

Coastal Nongame Conservation Section

Wildlife Resources Division

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Conserve nongame wildlife by implementing species recovery plans, conducting species research and surveys, identifying, protecting and managing critical habitats.



Nongame Conservation

Two primary methods

- Managing recovery programs of species already listed on ESA (Section 6)
- Keeping common species common, **BEFORE** they are listed.
 - SWG
 - Land Acquisition (NAWCA/NCWCG/etc)

Conservation Areas

- **Protect enough of each type of habitat**

- Places for people to enjoy nature
- Places for wildlife to thrive
- Places that provide us natural resources



Georgia's Wildlife Diversity



Georgia ranks 6th in nation in the number of vertebrates, vascular plants and selected invertebrates



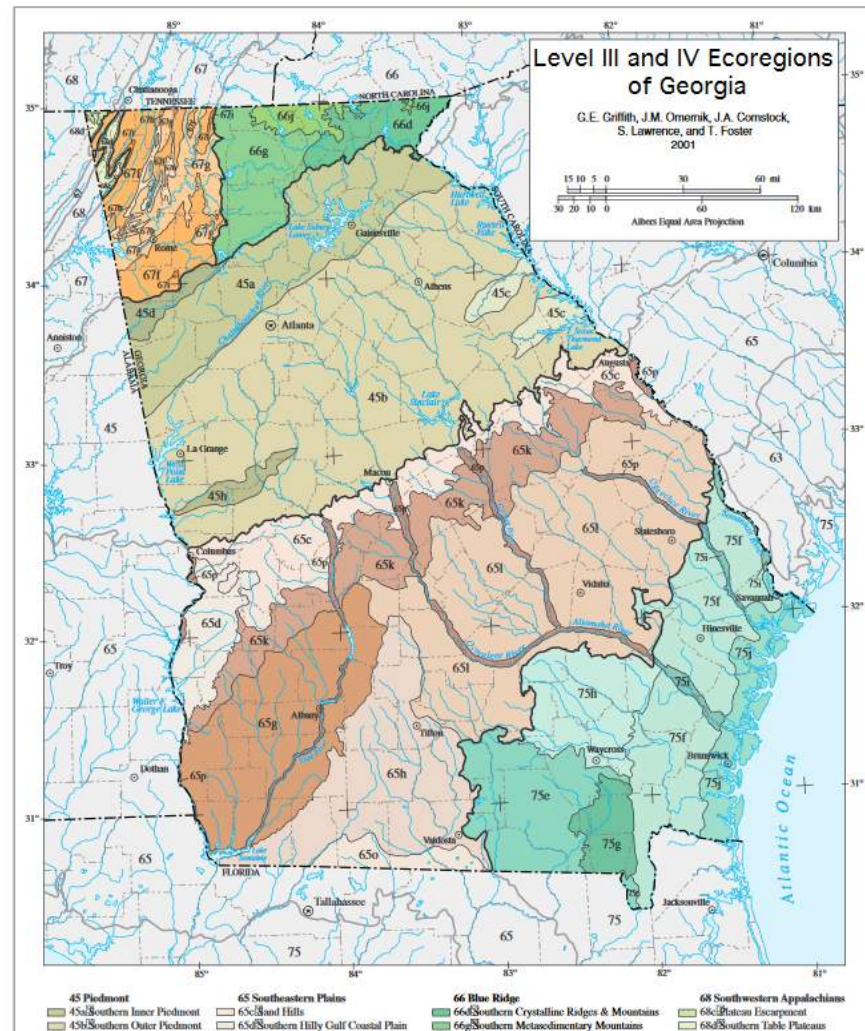
The Altamaha River

Undammed, drains quarter of State, 2nd
largest river on Eastern Seaboard

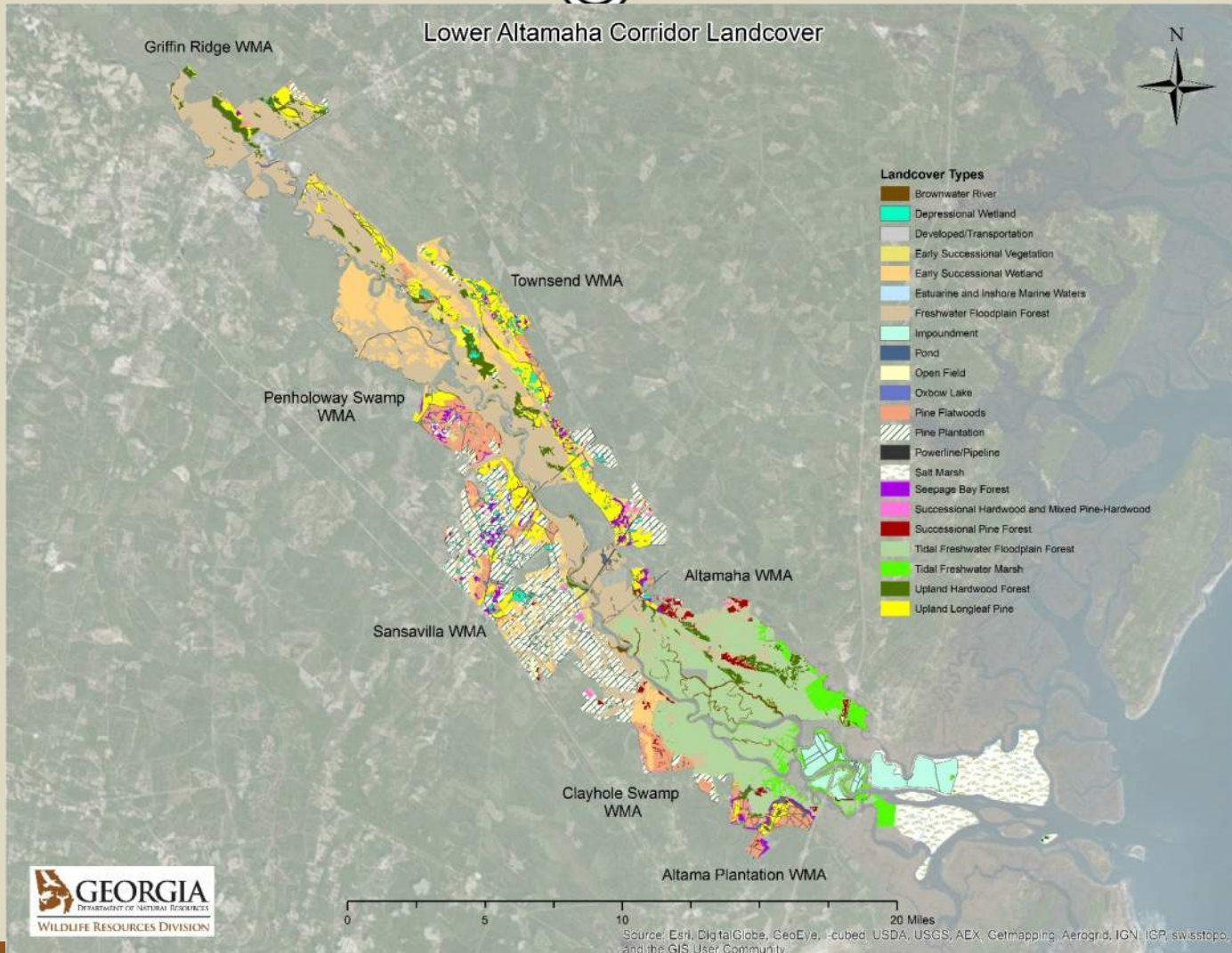
More than 100 rare plants and animals,
and over 50 natural communities

Named one of 75 last great places on
Earth by TNC

Southern Coastal Plain



Habitat map



Habitat map by acres

Gen_type_1	Sum_Acres
Brownwater River	844
Depressional Wetland	2020
Developed/Transportation	1775
Early Successional Vegetation	460
Early Successional Wetland	8135
Estuarine and Inshore Marine Waters	172
Freshwater Floodplain Forest	25932
Impoundment	3104
Man-made Pond	96
Open Field	245
Oxbow Lake	201
Pine Flatwoods	5482
Pine Plantation	11487
Powerline/Pipeline	325
Salt Marsh	6537
Seepage Bay Forest	1449
Successional Hardwood and Mixed Pine-Hardwood	290
Successional Pine Forest	869
Tidal Freshwater Floodplain Forest	16312
Tidal Freshwater Marsh	2565
Upland Hardwood Forest	3350
Upland Longleaf Pine	7064



More than 50 natural communities are found in the area, and two extremely rare plants occur in the Altamaha basin– the endangered hairy rattleweed (*Baptisia arachnifera*) and Radford’s dicerandra (*Dicerandra radfordiana*), an endemic to the Altamaha. The watershed is also home to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), (*Elliptio spinosa*), West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), and 8 rare mussel species, 7 of which are endemic to the Altamaha River watershed. The Altamaha River supports Georgia’s best stocks of anadromous fish including American Shad, endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) and Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*). The watershed provides critical habitat for nesting, breeding and feeding neotropical migratory birds (e.g., vireos, warblers) and colonial water birds (e.g., wood storks, brown pelicans, terns).

100 Rare Plants and Animals



Altamaha Arcmussel
Altamaha Skullcap
Altamaha Spiny mussel
American Oystercatcher
Arrow Arum
Atlantic Sturgeon
Autumn Tiger Beetle
Bachman's Sparrow
Bald Eagle
Barn owl
Bartram's Air-plant
Black-crowned Night-heron
Black-necked Stilt
Black Skimmer
Bluff White Oak
Broad-striped Dwarf Siren
Brown Pelican
Chapman Oak
Ciliate-leaf Tickseed
Climbing Buckthorn
Common Rainbow Snake
Corkwood
Cypress-knee Sedge
Decurrent Beakrush
Delicate Spike
Diamondback Terrapin
Eastern Coral Snake
Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake
Eastern Indigo Snake
Feay's Pink-tassels
Florida Finger Grass
Florida Wild Privet
Franklin Tree
Frosted Flatwoods Salamander
Glossy Ibis
Gopher Frog
Gopher Tortoise
Greenfly Orchid
Gull-billed Tern
Hooded Pitcherplant
Inflated Floater
Island Glass Lizard
Kemp's Ridley
Lax Purple Foxglove
Least Tern
Limpkin
Loggerhead Sea Turtle
MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow
Manatee
Many-lined Salamander



Migrant Loggerhead Shrike
Narrowleaf Obedient Plant
Night-blooming Wild Petunia
Northern Atlantic Right Whale
Northern Yellow Bat
Ochoopee Bumelia
Painted Bunting
Palafoxia
Pine Woods Snake
Pineland Plantain
Piping Plover
Pond Spice
Purple Honeycomb Head
Pyramid Magnolia
Radford's Dicerandra
Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat
Red Knot
Rosemary
Savanna Milkweed
Savannah Lilliput
Say's Spiketail
Sea-beach Knotweed
Seminole Purple Foxglove
Shortnose Sturgeon
Shortspike Bluestem
Shyleaf
Slender Glass Lizard
Snowy Orchid
Southeastern Myotis
Spotted Turtle
Sprawling Goats Rue
St. Johnswort
Sticky Joint-vetch
Swainson's Warbler
Swallow-tailed Kite
Swamp Hibiscus
Swamp Post Oak
Swamp White Ash
Swampfish
Trailing Bean-vine
Trailing Milkvine
Tri-colored Bat
Velvet Sedge
Whisk Fern
White Milkwort
White Spikerush
Wild Yellow Cowpea
Wilson's Plover
Wood Stork
Yellow-crowned Night-heron
Yellow Flytrap



Sansavilla Species of Concern

Greenfly Orchid
Bluff White Oak
Pineland Plantain
Corkwood
Pineland Purple Foxglove
Hooded Pitcherplant
Cypress-knee Sedge
Bartram's Air-plant
Swamp-forest Beaksedge
Floodplain Tickseed

Bachman's Sparrow
Swainson's Warbler
Swallow-tailed Kite
Wood Stork
Bald Eagle

Gopher Tortoise
Eastern Indigo Snake
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

Savannah Lilliput
Inflated Floater
Delicate Spike
Altamaha Spiny mussel

Shortnose Sturgeon
Atlantic Sturgeon

Upland



Upland Longleaf and Sandhills scrub— Plant Life

- Longleaf Pine
- Sand Post oak
- Turkey Oak
- Wiregrass



Rare Species

- Radford's mint



Diverse as tropical rainforest
Formerly 90 million acres
Now 1.3 Million

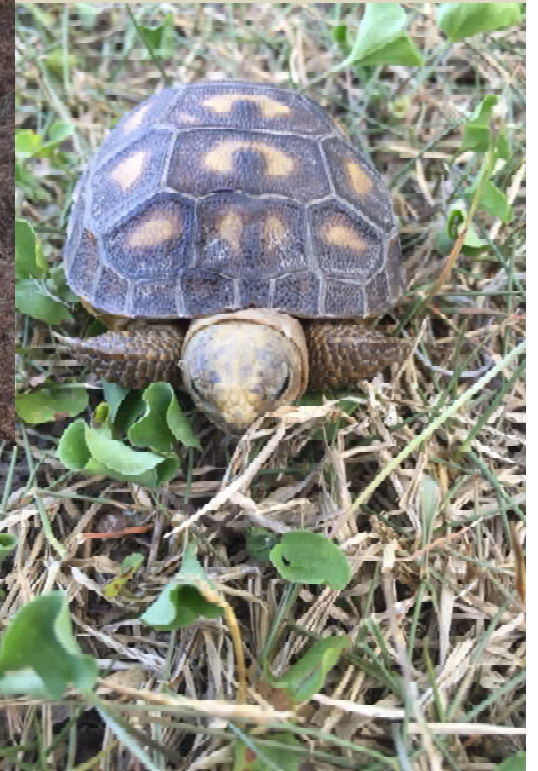


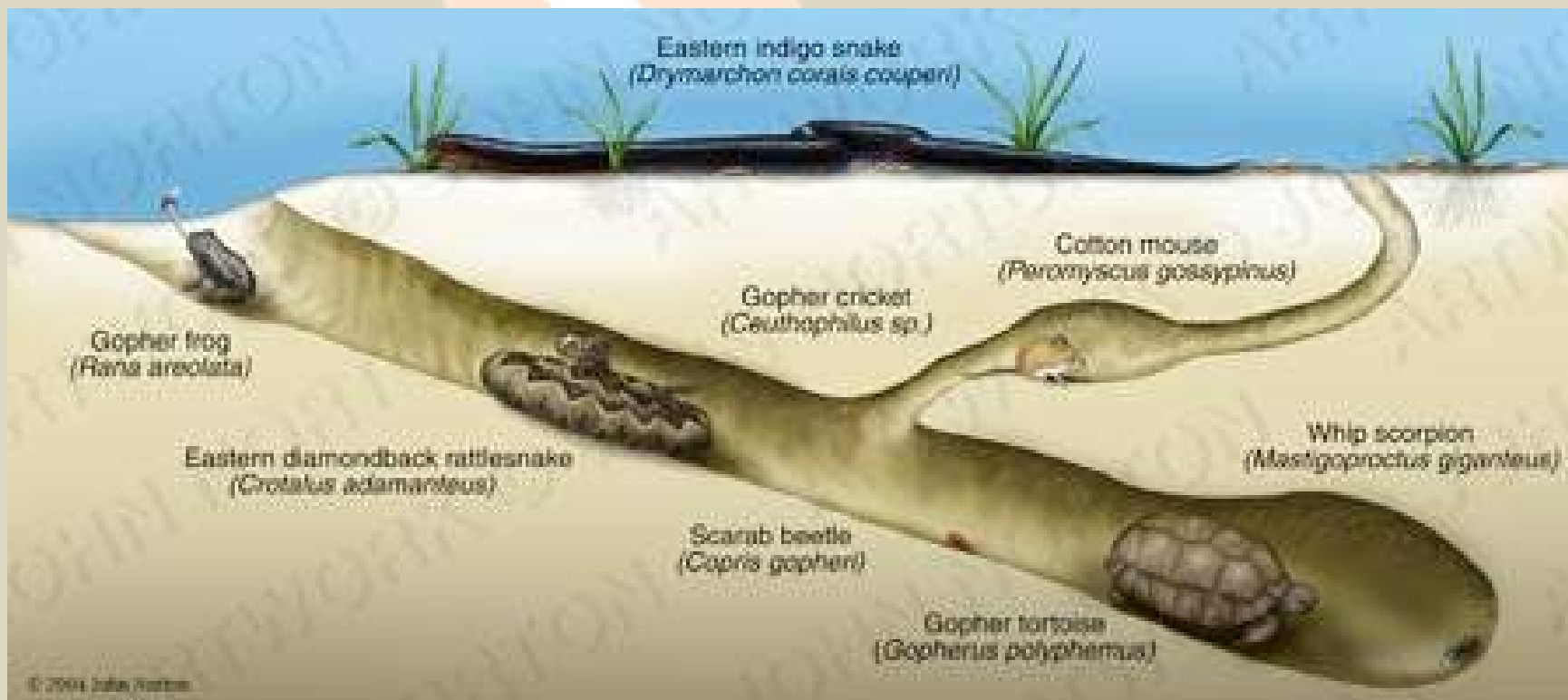
Upland



Upland

1800 currently
Lower Altamaha





Upland Bachman's Sparrow



Flatwoods – Plant Life

- Slash Pine
- Pond Pine
- Longleaf pine
- Gallberry
- Saw Palmetto



Rare Species

- Showy Orchid
- Hooded Pitcher plant



Bottomland



Bottomland Hardwood Forest – Plant Life

Common Species

- Diamondleaf oak
- Overcup oak
- Water hickory
- Willow oak



Rare species

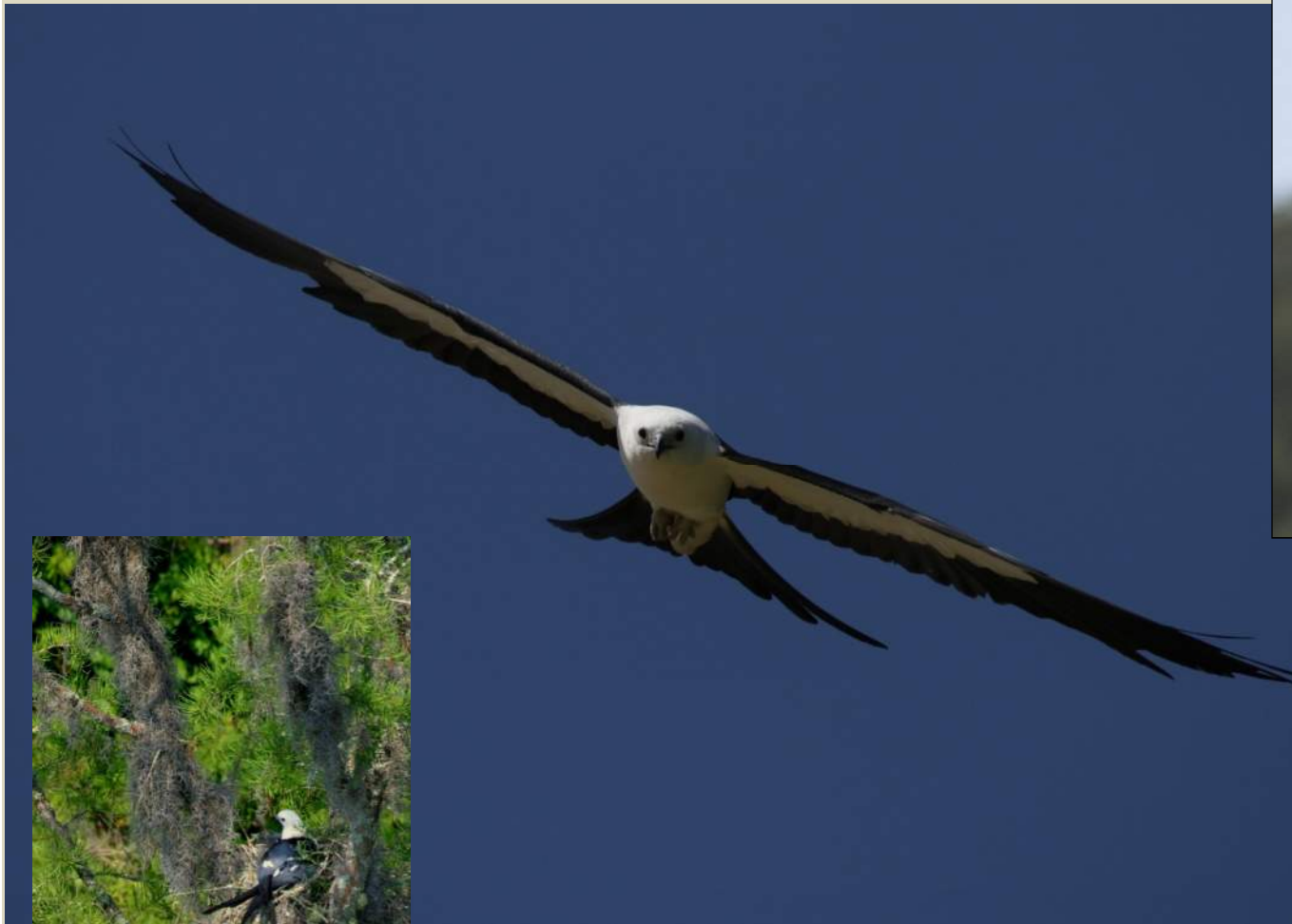
- Fringe-leaf Tickseed



Ogeechee Lime



Bottomland



Bottomland

prothonotary warbler





Osprey





Riverine

Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon



Rainbow Snake



Riverine



Various Species



Altamaha Spiny mussel



Pygandon gibbosa – Inflated Floater

Riverine



Loggerhead musk



© D Stevenson

Spiny softshell



Spotted turtle

Tidewater



Tidal Hardwood Forest – Plant Life

Common Species

- Bald cypress
- Swamp Tupelo
- Water Tupelo



Rare species

- Greenfly orchid





Wading Birds



Great
Egret



Green
Heron



Glossy
Ibis





White ibis





Estuary

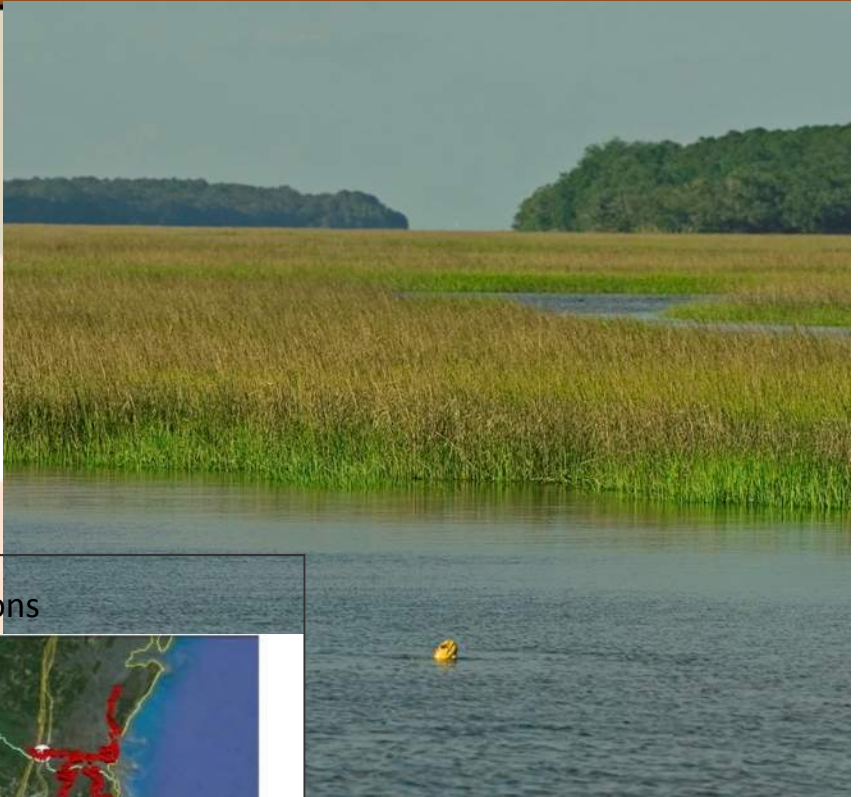
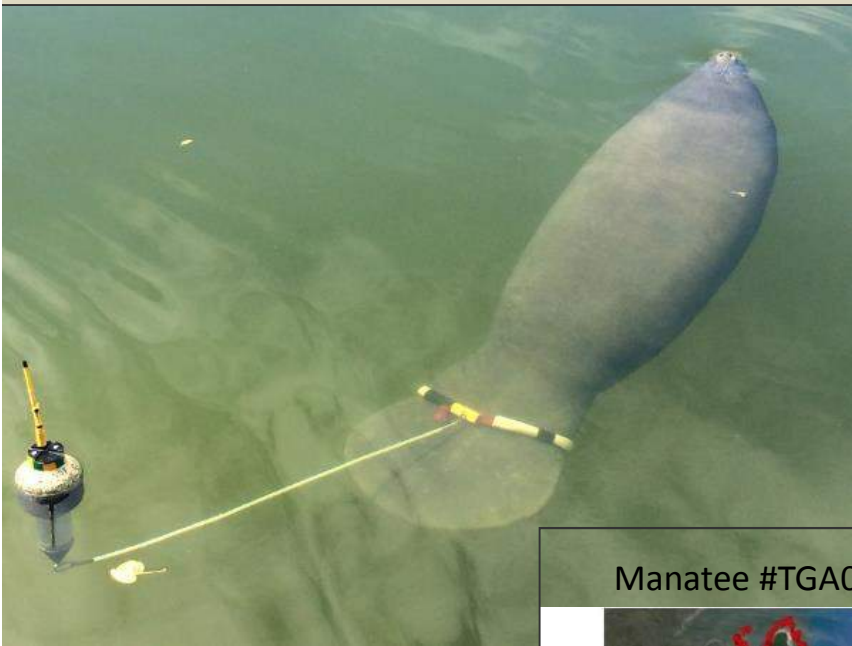


Estuarine Plant Life

- Salt Meadow Cordgrass – dominates
- Black needle Rush
- Sea oxeye daisy
- Glassworts



Estuary



Manatee #TGA011 GPS Positions



June 2015



July 2015



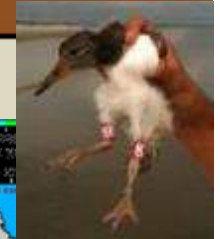
Roseate Spoonbill



Wood Stork



Shorebirds



Least Tern feeding chick



American Oystercatcher

Red knot, ruddy turnstone and sanderling



Maritime Forests

- Live Oak
- Sabal Palmetto
- Saw palmetto
- Yaupon holly
- Spanish Moss



Rare Species

- Florida privet



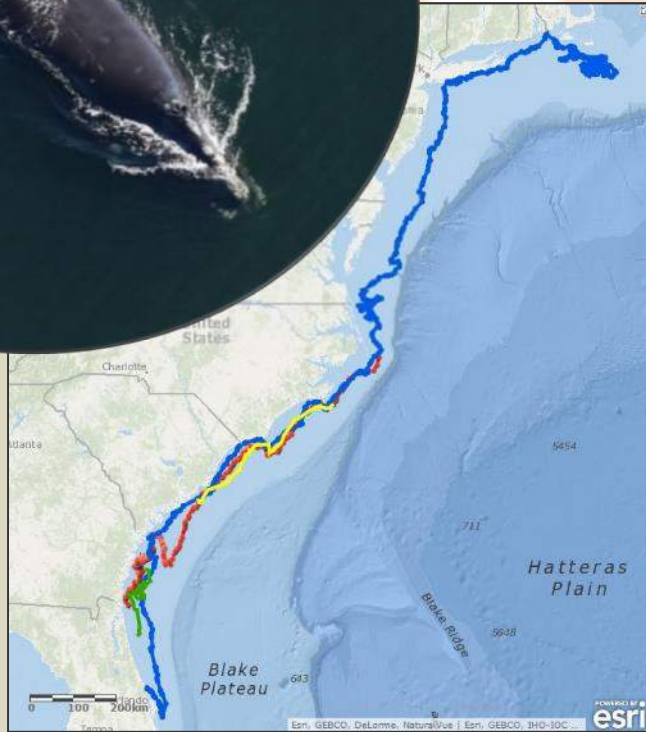
Maritime Upland



Painted Bunting



Marine



Questions?





Altamaha Fish

- American Eel
- American Shad
- Atlantic Sturgeon
- Largemouth Bass
- Black Crappie
- Blueback Herring
- Bowfin
- Carp
- Florida Gar
- Gizzard Shad
- Hickory Shad
- Hog Choker
- Hybrid Striped Bass
- Longnose Gar
- Shortnose Sturgeon
- Striped Bass
- White Catfish



