

2/9/2008 Cedar Key, Fl. DTWG

1:15 SEARCHING FOR DIAMONDBACK TERRAPINS IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Rick O'Connor/ Molly O'Connor

Pensacola

-“wanted” signs

MS-Perdido Key (Gulf Islands National Seashore)

1 found a few days after Katrina

June + July - 4 places, 1 place/week during x2 months

1 Dead terrapin found in crab pot – adult ornate, 8 eggs inside

Sandy beaches/dunes – Perdido Key

Santa Rosa Is. – leveled by hurricane Ivan

Just over wash islands

Dickerson Area – I10 repairs, nesting beaches found

8 raided nest on Indian Bayou

Some frozen samples – hatchlings

Eagle nests observed

Yes!!! – Terrapins are in NW FL still!

Okaloosa – Dr. Jon Hemming + Dr. John Himes, report terrapins

Males 1-2 yr old found and turned in

April/may, 16 day beach surveys. June, 5 day modified trap survey.

1:30 ORNATE DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN SURVEY IN THE BIG BEND REGION OF FLORIDA

Joe Butler, UNF, (+ author George H.)

Reprints available

Survey of Big Bend – ornate terrapins

10 launch site at boat ramps, 6 crab pots modified to 4ft tall

Search shorelines for raided nest, crawls, and skeletal remains.

Head counts at idle speed (head/min)

Preliminary survey, 9 museum collections, 12 specimens 1962-1988

Big Bend

Sparsely populated

Shoreline is muddy salt marsh

Twice daily low tides leave oyster beds exposed

Horseshoe beach- 12 raided nests, remains of 17-18 terrapins, 2 confirmed sites.

Tides plus shallow water!

Shired Island – 9 raided nests, shell fragments from 1 terrapin, 4 confirmed sites.

Suwannee – 80 raided nest, 2 recently predated, female carcass, 7 confirmed sites.
1 museum record at mouth.

***No luck with trapping

Paul Moler – Fyke nets

Patrick Baker – Roger Wood, 2 modified hoop nets.

1:45 NEW FOSSIL RECORDS OF THE DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN, MALACLEMYS TERRAPIN.

Dana J. Ehret (paleontology grad student, UF) and Ben Atkinson

-Graptemys + Malaclemys are sister taxa – 7-11 million years divergence

-No fossil record for Malaclemys prior to the Pleistocene (10,000 yrs)

Lamb and Osentoski 1997 paper

Previous Malaclemys terrapin discussion – Hay 1908, McDowell 1964, McKown 1972, Wood 1977, Dobie and Jackson 1979, Dobie 1981.

Paleo records

Bones- annuli show up very well on shell

Peter Pritchard collection

UF collection

FL shoreline: Pleistocene vs. Present.

Dave Webb

Sea Level Rise. Emslie, S. 1998 – SLR in FL, 1m-20m rise.

SC, GA to be revisited.

2:00 EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Sharon Tyson and Mayra Ashton

Banana River

-Hand capture, fyke nets, bycatch from crab pots

-nesting area, citizen (kid) involvement

9/72 from Indian River surrounds Merritt Island

-trapping because development, pit traps

-Feb./Mar., Oct.

-daily collections by student, some dead ones, 100+

Terrapins nesting on people's grass in yards (sub-optimal habitat)

Fisherman and rehab folks bring them in

Summary slide + #s

Capture condition (dead/alive/unknown)

Banana/Indian River captures

Several fishermen (crabbers) involved

Nesting area = limited

2:30 UPDATE ON TERRAPIN FIELD WORK IN KEY WEST NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Roger Wood – KWNWR + GA

Terrapins not on all islands, terrapins on mangroves too

X- “Joe Ingraham Key”

X- Boca Grande Key – type specimen from here, black banding along seams of plastron

5/6/07, Hurricanes, drought

Red mangroves/black mangroves at interior

7 transmitters on females, movements 100-200m from the island, swim edge of island

Barracuda pond use by one terrapin (interior)

8 days in the field, 2008

Georgia

Jekyll island workshop

Organized by Terry Norton – veterinarian, now at sea turtle on Jekyll Island, actively involved in terrapin conservation

Most major causeways have road kill problems

Tybee island causeway DBT road kills, last year 80 road kills + several hundred more (Approx 300 on 1 causeway in 1 year)

Jordan-undergrad

Regular road patrols

Fl road kills?

Paper – GA road kill guy

NJ update-report

Grant (to roger) NJ DOT program “I boat NJ”

Pamphlet/brochure, Dredge material placement

2:45 INCORPORATING BRDS IN CRAB TRAPS IN FLORIDA

William Turner (FL/FWCC) – division of habitat and species conservation

*DBB +BRDs

FWC herp taxa coordinator

Bill Sharpe (on Blue Crab Advisory Board), David Cook, Allan Woodward.

- proximity to shore
- temperature (hotter=worse)
- Derelict traps

FWC

-Jan 30, 2008 meeting, issue team discussed

Info needs

- Effect of the blue crab fishery on FL DBT populations?
- Where does overlap occur?
- Commercial vs. recreational (allowed 5 pots) effects?
- Expected benefits + burdens to crabbers?
- How did crabbers in other states react to BRD implementation?
- Historic/current abundance and distribution of FL DBT?

Support efforts to locate and eliminate ghost traps.

Ask fishing independent monitoring groups for any data on terrapin captures, mortality.

Possible formation of issue team.

Hotspots of terrapin activity.

FL blue crab fishery, Bill Sharpe

Year round

New effort management program "v" number

Adhoc BC advisory board, 15 people, capped

1100 - Participants

800 - Hard crab endorsements up to 600 traps, option w/ 400 additional to be fished offshore in Gulf of Mexico

140 - Peeler endorsements

400 - 100 traps/person

(Displace from net fisheries, non-transferable)

2008: Blue crab pots are tagged

\$125 or \$250 for endorsement

\$0.50/crab tag

Onshore/offshore issue

Epacenters- St. Johns river, Indian River, Peace River, Tampa Bay, Big Bend

Initial Composition

1st meeting this spring

Well balanced re: where they're from, who they are

Anne Jackson, FWC – survey of crabbers *

Recreational Traps

-Piers, shallows

Joe Butler/George Heinrich – Place/seasons, where terrapins are active

Inshore/offshore

Colreg lines/mouth of a bay

150' creek

Terrapins at cedar Key

Depth/distance from shore

50cents/tag

-orange plastic (Maine)

-Black hard plastic rectangle (NC)

-galvanized wire

Changing funnel of crab trap

5yr Tampa bay/terrapins

Blue Crab advisory board*

Timeline board

2-3 meetings

Derelict trap removal

Fine for above a certain #

Kyle Miller - Recommendations:

Alternatives to BRDS

Adult females

Spatial and temporal solutions- depth, distance from shore

? Change in opening size

Distance from grass shoals

No closed season yet for this fishery

Rolling closed season around the state during which cleanup would happen

(quantify)

Joe Butler: Treasury \$6900 - annual dues \$25 for 80 members

Use \$ some to tax things, other uses? \$200 grants each year – scholarships

Re: grants

2x- \$1000

1x- \$2000

? Multiple grants