U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
Miami Florida, Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands

Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Plan Meeting 2013

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Who are we?

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
Special Agents

Plainclothes Criminal Investigators
Enforce wildlife laws nationwide
Investigations focus on:
  - Illegal trade
  - Unlawful take of native species
  - Habitat destruction

Wildlife Inspectors

Uniformed unarmed Import/Export control officers
Stationed at major airports, ocean ports, & border crossings
Enforce U.S. Wildlife Regulations and Foreign Laws:
  - Compliance monitoring
  - Smuggling interdiction

Wildlife Inspector K-9
Wildlife Laws

- African Elephant Conservation Act
- American Antiquities Act
- Antarctic Conservation Act
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act
- Airborne Hunting Act
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- CITES
- Clean Water Act
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act of 1988
- Fur Seal Act
- Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Act
- Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act of 1988
- Hunting, Fishing, Trapping on Military Reservations
- Injurious Wildlife Regulations
- Humane Transport Regulations
- Lacey Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Wildlife Refuge Act
- Native American Graves and Repatriation Act
- Prohibitions in Mailing Poisonous Wildlife
- Recreation Act
- Recreational Hunting Safety Act of 1994
- Rhino/Tiger Conservation Act
- Wild Bird Conservation Act
Miami Designated Port

Port of West Palm Beach & International Airport
70 miles north

Port Everglades & Ft. Lauderdale International Airport
30 miles north

Port of Key West
160 miles south
Non-designated Ports

USCBP/USFWS Port Everglades / Ft. Lauderdale International implement of MOU

• USCBP/USFWS focused this year on the non-designated ports of Ft. Lauderdale/ Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades commercial seaport and completed and implemented an MOU for seized wildlife. This has resulted in an overwhelming increase of investigations for both agencies.

• 192 - seizures at Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood International Airport. Sea Turtle products and conch meat were the primary commodities.

• 8 - seizures at Palm Beach International Airport containing corals and queen conch shells both CITES App II species.

• 3 - seizures at Opa locka Airport and Key West International Airport containing conch meat and live tortoises imported from Venezuela via private charter.
Non-designated Ports

USCBP/USFWS Port Everglades /Ft. Lauderdale International implement of MOU

- These ports are located ranging from 70 miles north to 160 miles south from the designated Port of Miami solely manned by CBP Officers who have been trained by Miami OLE on FWS regulations.
- Nearly 98% of 180 seizures were ESA/CITES violations.
The Port of Miami also covers import/export activities in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
Port of Miami Statistics 2013

FY Total Shipments

- **Imports**: 54%
- **Exports**: 43%
- **In-Transit**: 3%

Port Shipment Statistics

- **Live**: 5,240
- **Perishable**: 2,958
- **Products**: 3,039

As per LEMIS database: 11,237
Port of Miami Statistics

Inspections Resulting in Law Enforcement Actions

- Statically, this equates to enforcement action being taken 1 out of 3 physical inspections that are being conducted.
Interagency Collaboration

FWCC Support

Also collaborate on seizure of Florida prohibited species
Interagency Collaboration
USCBP/USFWS

Passenger Baggage Inspections

USPS Foreign Mail Inspections
Interagency Collaboration
USDA/USFWS

Heart Water Disease Program
Giant African Snail Investigation

- Six subjects identified as having propagated, sold, or purchased Giant African Snails in Miami-Dade County.
- Currently 21 outbreak zones.
- Over 128,000 have been collected.
- As of 8/23/13, $6,043,573.00 spent on eradication efforts.
- Four subjects issued target letters by AUSA’s office.
- Indictments pending.