

GULF SALT MARSH MINK

Neogale vison halilimnetes

Order: Carnivora
Family: Mustelidae
FNAI Ranks: G5T2/S2
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: A medium-sized mammal (to 4lb/2kg) with an elongate body, a long tail, small rounded ears, and relatively short legs; pelage (coat) is soft, luxurious, and generally rich brown to almost black dorsally; the underparts are paler, sometimes with a whitish chin patch and whitish spotting elsewhere; 5 digits on each foot. Distinguished from the full species by Humphrey and Setzer (1989) based on tooth size, cranial measurements, and a lighter pelage.

Similar Species: Long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*) has a yellow to cream colored underside that is readily visible and a thinner tail than Gulf salt marsh mink. The underside of Gulf salt marsh mink is brown except for white spots on the chin and chest.

Habitat: Gulf Salt Marsh Mink only occupy salt marsh and other coastal wetland habitats.

Seasonal Occurrence: Present year-round.

Florida Distribution: The Gulf Salt Marsh Mink is a subspecies endemic to the Gulf coast region of Florida (Humphrey and Setzer 1989). The known extent of occurrence extends along a narrow strip along the coast from Hernando County to Bay County (FLMNH Mammals Collection and FWC unpublished data 2018). Despite ample available habitat there have been no records along the Big Bend and eastern Panhandle regions. The estimated extent of occurrence is 11,102.858 km- (FNAI 2018).

Range-wide Distribution: The Gulf salt marsh mink subspecies is endemic to the Gulf coast of Florida from Bay County to Hernando County.

Conservation Status: All known occurrences of this subspecies occur on protected managed areas including Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, and Wacassassa Bay Preserve State Park.

Protection and Management: Management of upstream water usage and pollution may be important strategies. Discontinue further hydrological

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changes and restore previous hydrological alterations to natural conditions.

References: Humphrey and Setzer 1989, Nowak 1991, Smith 1980

No photograph is available for this species.