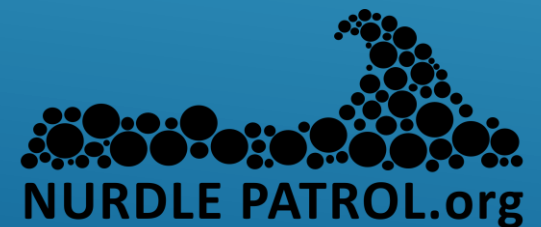


# NURDLE PATROL & SOCIAL MEDIA

**Jace Tunnell**

Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve








January 22, 2020



# WHAT IS A NURDLE?

- ▶ Nurdle – raw plastic
- ▶ Basis for everything plastic



						
PETE	HDPE	PVC	LDPE	PP	PS	OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate	high-density polyethylene	polyvinyl chloride	low-density polyethylene	polypropylene	polystyrene	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass
soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruit juice container, cooking oil	milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps	trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff	crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly-resistant sacks and most of the wrappings	furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars	toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, CD cases, vending cups	





# RELEASE TO ENVIRONMENT





# NURDLE SPILL ON BEACH

- ▶ September 28, 2018
- ▶ Nueces County, TX - Bob Hall Pier








# Social Media Posts

**Jace Tunnell**  
Admin · December 15 at 8:34 AM

Are these #nurdles? Nope. These are #horseshoe crab eggs. Easy to see how birds, sea turtles, and fish could confuse nurdles with these eggs. Thanks to Coreen Evans Weilminster for the great egg photos!



113 7 Comments

**Kristen Miller**  
December 15 at 12:52 PM

192 nurdles at Whitecap beach this morning.



7 Comments

**Sherry Martinez**  
December 13 at 9:42 AM

Nurdle Art one of my students made in our trash to art project.



84 4 Comments

**Tiffany Reed-Villarreal** shared a link.  
Yesterday at 10:32 AM

Shale gas from the US is causing nurdles to make their way around the globe.



STATEIMPACT.NPR.ORG

**Scotland is turning Pennsylvania shale gas into plastic. But what happens to it next? | StateImpact Pennsylvania**

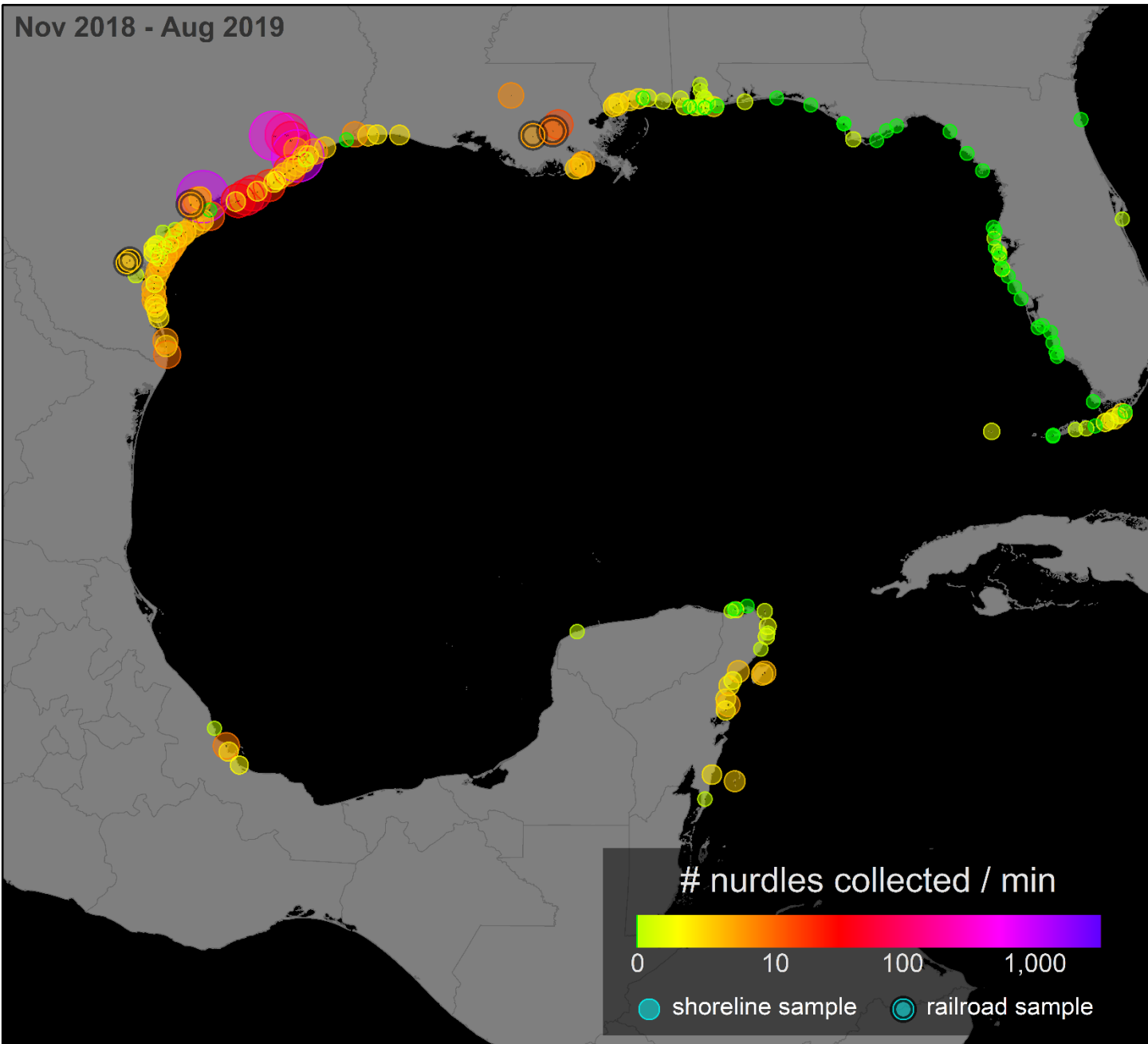
2 Comments



# LATEST STATS

- ▶ 1,400 volunteers
- ▶ 4,400 surveys
- ▶ 2,100 sites
- ▶ 26 partner organizations







Nov 2018 - Aug 2019

Texas

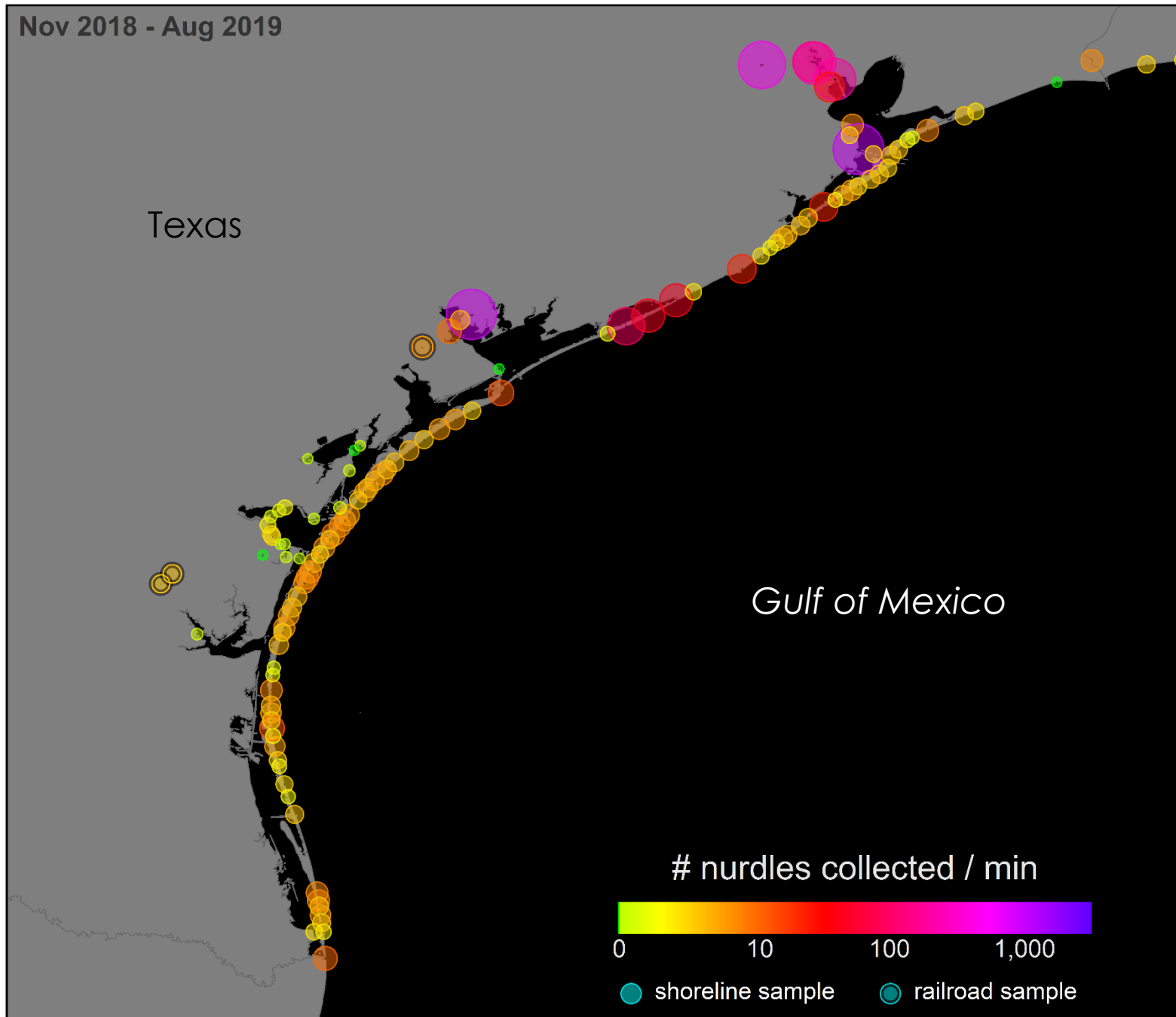
Gulf of Mexico

# nurdles collected / min



● shoreline sample

● railroad sample



## Legend



Nurdles = 0



Nurdles 1 - 30



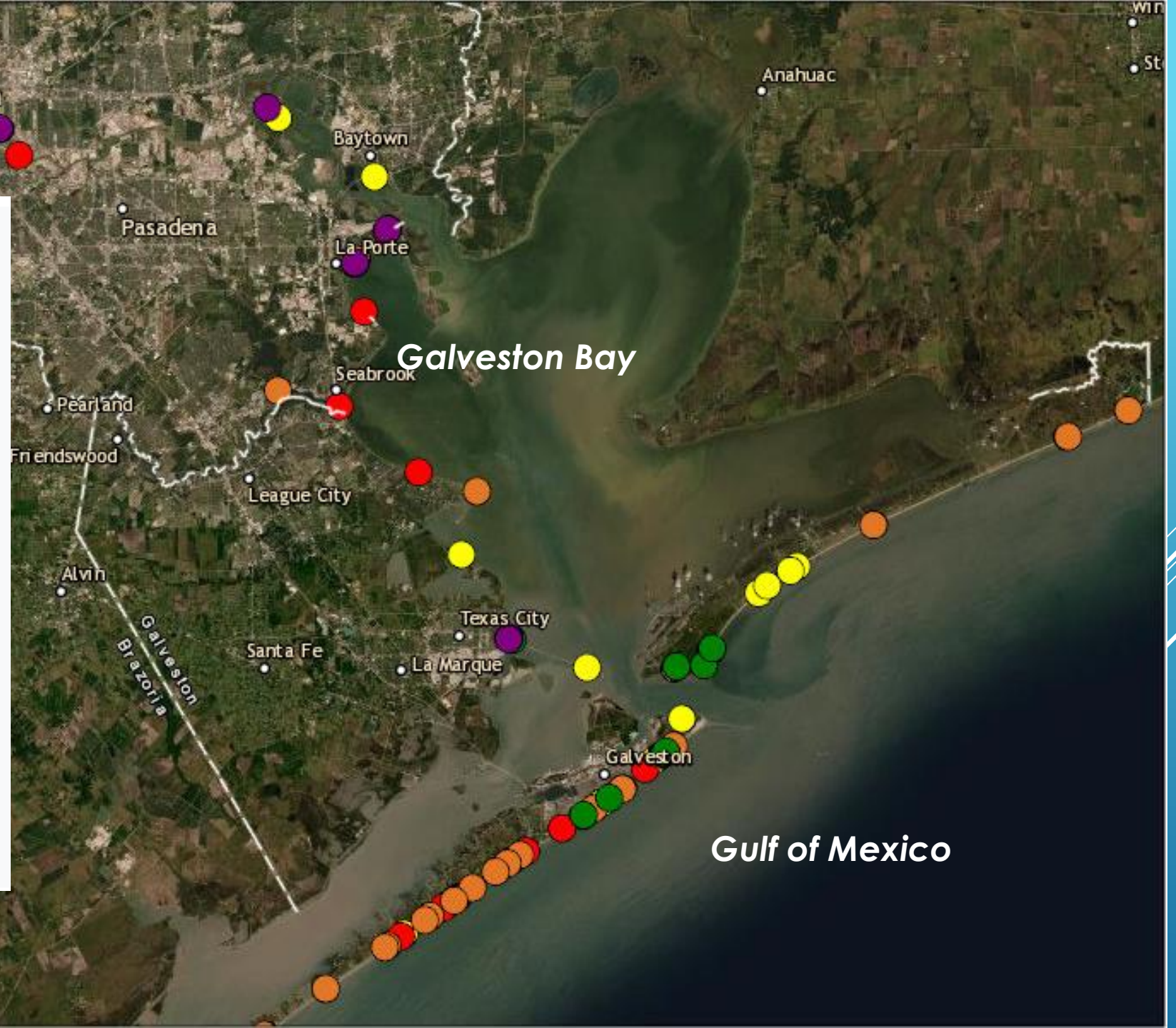
Nurdles 31 - 100



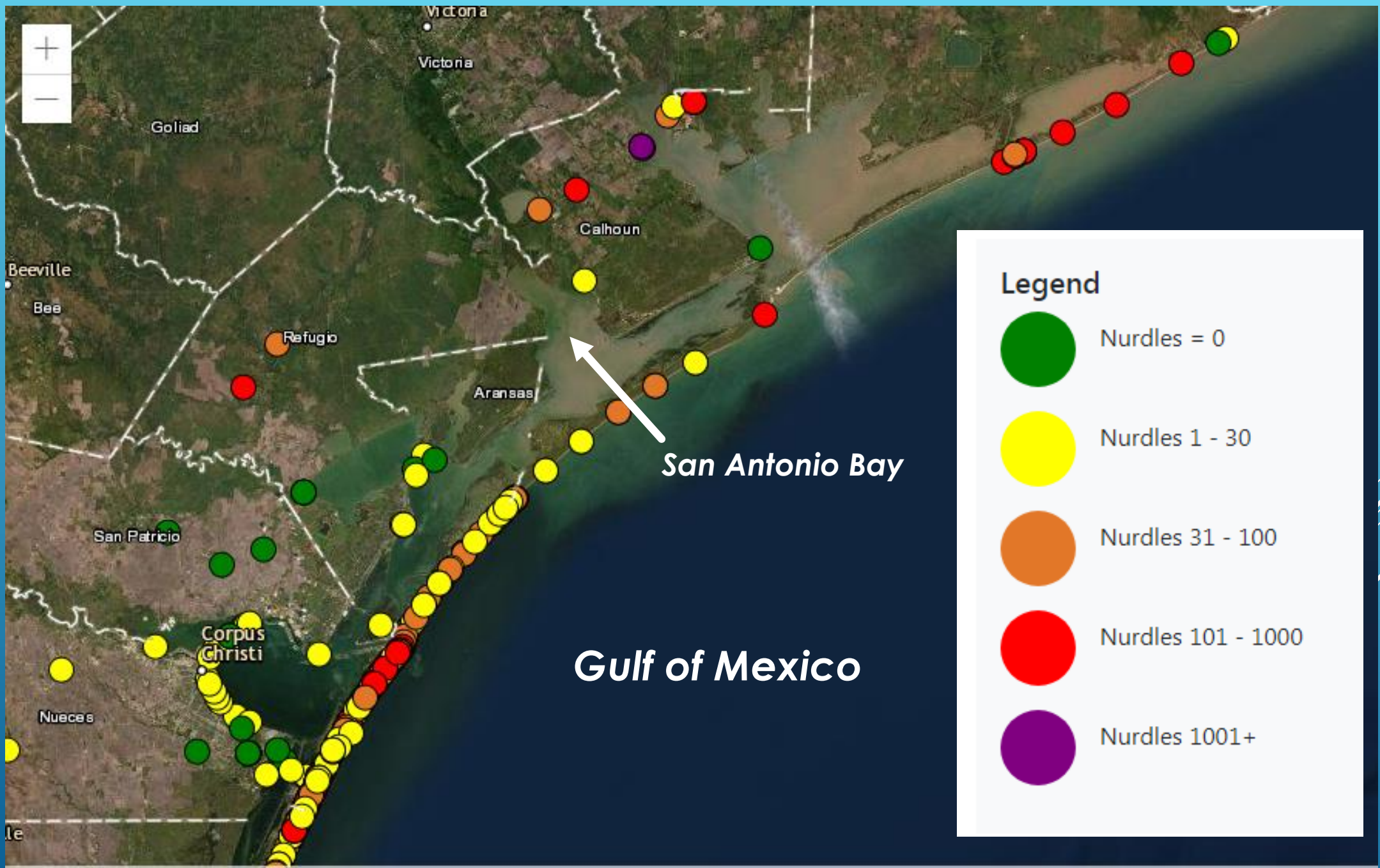
Nurdles 101 - 1000



Nurdles 1001+

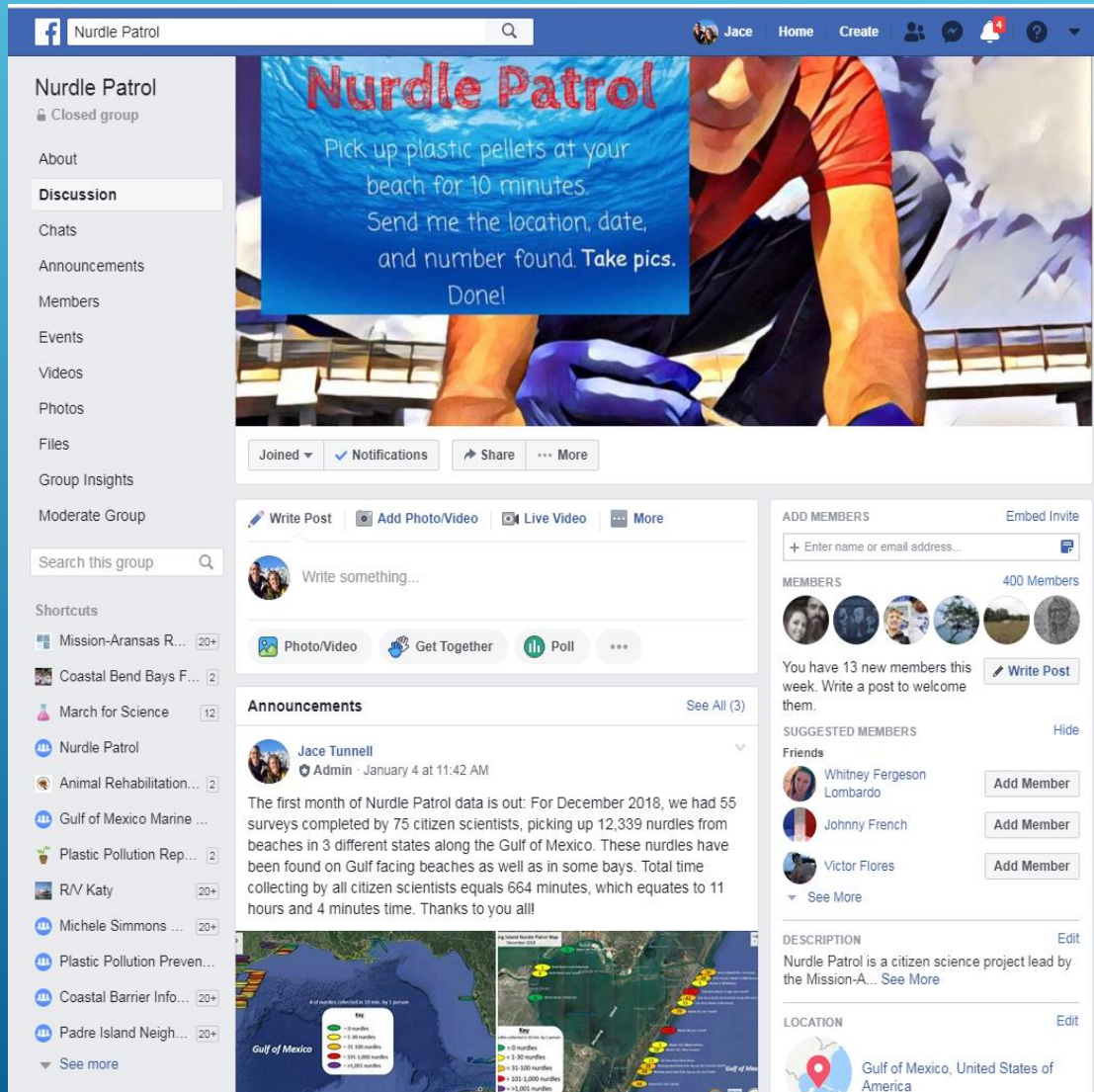




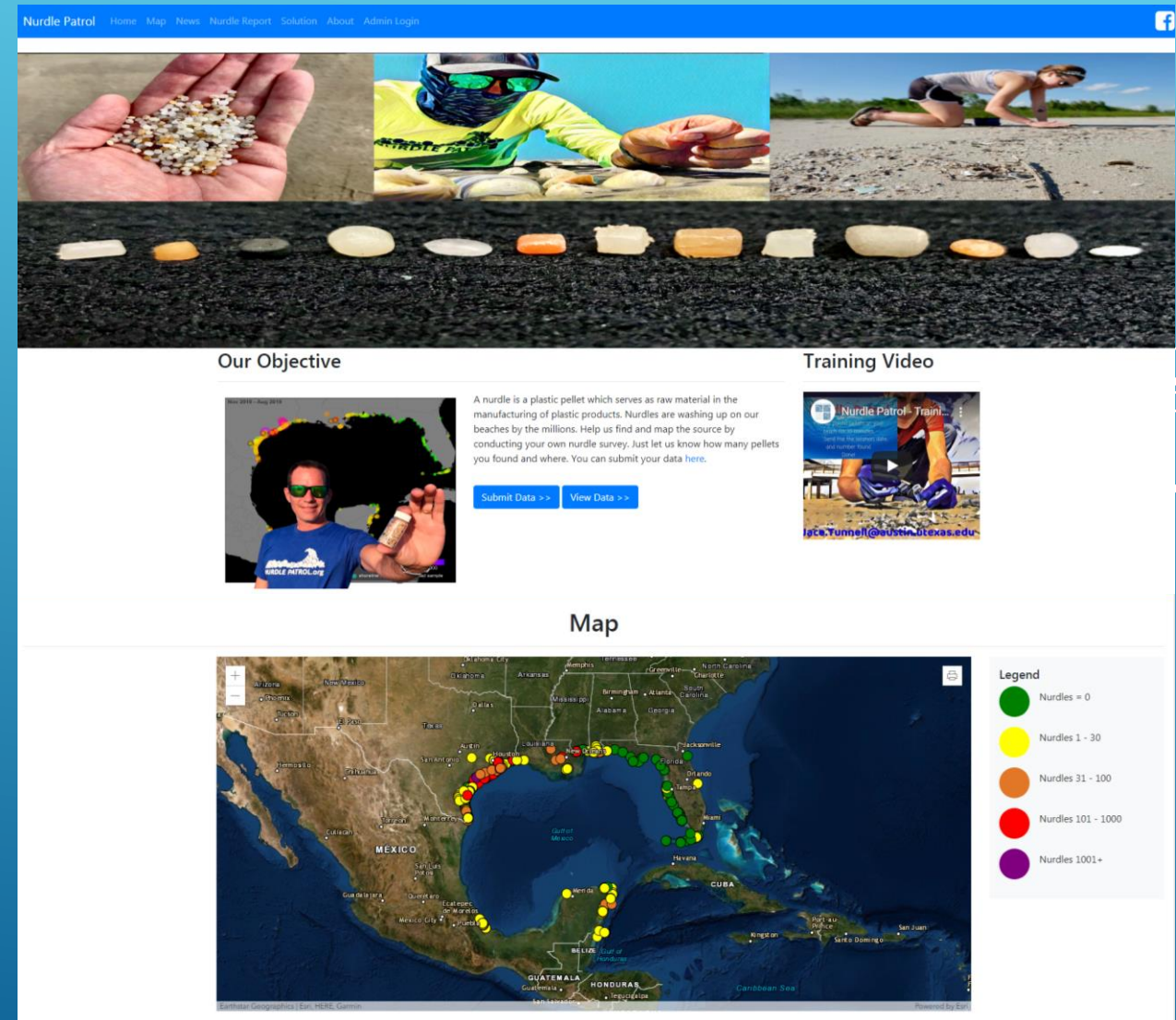




# Facebook



**www.NurdlePatrol.org**





# WHY? OUR NEXT GENERATION



# THANK YOU!

Jace@utexas.edu

## All Citizen Scientists!

Katie Swanson  
Jacob Augs  
Dr. Lindsay Scheef  
Dr. Zhanfei Liu  
Dr. Kelly Dunning

