Southwest Florida Frog Monitoring Network
10 years of change in the frog community of the Estero Bay Watershed

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Frogs – canaries in the coal mine
Frog Watch – Southwest Florida Amphibian Monitoring Network

• started in 2000
• John Cassani and Ellen Lindblad
• over 100 volunteers
• supported by Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Frog Watch  http://frogwatch.net/

Protocol

- sampling
- route
- environmental factors
- calls
Percent change in average call intensity

2000 and 2004
Routes CH-1, L-2, L-4, L-5, L-6, L-7

- Pig Frog
- Leopard Frog
- Florida Gopher Frog
- Barking Treefrog
- Squirrel Treefrog
- Pinewoods Treefrog
- Little Grass Frog
- Green Treefrog
- Chorus Frog (FL)
- Southern Toad
- Oak Toad
- E. Spadefoot Toad
- Bull Frog
- Giant Toad
- Greenhouse Frog
- All native species
- All exotic species
Polar Ordination of 2000 and 2004 data
Percent of total relative abundance due to exotics

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009
Summary

• Frog populations fluctuate
• Overall frog populations are doing OK
• BUT we are documenting loss of species from some place on the landscape
• Developing a site decreases the frog community
• Increase in exotic frogs
• Need for on-going monitoring
• Need for volunteer help
Frog Call Quiz

Click here
Frog Call Quiz

Oak Toad

Click here
Frog Call Quiz

Oak Toad

Cricket Frog

Cuban Treefrog

Click here
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Narrow-mouthed Frog