

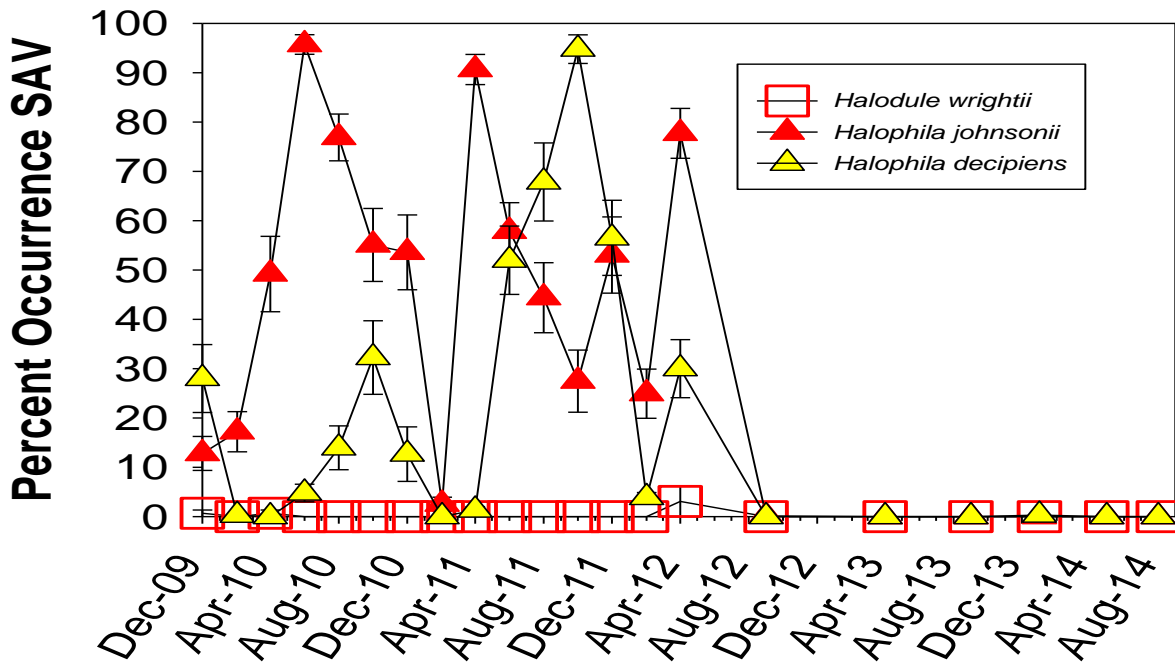
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative

Habitat Group Update

September 9, 2009

Beth Orlando
Coastal Ecosystems Section
Applied Science Bureau

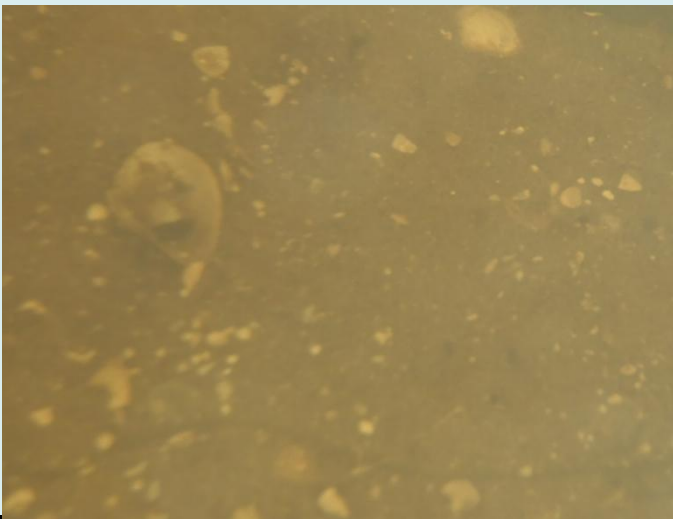
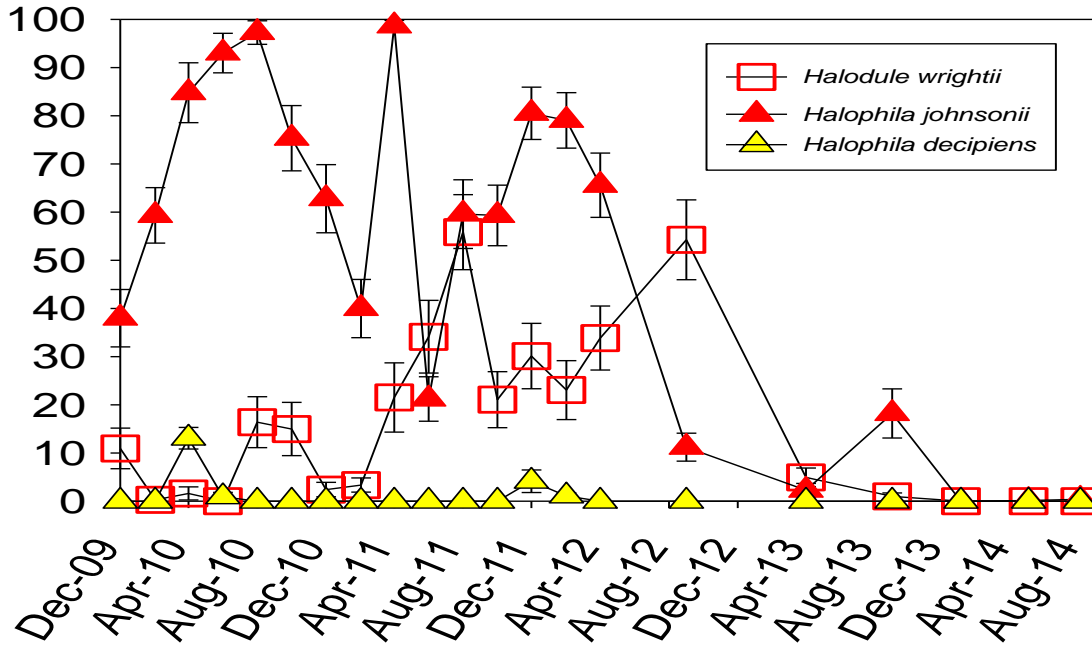
C-51B



2013/09/13

C-51C

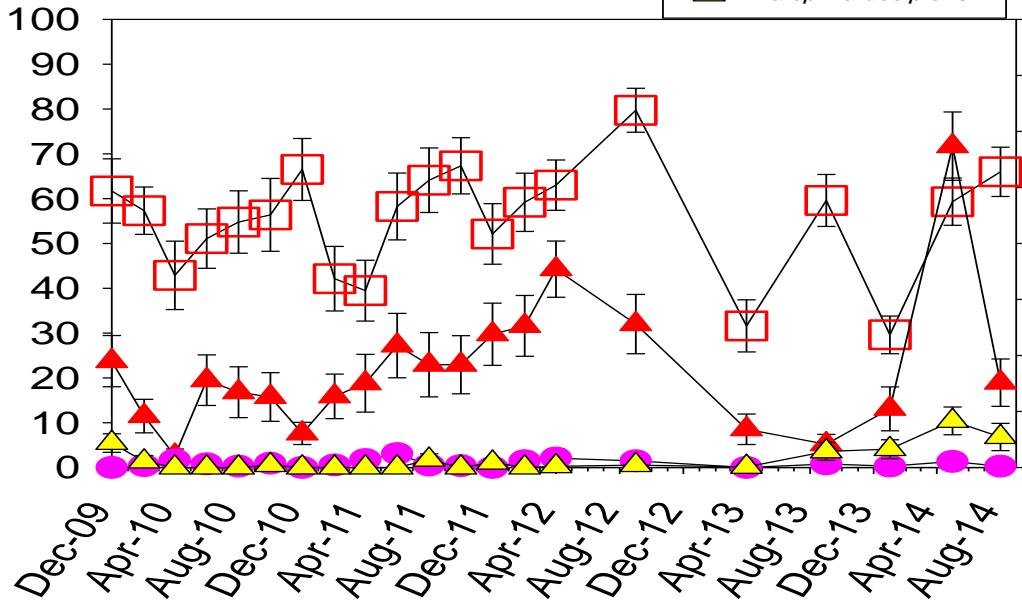
Percent Occurrence SAV



C-17B

- Canopy Height
Halodule wrightii
- ▲ *Halophila johnsonii*
- *Thalassia testudinum*
- ▲ *Halophila decipiens*

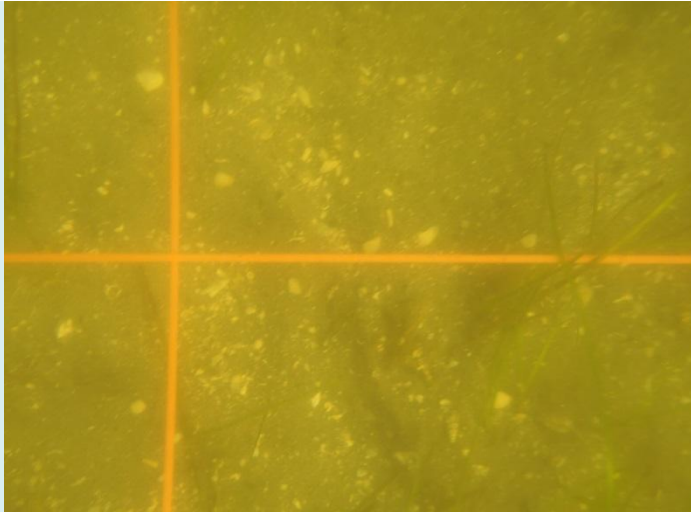
Percent Occurrence SAV



Canopy Height (cm)

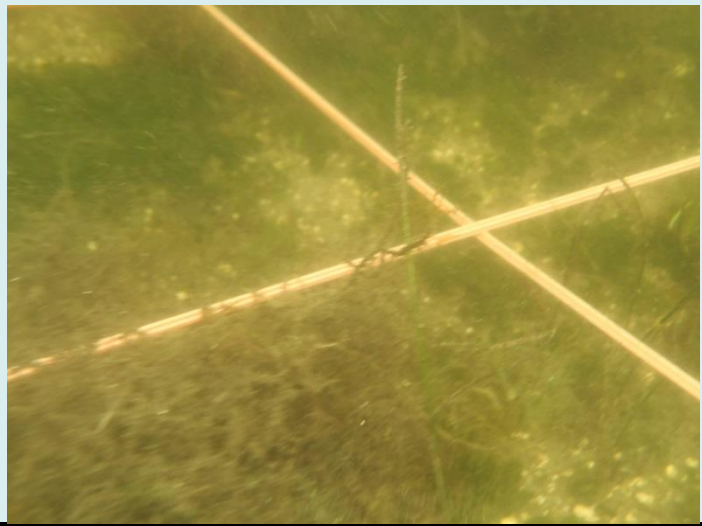
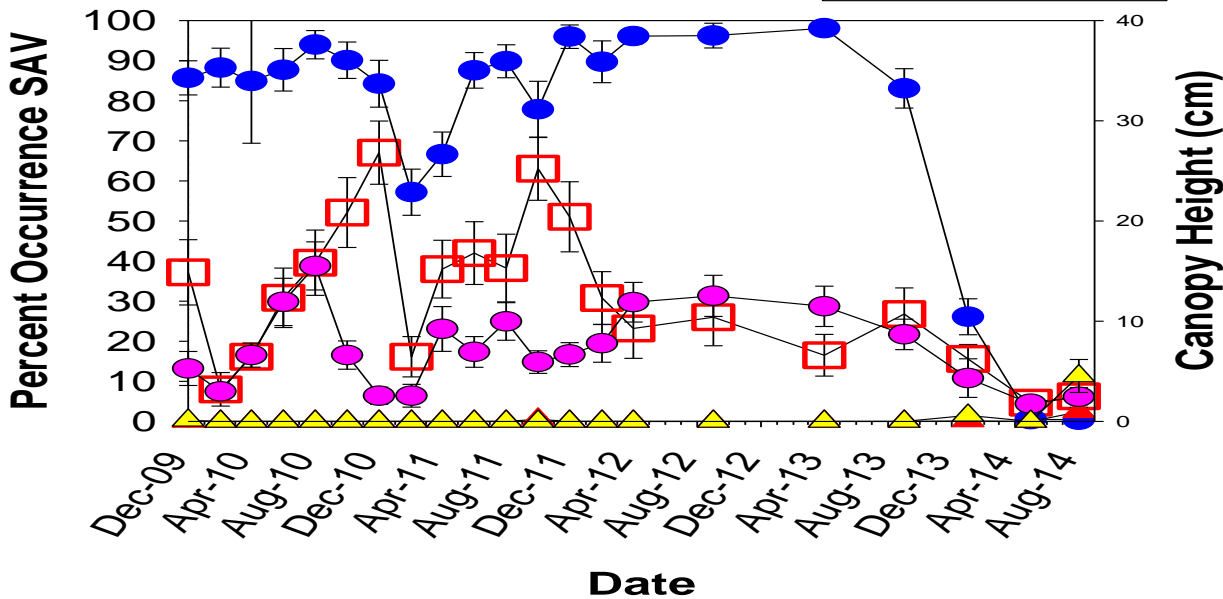
C-17_B
C-17_A

C-51_A
C-51_B
C-51_C



C-17A

- *Halodule wrightii*
- *Syringodium filiforme*
- ▲ *Halophila johnsonii*
- *Thalassia testudinum*
- ▲ *Halophila decipiens*
- Canopy Height



SUMMARY

- Seagrass coverage in LWL collected from 2008-2014 showed both short-term variation and longer term decline in coverage in recent years
- Short term declines are likely related to seasonal changes in temperature and a swift meteorological event (such as winter storm), which may temporarily depress coverage. However seagrasses appear to recover quickly (within 2 months)
- The more recent, longer term decline in seagrass coverage is associated with heavy freshwater inflows and the subsequent degradation of water quality. However the timing of the decline in coverage appears to be a function of the distance of the seagrass bed from the freshwater inflows. The current lower seagrass coverage may persist until water quality and light conditions are adequate to support growth of seagrass.