



Universidad Veracruzana

Use and Characterization of Habitat by the Antillean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) in the South of Veracruz, Mexico.

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In México, the Antillean Manatee lives at coastal lagoons, estuaries and rivers from Veracruz, Tabasco, Chiapas, and Quintana Roo states. Their main threats are illegal hunting, pollution and habitat loss.

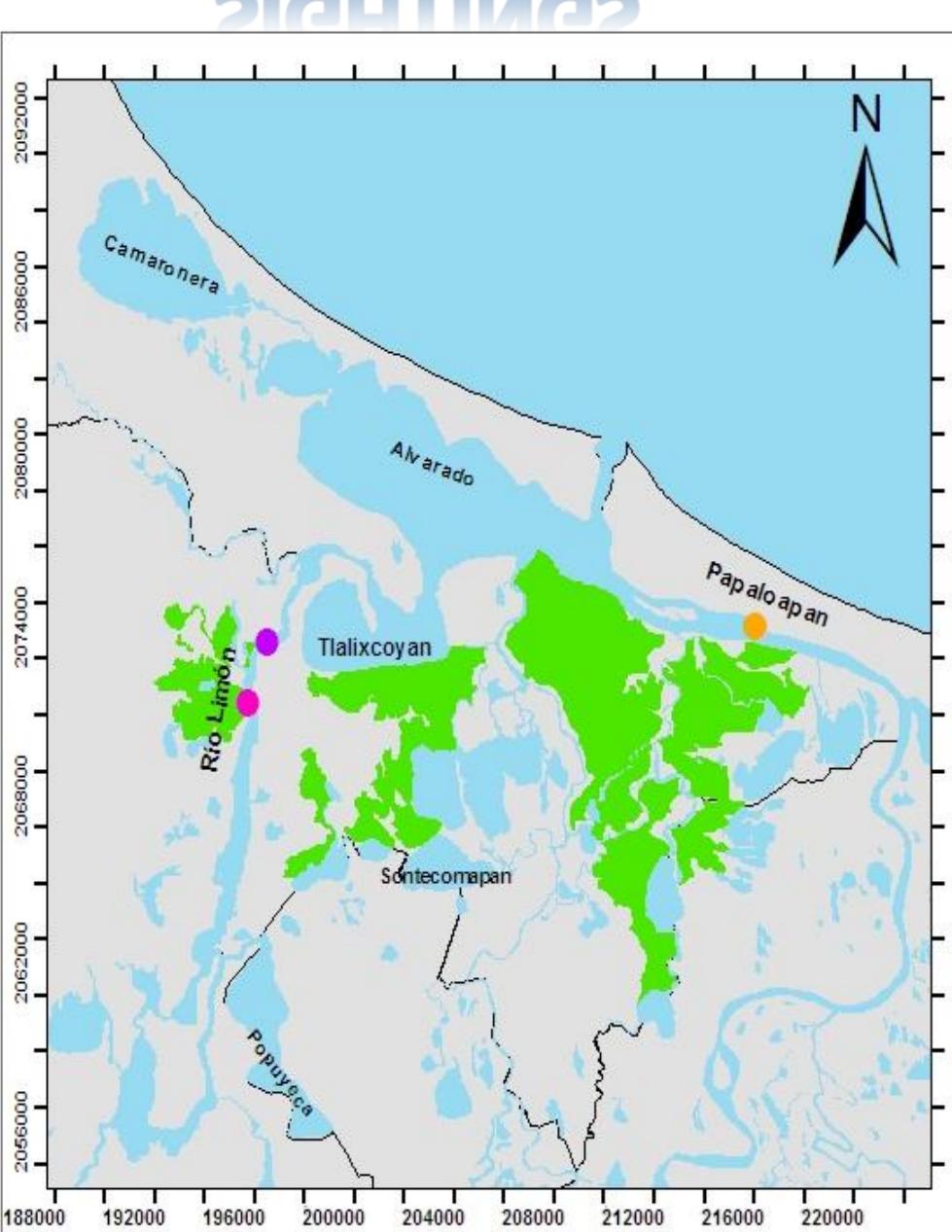
In Veracruz, the northern boundary of its distribution had been reported for the Alvarado Lagoon System (ALS) (Rodas-Trejo, 2008; Daniel-Renteria *et al.*, 2012) and population trends remain unknown.

However, there are anecdotic reports about its presence at the south of Veracruz in the Coatzacoalcos river.

RESULTS

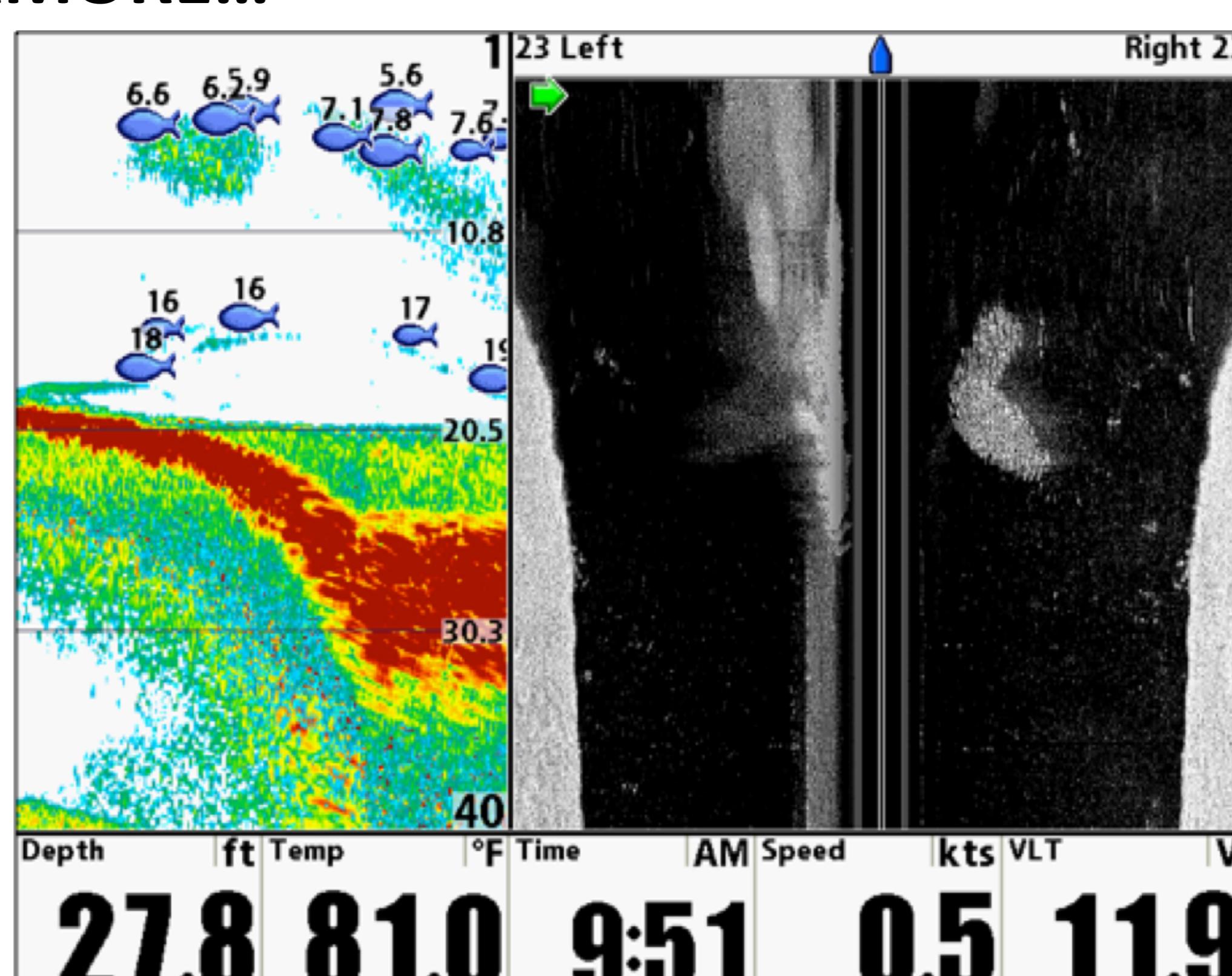
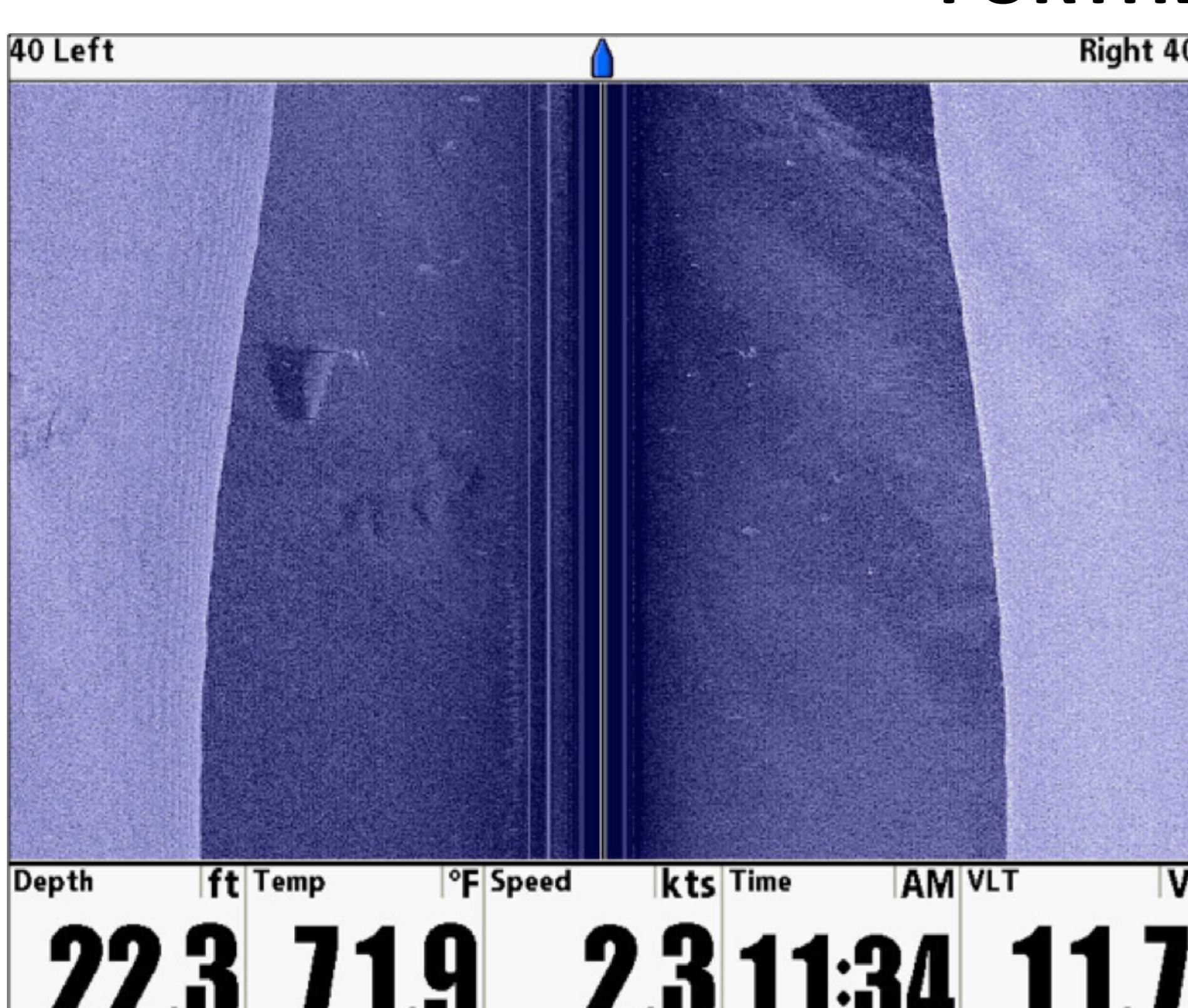
SIGHTINGS

234 navigation hours
1,200 km surveyed



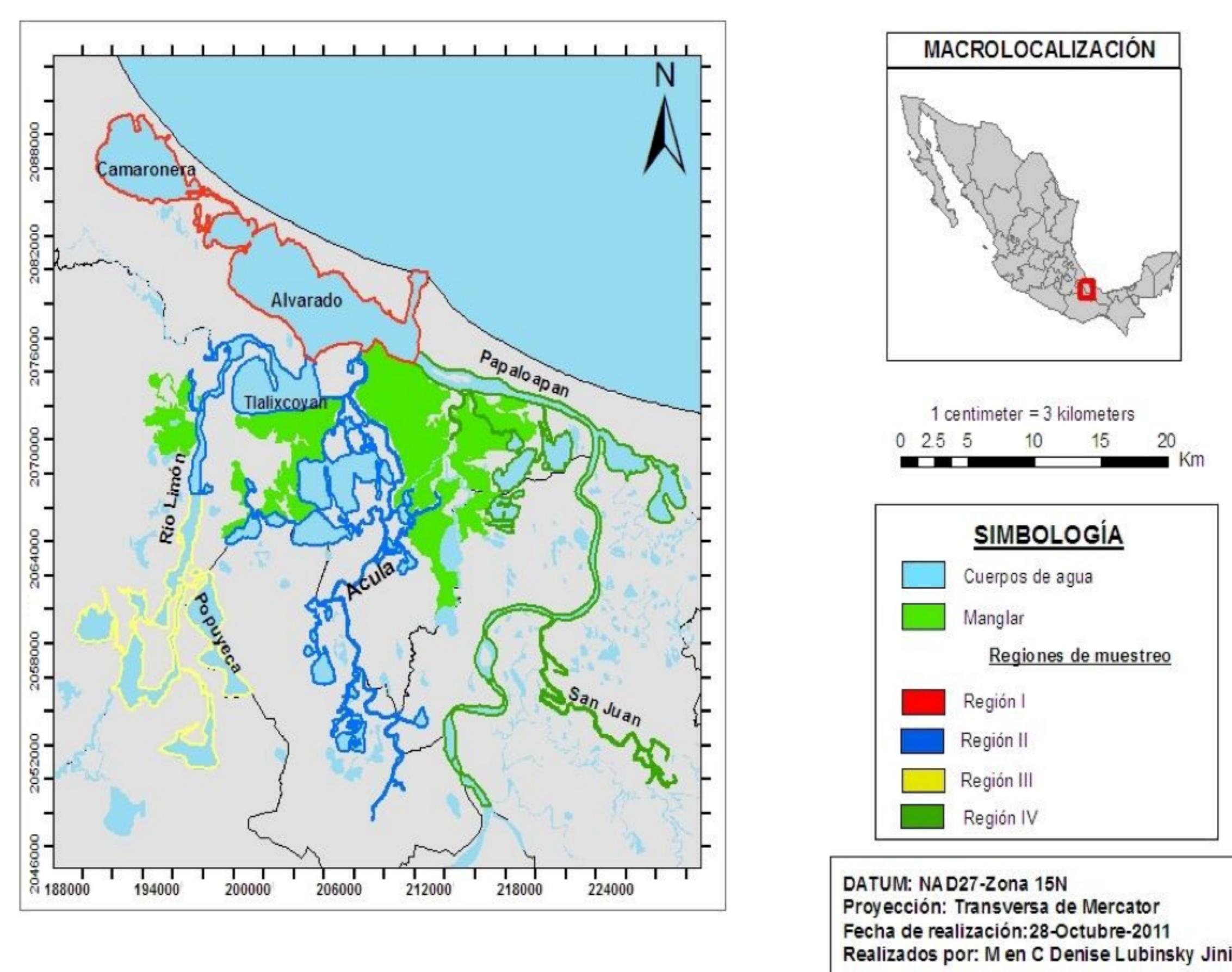
INDIRECT SIGHTINGS

FURTHERMORE...



Boat-based surveys in Coatzacoalcos

Reported as high-priority habitat due to its conservation status and several human activities. These new findings are relevant to update data of the species distribution in the country (Morales-García & Martínez-Serrano, 2013); to find where the manatees go in the web of water channels present in this area, in order to promote their conservation; and to prioritize the zone as resting or calving area, due to the tributary's characteristics: calm waters, full of feeding resources and free of death reports by boat collisions, entanglements or hunting.



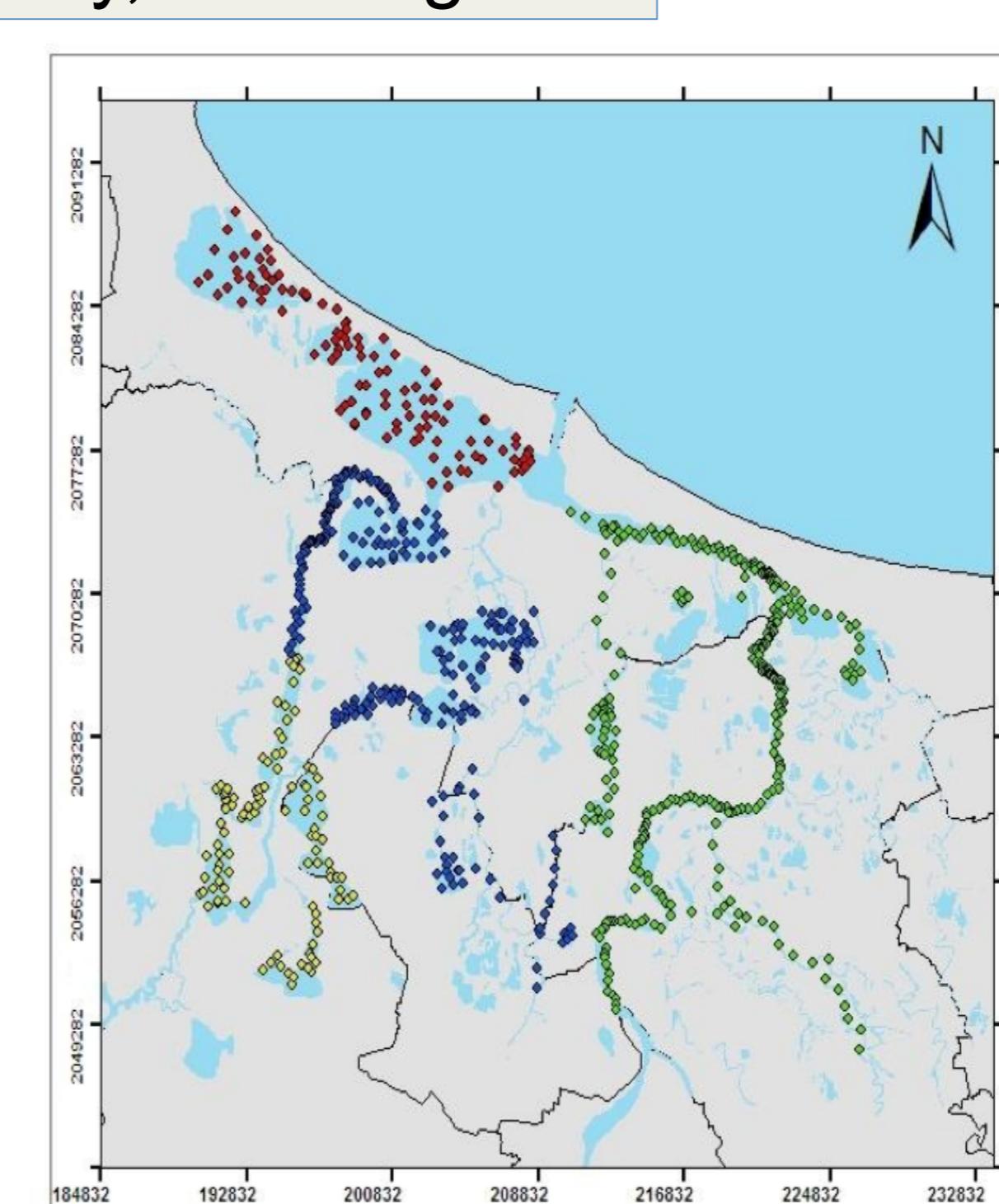
OBJECTIVES

- To assess systematically the manatee presence at ALS
- To know the distribution inside the ALS
- To determine habitat preferences

METHODS



Main activities:
Social, breeding, play, traveling



Depth
Temperature
Salinity
Conductivity
Dissolved oxygen
Turbidity

TO DO:

- All the habitat characterization
- To take physical and chemical parameters in Coatzacoalcos
- To conduct behavioral studies
- To estimate abundance and other population parameters
- Social and economical studies around manatee conservation

REFERENCES

1. Daniel-Rentería, I.C., A. Serrano y G. Sánchez-Rojas. (2012). Distribución del manatí antillano (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) en el Sistema Lagunar de Alvarado (Veracruz, México). Ciencias Marinas 38(2): 459-465.
2. Morales-García, N.A., I. Martínez-Serrano. (2013). He isn't dead, he was on party. New sightings of the antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) in the south of Veracruz, Mexico. Abstracts book of the 20th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. Dunedin, New Zealand. December 9-13, 2013.
3. Rodas-Trejo, J., E.I. Romero-Berny y A. Estrada. (2008). Distribution and Conservation the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) in the Catazajá wetlands of northeast Chiapas, México. Tropical Conservation Science 1(4): 321-333.