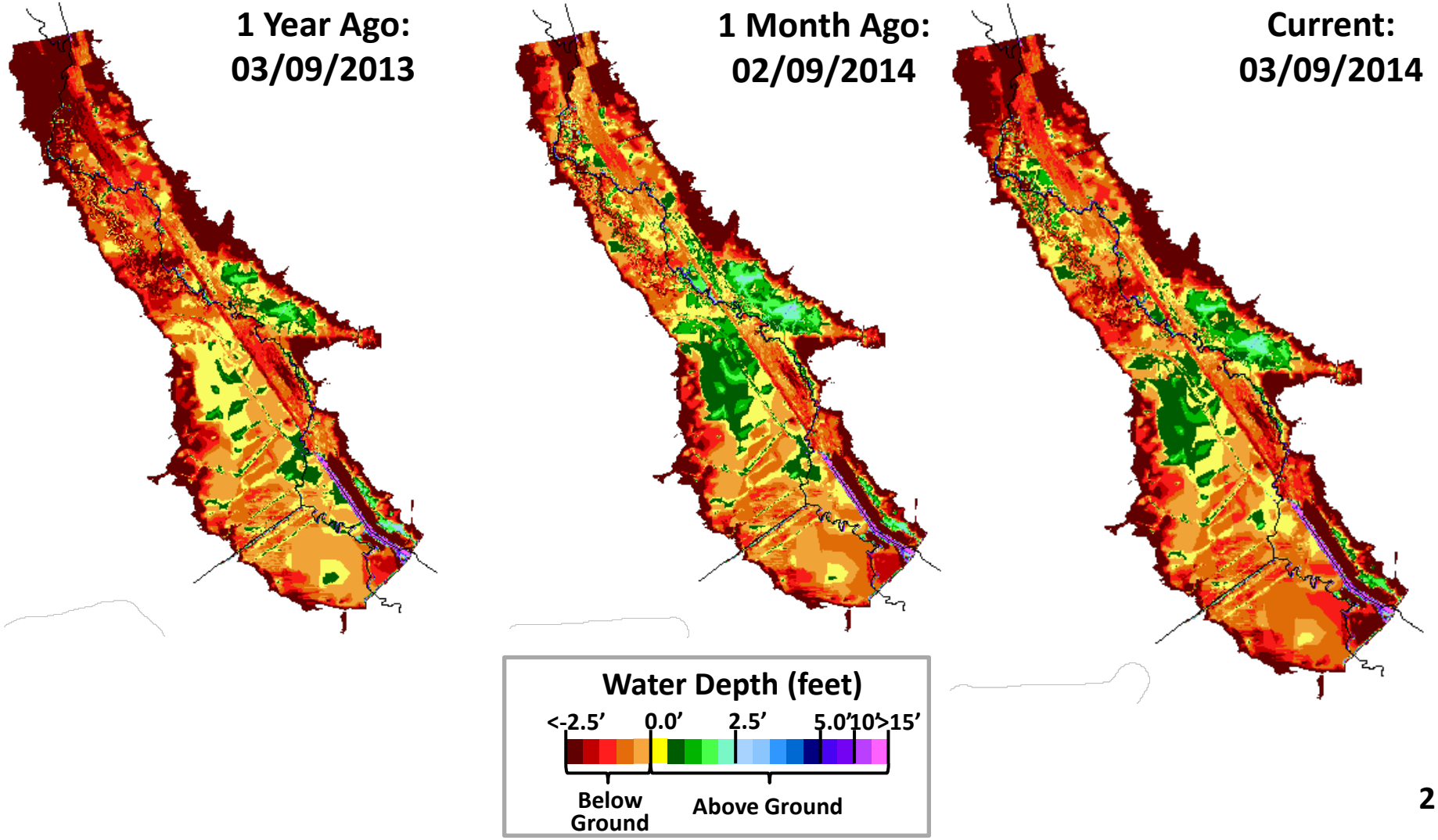
Governing Board Meeting
March 13, 2014

Ecological Conditions Update

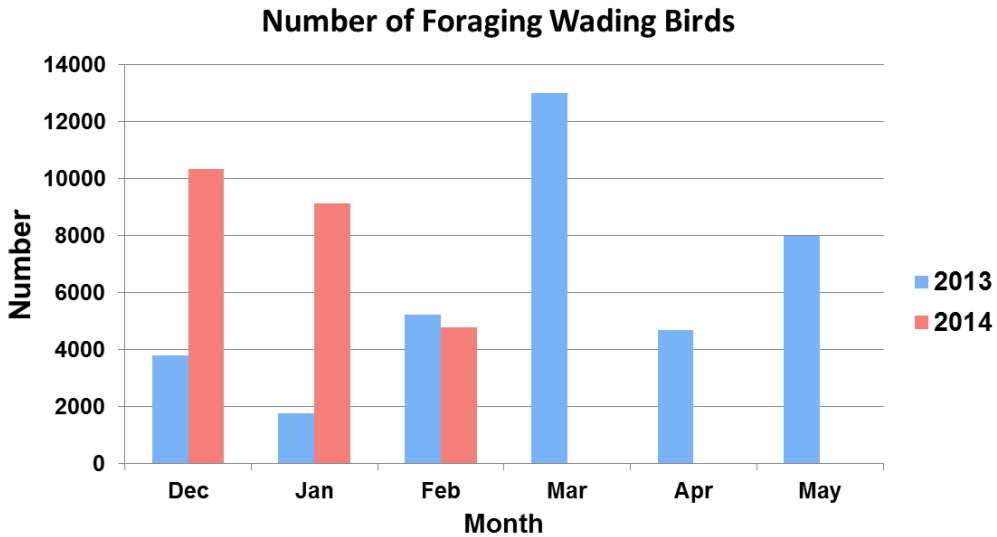
Terrie Bates
Director, Water Resources Division

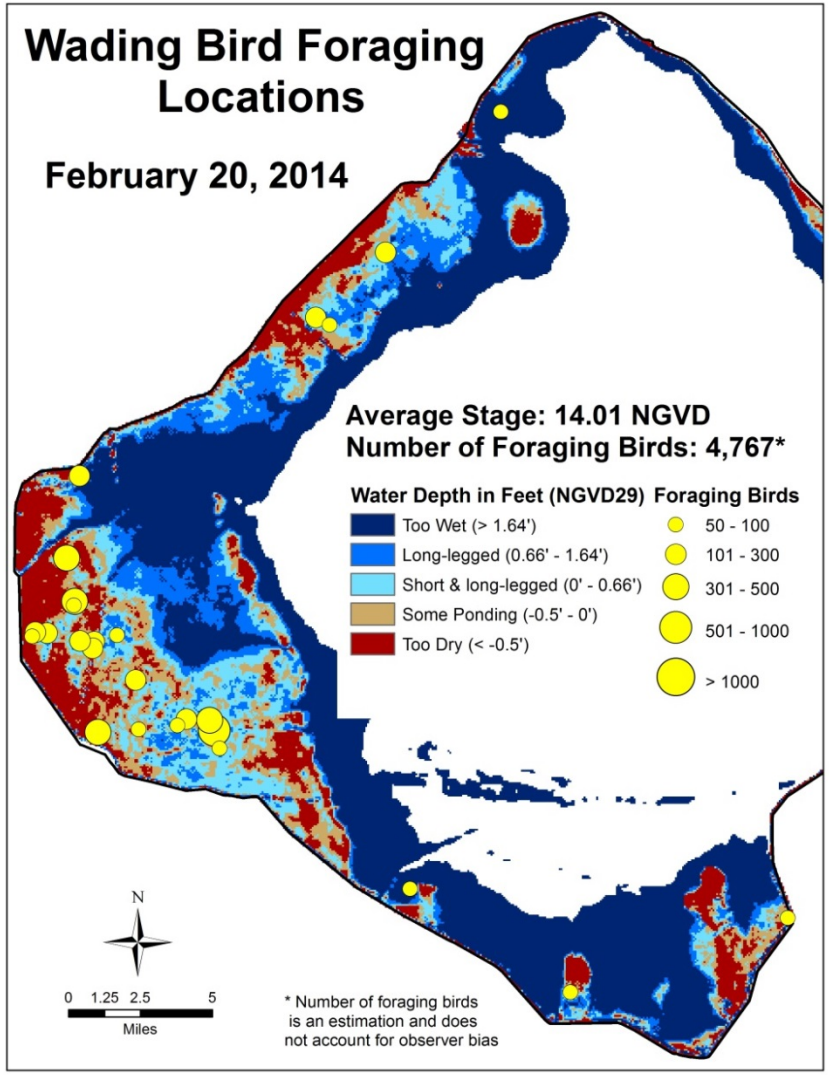
Kissimmee River (Pool C)

Monthly Water Depth Maps



Lake Okeechobee
Wading Bird Foraging





Lake Okeechobee
FLW Fishing Tournament

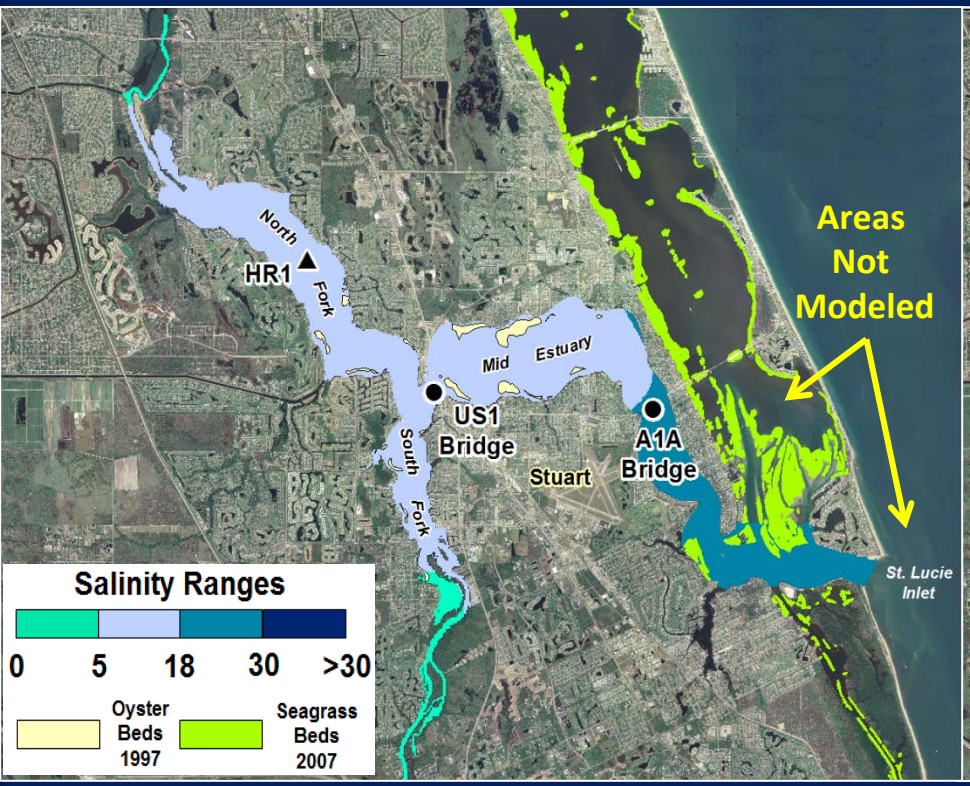
4-day event with 178 of the world's best anglers

4 day catch of 20 bass weighing 88lbs 14oz

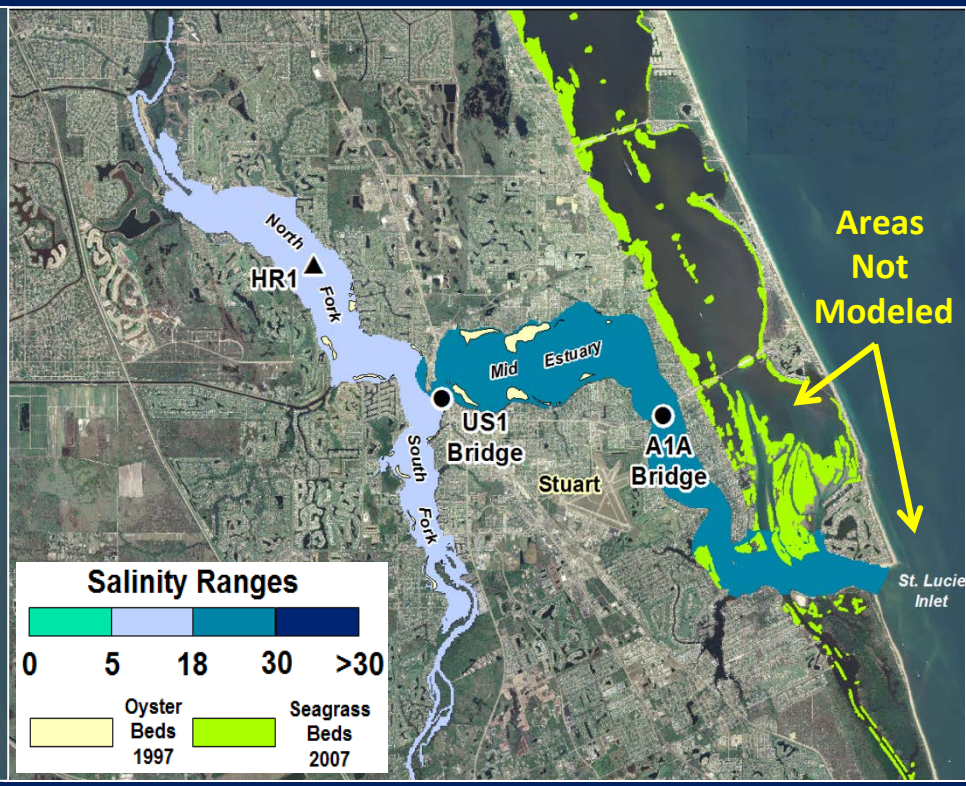
St. Lucie Estuary

Salinity Conditions

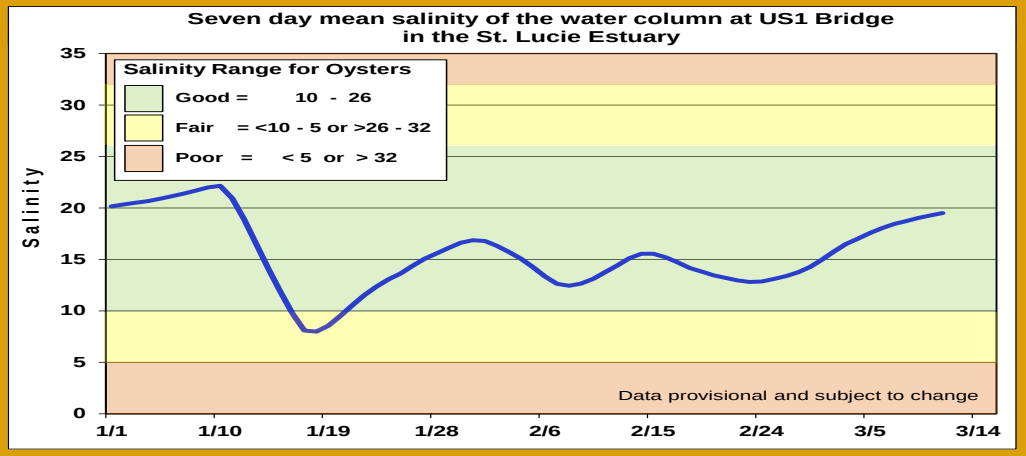
February 3, 2014

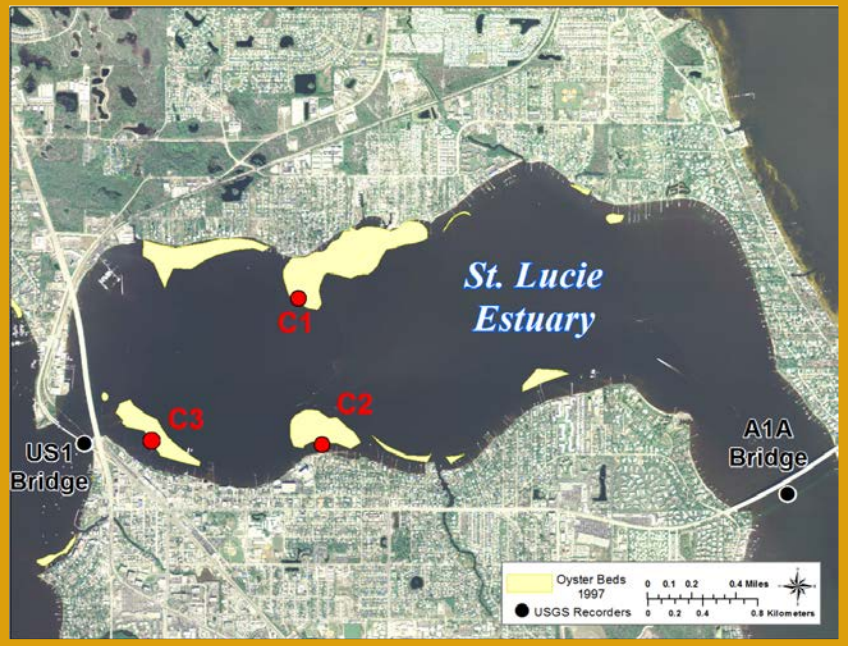


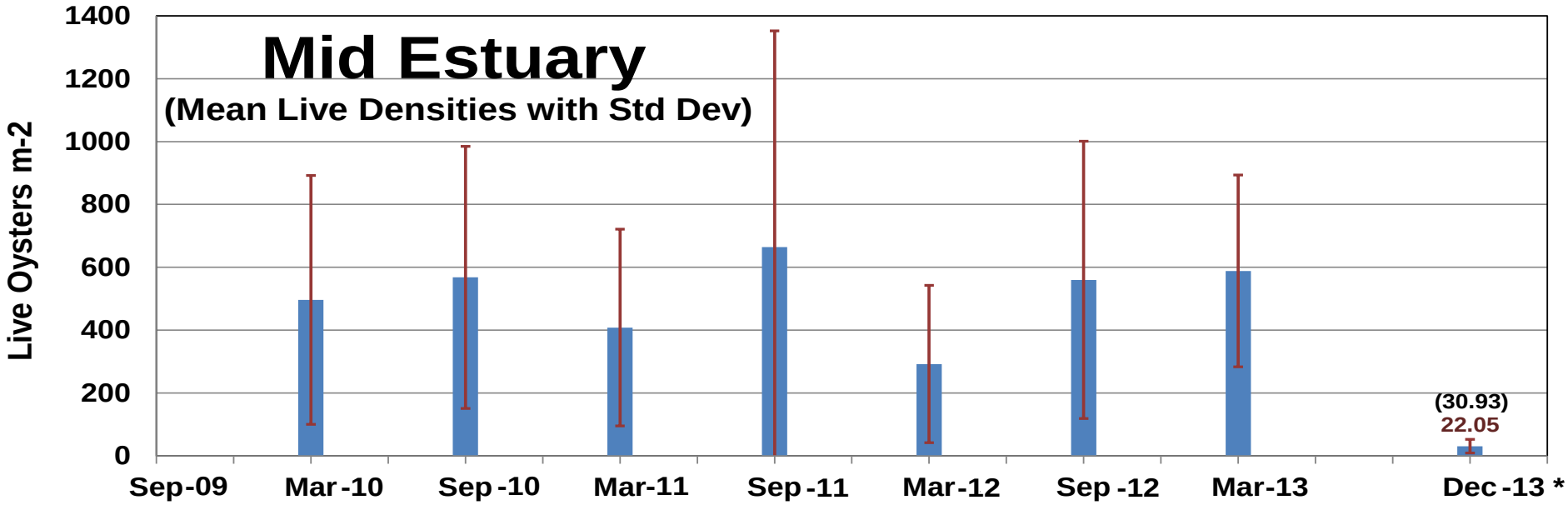
March 10, 2014



St. Lucie Estuary Oysters

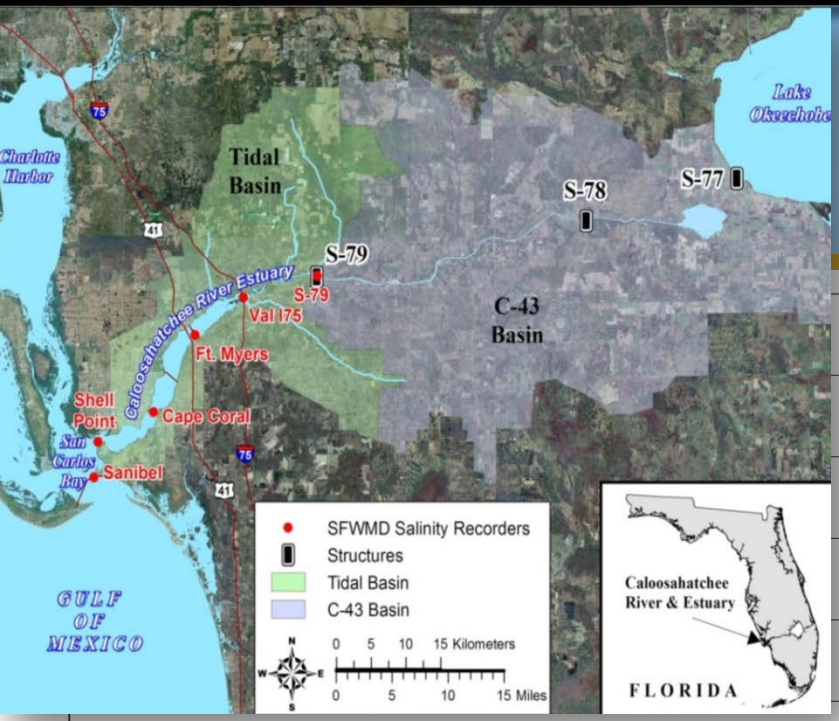


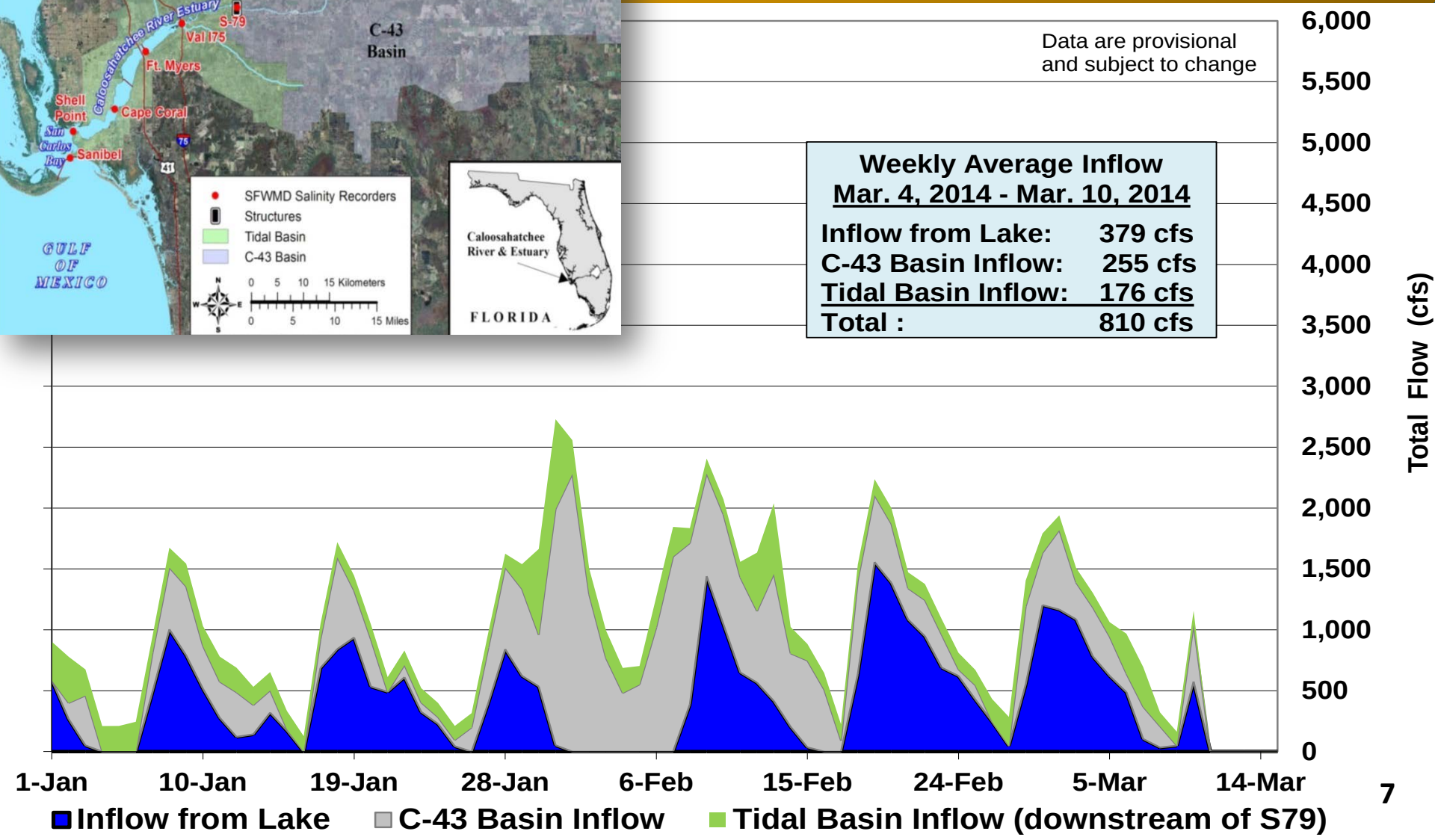




* Density counts were collected in Dec. 2013 due to unsafe water conditions (high bacterial warnings) from May - Nov. 2013.

Caloosahatchee Estuary

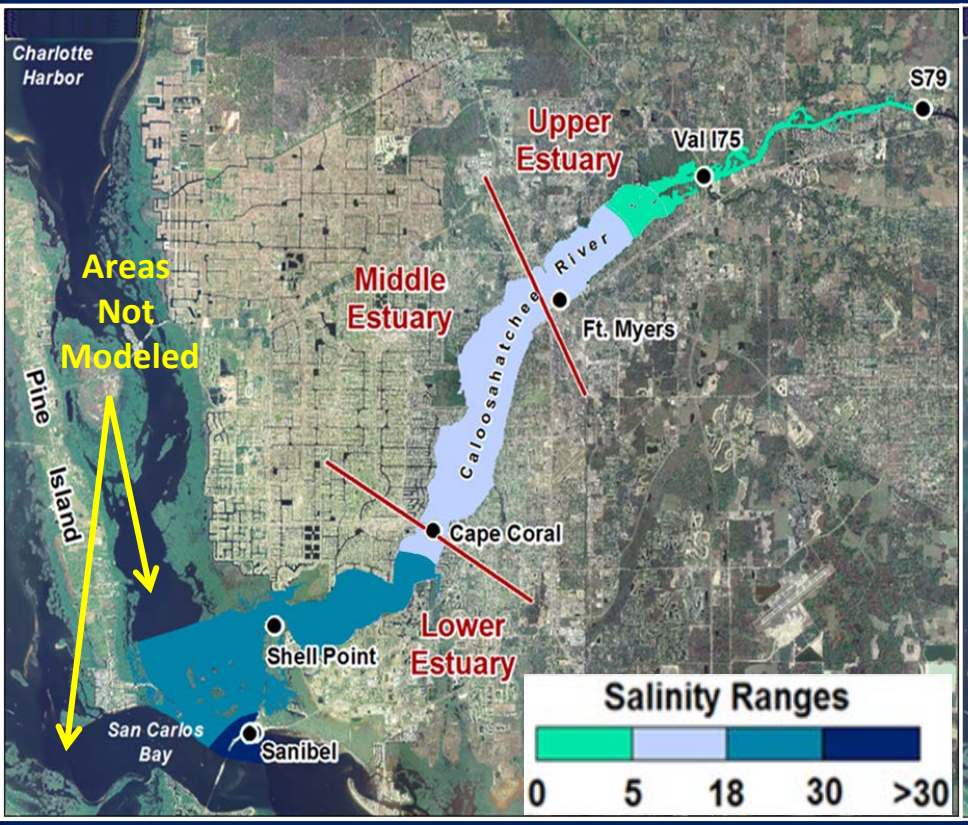




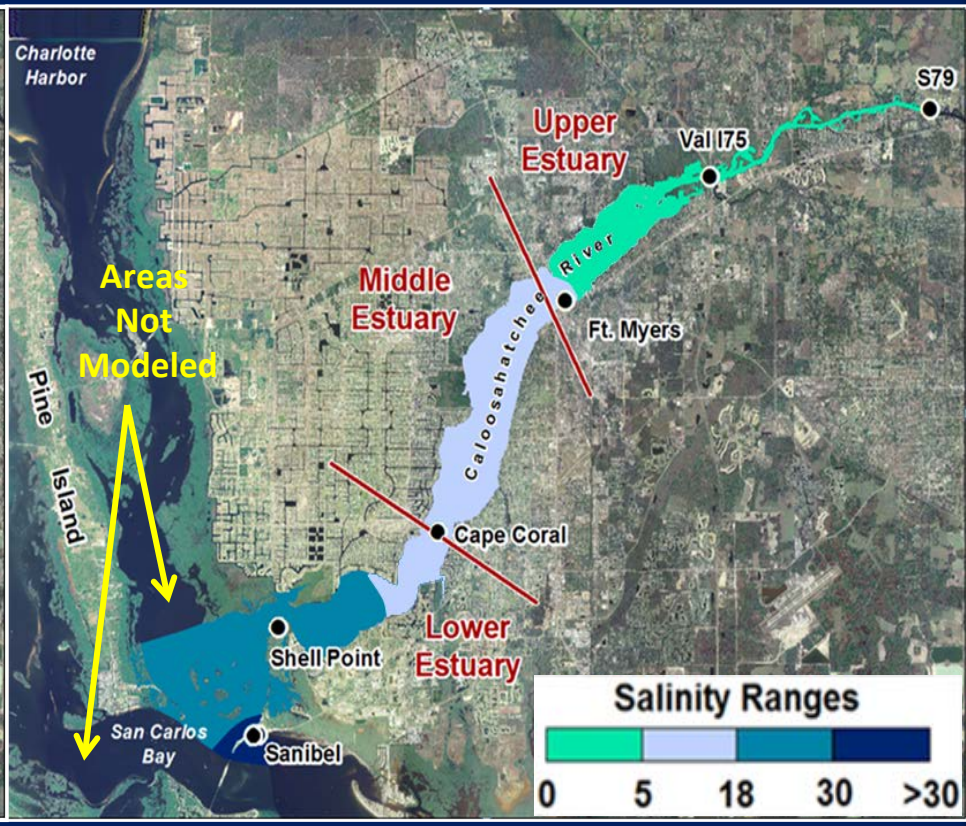
Caloosahatchee Estuary

Salinity Conditions

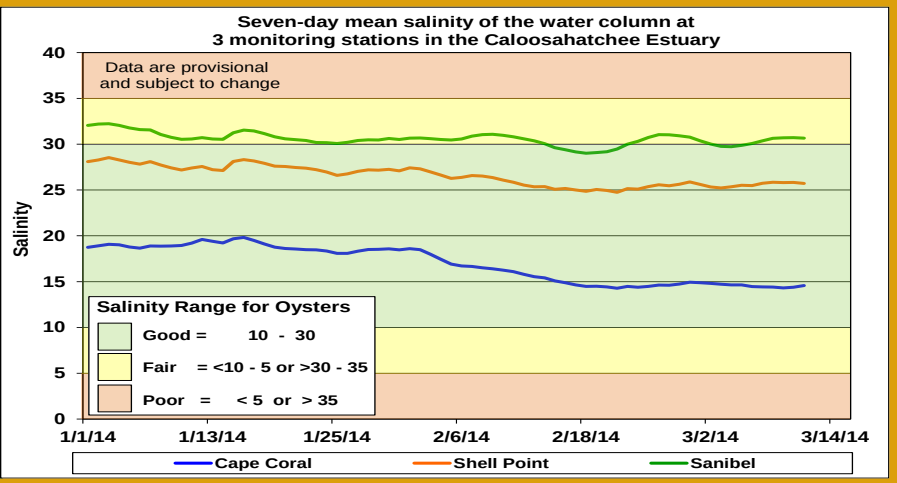
February 3, 2014

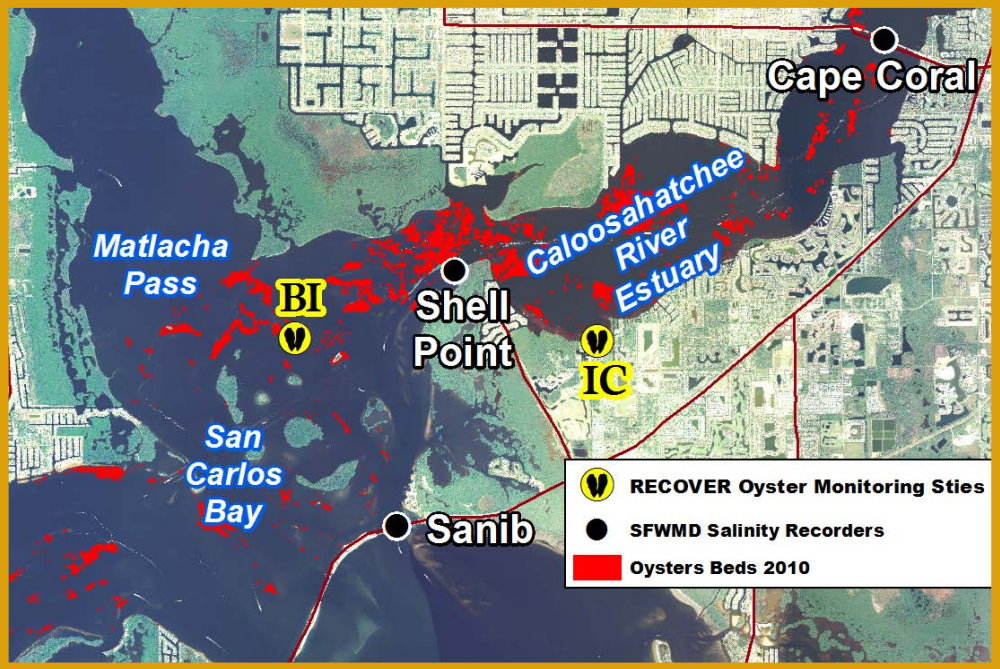


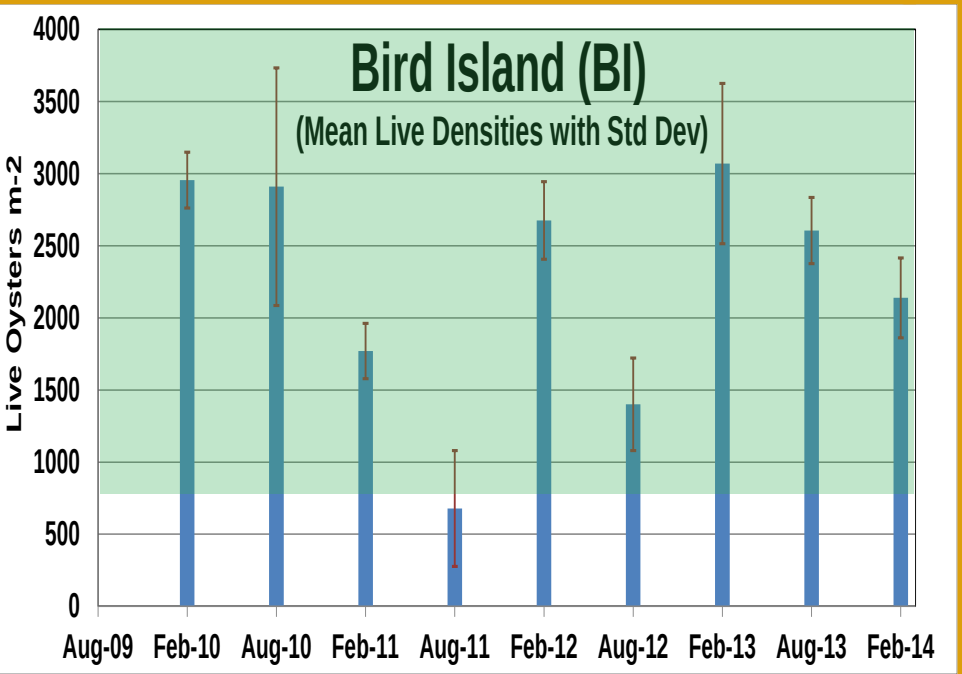
March 10, 2014

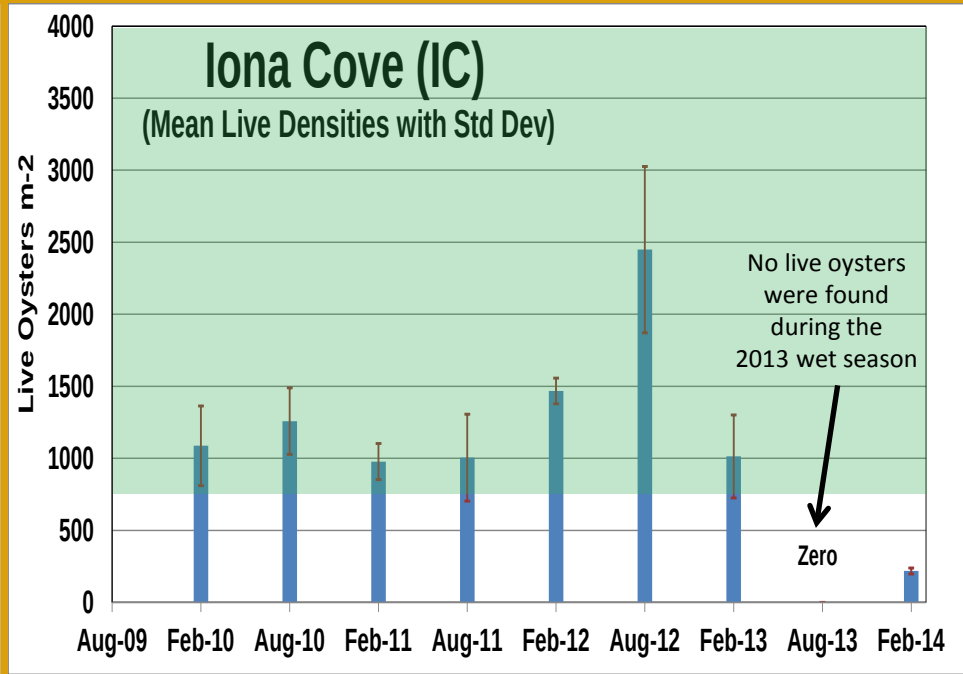


Caloosahatchee Estuary - Oysters

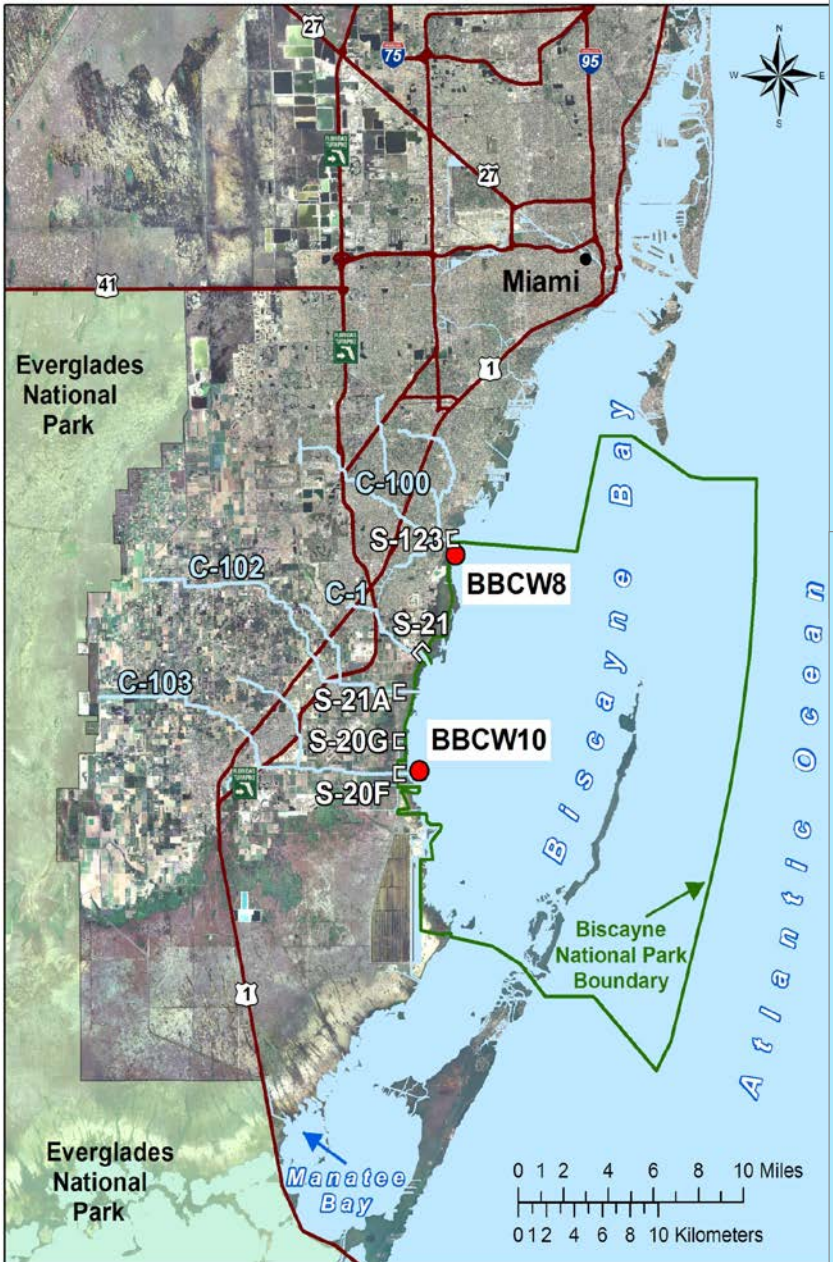


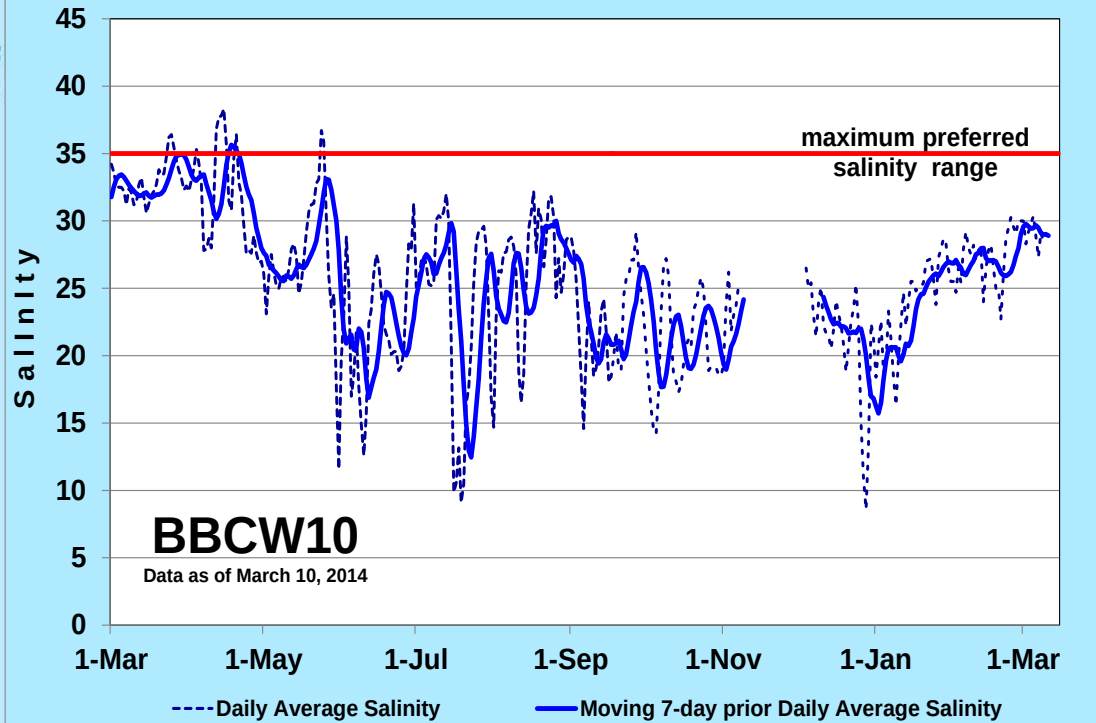




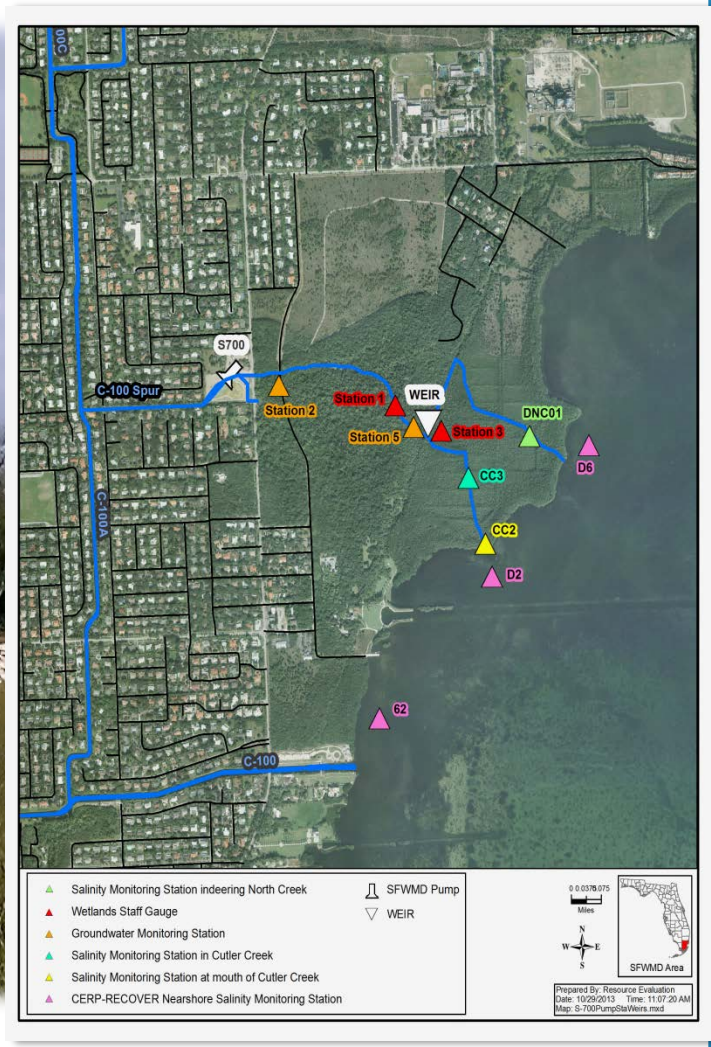


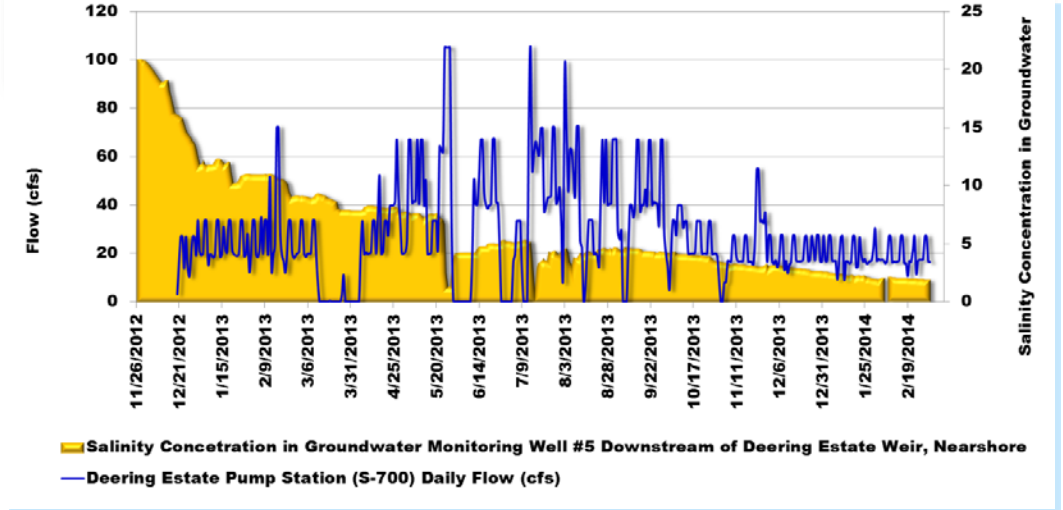
Biscayne Bay





Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
Deering Estate S-700 Pump Operations





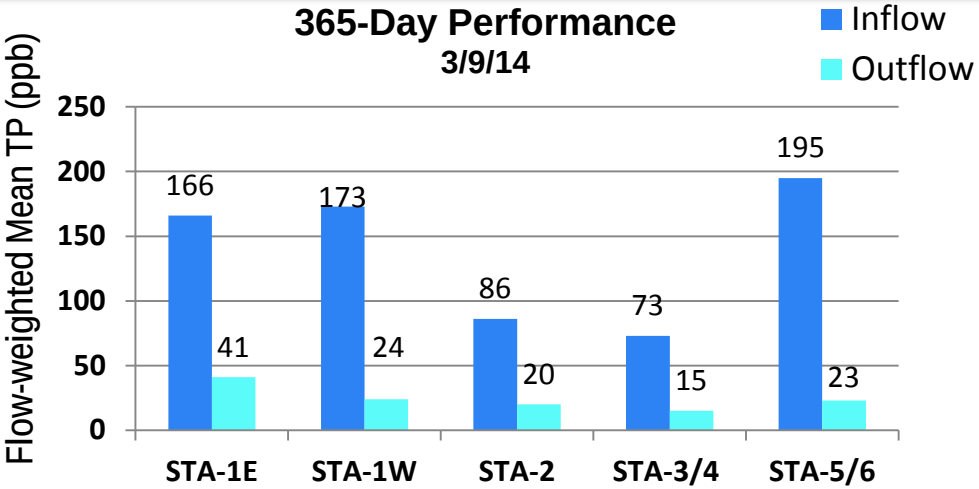
Response to S-700 Pump Operations

- 23,750 ac-ft diverted to remnant freshwater wetlands since operations began 12/12
- Clear improvement in hydrologic conditions
- Vegetation responding to changed hydrology with die-off of upland vegetation & emergence of wetland species
- Formalized seasonal operations plan – 50 cfs wet / 25 cfs dry
- Salinity in groundwater monitoring stations reduced

Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs)

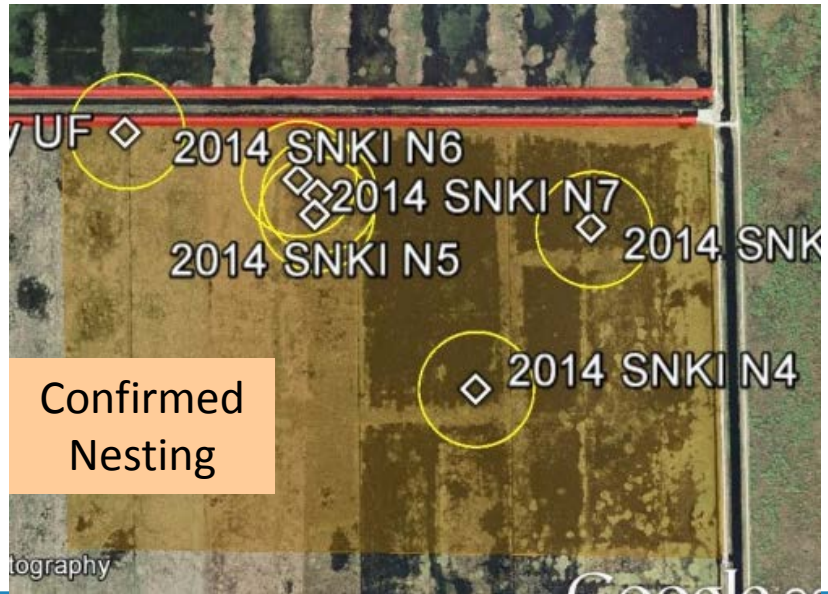
Dry season operations

- Low volumes basin runoff
- Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases being treated in STA-2 & STA-3/4



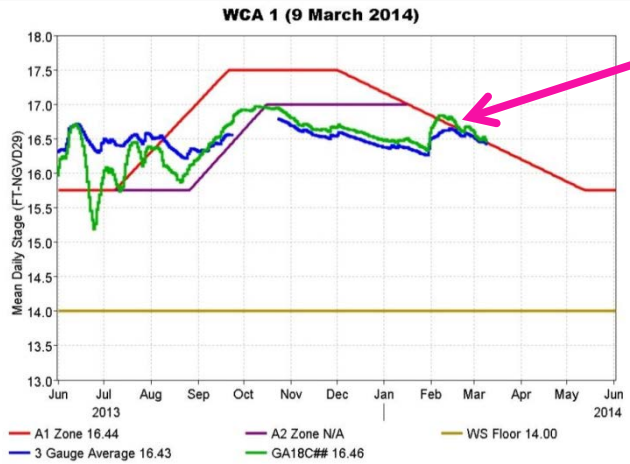
Snail Kite Nests

- 7 in STA-5/6 2 in STA-1E
- Operational Constraints
  - Water Levels
  - Vehicle Traffic
  - Airboat Operation
  - Vegetation Management



Preliminary data shown

"Reversals" in Water Conservation Areas affect Wading Bird Nesting



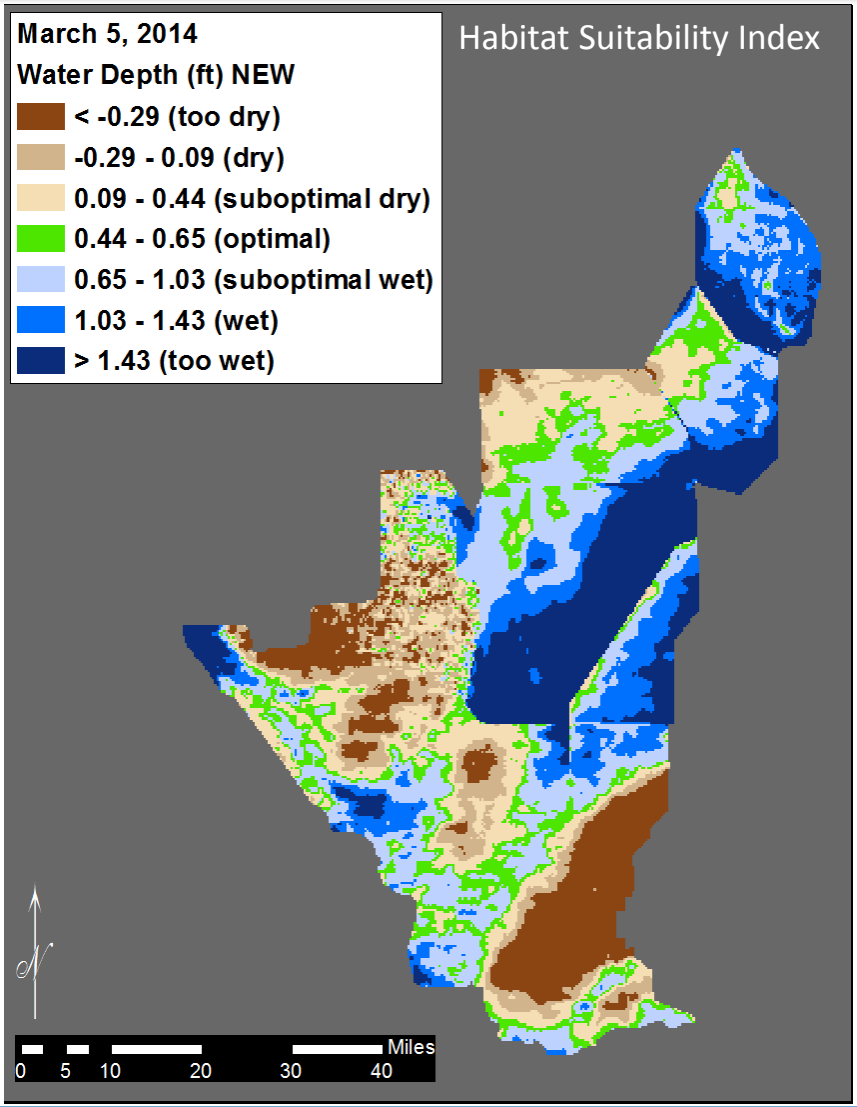
Reversal

Lack of foraging opportunities in WCAs reflected in nesting response

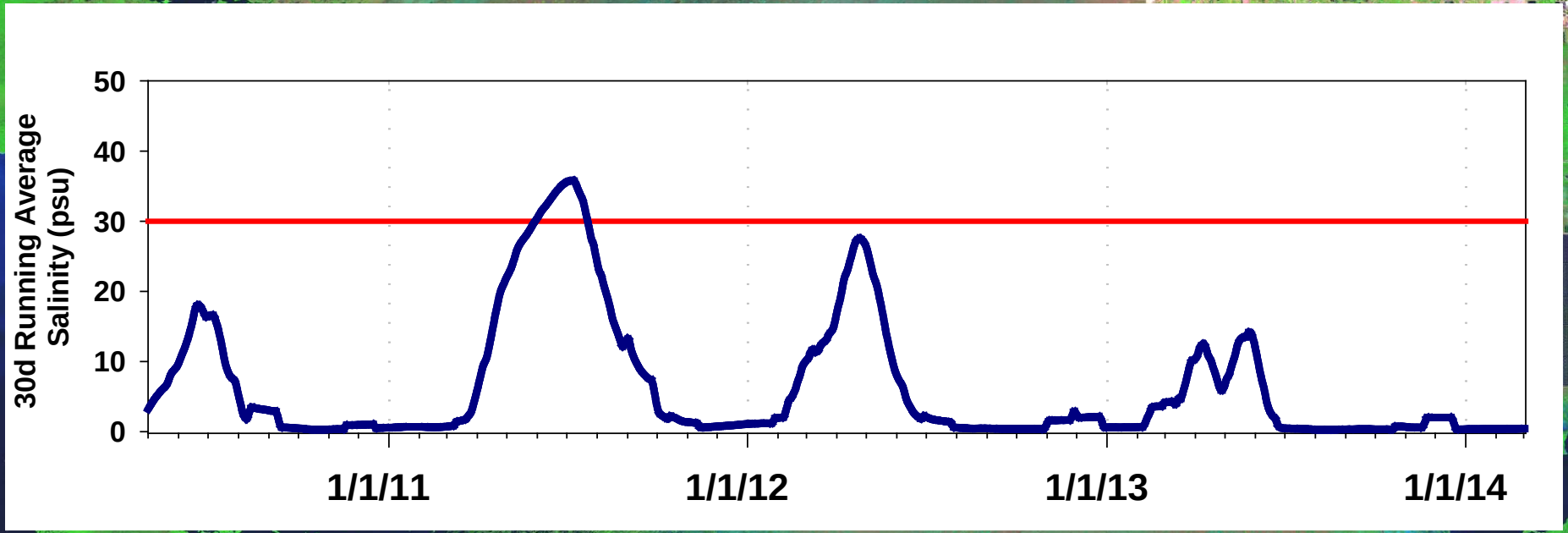
Wood stork nests in WCA3A / Tamiami

* February: 612
* March: 145 remain

Foraging conditions in Florida Bay remain poor for spoonbills.

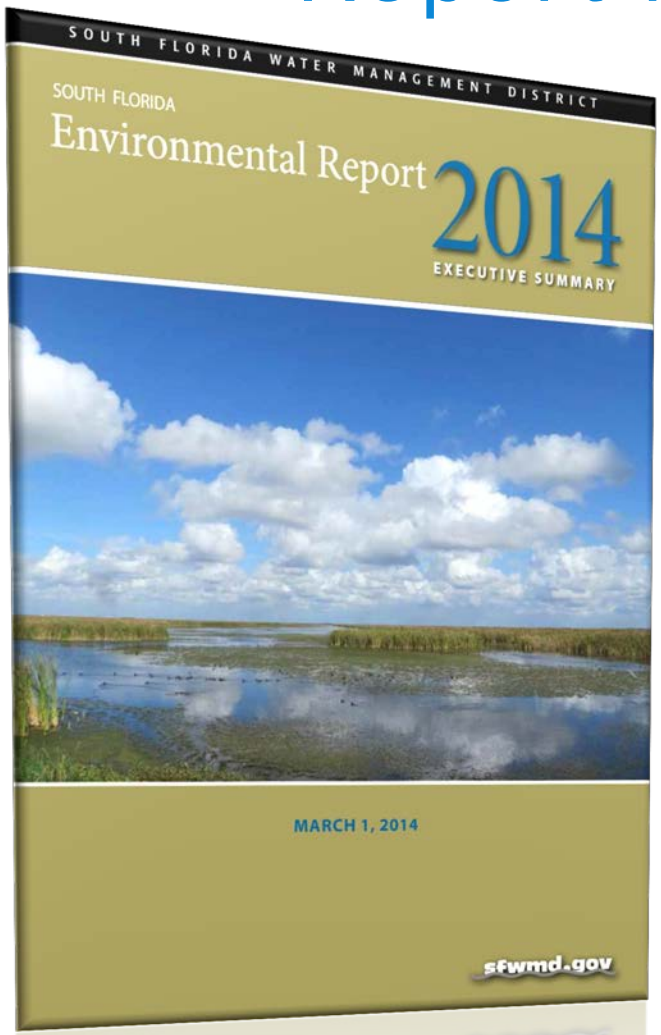


Florida Bay Update



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

2014 South Florida Environmental Report issued on March 1st



- 100 authors & contributors, including DEP
- 3,000 pages
- Public peer review of science work
- Unifies dozens of mandated reports & plans

Volume I – Peer-reviewed science updates and data summaries for ongoing research and monitoring efforts

Volume II – 8 annual plans and reports required under various mandates

Volume III - Annual Permit Reports

Questions?