



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP · PARTNERSHIP · RESULTS

The Task Force & Invasive Species: WRDA 2020

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WRDA 2020, Part 1

“Develop and update, as appropriate, a priority list of invasive species that:

(i) reflects an assessment of ecological risk that the listed invasive species represent;

(ii) includes populations of invasive plants and animals that:

(a) are significantly impacting the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitat within the South Florida ecosystem; or

(b) demonstrate a strong potential to reduce, obscure, or otherwise alter key indicators used to measure Everglades restoration progress.”

WRDA 2020, Part 2

The priority list of invasive species “shall be used by the Task Force and agencies and entities represented on the Task Force to focus cooperative and collaborative efforts:

- (I) to guide applied research;
- (II) to develop innovative strategies and tools to facilitate improved management, control, or eradication of listed invasive species;
- (III) to implement specific management, control, or eradication activities at the appropriate periodicity and intensity necessary to reduce or neutralize the impacts of listed invasive species, including the use of qualified skilled volunteers when appropriate; and
- (IV) to develop innovative strategies and tools to prevent future introductions of nonnative species.”

Proposed Process

- Convene a group of experts ✓
- Identify existing priority lists ✓
- Develop summary matrices that satisfies WRDA 2020, Part 1:
 - Tools used to assess ecological risk ✓
 - Priority plant and animal species
 - Impacts and evidence of those impacts
- Develop supporting documents
- Determine future steps/role of team:
 - Methodology to update and assess/screen additional priority species
 - Efforts to satisfy WRDA 2020, Part 2

Appointees

WG/SCG Agency Appointees

- James Erskine, WG Chair
- Lawrence Glenn, SCG Chair
- Bill Thomas, FWS Refuge
- Art Roybal, FWS Ecological Services
- Jessica Spencer, USACE
- Kelli O'Donnell, NOAA
- Nick Aumen, USGS
- Bryan Falk, NPS
- Kristen Sommers & Matt Phillips, FWC
- LeRoy Rodgers, SFWMD
- Brenda Hovde, PBC
- Craig Van Der Heiden, Kevin Donaldson, and Amy Castenada, Miccosukee Tribe
- Dr. Eric Rohrig and Dr. Patti Anderson, FDACS
- Nathan Fikkert, USDA
- Janet Gil, Miami-Dade County

Other Experts

- Mitch Barazowski, SW CISMA
- LeRoy Rodgers and Dennis Giardina, ECISMA
- Alexandra Onisko and Michael Yustin, TC CISMA
- Deah Lieurance, UF IFAS (Regional status assessment tool)
- Wes Daniel, USGS (NAS screening)
- Christina Romagosa (Animal screening tool)
- John Galvez, Aquatic Invasive Species Program

OERI

- Carrie Beeler
- Allyn Childress
- Adam Gelber

Existing Priority Species Lists

Tab 1: IFAS Invasive plant species in South Florida based on the Status Assessment

Tab 2: IFAS list of all prohibited plant species in the state

Tab 3: IFAS list of high-risk plant species that may or may not be present in the region

Tab 4: ECISMA Plant List (FNAI assessment of FLEPCC/FISC Listed plants)

Tab 5: USDA Federal Noxious Weeds list

Tab 6: ECISMA Animal List (EDRR only)

Tab 7: USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (NAS) list

Tab 8: SFWMD SFER Annual report (Priority species summaries)

Tab 9: FWC Conditional Species

Tab 10: FWC Prohibited Species

Tab 11: Horizon Scanning Tool

Restoration Focus Selection Criteria

WRDA 2020 CRITERIA

- Assessment of ecological risk
 - High Risk or moderate (if low hanging fruit)
- Impact: Structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitat within the South Florida Ecosystem; or demonstrate a strong potential effect on key indicators

WG /SCG Criteria

- Includes Prevention and EDRR species
- The list of species should be small and manageable

Kickoff Meeting Criteria

- Task Force can use its leadership level, restoration focus, and coordination abilities to help where another process cannot (value added)

Manageable Lists

Freshwater
inverts



Freshwater
vertebrates



Freshwater
plants



Marine
inverts



Marine
vertebrates



Marine
plants



Terrestrial
inverts



Terrestrial
vertebrates



Terrestrial
plants



Credit: Deah Lieurance UF, IFAS



Additional Guidance

- Species divided by goal areas:
Prevention-EDRR-Established
- Common questions for consistency
- Quantifiable results to create a tiered list
- Discussed specific process for selection
or ranking TF priority species

Rapid Risk Assessment Tool (RRAT)



Confidence

- For each likelihood score
- An overall confidence estimate for the final score
- high, moderate, low, very low

≥ 64 **High Risk**

27-63 **Moderate Risk**

< 27 **Low Risk**

Credit: Deah Lieurance UF, IFAS

Florida Horizon Scan



RIN

Vertebrate
Alewife
Alosa pseudoharengus



TC

FW invertebrate
Zebra mussel
Dreissena polymorpha



RIN

Vertebrate
Crab-eating macaque
Macaca fascicularis

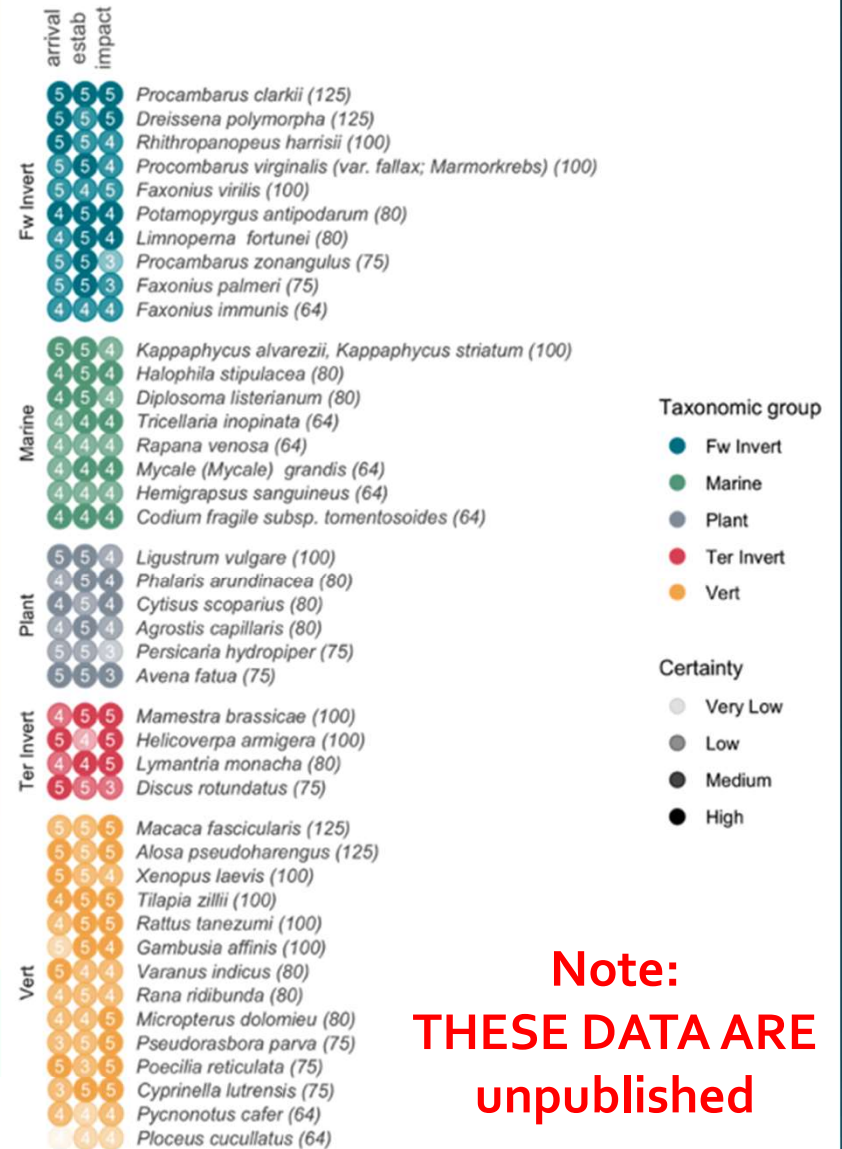


EFC

FW invertebrate
Red swamp crayfish
Procambarus clarkii

4 received the maximum score

Credit: Deah Lieurance UF, IFAS



Note:
THESE DATA ARE
unpublished

Meetings & Coordination Opportunities

July

- WG/SCG (7th)-Process acceptance
- Kickoff meeting (11th)
- ECISMA Summit-presentation (19th)

August

- Meetings (3rd)-Criteria Discussion

September

- WG/SCG (1st)
- 3 Meetings (7, 21, 28)
- FISP Briefing (28)
- SWCISMA Symposium (16th)
- Other Potential CISMA Briefings

October

- Task Force Meeting October (19th)

*Invasive Species Team Meeting

*WG/SCG/TF meetings (report out to members and stakeholder input

*Briefing to CISMA members and potential stakeholder Input opportunities

Discussion