

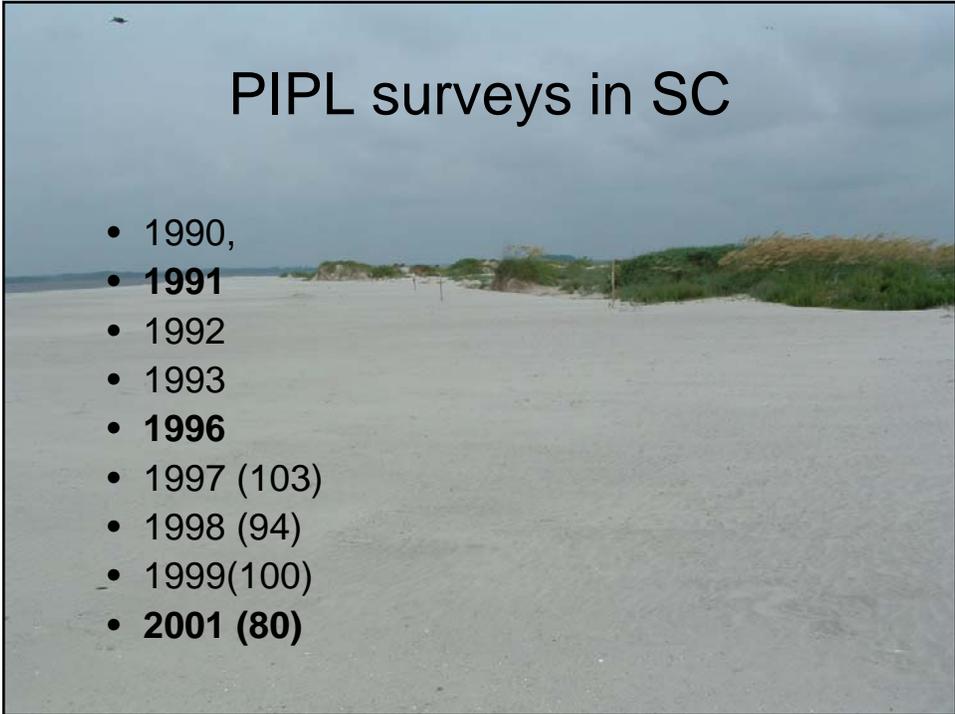
## Distribution and abundance of wintering Piping Plovers in South Carolina

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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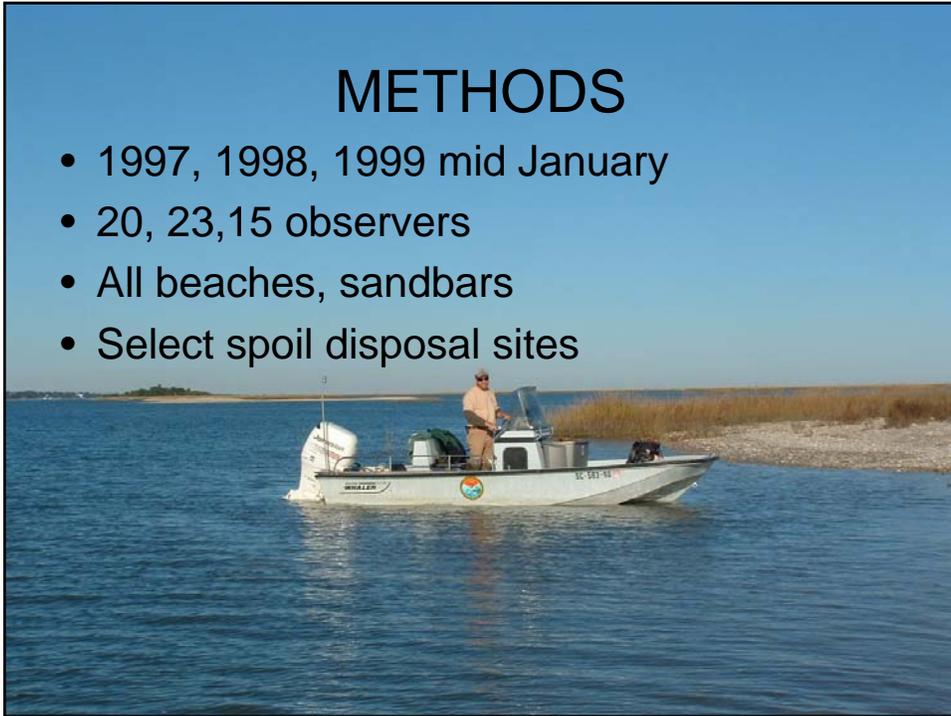


## PIPL surveys in SC

- 1990,
- **1991**
- 1992
- 1993
- **1996**
- 1997 (103)
- 1998 (94)
- 1999(100)
- **2001 (80)**

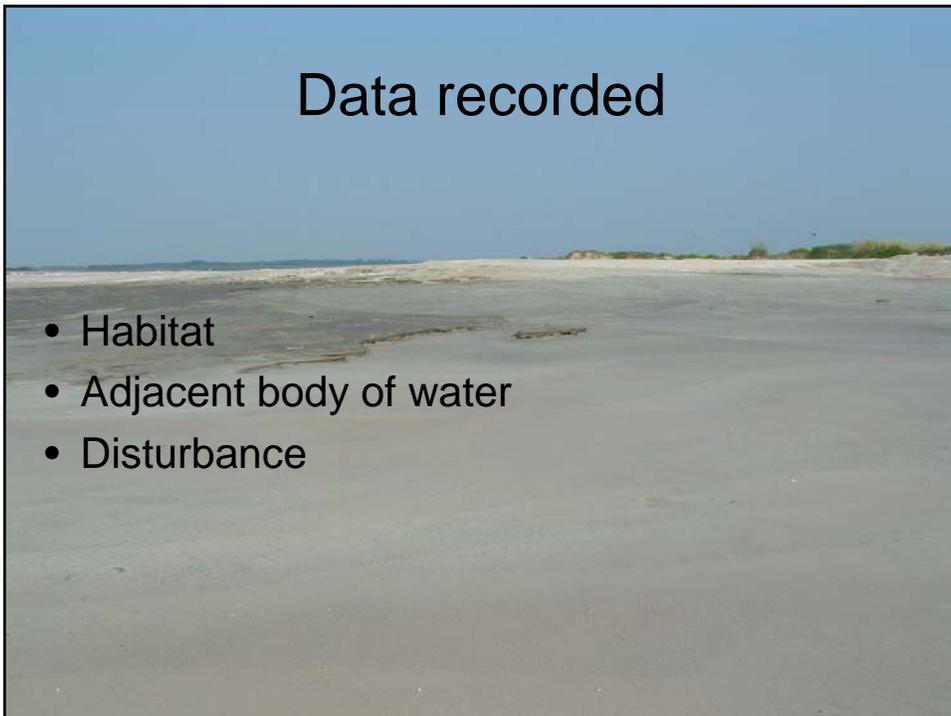
## METHODS

- 1997, 1998, 1999 mid January
- 20, 23, 15 observers
- All beaches, sandbars
- Select spoil disposal sites



## Data recorded

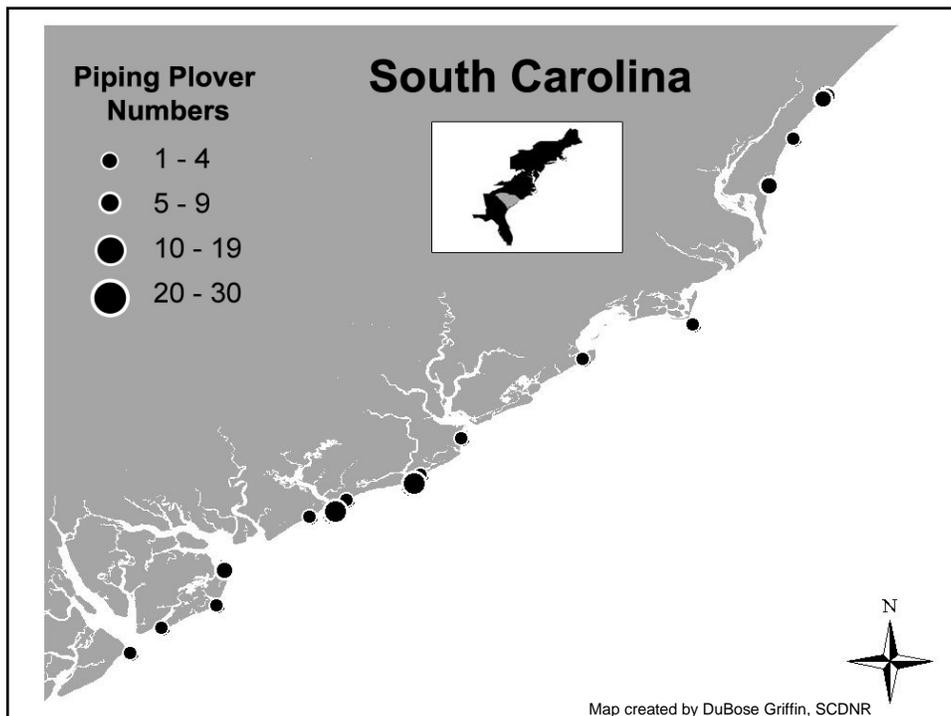
- Habitat
- Adjacent body of water
- Disturbance



## Results 97-99

- 1997 (103), 1998 (94) and 1999 (100)
- Found at 26 sites
- Average group size: 4,3, and 2.5
- ½ PIPL at Kiawah, Deveaux bank, Seabrook, Bird Key complex

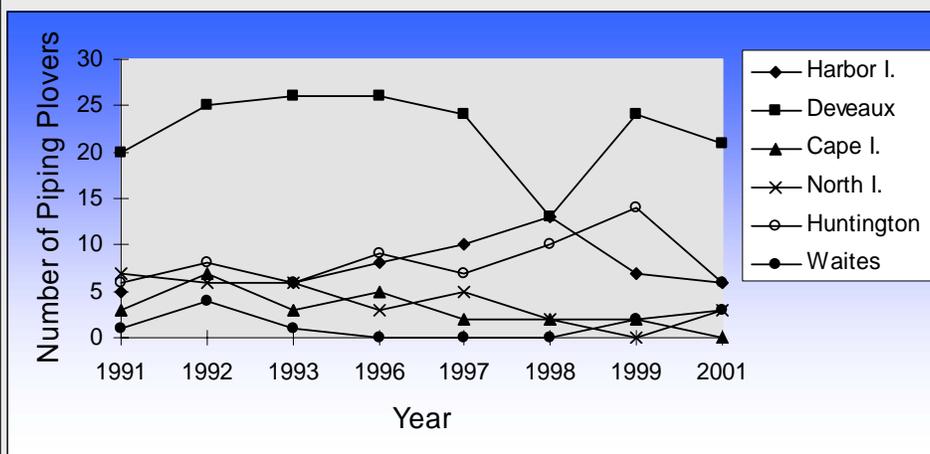
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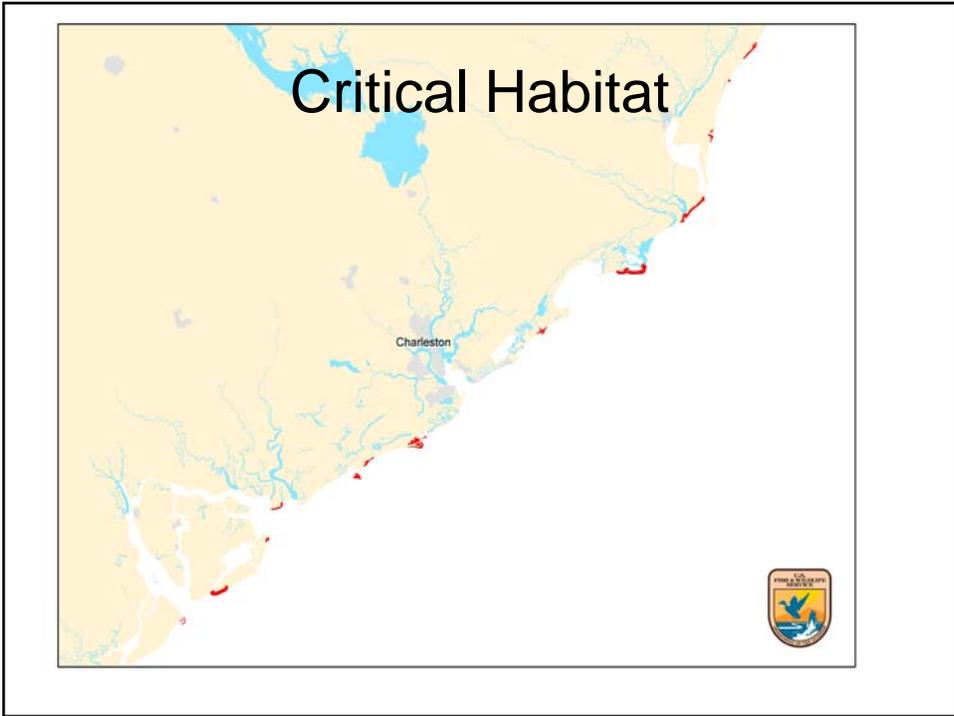


## Habitat preference

- Sandy substrate: sand flats (18-50%) and sand beaches (22-82%)
- Adjacent to protected bodies of water (>65%)
- Within 1km of an inlet (>59%)
- Undeveloped (>61%)
- Accessible by boat only (>55%)
- No dogs or humans seen at >60%

## 10 YEAR TREND





**Non-breeding Piping Plover Observation Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of observer: \_\_\_\_\_

General description of location: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of piping plovers observed: \_\_\_\_\_

General activity (check all that apply)

Foraging	_____	
Roosting	_____	
Territorial displays	_____	
Other	_____	Explain: _____

Special notations (e.g. color banding): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

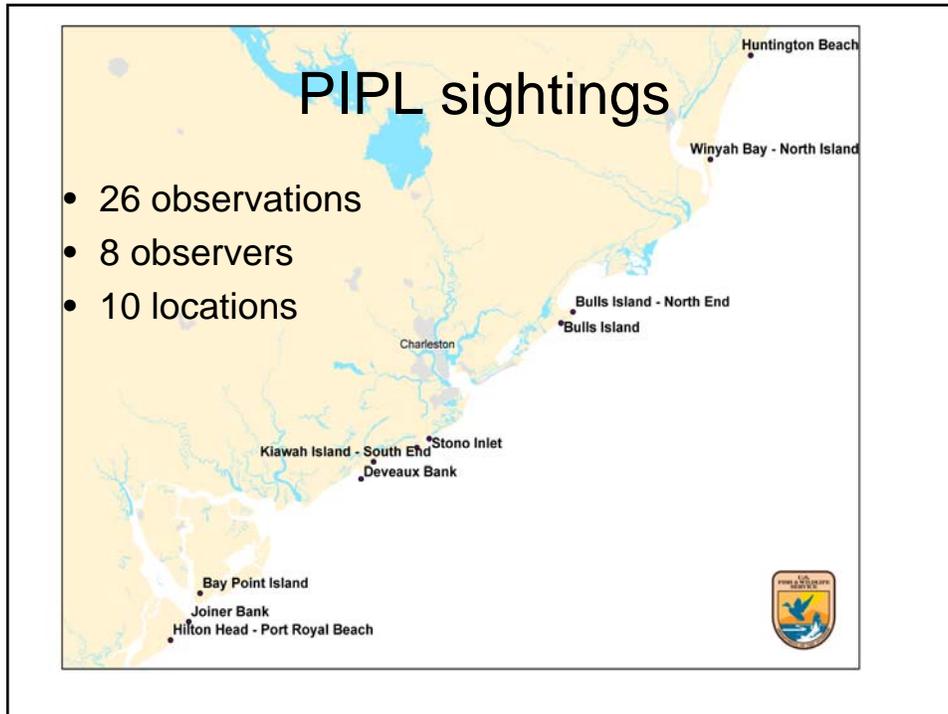
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send all completed forms to:

Melissa Bimbi  
USFWS  
176 Crogan Spur Road, Suite 200  
Charleston, SC 29407

Or email information to [melissa\\_bimbi@fws.gov](mailto:melissa_bimbi@fws.gov)



## Summary

- Entire state surveyed for international census
- February 11, 2005 next survey
- Research – none
- Threat – disturbance (human and dog)
- Timing – not known

