Program Name: FWC Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program
Project Name: Nile Monitor Eradication Project
Project ID: 2706
Lead Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 2-B.3
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 3

Measurable Output(s):
During this reporting period, 18 Nile Monitors have been removed from the Palm Beach County area, along the C-51 canal.

Project Synopsis:
Nile monitors have been established and reproducing in Florida for as long as twenty years. Besides the well-documented population in Cape Coral sightings have been verified near the Homestead-Miami Speedway, and scattered records in southern Broward County that indicate one or more breeding populations. More recently, monitors have been confirmed breeding along the C-51 Canal that runs parallel to Southern Boulevard in Palm Beach County. Nile monitors have been confirmed as far east as I-95 and C-51 and west to within a few kilometers of STA 1E. There are also a number of observations along canals to the north and south of the C-51 Canal. The Exotic Species Coordination Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) began conducting surveys of the canal by boat in May of 2011 which yielded seven observations in two trips. Varying sizes were observed including an animal that appeared to be a young-of-the-year approximately 20 cm in total length. As a result, FWC began trapping for monitors along the C-51 in cooperation with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and more surveys by boat were planned. In 2011, a total of five monitors were removed from the population, three by live trapping. In 2012, FWC ramped up survey/removal efforts by boat and staff from the University of Florida Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center (FL REC) began assisting in these efforts. FWC officially began contracting UF FLEC to conduct monthly EIRAMP surveys in December 2012, including a modified boat-route along the C-51. During 2012 and through April 2013, FWC, UF FLEC, and SFWMD staff have removed 13 Nile monitors along this canal. Ten others were observed. A student from the University of Louisville also trapped one monitor in May 2012 during efforts to gain samples for his dissertation on Nile monitor genetics and stable isotopes of stomach contents. Samples from additional specimens collected will be sent to his lab for analysis.

Also in 2011 and 2012, several Nile monitors sightings were confirmed in Broward County in the extreme eastern and western ends of the urban areas. All sightings were of adults. Numerous attempts were made to trap these animals but they are living in areas with more convoluted canal systems than the Palm Beach population and do not seem susceptible to traps. No juveniles were found and it is possible that the sightings are of the same few individuals but the proximity of the western Broward population/individual(s) is of concern due to the close proximity of the state-managed Everglades. Trapping and surveying efforts will continue in these locations but these areas are more challenging to carry on eradication efforts than the C-51 canal.

Despite the known populations established in Miami-Dade and County and the Cape Coral areas, these populations are believed to be separate introductions, not range expansions.

Current work centers on at least monthly survey and removal trips along the C-51 and searches in other areas when FWC receives verified or credible reports. Currently, FWC staff and UF staff are jointly conducting these surveys.

Current Status: Ongoing
Project Schedule:
Start Date: 2011
Finish Date: Undermined.

Detailed Project Budget Information

Currently, the primary budget drivers and constraints on this project have been staff time to conduct field work. To complete eradication of established Nile monitors on both coasts of Florida would likely take at least 2 dedicated field staff whose duties would be primarily field work only to remove this species.

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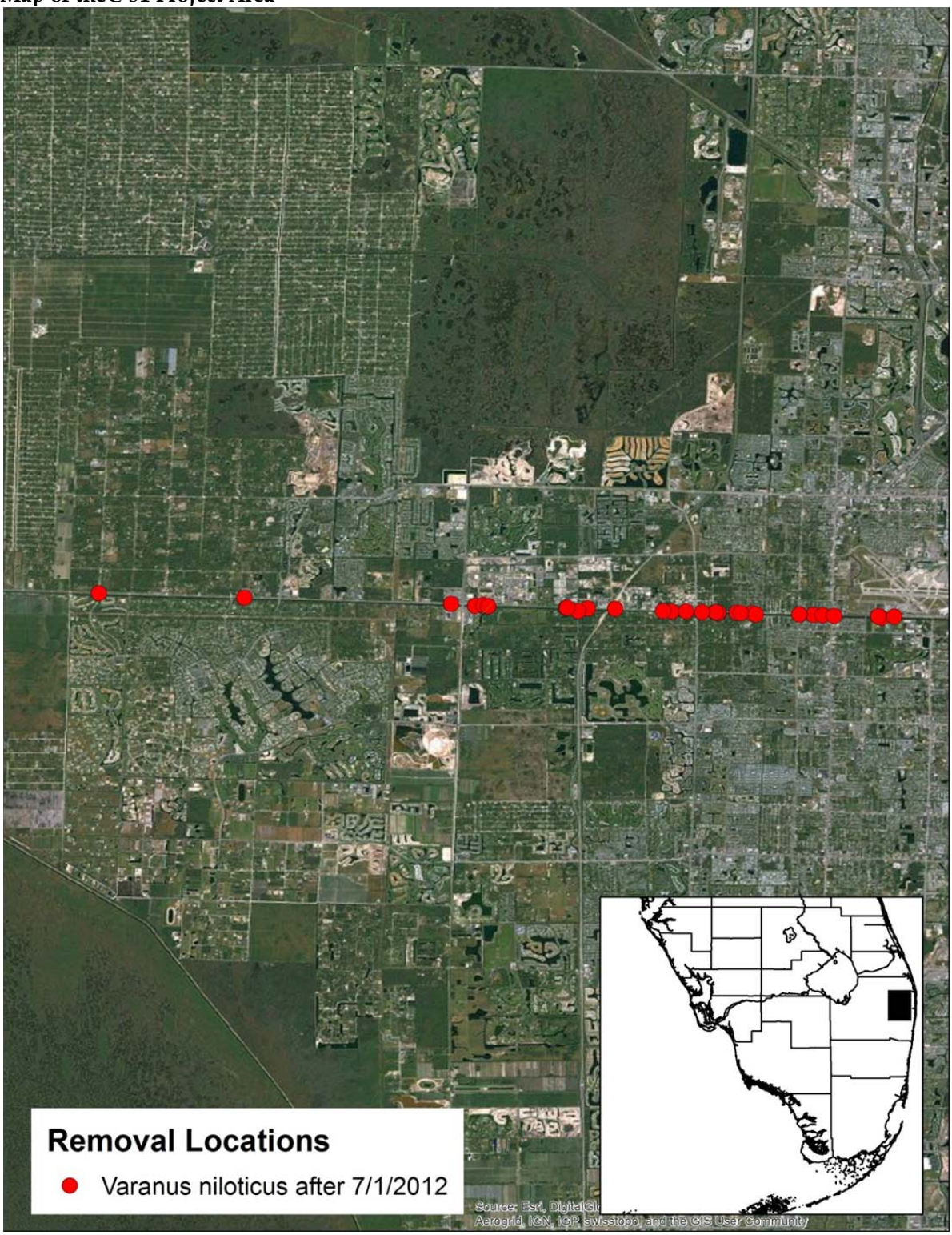
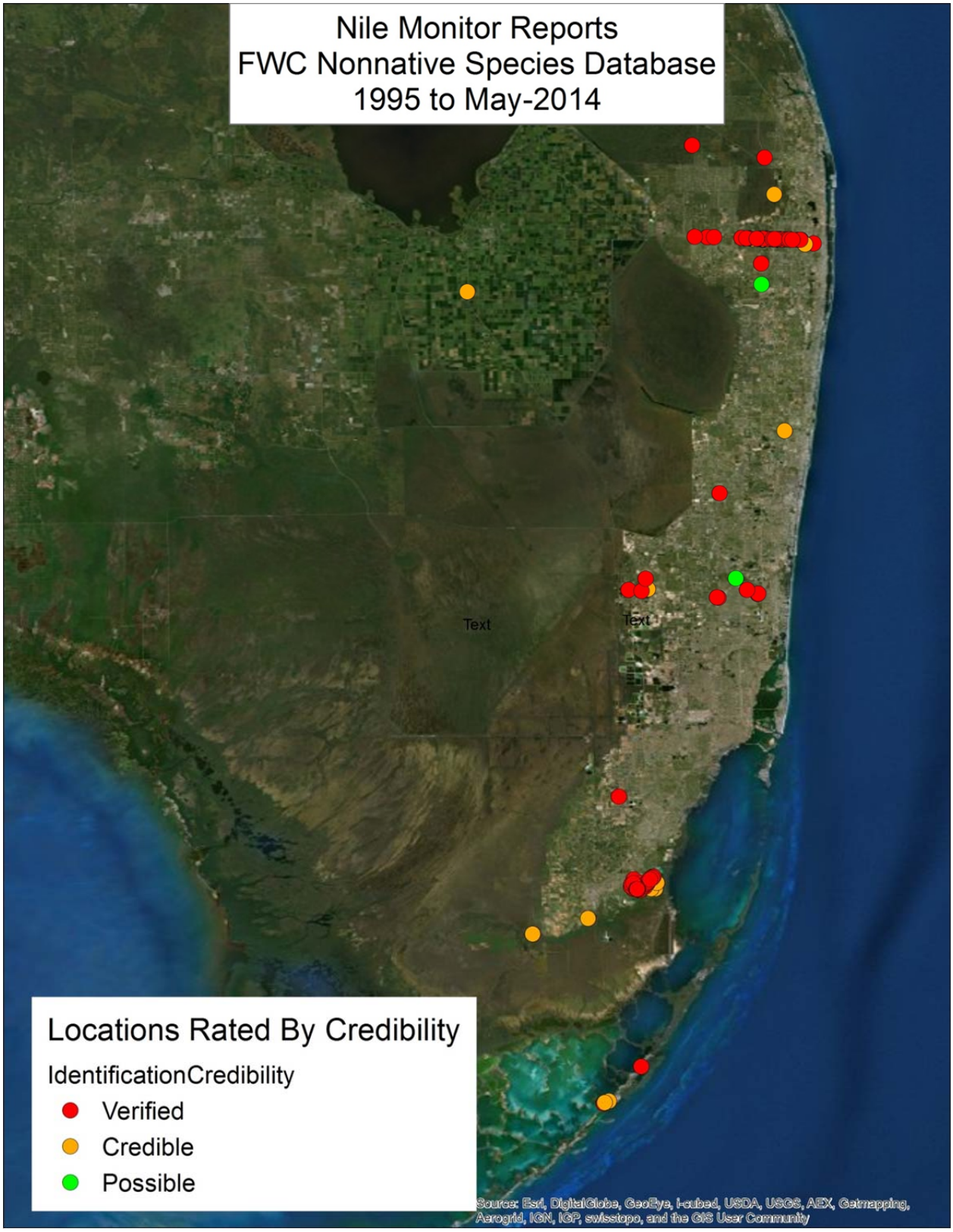
Hyperlink: **www.MyFWC.com/nonnatives**

Pictures: Nile monitors documented displaying mating behavior on the C-51 canal.

Map of theC-51 Project Area




Nile Monitor Reports
FWC Nonnative Species Database
1995 to May-2014
Text
Text
Locations Rated By Credibility
IdentificationCredibility
Verified
Credible
Possible
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community