



**CESU Final Report Summary for  
Aquatic Fauna Forage Base in the Big Cypress Region**  
*W912HZ-09-2-0020*

<p><b>Purpose:</b> Establish pre-Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) reference state including variability for each of the performance measures; determine the status and trends in the performance measures; detect unexpected responses of the ecosystem to changes in stressors resulting from CERP activities; and support scientific investigations designed to increase ecosystem understanding, cause-and-effect, and interpret unanticipated results.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Big Cypress Region, Florida</p>
<p><b>Methods:</b> Begin a long-term aquatic fauna monitoring program with the express intent of evaluating the impact of CERP activities on the BCR; collect quantitative baseline data on fish and macroinvertebrate communities in BCR cypress forests; describe spatial and temporal variation in BCR aquatic fauna communities and the role of hydrology in influencing these dynamics. Sampling will be conducted 5 times during hydrologic year using throw traps. Quarterly status and annual reports, along with a biennial Assessment Team System Status Report will be prepared.</p>
<p><b>Results:</b> Evaluate ability to detect change, establish reference condition, measure change from reference condition, annual integration of performance measures to evaluate module hypotheses, and system-wide performance evaluation. During July 2009-March 2010, 207 samples were taken at 3 sites. 5 years of sampling data included periods of drought. Variation in standing stocks of macroinvertebrates, fish and amphibians were demonstrated in both spatial and intra- and inter-annual temporal scales. Increased water delivery to the region will increase wetland hydroperiod and the spatial extent of inundation.</p>
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