



Long Term Monitoring of Florida's
Important Freshwater Sport fisheries

What is the objective of the program?

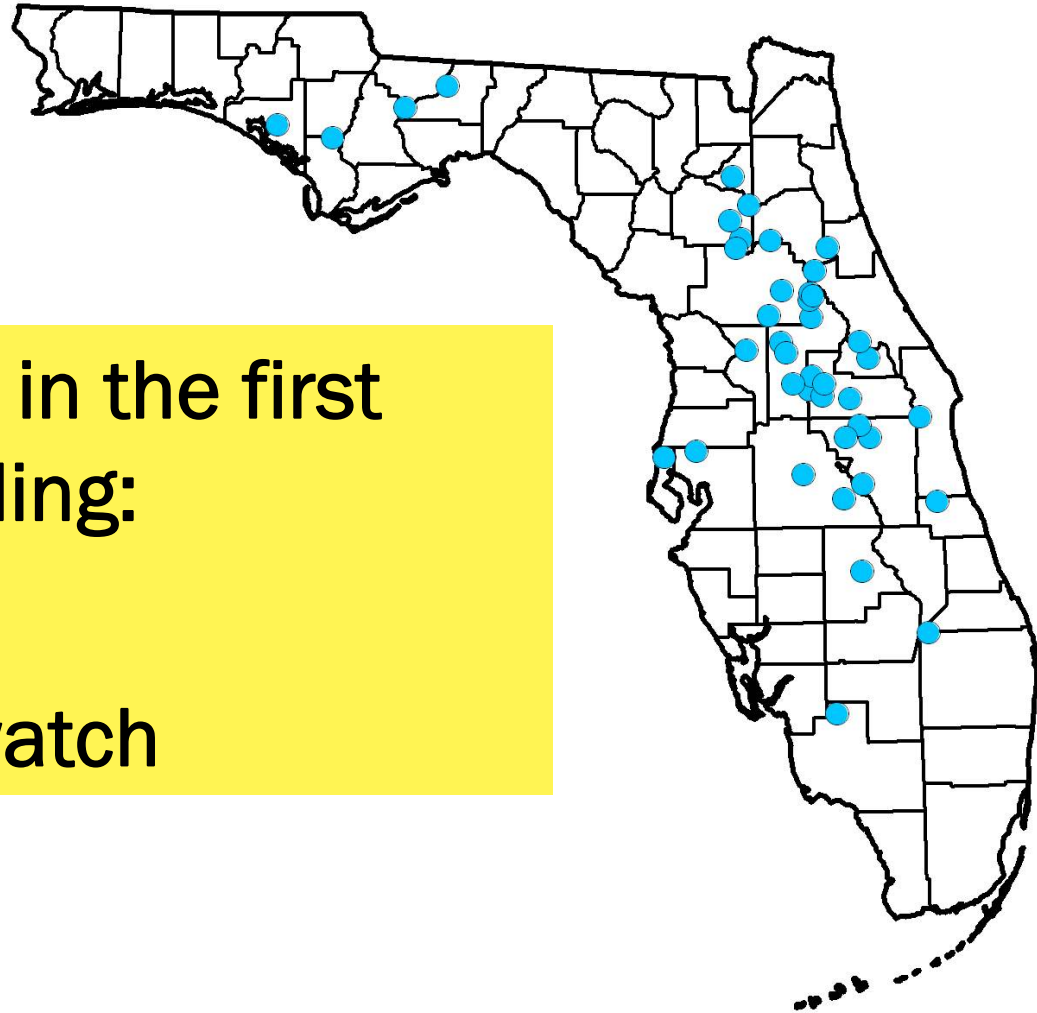
FWC fisheries managers compiled a list of long-term monitoring (LTM) water bodies that were deemed important in terms of their size, sport fisheries, location and/or issues related to population growth or competing natural resource uses. In addition to these systems, other lakes with varying trophic state and macrophyte abundance levels were also included to gain a better understanding of freshwater fisheries throughout the State. These lakes are part of the existing Florida LAKEWATCH (LW) program, which is based at the University of Florida's (UF) Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences



Which lakes are included?

52 Total lakes in the first years of sampling:

- 30 LTM
- 22 FL Lakewatch



Sample Types

- Fisheries Independent data (FWC/UF)
- Fisheries Dependent data (FWC)
- Water Quality on selected lakes (FLW)
- Plant coverage/volume on selected lakes (FLW)



Fisheries Independent Samples

- Electrofishing – Fall for littoral community & Spring for LMB
- Gill Nets
- Trawls – selected lakes
- Throw traps



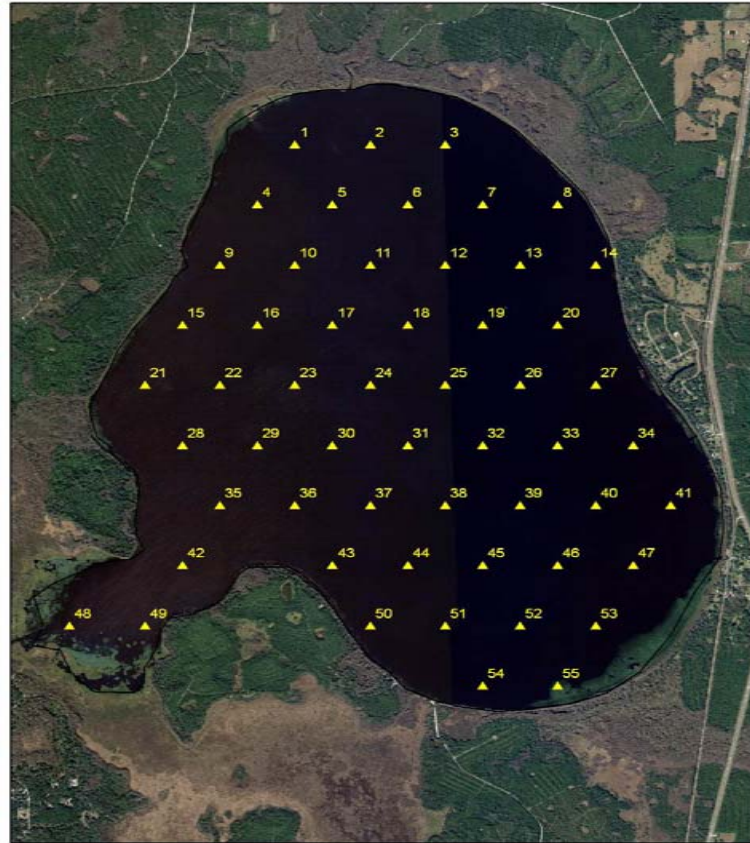
Electrofishing Protocol

- Randomized collection
- Standard procedures



Open Water Sample Protocol

- Random Grid selection
- Standard procedures



What are we doing with the data?

- Community and trend analysis through time
- Working to create a functional database
- Considering how to make these data available to the scientific community and public (Water Atlas Model?)

