



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MEETING AGENDA

February 28, 2025

11:00 AM

Collier County Government Center

Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor

3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

Zoom Registration Link: <https://sfwmd.link/3VaSBR0>

FINAL

1. Call to Order - Charlette Roman, Chair, Big Cypress Basin Board
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler
4. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
5. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the October 25, 2024 Meeting
6. Basin Administrator's Report - Lisa Koehler
7. General Public Comment
8. Collier County Water Quality Report - Chad Ward, P.G., Manager, Collier County Pollution Control; and Rhonda Watkins, Environmental Supervisor, Collier County Pollution Control (Staff contact, Lisa Koehler)
9. Update on Fisheries Research in Rookery Bay - Pat O'Donnell, Fisheries Biologist, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Staff contact, Lisa Koehler)
10. Restoration Progress in the Western Everglades (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

11. Board Comment

Technical Reports

12. Field Station Activity Report - Mike Barber
13. Water Conditions Report - William J. Tredik, P.E.

Staff Reports

14. Monthly Financial Report and Preliminary Budget Discussion - Julie Maytok
15. General Public Comment
16. Board Comment
17. Adjourn

DRAFT PRESENTATIONS:

Agenda Item Background:

- 08 - Collier County Water Quality
- 09 - Fisheries Research in Rookery Bay
- 10 - Restoration Progress in Western Everglades
- 12 - Final Field Station Report February 2025
- 13 - Water Conditions Report February 2025
- 14 - FY2025-26 Preliminary Budget



Collier County[™]
POLLUTION CONTROL
LIVE GREEN. SAVE BLUE.

COLLIER COUNTY WATER QUALITY MONITORING ASSESSMENT



PRESENTATION TO BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD

Rhonda J. Watkins

February 28, 2025

Presenter: Rhonda Watkins

Pollution Control

In-house laboratory

- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) certified
- National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) certified sampling program
 - 1st government agencies in Florida to receive certification
- Follow Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Standard Operating Procedures

Sample and analyze for internal and external clients



Surface Water Monitoring

Trend Network

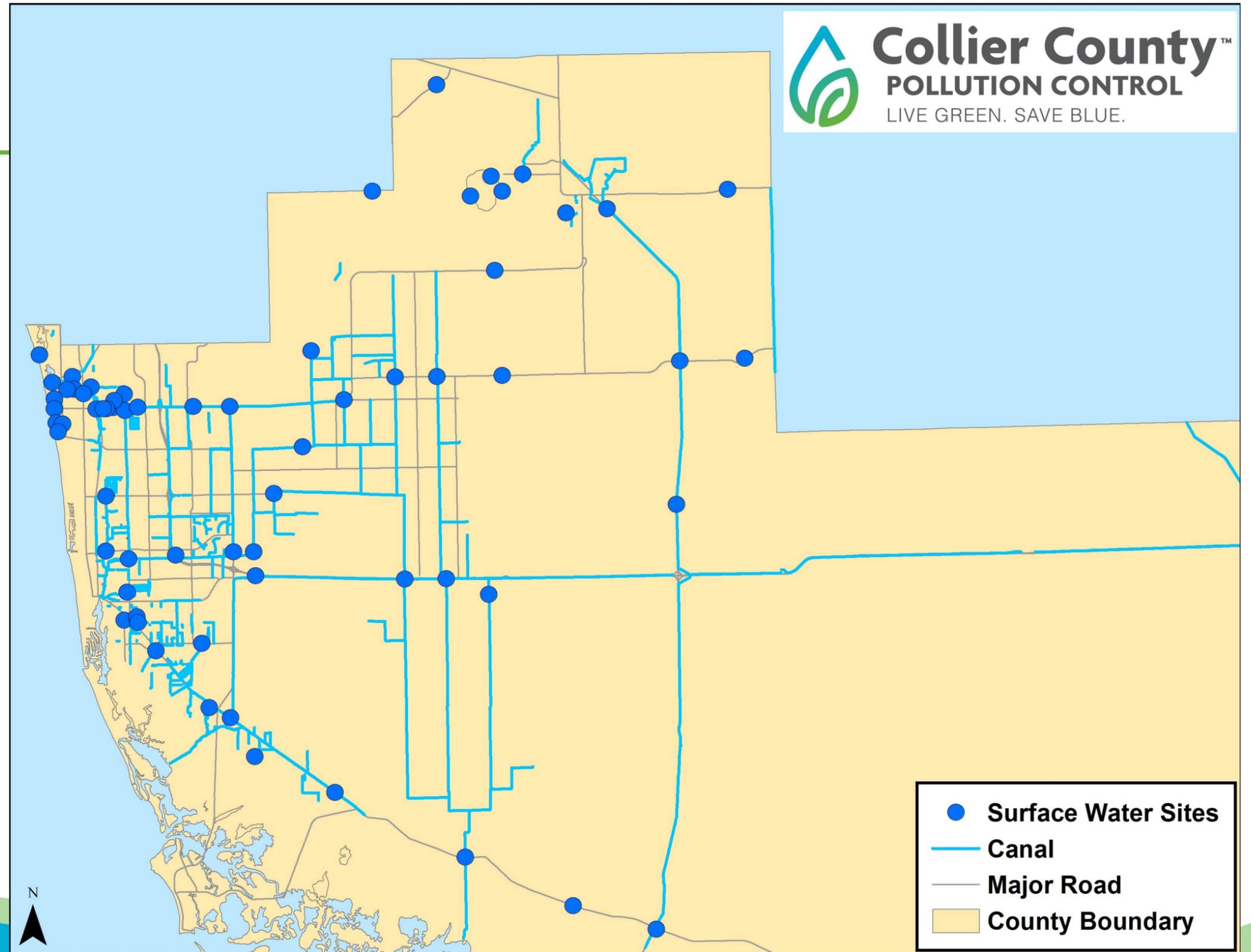
- 54 sites monthly
- 1998-present

Lake Trafford Watershed

- 3 sites monthly
- 1996-present

Cocohatchee River

- 9 sites monthly
- 2013-present



Assessment of Water Quality Standards

Florida Administrative Code 62-302

- **No numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) for canals**
 - Lake Trafford does have NNC
- Peninsular Nutrient Region for Streams
 - Screening tools, not true “exceedances”
 - Total Nitrogen 1.54 mg/L
 - Total Phosphorus 0.12 mg/L
 - Chlorophyll-a 20 ug/L
- Some standards require more complicated assessment



Assessment of Water Quality Standards

Parameter	% Exceedances in FY23
Nitrogen- Total	28.80%
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	28.50%
Enterococci	23.10%
Phosphorus- Total	19.40%
Chlorophyll a	19.00%
Escherichia coli	12.70%
Iron	6.60%
pH	4.60%
Ammonia (N)	0.50%
Turbidity	0.10%

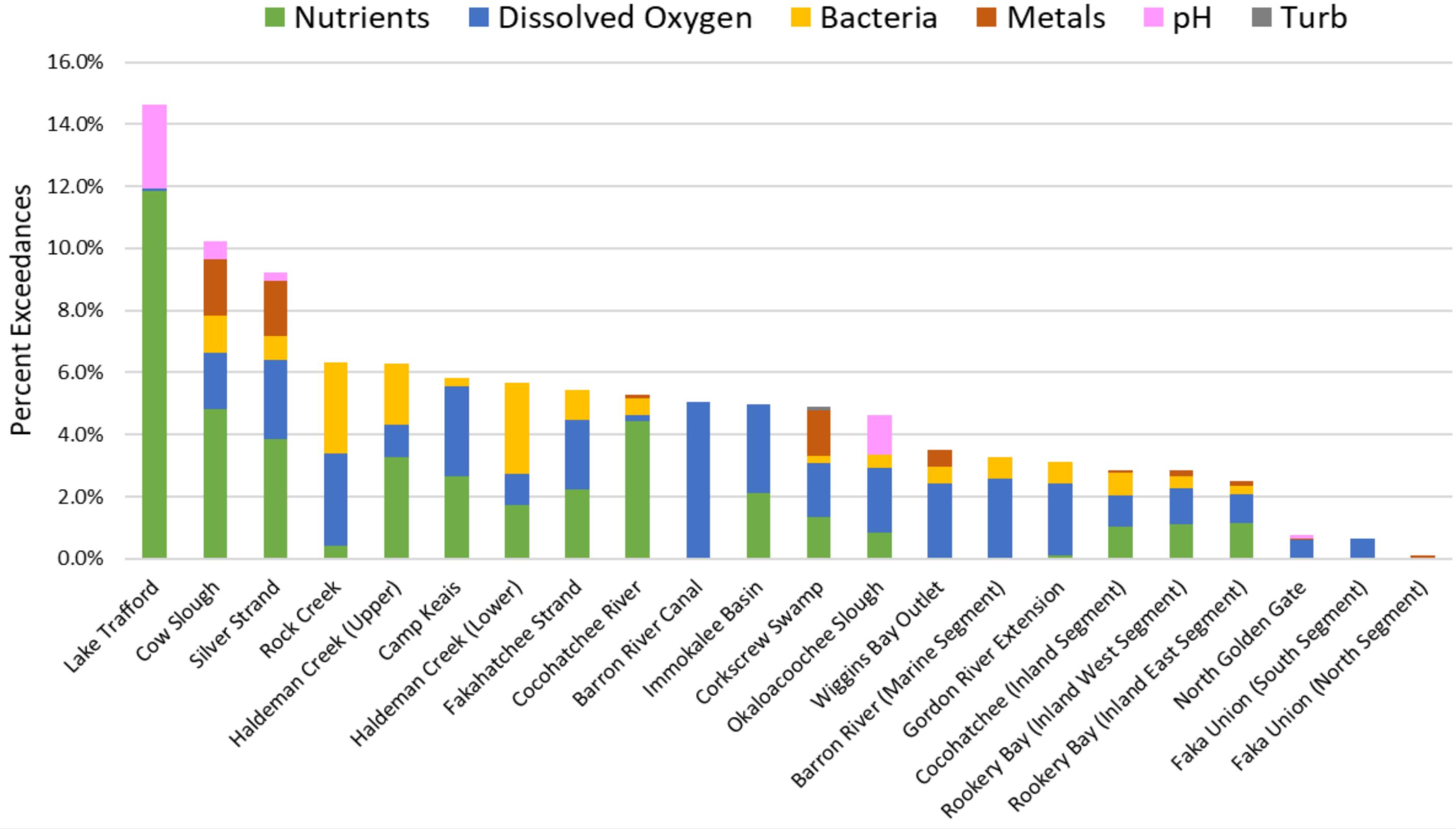
FY23 Water Quality Highlights

The good

- 50% of the watersheds showed decreases in the overall percent exceedances compared to FY22.
- There were no copper exceedances at any of our trend sites.

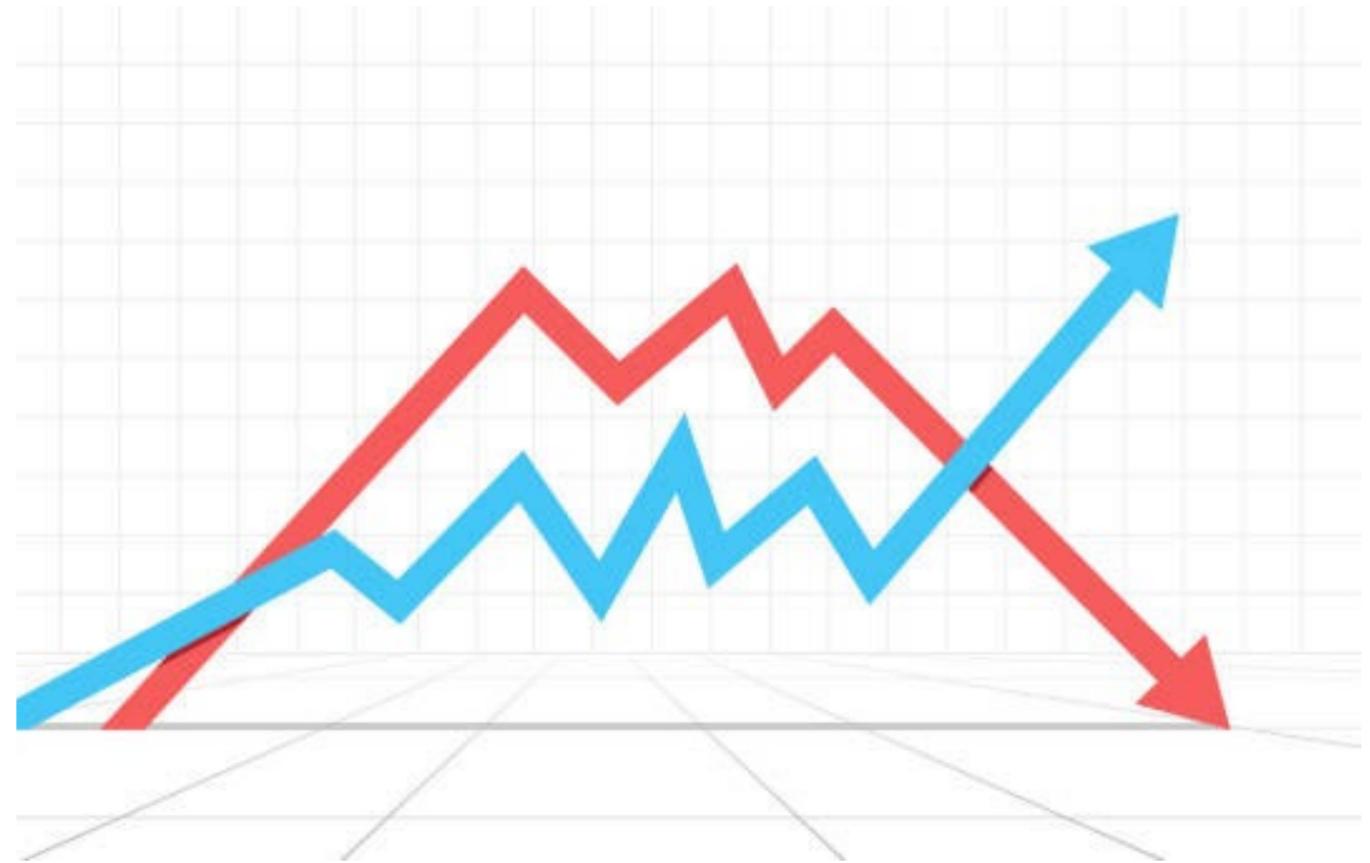
The bad

- 63% of the watersheds showed increases in nutrients (total nitrogen, total phosphorus, or chlorophyll-a).
- 45% of the watersheds showed an increased presence of algae blooms based on exceedances of chlorophyll-a.
- Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) levels degraded in sixty percent of the watersheds.



Trends

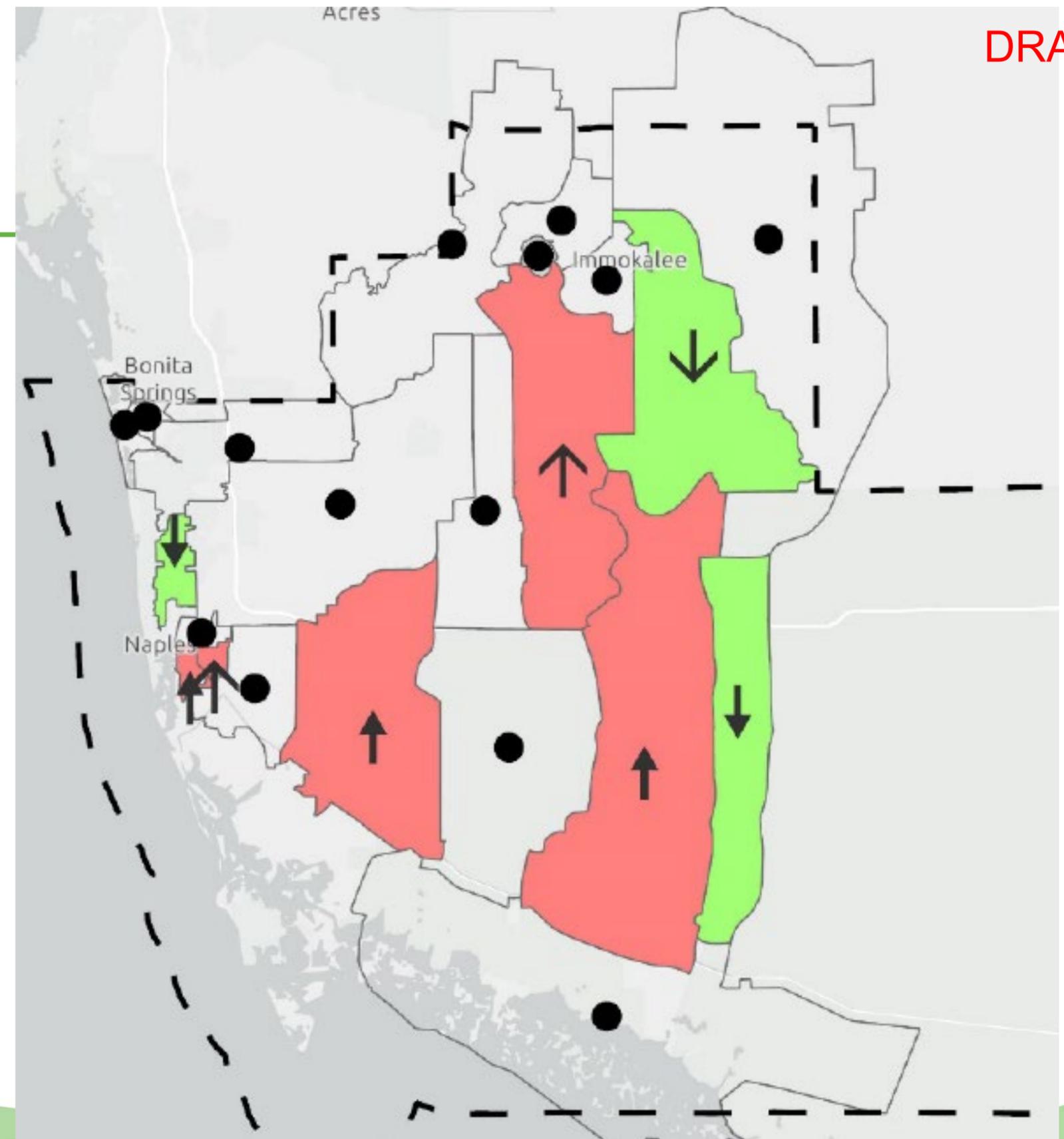
- **Trend Report**
 - Every 5 years
 - Completed in 2023 by Janicki Environmental
 - Uses specific Seasonal Kendall-Tau Statistics for trend analysis
- **Using data from our trend sites**
- **Short Term Trends (2015-2020)**
- **Long Term Trends (1999-2020)**



Total Phosphorus



Down = Decreasing Trend
Up = Increasing Trend
↑ Larger Rate ↓
↑ Smaller Rate ↓
● No Trend

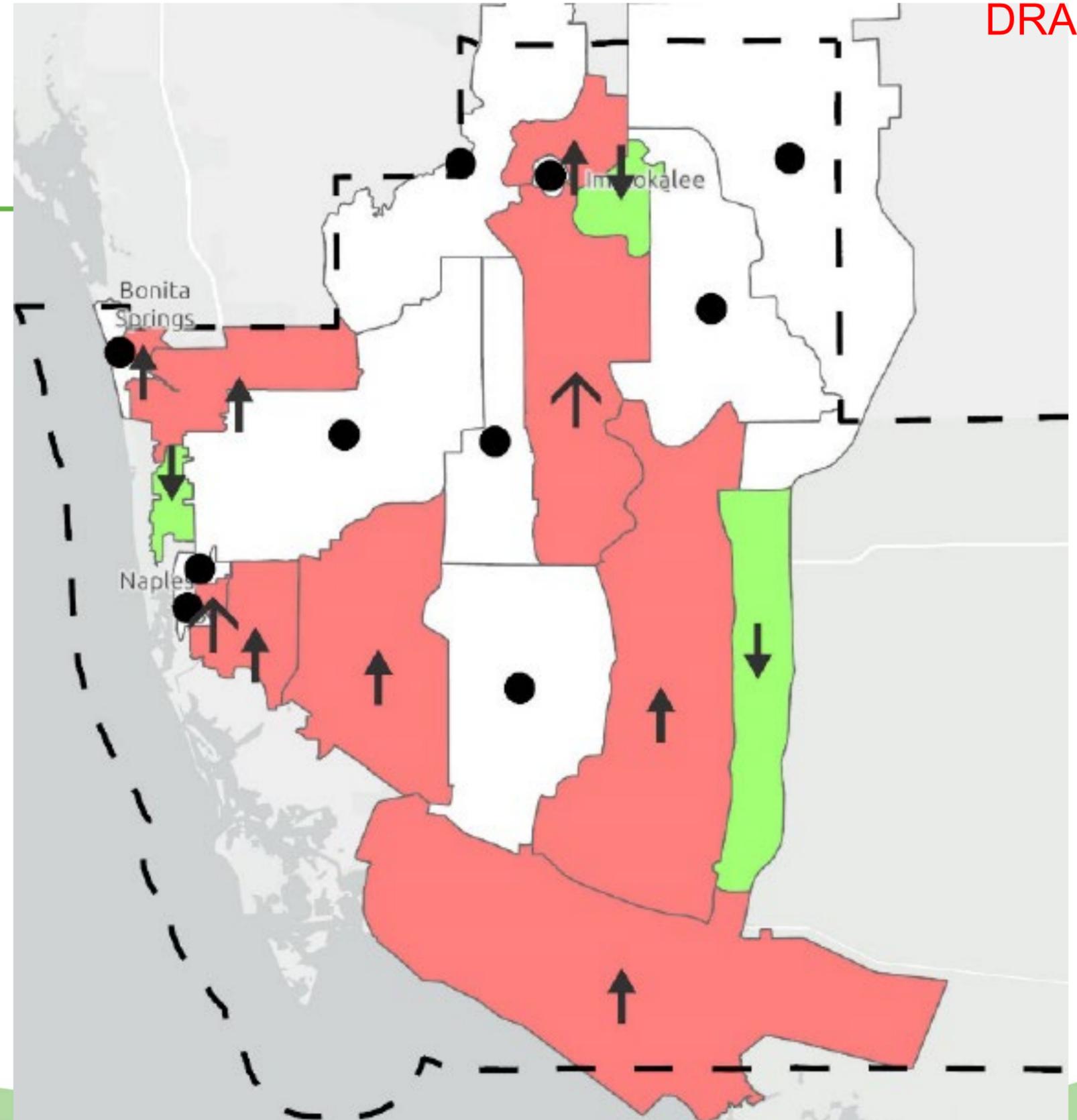


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Total Nitrogen



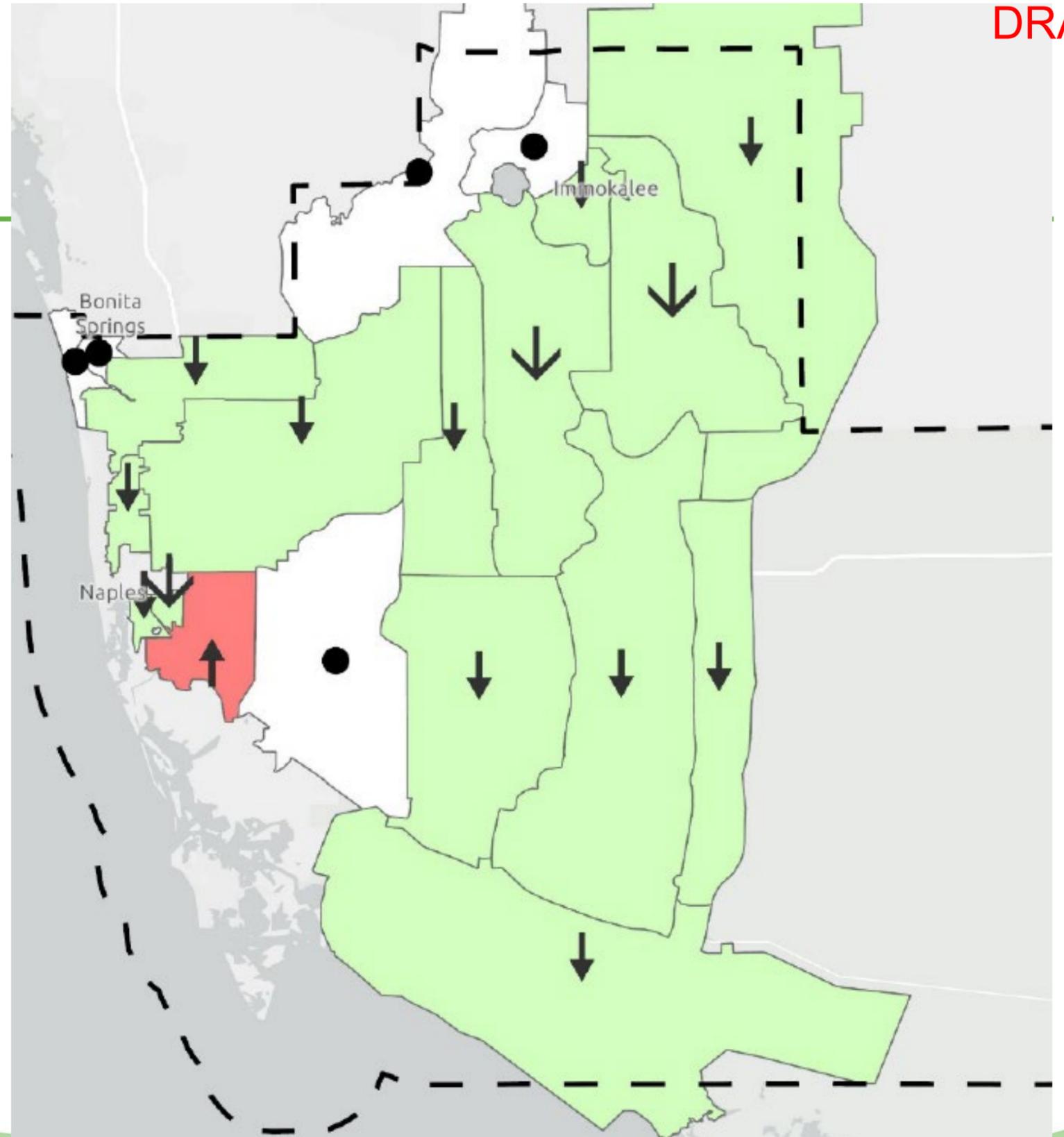
Down = Decreasing Trend
Up = Increasing Trend
↑ Larger Rate ↓
↑ Smaller Rate ↓
● No Trend



Copper



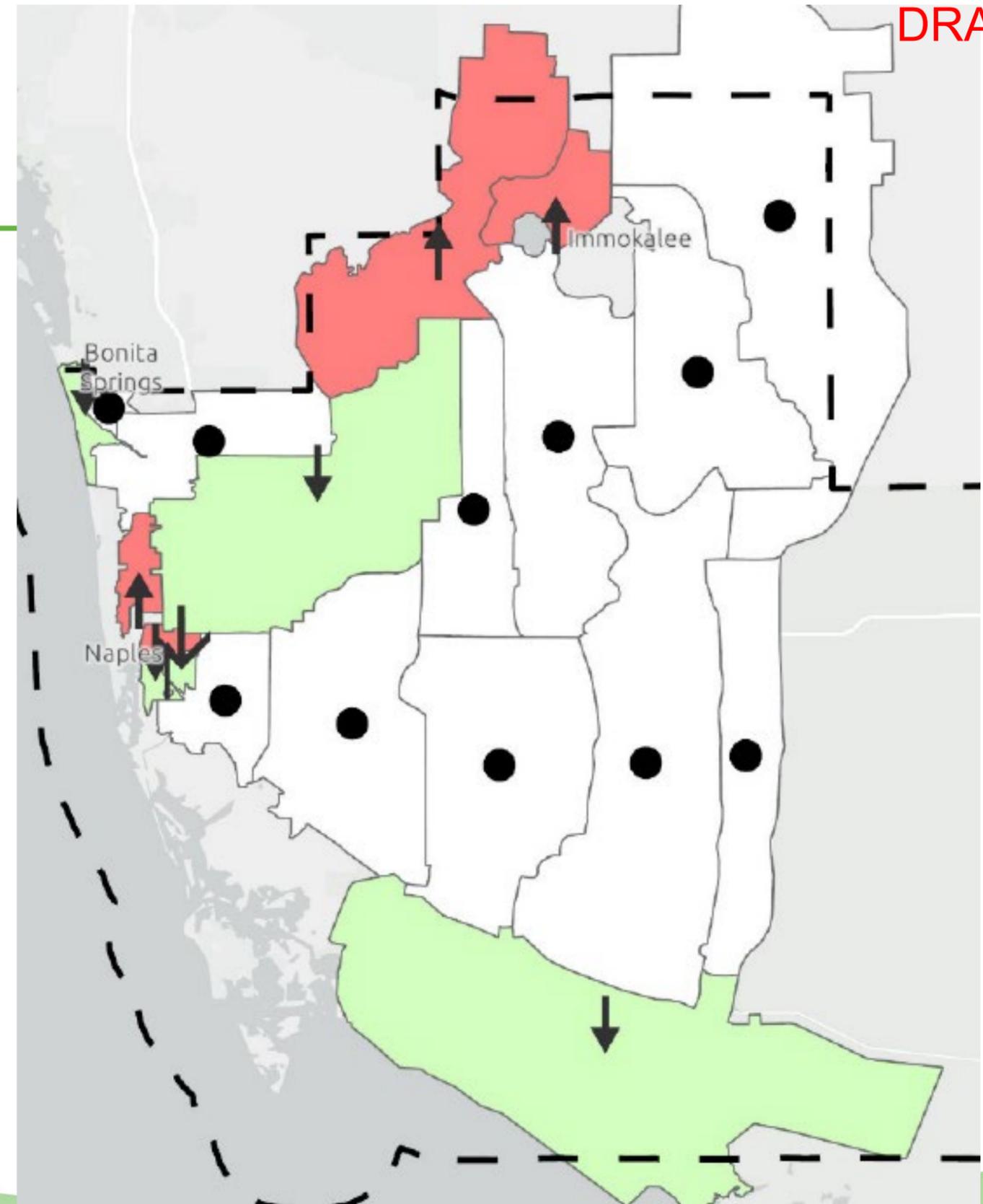
Down = Decreasing Trend
Up = Increasing Trend
↑ Larger Rate ↓
↑ Smaller Rate ↓
● No Trend



Iron



Down = Decreasing Trend
Up = Increasing Trend
↑ Larger Rate ↓
↑ Smaller Rate ↓
● No Trend



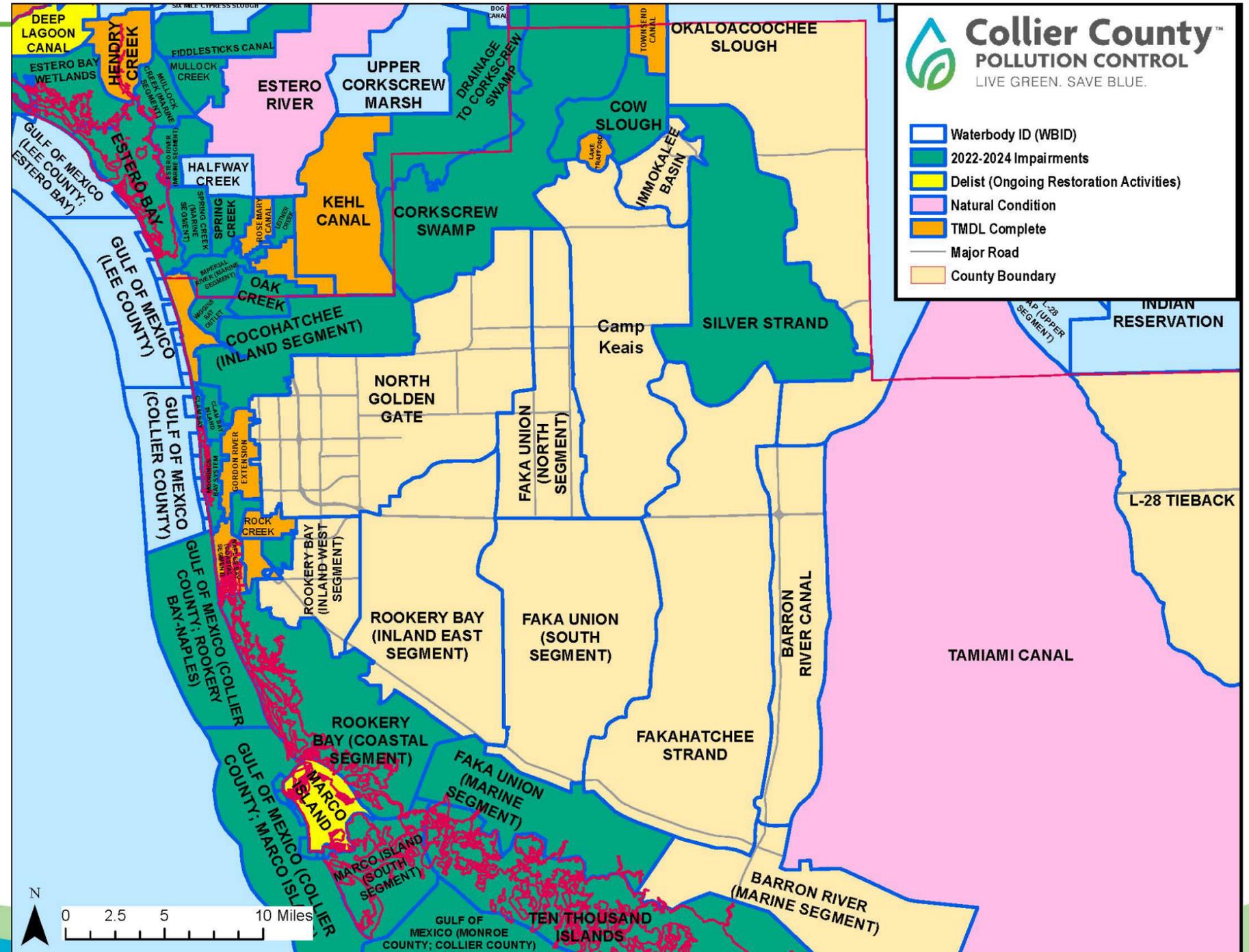
Current Impairments

Completed every 2 years

- Assessed by FDEP

2022-2024 Impairments

- not meeting designated use
- 25 26 Impaired waterbodies
- 59 44 Parameters not meeting standards
 - Copper
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - Bacteria
 - Iron
 - Nitrogen
 - Phosphorus
 - Chlorophyll
 - Macrophytes



Current TMDLs

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2008

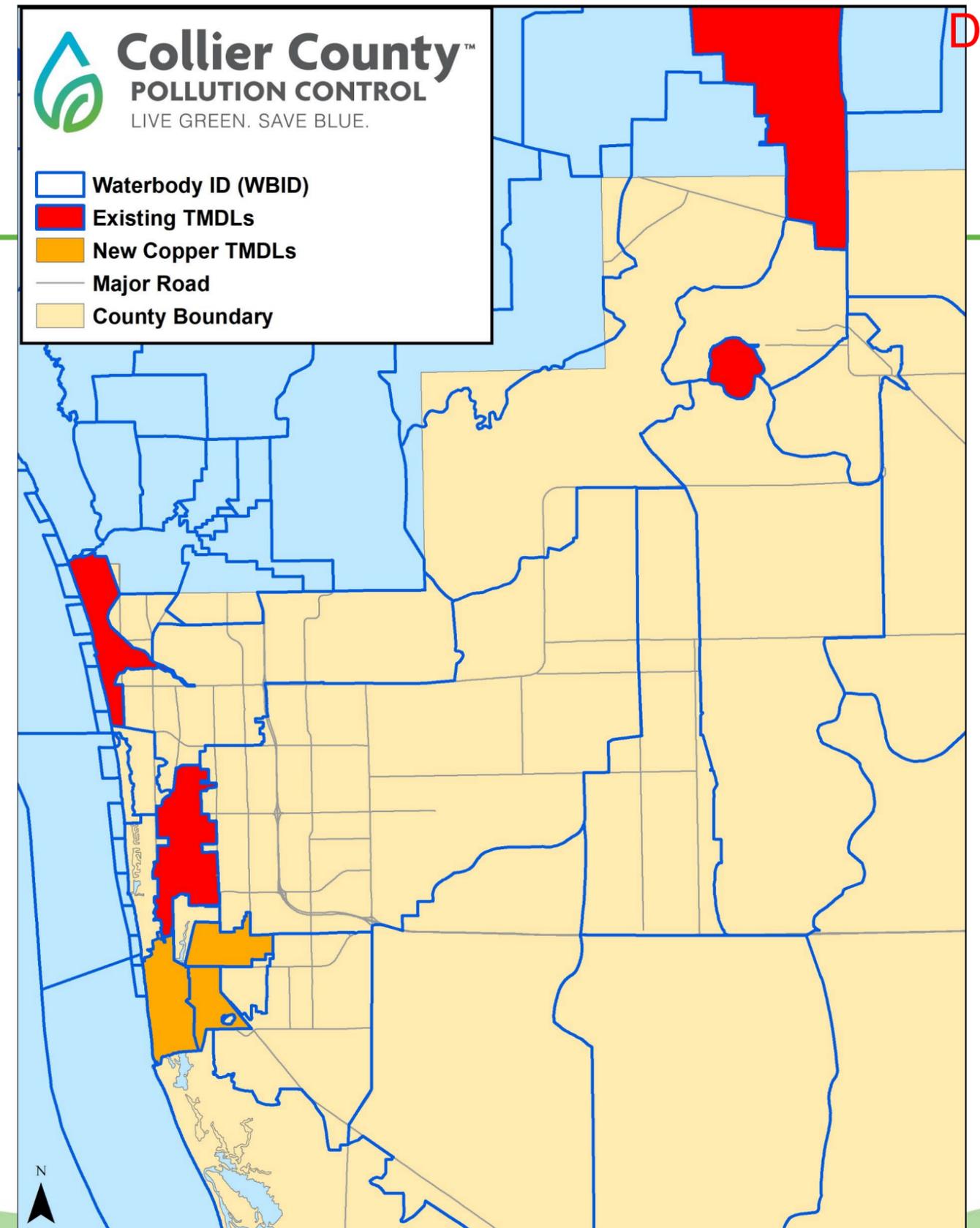
- Gordon River Extension-DO
- Lake Trafford-Nutrients, DO, Unionized Ammonia
- Cocohatchee River-Fecal Coliform

2019

- Townsend Canal-DO
- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)

2024

- Naples Bay-Copper
- Rock Creek-Copper
- Haldeman Creek (Lower)-Copper



Source Tracking Efforts

23 Source tracking events took place

- Walking the watershed
- Infrastructure inspections
- Hot spot monitoring

Concentrated on Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Nutrients

- Ccohatchee River (Inland Segment)
- Gordon River Extension
- Haldeman Creek (Upper and Lower)
- Rock Creek
- Silver Strand—nutrients only



Source Tracking Efforts

Sampled after storm events

- Bacteria levels elevated for 3 days
- Homeless camps continue to be a problem

Cocohatchee River (Inland Segment)

- Human and dog DNA found at one site
- No human sources found

Gordon River

- Varying tributaries contributing to both nutrients and bacteria



Homeless Camp Near GORDONRIV August 2023

Source Tracking Efforts

Running out of tools

- Sucralose (Splenda) is present in surface and groundwater everywhere reused irrigation is used.
 - Can't distinguish between leaking infrastructure or reuse irrigation
- DNA
 - Cost is ~\$700 per sample for human. ~\$1000 to include bird and dog
 - Homeless camps can mask infrastructure problems
- Isotope
 - Establishing isotopic fingerprints for all sources takes extensive sampling.
 - ~\$1000 per sample



Limited Resources

Coming Up

More source tracking

- Bacteria
 - Integrity testing of infrastructure
- Copper
- Reduction of trend network to focus on TMDLs
- Focus on municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)





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POLLUTION CONTROL
LIVE GREEN. SAVE BLUE.

Questions?

Live Green. Save Blue.

239-252-2502 | Rhonda.Watkins@colliercountyfl.gov

www.LiveGreenSaveBlue.com

Update on Fisheries Research in Rookery Bay



Patrick O'Donnell

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

South FL Water Management District, Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting| Feb. 28, 2025





WHAT IS ROOKERY BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE?

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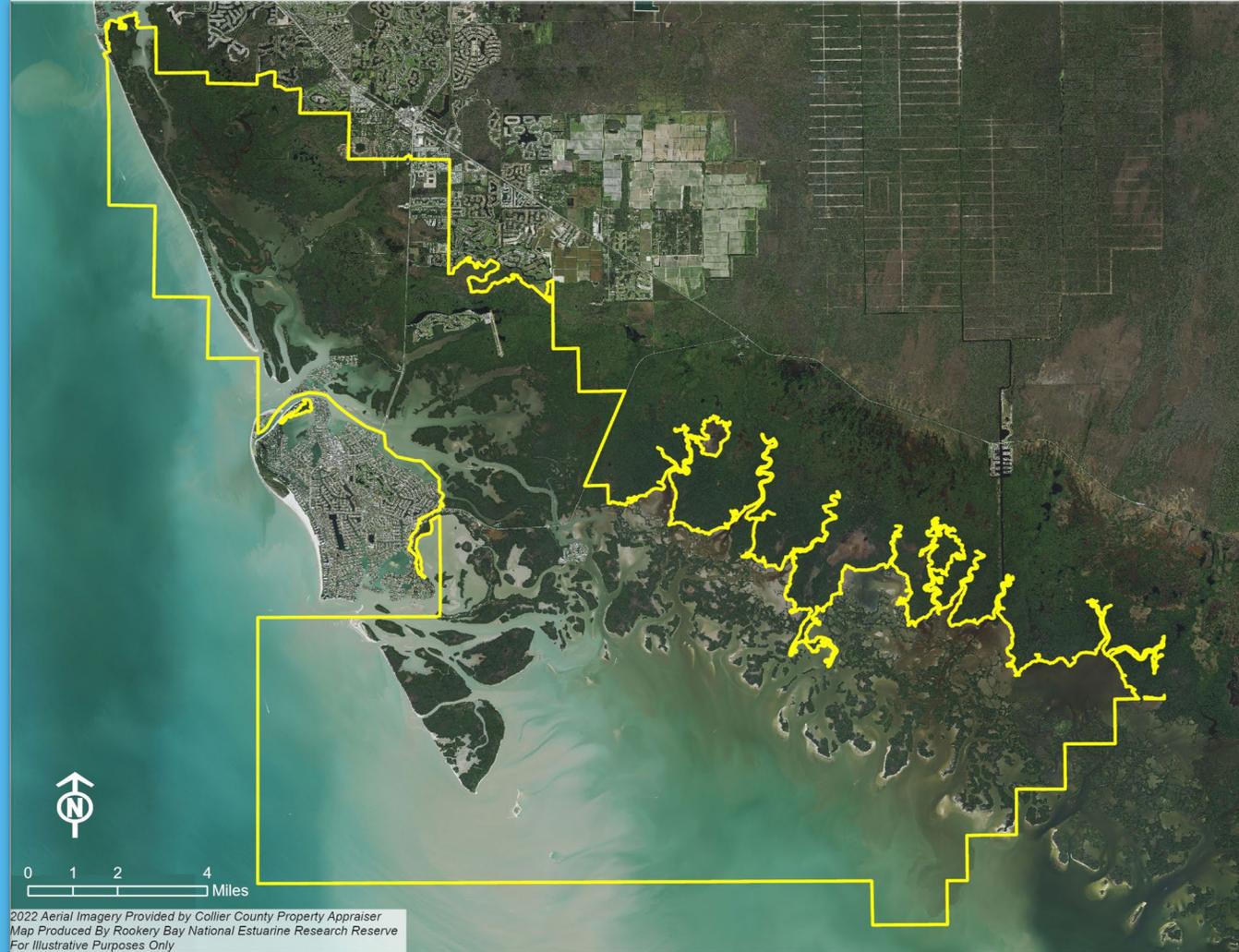
Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



110,000 ACRES OF LAND AND WATER

40% OF COLLIER COUNTY'S COASTLINE

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2022 Aerial Imagery Provided by Collier County Property Appraiser
Map Produced By Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
For Illustrative Purposes Only

Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



ROOKERY BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

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MISSION:

To serve Southwest Florida as a trusted resource for science-based information to foster connected human and ecological communities.

Presenter: Pat O'Donnell

VISION:

Communities in Southwest Florida value nature and prosper in concert with healthy estuaries.



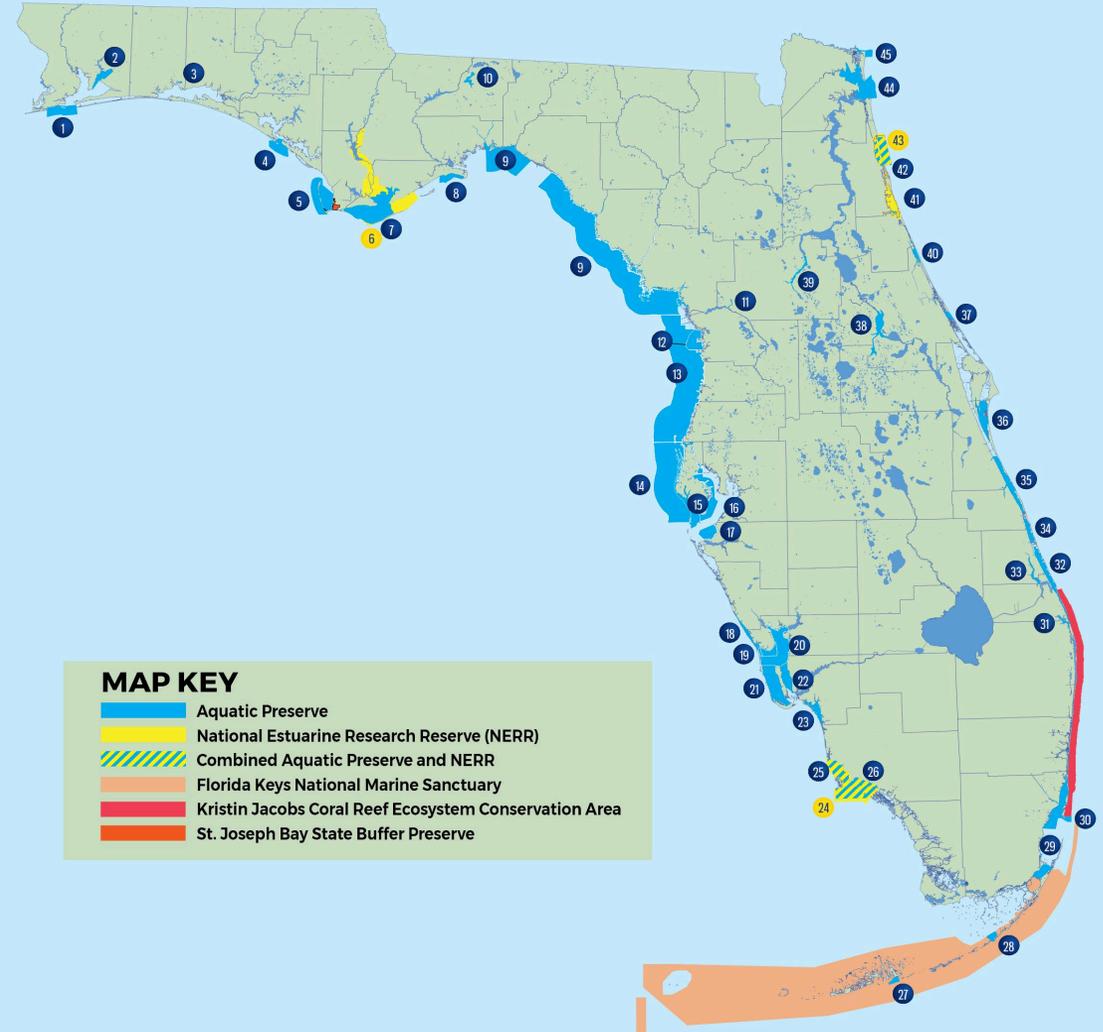
FOUR MILLION ACRES PROTECTED IN FL **DRAFT**

OFFICE OF RESILIENCE AND COASTAL PROTECTION

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection:

- National Estuarine Research Reserves.
- Aquatic Preserves.
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
- Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.

Presenter: Pat O'Donnell





NATIONAL NETWORK - NOAA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM

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Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



ROOKERY BAY'S CORE PROGRAMS

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- Research.
- Education.
- Stewardship.
- Coastal Training.

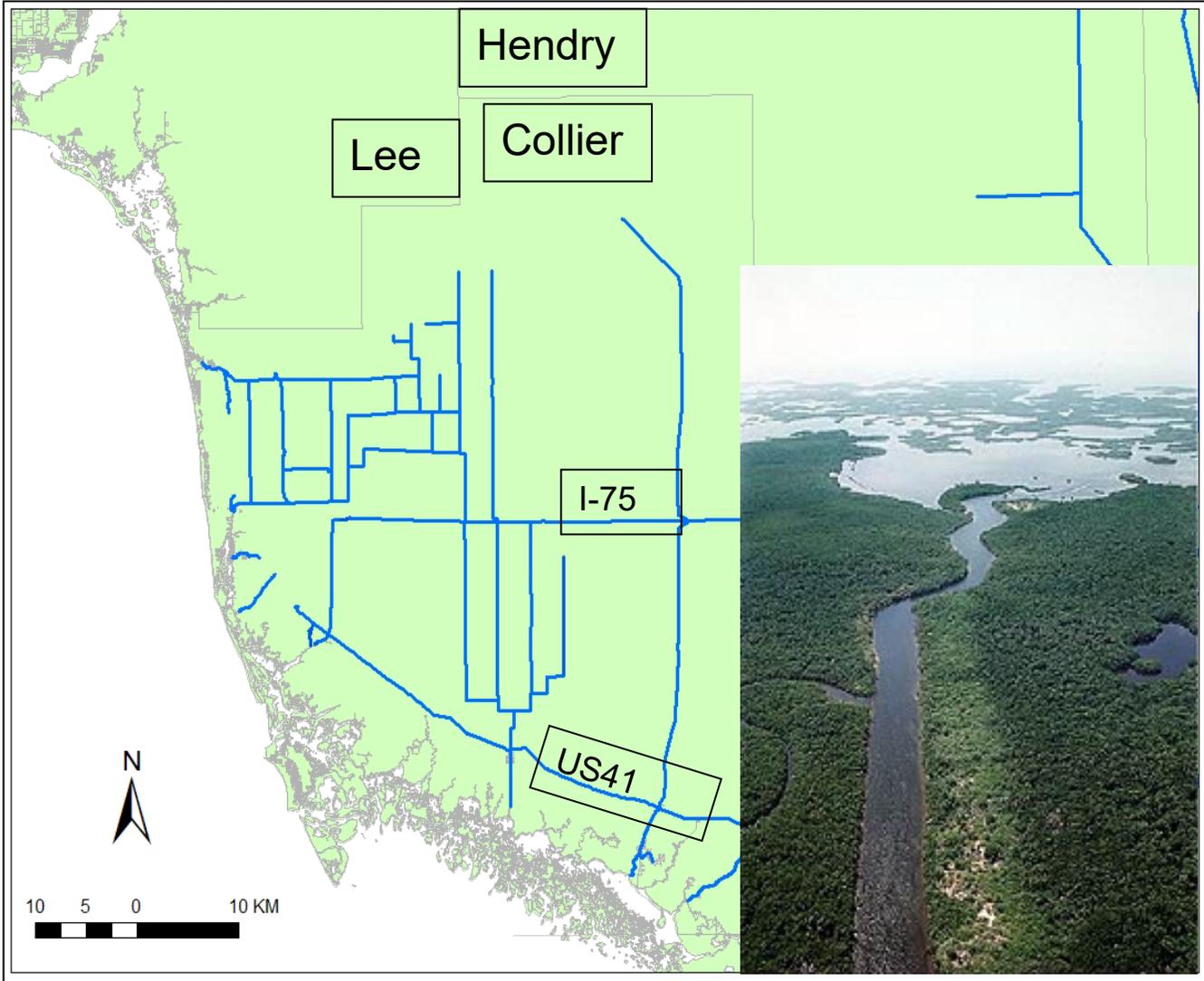


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PICAYUNE STRAND DRAINAGE

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Watershed Drainage:

Faka Union Bay

- About 112,000 acres

Fakahatchee Bay

- About 80,000 acres

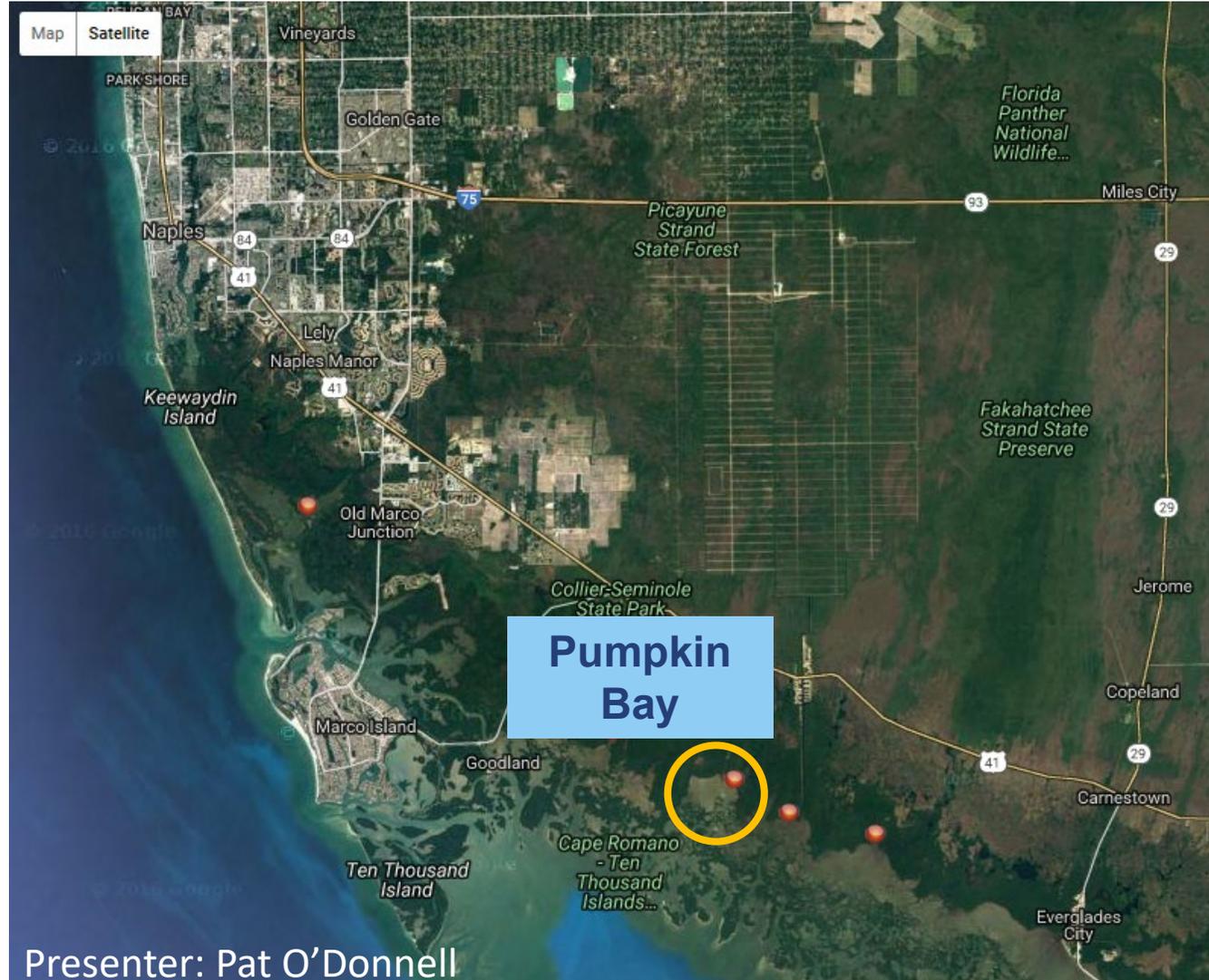
Pumpkin Bay

- About 10,000 acres



WATER QUALITY

DRAFT



Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



WATER QUALITY

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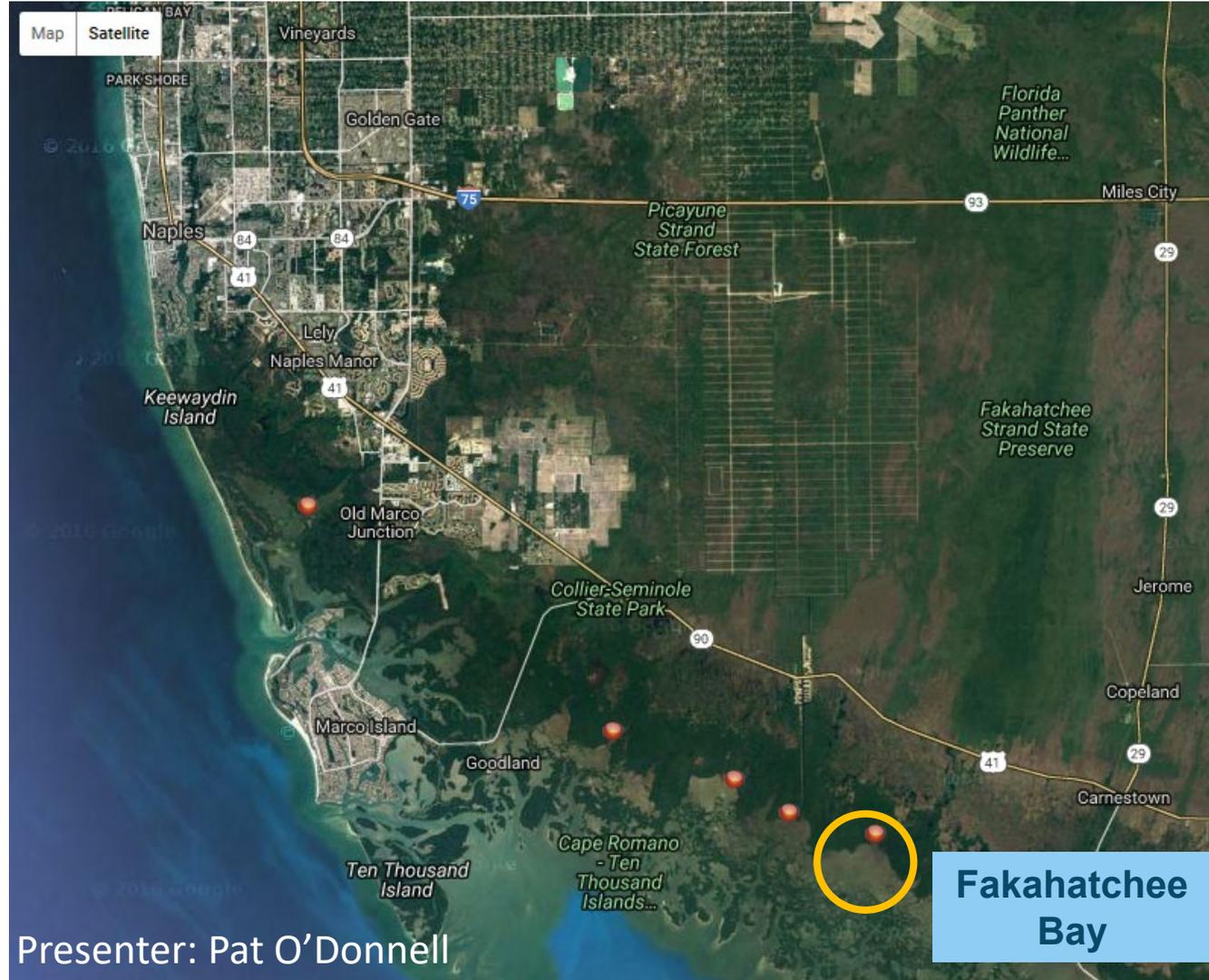


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WATER QUALITY

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Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



FAKA UNION CANAL WEIR/DAM

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Canals: Alter quantity and quality of freshwater flows to the estuary.

- Results: Large salinity changes, sediment and nutrient transport.

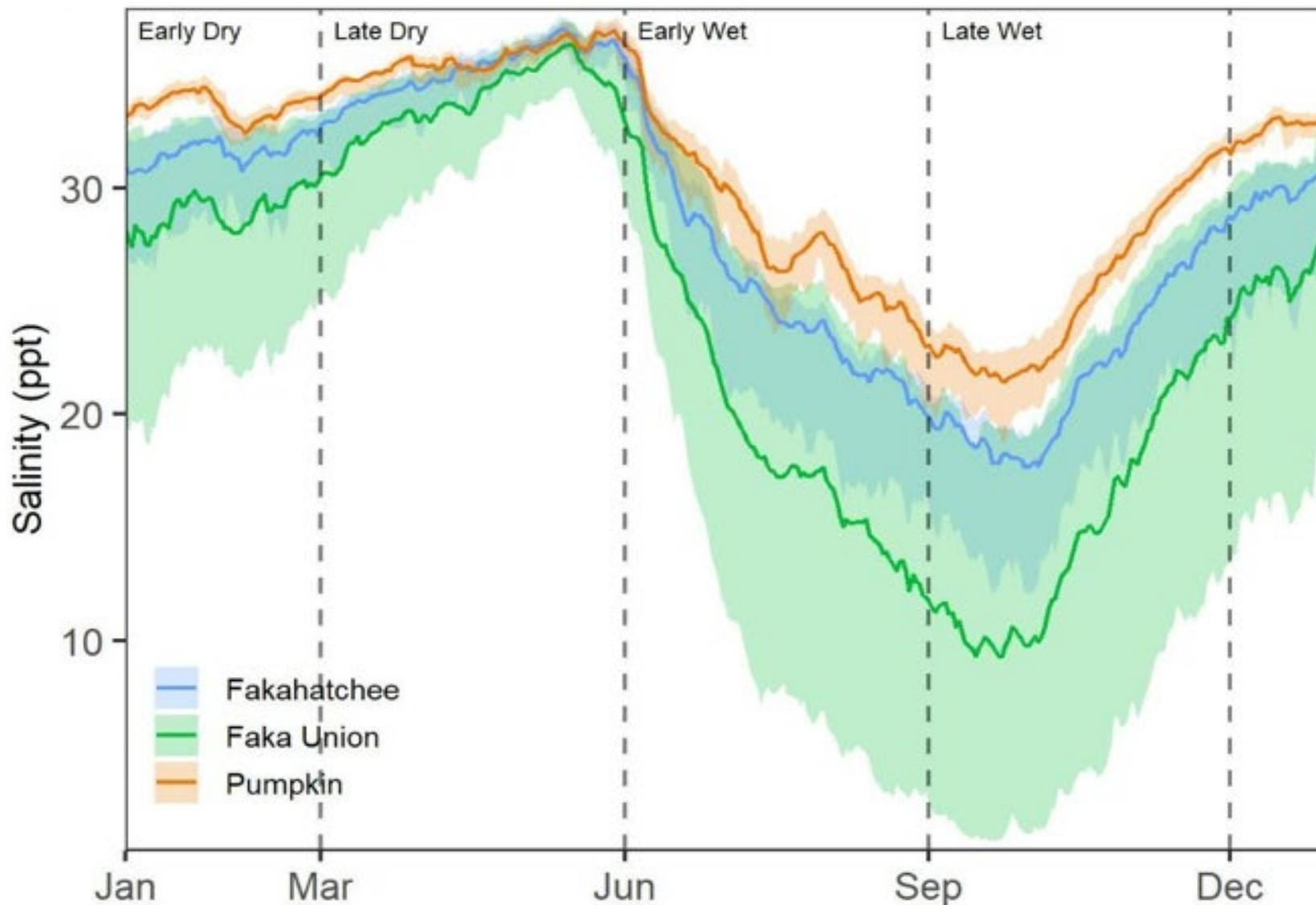
Water Control Structures: Alter timing of early and late wet season freshwater flows.

- Results: Disruption of seasonal environmental cues.



ANNUAL SALINITY PATTERNS

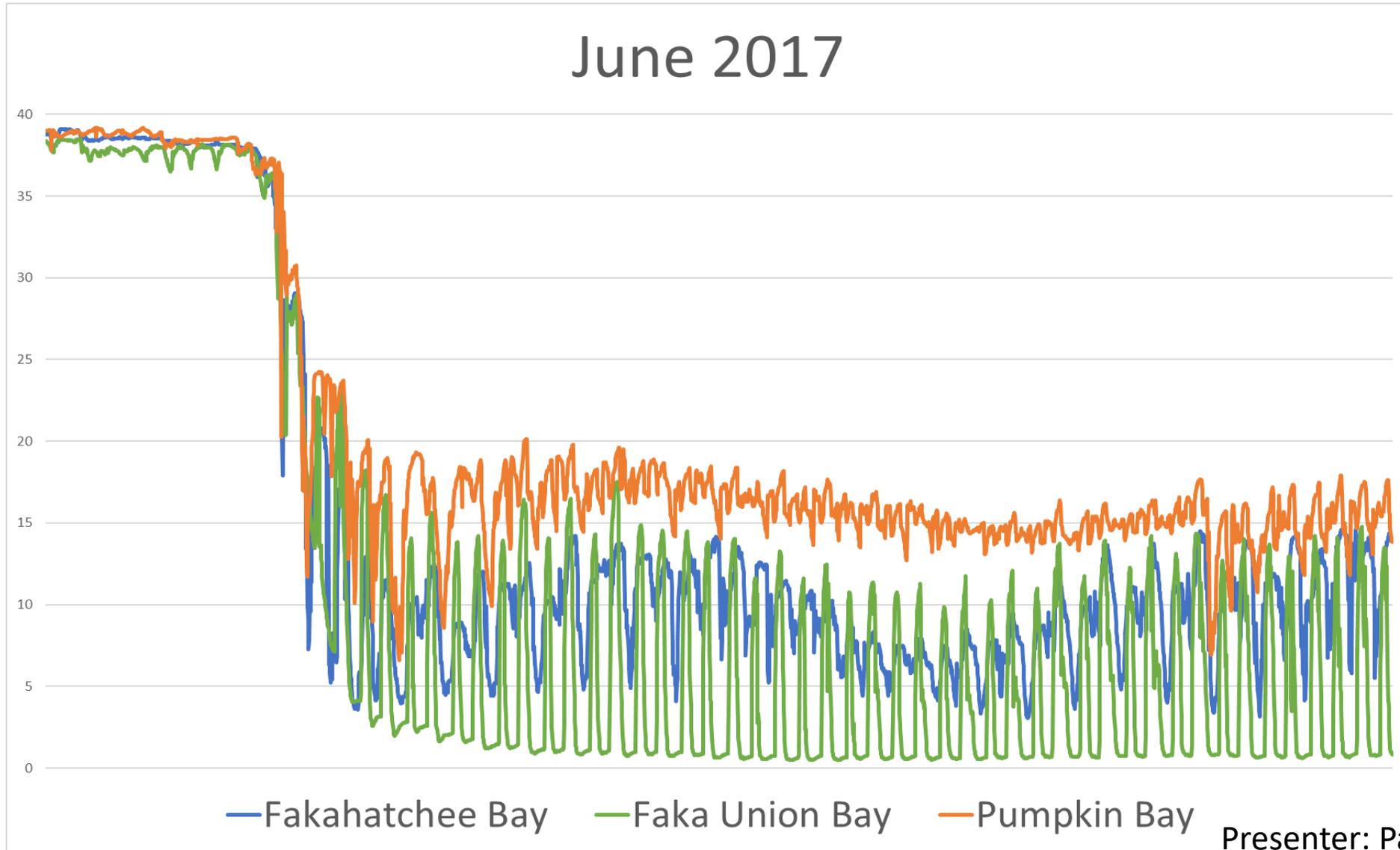
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TIDAL SALINITY PATTERNS

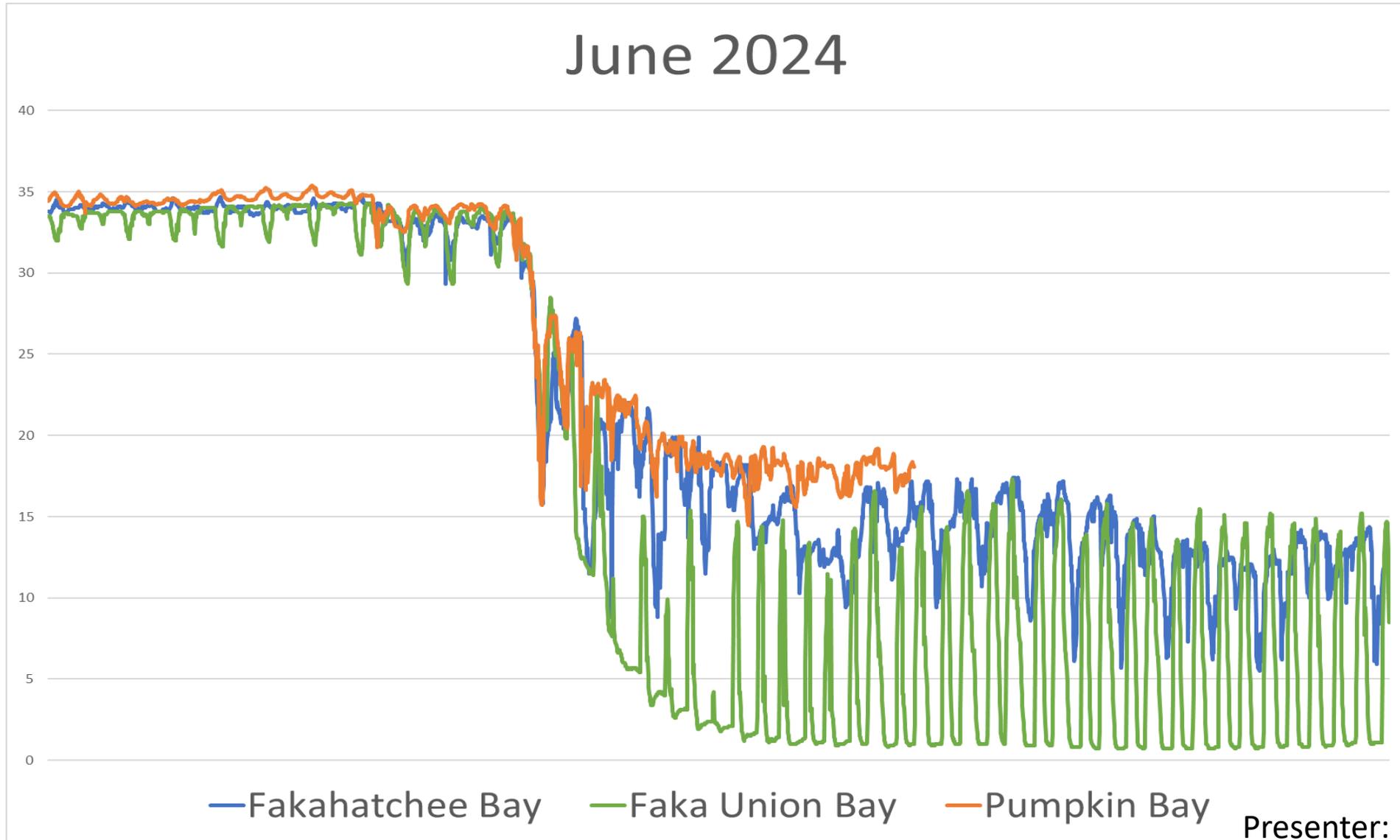
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TIDAL SALINITY PATTERNS

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SALINITY PATTERNS

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Take Home Message:

1. **Faka Union Bay: More** fresh during rainy season.
2. **Pumpkin Bay: Least** fresh during rainy season.
3. **All Three Bays: Comparable** dry season peaks.
4. **Faka Union Bay: Greater range** of salinity over the tidal cycle than other bays.



TRAWL GEAR DEPLOYMENT

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**Faithful, hard-working VOLUNTEERS
Contribute 1500 hours per year**





MACRO-ALGAE BYCATCH

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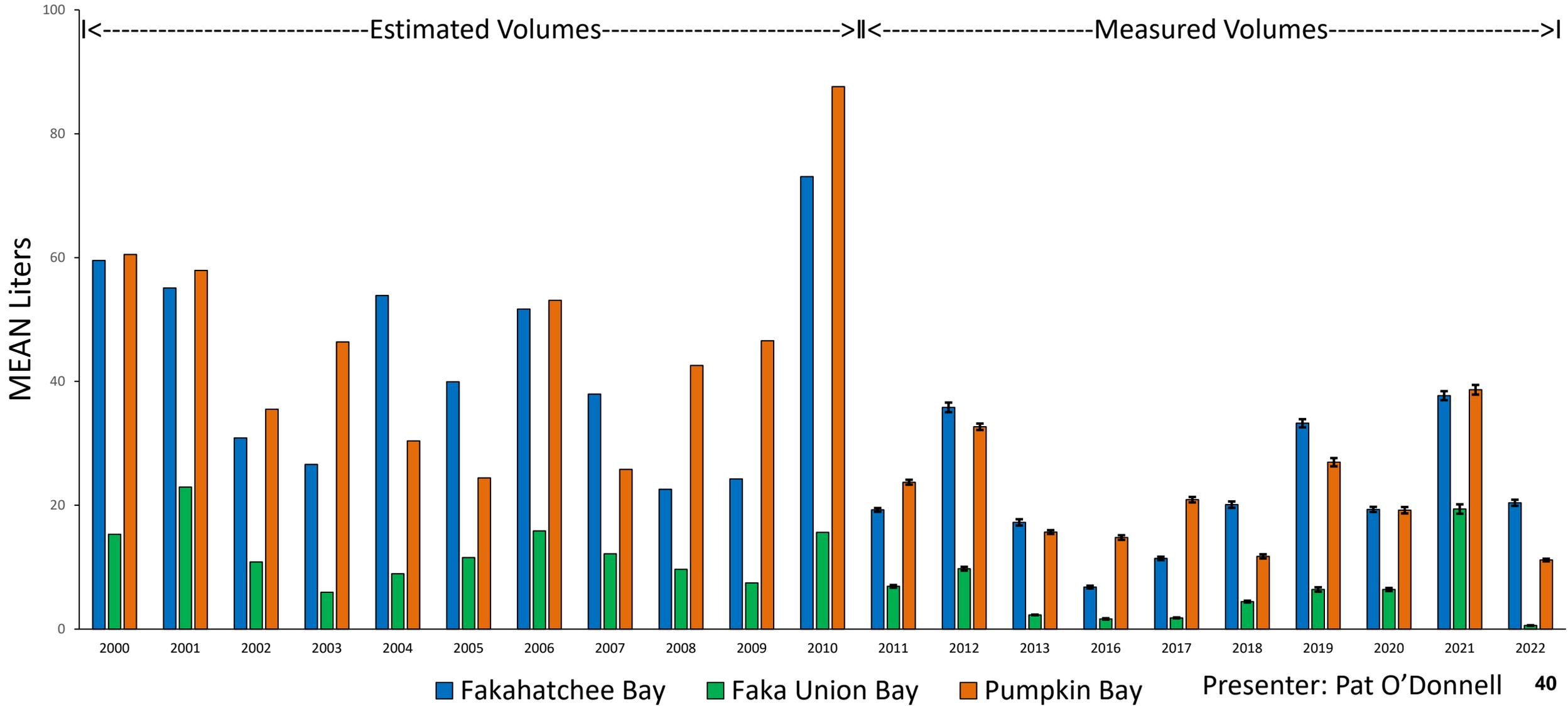


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MACRO-ALGAE VOLUMES

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EXAMPLE TRAWL CATCH

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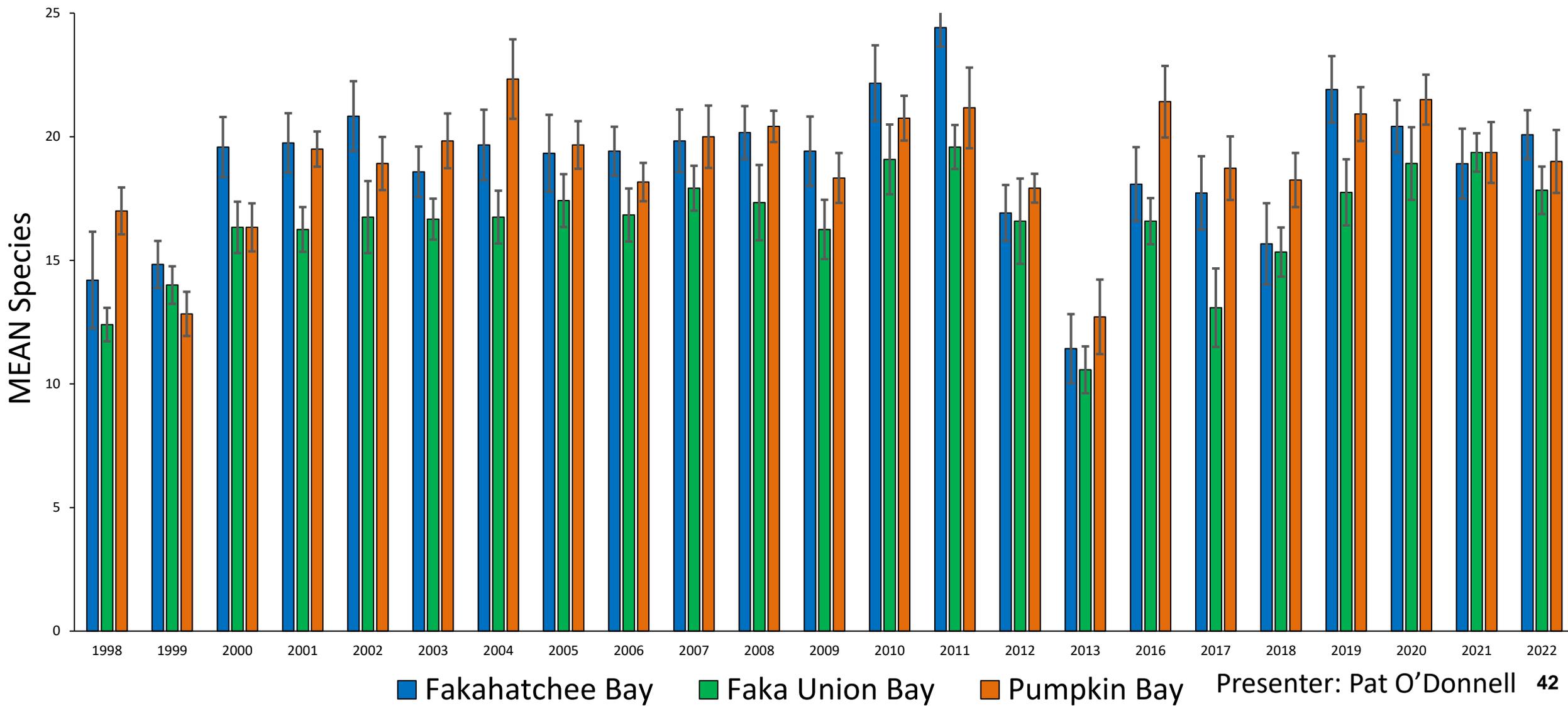


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SPECIES DIVERSITY

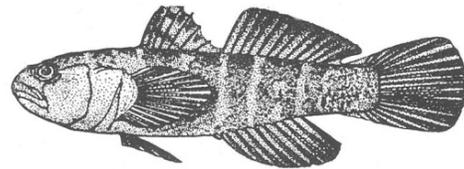
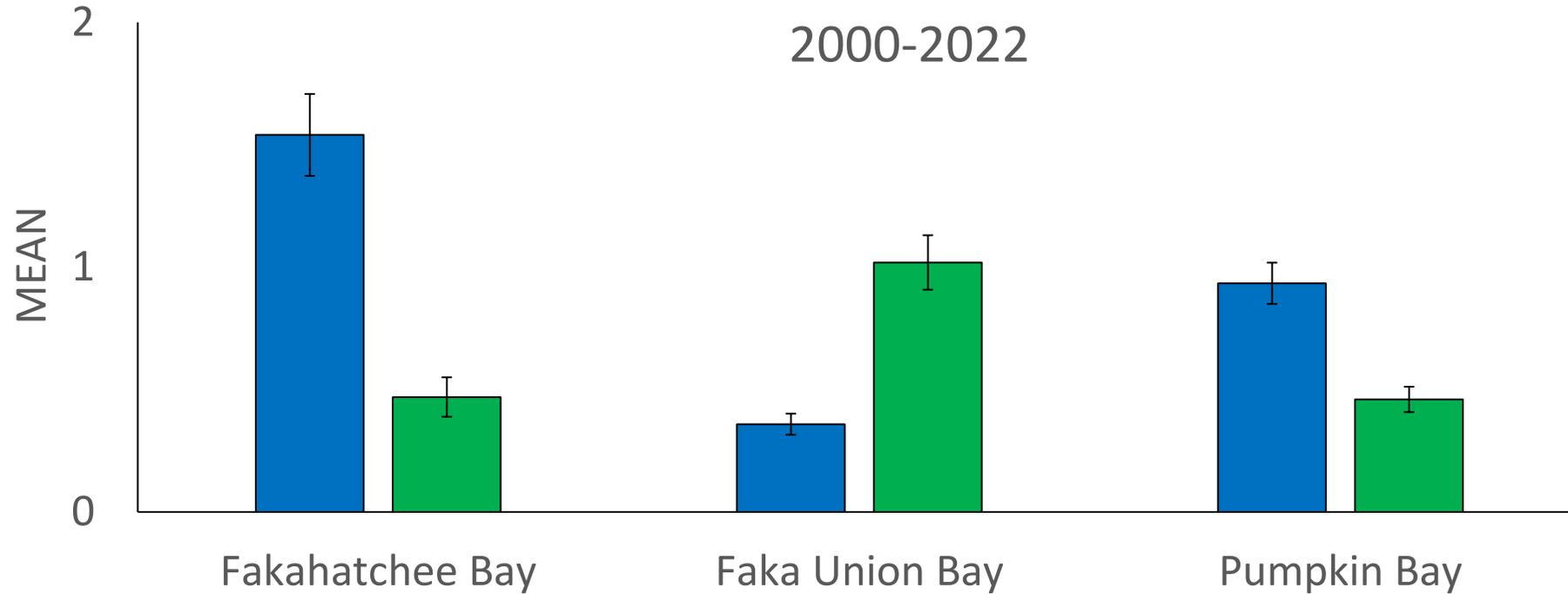
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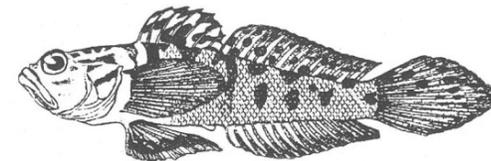
GOBIE CATCH DATA

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Code goby

Prefers higher salinities, seagrass beds and algal mats (Robins 1986).



Clown goby

Prefers muddy substrates (Birdsong 1981)
Can tolerate low salinities.

Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



DIFFERENCE IN CATCH ABUNDANCE

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LOWEST Abundance in Faka Union Bay

Pinfish
Silver perch
Lane snapper
Gulf pipefish
Code goby 
Pigfish
Southern puffer
Bighead sea robin
Fringed flounder
Sheepshead
Leopard sea robin
Gulf flounder
Gulf toadfish
Chain pipefish
Atlantic bumper
Planehead filefish
Striped burrfish
Atlantic spadefish
Dwarf seahorse
Florida blenny
Gag grouper

HIGHEST Abundance in Faka Union Bay

Sand seatrout 
Clown goby
Green goby
Striped mojarra
Skilletfish
Naked goby
Largemouth bass (freshwater)
Sunfish family (freshwater)
Armored catfish (freshwater)
Mayan cichlid (freshwater)



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CONCLUSIONS FROM 20 YEAR DATA ANALYSIS **DRAFT**

Kendall et al 2022 , Williams et al 2023

Expected Restoration Outcomes:

- Overall, these species are estuarine and can tolerate the anticipated range of salinities.
- Species membership not expected to change, but relative proportions may.
- High salinity in all three bays at the end of the dry season “resets” the entire system.
- In Faka Union bay, after restoration completion, we could see:
 - More algae, sponges and tunicates which provide more food and better habitat for fishes.
 - Likely increase in fish species and biodiversity.
 - an excellent metric to assess ecosystem health.

JUVENILE SHARK NURSERIES

IN THE TEN THOUSAND ISLANDS

Rooker Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve





DOWNSTREAM FROM PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT

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Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



IMPORTANT SHARK FACTS

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- Juvenile sharks utilize estuarine bays as nurseries for food and refuge from larger sharks.
- Sharks are directly affected by extreme changes in salinity.
- Bull sharks can quickly acclimate to freshwater.
- Most sharks can't tolerate low salinities for long periods.



Bull
54%



Bonnethead
28%



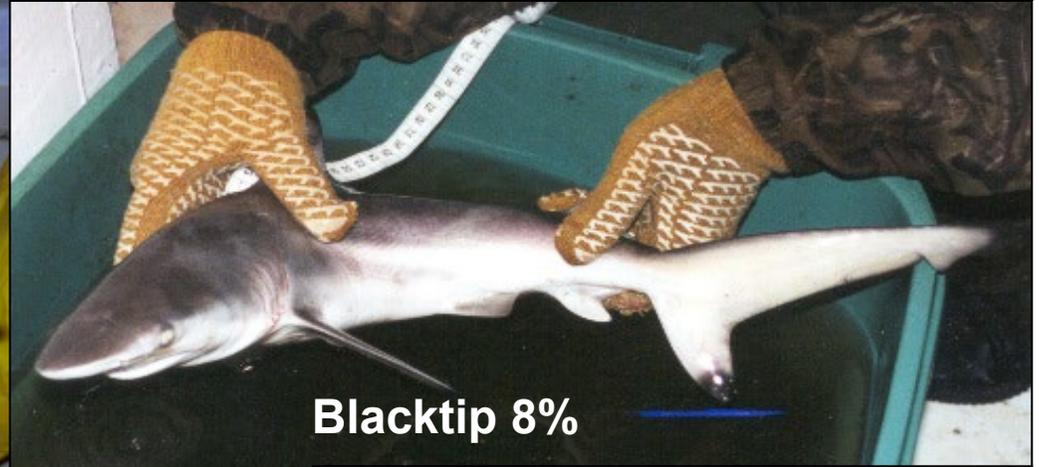
Nurse
13 total



Lemon
9%



Blacktip 8%



Atlantic sharpnose - 3 total



Scalloped Hammerhead - 2 total



Great hammerhead - 11 total





GILLNETS AND LONGLINES

DRAFT



- 300-ft gillnet flanked by two ten-hook longlines.
- Baited with mullet.
- Set two hours before sunset.
- Retrieved two hours after sunset.
- Since December 2023, daytime sampling.



Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



HOLDING POOL

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Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



TAGGING

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Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



MEASUREMENTS

- Pre-caudal length.
- Fork length.
- Total length.
- Total stretch length.

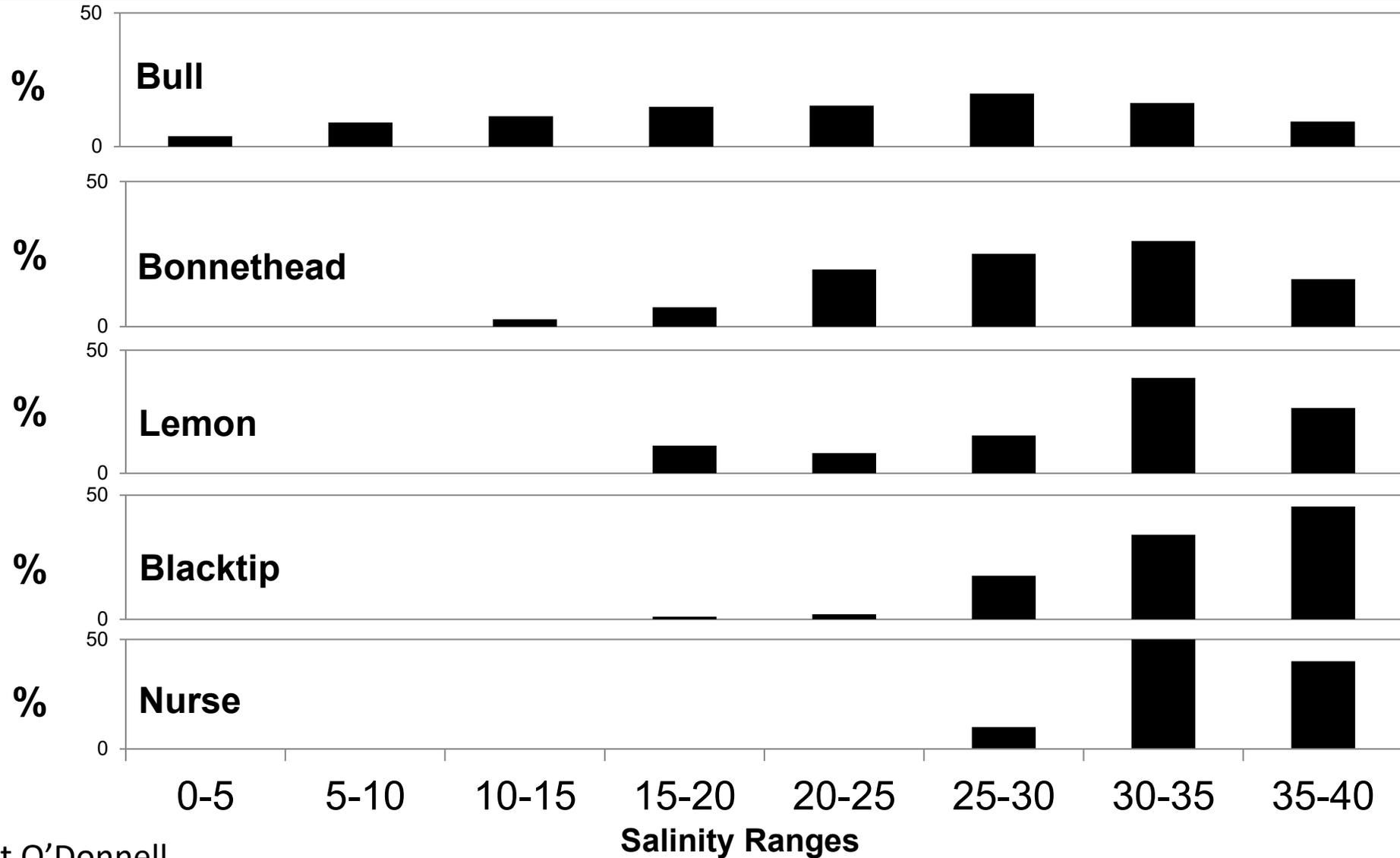


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SALINITY RANGES

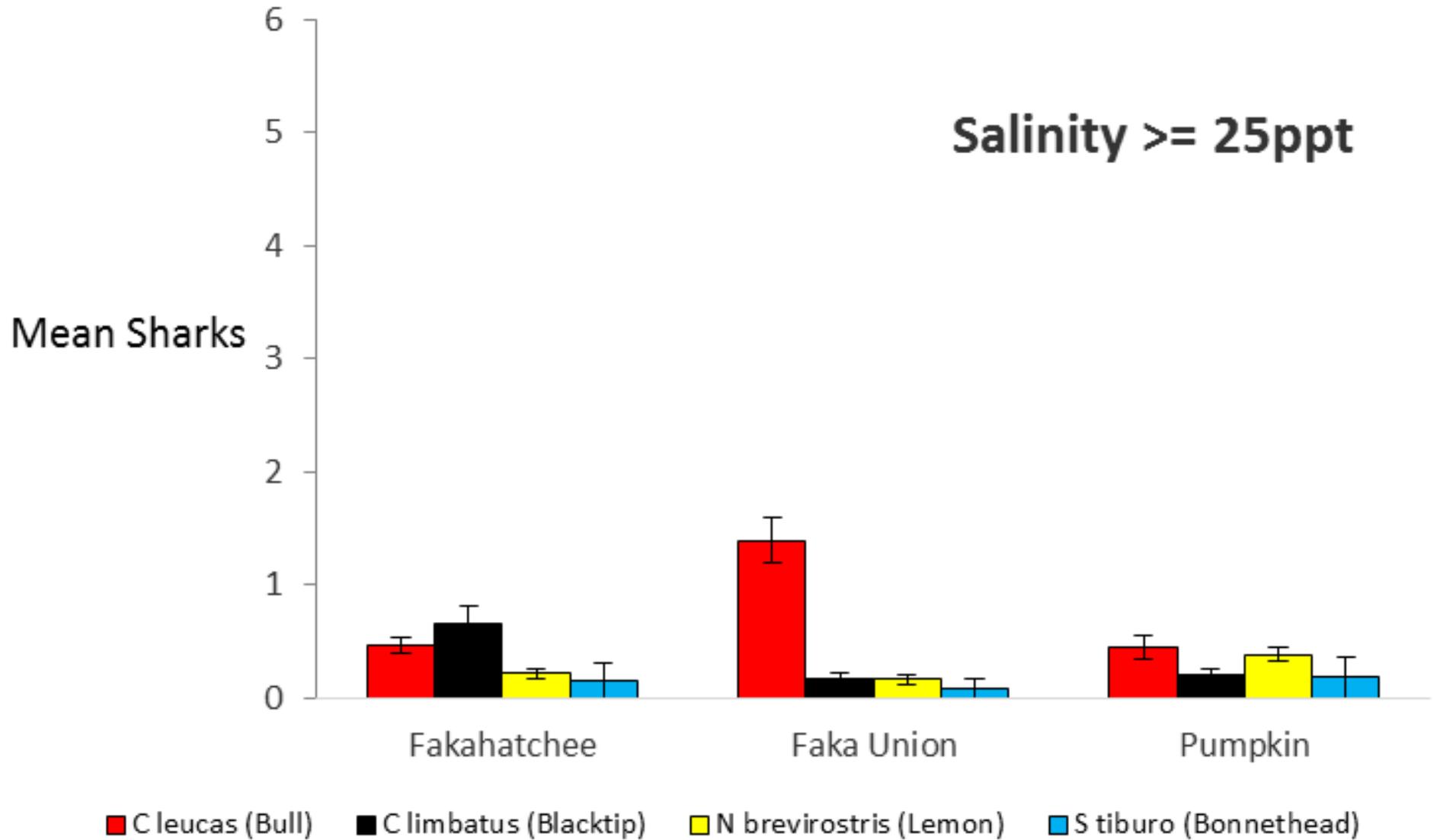
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SHARK CATCHES – DRY SEASON

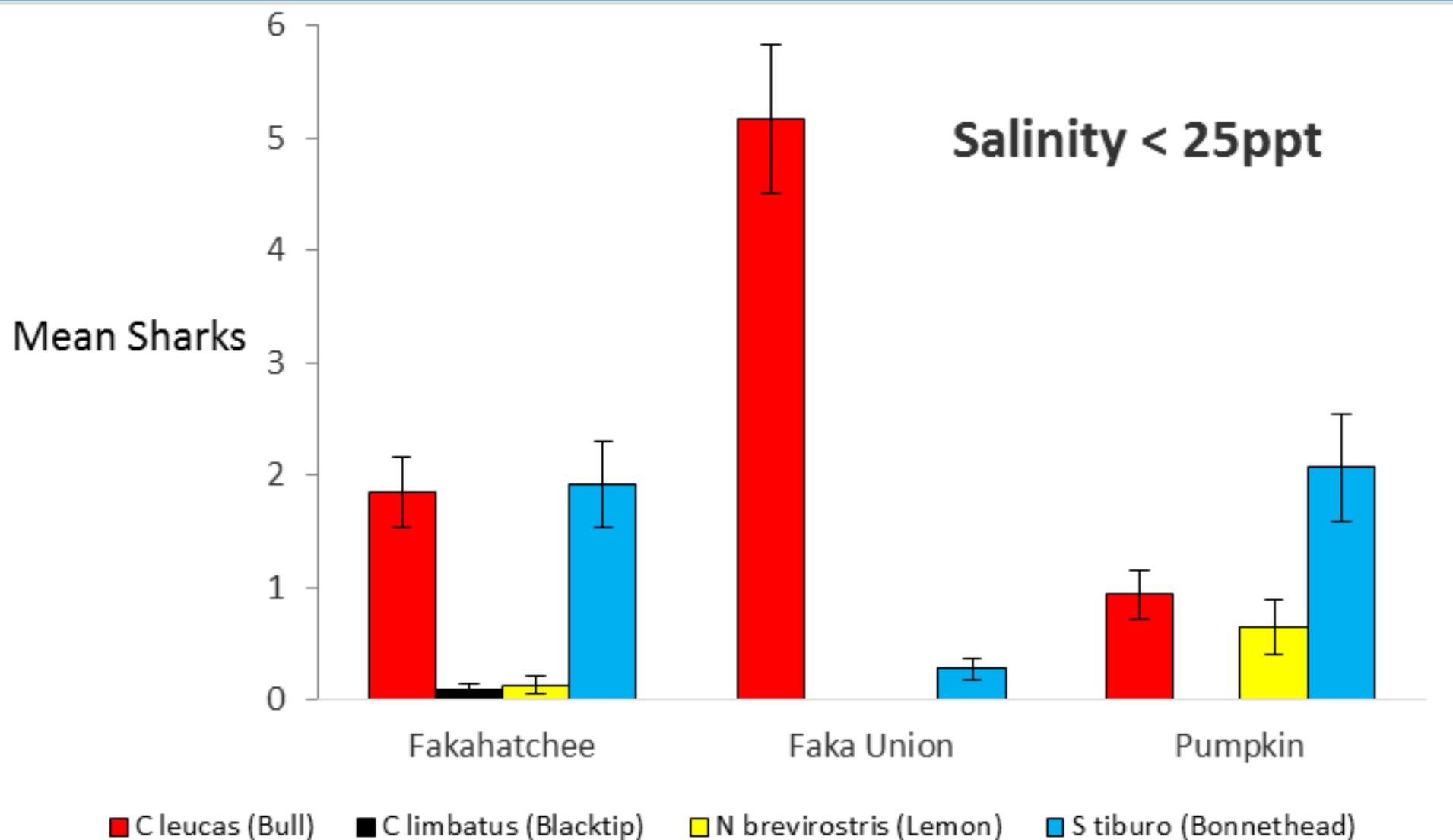
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SHARK CATCHES – WET SEASON

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SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH

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Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH – SAFETY MEASURES DRAFT



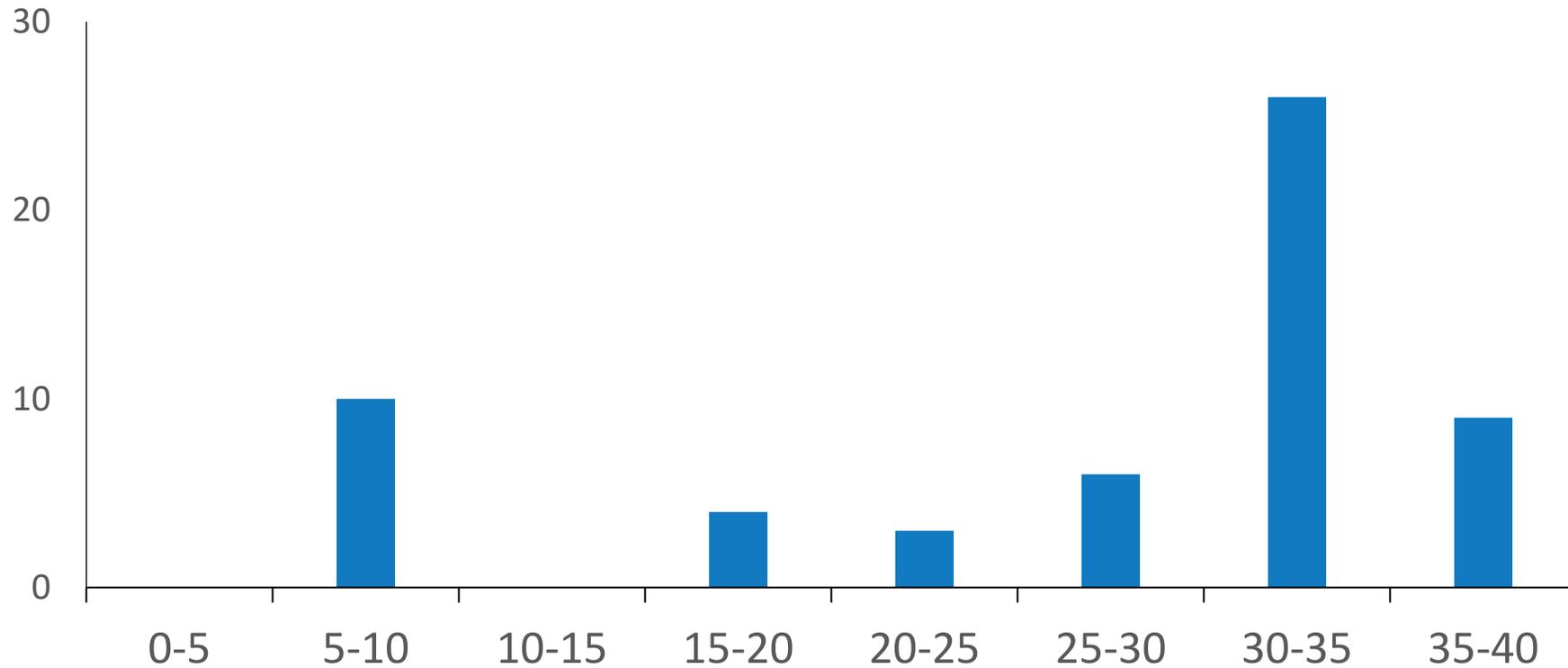
Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



SAWFISH AND SALINITY

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Sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*)



Salinity Ranges

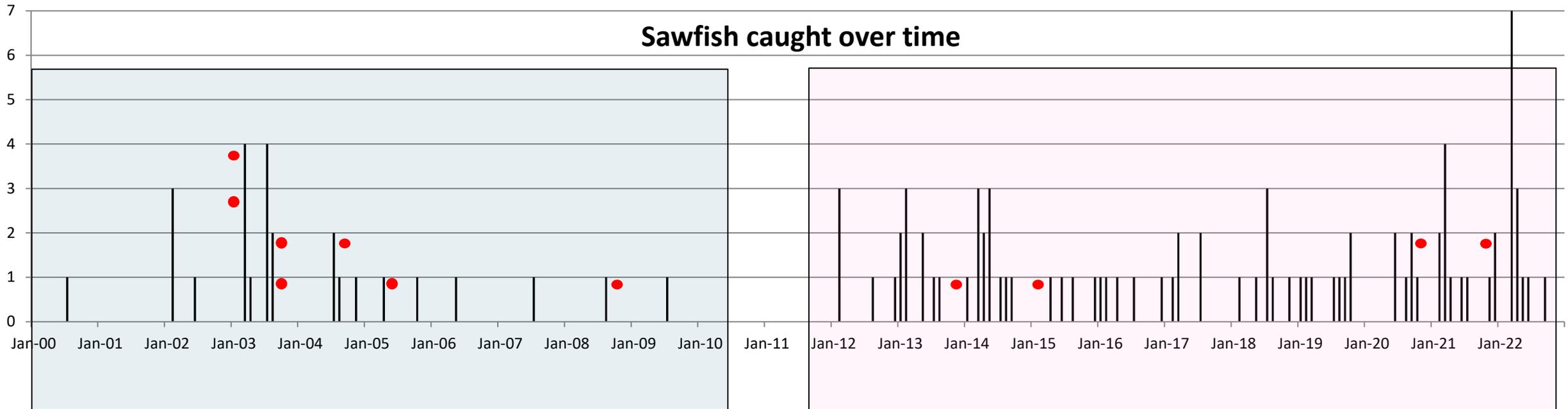


SAWFISH AND SALINITY

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26 captured

88 captured



7 recaptures ●

4 recaptures ●

Makes 19 individual sawfish.

Makes 84 individual sawfish.

Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



SUMMARY

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1. Sharks are directly impacted by salinity patterns.
2. Bay salinity regimes affect species composition of sharks.
3. Results suggest smalltooth sawfish recovery and increased utilization of the estuarine nursery.



Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

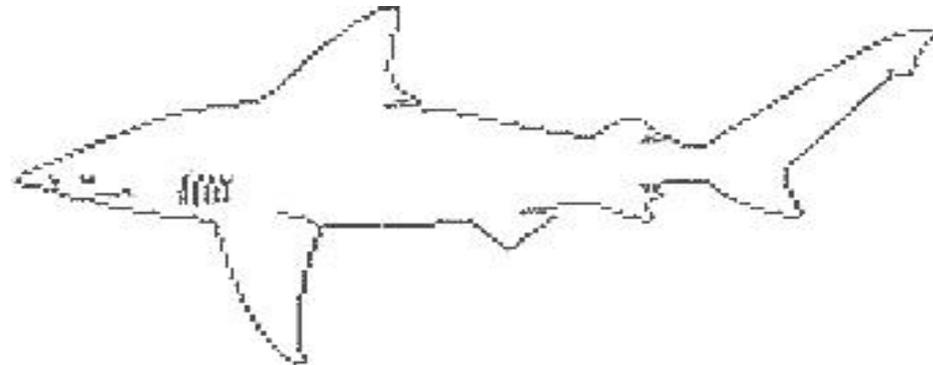
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Funding provided by:

SHARK
Foundation
Hai - Stiftung



WWW.SHARK.CH



Presenter: Pat O'Donnell



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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VOLUNTEERS

We have tremendous gratitude for the hundreds of **volunteers** who contributed over **100,000 hours** assisting with data collections, entry and quality assurance.

Notably, the late Jean Barden single-handedly QAQCed over a decade of the trawl data.

The education and outreach provided to the local community in exchange for their assistance in economically and effectively gathering this long-term dataset has been invaluable.

STAFF

Rookery Bay employees for the past 27 years have been essential to these research programs. Specifically, water quality technicians, vessel mechanics and purchasing support personnel.

THANK YOU



Patrick O'Donnell

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Contact Information:

239-530-5966

Patrick.ODonnell@FloridaDEP.gov

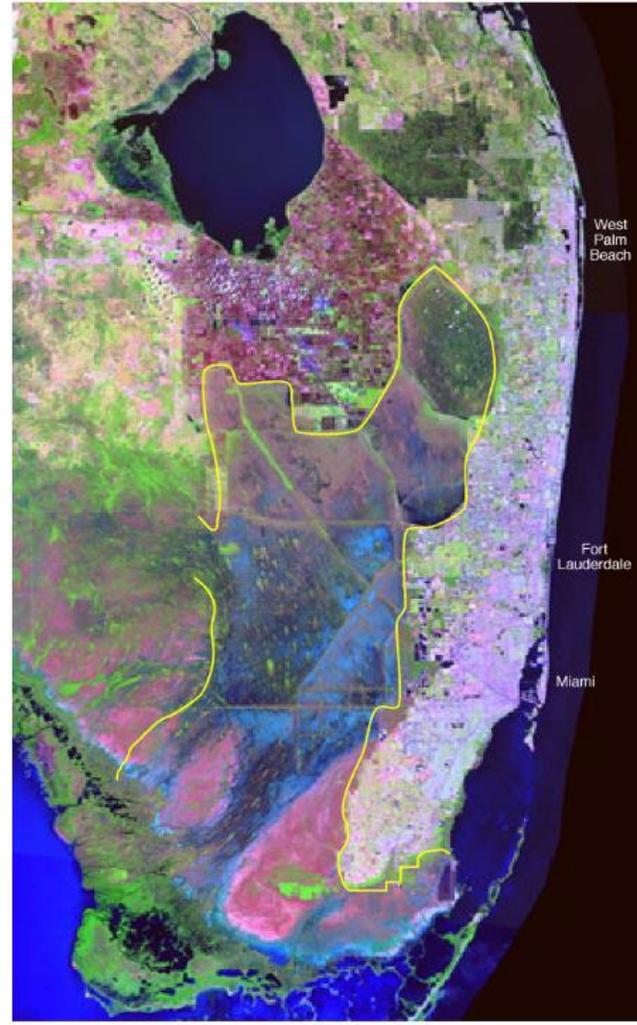
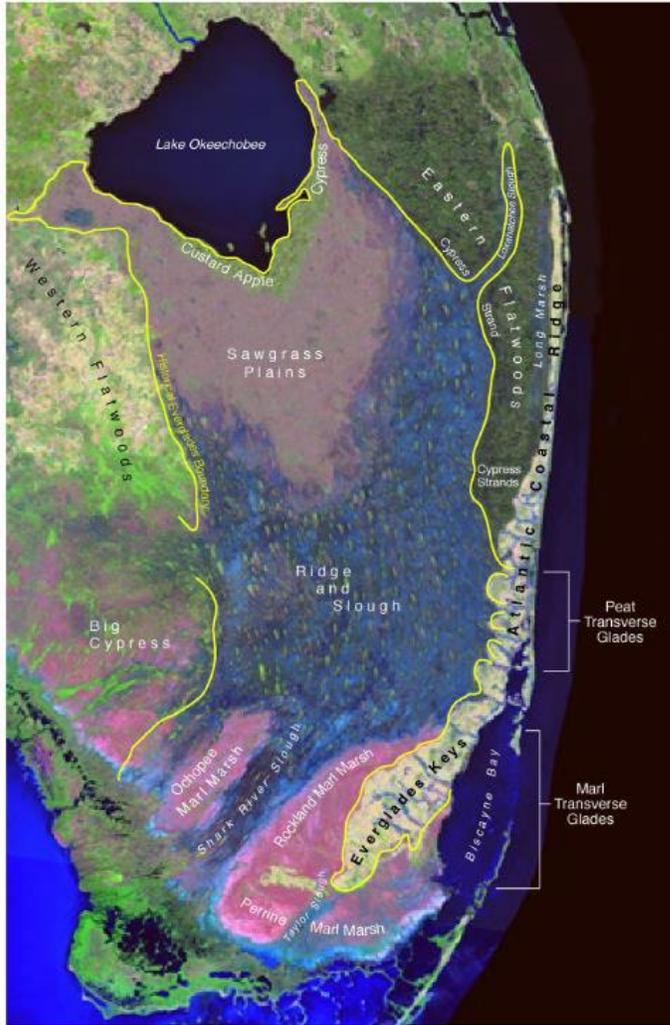
Restoration Progress in the Western Everglades

Jennifer Reynolds, Division Director
Ecosystem Restoration
February 28, 2025



Why Everglades Restoration is Important

DRAFT

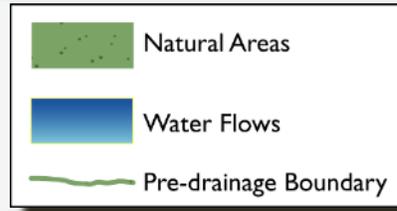
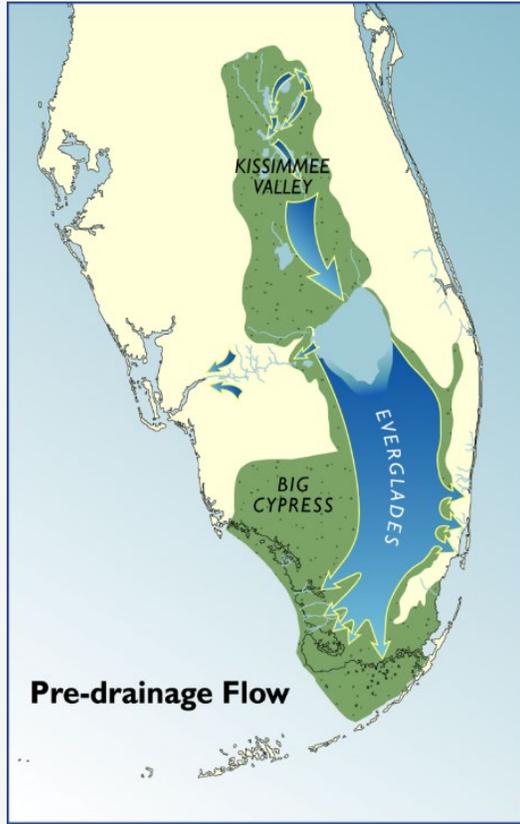


- Declining estuary health
- Wading bird populations in the Everglades have declined by 90%
- 68 Federally-listed threatened and endangered species
- Exotic and invasive plants and animals have altered the ecosystem
- Disruption in quantity, timing and distribution of water
- Degradation of water quality
- Peat soils in the Everglades have oxidized and caused subsidence
- Today we still have 100% of the water, but only 50% of the Everglades

Presenter: Jennifer Reynolds

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

DRAFT



Presenter: Jennifer Reynolds

Everglades Restoration Depends on Infrastructure that Conveys Water South

DRAFT

- Priority of Governor Ron DeSantis to move water south
- CEPP facilitates sheet flow of water into Everglades National Park
- WERP (Western Everglades Restoration Project) connects and rehydrates native lands and the Big Cypress National Preserve



Governor Ron DeSantis at Old Tamiami Trail

Location

DRAFT

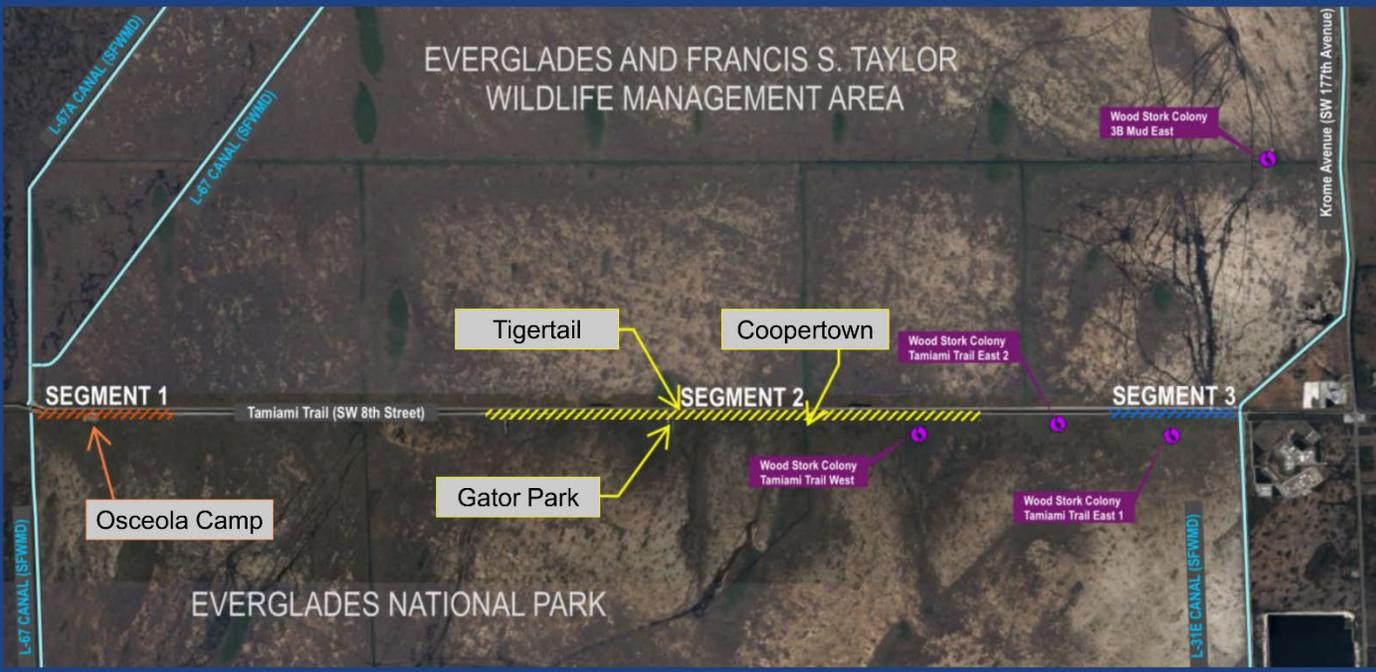


Progress on Tamiami Trail Next Steps

Tamiami Trail Next Steps Phase 2

PROJECT INFORMATION

Boundaries –
 Tamiami Trail from
 S-333 to S-334
 Design-Build Project
 Construction Timeline
 –
 spring 2021
 through spring 2026
 Estimated Project
 Cost –
 \$57 million

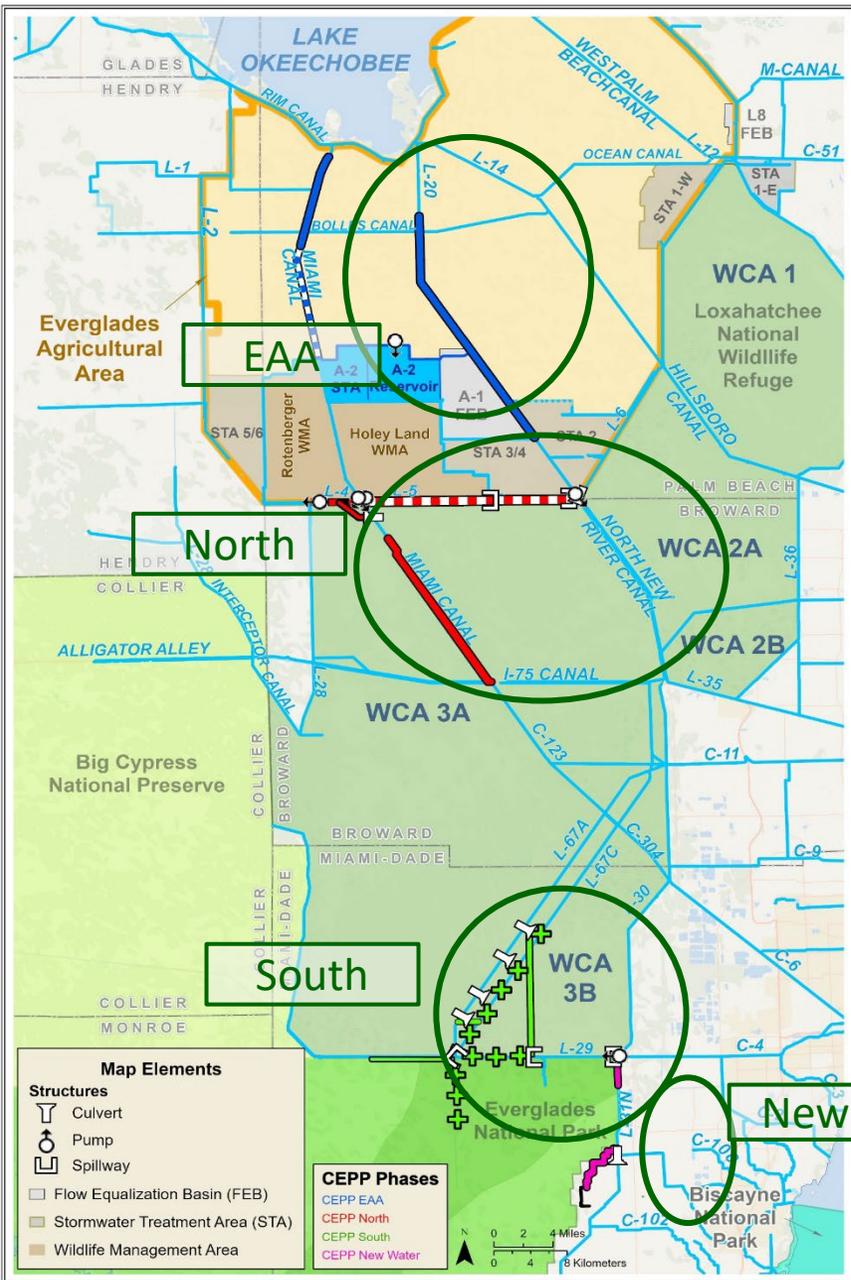


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Central Everglades Planning Project

DRAFT



EAA Phase

- Construct 10,500-acre EAA Reservoir and 6,500-acre STA
- Increase conveyance in Miami Canal (1,000 cfs) and North New River Canal (200 cfs)
- Refine Lake Okeechobee operations

North Phase

- Divert 500 cfs of L-6 flow to L-5 and improve 13.6 miles of the L-5 canal
- Improve L-4 canal and distribution features along the northwest boundary of WCA-3A
- Construct S-8A inline culvert and canal to deliver water from Miami Canal to L-4 canal
- Install gravity structure at western terminus of the L-4 canal
- Backfill 13.5 miles of the Miami Canal including vegetated hammocks

South Phase

- Construct three 500 cfs gated structures in the L-67A Levee and 6,000-foot gap in the L-67C
- Remove 0.5-mile of spoil piles west of L-67A canal, north and south of structures
- Construct S-356E pump station increasing capacity to 1,000 cfs
- Construct S-333N to increase S-333 combined capacity to 2,500 cfs
- Construct S-355W divide structure in the L-29 canal
- Remove 6 miles of Old Tamiami Trail Road
- Construct 8.5-mile levee (Blue Shanty Levee) in WCA-3B, connecting L-29 to L-67A.
- Remove 8.3 miles of L-67C levee in Blue Shanty flow-way
- Remove entire 5.5 miles of L-67 Extension levee; backfill L-67 Extension canal
- Remove 4.3 miles of L-29 levee in Blue Shanty flow-way

New Water Phase

- Construct 5-miles of Seepage Barrier in L-357W Levee

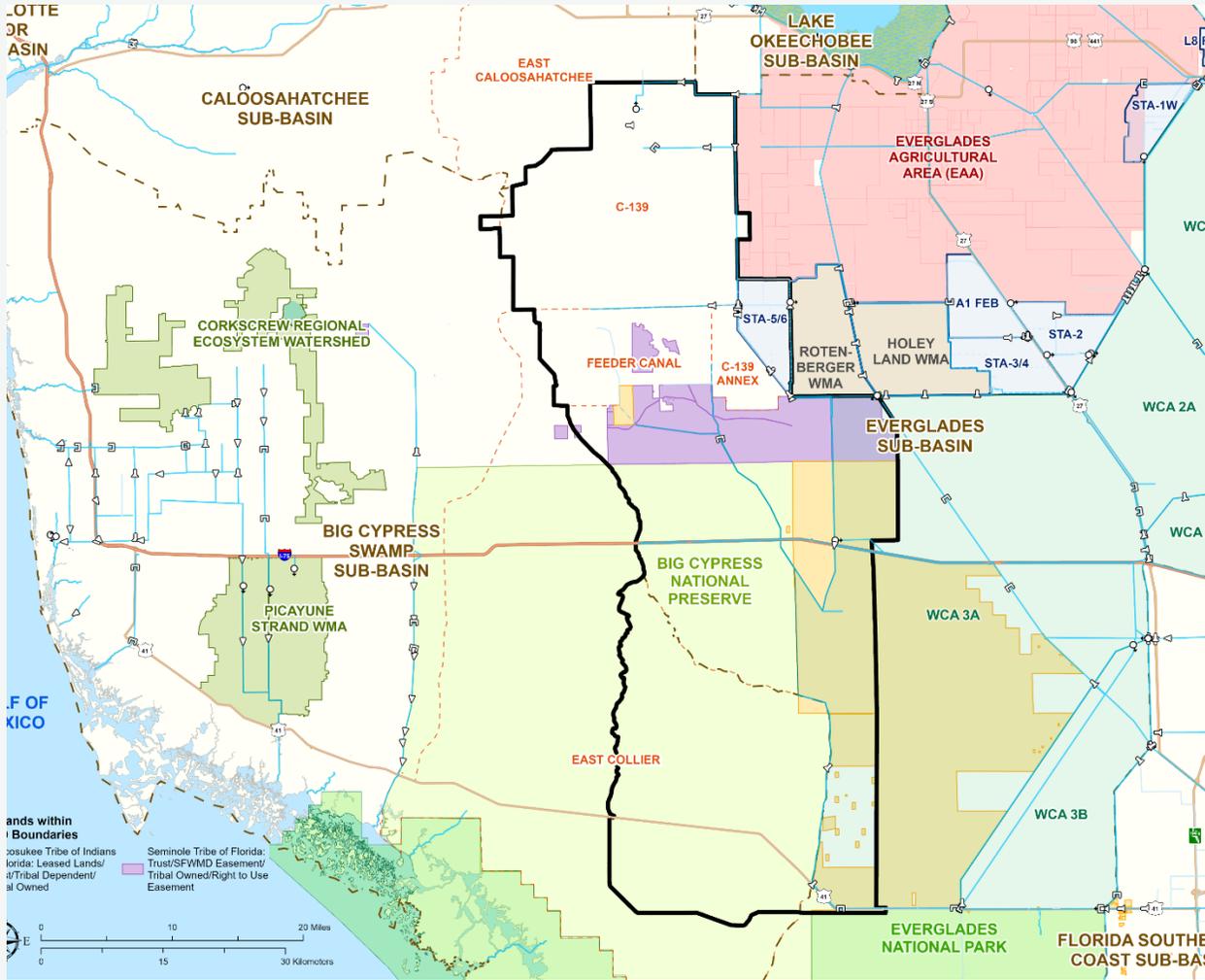
Presenter: Jennifer Reynolds

Location

DRAFT



Western Everglades Restoration Project



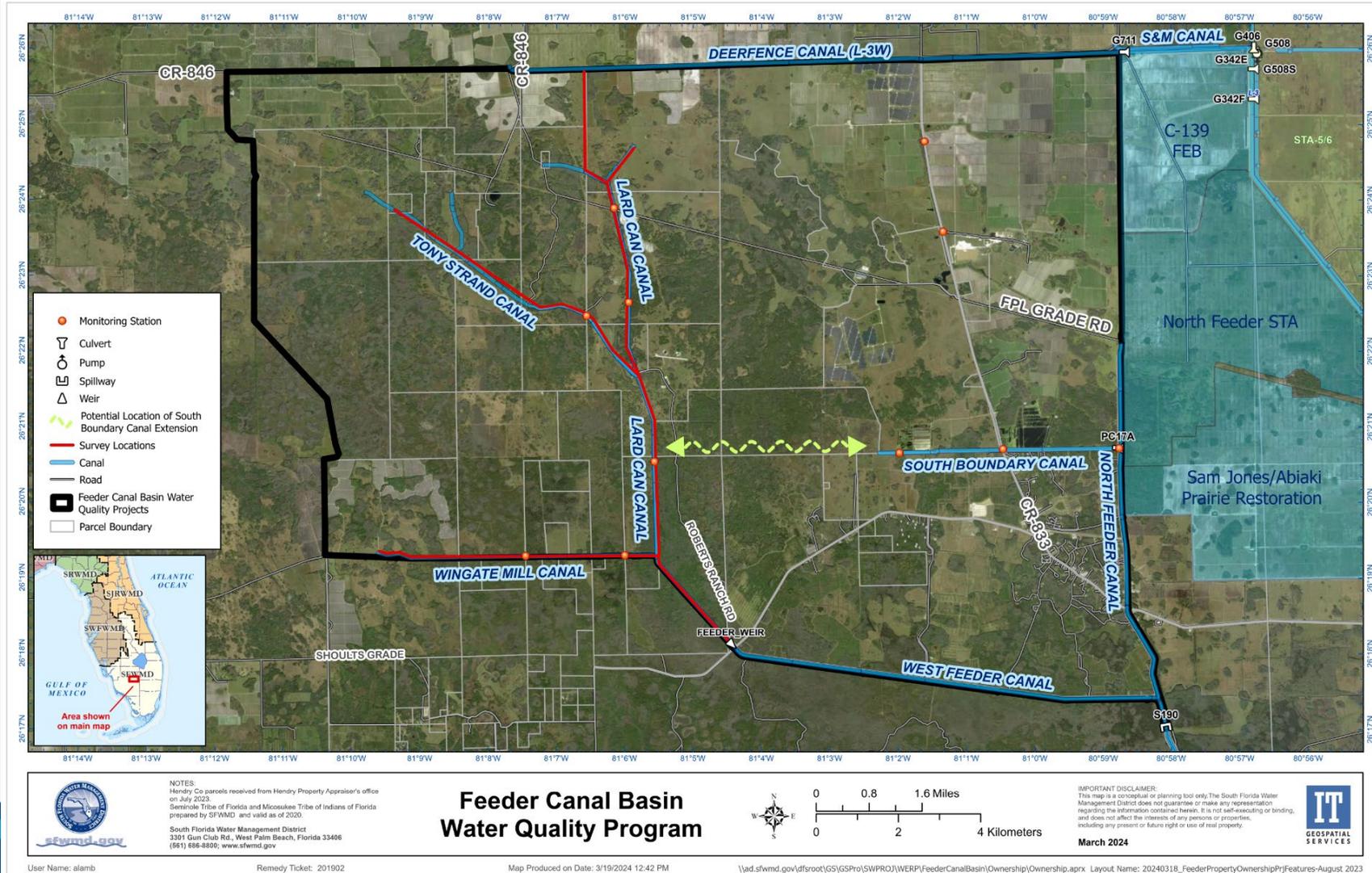
- Restore freshwater flows to improve seasonal hydroperiods and sheet flow
- Reestablish ecological connectivity and ecological resilience of the historic wetland/upland mosaic
- Restore water levels to reduce wildfires associated with altered hydrology
- Improve water quality conditions
- Promote system-wide resilience and improve system-wide operational flexibility

L-28 Culverts & Conveyance



- Construction of 3 remotely operable gated concrete box culverts
 - Start Construction: April 2024
 - Complete Construction: April 2027
- US41 - 4 additional conveyance features
- 11-Mile Rd - 5 additional culverts
- Loop Rd - 5 additional culverts
 - Anticipate Construction: September 2026
 - Construction Duration: 3 years

Feeder Canal Basin Water Quality Program



Progress on Survey Work

- **Timeframe: February 12 through June 17, 2024**
- **Tribe and Landowners Coordination**
- **Canals: 158 Canal Cross Sections**
 - **Primary: Wingate Mill, Lard Can, Tony Strand**
 - **Secondary: Mary's Ditch, Lard Can Side Ditch, North & Northeast segment of Lard Can**
- **56 Structures: flashboard risers, culvert bridge crossing, bridges, side ditch culvert pipe connections, etc.**



Ongoing Coordination of Model Results

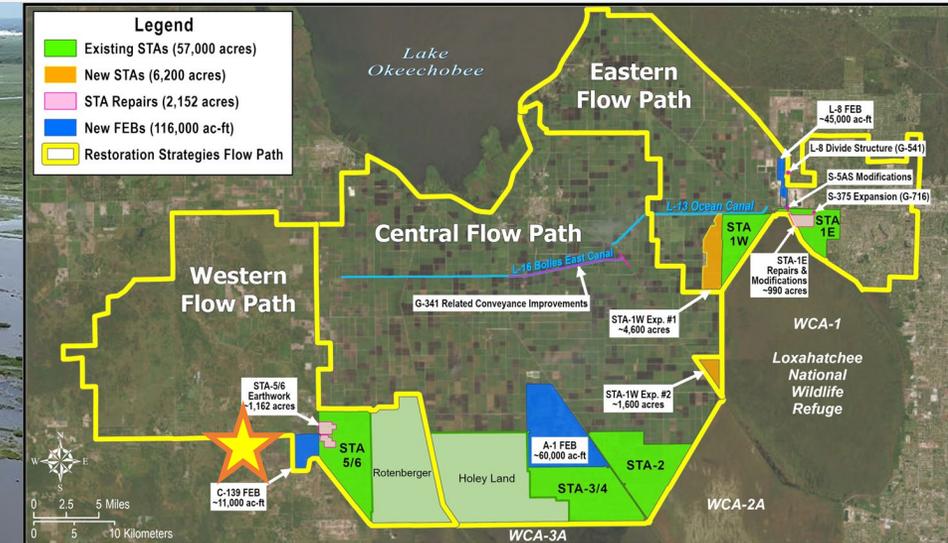
PRELIMINARY General Flow Paths Hurricane Irma

- Collaboration of model input assumptions and results for base (existing) conditions
- Solicit input on future project features to consider/model

Presenter: Jennifer Reynolds

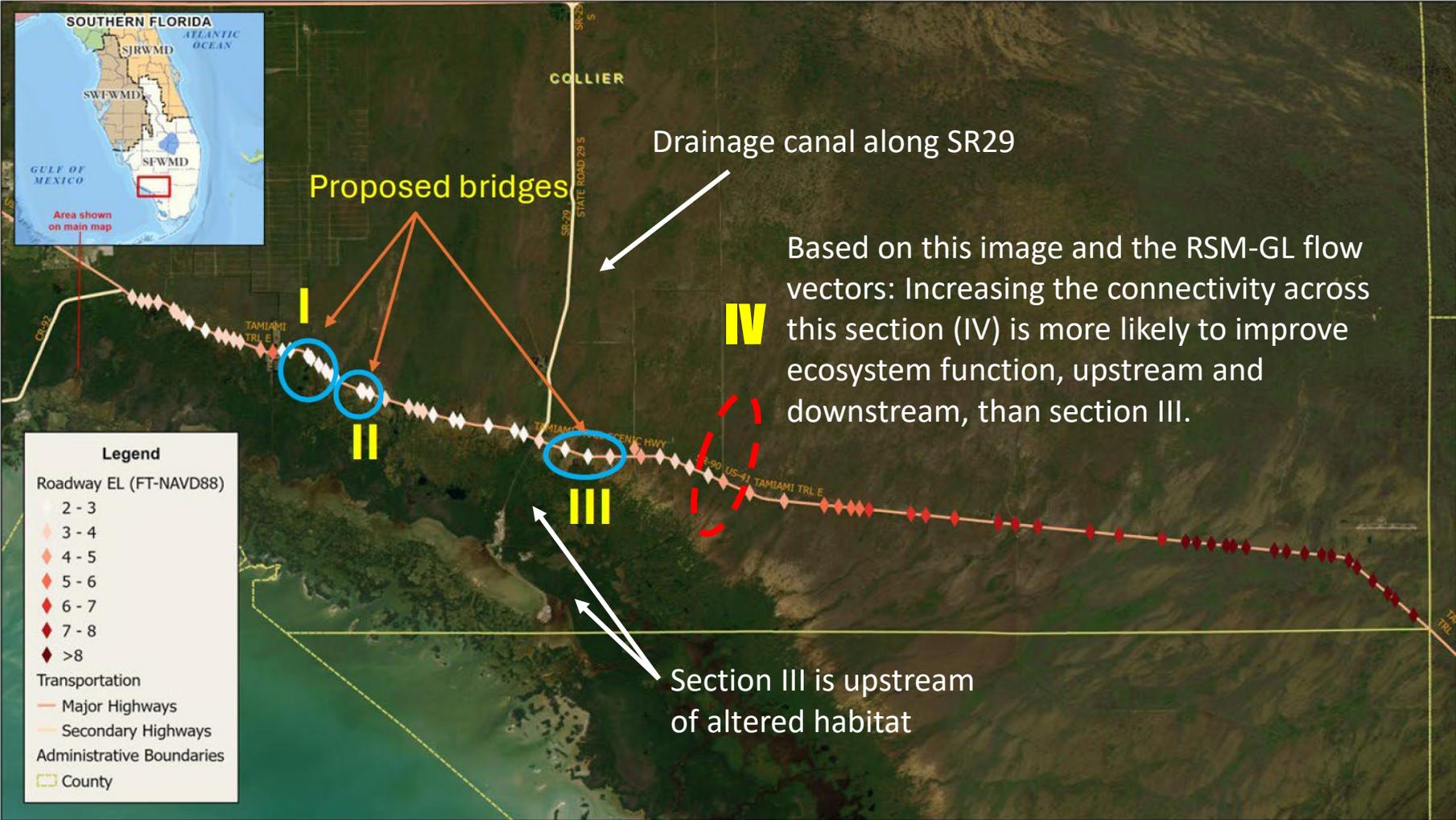
C-139 FEB – Completed

DRAFT



November 6, 2024

US41 Roadway Bridges



BASE CREDITS:
State plane projection, Florida east zone, NAD 83-HARN, US feet.

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Rd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33406



US41 Bridges
Roadway EL categories

0 2.6 5.2 10.4 Miles

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:
This map is a conceptual or planning tool only. The South Florida Water Management District does not guarantee or make any representation regarding the information contained herein. It is not self-insulating or binding, and does not affect the interests of any persons or properties, including any present or future right or use of real property.

Map Date: August 2024



Green Heart of the Everglades Project

- Approximately 11,053 acres
- Located near:
 - Everglades City
 - Everglades National Park
 - Big Cypress National Preserve
 - Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge
 - Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
 - Picayune Strand State Forest



Recreation - Interim Land Management Plan



Hiking/Kiosk/
Trailhead/



Bicycling



Airboating



Photography



Hunting*



Stargazing



Fishing



Bird Watching



Canoeing/
Kayaking

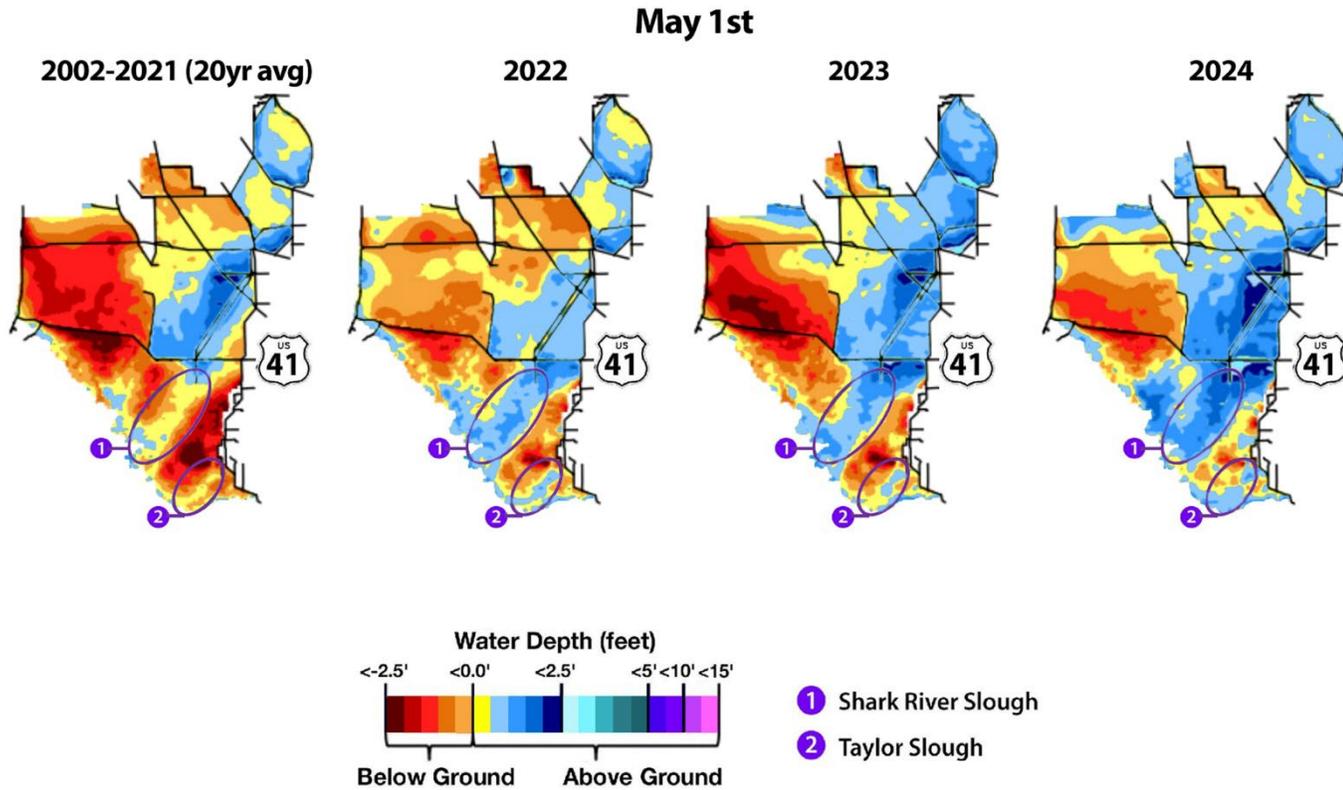


Wildlife
Viewing

Picayune Strand Recreation Project

➤ To be updated

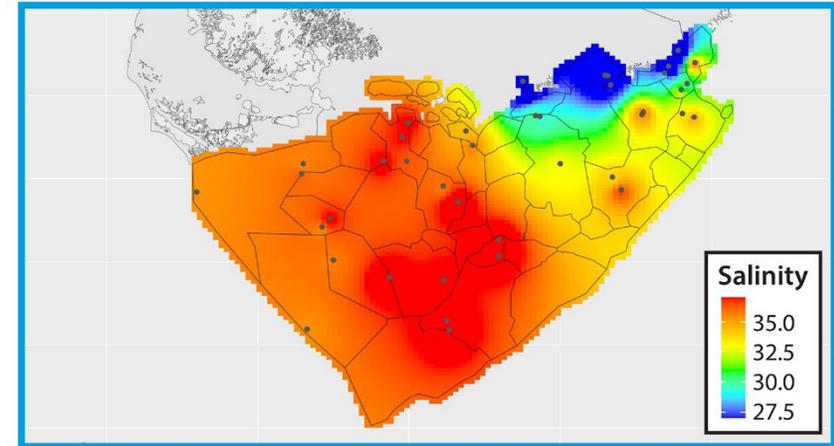
Record Hydration in the Everglades



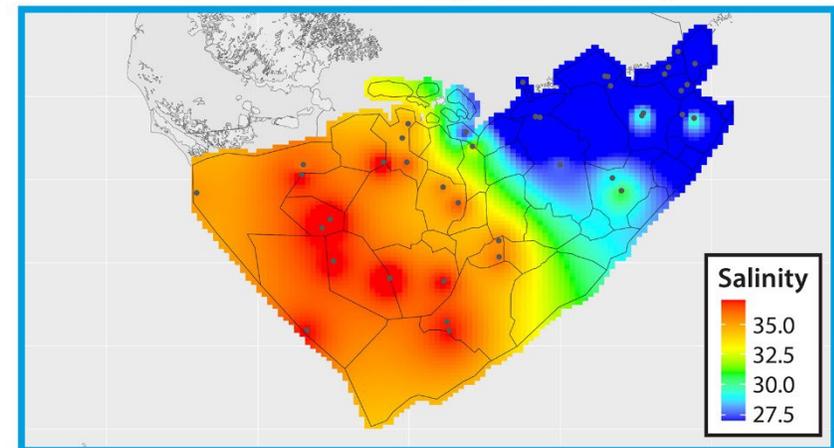
Salinity Levels in Florida Bay

DRAFT

Before Investment - Dry Season Salinity



After Investment - Dry Season Salinity



Questions?

DRAFT



Miller Canal Plugging at Picayune Strand

Big Cypress Basin Field Station Activity Report



Mike Barber
Supervisor BCB Field Station
February 28, 2025

Overview

- Field Station/Pump Stations Operations
- Maintenance Activities
- Three Month Outlook



Automation 951 North Structure

DRAFT



Automation 951 North Structure

DRAFT

- 33 structures Big Cypress Basin only (No PSRP)
- 55% are capable of remote operations
- Cost savings \$26,000



Gate Repair GG Main Canal

DRAFT



Vegetation Removal Coco Canal

DRAFT



Debris Removal GG Main Canal

DRAFT



Shed Removal Faka Union Canal

DRAFT



I-75 Canal Tree Removal



Submersed Vehicle Faka Union Canal

DRAFT



Faka Union Canal Bank Repair

DRAFT



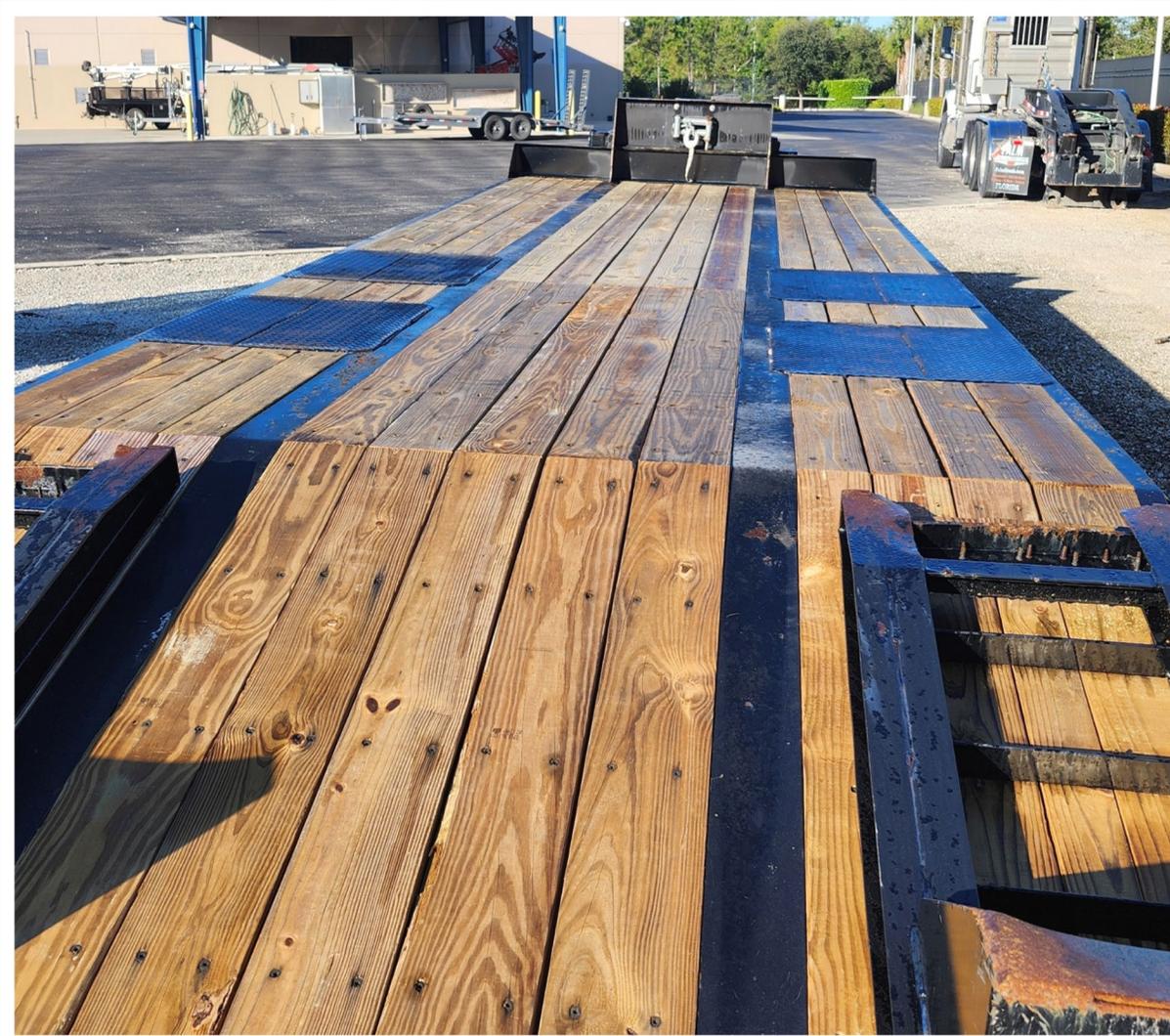
Tuff Boom Installation HC Canal

DRAFT



Transport Trailer Lumber Replacement

DRAFT



Three Month Outlook

- Continue FY 2025 SIP (Structure Inspection Program) repairs
- Continue debris/vegetation removal in all canals
- Complete the generator replacement at Faka Union - 4
- Respond to dry season gate changes





MERRITT Pump Station
PS-488



FAKA Union Pump Station
PS-487



MILLER Pump Station
PS-486

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) Activity Report

Installing Safety Reflectors



Removal of US-41 Stoplogs

DRAFT



Removal of US-41 Stoplogs

DRAFT



Low Flow Pump Overhaul Merritt

DRAFT



Low Flow Pump Overhaul Merritt

DRAFT



Three Month Outlook

- Respond to dry season pump orders and issues
- Install overhauled low flow pump at Merritt by wet season
- Start FY-25 SIP (Structure Inspection Program) repairs





Questions



Big Cypress Basin Water Conditions Report

DRAFT

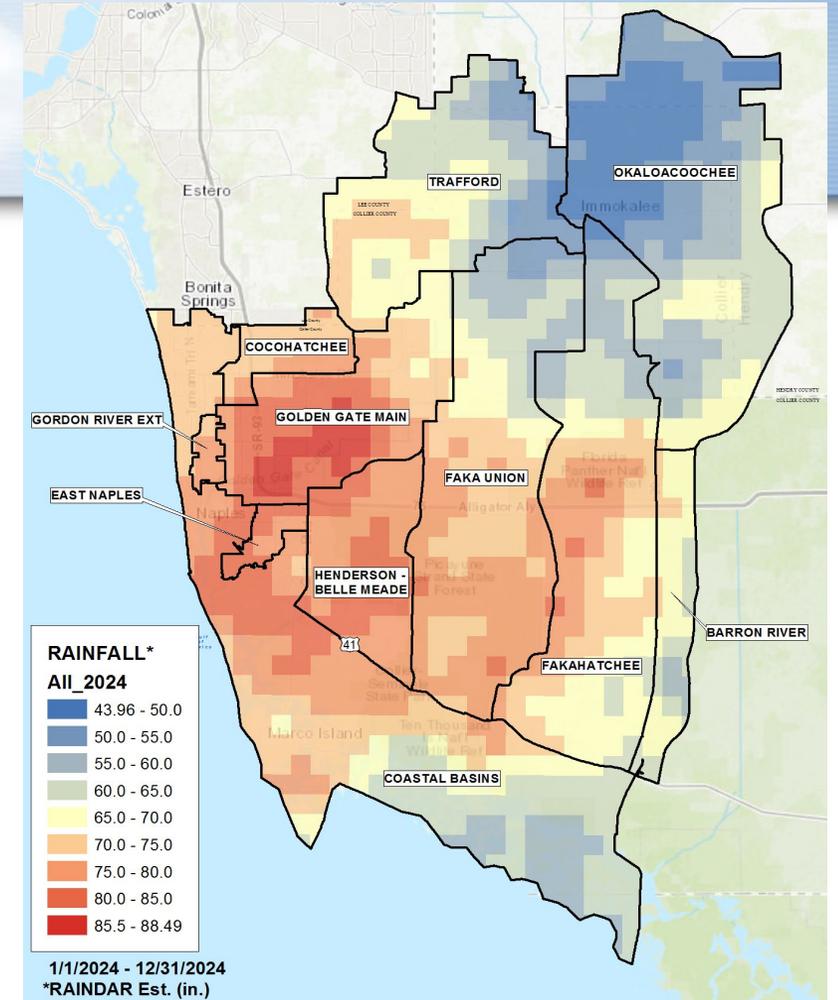
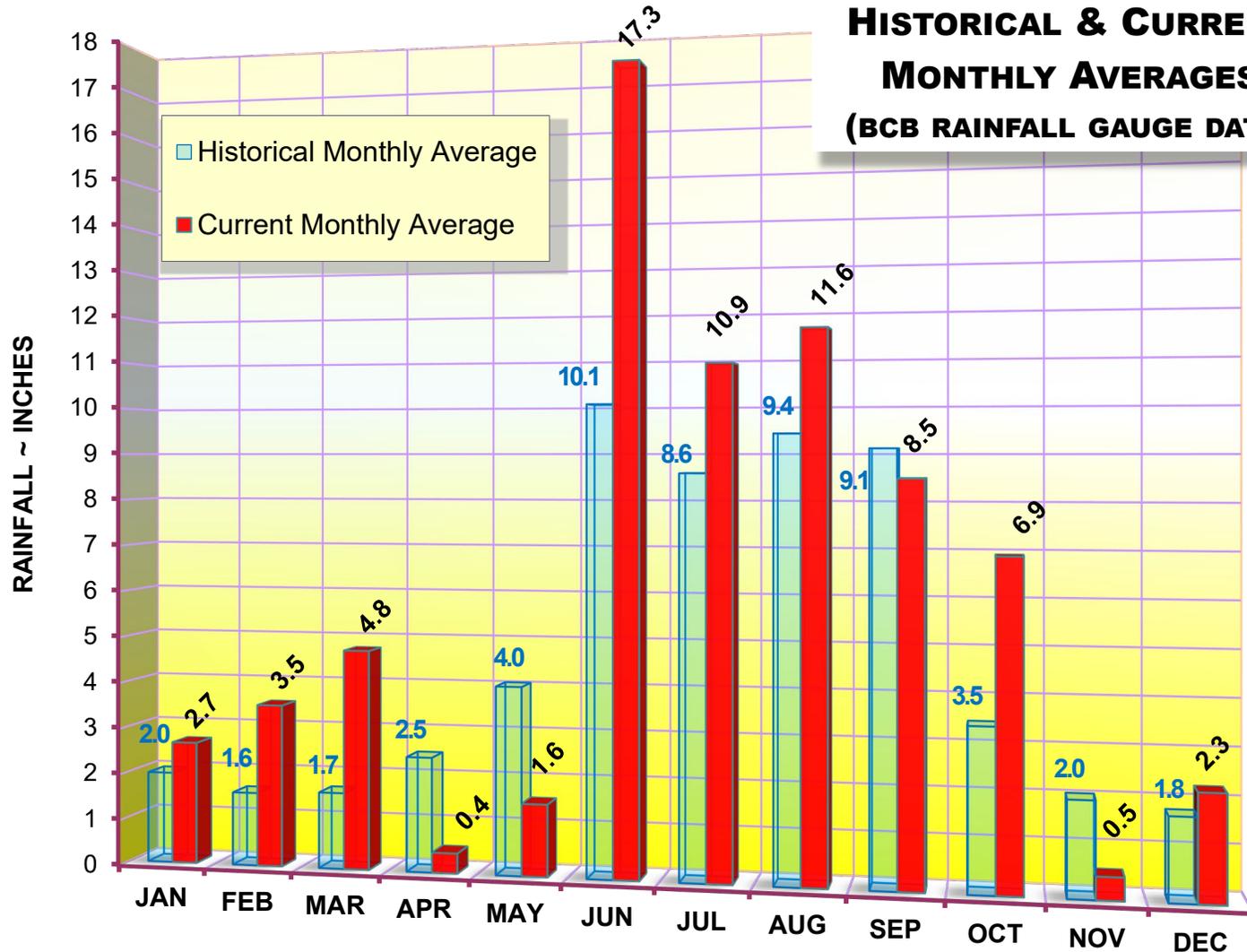
Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting
February 28, 2025

William J Tredik, P.E.
Big Cypress Basin – Lead Engineer



2024 Rainfall Summary

**BCB ANNUAL RAINFALL
HISTORICAL & CURRENT
MONTHLY AVERAGES
(BCB RAINFALL GAUGE DATA)**



- **2024 TOTAL = 70.9"**
- **HISTORICAL AVERAGE TOTAL = 56.3"**
- **126% OF NORMAL RAINFALL**
- **14.6-INCH SURPLUS**

Presenter: William Tredik

November & December 2024 - Rainfall

Nov. 2024 RAINDAR

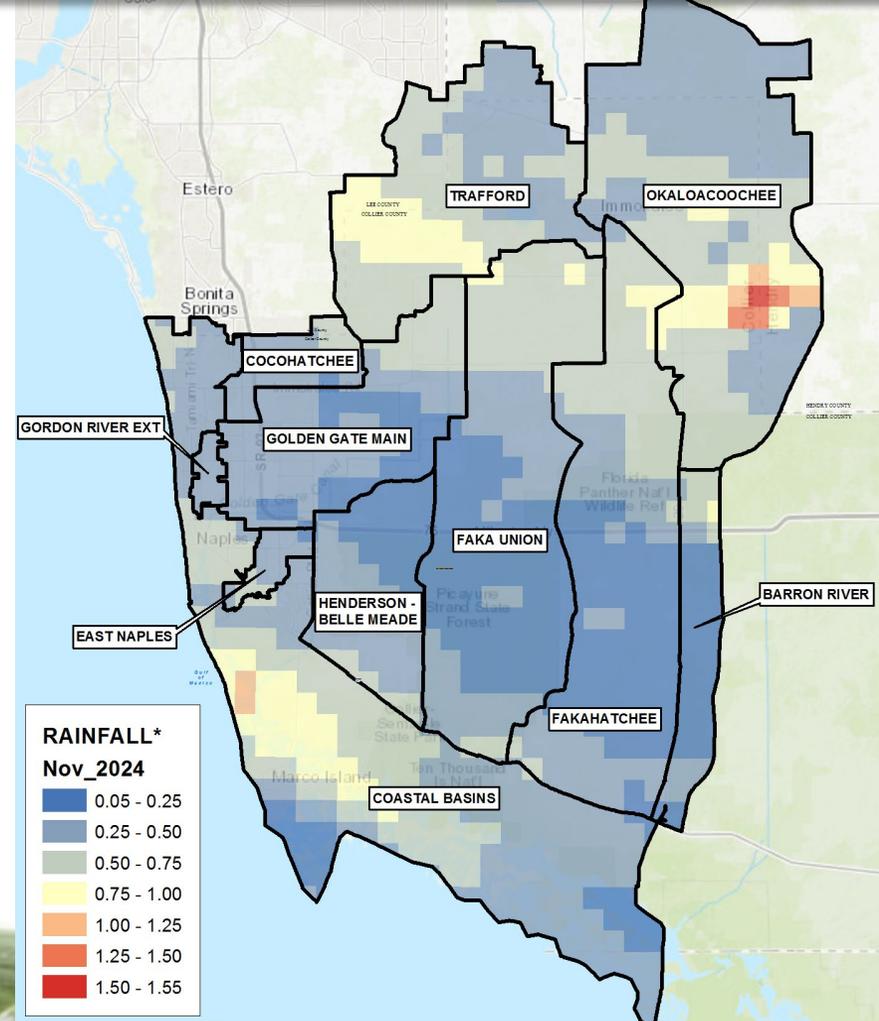
DEC. 2024 RAINDAR

NOVEMBER

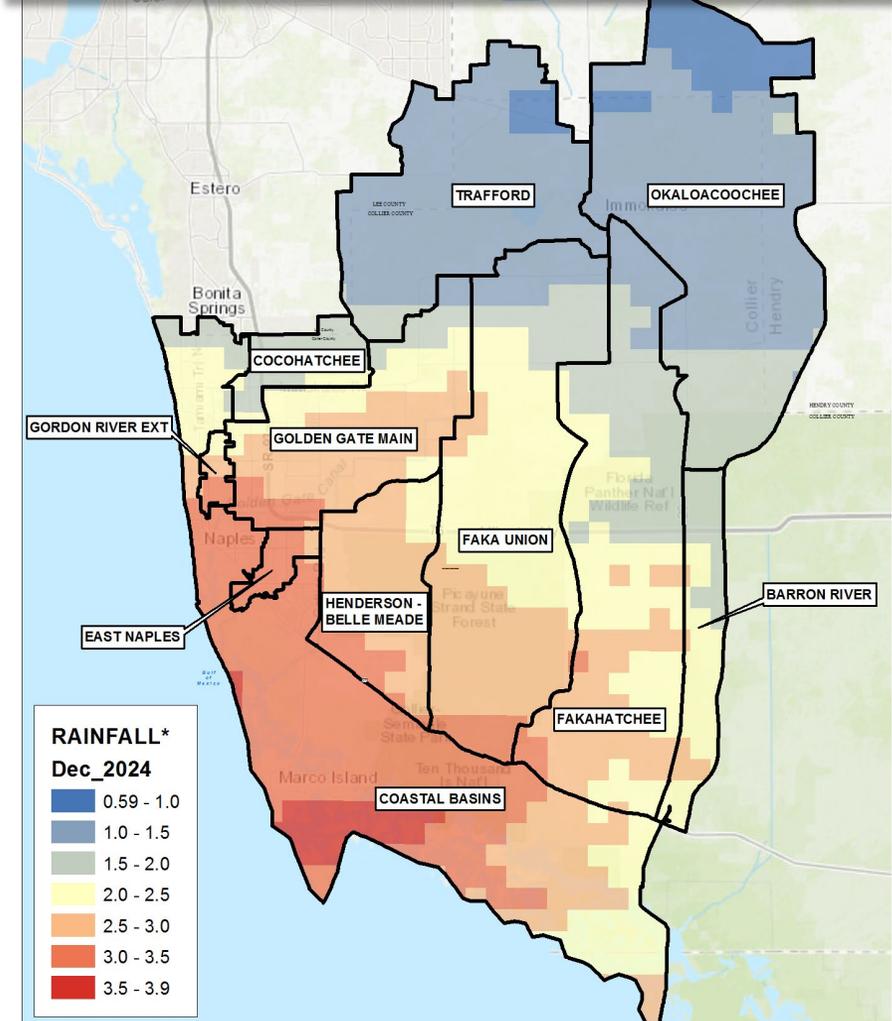
- 2024: 0.5" (25% OF NORMAL)
- HIGH: 7.5" (1998)
- LOW: 0.2" (2000)

DECEMBER

- 2024: 2.3" (128% OF NORMAL)
- HIGH: 13.3" (1995)
- LOW: 0.7" (2003)



11/1/2024 - 11/31/2024
*RAINDAR Est. (in.)

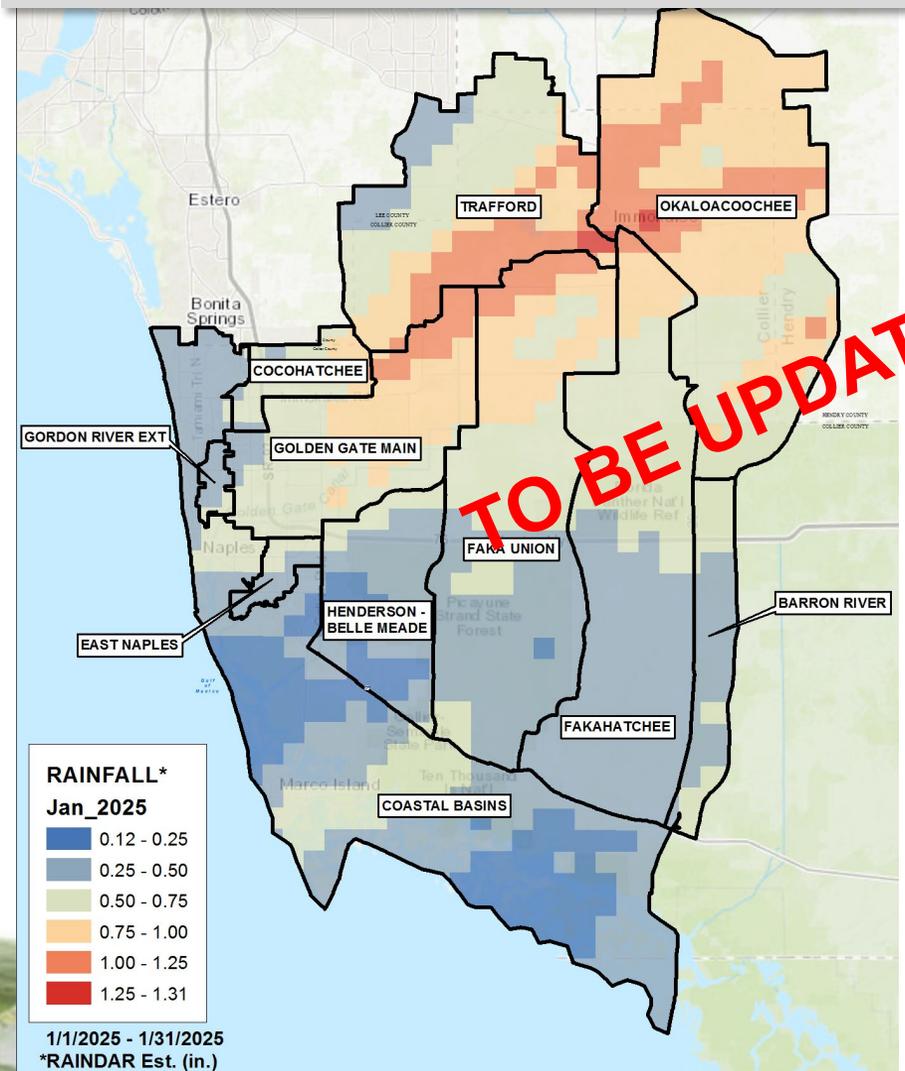


12/1/2024 - 12/31/2024
*RAINDAR Est. (in.)

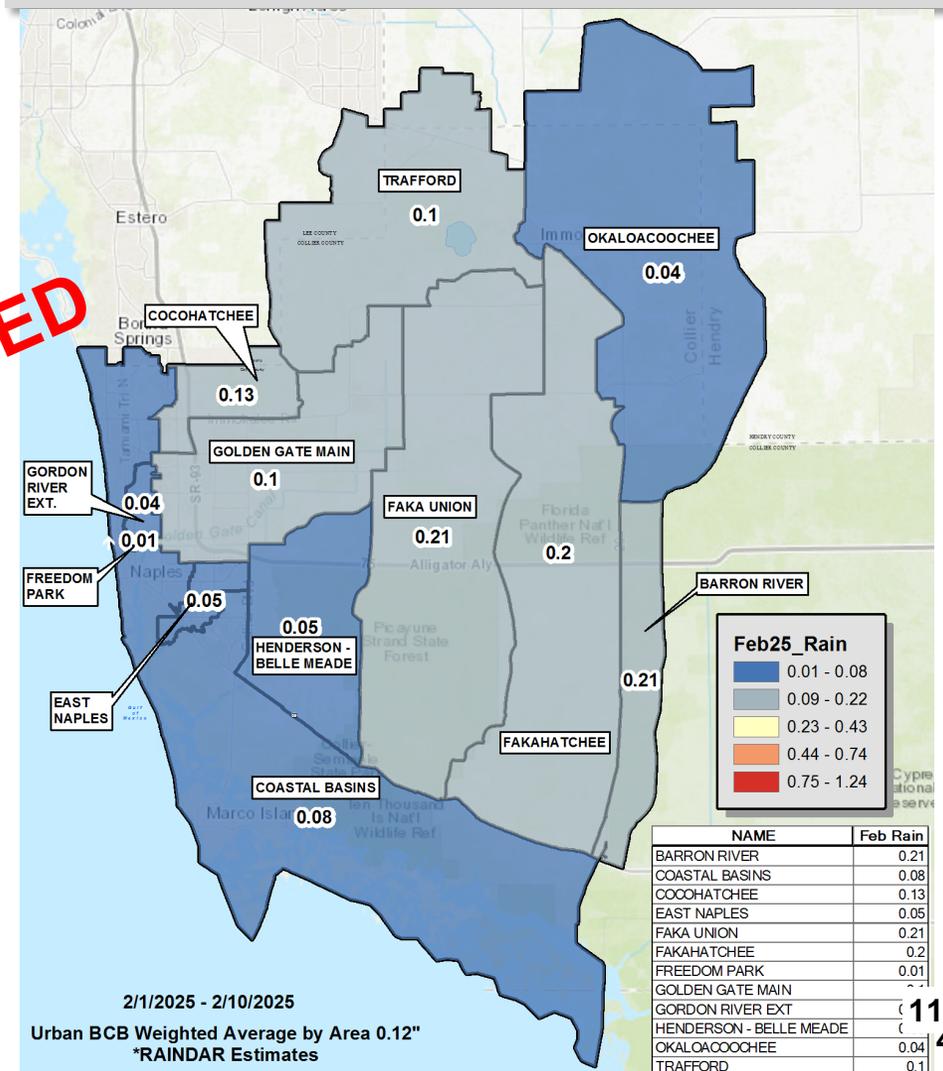
Presenter: William Tredik

January & February 2025 - Rainfall

JAN. 2025 RAINDAR



FEB. 2025 BY BASIN



TO BE UPDATED

JANUARY

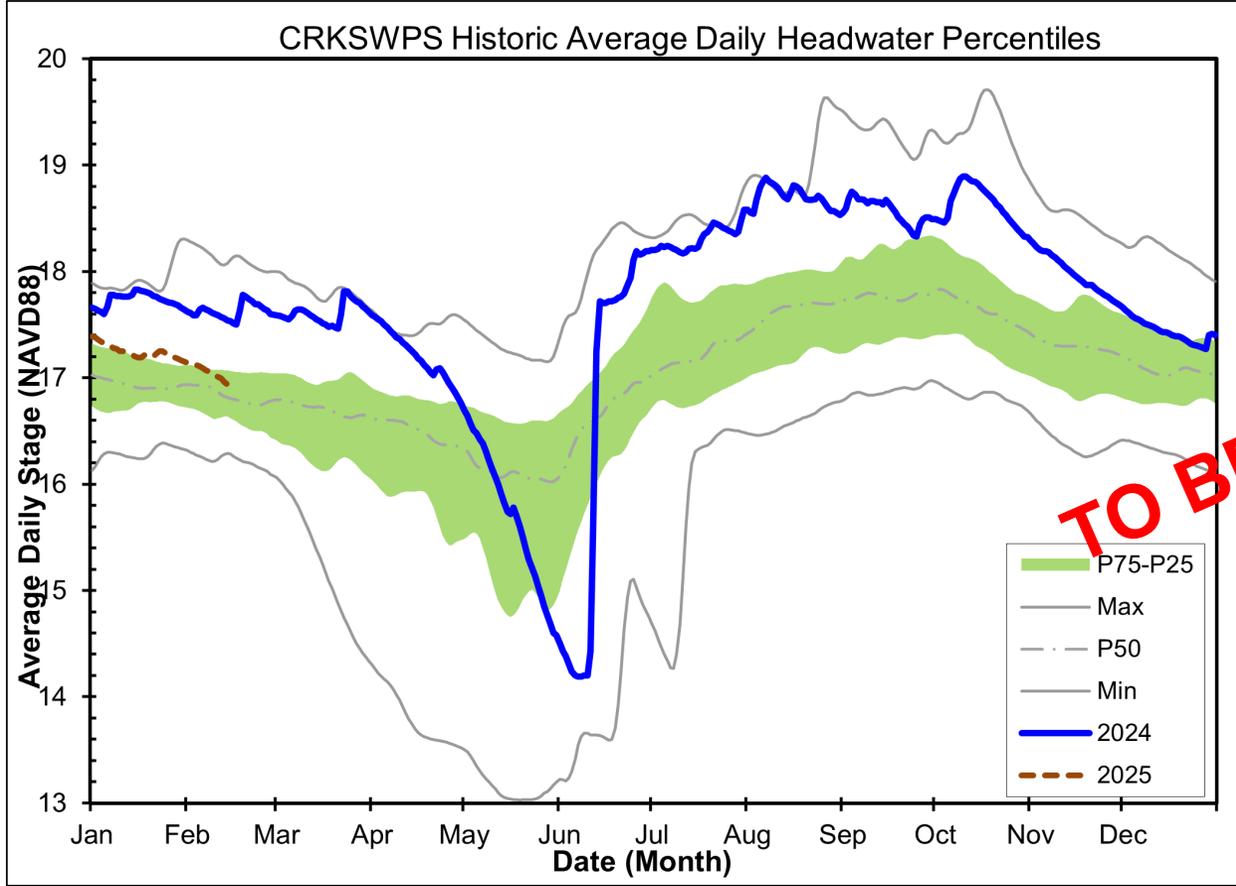
- 2025: 0.8" (40% OF NORMAL)
- HIGH: 10.6" (2016)
- LOW: 0.2" (2012)

FEBRUARY (THRU 2/11)

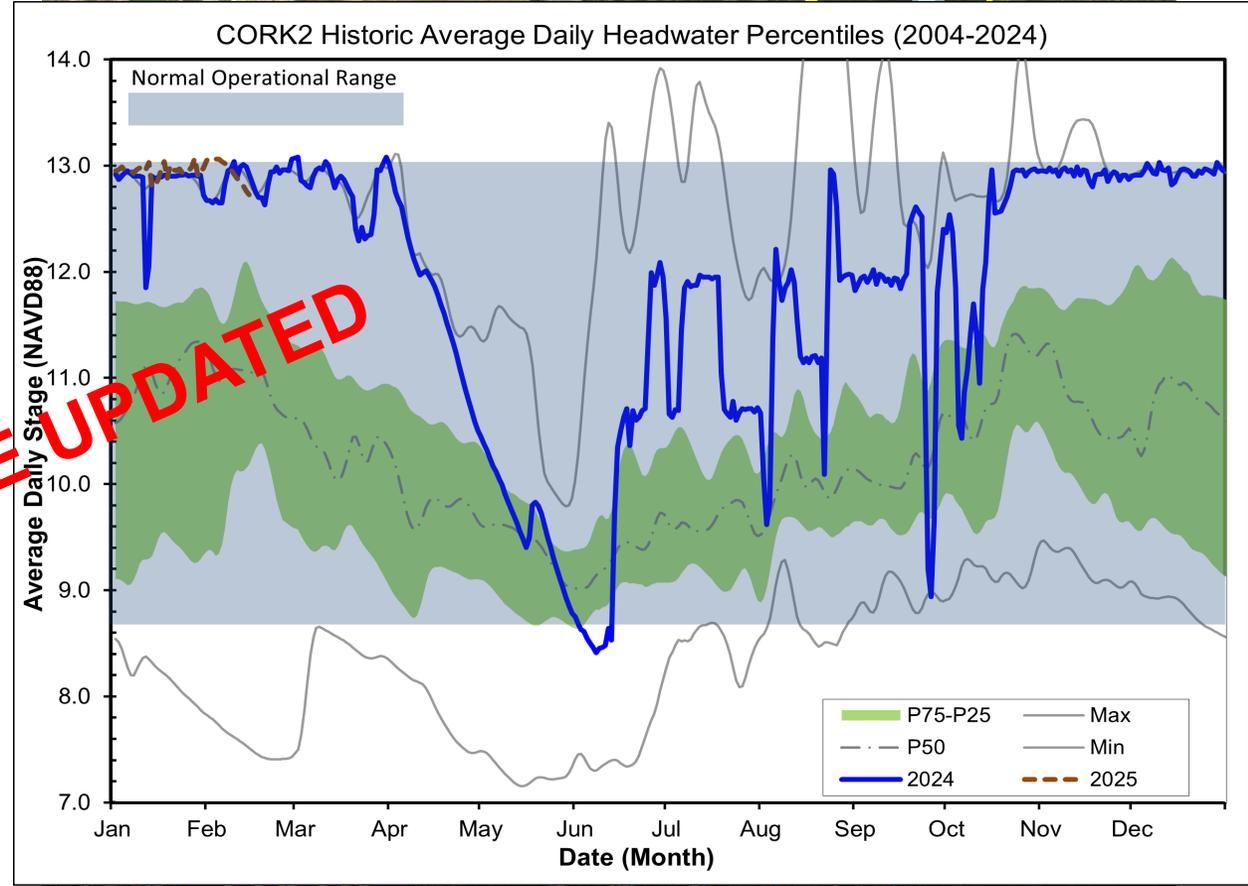
- 2025: 0.2" (33% OF NORMAL)
- HIGH: 5.5" (1998)
- LOW: 0.1" (2023)

Presenter: William Tredik

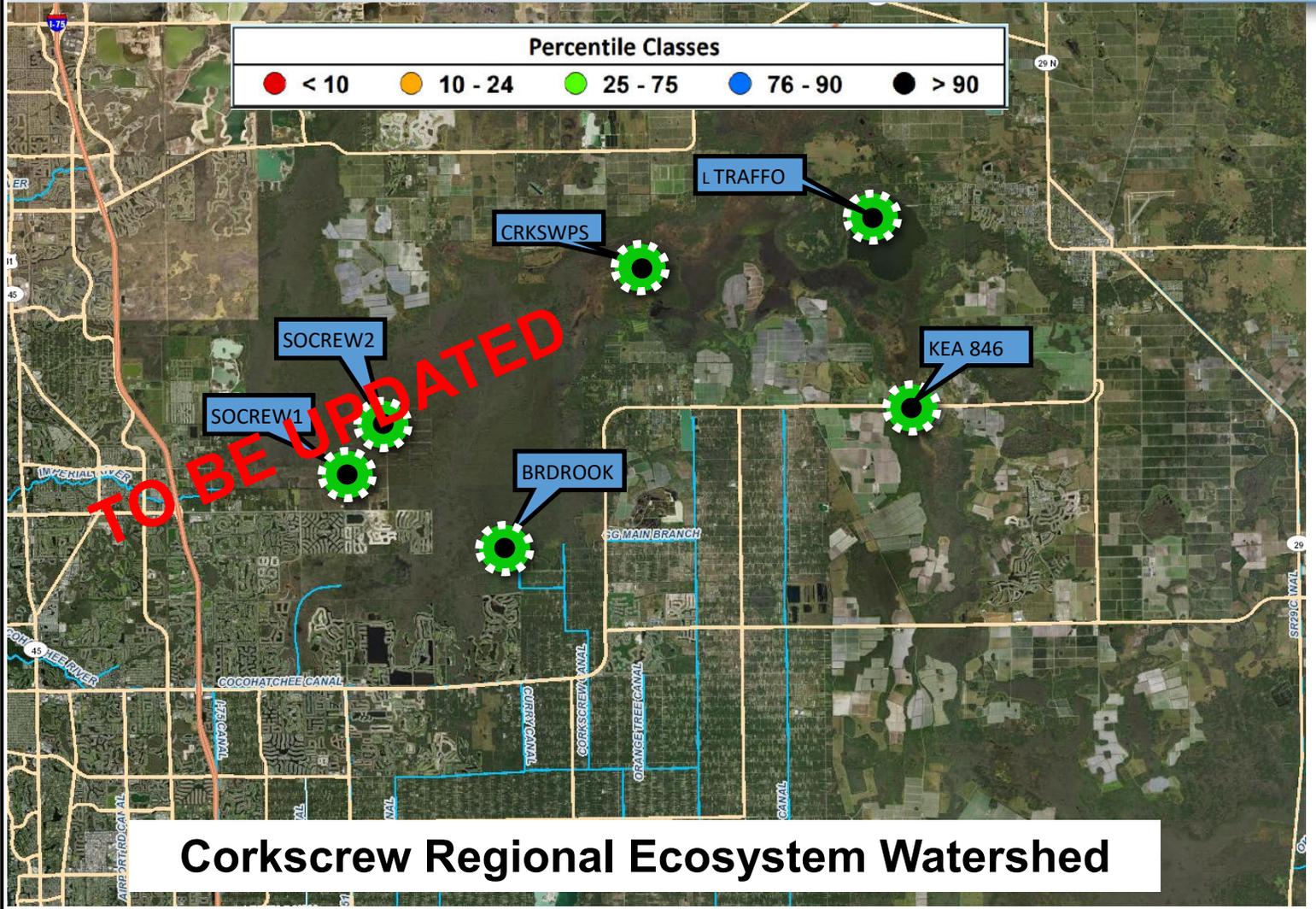
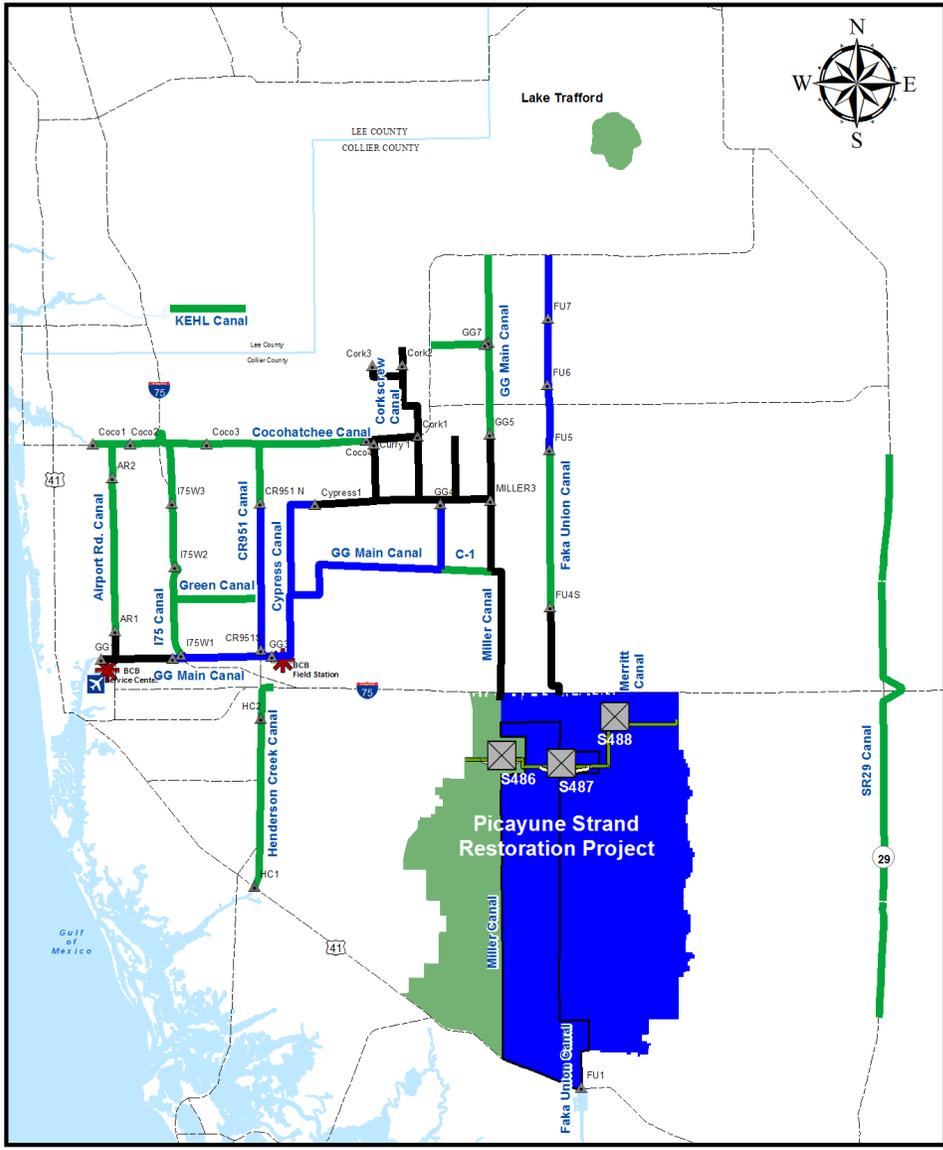
Corkscrew Canal Operational Improvements



TO BE UPDATED



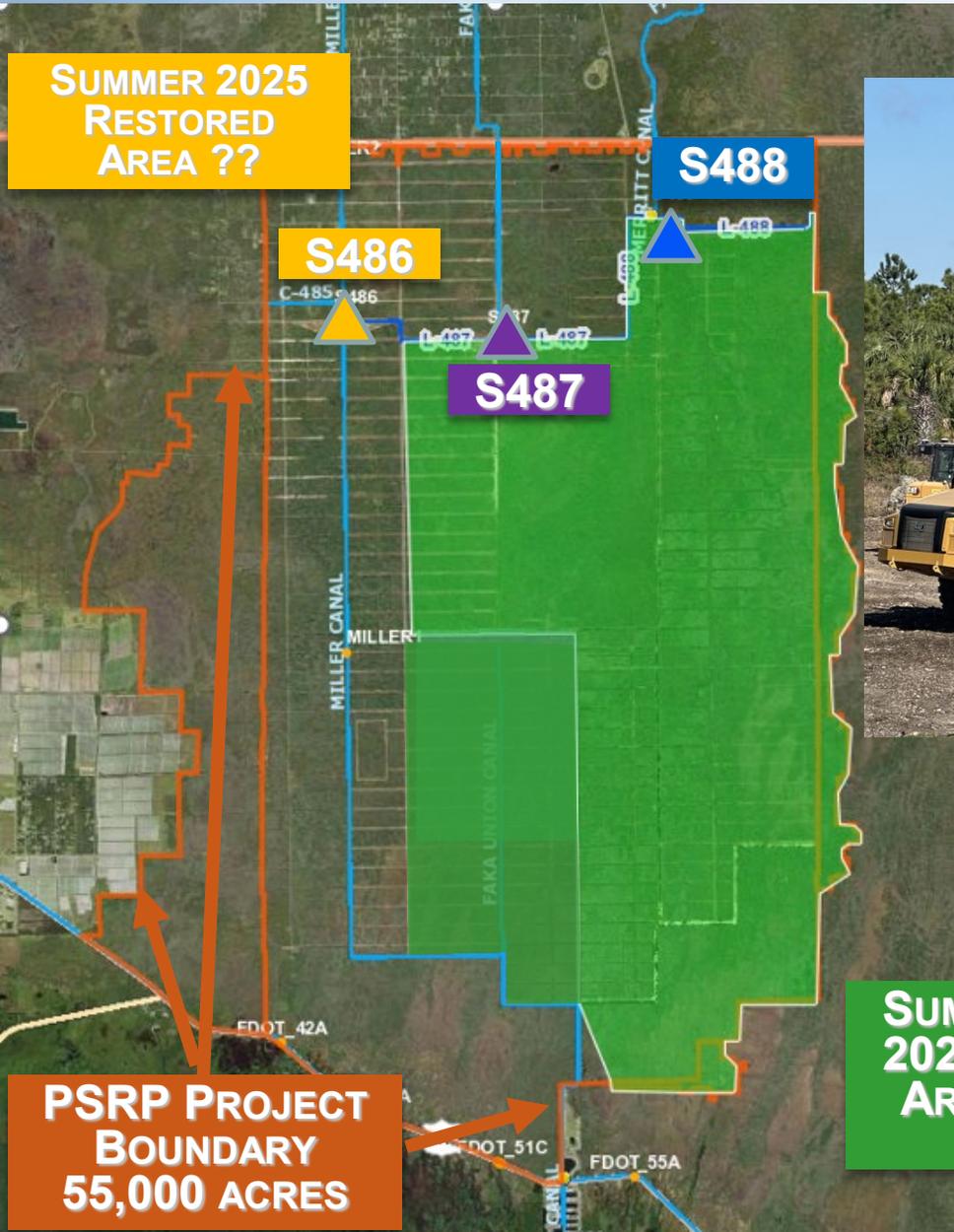
BCB Hydrologic Conditions



Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

Conditions as of 02/11/2025

Picayune Strand Restoration Project Operations



SUMMER 2025 RESTORED AREA ??

PSRP PROJECT BOUNDARY 55,000 ACRES



MILLER CANAL PLUGGING STARTED JANUARY 2025

SUMMER & FALL 2024 RESTORED AREA ~38,000 ACRES

WATER YEAR 2024/25

- **PUMPED 165,000 AC-FT RESTORATION WATER**
 - **EQUATES TO 53" RAINFALL**
- **TOTAL DIRECT RAINFALL: 67" 212,000 AC-FT**
- **MILLER PUMP STATION**
 - **ONLINE JAN. 17, 2025**
 - **DESIGN FLOWRATE 1,250 CFS**
 - **MAXIMUM FLOWRATE 1,560 CFS**
 - **2 – 75 CFS LOW FLOW**
 - **6 – 235 CFS HIGH FLOW**

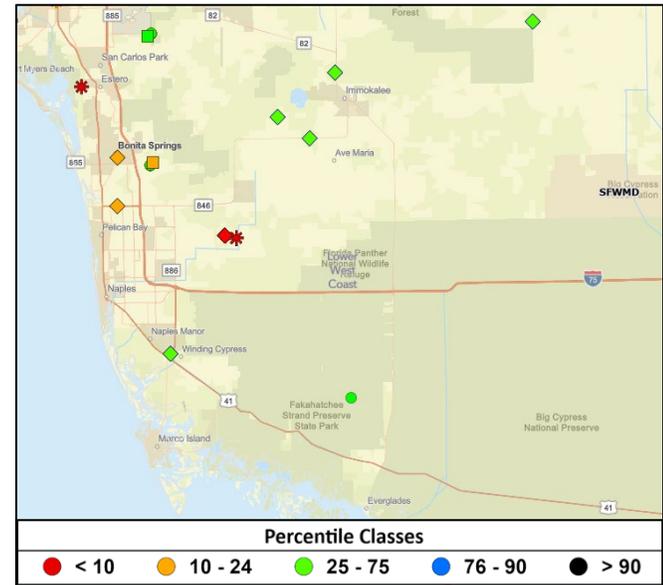
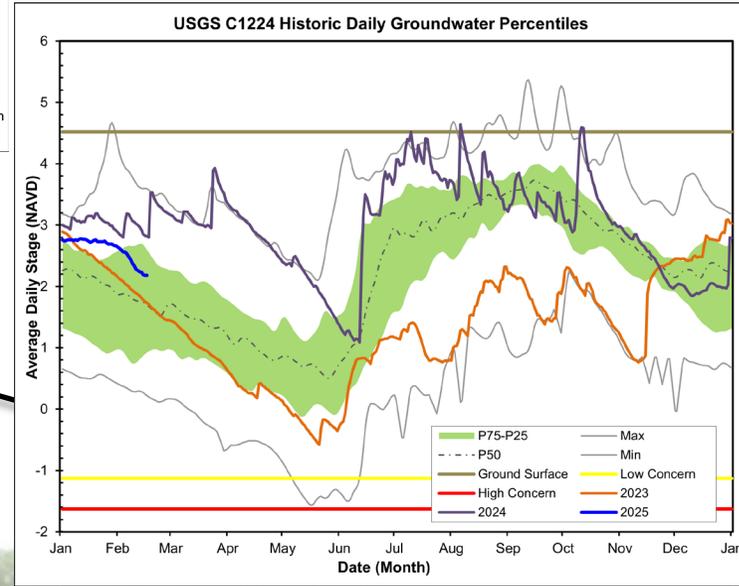
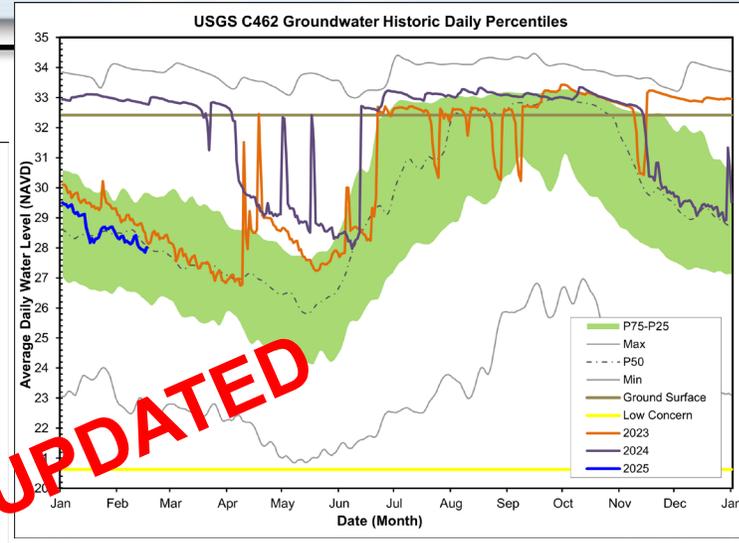
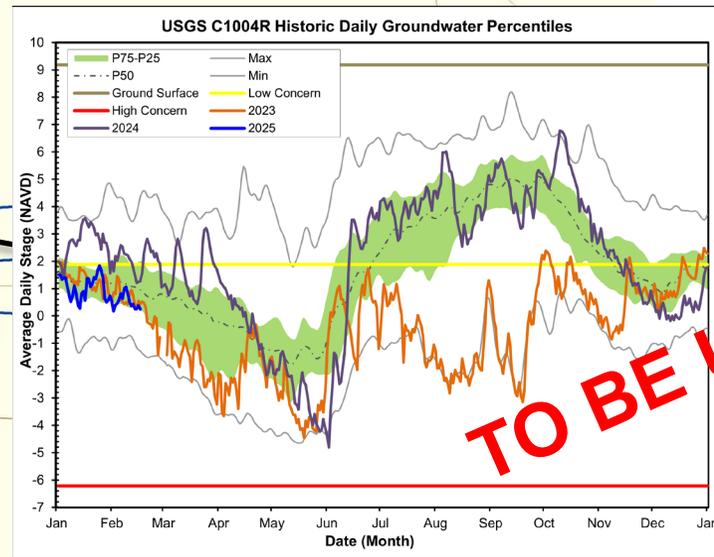
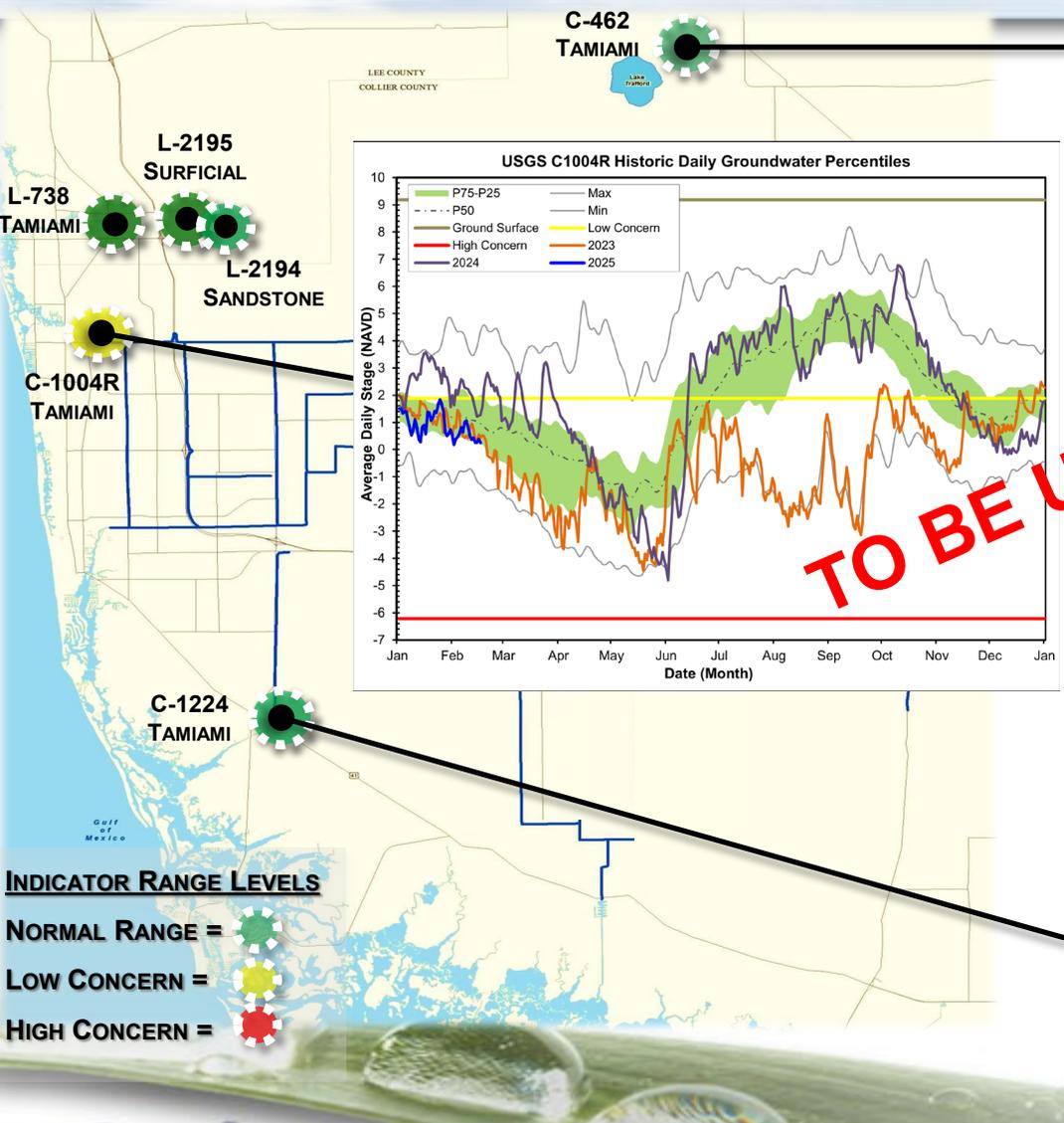
Presenter: William Tredik

BCB Water Depth Maps

- **ESTIMATED DAILY WATER DEPTH & CONTOUR MAP FOR SINCE OCTOBER 1, 2024**
- **EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF SFWMD & USGS MONITORING SITES**
- **INCLUDES RECENT COMPREHENSIVE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY BIRD ROOKERY & CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY**
- **FOCUS ON CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED (CREW) & PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT (PSRP)**

SOURCE: WATER DEPTH ASSESSMENT TOOL (WDAT)
ALL WDAT PRODUCTS BASED ON PROVISIONAL DATA

Groundwater Level Trends



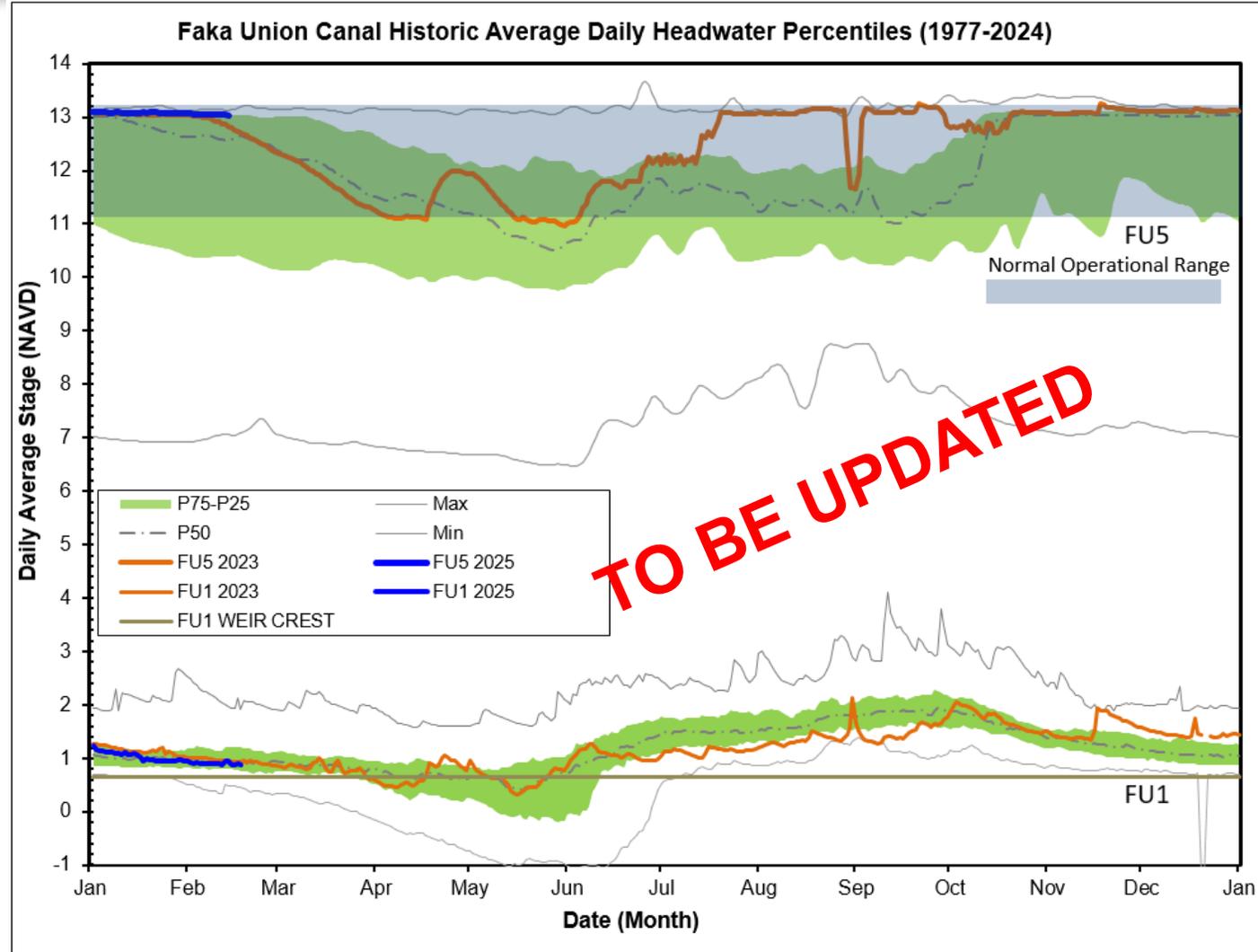
TO BE UPDATED

Faka Union Canal



- APPROX. 7 FT OF WATER HELD BACK AT FU5
- SIMILAR TREND TO 2023
- RECESSION OF LEVEL LIKELY TO ACCELERATE IN MARCH

- FU1 RATE OF RECESSION MATCHES 2023
- FU1 OVERFLOW LIKELY TO END IN MARCH

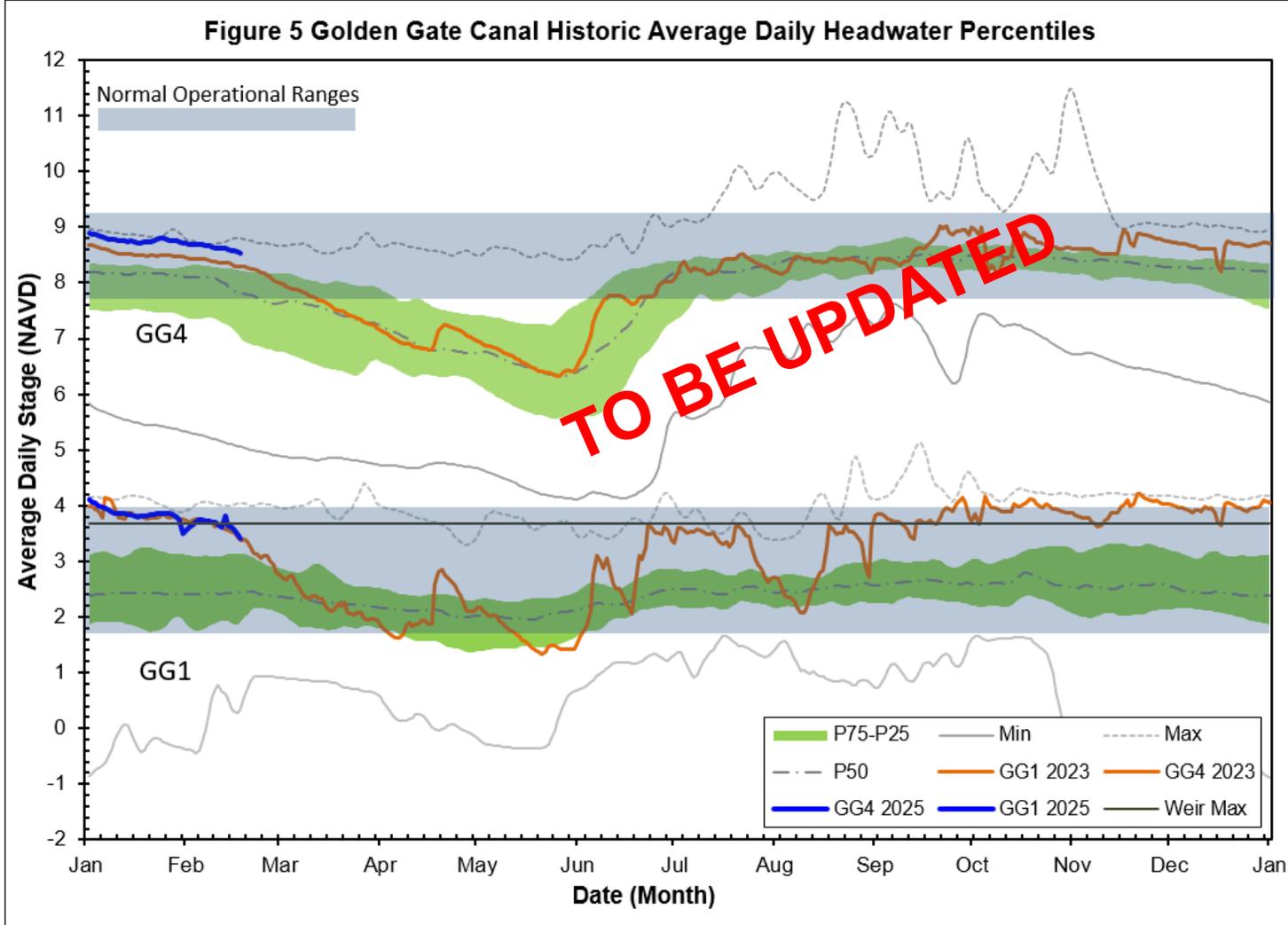


Golden Gate Main Canal



- SIMILAR DRY SEASON TRENDS 2023 / 2025
- GG4 TRENDING SLIGHTLY HIGHER
- GG1 TRENDING VIRTUALLY THE SAME

- APRIL 2023 RAINFALL BOOSTED LEVELS
- 2025 RAINFALL?

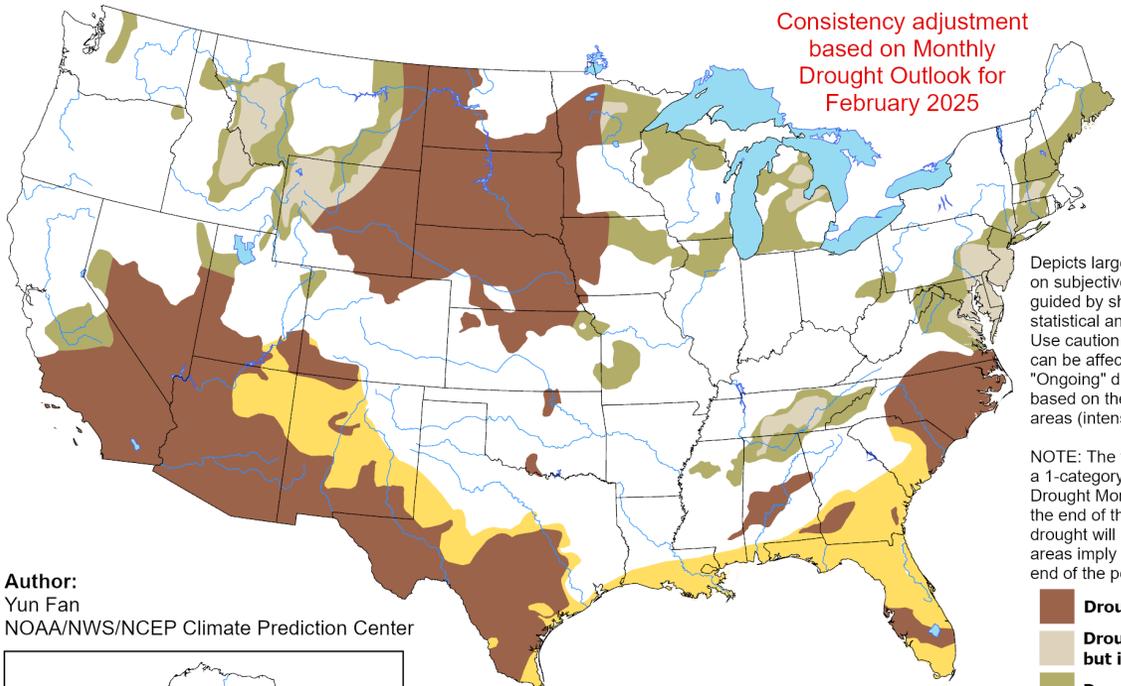


Seasonal Outlook

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 1 - April 30, 2025
Released January 31, 2025

Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
February 2025

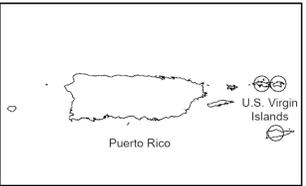
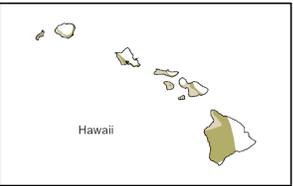
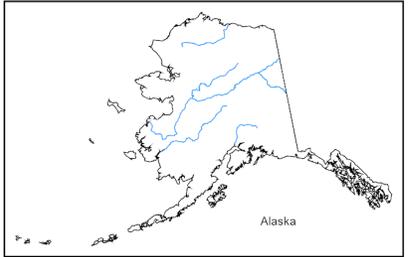


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

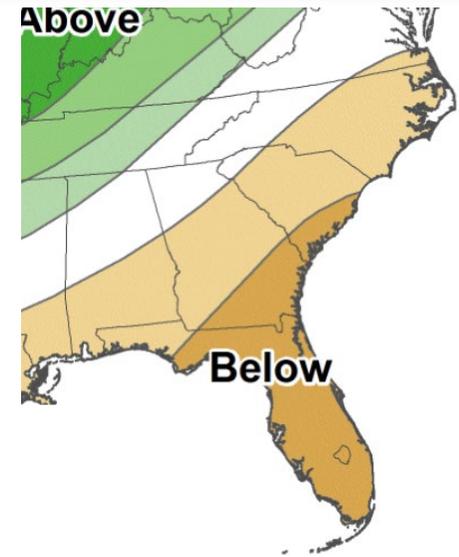
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

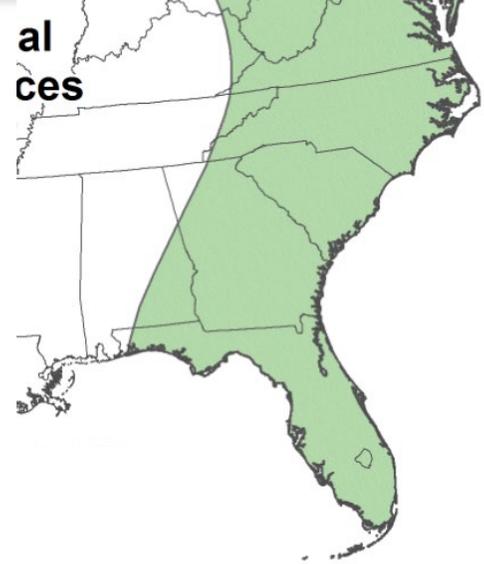
Author:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



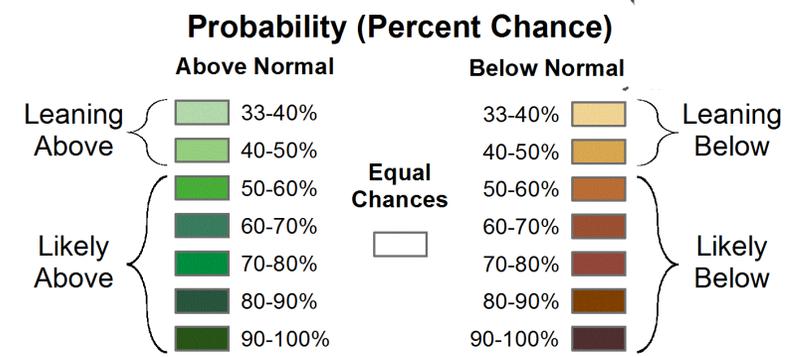
<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



Long Range Outlook
Feb 2025 – Apr 2025



Long Range Outlook
May 2025 – July 2025



Presenter: William Tredik

BCB Water Conditions Report



QUESTIONS ?



Bird Rookery Swamp



Faka Union 4 Water Structure



Big Cypress Basin Field Station



Coco 3 Water Structure

SFWMD Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget Summary



February 28, 2025



Upcoming Milestones

DRAFT

- March 1 – Legislative Comments, if any, on Preliminary Budget to the Districts is due
- March 5 – Legislative Session Budget deadline to meet 72 hour cooling off period
- March 4 – Legislative Session Begins
- March 15 – Districts shall respond in writing to Legislative comments, if any received
- April 25 – Tentative Budget Discussion with Big Cypress Basin Board
- May 2 – Legislative Session Ends
- July 1 – Taxable Values Received from County Property Appraisers
 - If an extension is granted by DOR the County has 10 extra days to submit
- July 7 – Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting to establish Tentative Millage Rate and Budget
- July 10 – District Governing Board Meeting
 - Provide Governing Board with Tentative FY2025-2026 Budget
 - Request Governing Board approval of proposed millage rates for certification to property appraisers to set Proposed Millage Rates Cap

Upcoming Milestones (Continued)

DRAFT

- August 1 – Submit FY2025-2026 Budget for Governor and Legislative Review
- August 4 – Certification of Proposed Millage Rates to the County Property Appraisers (Sets the Cap)
- August 22 – Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting to approve the Final Millage Rate and Budget
- September 5 – Consideration of Legislative comments on Tentative Budget
- September 11 – Governing Board Business Meeting
 - 5:15pm Governing Board Special Meeting First Public Hearing pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes
 - Consider for adoption, the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Millage Rates and Budget
 - Consider for adoption, the Non Ad Valorem Agricultural Privilege Tax Roll
- September 16 – Governor & Legislative Budget Commission comments due 5 business days before Final Public Budget Hearing
- September 23 – 5:15pm Governing Board Special Meeting Second Budget Public Hearing pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes
 - Consider for adoption, the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Final Millage Rates and Budget

Basin Board Budget Next Steps

DRAFT

➤ Next Steps

- Continue to Refine Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Big Cypress Basin Revenue & Expenditure Budget Assumptions Through Basin Administrator and Basin Board Discussions.
- Report Back to the Basin Board on Tentative Budget Updates.
- Potential Changes to Fiscal Year 2025-2026 DRAFT Budget and Financial Forecast:
 - Capital Program
 - Staff Allocations that support BCB Workplan
 - Revenue Updates – Ad Valorem, Investment Earnings, Audited Fiscal Year 2023-24 Fund Balance



Bird Rookery Swamp



Faka Union 4 Water Structure



Big Cypress Basin Field Station



Coco 3 Water Structure

Thank You
Questions?