



[USGS Home](#)  
[Contact USGS](#)  
[Search USGS](#)

## CARS - Project List

### Cichlid fishes of Florida: Identification, Distribution, and Environmental Considerations Project # 2070B9G, Task 2

**Task Leader: Jelks, Howard L.** [howard\\_jelks@usgs.gov](mailto:howard_jelks@usgs.gov)

#### **Statement of Problem:**

The Florida Integrated Science Center (FISC) of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has documented the introduction and establishment of more than 20 species of cichlid fishes (family Cichlidae) into waters of Florida. More species of this nonindigenous family occur in Florida than in any other state and cichlids now represent the fourth most specious family of fishes in Florida fresh waters. In addition to the more than 20 species currently known from Florida, at least 5 additional species have been previously reported from the state but apparently failed to become established. In the relatively short time since they have been introduced, several cichlid species have become dominant members of the southern Florida fish fauna. Our knowledge of these fishes is very inadequate and updated information is needed to summarize available literature and fill critical gaps in baseline data on the causes and ecological effects associated with invasive species establishment and spread. Such information is critical in evaluating, controlling, and managing any future invaders.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Provide a practical, illustrated, identification guide to the cichlid fishes of Florida.
2. Document what is known of the initial introduction, aspects of the spread, and current distributional status of each species.
3. Summarize and discuss aspects of the life histories and environmental effects of each species.
4. Obtain quality photographs or illustrations of each species.
5. Produce a published manual or book with text, distribution maps, line drawings, and color photographs. One possible outlet for such a product would be a USGS Biological Circular.

#### **Methodology:**

Material and data for this study has been slowly acquired over nearly ten years because the project has received no direct research support, and now is the time to summarize this information in a publication.

1. Extensive vouchered cichlid specimens are available in the Florida Museum of Natural History (many obtained by USGS researchers) and these will be the primary resource for taxonomic research associated with constructing identification keys, making distribution maps, etc.
2. Our literature review will build on existing materials already gathered during the past several years. Additional searches of the literature will include: (1) database searches done by the USGS Leetown Library; (2) our search of databases using Cambridge Scientific Abstracts and other local sources; (3) review of the bibliography/literature cited sections of all publications obtained in effort to discover additional material; (4) a review of books and unpublished reports in an effort to discovery material not normally covered by existing databases; and (5) access to obscure literature sources through personal contacts various colleagues. Data for this task will also be supplied by recent and ongoing FISC field and laboratory work.

### **Communication Plan:**

PRODUCTS: Products will be in the form of manuscripts, oral presentations, and posters presented at scientific and technical meetings, workshops, and periodic briefings given to various cooperators.

[Accessibility](#)

[FOIA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Policies and Notices](#)

[U.S. Department of the Interior](#) | [U.S. Geological Survey](#)

URL: <http://cars.er.usgs.gov/basis/Projects/projects.html>

Page Contact Information: [Buck Albert - Web Administrator](#)

Page Last Modified: April 04 2005

