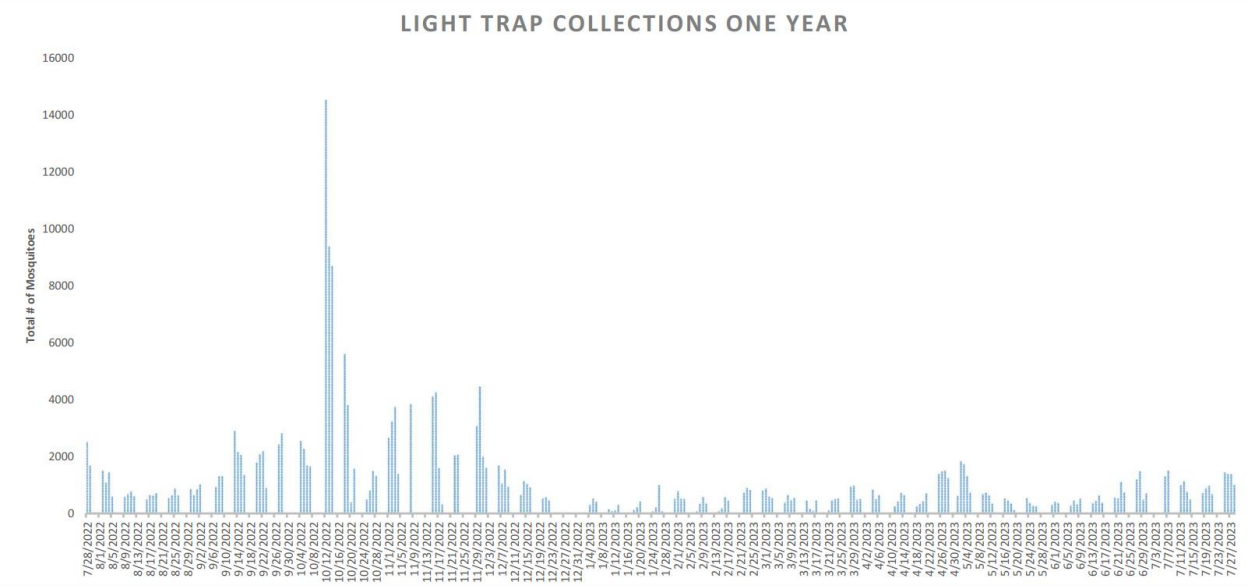
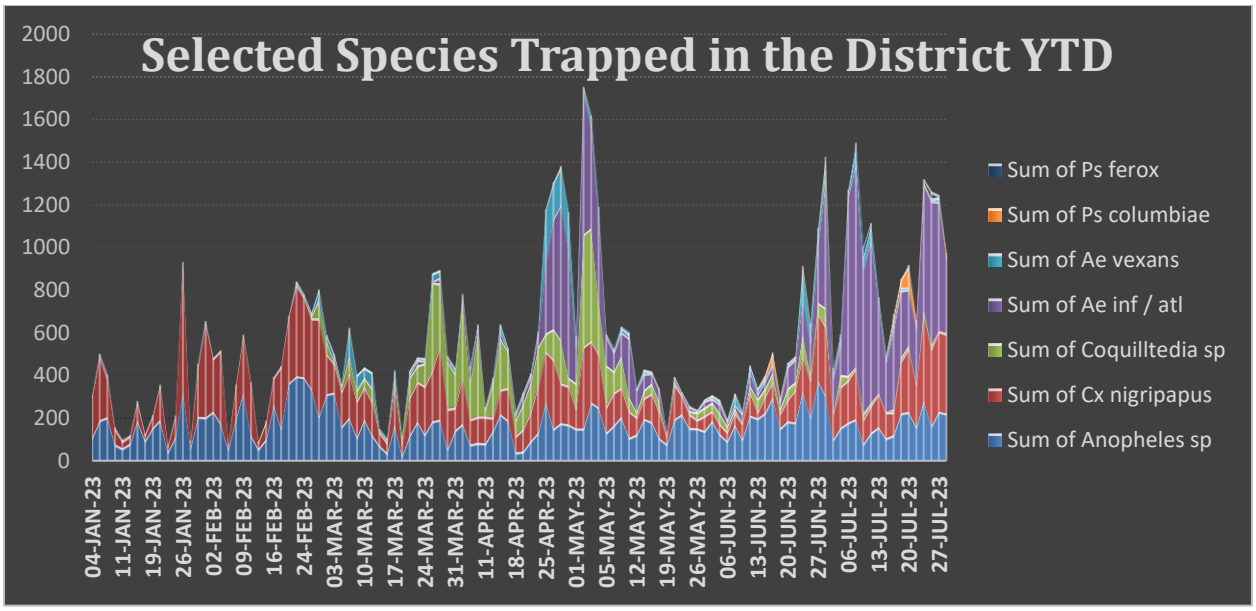
Week of 7/31/2023 Operations Update (31)

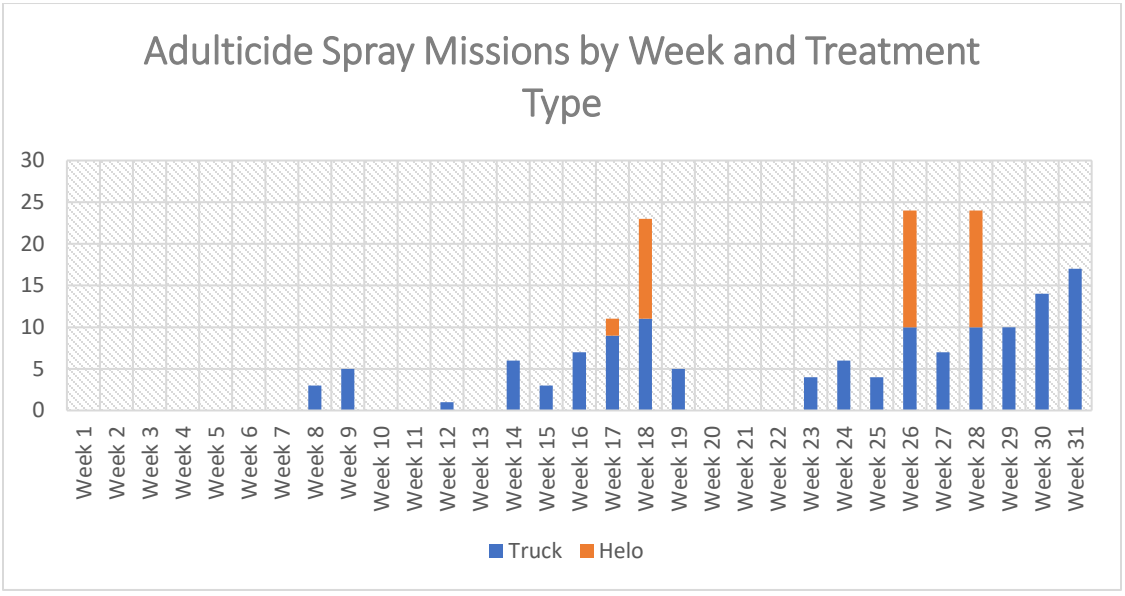
This was the second week of elevated saltmarsh mosquito activity. The bar graph below shows the total number of adult mosquitoes from all traps in the District for the past year (TTM).



Saltmarsh mosquito activity had been elevated for the past two weeks. Storm activity in the Atlantic has caused flooding beyond the areas routinely pretreated with larvicide to prevent the emergence of saltmarsh mosquitoes. In addition, this week saw an additional mosquito species present in our surveillance traps. This species, *Psorophora columbiae* (the dark rice field mosquito), usually shows up after a surge in other floodwater mosquito species, but in this case, there was no preceding surge. Rainfall has been in distinct bands recently and may have flooded areas more remote to the District. This species has a ten-mile flight-range and may have belatedly made its way into our surveillance traps.



The genus Psorophora derives from the Greek words ‘Psoros’ (itching) and ‘pherein’ (to carry). The Dark Rice field Mosquito is often found in environments influenced by human activities. Irrigated fields such as rice paddies, flooded pastures, and rain-filled depressions make ideal breeding grounds for these mosquitoes. In Flagler County, it breeds in the furrows of bedded pines that surround the District.



Zones highlighted in yellow were treated by truck this week.