

Overview of the Invasive Swamp Eels Summit

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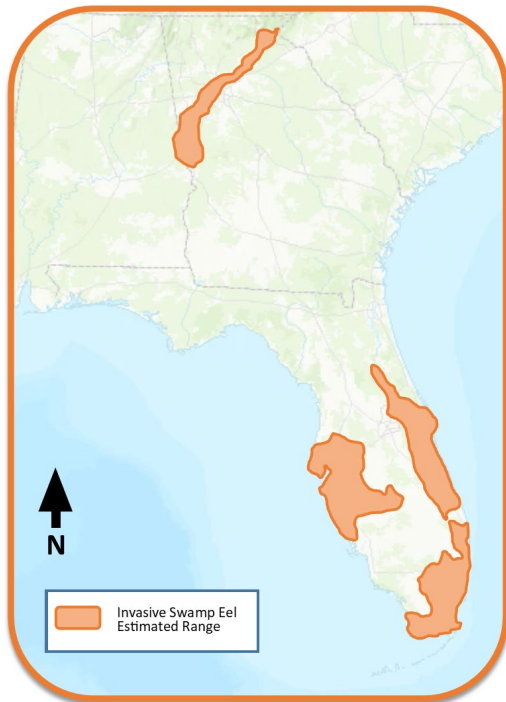




Purpose of Summit

- Too little has been done over the years
- Public is gaining interest
- Over 40 individuals across 15 organizations and agencies

Day 1 - Past and Present




- ▶ Background information of invasive swamp eel
 - ▶ Multiple populations across the US
 - ▶ Commonly released as bait or cultural/religious activity
 - ▶ We took a field trip to see them in store!
- ▶ New findings of concerning ecological cascading impacts from FIU
 - ▶ Potentially, 90% loss of crayfish, 90% loss of two native fish species, and a 60% decline in one of the most abundant fish species that birds rely on for food

Challenges Identified

- ▶ Who isn't in the room?
- ▶ Research Gaps
- ▶ Standardized educational materials and messaging
- ▶ Maintaining Public Interest

Day 2 - Planning for the Future

- ▶ A Day...
 - ▶ Collected new contact info and photos for outreach use
- ▶ A Week...
 - ▶ Build webpage to store resources and inform public
- ▶ A Month...
 - ▶ Facilitate outreach drafts and launch media stories to engage the public
- ▶ A Year...
 - ▶ Begin research projects to fill gaps



Where are we at?

- ▶ Webpage built
- ▶ Outreach drafts (locally and regionally are in development)
- ▶ Media stories are being sold

Conclusion and Next Steps

- ▶ Need to continue to grow the group
- ▶ Aid in more research to help show further impacts
- ▶ Connect to cultural groups
- ▶ Plans to meet again in 2025





▶ Thank you!

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