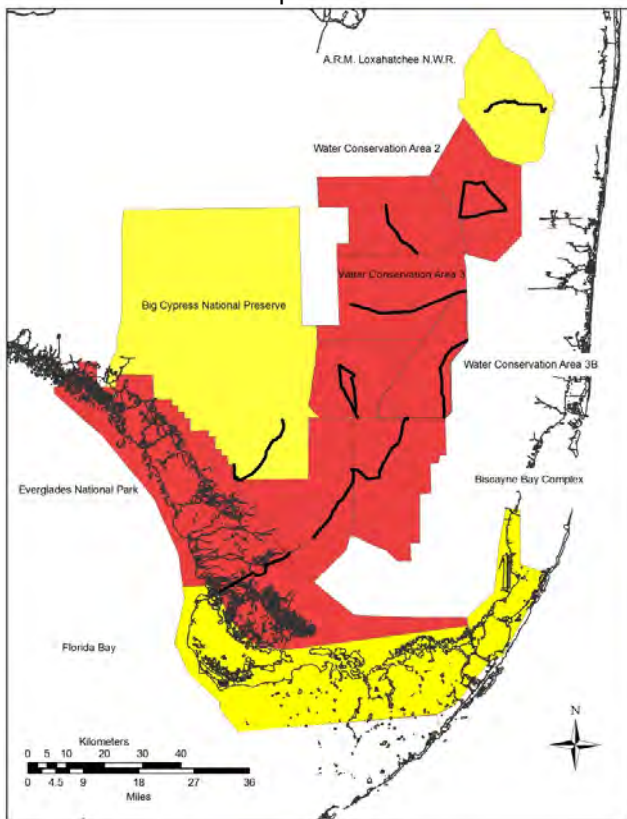


Crocodylians (Alligators & Crocodiles)

Summary Findings

On the whole, alligator and crocodile status remained constant during 2009, with only one area (Big Cypress National Preserve) showing an increase in status compared to previous years. However, the majority of locations show substantial deviations from restoration targets; therefore restoration actions are merited. Status of alligators and crocodiles are expected to improve if hydrologic conditions are restored to more natural patterns.



Key Findings

1. Alligator overall status at the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is the highest in south Florida.
2. Overall status of alligators throughout the Water Conservation Areas is substantially below restoration targets and requires action in order to meet restoration goals.
3. Overall status of alligators throughout ENP is below restoration targets and requires action to meet restoration goals.
4. Growth and survival components for crocodiles, while below restoration targets, appear stable at this time and are expected to improve with restoration of timing and amount of freshwater flow to estuaries.
5. Restoration of patterns of depth and period of inundation and water flow is essential to improving performance of alligators in interior freshwater wetlands.
6. Restoration of patterns of freshwater flow to estuaries will improve conditions for alligators and crocodiles.
7. Continued monitoring of alligators and crocodiles will provide an indication of ecological responses to ecosystem restoration.

Map on left depicts the Greater Everglades with stoplight ratings by region.

Zone/ Performance Measure	LAST STATUS	CUR- RENT STATUS	2-YEAR PROS- PECTS	CURRENT STATUS	2-YEAR PROSPECTS
American Crocodile					
Everglades Na- tional Park				Juvenile growth (component score = 0.5) and survival (component score = 0.5) combined for a location score of 0.5 and so current conditions do not meet restoration criteria.	Everglades National Park management objectives will play a direct role in determining success here. If conditions remain constant, prognosis for the future will be stable.
Biscayne Bay Complex				Juvenile survival (component score=0.5) does not meet restoration criteria. Data are not currently available to calculate juvenile growth.	Management objectives play an important part in determining success here. If conditions remain constant for survival, prognosis for the future will be stable for this component.

Crocodilians (Alligators & Crocodiles)

Zone/ Performance Measure	LAST STATUS	CUR- RENT STATUS	2-YEAR PROS- PECTS	CURRENT STATUS	2-YEAR PROSPECTS
American Alligator					
A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge				Relative density (component score = 0.67) and body condition (component score = 0.5) combined for a location score of 0.59 and so current conditions do not meet restoration criteria, signifying that this area needs further attention.	A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and management objectives play an important part in determining success here. If conditions remain constant, prognosis for the future will be stable.
Water Conservation Area 2A				Relative density (component score = 0) and body condition (component score = 0.5) combined for a location score of 0.25 and so current conditions are below restoration criteria.	With the stable body condition and low relative density of alligators observed here, status will remain substantially below restoration objectives.
Water Conservation Area 3A				Relative density in two of the three locations within WCA-3A is low (northern and central areas) and higher (yellow) in the southern area; body condition scores are yellow in all three areas. The combined score of both components for the overall area is 0.39, which is well below restoration criteria.	The southern area of WCA-3A has the highest status (yellow), and can be used as a reference for conditions in the northern and central areas (both currently red).
Water Conservation Area 3B				Relative density (component score = 0.17) and body condition (component score = 0.5) combined for a location score of 0.34 and so current conditions are below restoration criteria.	With the stable body condition and low relative density of alligators observed here, status will remain substantially below restoration objectives.
Everglades National Park				Relative density in all three locations within ENP is low (red). Body condition is higher (yellow) in Shark Slough, northeast Shark Slough and estuarine areas. The combined score of these two components for the overall area, and alligator hole occupancy in the inaccessible areas, is 0.37, which is well below restoration criteria.	Everglades National Park management objectives will play a direct role in determining success here. If conditions remain as they currently are, restoration goals will not be met.
Big Cypress National Preserve				Relative density (component score = 0.17) and body condition (component score = 0.67) combined for a location score of 0.42 and so current conditions do not meet restoration criteria. The change in status reflects availability of data to detect trends.	Big Cypress National Preserve management objectives will play a direct role in determining success here. If conditions remain constant, prognosis for the future will be stable.

The Last Status column reflects data prior to and inclusive of calendar year 2006.

The Current Status column reflects data inclusive of calendar years 2005-2009.

The 2-Year Prospects column is based on the following assumption: there will be no changes in water management from the date of the current status assessment.