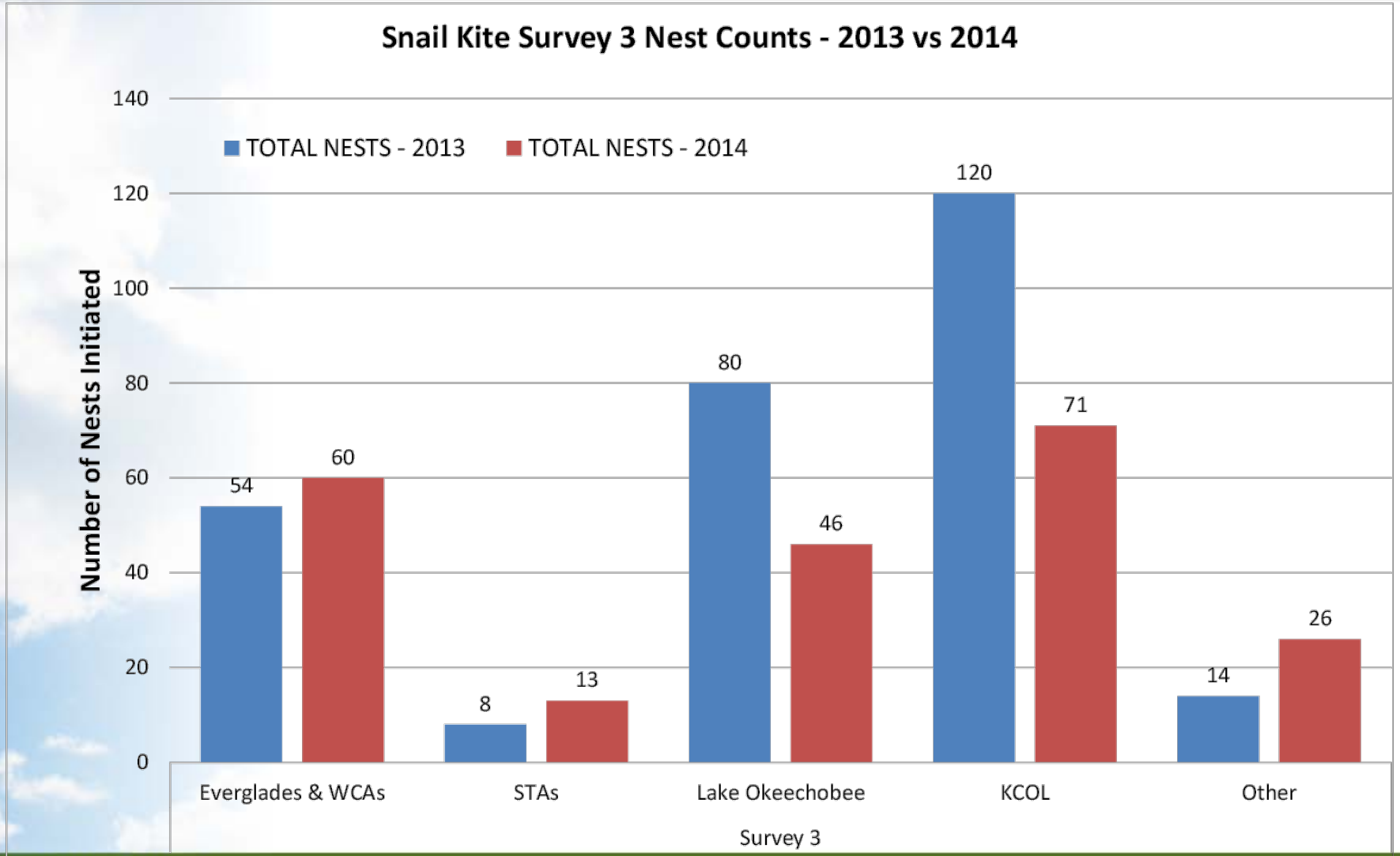


Kissimmee River
Geomorphology in Action



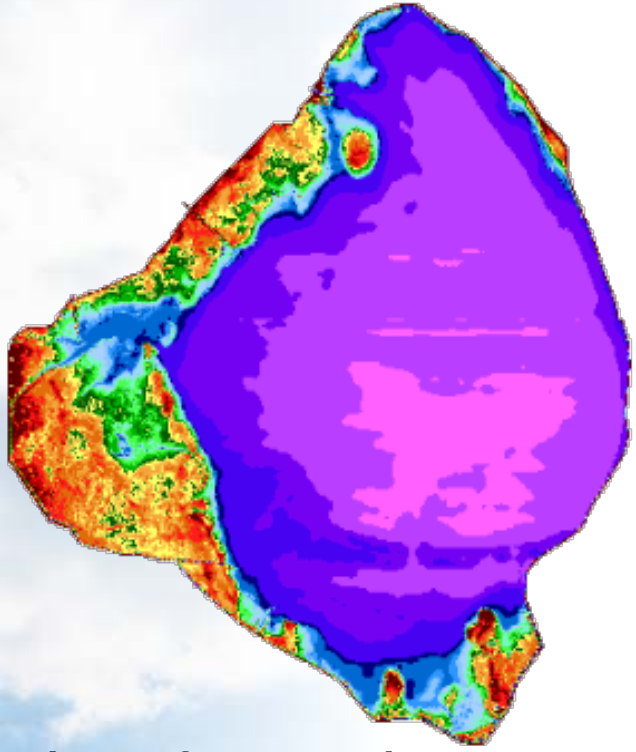
FLOW

Systemwide
Snail Kite Nesting – Survey 3



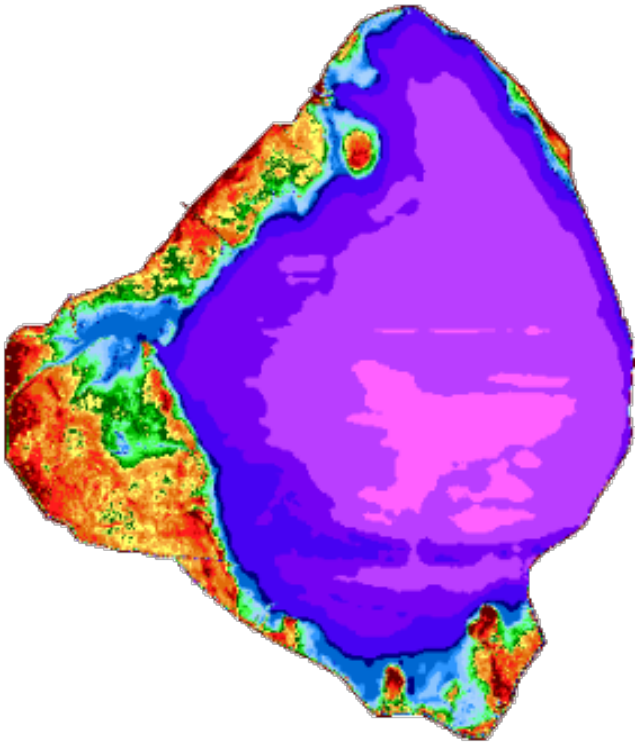
Lake Okeechobee
Water Depth Timeseries Maps

1 Year Ago: 5/5/2013



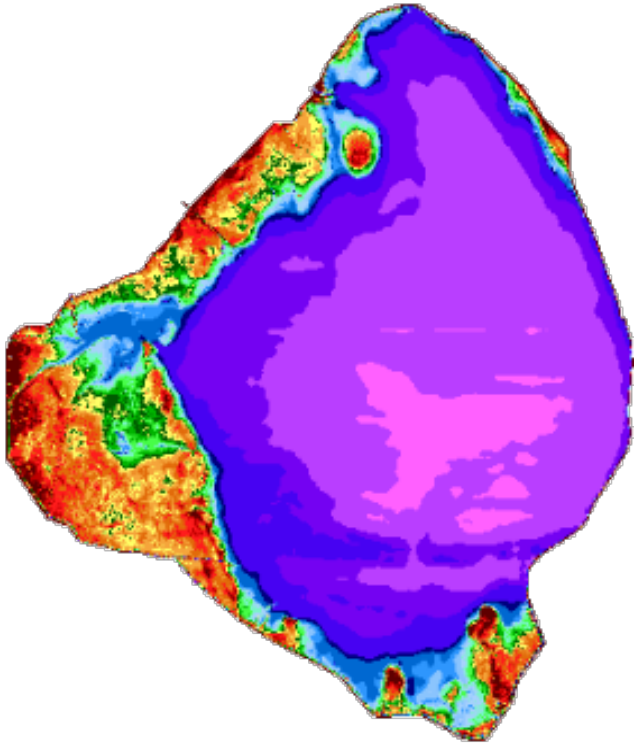
(13.60 ft NGVD29)

1 Month Ago: 4/5/2014

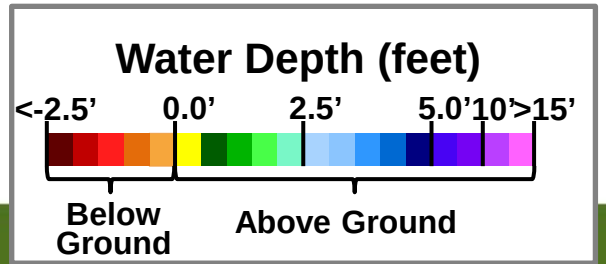


(13.48 ft NGVD29)

Current: 5/5/2014



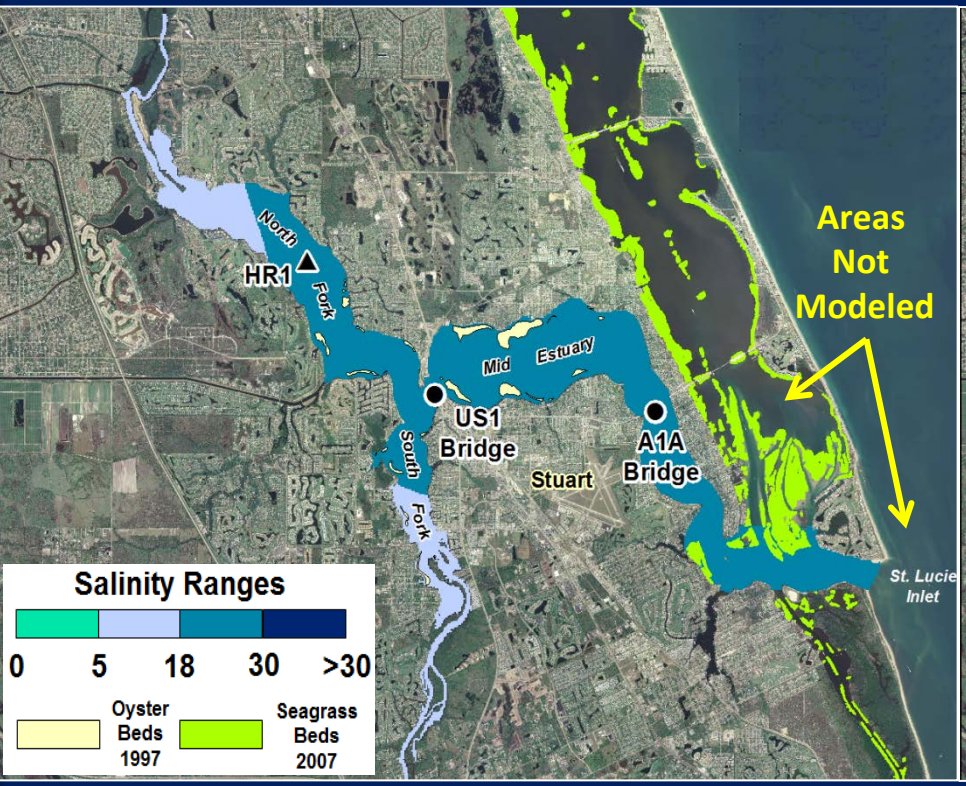
(13.08 ft NGVD29)



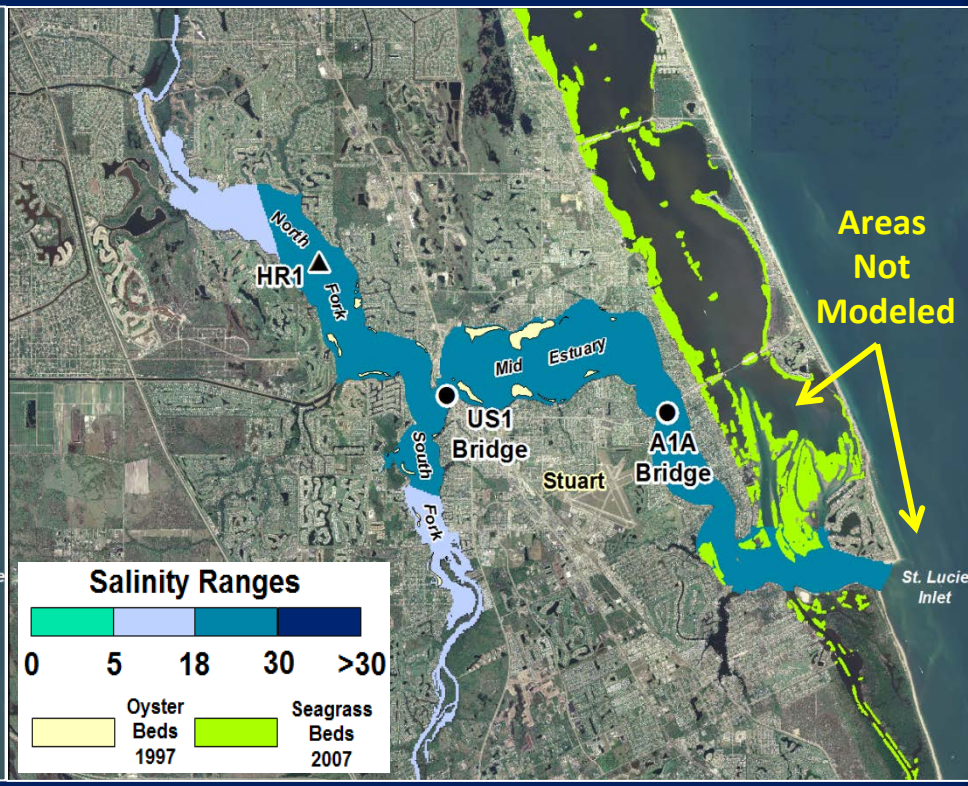
St. Lucie Estuary

Salinity Conditions

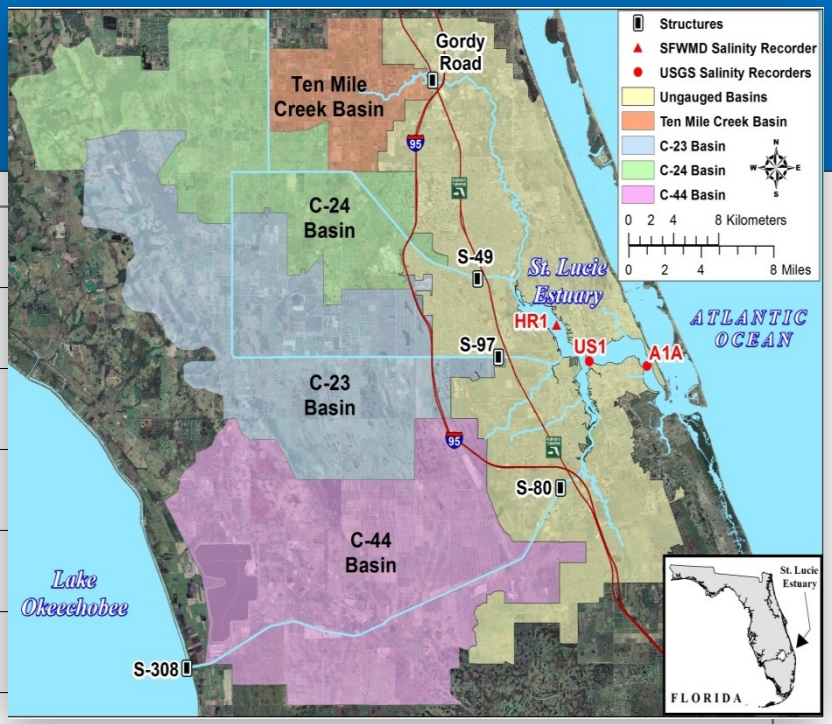
April 7, 2014

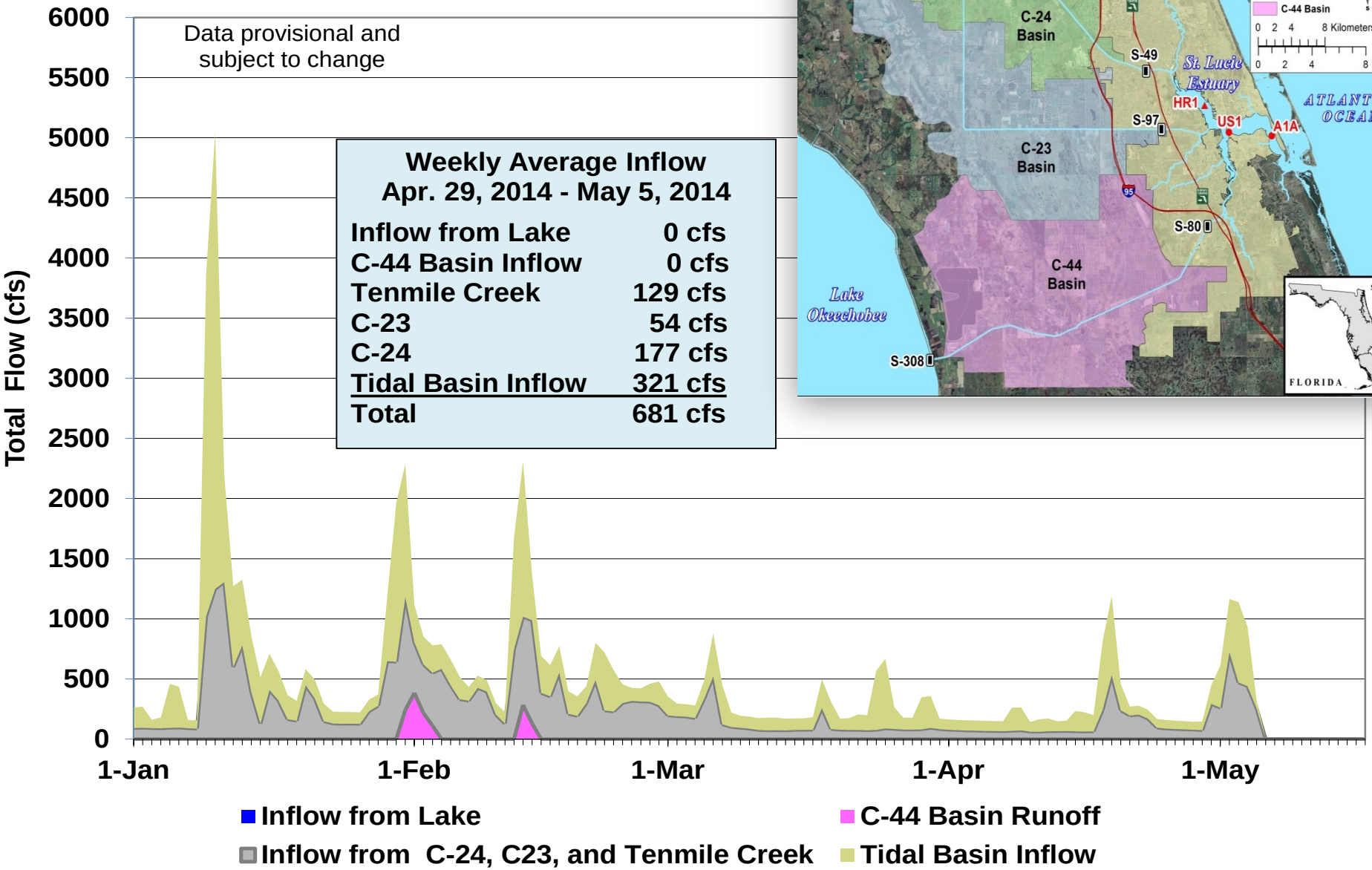


May 5, 2014



St. Lucie Estuary



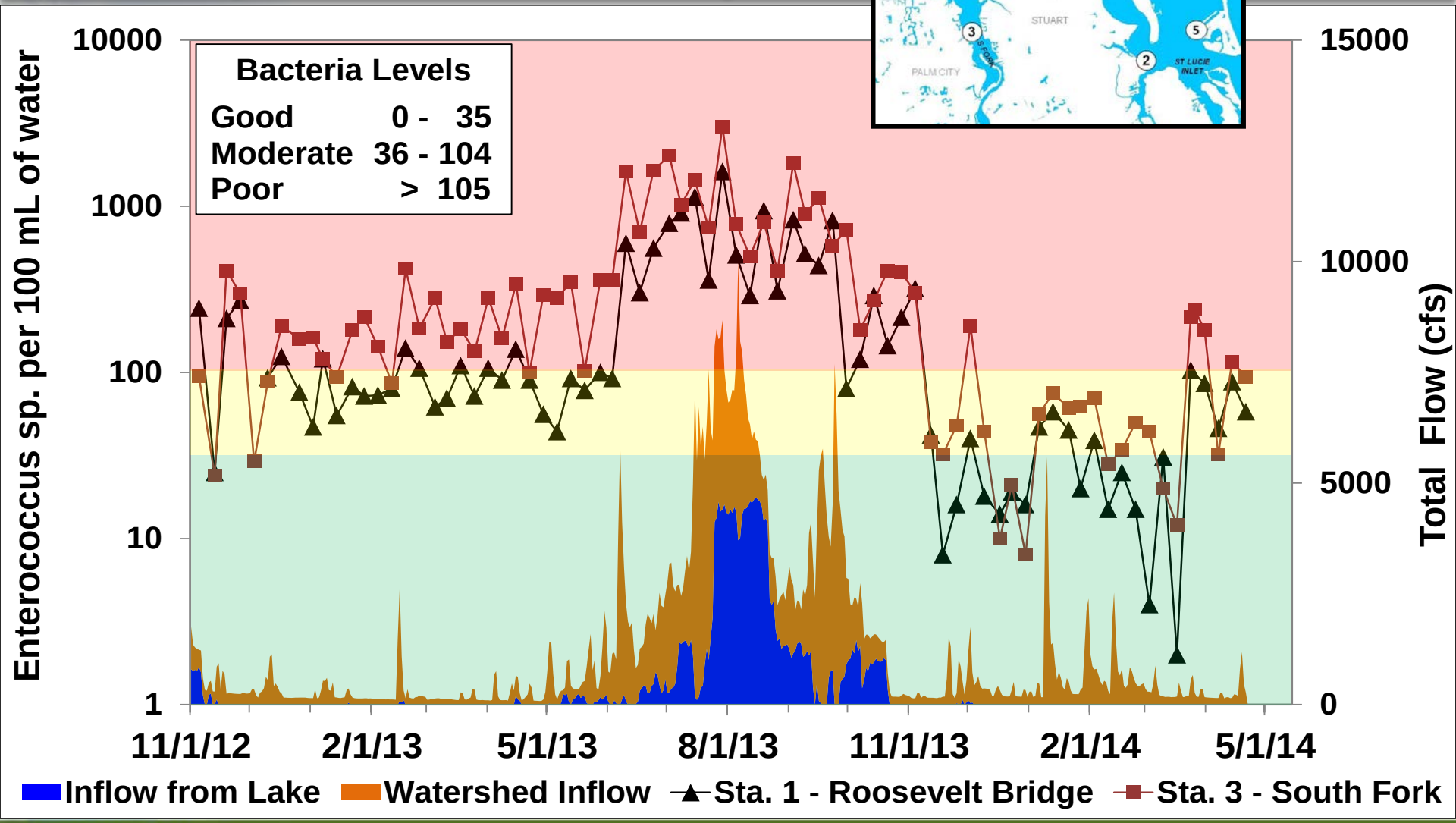


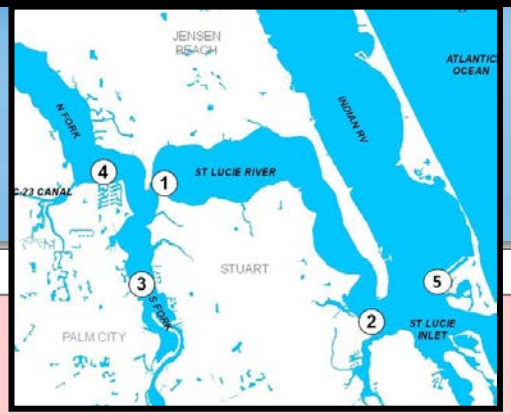
Weekly Average Inflow
Apr. 29, 2014 - May 5, 2014

Inflow from Lake	0 cfs
C-44 Basin Inflow	0 cfs
Tenmile Creek	129 cfs
C-23	54 cfs
C-24	177 cfs
Tidal Basin Inflow	321 cfs
Total	681 cfs

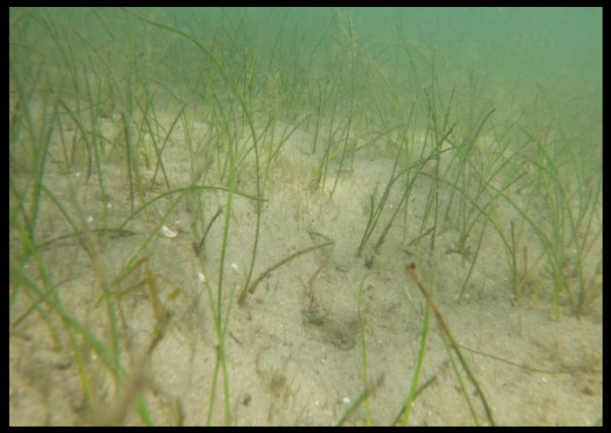
Bacteria Monitoring St. Lucie River

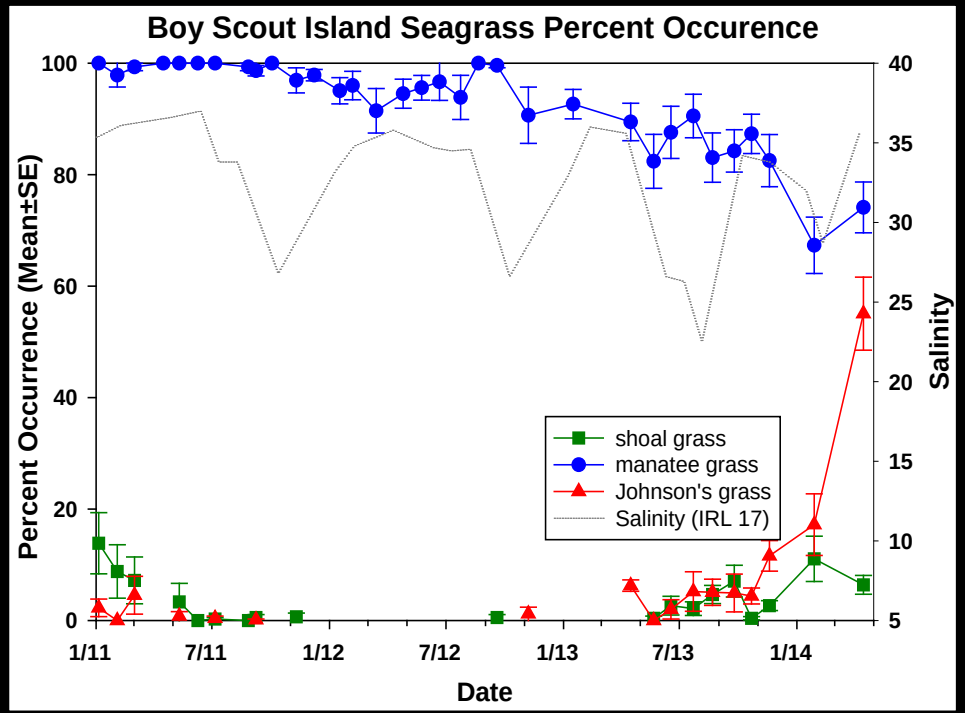
Florida Dept. of Health – Martin County

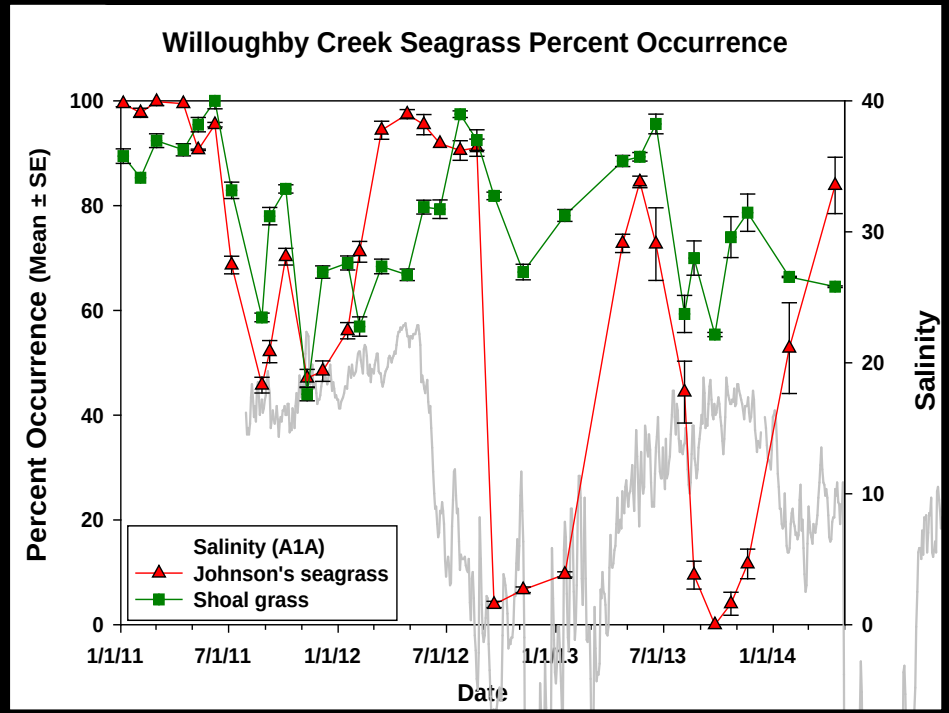




St. Lucie Estuary Seagrass



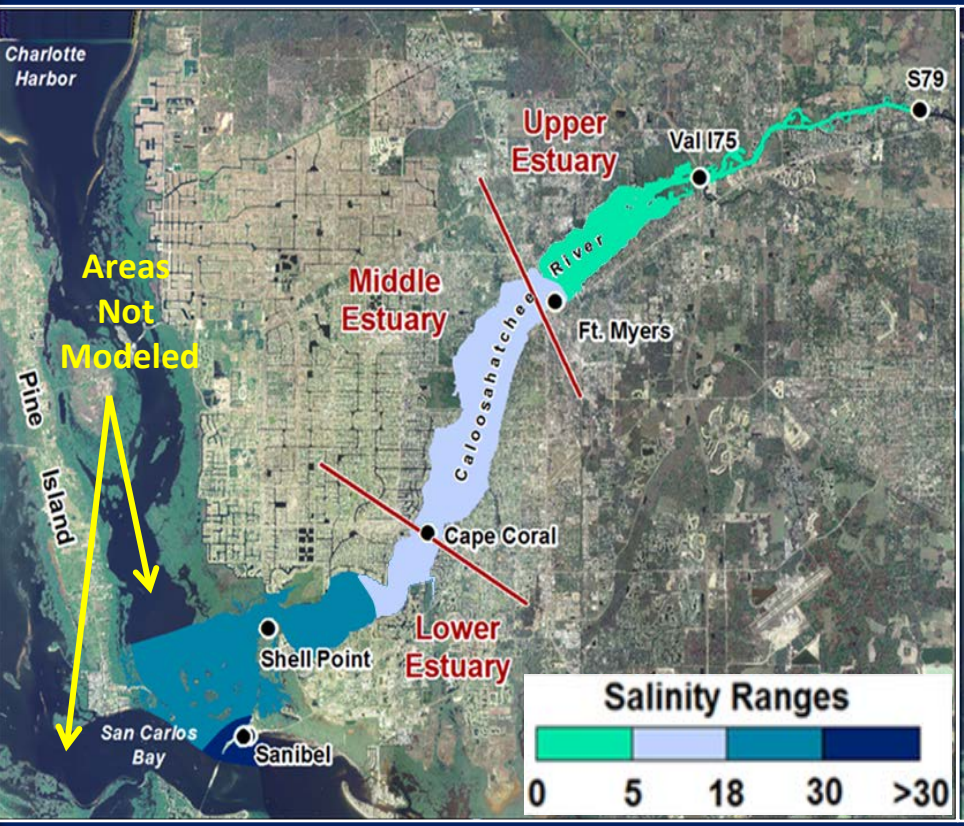




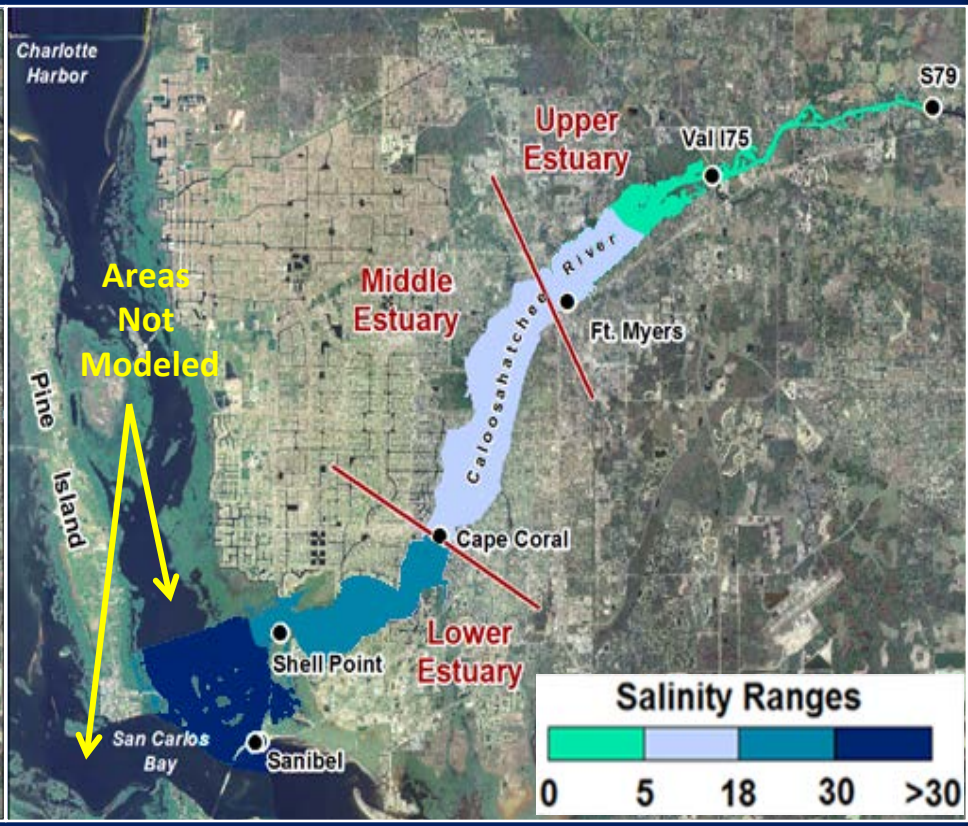
Caloosahatchee Estuary

Salinity Conditions

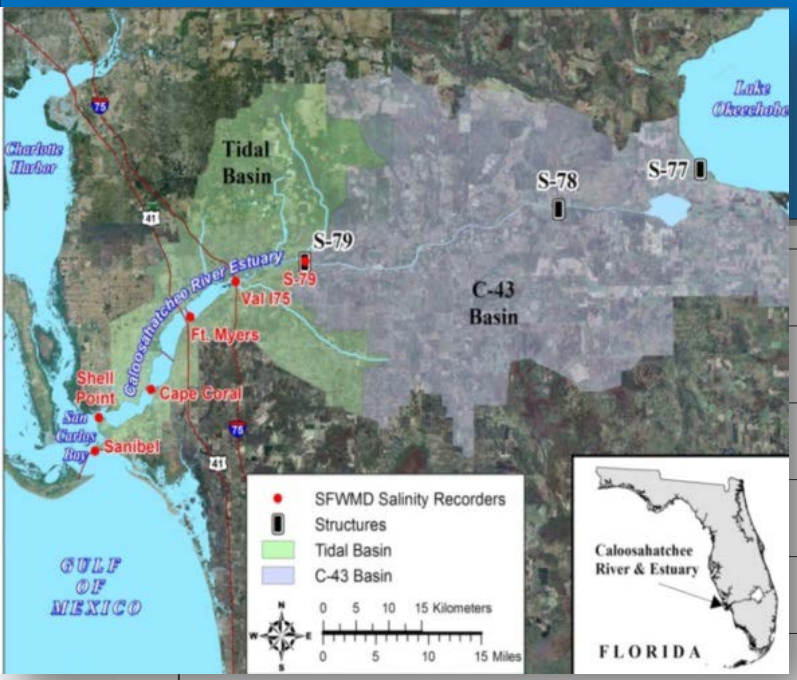
April 7, 2014

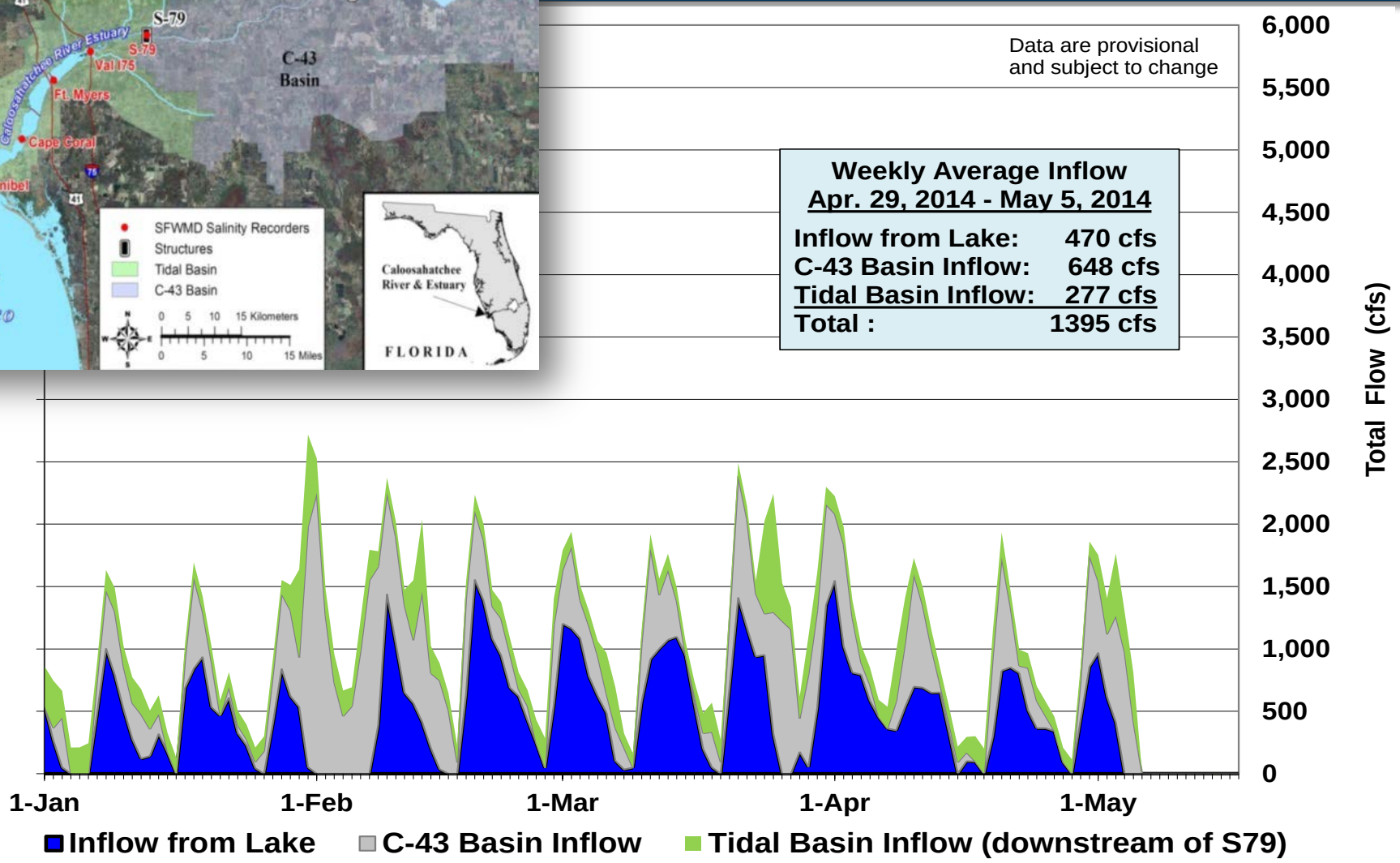


May 5, 2014

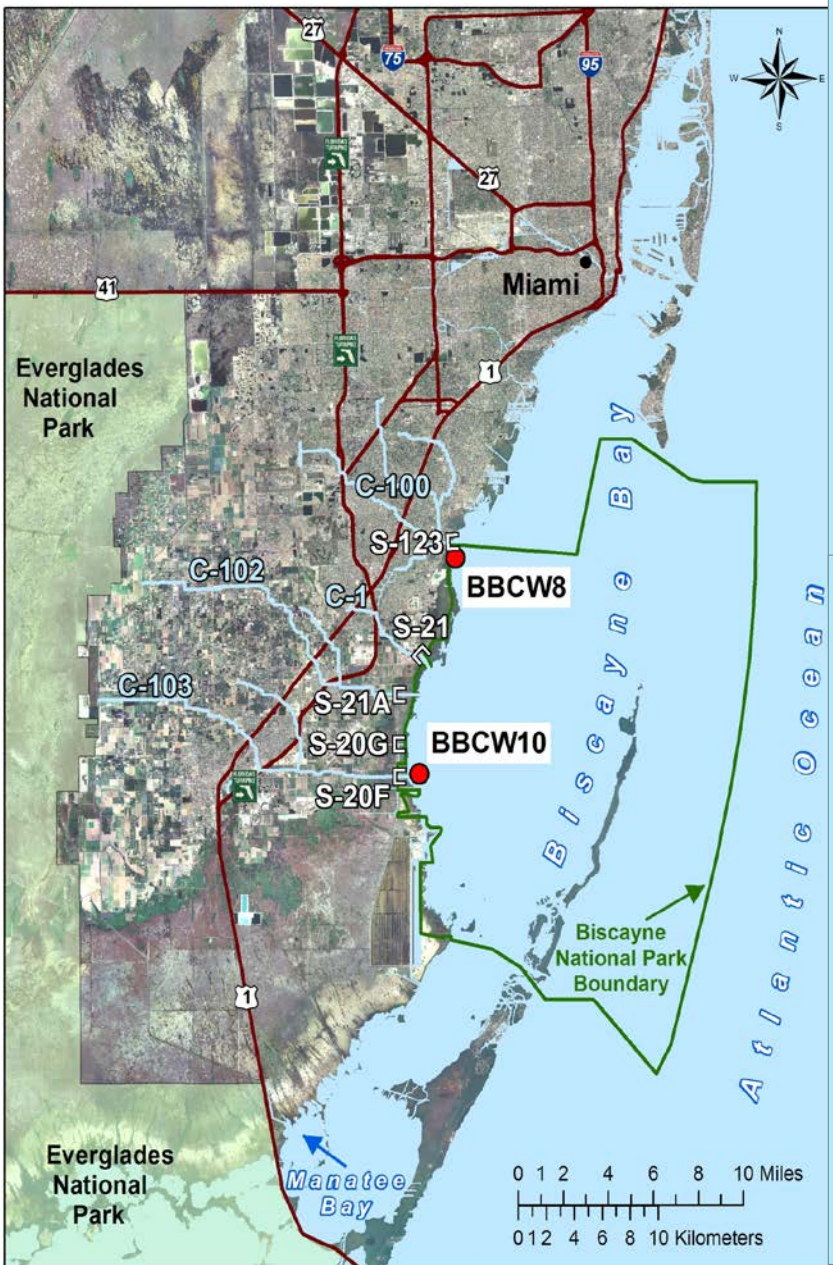


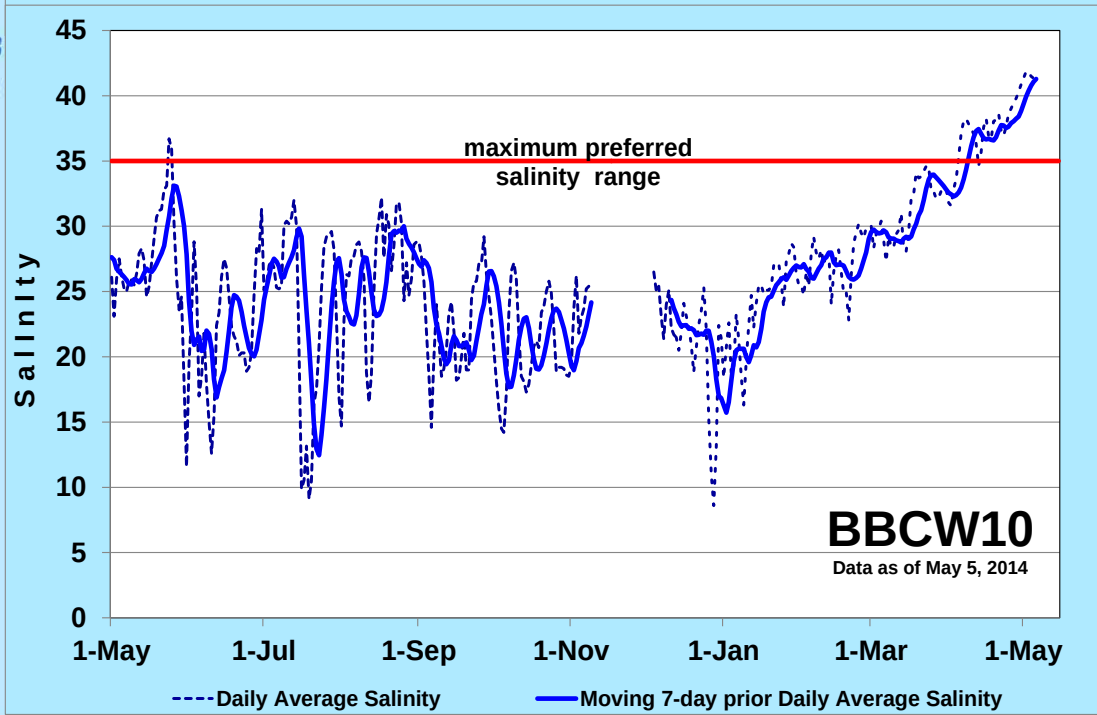
Caloosahatchee Estuary





Biscayne Bay Salinity

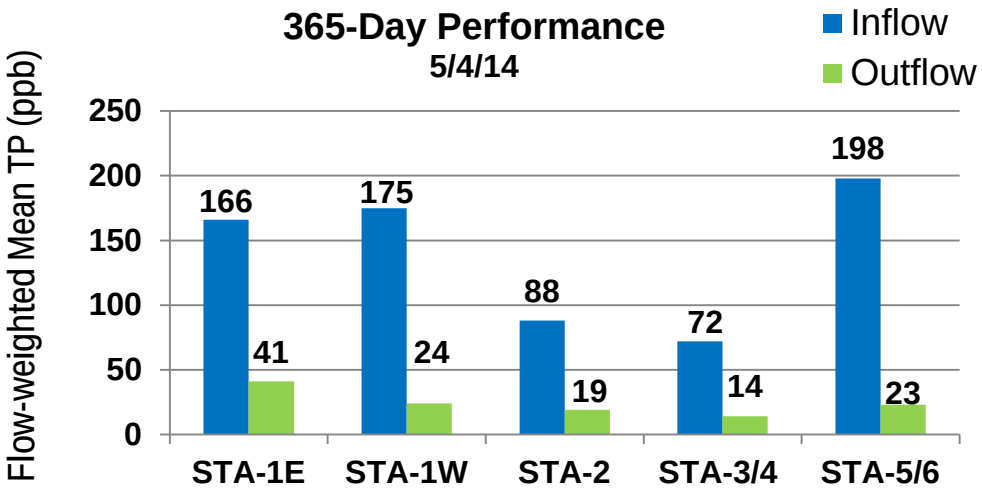


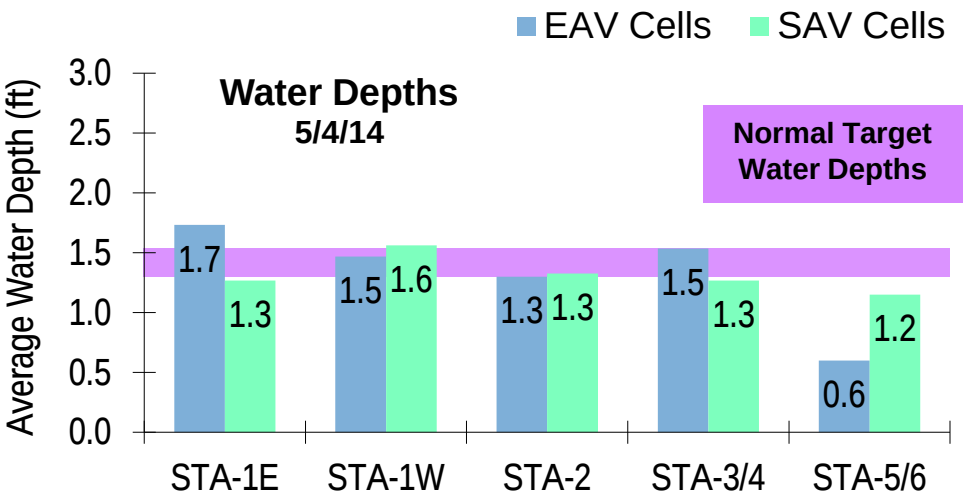


Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs)

Preliminary data shown

- **All cells at target water depths *except* for STA-5/6 emergent aquatic vegetation (EAV) dominated cells**
- **Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases continue**
  - Delivered to STA-1E, STA-1W, STA-2 & STA-3/4
  - Treated ~175,000 ac-ft since May 2013





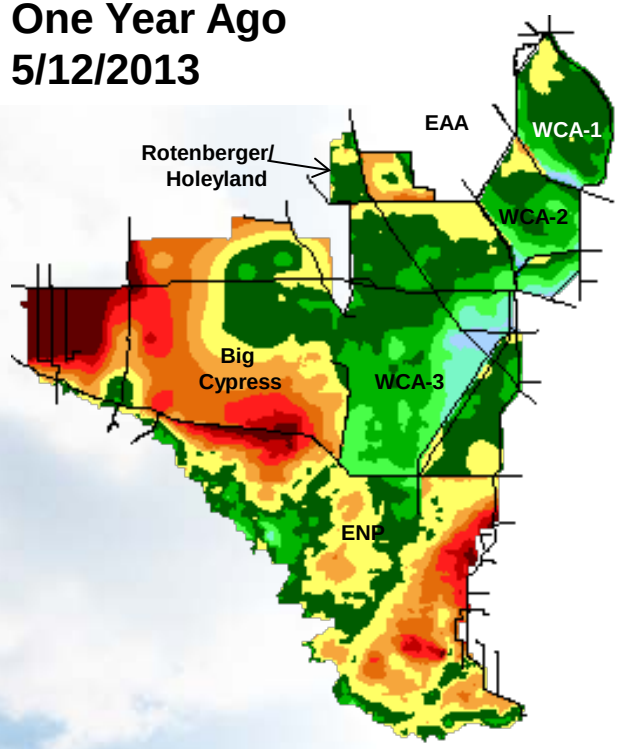
STA-1E Cells 1 & 2 and STA-2 Cells 7 & 8 were excluded due to off-line

Flamingos in the STAs

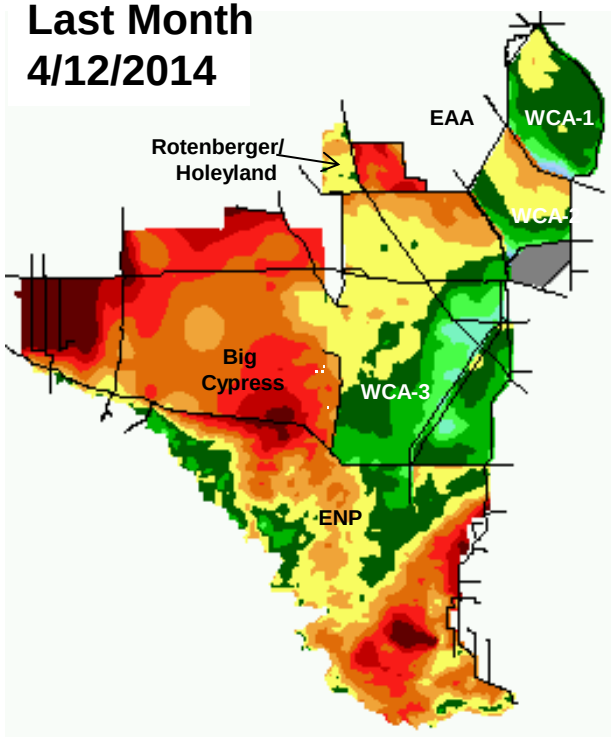
- Seen annually for several years in small, but gradually increasing, numbers
- This year, 147 birds in large SAV cell
- FWC, ENP, Miami Zoo & others trying to band & add tracking devices

Greater Everglades
Water Depth Monthly Snapshots

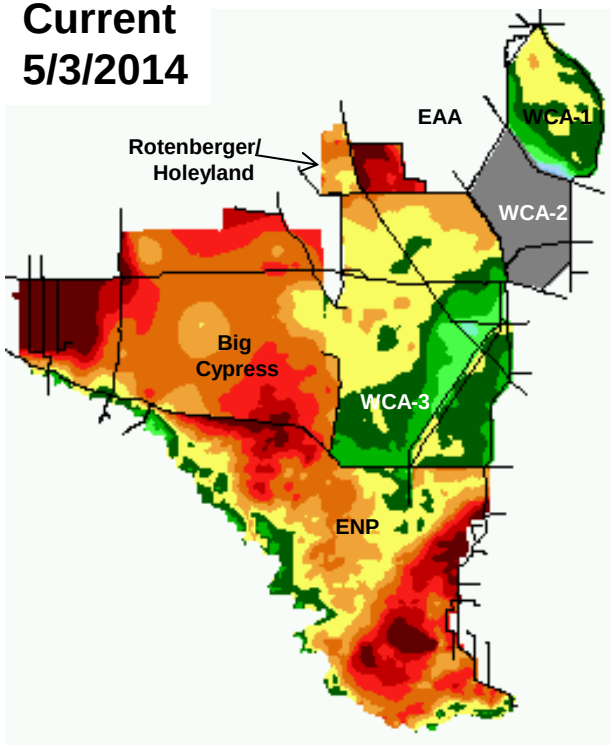
One Year Ago
5/12/2013

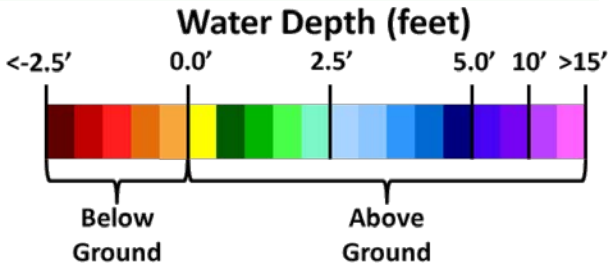


Last Month
4/12/2014

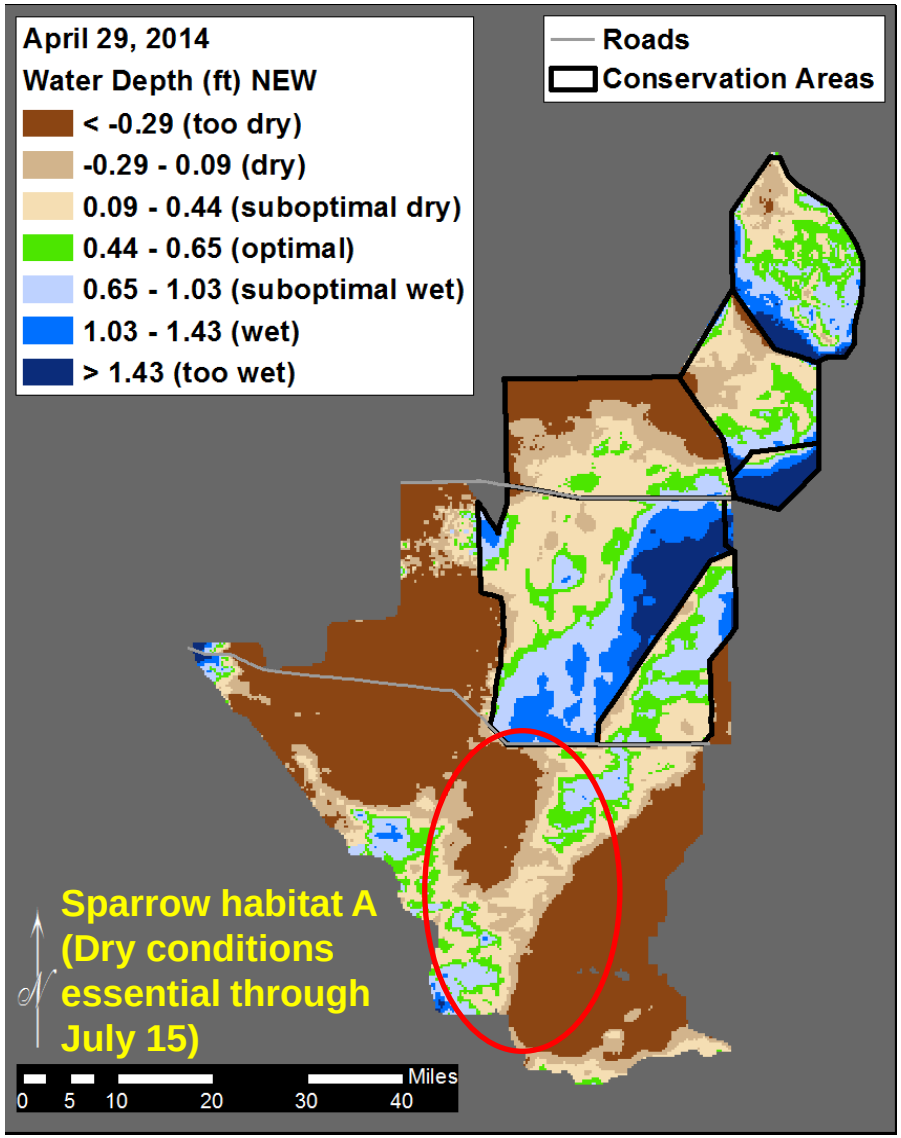


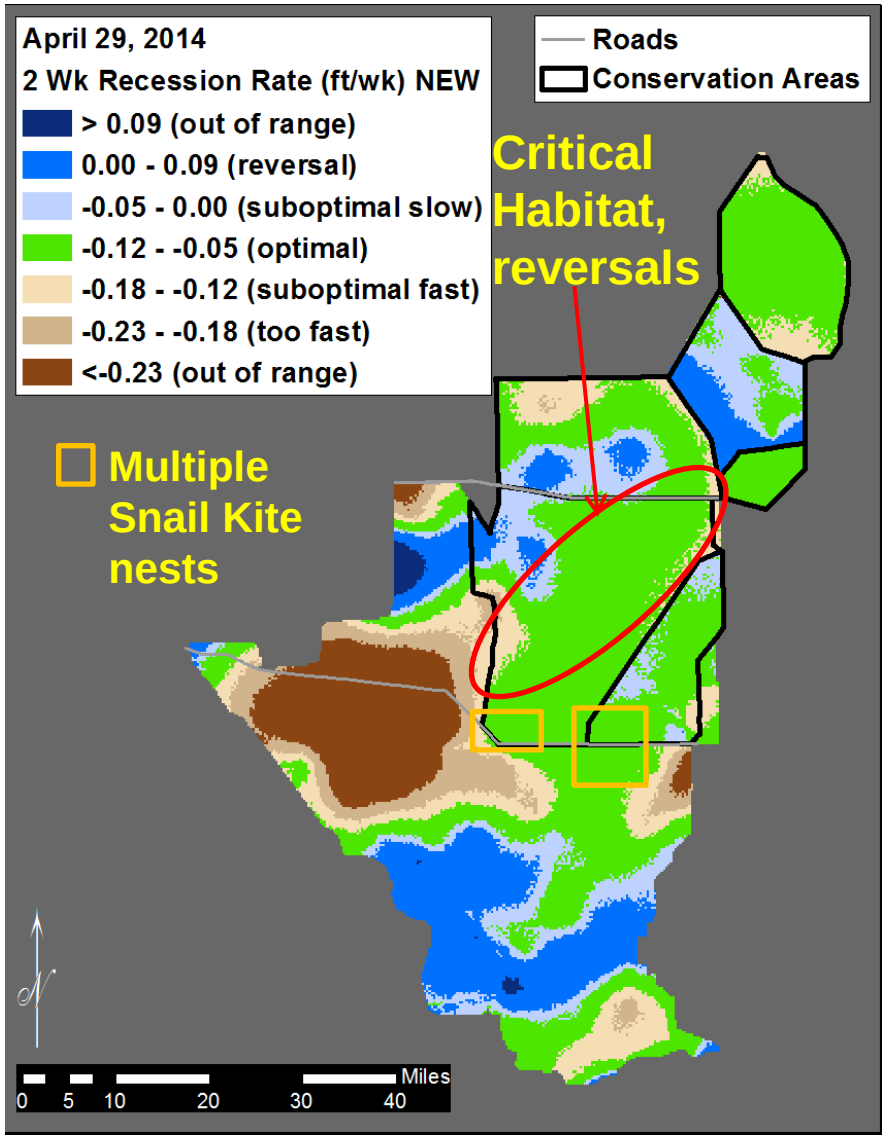
Current
5/3/2014





Conditions for Birds in Everglades





Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow

Adult Male Sparrow

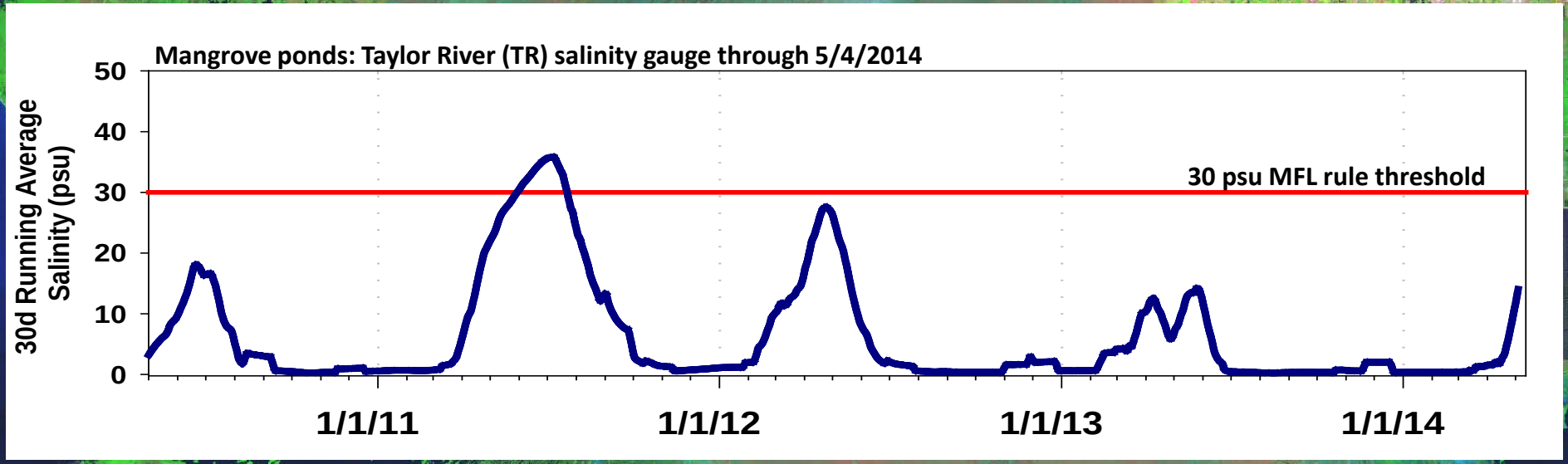
- Nesting surveys have shown early nesting and fledging of Cape Sable Seaside Sparrows in ENP
- Presently, 20 territories, 11 active nests, and several fledged young have been observed
- Habitats remain dry and early nesting suggests that pairs may attempt 2nd nests this year
- Sparrow nesting is good so far this year

Photos courtesy of Michelle Davis

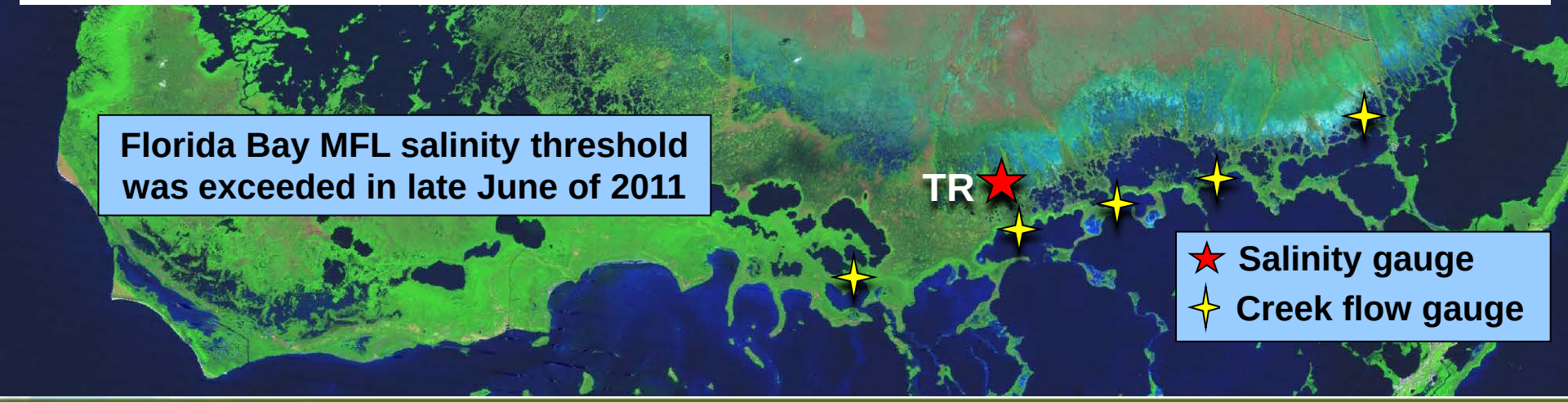
Nest With Young Chicks

Good Sparrow Habitat

Florida Bay Update



Florida Bay MFL salinity threshold was exceeded in late June of 2011



A Flock of Flamingos in STA (Brian Garrett)