

Sea Turtles in Lake Worth Lagoon



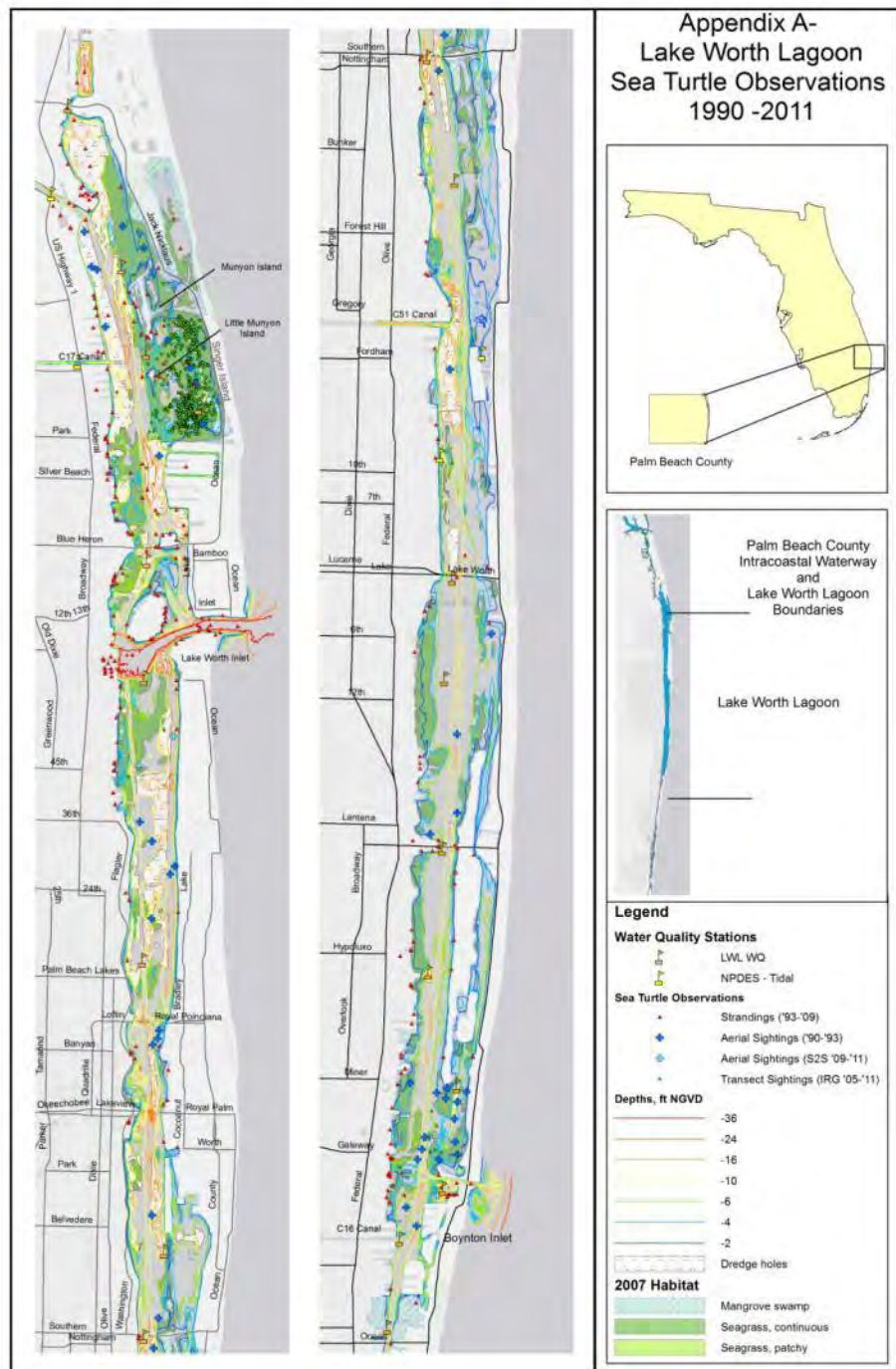


Figure 2. LWL IRG Transect Sightings ('05-'11) North

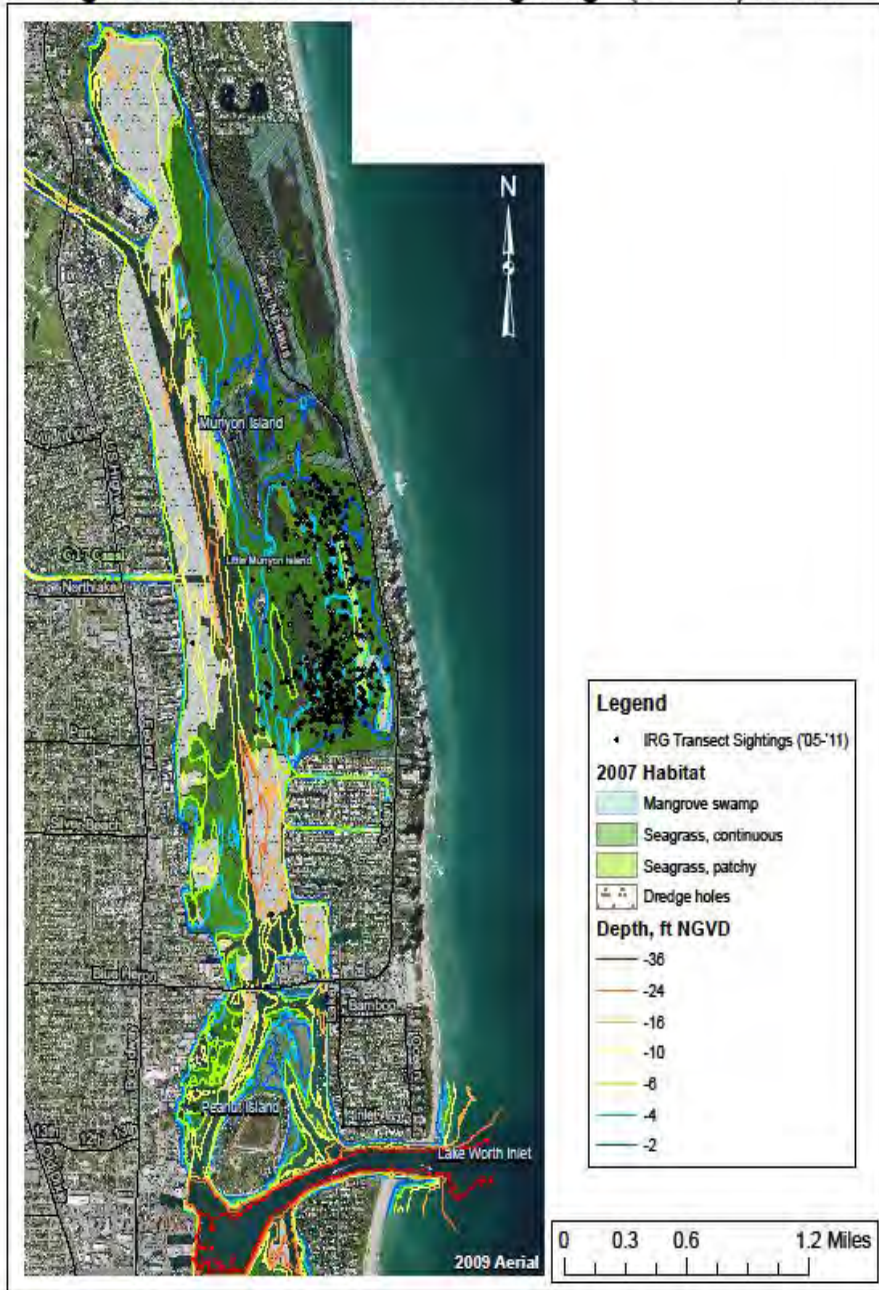
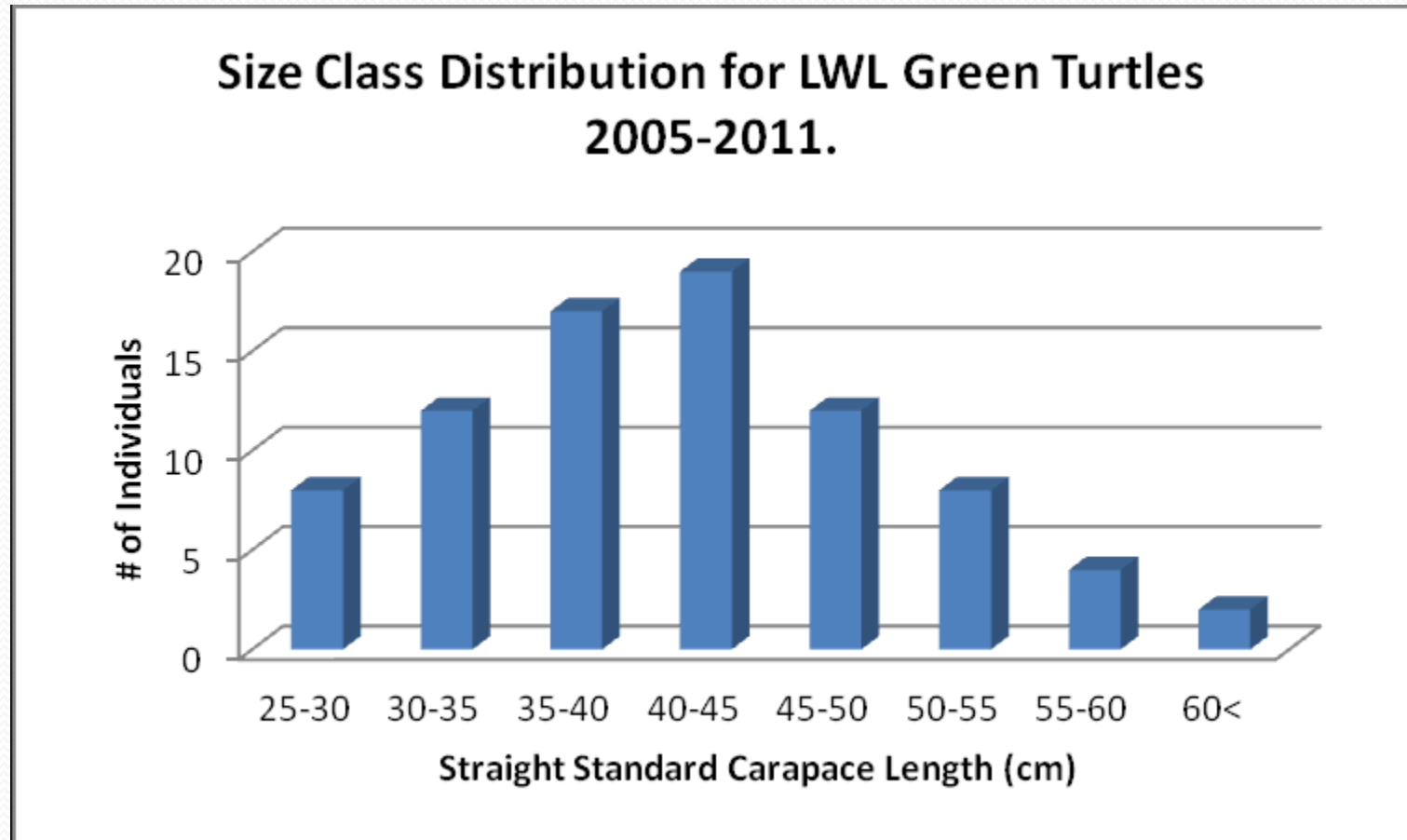


Figure 3. LWL IRG Transect Sightings ('05-'11) South

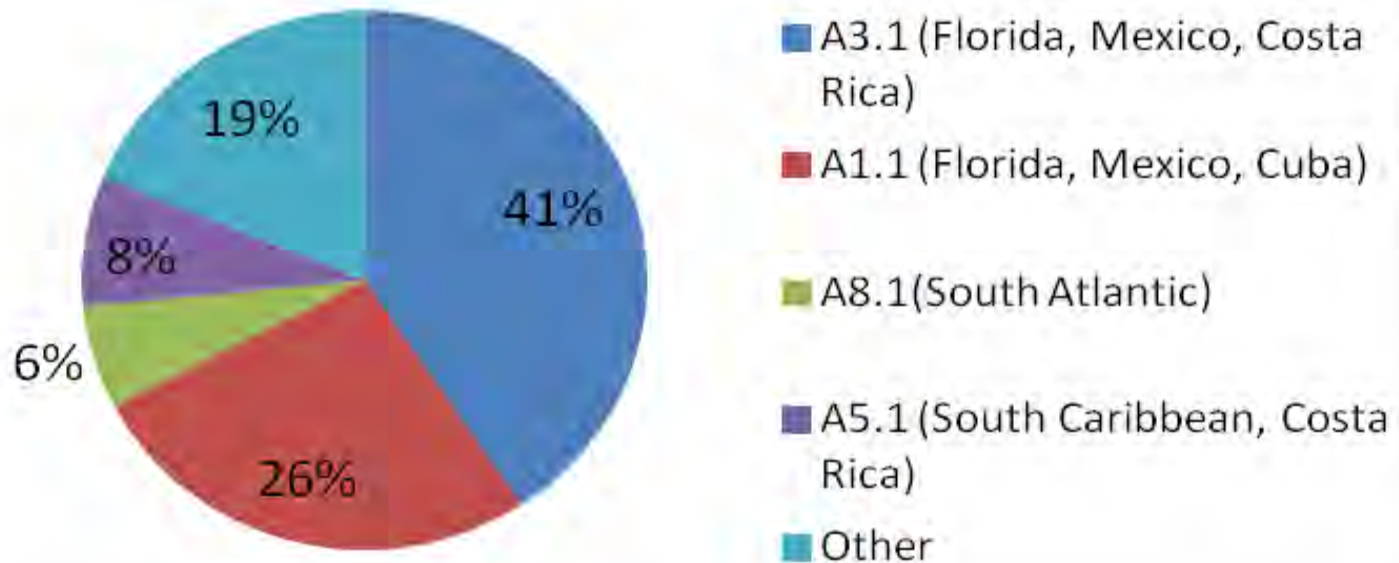


Capture data from Little Munyon area



Q- Where do they come from?

Genetic Origin of Green Turtles From LWL 2005-2011 (n=64)

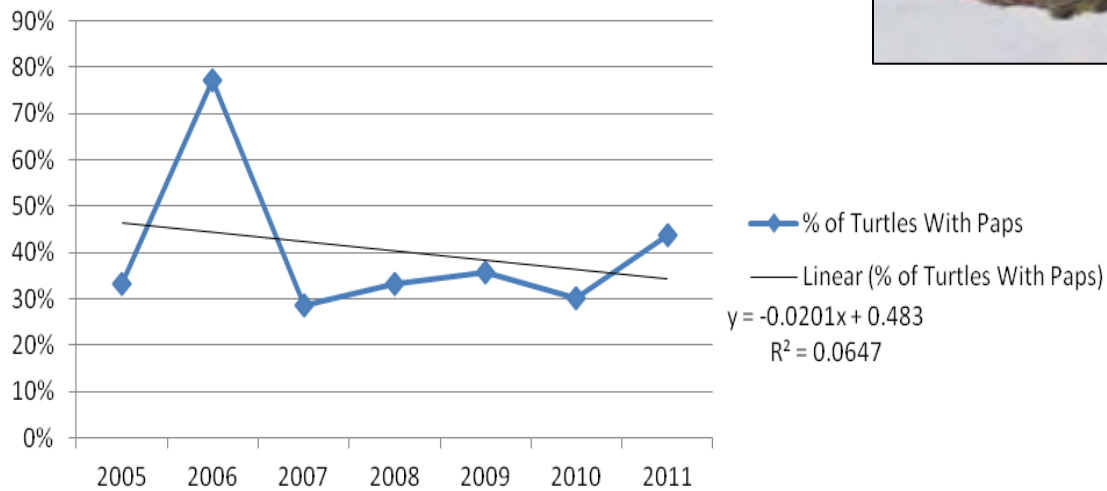


A- The entire Atlantic basin including as far as 6,000 miles away (S. Atlantic = Ascension Island $\frac{1}{2}$ way between Brazil and Africa).

How healthy?



Percent of Green Turtles with Fibropapillomatosis in the LWL



Conclusions

- LWL is important developmental habitat (feeding grounds) for juvenile green turtles
- Most turtles are in diverse, dense seagrass beds
- Feeding almost exclusively on 3 species seagrass
- FP rate is moderate and stable (or slightly declining)
- LWL is connected to nesting beaches throughout in Western Hemisphere by turtles
- Sea turtles are good indicators of LWL health