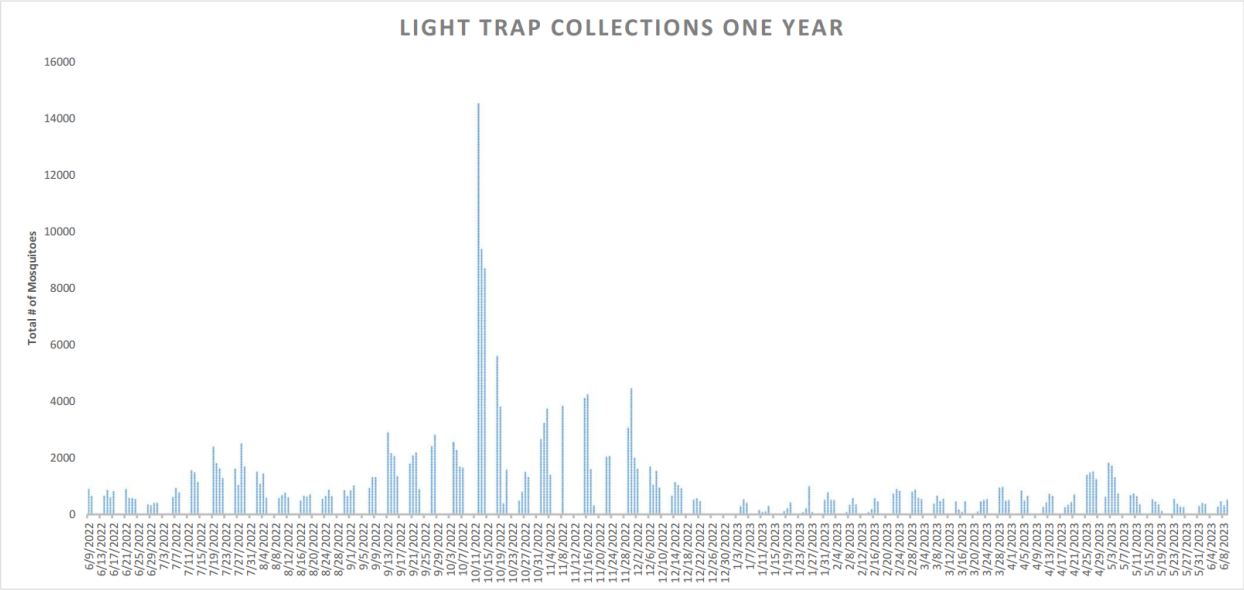
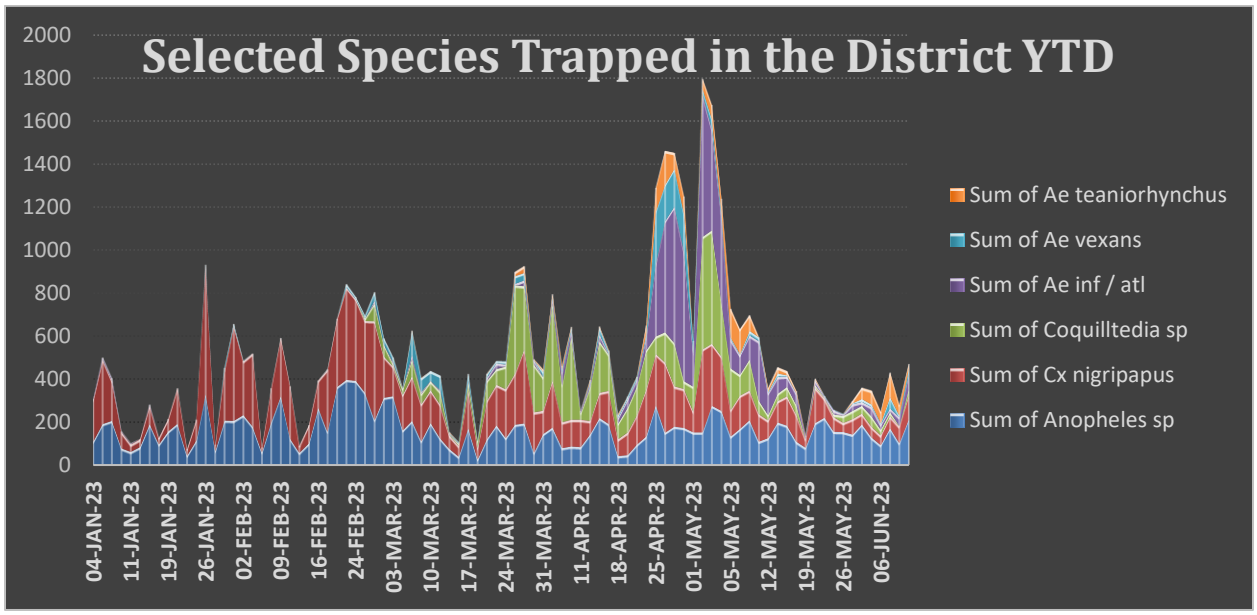
Week of 6/5/2023 Operations Update (23)

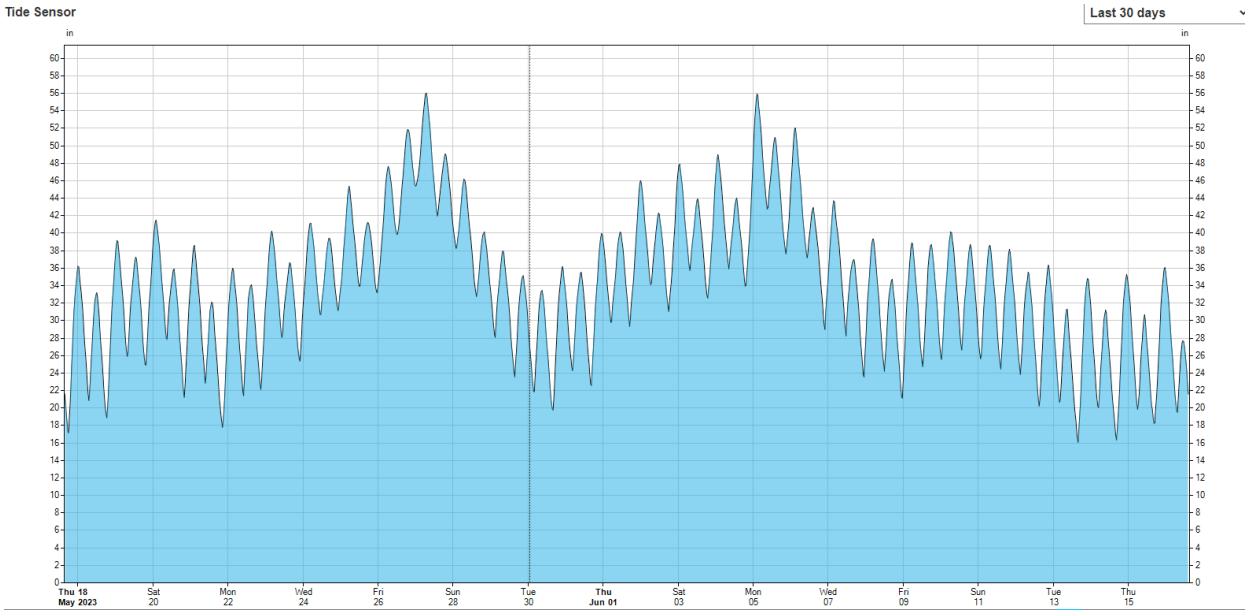
After three weeks of mosquito populations below baseline levels, this week saltmarsh mosquito activity picked up along the coast. The bar graph below shows the total number of adult mosquitoes from all traps in the District for the past year (TTM).



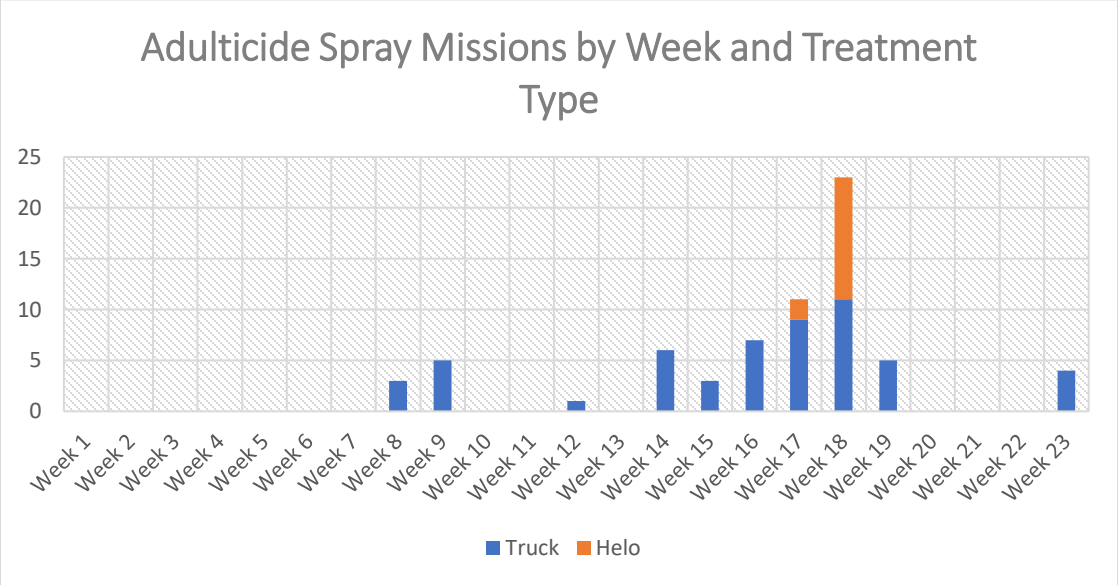
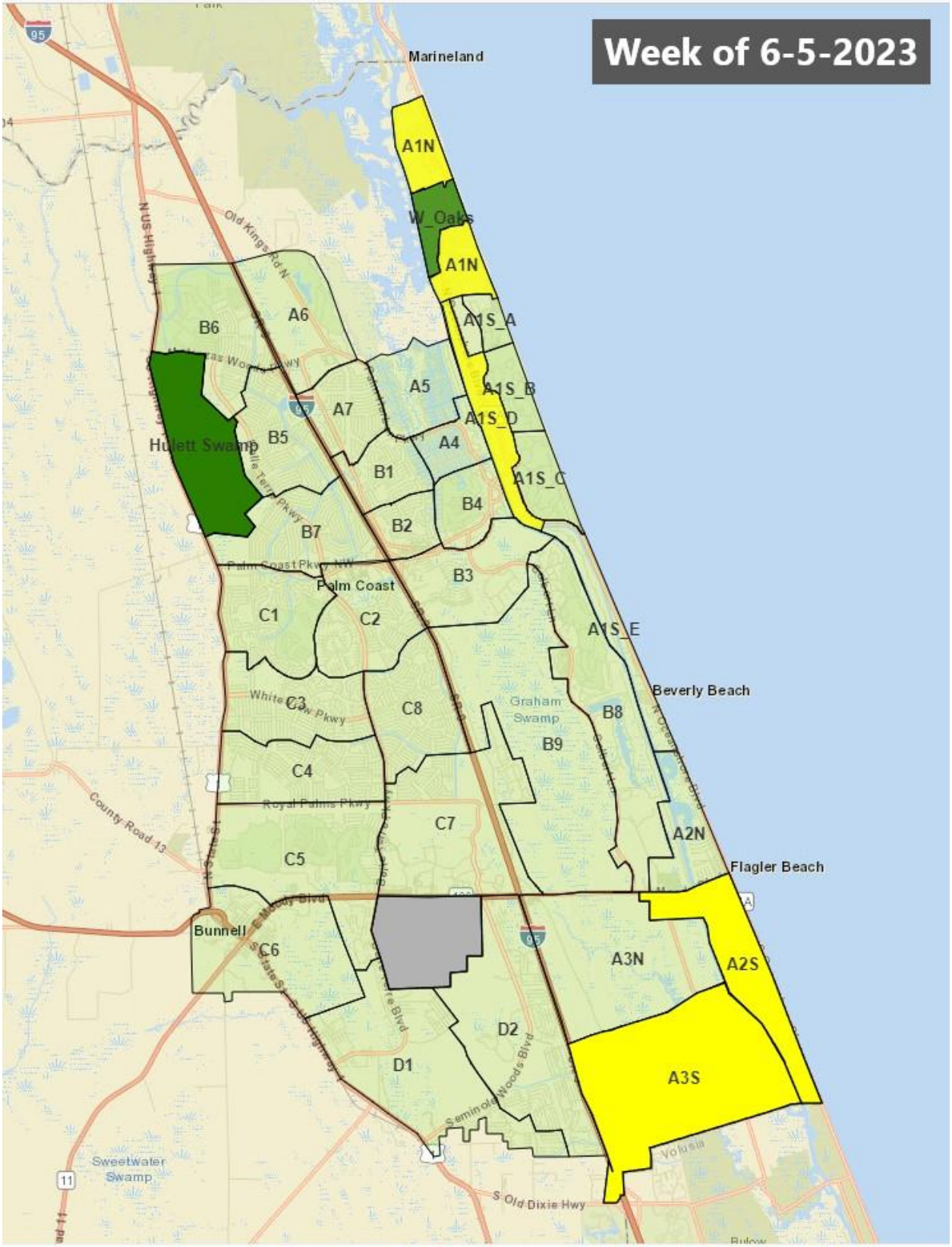
Saltmarsh mosquitoes are floodwater-type mosquitoes. This means they lay their eggs in dry soil and then hatch when intermittently flooded. This method allows the mosquito larvae to be isolated and to therefore evade predation by fish. Areas that breed saltmarsh mosquitoes are monitored and pretreated with an organically certified pesticide to prevent emergence of mosquito larvae.



Saltmarsh breeding sites are susceptible to flooding by rain but also by higher tides. Over the past several weeks water elevations measured in the in the saltmarsh have been high due to storms turning up the Atlantic. Subsequent flooding beyond the areas routinely pretreated has led to elevated saltmarsh mosquito production.



This excessive tidal flooding in the saltmarsh without accompanying flooding rains inland has lead to unusual situation where very little adulticiding is required to keep mosquito populations in check and in areas that are not usually sprayed for mosquitoes, which is a reactive solution versus proactive larvicide pretreatments with larvicide.



Zones highlighted in yellow were treated by truck this week.