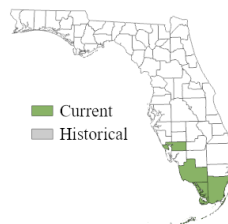


## AMERICAN MINK, SOUTHERN FLORIDA POPULATION

*Neovison vison* pop. 1

**Order:** Carnivora  
**Family:** Mustelidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G5T2Q/S2  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** Threatened



**Description:** Medium sized (17 - 25 in. = 491 - 720 mm) member of the weasel family, with the characteristic long, slender body, short legs, long tail, small head, and rounded ears. South Florida individuals are smaller than other subspecies. Fur is dark brown over most of the body and blackish brown on the distal half of the tail. Occasional specimens have a white patch on the chin or the chest.

**Similar Species:** Long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*) is smaller (in Florida, generally not exceeding 19 in. = 483 mm) and has a white underside. Otter (*Lutra canadensis*) is larger (generally exceeding 35 in. = 889 mm) and has a longer tail (generally exceeding 12 in. = 305 mm).

**Habitat:** A variety of wetland communities, including salt marsh, freshwater marsh, cypress swamp, and hardwood swamp.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Active year-round.

**Florida Distribution:** Restricted to fresh water habitats in extreme south FL (Collier, Dade, Monroe County); range incompletely known.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Other populations of the subspecies occur throughout the eastern U.S. from Texas to Maine.

**Conservation Status:** No longer trapped for fur. Protected on extensive public conservation lands in the greater Everglades ecosystem.

**Protection and Management:** Maintain a diversity of wetland and adjacent upland communities. Restore hydrology within the Everglades ecosystem.

**References:** Brown 1997, Humphrey (ed.)1992, Humphrey and Setzer 1989.



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