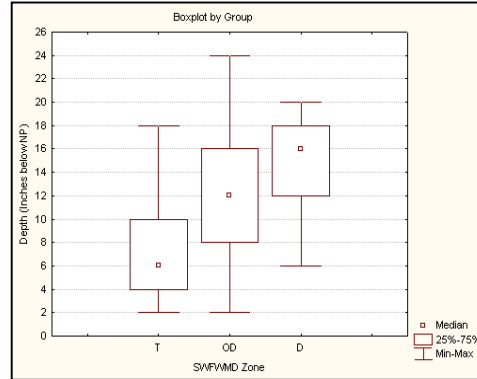


Normal Pool Index Study



Client/Owner: Tampa Bay Water
Project Location: Sumter, Lake, Pasco, and Hillsborough Counties, Florida

GPI assessed plant spatial distribution in relation to Historic Normal Pool (HNP) in ten wetlands believed to have relatively natural hydrology in order to determine the best zone break elevations for the revised Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP) used by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Tampa Bay Water. (The WAP is a rapid assessment method used in the Northern Tampa Bay Region to identify overall wetland conditions.) A range of elevations relative to HNP were established for each species encountered to provide supporting data for the plant list developed by the SWFWMD to be used in the revised WAP methods. The wetlands were monitored to determine: the range of elevations relative to Historic Normal Pool for each plant species encountered in the wetland; the number and/or percentage of occurrences of each species within the transition, outer deep, and deep zones established relative to the elevations NP-6 and NP-12; and a statistical analysis to determine whether NP-6 and NP-12 are adequate zone break elevations.