



Cichlasoma urophthalmus

Mayan cichlid, Orange tiger

Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact

- Reported to pioneer waters poor in resources, and become an important forage fish for larger animals to feed on
- Some concern regarding its predation on native juvenile sport fishes, such as snook and tarpon, in estuarine areas
- Will probably alter community structure through aggressive interactions and/or direct competition with native fishes & compete for breeding grounds

1. Invasive potential

- Reported lower lethal temperature of 15°C for this species, which limits its potential range expansion northward in Florida
- One of the most common fishes caught on hook and line in certain parts of the Everglades

1. Geographic extent

- Native of Central America, now established in Joe Bay in NE Florida Bay & Anhinga Trail ponds in the Everglades, Florida
- Locally pervasive



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Atlantic slope of Central America

2. Introduced: Florida

3. Habitat

- Brackish water, water courses, estuaries, bays, ponds
- Reports of breeding in both fresh and salt waters

Invasion Pathways

1. Pet, aquarium, and water garden trade - intentional probable
2. Enclosed facilities escapes

Non-Native Locations

1. 70- Floridian

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://www.kidsfishing.org/images/mayan%20cichlid.jpg>