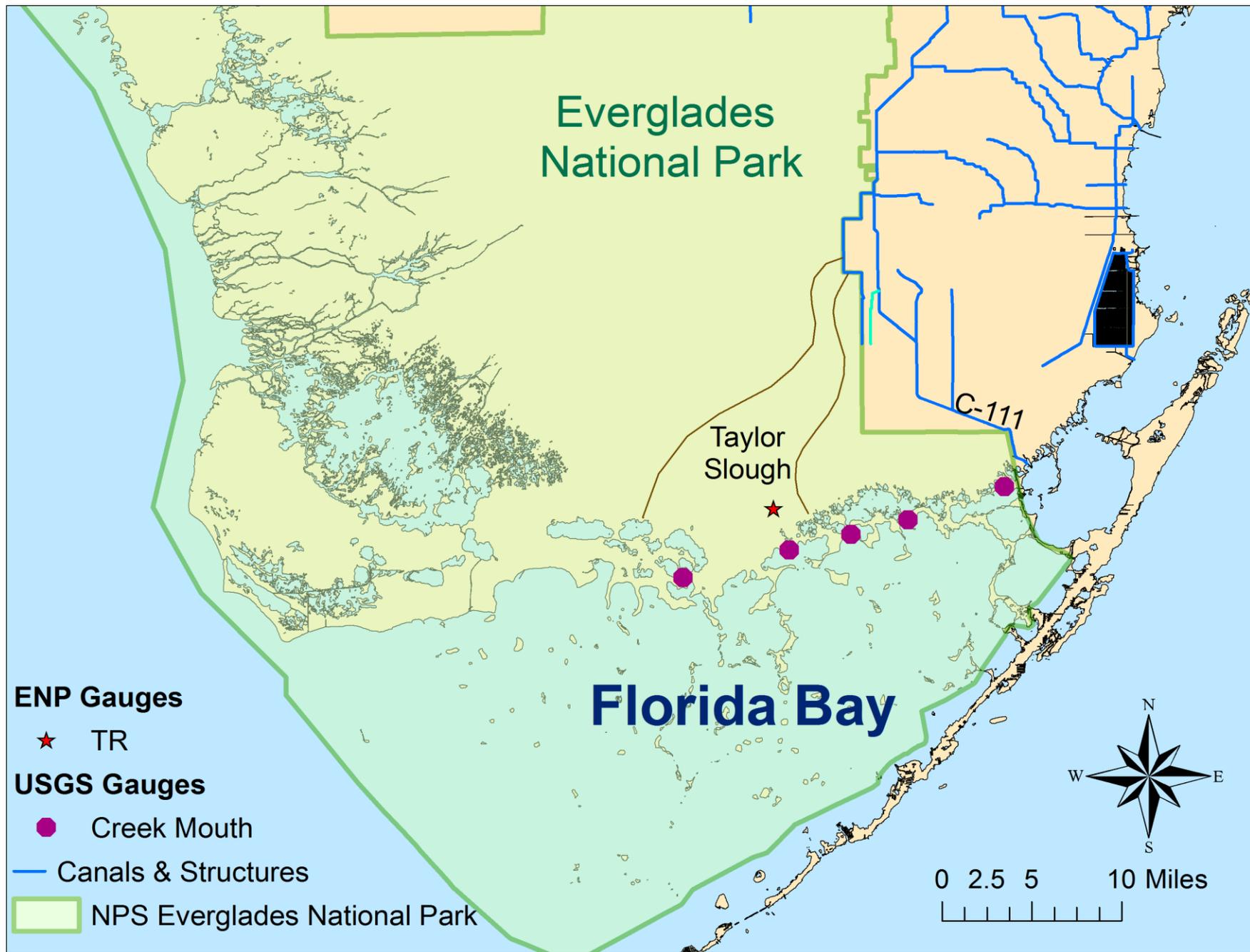


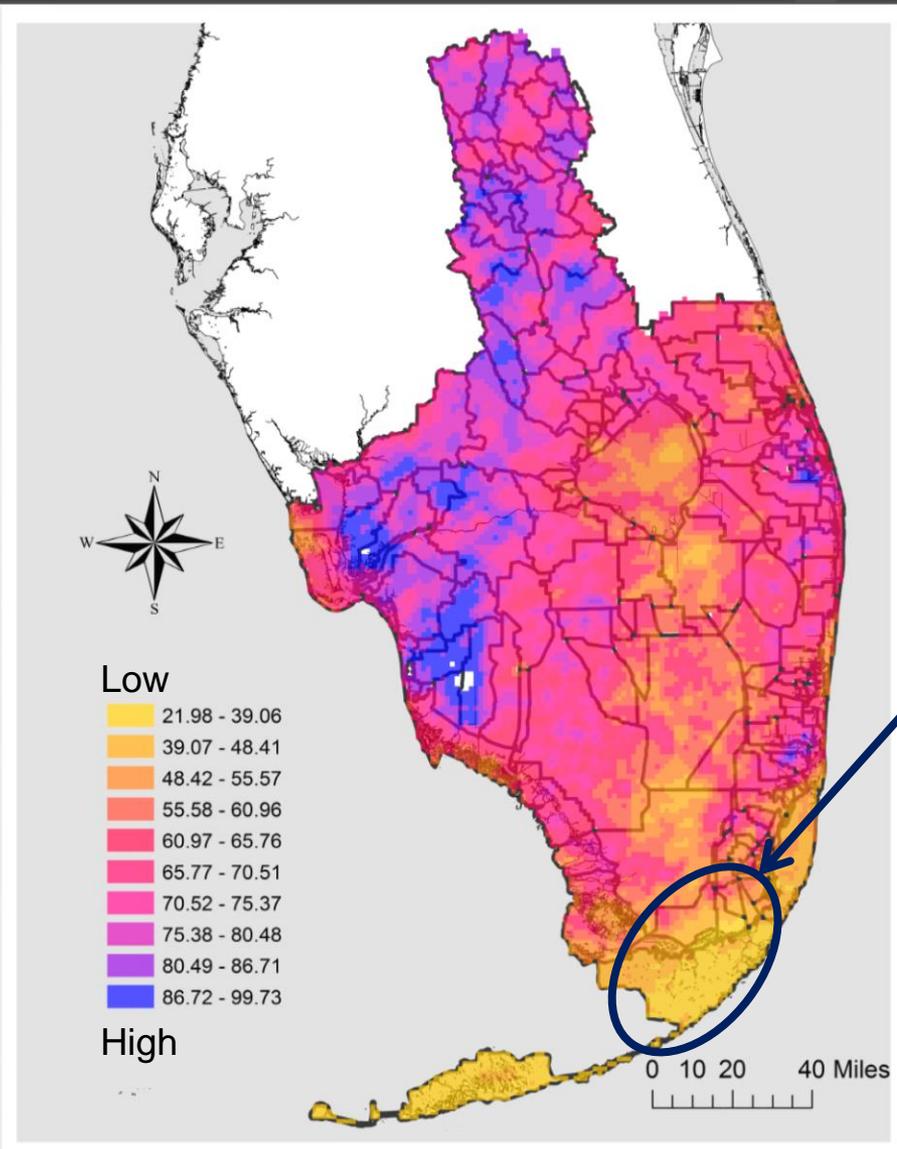


## **Florida Bay Current Conditions: Another Perfect Storm?**

Fred H. Sklar, Ph.D., Section Administrator  
Everglades Systems Assessment  
September 3, 2015



# District Rainfall Distribution WY15 & WY16

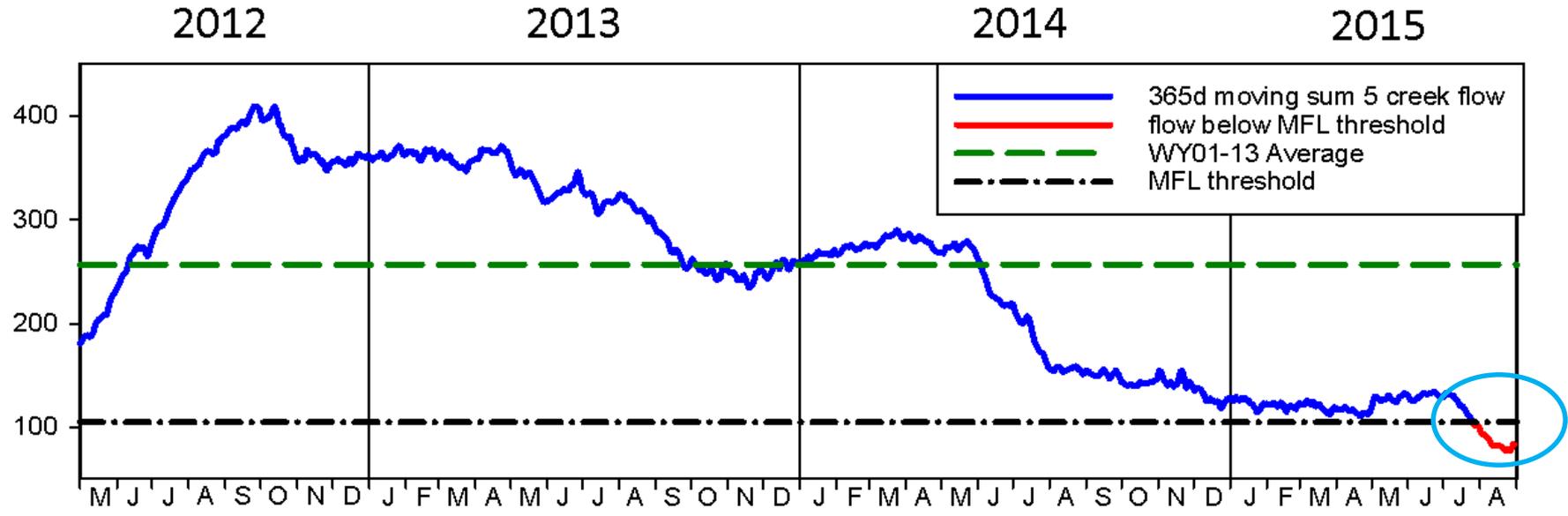


Radar estimated total rainfall from May 2014 through August 2015 show that

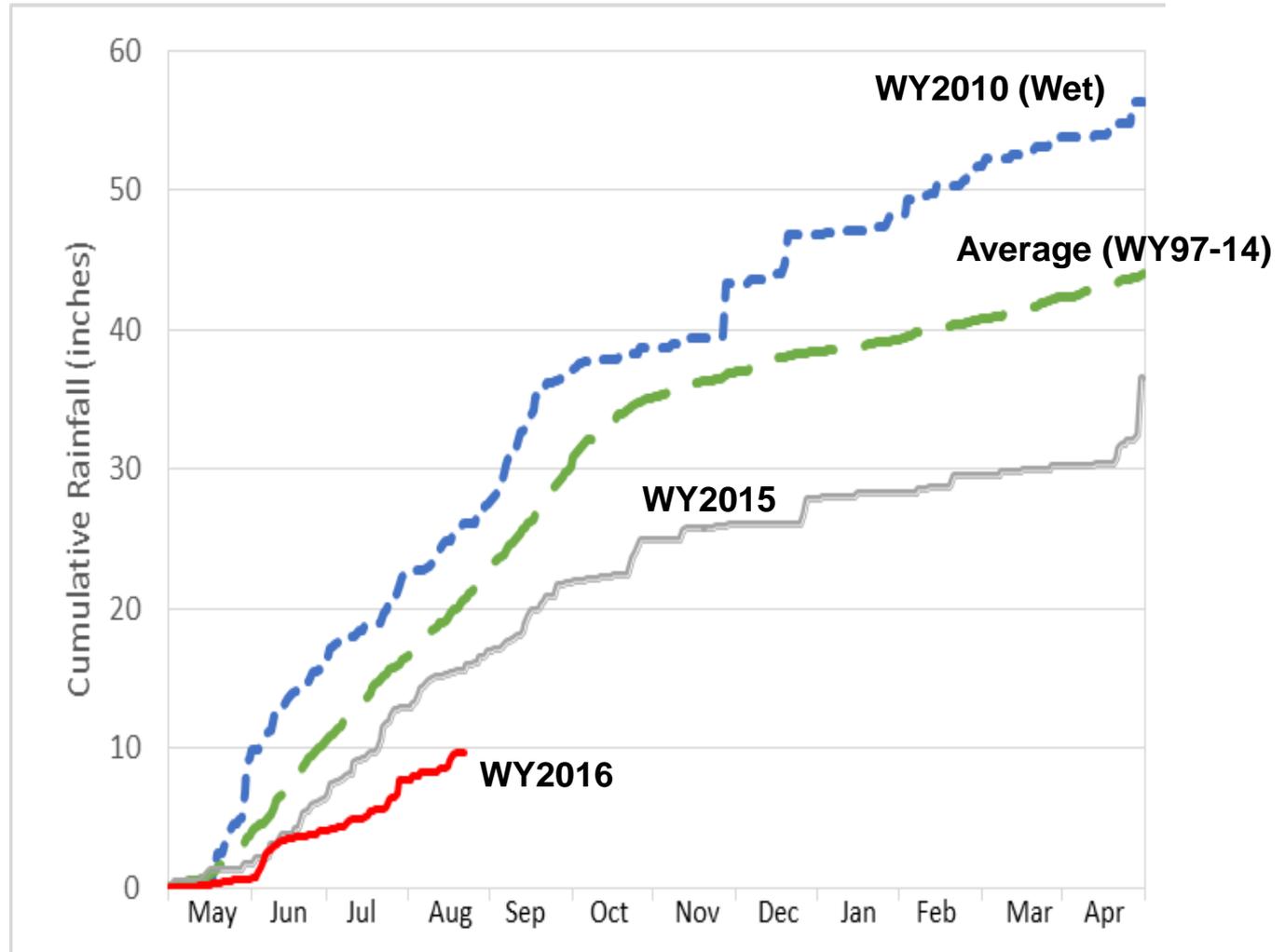
Taylor Slough and Florida Bay

received the lowest amounts of rainfall (25-35 in) compared to the rest of the SFWMD (80-90 in)

365 day moving sum of 5 creek flow  
(x 1000 acre-feet)

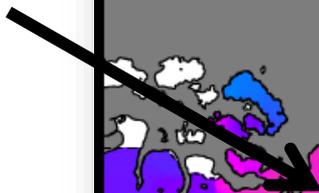


# Rainfall Deficit

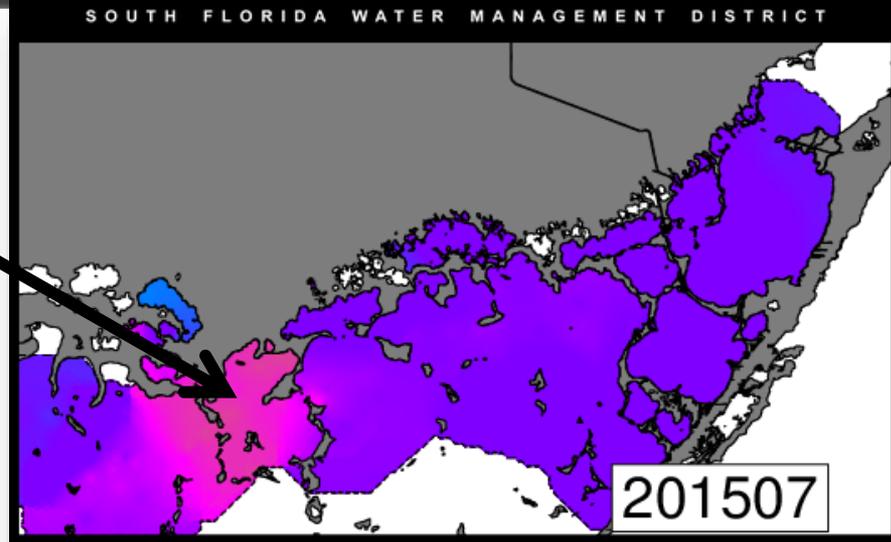


# Mapping Florida Bay Salinity

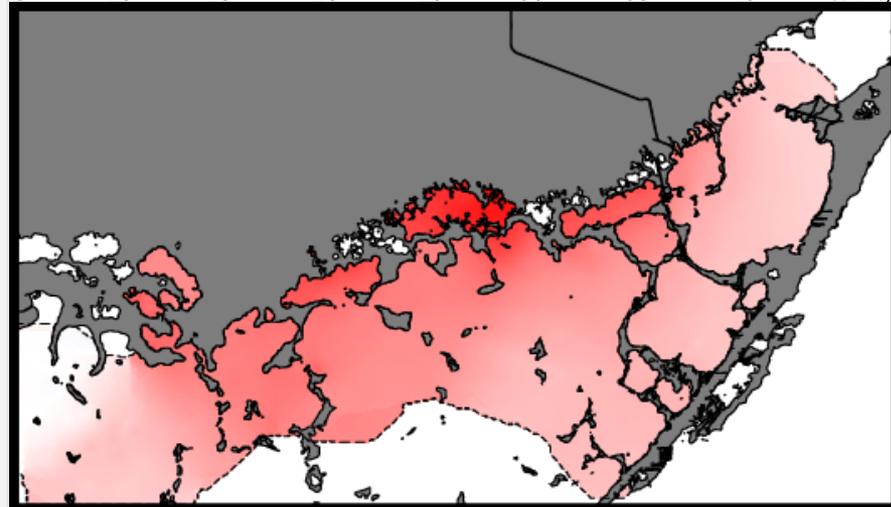
> 50 Practical Salinity Units (psu)



Late July 2015



Difference from 2006 – 2014 Average (Jun – Aug)



# Current Ecological Conditions in Florida Bay

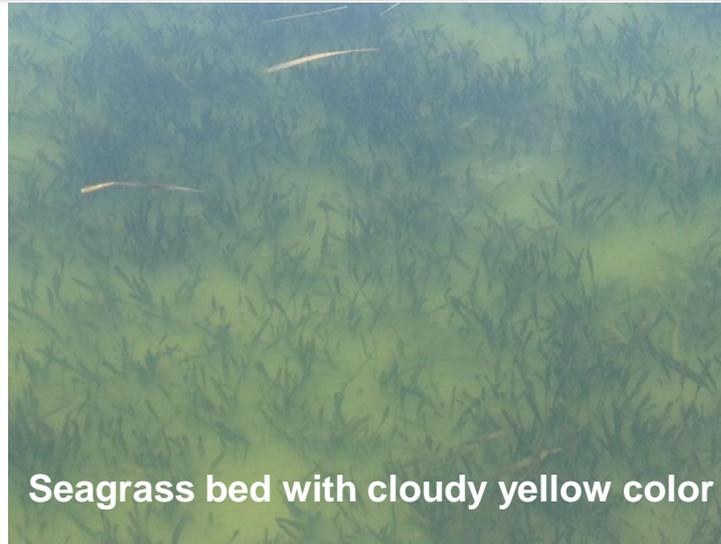


- Distinct patches of dead seagrass
- Little to no SAV in the mangrove creeks

Large floating rafts of dead seagrass - not typical in the bay



# Current Ecological Conditions in Florida Bay



Seagrass bed with cloudy yellow color

Central Florida Bay "yellow fog" is currently under investigation



Live Seagrass

Standing Dead Seagrass

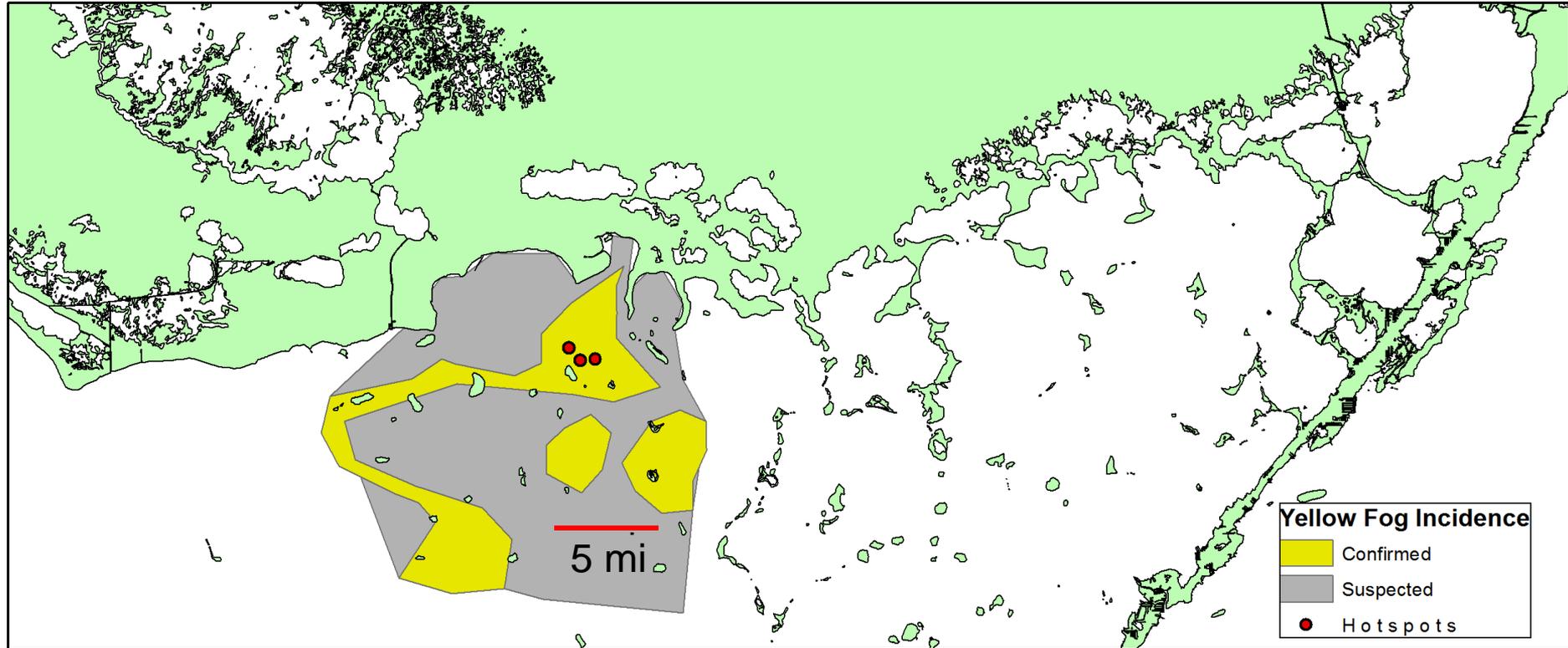


ENP and FWC have collected samples



Not present in surface waters

# Location of Yellow Fog



# The "Perfect Storm" Cascade Hypothesis

**Low Flow, High Salinity, High Temperature = Increased SAV mortality**

Decomposing SAV removes oxygen

Low oxygen conditions increase sulfide production

High sulfide concentrations + anoxia kills SAV

Decomposing SAV releases nutrients

Nutrient release leads to algal bloom

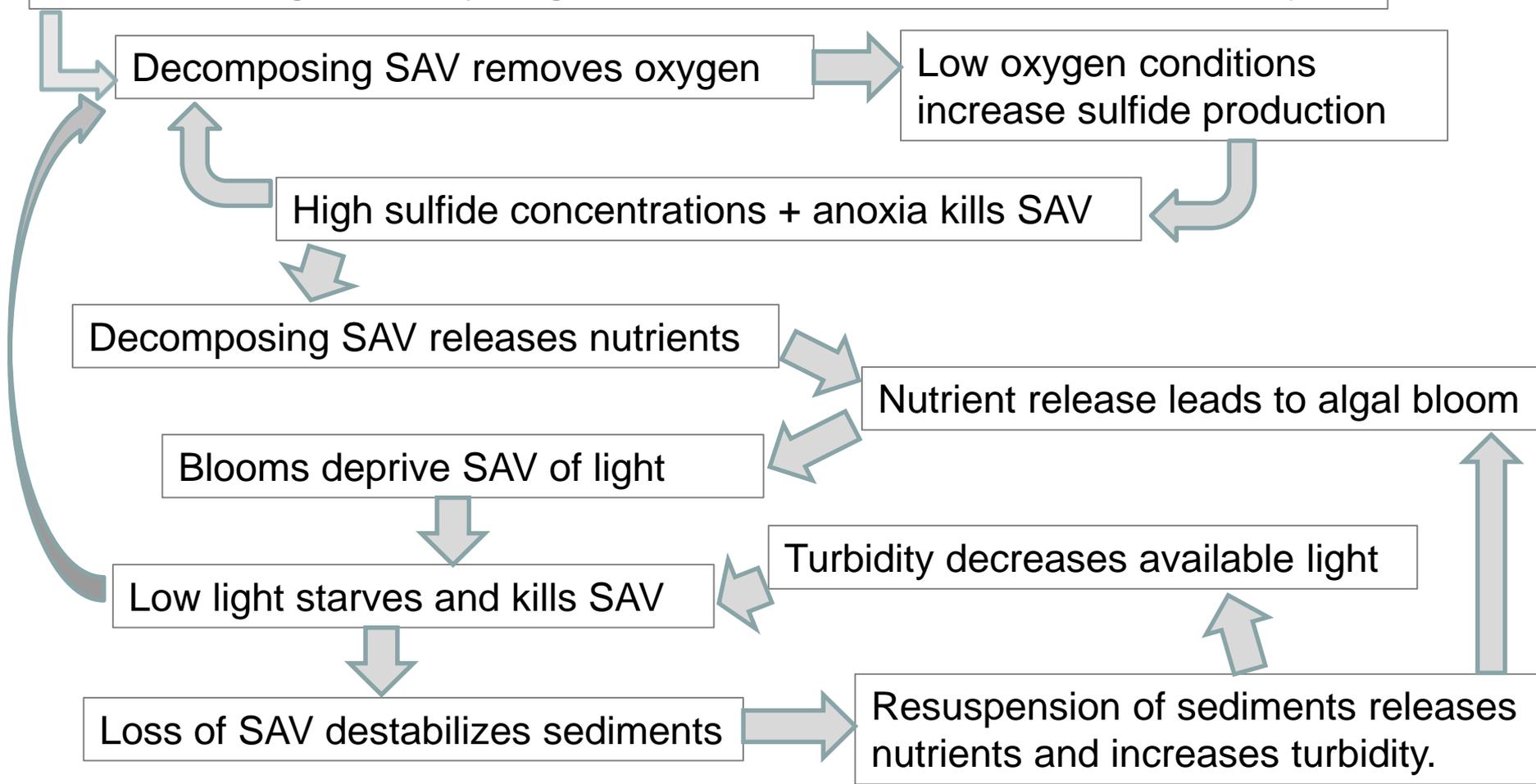
Blooms deprive SAV of light

Turbidity decreases available light

Low light starves and kills SAV

Loss of SAV destabilizes sediments

Resuspension of sediments releases nutrients and increases turbidity.



# Getting Water to Florida Bay

## ModWater

- One Mile Bridge
- S-356 Pump Station
- 8.5 Square Mile Flood Mitigation
- Increment 1 Field Test- ready to operate

## C-111 West Spreader Canal Project

- Frog Pond Detention Area-S-200 pump station
- Aerojet Canal Extension S-199 pump station

## Tamiami Trail Next Steps- 2.6 Mile Bridge

- FDOT and ENP- advertising for Design-Build

## C-111 South Dade

- S-332 pump stations
- Detention areas
- Taylor Slough Bridge
- Degrading southern C-111 Levee
- Northern Detention - Contract 8 FY16 construction



At this point in the drought, water management operations cannot solve the problem in the short term, but what about longer term?