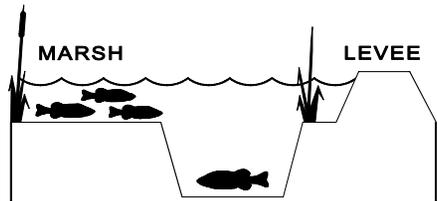


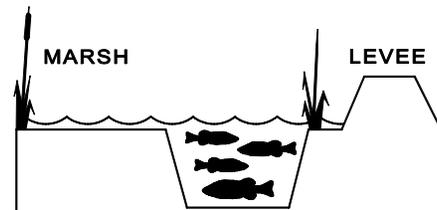
Fishing

The WCAs are one of Florida's Top Ten Bass fishing destinations. Most sport fishing occurs in the 285 miles of canals. However, excellent fishing is also found in the marsh "flats" areas. The L-67A Canal (WCA-3) has eight maintained Marsh Access Trails that provide access to the flats areas. These trails, created in 1997, are the result of a cooperative effort between the FWC and the South Florida Water Management District. They are marked with green signs. An additional four trails were created north of Alligator Alley in 2000. An orange flag (10"x12") displayed 10 feet above the bottom of the vessel is required before entering any marsh areas. Detailed maps of the marsh access trails are available from FWC, 8535 Northlake Blvd., West Palm Beach FL, 33412, or call (561) 625-5122.

During the rainy season, from summer to early fall, high water levels allow fish easy access to the marsh and they can disperse from the canals.



During the dry season, typically beginning in the fall, low water levels will concentrate fish in the canals. It is at this time that canal fishing is best, with catch rates for largemouth bass reaching 30-50 fish per day.



Species to fish for

The largemouth bass is the most sought-after species in the Everglades canals. Electrofishing surveys have produced as many as 2.2 bass per minute. The percentage of bass varies annually, but has been as high as 38% of the total collected.

In addition to bass, many other game species are present. Fish such as bluegill, redear sunfish (shellcracker), warmouth, chain pickerel, and yellow bullhead (butter cat) are common and offer great sport to the bank and boat angler alike. Electrofishing surveys have typically produced over 2 fish per minute for these species.

In addition to our native species, two exotic fish from Central and South America are commonly caught. The oscar and Mayan cichlid (sik' lid) are willing biters and scrappy fighters. The two are most easily identified by the red ring around a dark spot at the base of the oscar's tail and the blue ring around a dark spot at the base of the Mayan cichlid's tail. At peak times, anglers have been known to catch over 100 of these fish a day. There are no bag or size limits for either of these two fish.

Fishing tips

Concentrate your fishing effort close to shoreline vegetation or along the drop-offs near the banks. Good fishing can be had from shore or by boat. Live baits and artificial lures produce good catches in the WCAs. The preferred live baits are shiners, crickets, and worms. The top producing artificials are soft plastics rigged weedless, Beetle-spins, crankbaits, and topwater poppers or chuggers.

Current fishing forecasts, regulations, and directions to boat ramps can be obtained from FWC at (561) 625-5122 or www.myfwc.com.

Angler surveys

While fishing, you may be approached by a FWC employee wishing to ask questions about your fishing

trip. It is important that these questions are answered as accurately and completely as possible. Data derived from anglers' answers will help determine the future management of the Water Conservation Areas.

Access

Several public boat ramps provide access to WCA-2 and 3 (see map). In addition, the following locations provide bait, food, guide service, and boat rentals:

Everglades Holiday Park	(954) 434-8111
Mack's Fish Camp	(305) 822-5033
Sawgrass Recreation Area	(954) 389-0202

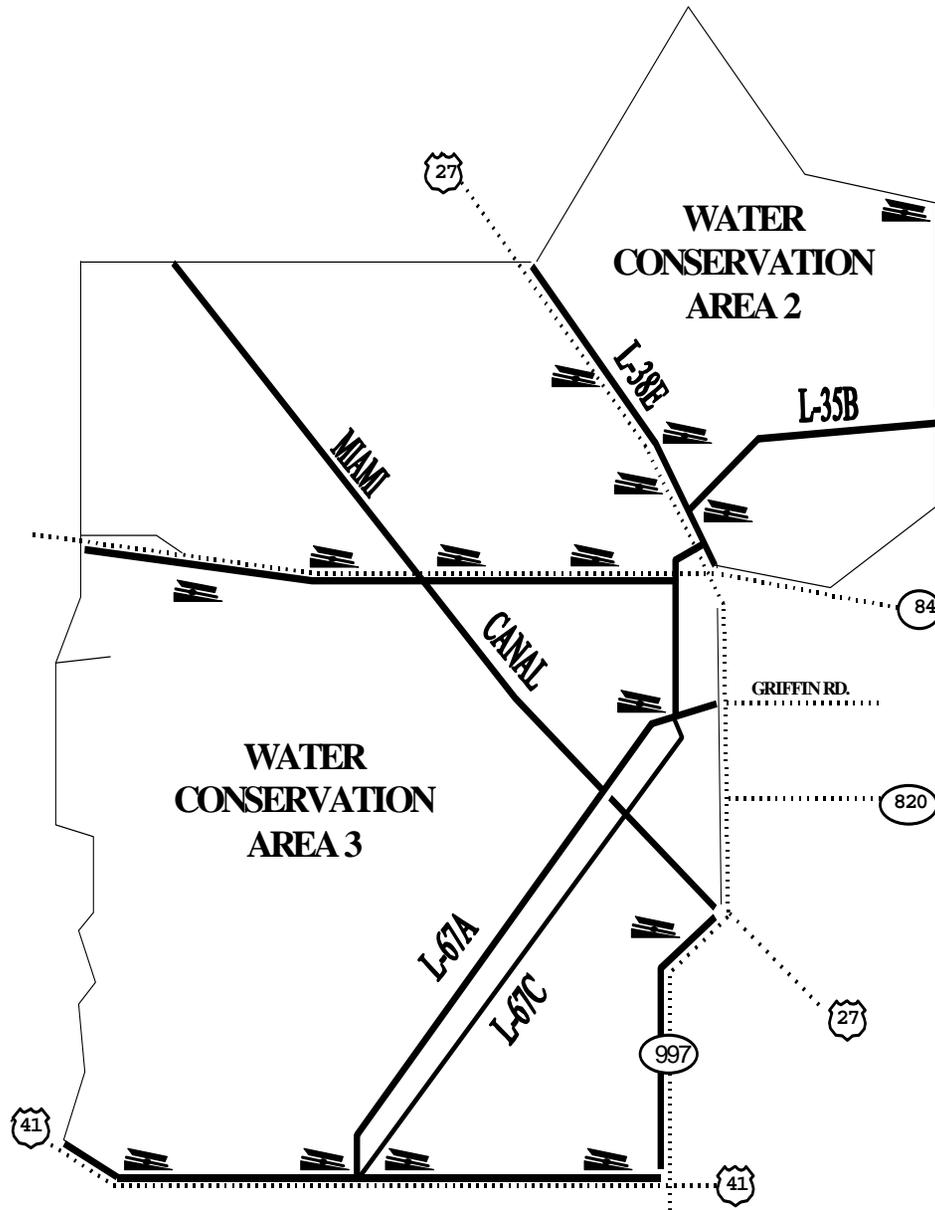
Everglades Holiday Park and Sawgrass Recreation Area also provide campsites with electrical hookups. Everglades Holiday Park and Mack's Fish Camp sell boat gas.

Mercury

In 1988, the Everglades Fisheries Investigations Project discovered that some fish from the Everglades contained potentially harmful levels of mercury. The presence of mercury is the subject of several on-going investigations. Recent evidence has shown a drop in levels of mercury in freshwater fish tissue.

For details consult the most recent fishing regulations pamphlet, the local County Public Health Department, or the Department of Health's Bureau of Environmental Toxicology (www.doh.state.fl.us) at (805) 488-3385.

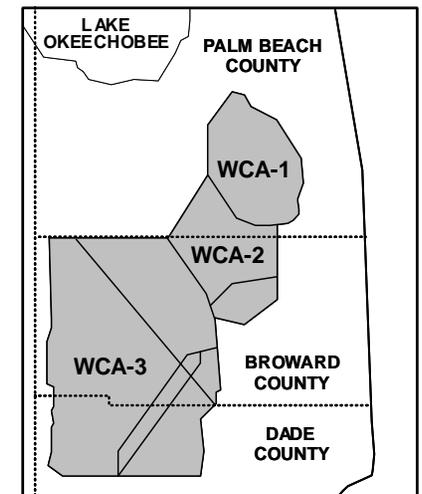
PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS



FISHING IN THE EVERGLADES WATER CONSERVATION AREAS

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

The Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) are large marsh areas bordered by canals. Located between Lake Okeechobee and Everglades National Park, their primary function is flood control and water supply. They also provide habitat to a wide variety of fish and wildlife. WCA-1 is the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. WCA-2 and 3 are managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



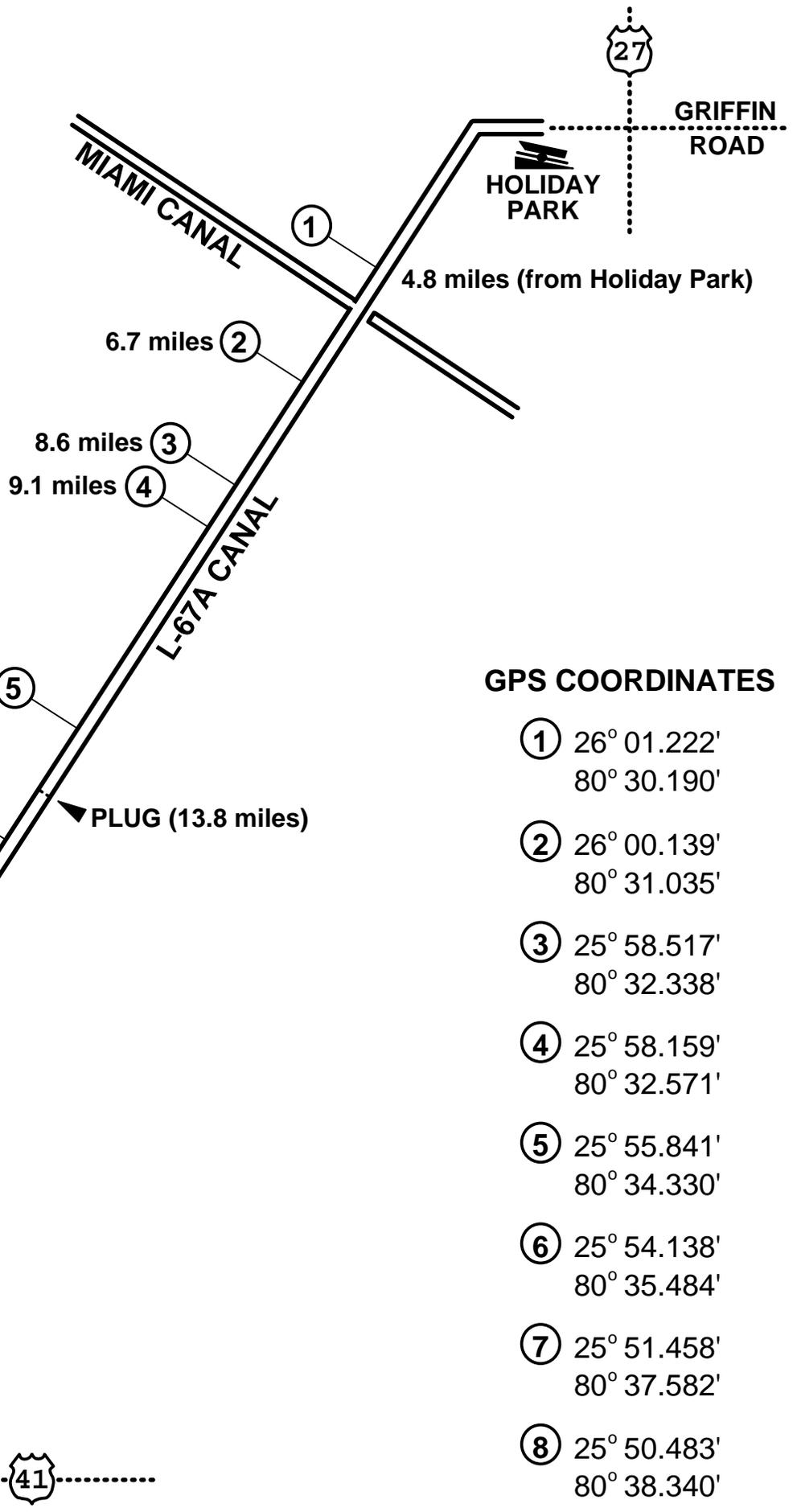
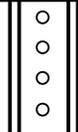
MARSH ACCESS SITE 1

FLAG REQUIRED TO ENTER MARSH

VESSEL MUST DISPLAY ORANGE
FLAG AT LEAST 10 INCHES WIDE
BY 12 INCHES LONG AT LEAST 10
FEET ABOVE BOTTOM OF VESSEL



A COOPERATIVE PROJECT



GPS COORDINATES

- ① 26° 01.222'
80° 30.190'
- ② 26° 00.139'
80° 31.035'
- ③ 25° 58.517'
80° 32.338'
- ④ 25° 58.159'
80° 32.571'
- ⑤ 25° 55.841'
80° 34.330'
- ⑥ 25° 54.138'
80° 35.484'
- ⑦ 25° 51.458'
80° 37.582'
- ⑧ 25° 50.483'
80° 38.340'