

## ATLANTIC SALT MARSH MINK

*Neogale vison lutensis*

**Order:** Carnivora  
**Family:** Mustelidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G5T3/S2  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** none



**Description:** A medium-sized mammal with an elongate body, small rounded ears, and relatively short legs; pelage is soft, luxurious, and dark brown dorsally; the underparts are paler, sometimes with a whitish chin patch and whitish spotting elsewhere; 5 digits on each foot; teeth large (length of upper molar-premolar row averaging 19.2 mm in 5 adult males) (Hollister 1913, Humphrey and Seltzer 1989).

**Similar Species:** Other mink subspecies (*N. v. evergladensis* and *N. v. halilimnetes*) are best separated by geography. *N. v. evergladensis* is found in the Everglades region. *N. v. halilimnetes* is found in the Big Bend region along the Gulf Coast. The long-tailed weasel (*N. frenata*) is smaller, 9-12 inches, with a golden-brown pelage on the upperside and cream-colored pelage on the underside.

**Habitat:** Salt marsh, especially where oysters are present.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Year-round.

**Florida Distribution:** Restricted to coastal marshes of Nassau and Duval counties. Historically, the range extended south into St. Johns County.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Salt marshes along the Atlantic Coast of southern South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida as far south as the St. Johns River.

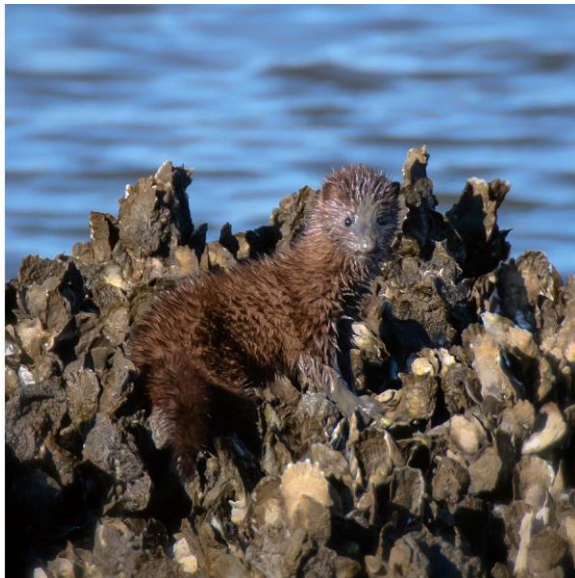
**Conservation Status:** Most occupied habitat in Florida is protected. However, sea-level rise is shrinking the amount of the already-limited available habitat.

**Protection and Management:** Maintain marsh habitat. Create crossings beneath roads, causeways, and bridges in the marsh. Manage blue crab populations in Nassau and Duval counties.

**References:** Hall 1981, Hapeman and Smith 2024, Hapeman et al. 2021, Hollister 1913, Humphrey and Setzer 1989, Penney 1950



Eating blue crab. © Jason Cleary



Eating blue crab. © Jason Cleary