

# A SPATIAL COMPARISON APPROACH FOR MULTIPLE INDICATOR SPECIES UNDER EVERGLADES RESTORATION



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# EVERGLADES IMPACTED BY MULTIPLE THREATS

Changes in regional hydrology  
Compartmentalization  
– canals & levees  
Reduction by 50% →

←  
Pollution,  
particularly,  
phosphorus

Soil loss  
Invasive species  
Climate change & sea level rise

**Everglades restoration is complex!**

Billions of dollars, Long time scales,  
Multiple Stakeholders

# Everglades Indicator Species help gauge restoration responses

Abundance and diversity of native  
plants and animals



Health and Integrity of ecosystems



Restoration success





Snail Kites  
Apple snail



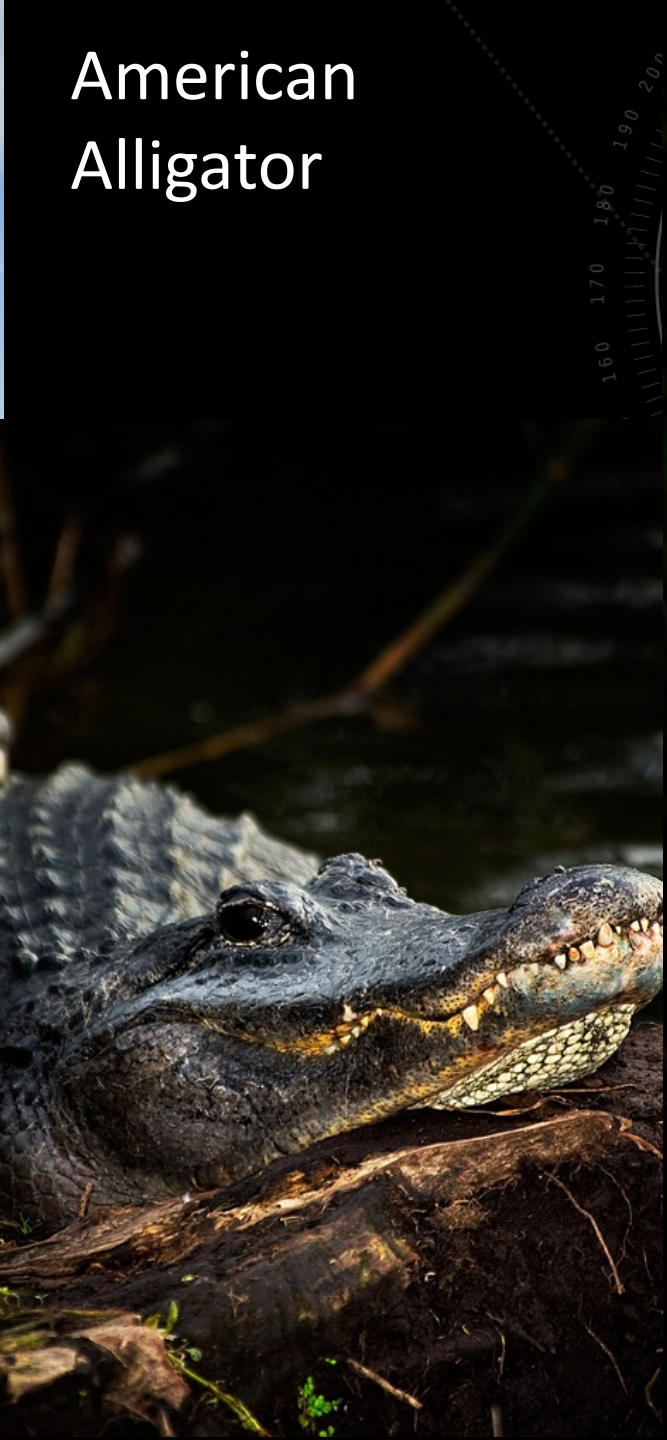
Marl Prairie



Open Marsh



American  
Alligator



Great egret

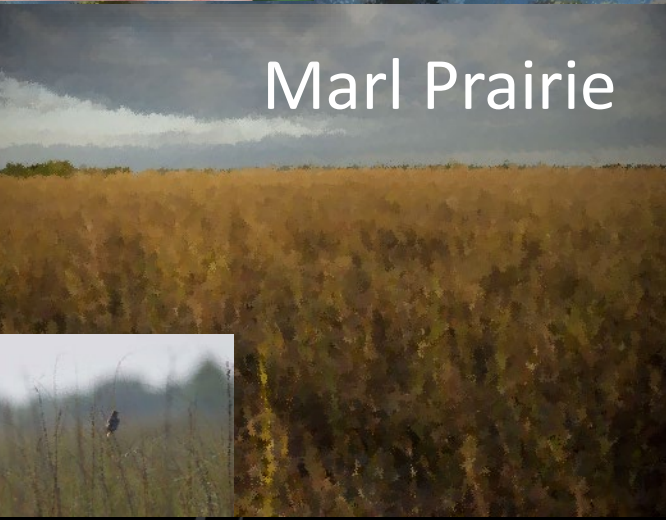




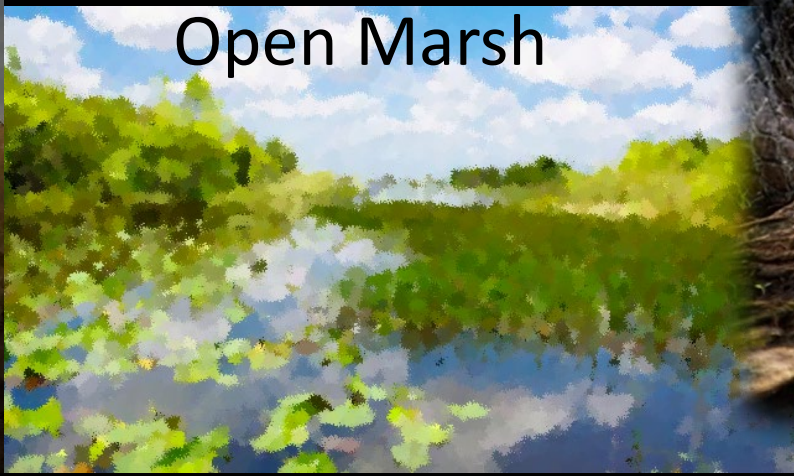
Snail Kites  
Apple snail



Marl Prairie



Open Marsh



American  
Alligator

Top predators  
Alligators create holes  
used by other species  
during dry season



Great egret



# RESTORATION SCENARIOS



**Natural Systems Model  
– NSM**

Predrainage,  
predevelopment system

**Comprehensive Everglades  
Restoration Plan – CERPO**

Massive restoration plan of  
68 projects

**Moderate decomp &  
seepage wall – MDS\_MS**

2 million acre ft EAA  
storage

**Moderate decomp &  
seepage wall – MDS**

240,000 acre ft of storage  
in EAA

**Existing Baseline Condition**

- ECB No management  
actions beyond 2010





**Natural Systems Model  
– NSM**  
Predrainage,  
predevelopment system



**Comprehensive Everglades  
Restoration Plan – CERPO**  
Massive restoration plan of 68  
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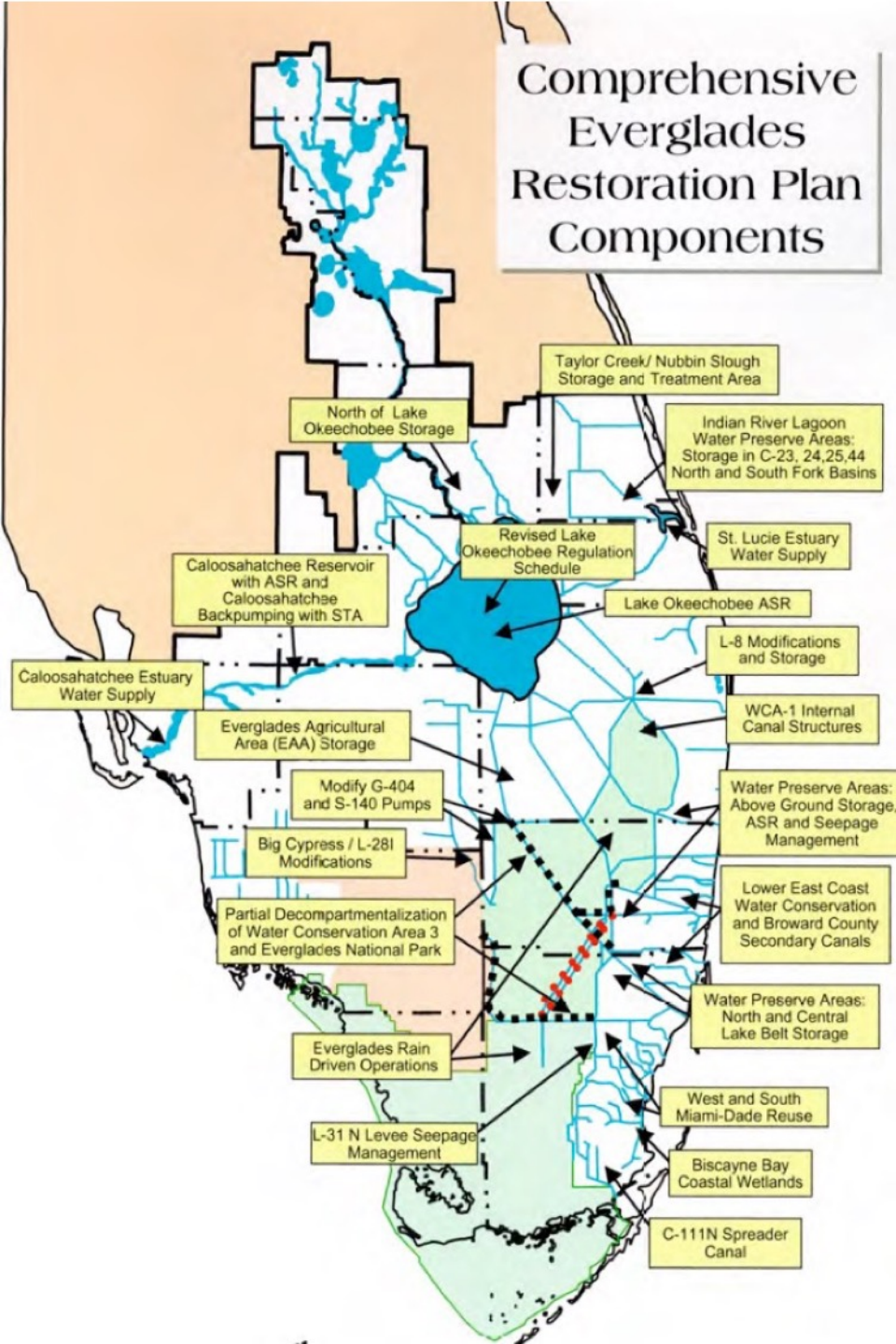


**Moderate decomp &  
seepage wall – MDS**  
240,000 acre ft of  
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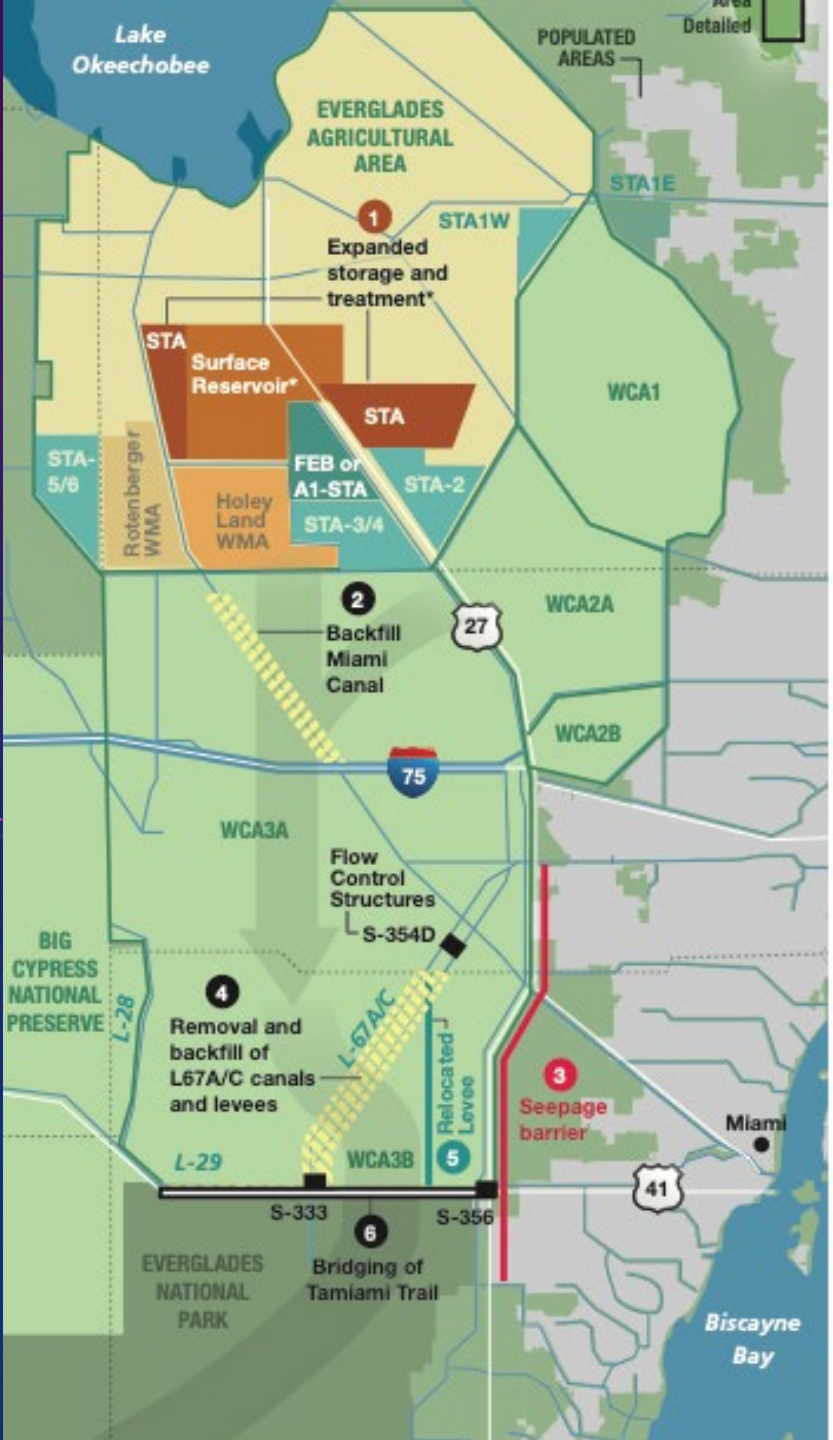
**Existing Baseline  
Condition - ECB No  
management actions  
beyond 2010**

Less similar to Natural System



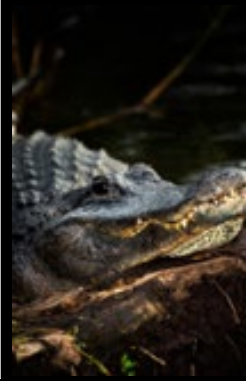


CERPO  
MDS





# SCENARIO COMPARISONS HELP PREDICT RESTORATION SUCCESS

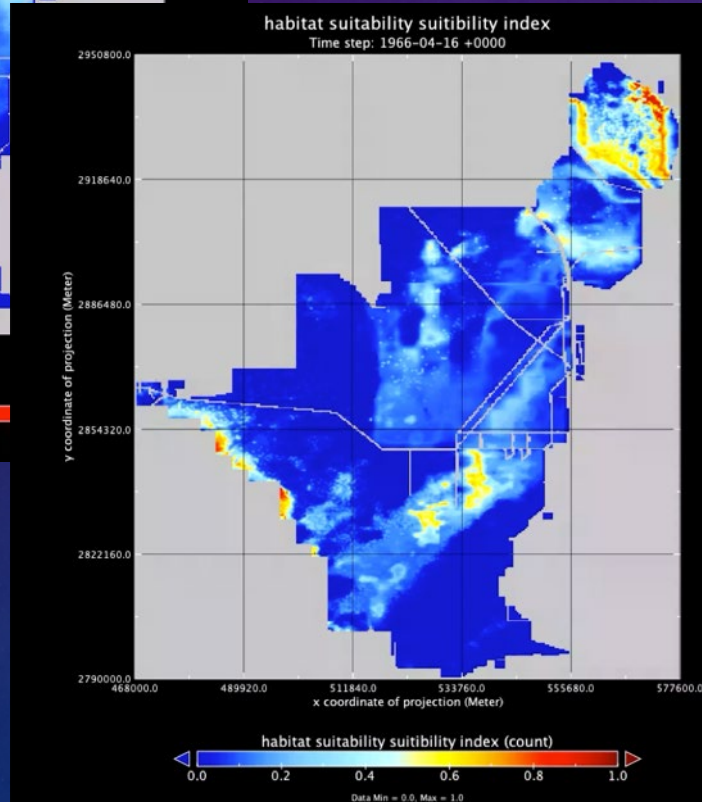
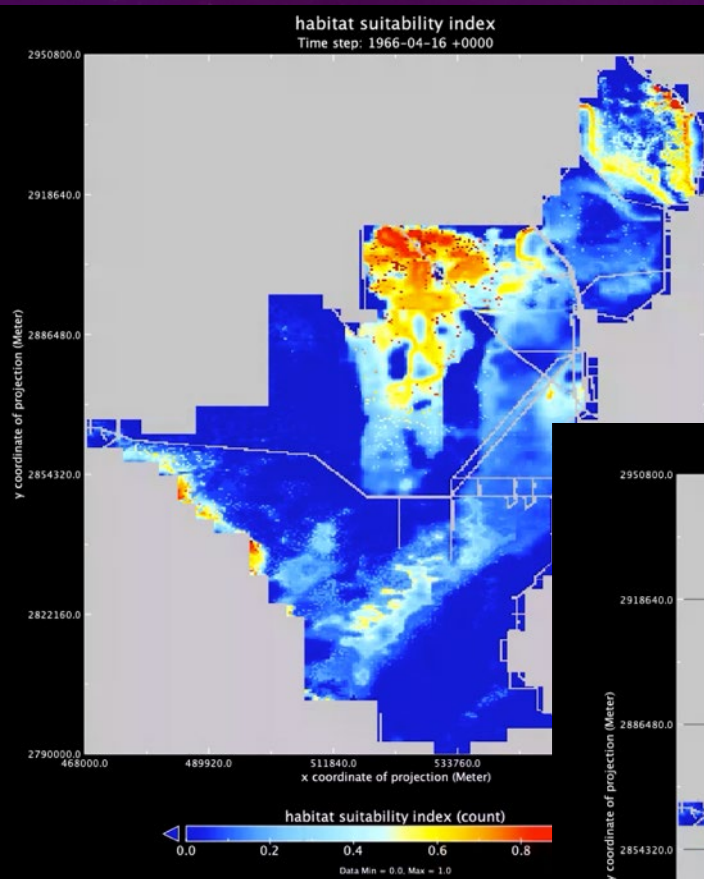




# SCENARIO COMPARISONS HELP PREDICT RESTORATION SUCCESS

Often compare scenarios  
“Relative change approach”  
Mean values compared to a baseline

Grid cells in local regions - spatially dependent  
Only using one statistic  
Variance and Covariance between maps





# DIGITAL IMAGE COMPARISON TO HELP PREDICT RESTORATION SUCCESS



Widely used in Computer science  
Recently applied to ecology





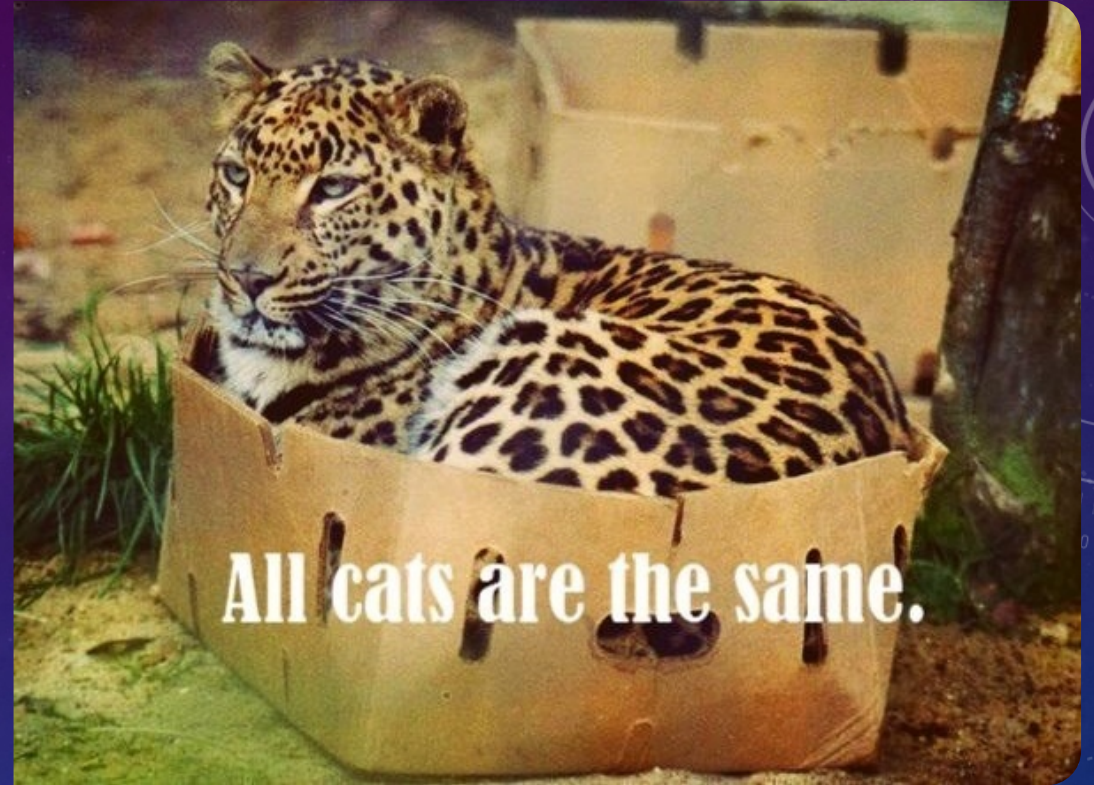
# DIGITAL IMAGE COMPARISON





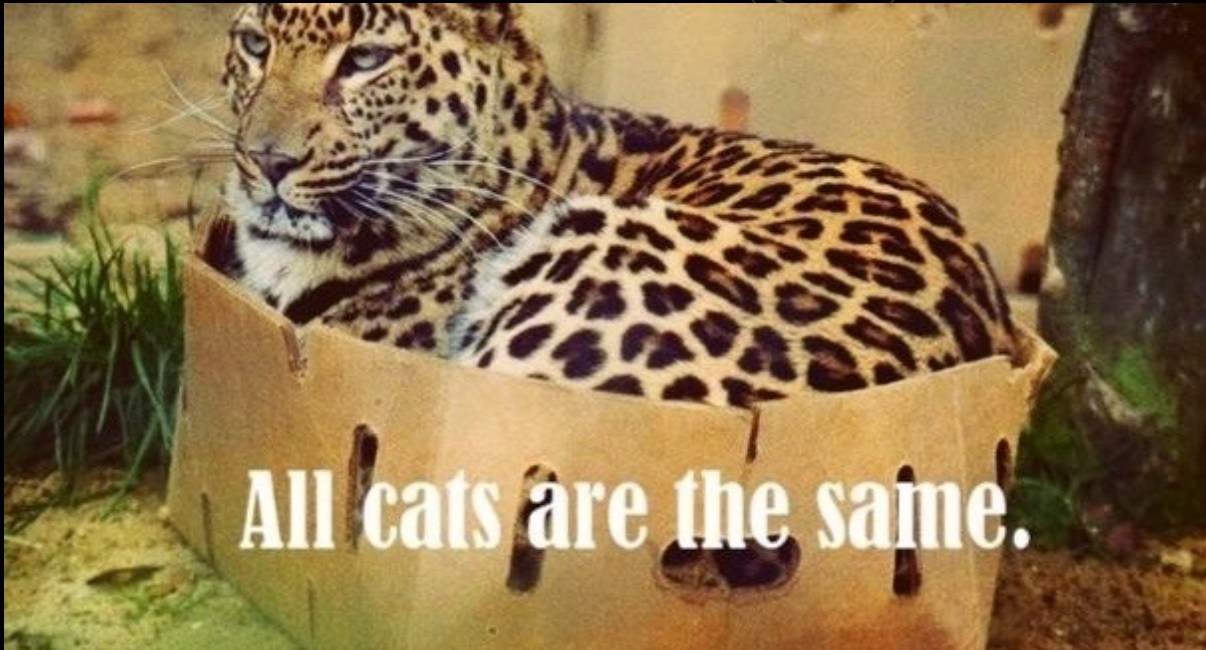
DIGITAL IMAGE COMPARISON





DIGITAL IMAGE COMPARISON





All cats are the same.



All cats are the same.



# STRUCTURAL SIMILARITY INDEX

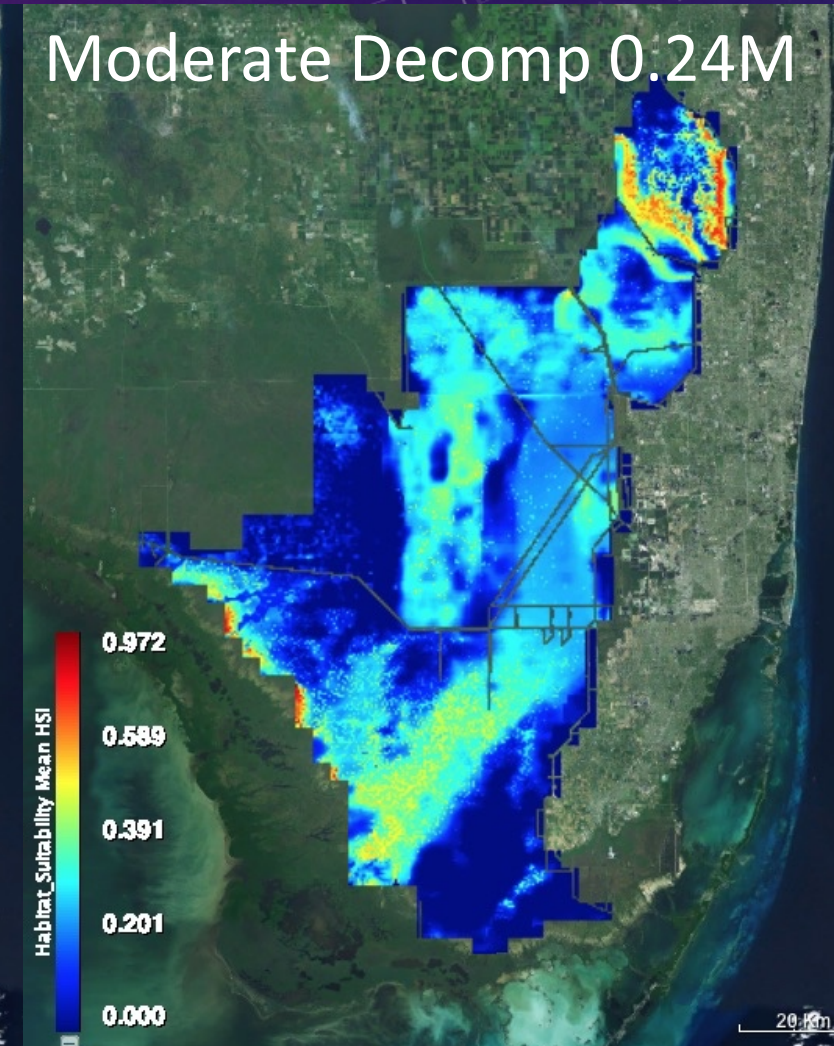
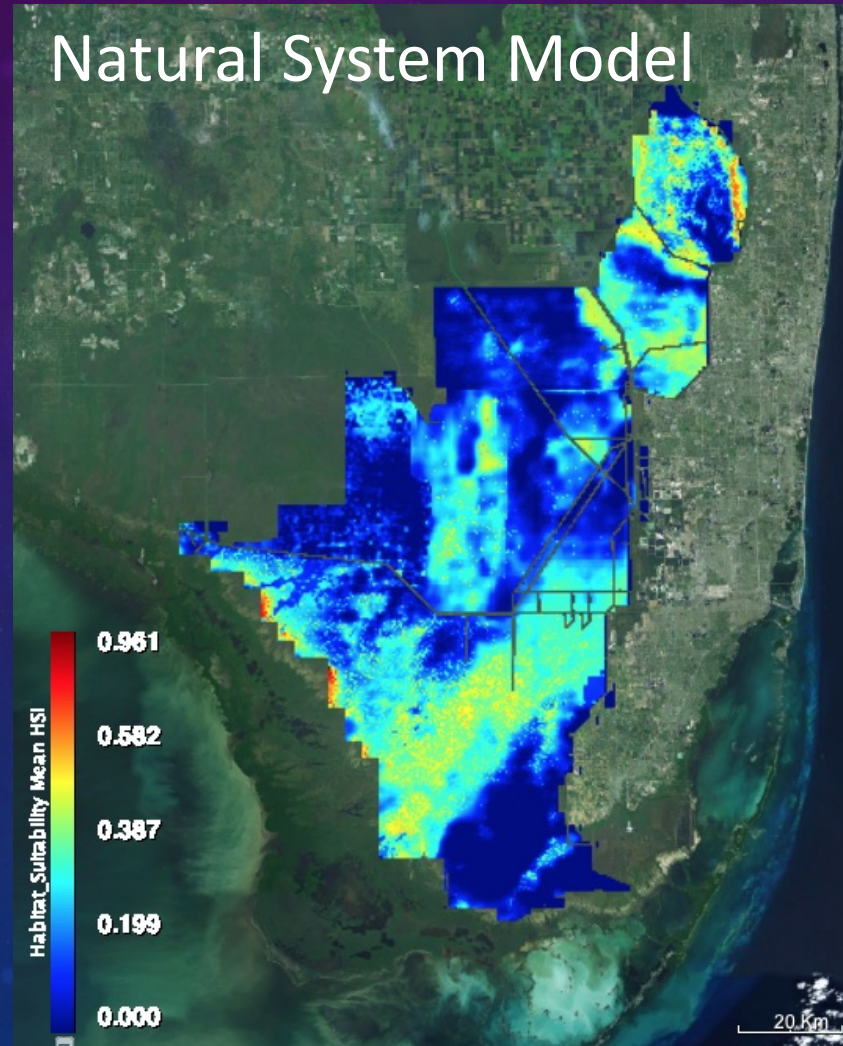
Overall measure of comparison between 2 maps (-1 to 1)

Locally moving window

Annual comparisons to NSM

Product of similarity in means, covariances & variances

Jones et al 2016, Wang et al 2004





Similarity in Means

$$SIM(A, B) = \frac{2\mu_a\mu_b + c_1}{\mu_a^2 + \mu_b^2 + c_1}$$

Similarity in Variances

$$SIV(A, B) = \frac{2\sigma_a\sigma_b + c_2}{\sigma_a^2 + \sigma_b^2 + c_2}$$

Similarity in Covariances

$$SIP(A, B) = \frac{\sigma_{ab} + c_3}{\sigma_a\sigma_b + c_3}$$

Overall Structural Similarity Index SSIM

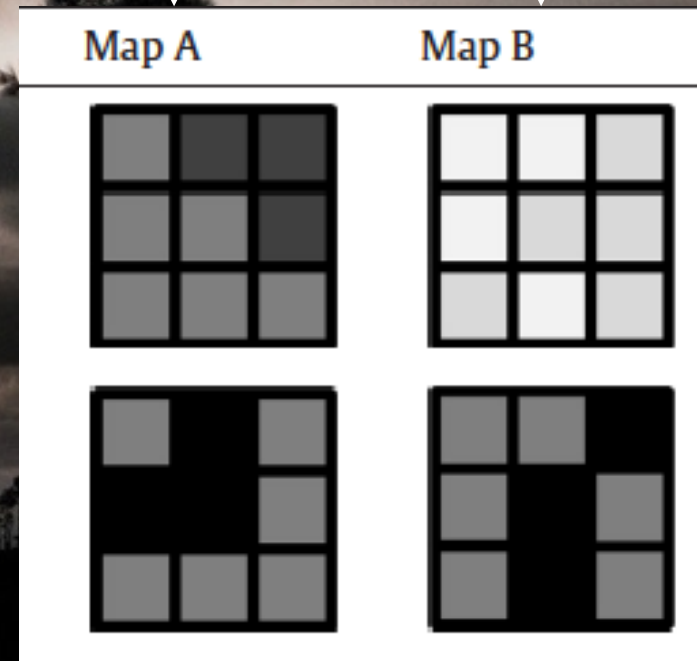
$$SSIM(A, B) = [SIM(A, B)]^\alpha \cdot [SIV(A, B)]^\beta \cdot [SIP(A, B)]^\gamma$$



Similarity in Means (0, 1)

Similarity in abundances,  
habitat suitability, etc

Map A has high values    Map B has low values    = 0



Both Map A & B have high values    = 1



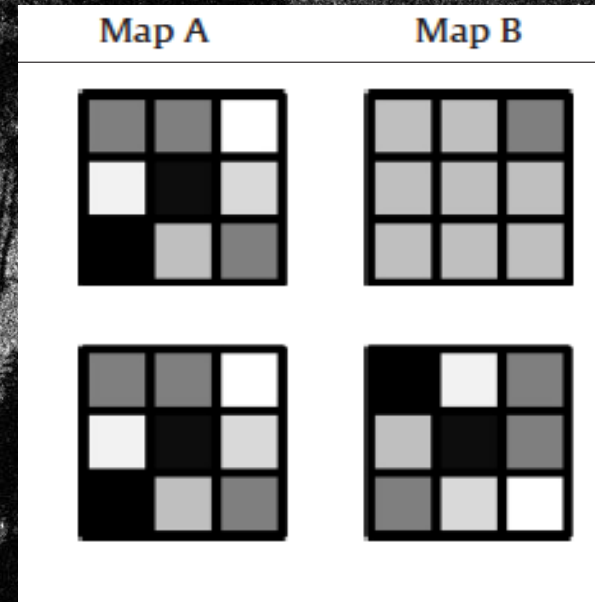
Similarity in Variances (0, 1)

Similarity in distributions  
– either homogeneous  
or spatially clustered

Map A high variance  
Spatial clustering

Map B has low variance  
Homogenous distribution

= 0



Both Map A & B have high variance  
Both spatially clustered

= 1



## Similarity in Covariances

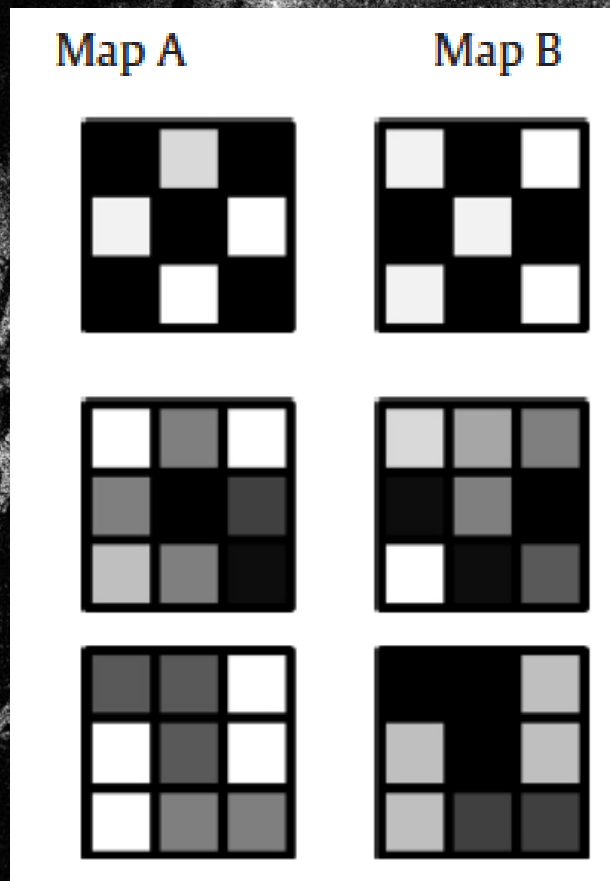
$(-1, 1)$

## Similarity in spatial patterns & spatial correlation

Map A & B have no  
spatial correlation = 0

Map A has high  
values in some cells

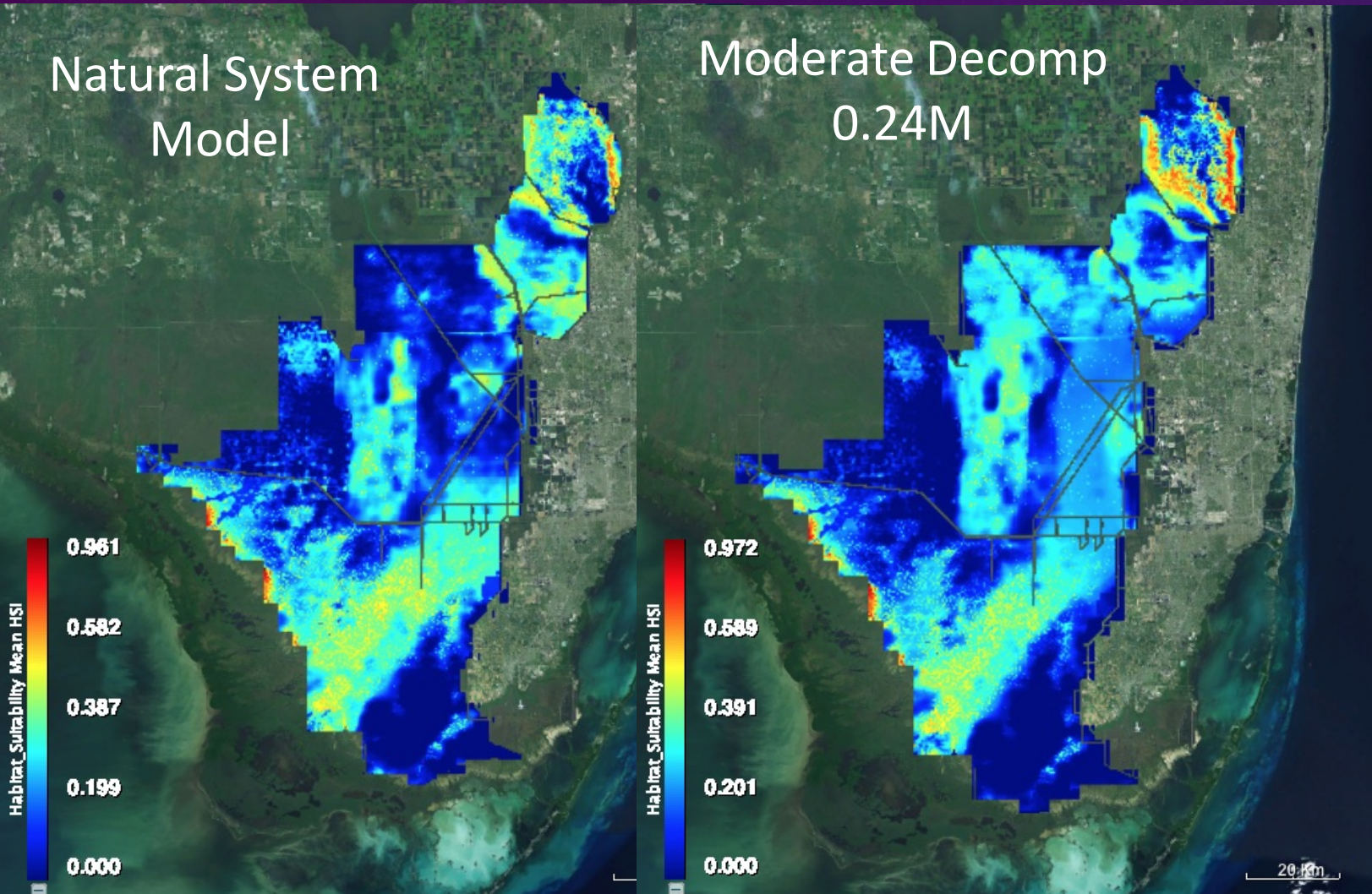
Map B has high values = -1  
In other cells



Both Map A & B have  
low & high values in  
same cells = 1



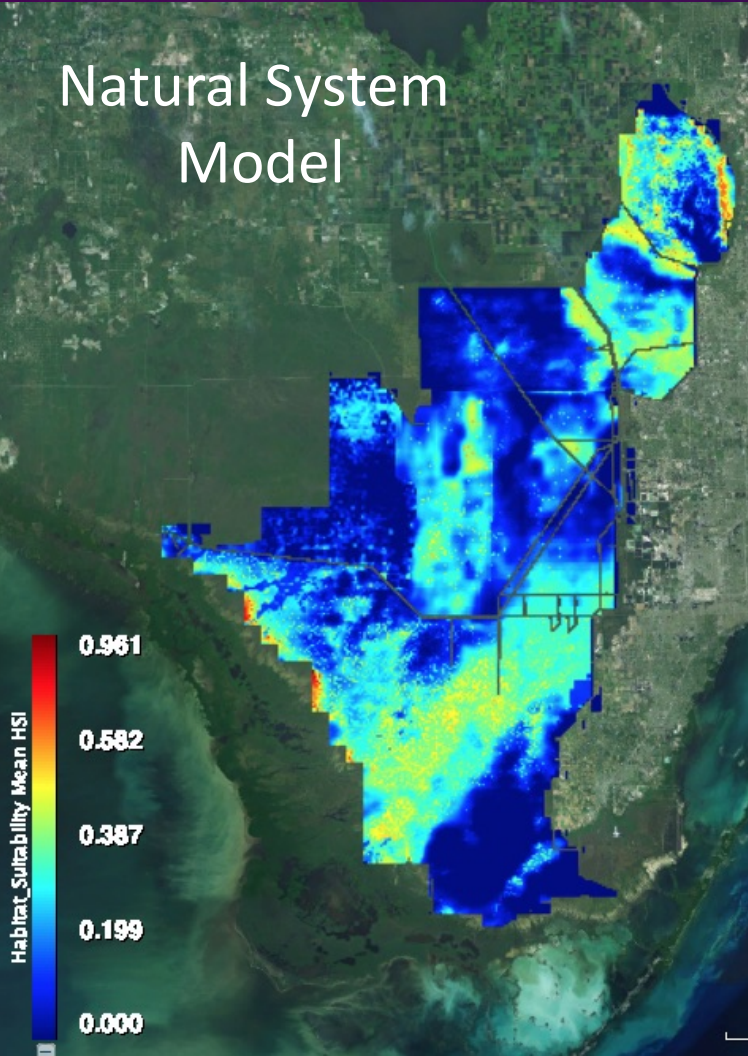
# AMERICAN ALLIGATORS



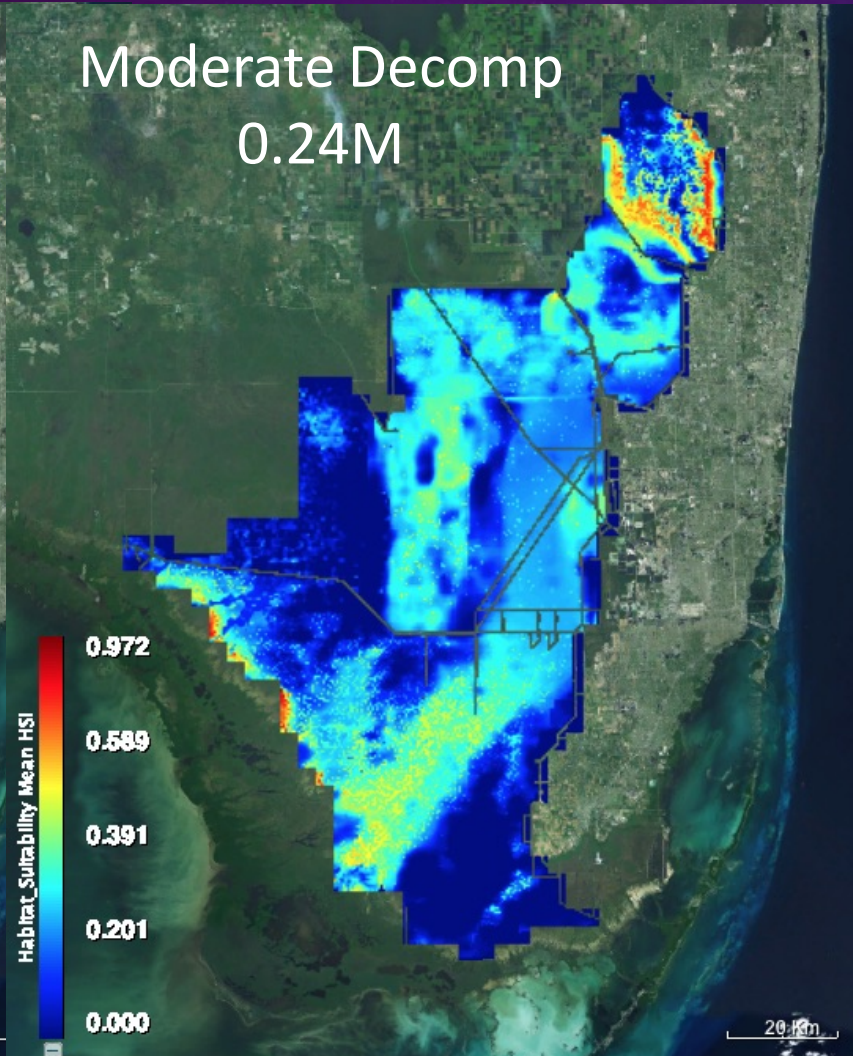


# AMERICAN ALLIGATORS

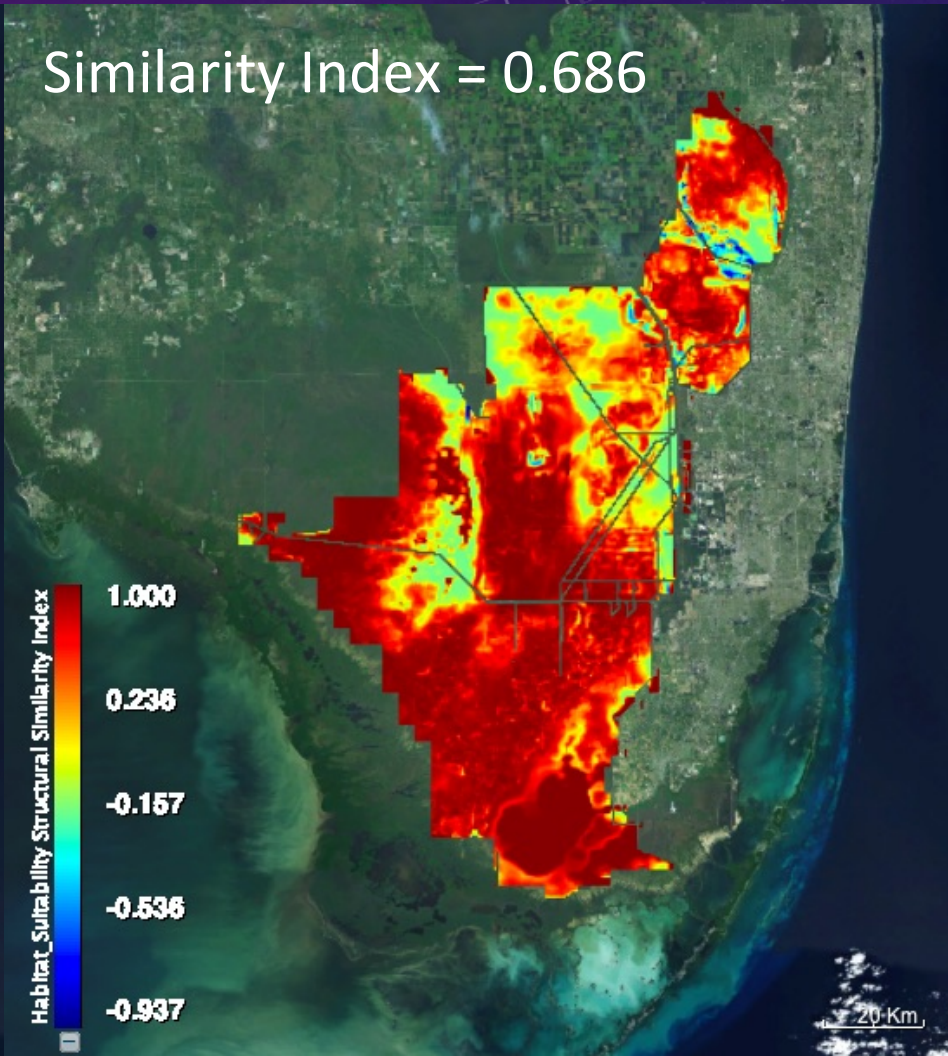
Natural System  
Model



Moderate Decomp  
0.24M



Similarity Index = 0.686





Overall  
Similarity  
Index



Habitat  
Suitability  
Means



Variances -  
Distributions of  
Habitat Suitability



Covariances  
– Spatial  
Patterns  
of Habitat  
Suitability

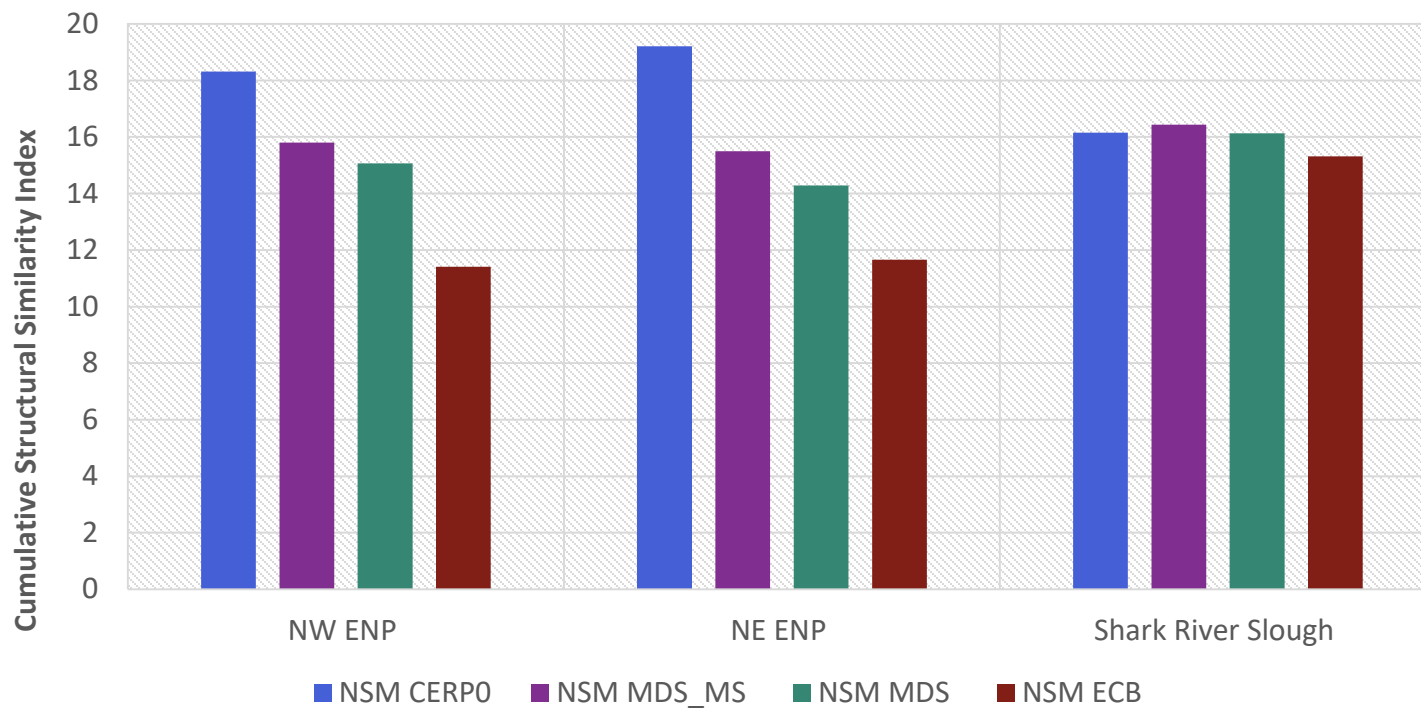
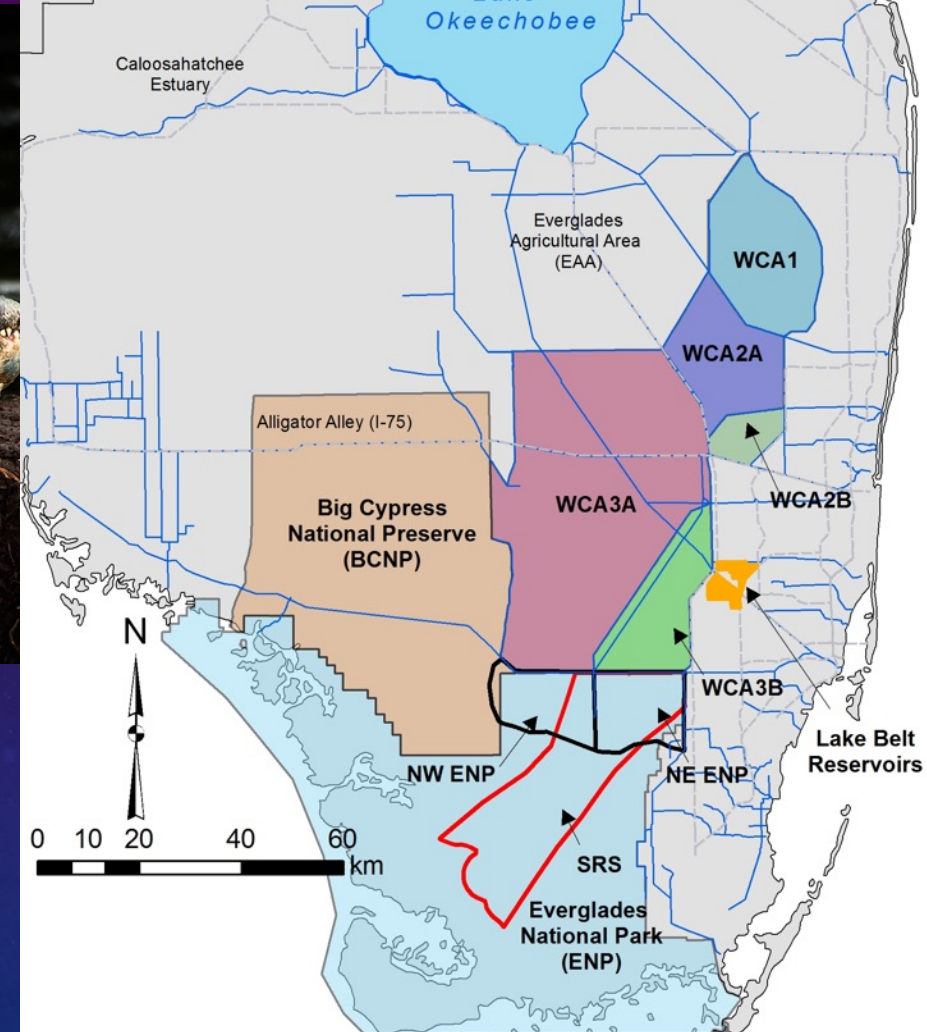


ALLIGATORS SIMILARITY  
INDICES

NSM MDS 0.24 M

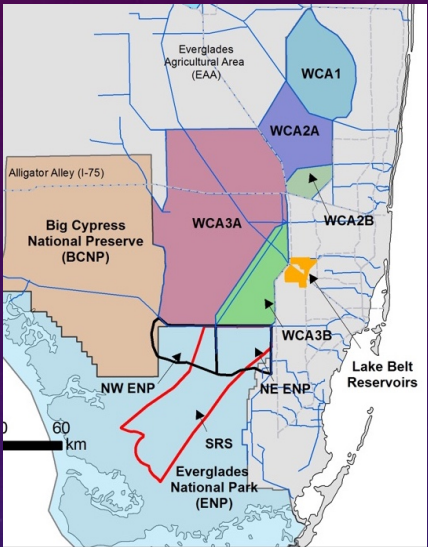


# ALLIGATOR STRUCTURAL SIMILARITY INDEX



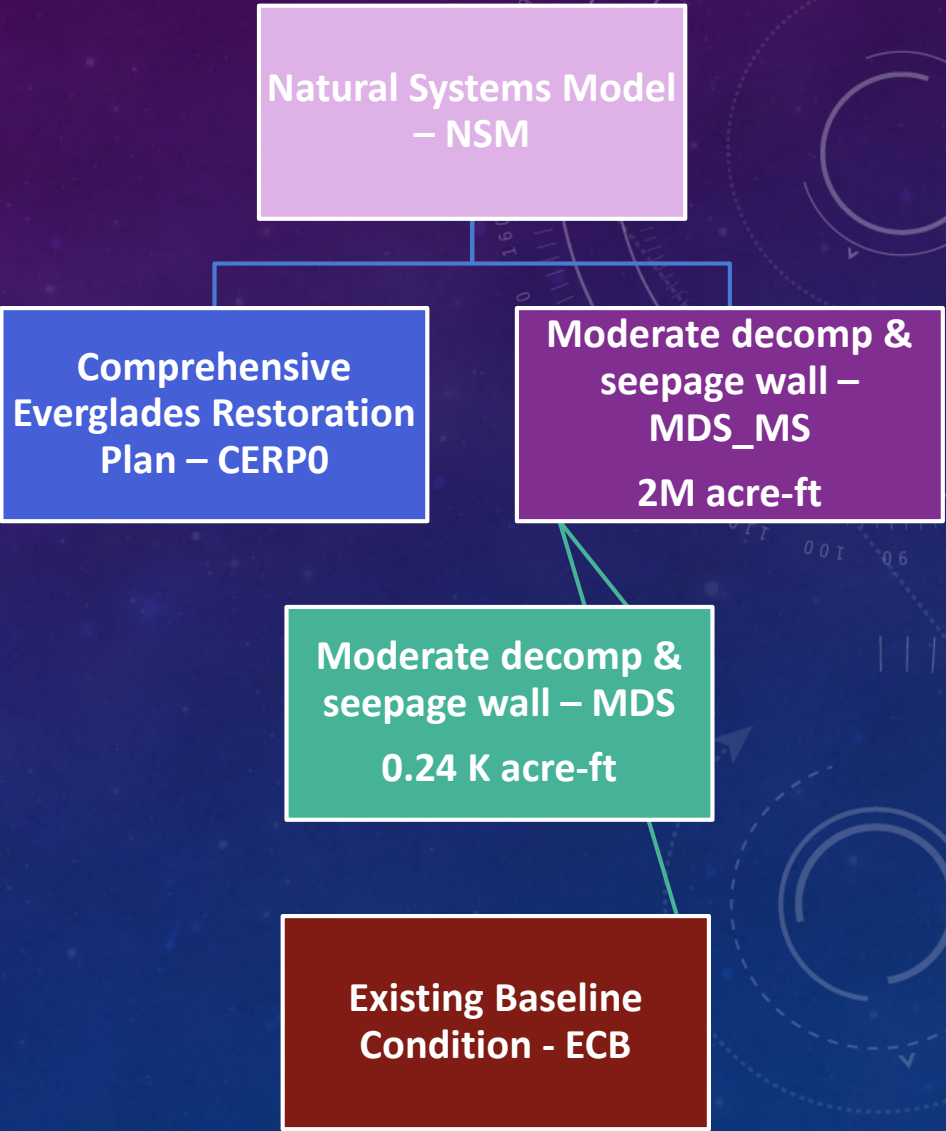
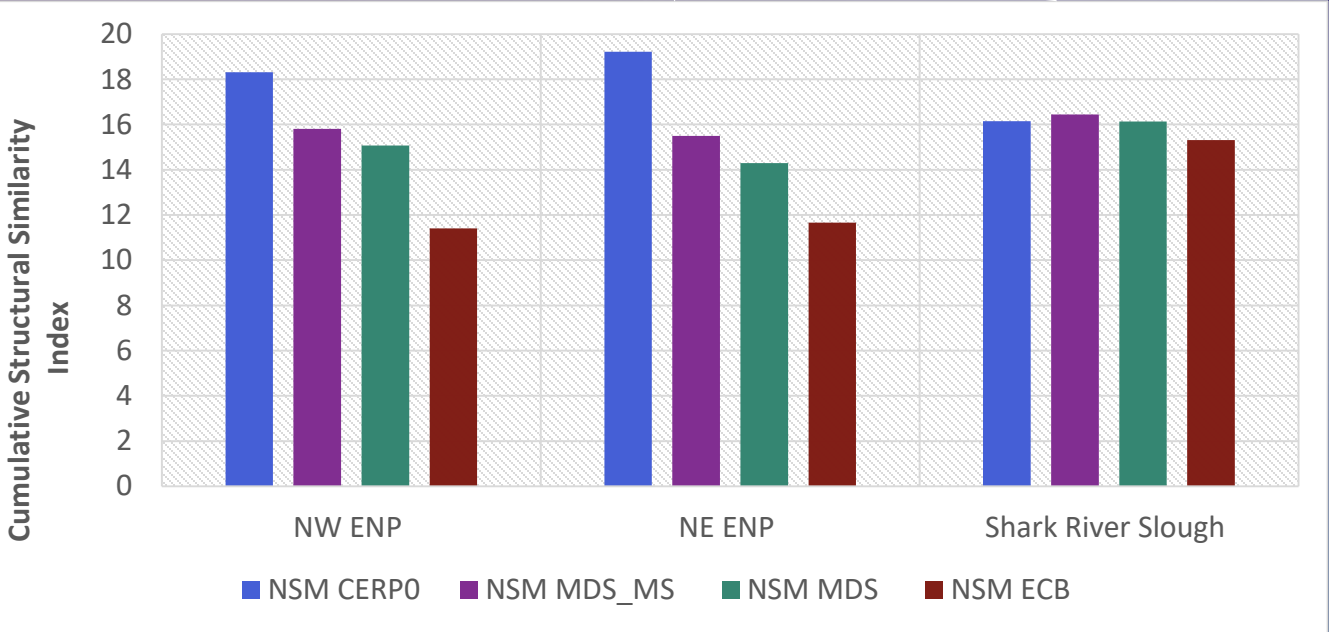


# ALLIGATOR STRUCTURAL SIMILARITY INDEX



NSM & MDS\_MS =  
Higher similarity in pattern  
indices

Same cells had similar levels  
(high versus low) of alligator  
habitat suitability





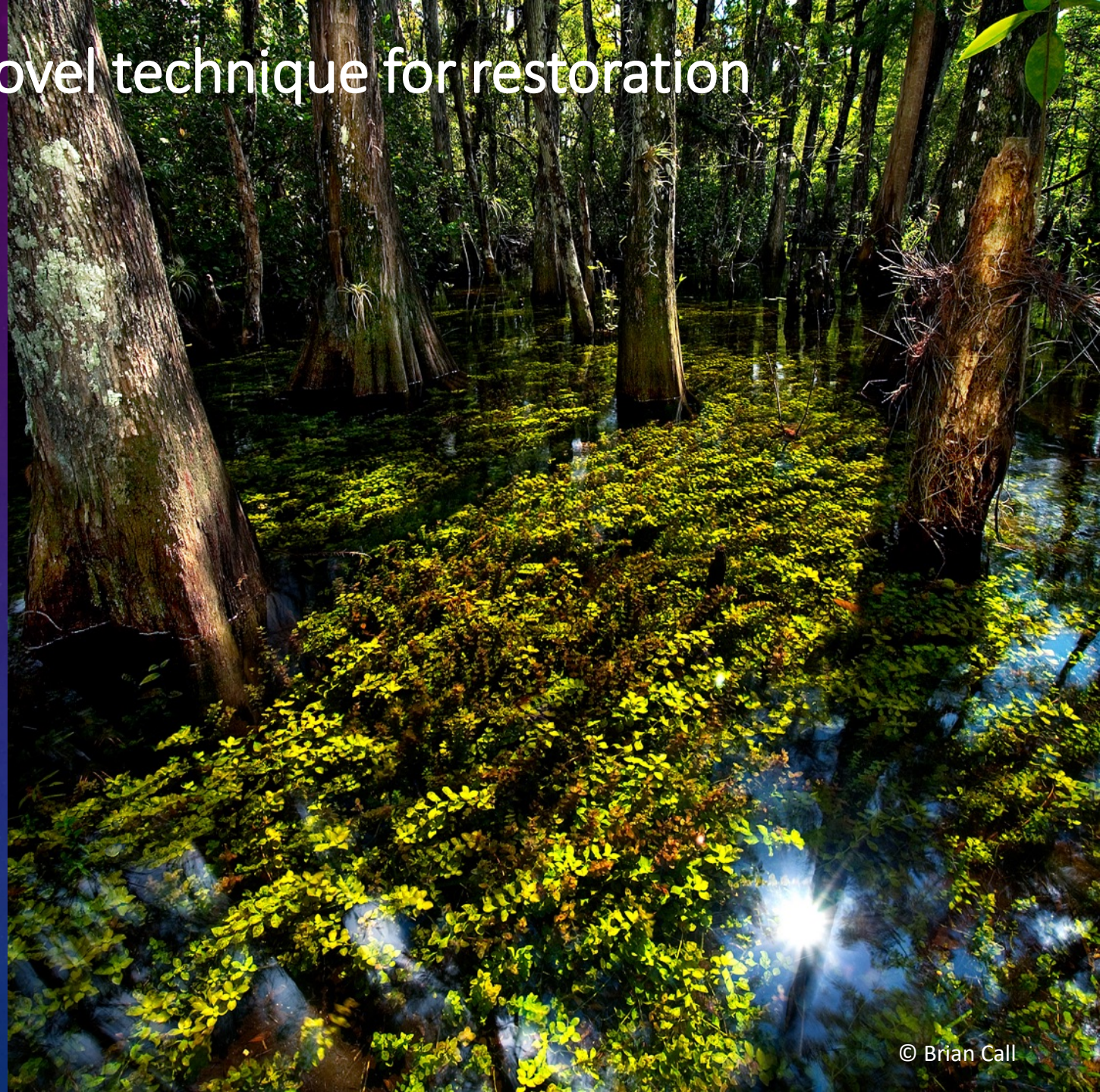
# Structural Similarity Index is a novel technique for restoration scenario comparison

Flexible metric for continuous, grid data

Multi-factor: Similarity in means, pattern, and distribution

Grid cells in local regions are spatially dependent

Code for netcdf files

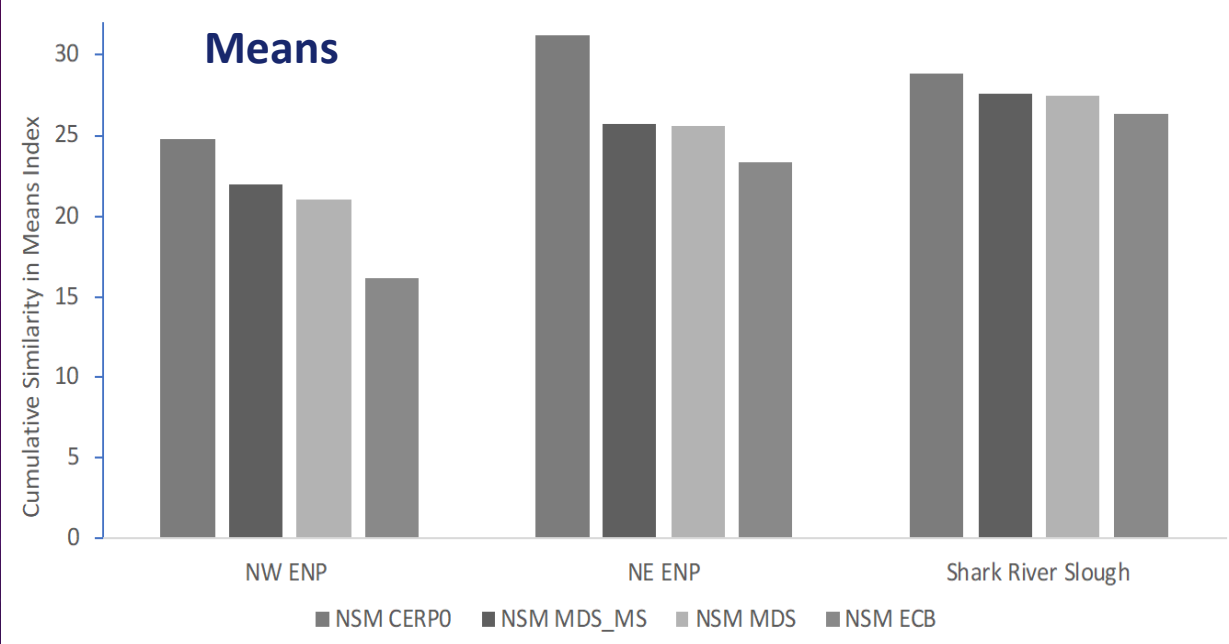




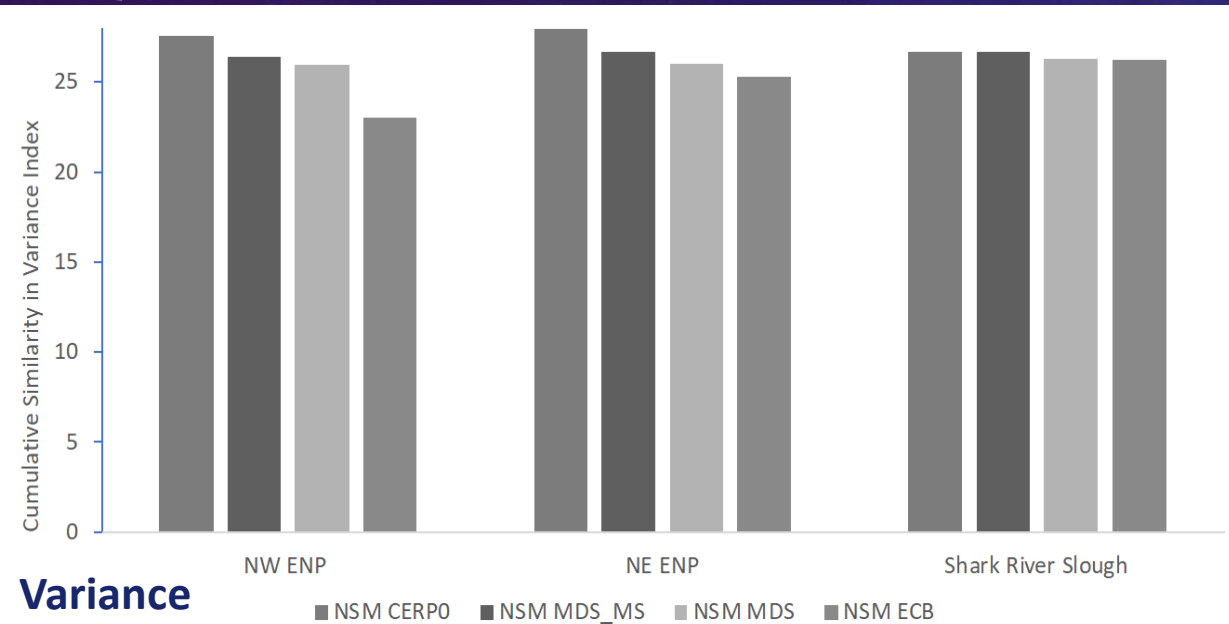
QUESTIONS?







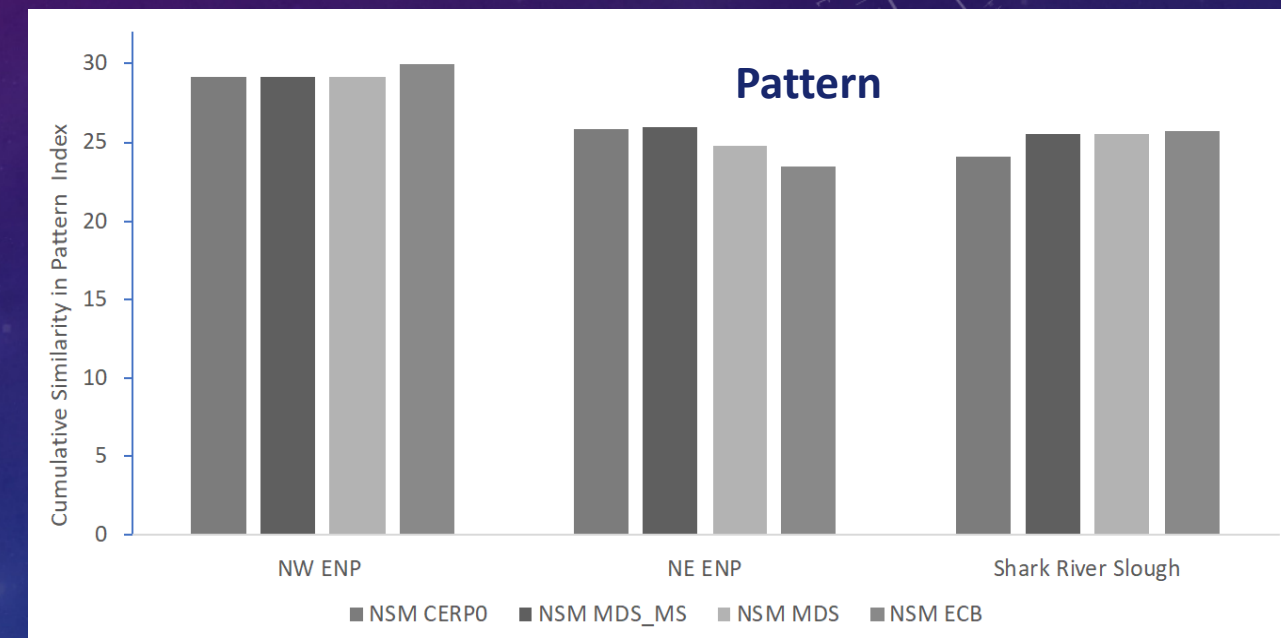
Similar Pattern to Overall Index



Habitat Suitability Means



Covariances  
– Spatial  
Patterns  
of Habitat  
Suitability



Variances -  
Distributions of  
Habitat Suitability

