

# PROGRESS REPORT ON FWC, STATE, FEDERAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR EXOTIC/INVASIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES

(Background Report - May 17, 2005)

## KEY SPECIES

- ▶ Sea lamprey (1921) migrated into Great Lakes via man-made canals, greatly impacting native fish populations. Preceded concept of invasive species.
- ▶ Zebra mussel introduced into Great Lakes in 1988 via shipping; serious impacts to power plants, with potential impacts to native fish, wildlife and invertebrates.

## FLORIDA HISTORY

- ▶ Non-Native Fish Laboratory established in 1966 in Boca Raton to study exotic freshwater fish
- ▶ Wildlife Inspections section created in 1973 as prevention arm, with emphasis on captive wildlife and pet trade
- ▶ 68A-23.008: restricted or prohibited non-native aquatic species (1979); prior rule from 1972
- ▶ 68A-6: restricted categories of exotic captive wildlife (1979)
- ▶ 370.081, F.S.: prohibited marine species (1971)

## FEDERAL ACTION

- ▶ Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA)
  - ▶ Reauthorized as National Invasive Species Act (1996)
  - ▶ Currently up for reauthorization as National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (since 2003)
- ▶ NANPCA authorized Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)
  - ▶ ANSTF oversees regional panels representing federal, state and local interests; specifically, Florida is represented on the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (2002)
- ▶ South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Working Group has authorized task teams to deal with exotic plants and animals
  - ▶ FWC represented on Florida Invasive Animal Task Team (2003)

## FLORIDA ACTION

- ▶ Pest Exclusion Advisory Committee (1999)
- ▶ Governor Bush encouraged state agencies to develop a coordinated plan to “manage and prevent biological invasions” (2000)
- ▶ Invasive Species Working Group created (2003)
  - ▶ Subworking groups for risk assessment, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, education and information

## FWC ACTION

- ▶ Exotic Species Coordination Section (2004)
  - ▶ Exotic freshwater fish assessment
  - ▶ Data management
  - ▶ Education and outreach
  - ▶ Coordination with other FWC divisions
- ▶ Exotic Species Standing Issue Team (2004)
  - ▶ Consider proposed species introductions
  - ▶ Review Restricted and Prohibited Species. Including proposed species
  - ▶ Recommend agency exotic species priorities and policies
- ▶ Status
  - ▶ Draft agency position under review
  - ▶ Rule consolidation under review
  - ▶ Exotic Freshwater Fish Poster in construction (WFF grant)

- ▶ Exotic Pet Amnesty Project in planning (WFF grant)
- ▶ Exotic species facilitator training incorporated into Project WILD