

Florida Keys Project

Working towards a solution to help fight disease-carrying mosquitoes



OXITEC

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) has been working hard to reduce the disease-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquito pest, and is looking for new tools to use in the war against mosquitoes.

The current control methods kill mosquitoes by treating their breeding and egg-laying areas with insecticides, but there are many sites that can't be reached.



Oxitec scientists have engineered a strain of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with a self-limiting gene to help the fight against mosquitoes.

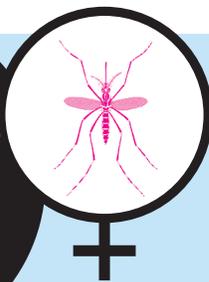
Oxitec males are released and mate with wild females and the offspring die.



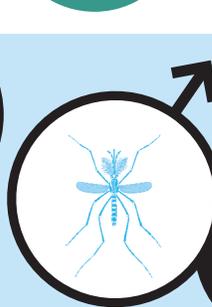
Efficacy trials using Oxitec's solution have been shown to significantly reduce *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, demonstrating greater than 90% reduction in the mosquito population in other countries.

Oxitec mosquitoes have received regulatory approval for open releases in several countries.

Females bite and transmit diseases



Males do not bite or transmit disease



Wild mosquito

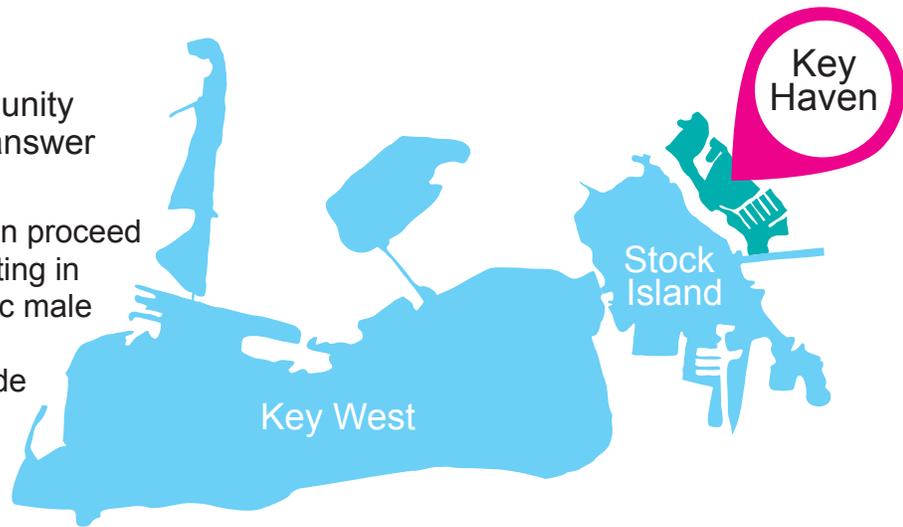
Female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes spread diseases like **Zika**, **dengue**, **chikungunya** and **yellow fever**.



The Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM) is working with other agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for federal regulation of this project. There will be no releases until the FDA has completed an evaluation.

Oxitec is working to inform the community about the mosquito releases and to answer questions.

If the FDA-CVM agrees that releases can proceed following their review, we anticipate starting in 2016. Assuming the trial proceeds Oxitec male mosquitoes would be released up to 3 times a week. Project results will be made available to the public.



The FDA-CVM has recently announced a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and preliminary conclusion that the proposed trial would have no significant effects on health or the environment.

This approach is targeted to the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes which spread diseases (such as Zika and dengue) as the Oxitec males only produce offspring with their own species.

Both the released mosquitoes and their offspring will die – they do not stay in the environment.

FAQ

Q1 Will I notice the mosquito releases?

A

You might notice a truck driving around to release the Oxitec male mosquitoes. When they are released they disperse quickly.

Q2 What would happen if my pet or I get bitten?

A

Male mosquitoes don't bite. Every effort is made to release only males. The preliminary FONSI, issued by the FDA-CVM and based on an Environmental Assessment from Oxitec, concludes that risk to humans or animals from the release of Oxitec's engineered mosquitoes is negligible.

Q3 Can the Oxitec genes spread in the environment?

A

No, the male mosquitoes only produce offspring with their own species, and both the males and their offspring die.

For more information



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