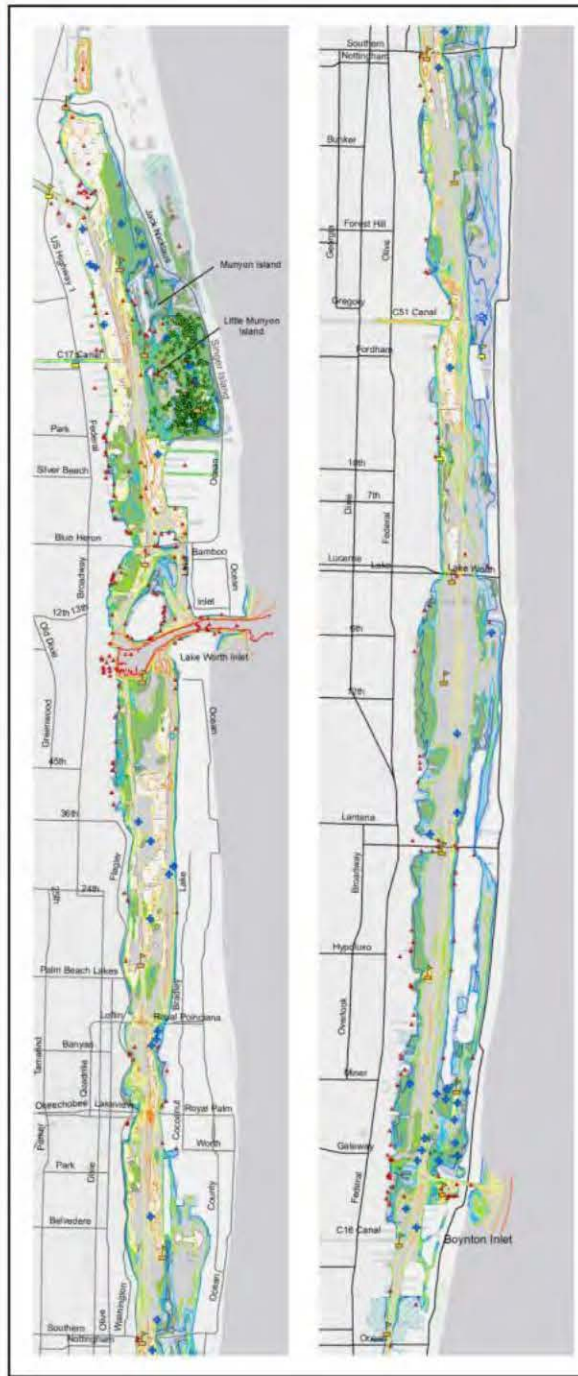
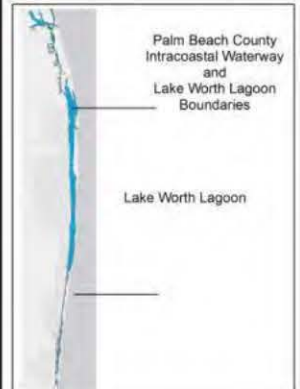


# Sea Turtles in Lake Worth Lagoon





### Appendix A- Lake Worth Lagoon Sea Turtle Observations 1990 -2011



**Legend**

**Water Quality Stations**

- LWL WQ
- NPDES - Tidal

**Sea Turtle Observations**

- Strandings ('93-'09)
- Aerial Sightings ('90-'93)
- Aerial Sightings (S2S '09-'11)
- Transect Sightings (IRG '05-'11)

**Depths, ft NGVD**

- 36
- 24
- 16
- 10
- 6
- 4
- 2

Dredge holes

**2007 Habitat**

- Mangrove swamp
- Seagrass, continuous
- Seagrass, patchy



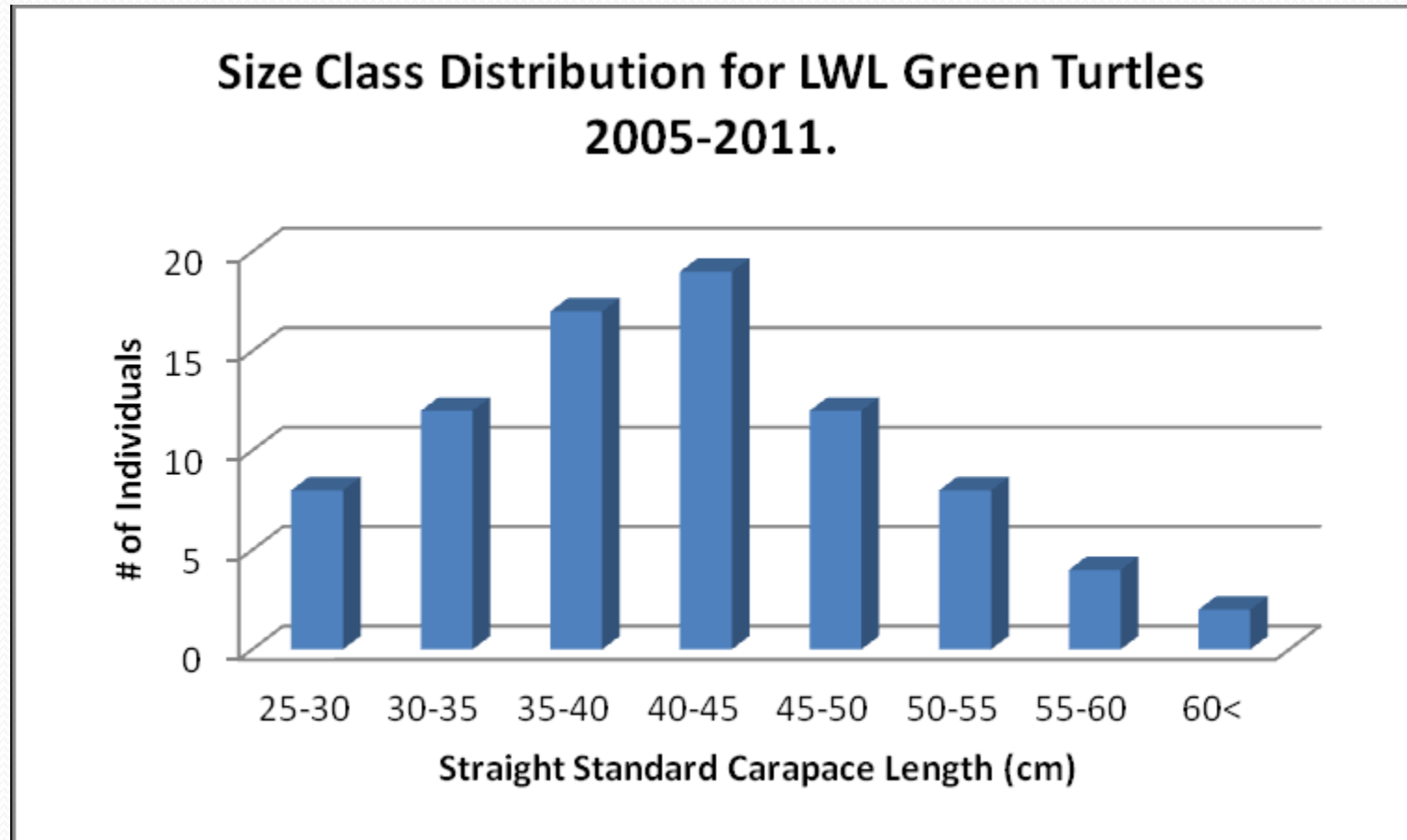
Figure 2. LWL IRG Transect Sightings ('05-'11) North



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



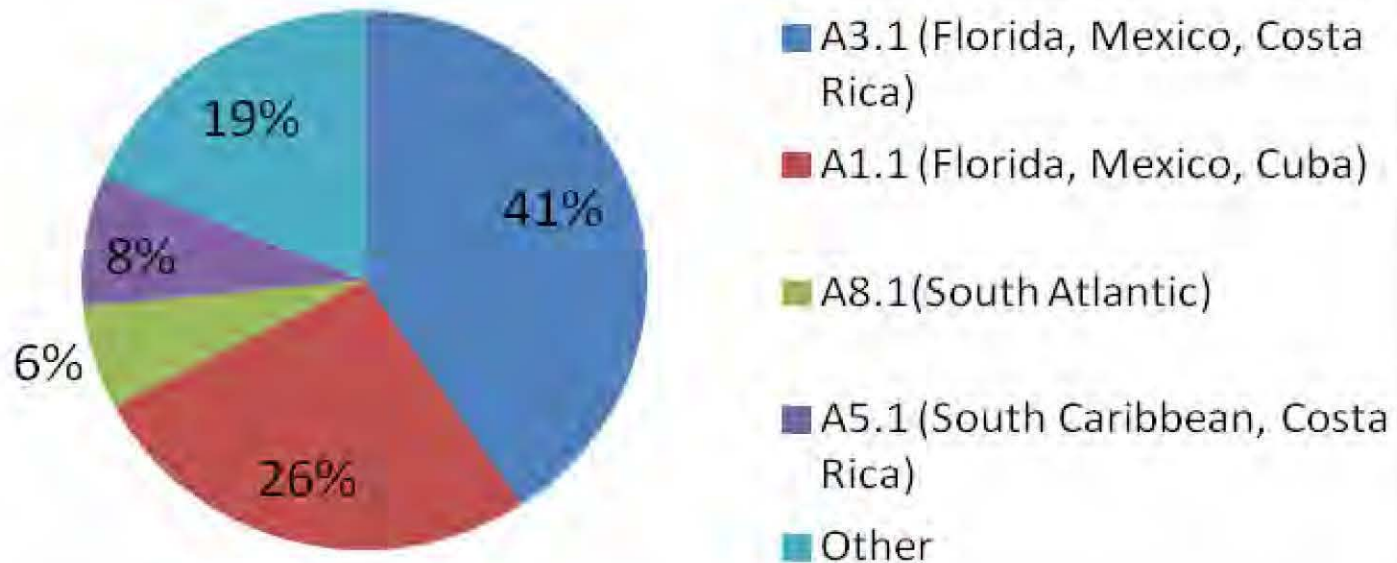
# Capture data from Little Munyon area





# Q- Where do they come from?

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

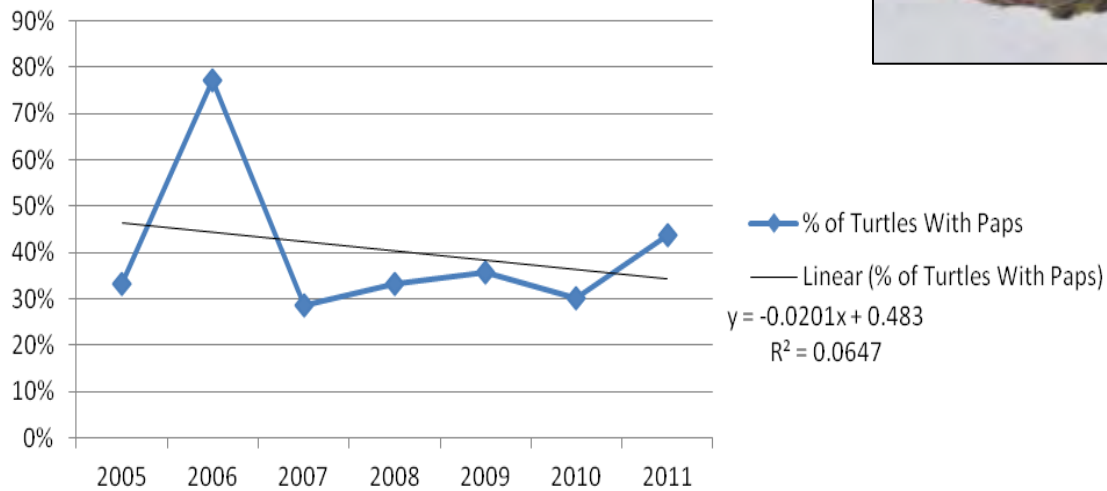


A- The entire Atlantic basin including as far as 6,000 miles away (S. Atlantic = Ascension Island  $\frac{1}{2}$  way between Brazil and Africa).

# 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