

Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve

SEACAR Habitat Analyses

Last compiled on 08 October, 2025

Contents

Funding & Acknowledgements	2
Threshold Filtering	2
Value Qualifiers	3
Water Column	5
Seasonal Kendall-Tau Analysis	5
Water Quality - Discrete	5
Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin - Discrete	6
Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete	7
Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete	9
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete	12
pH - Discrete	13
Salinity - Discrete	15
Secchi Depth - Discrete	18
Total Nitrogen - Discrete	19
Total Phosphorus - Discrete	22
Total Suspended Solids - Discrete	24
Turbidity - Discrete	26
Water Temperature - Discrete	29
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	31
Parameters	31
Species	31
Notes	31
SAV Water Column Analysis	36
Nekton	38
Oyster	40
Density	40
Natural	40
Percent Live	42
Natural	42
Species list	44
References	45

Funding & Acknowledgements

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Threshold Filtering

Threshold filters, following the guidance of Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (*FDEP*) Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (*DEAR*) are used to exclude specific results values from the SEACAR Analysis. Based on the threshold filters, Quality Assurance / Quality Control (*QAQC*) Flags are inserted into the *SEACAR_QAQCFlagCode* and *SEACAR_QAQC_Description* columns of the export data. The *Include* column indicates whether the *QAQC* Flag will also indicate that data are excluded from analysis. No data are excluded from the data export, but the analysis scripts can use the *Include* column to exclude data (1 to include, 0 to exclude).

Table 1: Continuous Water Quality threshold values

Parameter Name	Units	Low Threshold	High Threshold
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	-0.000001	50
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	%	-0.000001	500
Salinity	ppt	-0.000001	70
Turbidity	NTU	-0.000001	4000
Water Temperature	Degrees C	-5.000000	45
pH	None	2.000000	14

Table 2: Discrete Water Quality threshold values

Parameter Name	Units	Low Threshold	High Threshold
Ammonia, Un-ionized (NH3)	mg/L	-	-
Ammonium, Filtered (NH4)	mg/L	-	-
Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin	ug/L	-	-
Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin	ug/L	-	-
Colored Dissolved Organic Matter	PCU	-	-

Parameter Name	Units	Low Threshold	High Threshold
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	-0.000001	25
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	%	-0.000001	310
Fluorescent Dissolved Organic Matter	QSE	-	-
Light Extinction Coefficient	m^-1	-	-
NO2+3, Filtered	mg/L	-	-
Nitrate (NO3)	mg/L	-	-
Nitrite (NO2)	mg/L	-	-
Nitrogen, organic	mg/L	-	-
Phosphate, Filtered (PO4)	mg/L	-	-
Salinity	ppt	-0.000001	70
Secchi Depth	m	0.000001	50
Specific Conductivity	mS/cm	0.005000	100
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	-	-
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	-	-
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	-	-
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	-	-
Turbidity	NTU	-	-
Water Temperature	Degrees C	3.000000	40
pH	None	2.000000	13

Table 3: Quality Assurance Flags inserted based on threshold checks listed in Table 1 and 2

SEACAR QAQC Description	Include	SEACAR QAQCFlagCode
Exceeds maximum threshold	0	2Q
Below minimum threshold	0	4Q
Within threshold tolerance	1	6Q
No defined thresholds for this parameter	1	7Q

Value Qualifiers

Value qualifier codes included within the data are used to exclude certain results from the analysis. The data are retained in the data export files, but the analysis uses the *Include* column to filter the results.

STORET and WIN value qualifier codes

Value qualifier codes from *STORET* and *WIN* data are examined with the database and used to populate the *Include* column in data exports.

Table 4: Value Qualifier codes excluded from analysis

Qualifier Source	Value Qualifier	Include	MDL	Description
STORET-WIN	H	0	0	Value based on field kit determination; results may not be accurate
STORET-WIN	J	0	0	Estimated value
STORET-WIN	V	0	0	Analyte was detected at or above method detection limit
STORET-WIN	Y	0	0	Lab analysis from an improperly preserved sample; data may be inaccurate

Discrete Water Quality Value Qualifiers

The following value qualifiers are highlighted in the Discrete Water Quality section of this report. An exception is made for **Program 476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network** and data flagged with Value Qualifier **H** are included for this program only.

H - Value based on field kit determiniation; results may not be accurate. This code shall be used if a field screening test (e.g., field gas chromatograph data, immunoassay, or vendor-supplied field kit) was used to generate the value and the field kit or method has not been recognized by the Department as equivalent to laboratory methods.

I - The reported value is greater than or equal to the laboratory method detection limit but less than the laboratory practical quantitation limit.

Q - Sample held beyond the accepted holding time. This code shall be used if the value is derived from a sample that was prepared or analyzed after the approved holding time restrictions for sample preparation or analysis.

S - Secchi disk visible to bottom of waterbody. The value reported is the depth of the waterbody at the location of the Secchi disk measurement.

U - Indicates that the compound was analyzed for but not detected. This symbol shall be used to indicate that the specified component was not detected. The value associated with the qualifier shall be the laboratory method detection limit. Unless requested by the client, less than the method detection limit values shall not be reported

Systemwide Monitoring Program (SWMP) value qualifier codes

Value qualifier codes from the *SWMP* continuous program are examined with the database and used to populate the *Include* column in data exports. *SWMP* Qualifier Codes are indicated by *QualifierSource=SWMP*.

Table 5: SWMP Value Qualifier codes

<i>Qualifier Source</i>	<i>Value Qualifier</i>	<i>Include</i>	<i>Description</i>
SWMP	-1	1	Optional parameter not collected
SWMP	-2	0	Missing data
SWMP	-3	0	Data rejected due to QA/QC
SWMP	-4	0	Outside low sensor range
SWMP	-5	0	Outside high sensor range
SWMP	0	1	Passed initial QA/QC checks
SWMP	1	0	Suspect data
SWMP	2	1	Reserved for future use
SWMP	3	1	Calculated data: non-vented depth/level sensor correction for changes in barometric pressure
SWMP	4	1	Historical: Pre-auto QA/QC
SWMP	5	1	Corrected data

Water Column

The water column habitat extends from the water's surface to the bottom sediments, and it's where fish, dolphins, crabs and people swim! So much life makes its home in the water column that the health of marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as human economies, depend on the condition of this vulnerable habitat. Local patterns of rainfall, temperature, winds and currents can rapidly change the condition of the water column, while global influences such as [El Niño/La Niña](#), large-scale fluctuation in sea temperatures and climate change can have long-term effects. Inputs from the prosperity of our day-to-day lives including farming, mining and forestry, and emissions from power generation, automobiles and water treatment can also alter the health of the water column. Acting alone or together, each input can have complex and lasting effects on habitats and ecosystems.

SEACAR evaluates water column health with several essential parameters. These include nutrient surveys of nitrogen and phosphorus, and water quality assessments of salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and water temperature. Water clarity is evaluated with Secchi depth, turbidity, levels of chlorophyll a, total suspended solids, and colored dissolved organic matter. Additionally, the richness of nekton is indicated by the abundance of free-swimming fishes and macroinvertebrates like crabs and shrimps.

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Analysis

Indicators must have a minimum of five to ten years, depending on the habitat, of data within the geographic range of the analysis to be included in the analysis. Ten years of data are required for discrete parameters, and five years of data are required for continuous parameters. If there are insufficient years of data, the number of years of data available will be noted and labeled as "insufficient data to conduct analysis". Further, for the preferred Seasonal Kendall-Tau test, there must be data from at least two months in common across at least two consecutive years within the RCP managed area being analyzed. Values that pass both of these tests will be included in the analysis and be labeled as *Use_In_Analysis = TRUE*. Any that fail either test will be excluded from the analyses and labeled as *Use_In_Analysis = FALSE*. The points for all Water Column plots displayed in this section are monthly averages. Trend significance will be denoted as "Significant Trend" (when $p < 0.05$), or "Non-significant Trend" (when $p \geq 0.05$). Any parameters with insufficient data to perform Seasonal Kendall-Tau test will have their monthly averages plotted without a corresponding trend line.

Water Quality - Discrete

The following files were used in the discrete analysis:

- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Chlorophyll_a_corrected_for_pheophytin-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Chlorophyll_a_uncorrected_for_pheophytin-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Colored_dissolved_organic_matter_CDOM-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Dissolved_Oxygen-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Dissolved_Oxygen_Saturation-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_pH-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Salinity-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Secchi_Depth-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Nitrogen-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Phosphorus-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Suspended_Solids_TSS-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Turbidity-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Water_Temperature-2025-Sep-04.txt*

Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

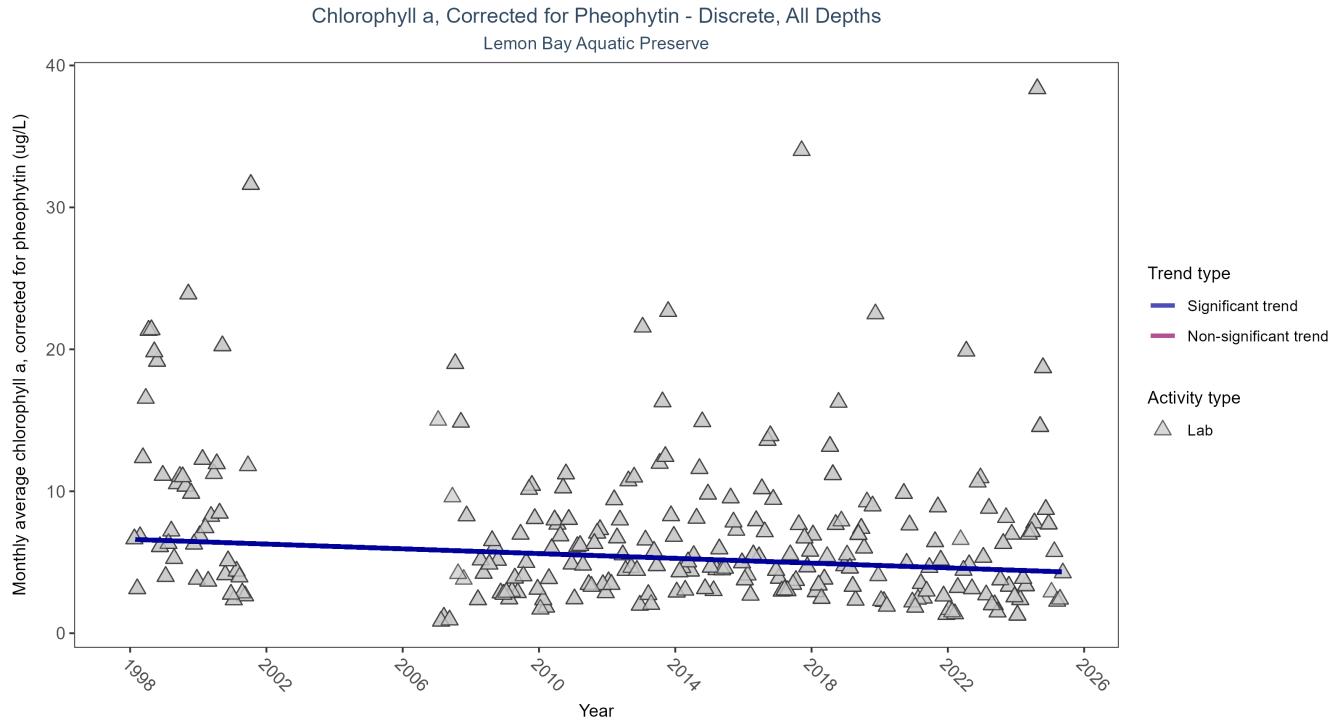


Figure 1: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) is included in the plot.

Table 6: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly decreasing trend	1068	23	1998 - 2025	4.7	-0.1635	6.6163	-0.0838	0.0004

Monthly average chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, decreased by 0.08 µg/L per year, indicating an increase in water clarity.

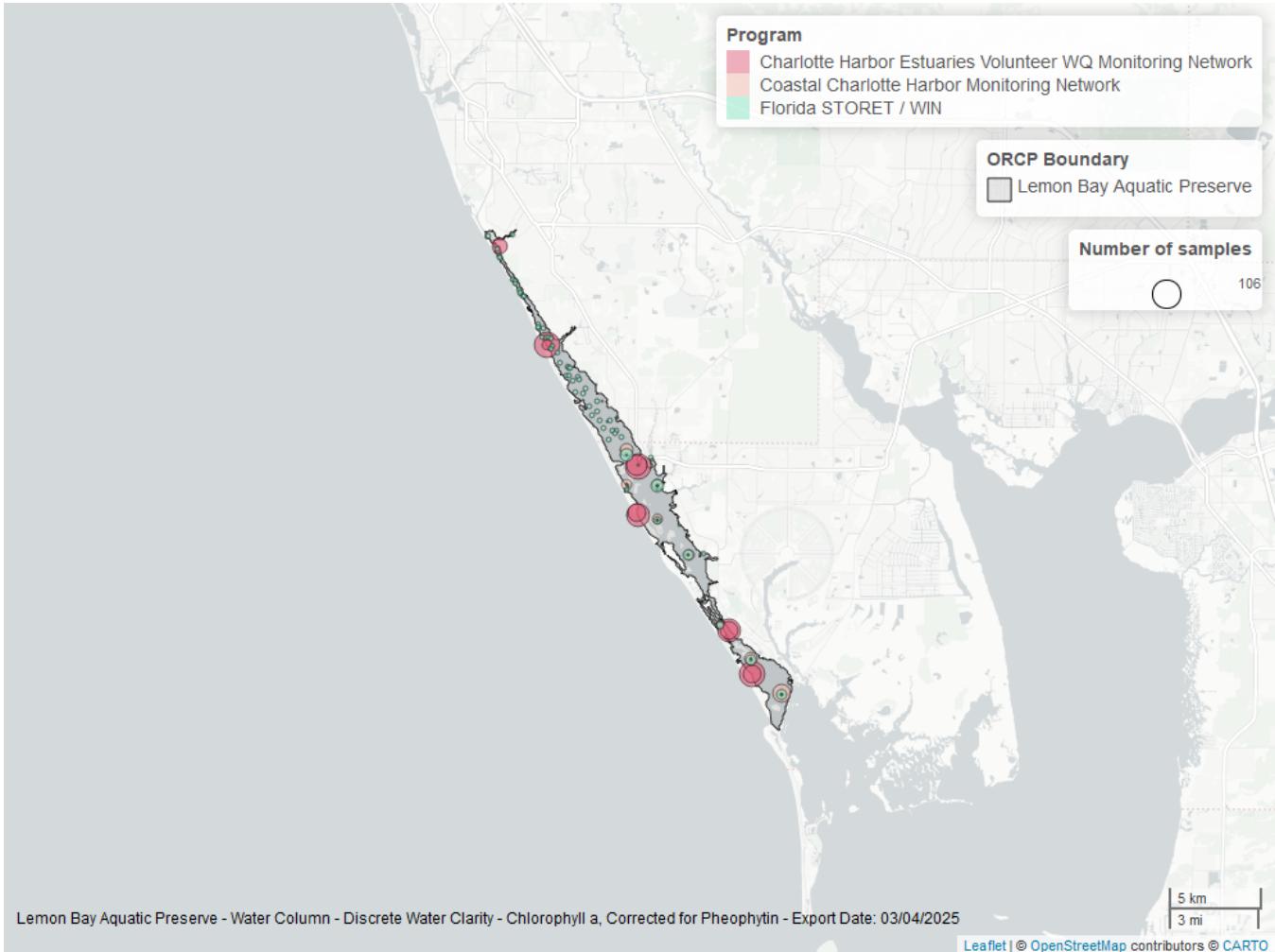


Figure 2: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 7: Programs contributing data for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
476	725	2008	2025
5002	370	1998	2024

Program names:

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

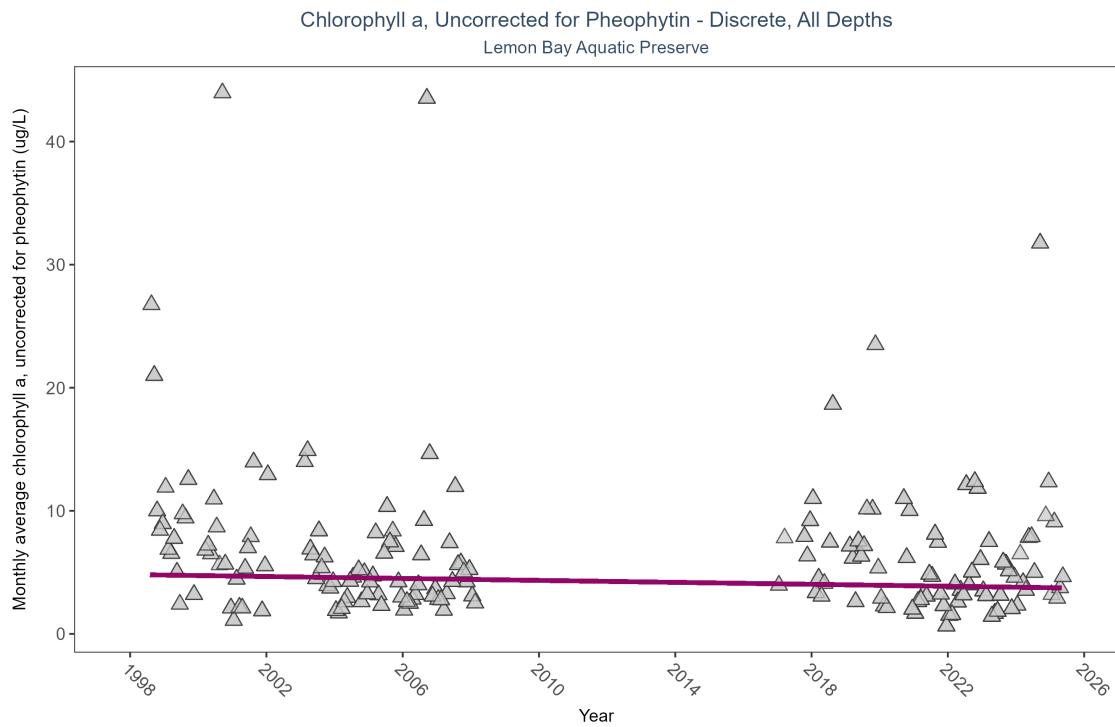


Figure 3: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) is included in the plot.

Table 8: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	781	20	1998 - 2025	4.01	-0.085	4.8191	-0.0395	0.1577

Chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, showed no detectable trend between 1998 and 2025.

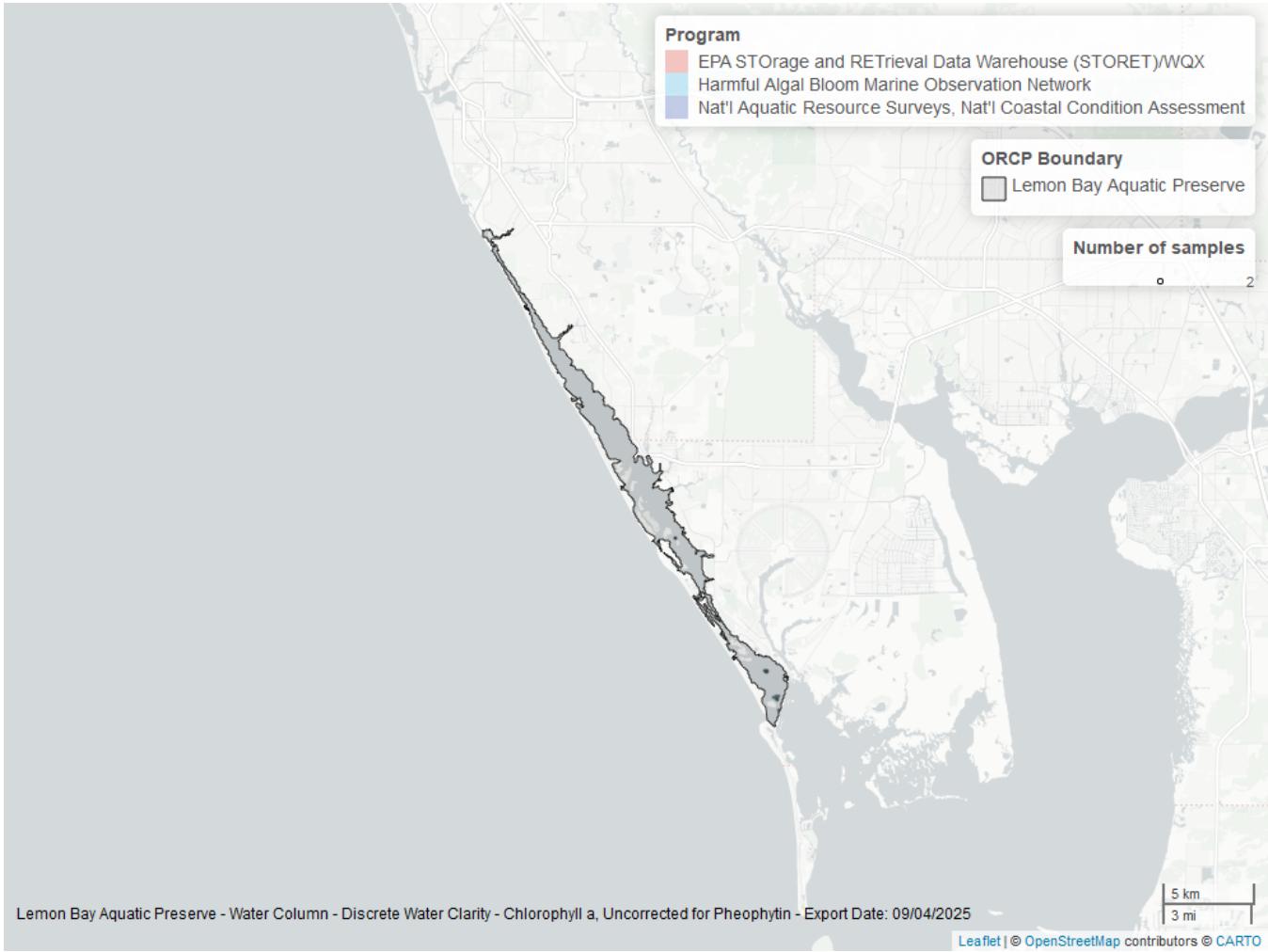


Figure 4: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 9: Programs contributing data for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
476	626	1998	2025
5002	178	2017	2023
95	13	2003	2013
103	2	2005	2005
118	1	2005	2005

Program names:

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network³

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX⁴

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

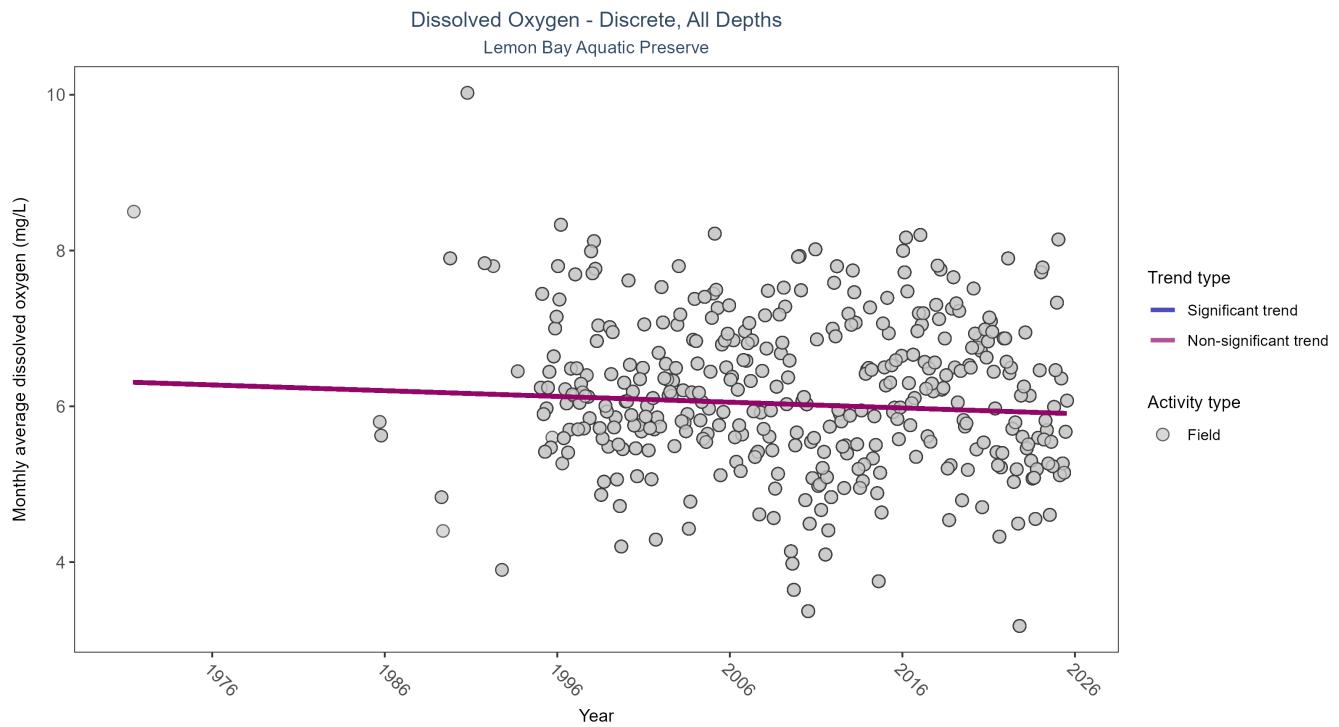


Figure 5: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 10: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Dissolved Oxygen

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	No significant trend	13265	38	1971 - 2025	6.1	-0.0573	6.3118	-0.0074	0.0907

Dissolved oxygen showed no detectable trend between 1971 and 2025.

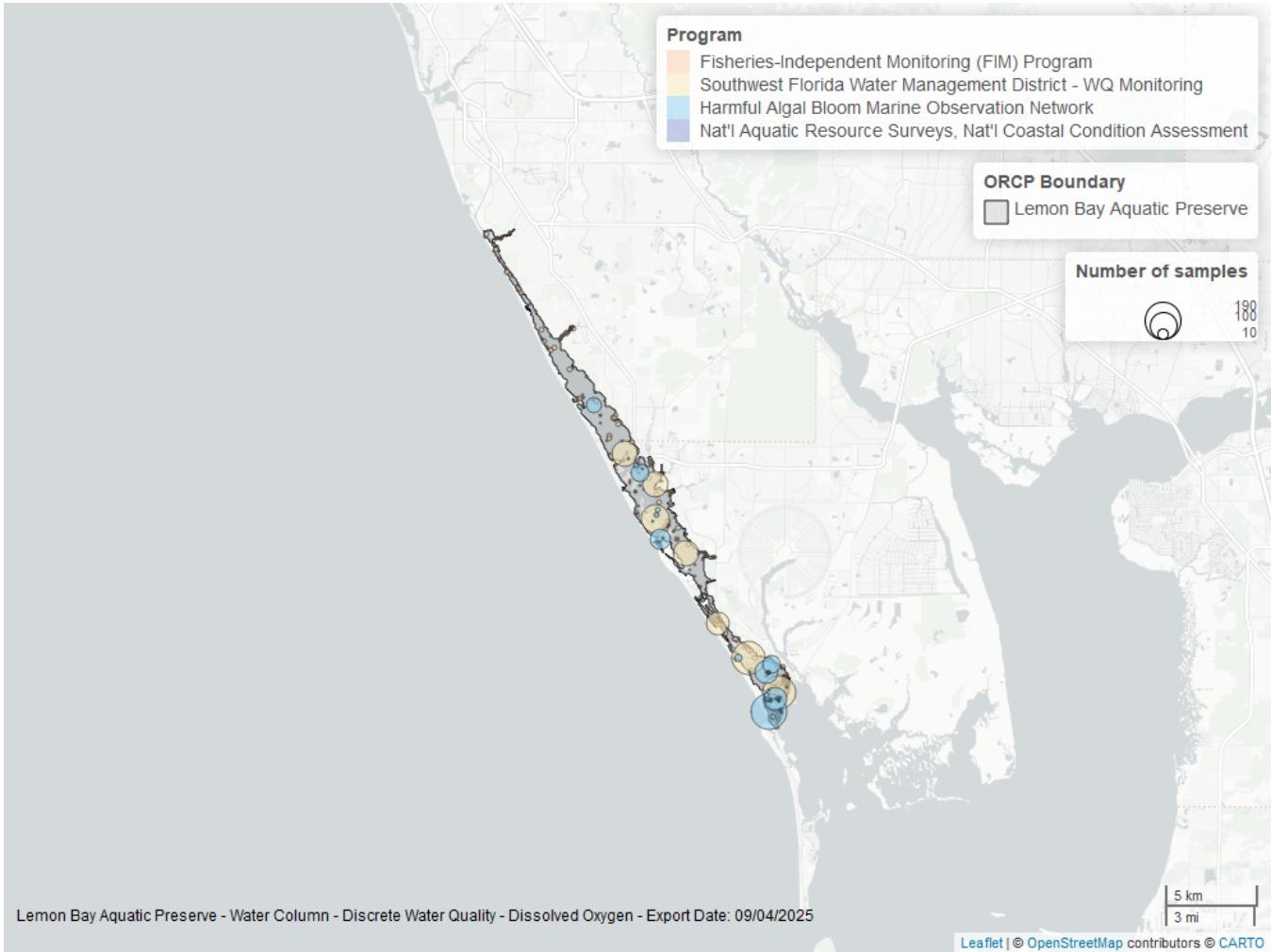


Figure 6: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	9922	1995	2025
476	1036	1998	2025
69	924	1989	2024
479	865	2001	2016
95	647	1971	2018
118	5	2005	2020

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network³

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

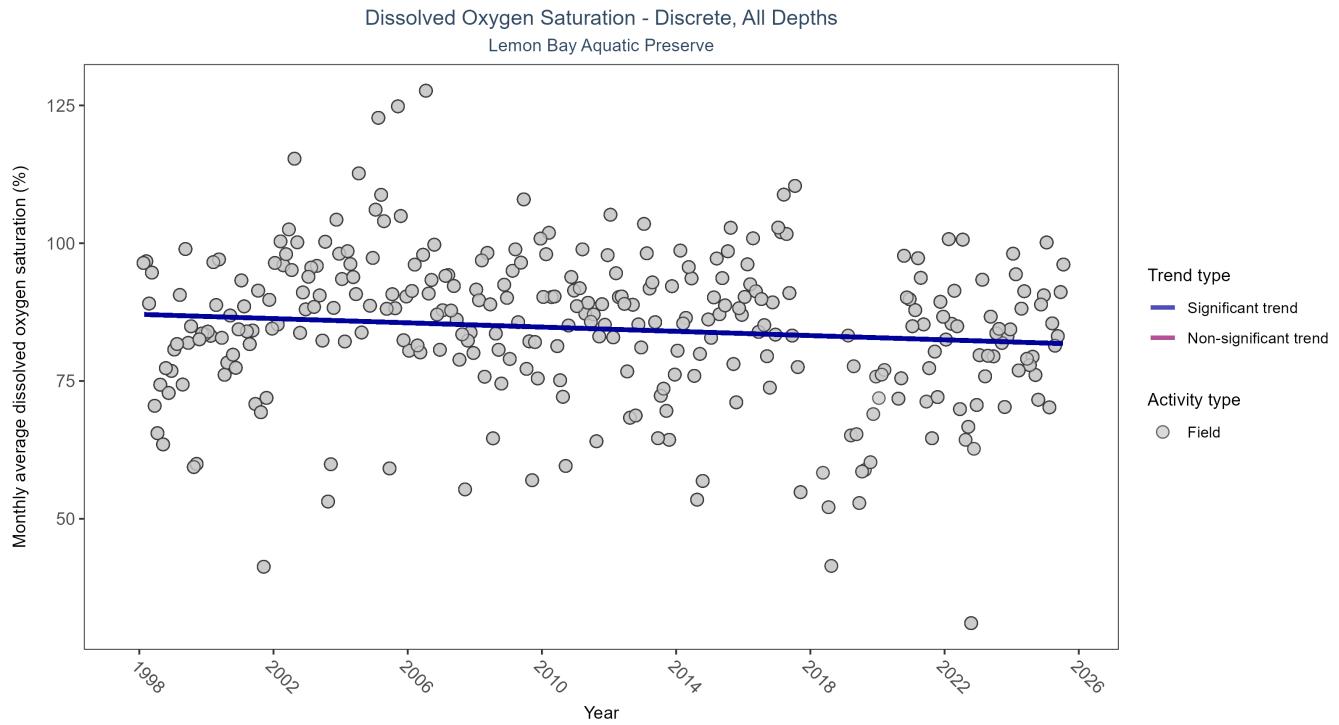


Figure 7: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen saturation values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 12: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly decreasing trend	4623	28	1998 - 2025	87	-0.1017	87.0974	-0.1928	0.0117

Monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation decreased by 0.19% per year.

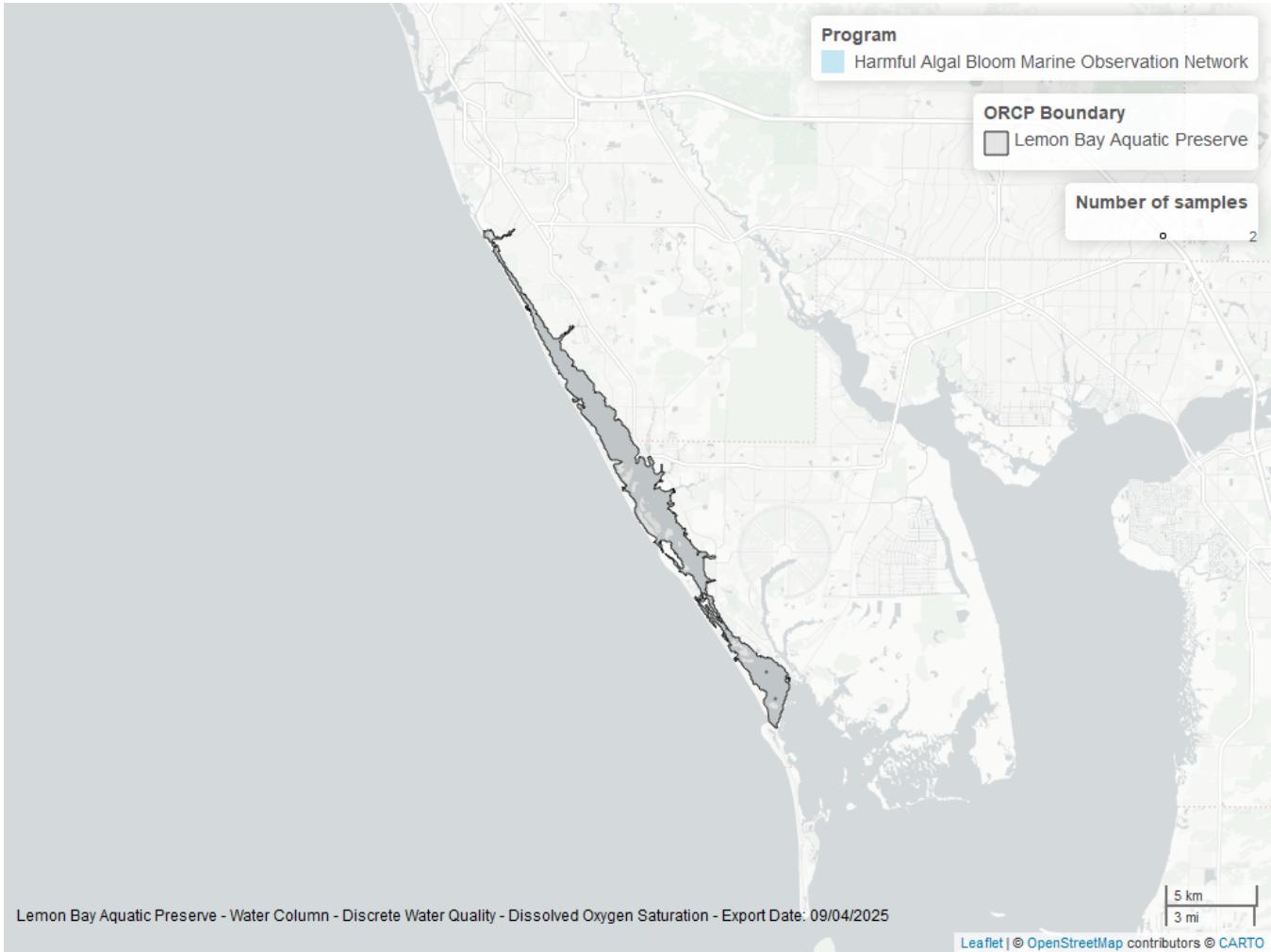


Figure 8: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	4436	1998	2025
476	233	2018	2025
95	4	2005	2018

Program names:

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network³

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

pH - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

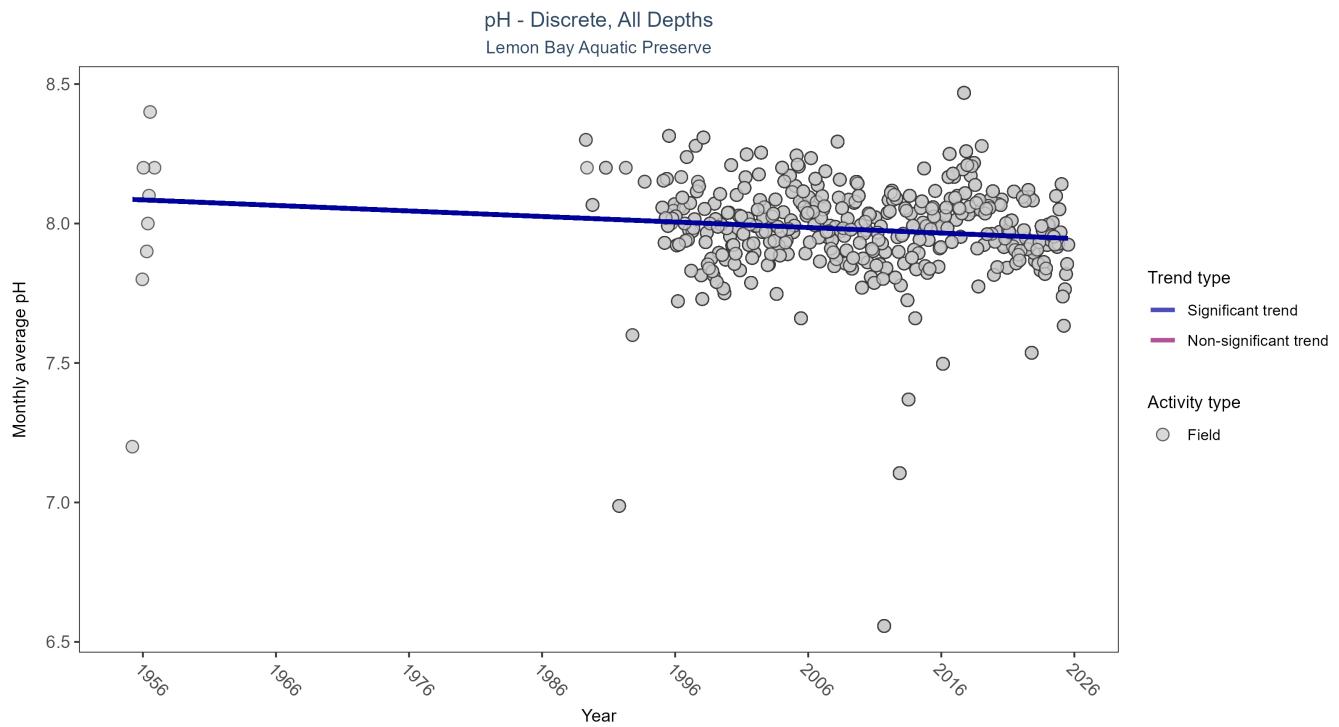


Figure 9: Scatter plot of monthly average pH over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only pH values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 14: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for pH

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly decreasing trend	11689	38	1955 - 2025	8	-0.094	8.0867	-0.002	0.0077

Monthly average pH decreased by less than 0.01 pH units per year.

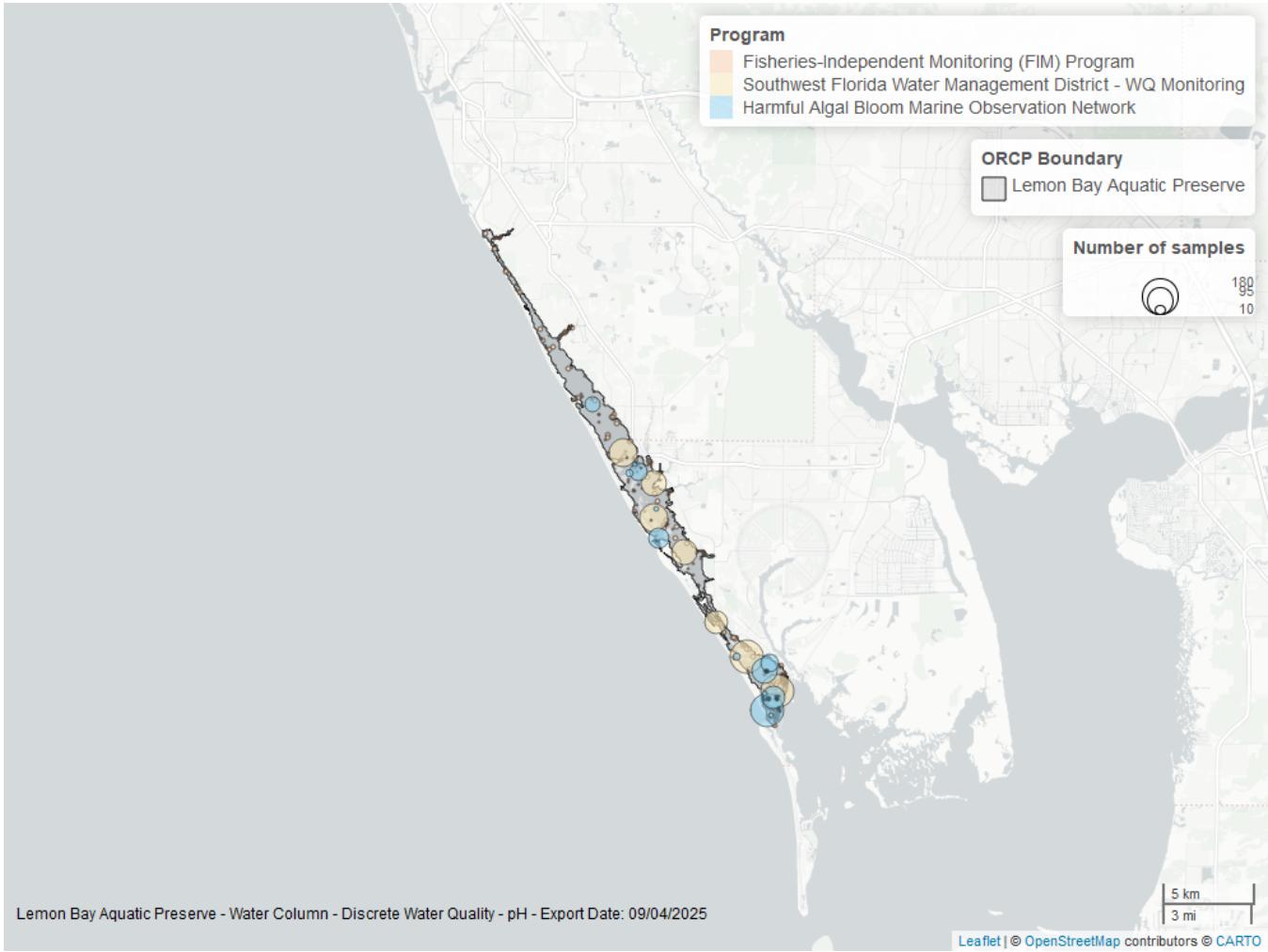


Figure 10: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for pH

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	8308	1995	2025
476	1051	1998	2025
69	922	1989	2024
479	869	2001	2016
95	625	1955	2018

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network³

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Salinity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

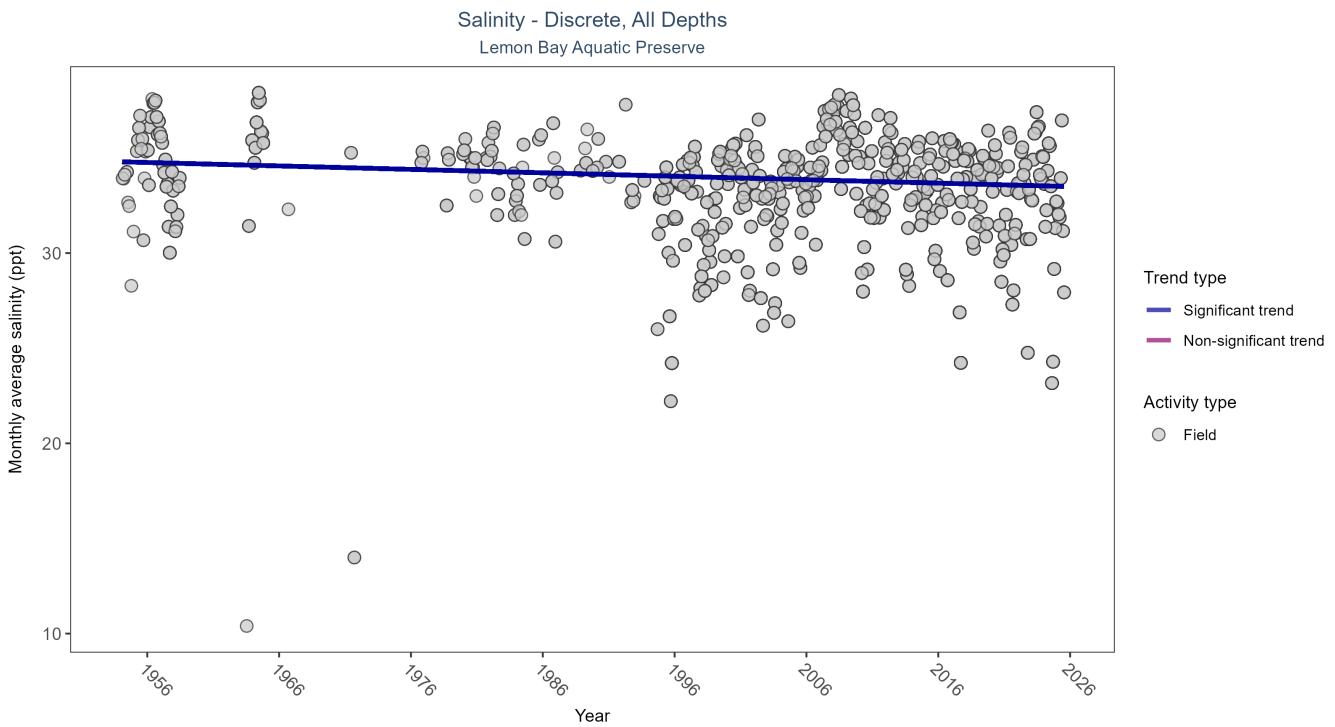


Figure 11: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines are also shown. Discrete salinity values derived from grab samples analyzed in the field (circles) or the laboratory (triangles) are both included in the plot.

Table 16: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Salinity

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
All	Significantly decreasing trend	11361	58	1954 - 2025	34	-0.0992	34.7975	-0.0181	0.001

Monthly average salinity decreased by 0.02 ppt per year.

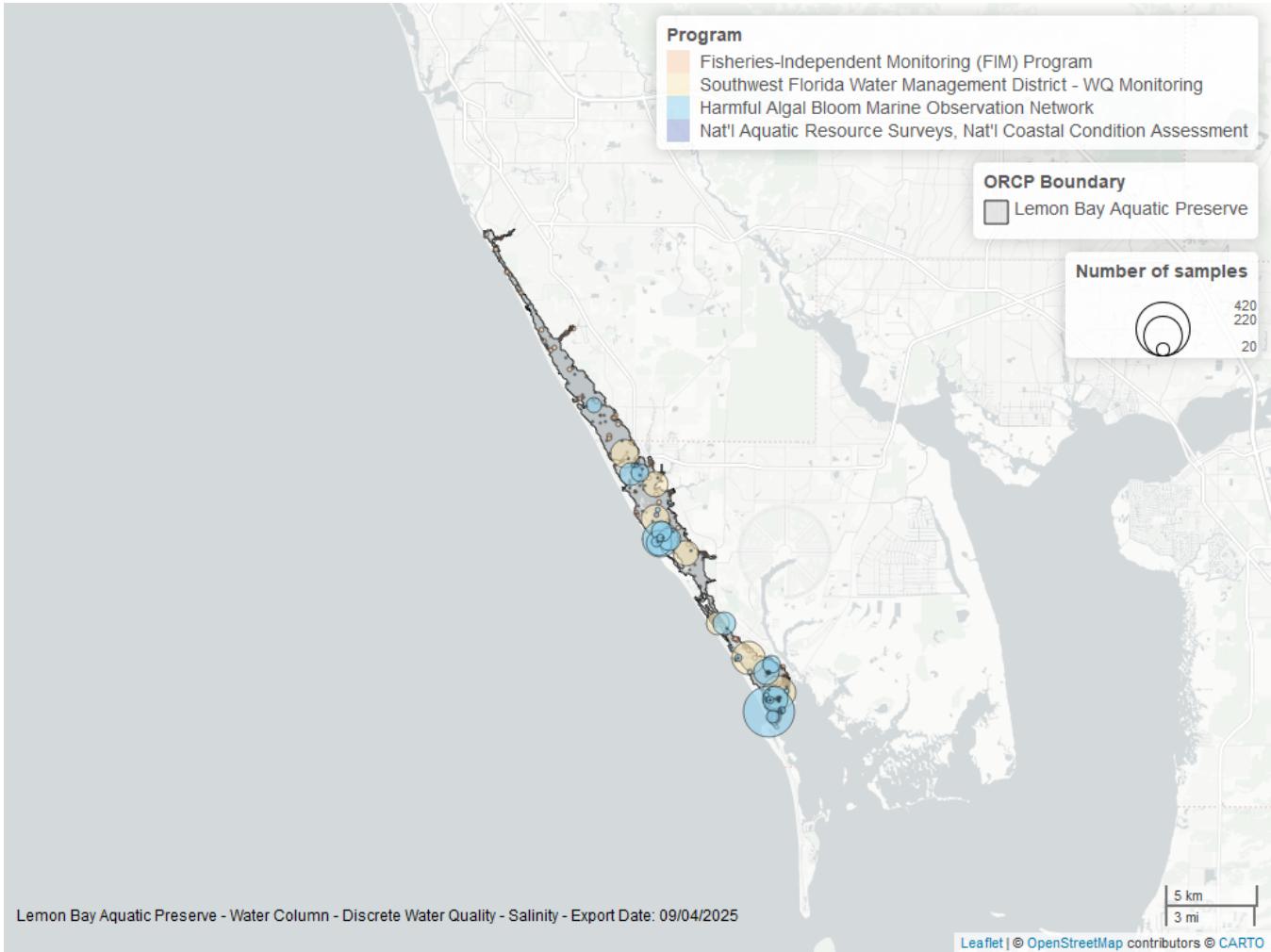


Figure 12: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for Salinity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	6583	1995	2025
95	1521	1954	2018
476	1060	1998	2025
69	935	1989	2024
479	870	2001	2016
513	407	2001	2009
118	4	2020	2020

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network³

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷

513 - Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network⁸
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Secchi Depth - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

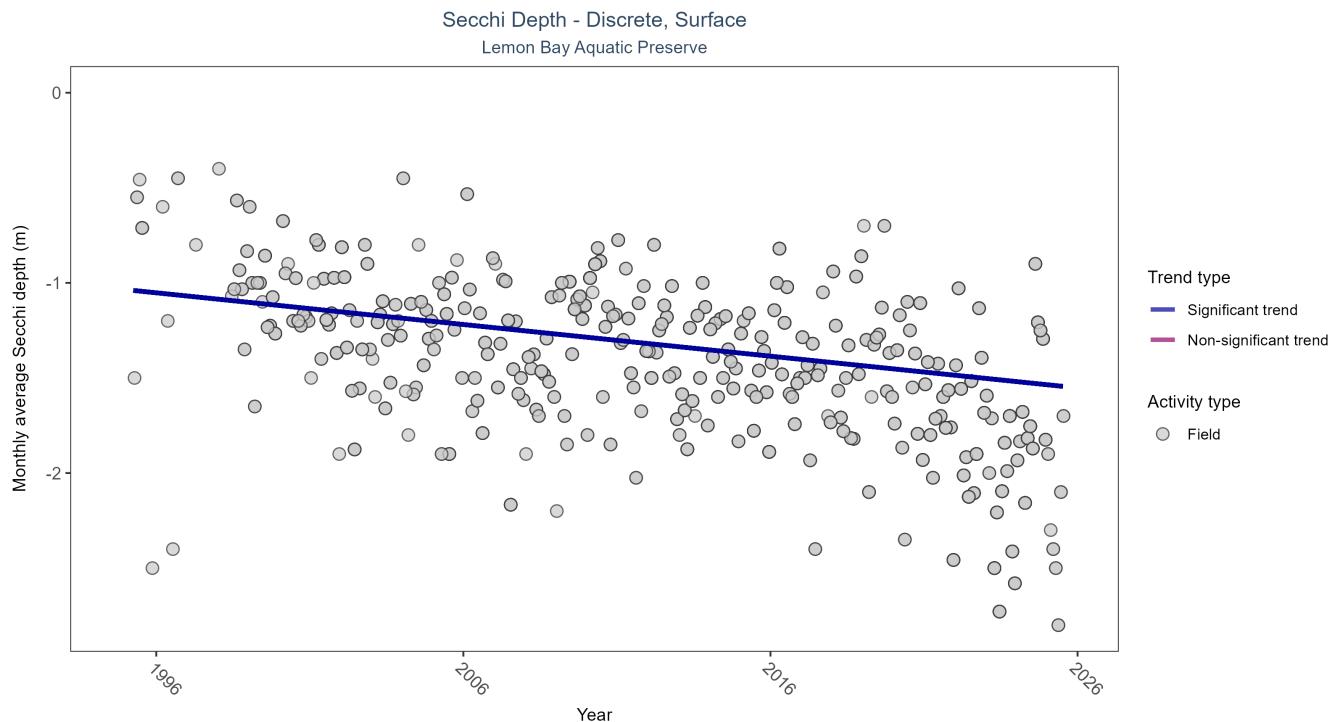


Figure 13: Scatter plot of monthly average Secchi depth over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Secchi depth is only measured in the field (circles).

Table 18: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Secchi Depth

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly decreasing trend	3083	31	1995 - 2025	-1.3	-0.2871	-1.0356	-0.0167	0

Monthly average Secchi depth became deeper by 0.02 m per year, indicating an increase in water clarity.

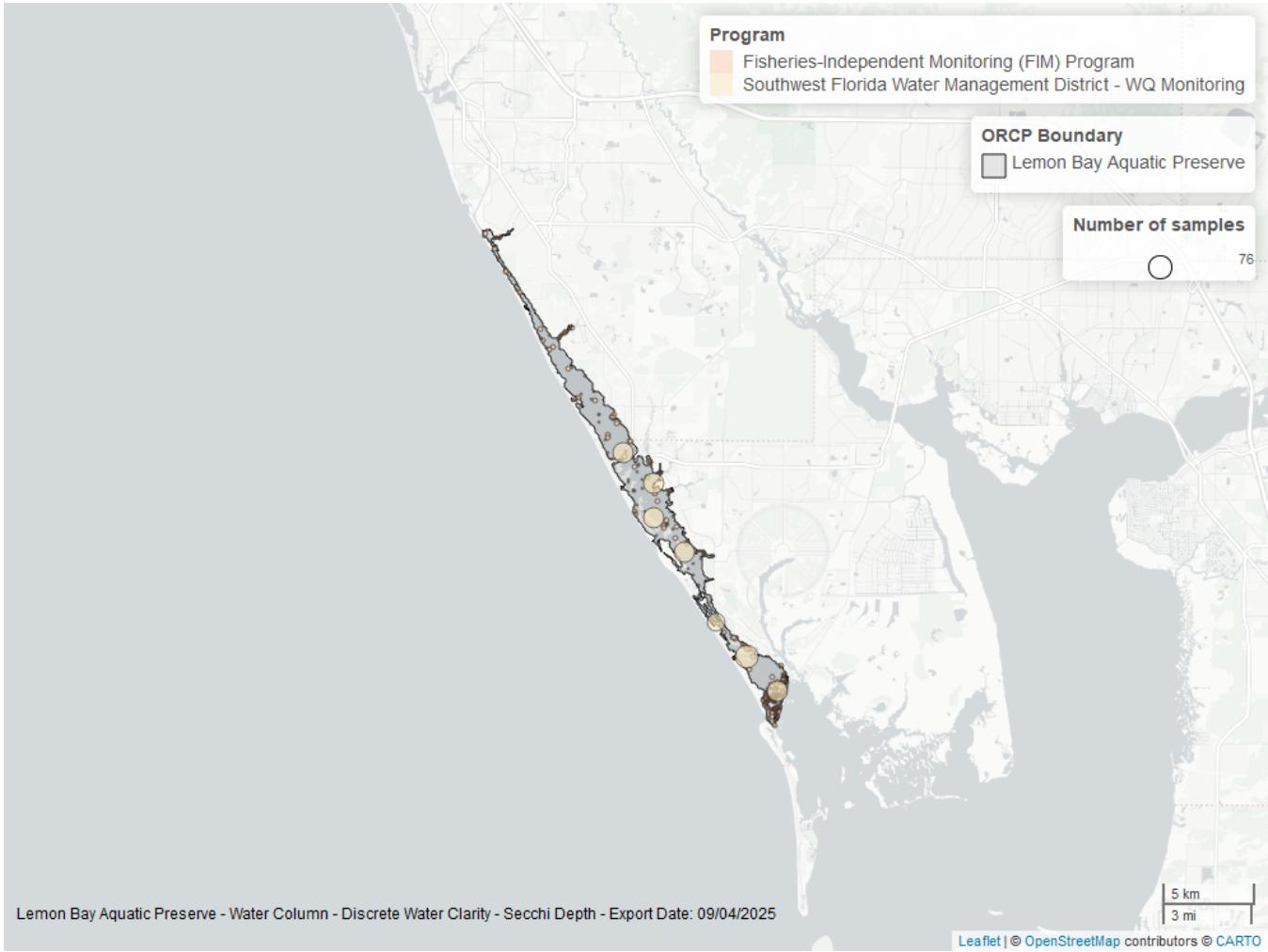


Figure 14: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	922	2007	2025
69	892	1995	2024
476	812	1998	2025
479	445	2001	2016
103	14	1995	2020

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX⁴

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Total Nitrogen - Discrete

Total Nitrogen Calculation:

The logic for calculated Total Nitrogen was provided by Kevin O'Donnell and colleagues at FDEP (with the help of Jay Silvanima, Watershed Monitoring Section). The following logic is used, in this order, based on the availability of specific nitrogen components.

- 1) $TN = TKN + NO_3O_2;$
- 2) $TN = TKN + NO_3 + NO_2;$
- 3) $TN = ORGN + NH_4 + NO_3O_2;$
- 4) $TN = ORGN + NH_4 + NO_2 + NO_3;$
- 5) $TN = TKN + NO_3;$
- 6) $TN = ORGN + NH_4 + NO_3;$

Additional Information:

- Rules for use of sample fraction:
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) report that if both “Total” and “Dissolved” components are reported, only “Total” is used. If the total is not reported, then the dissolved components are used as a best available replacement.
 - Total nitrogen calculations are done using nitrogen components with the same sample fraction, nitrogen components with mixed total/dissolved sample fractions are not used. In other words, total nitrogen can be calculated when TKN and NO₃O₂ are both total sample fractions, or when both are dissolved sample fractions. *Future calculations of total nitrogen values may be based on components with mixed sample fractions.*
- Values inserted into data:
 - ParameterName = “Total Nitrogen”
 - SEACAR_QAQCFlagCode = “1Q”
 - SEACAR_QAQC_Description = “SEACAR Calculated”

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

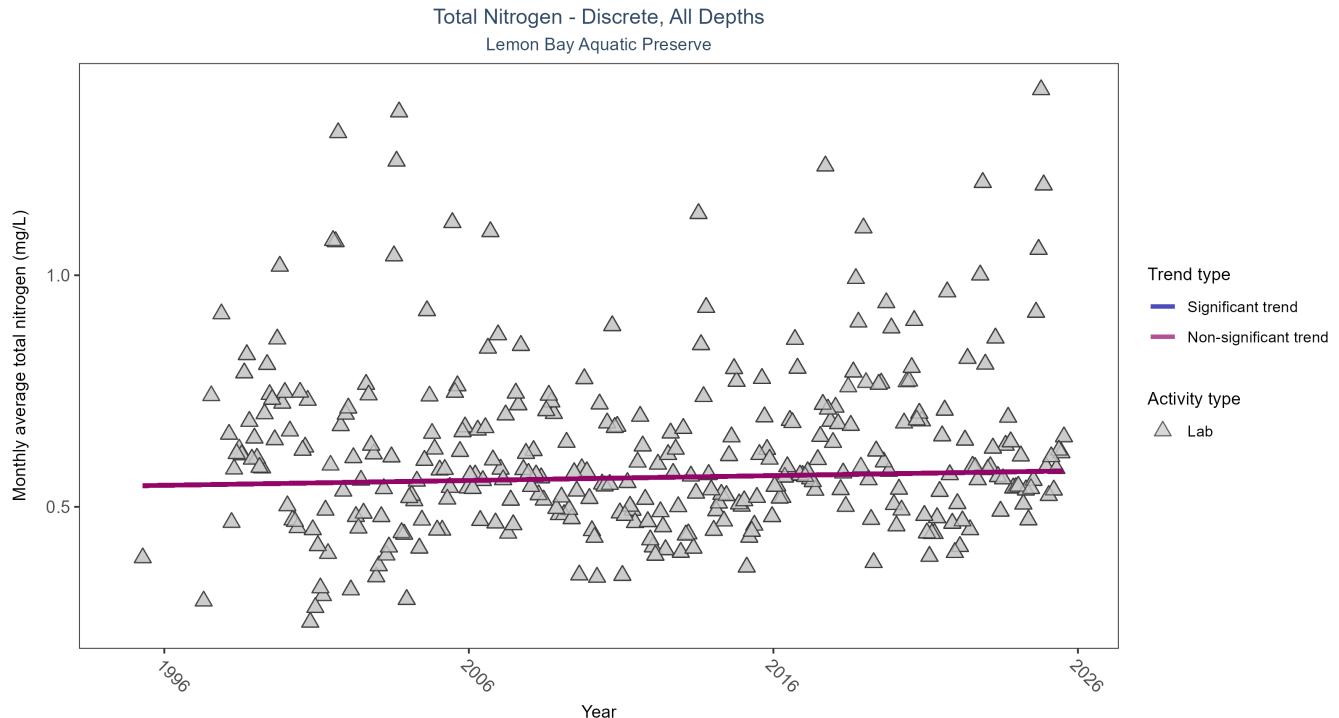


Figure 15: Scatter plot of monthly average total nitrogen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only nitrogen values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 20: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Nitrogen

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	2889	30	1995 - 2025	0.557	0.0449	0.5454	0.001	0.2389

Total nitrogen showed no detectable trend between 1995 and 2025.

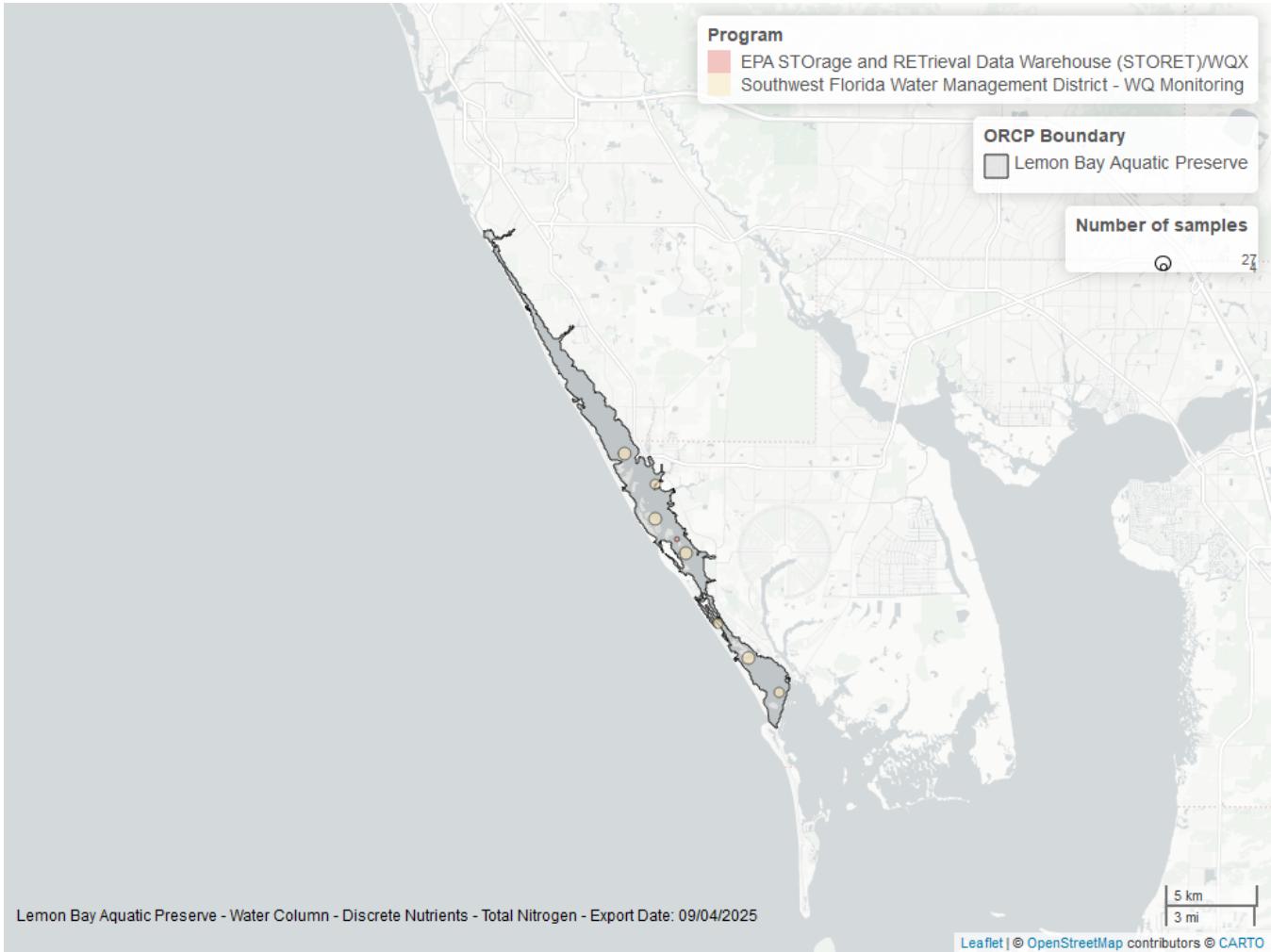


Figure 16: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	1766	1995	2025
476	967	1998	2025
479	152	2007	2016
103	4	2005	2005

Program names:

- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX⁴
- 476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹
- 479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Total Phosphorus - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

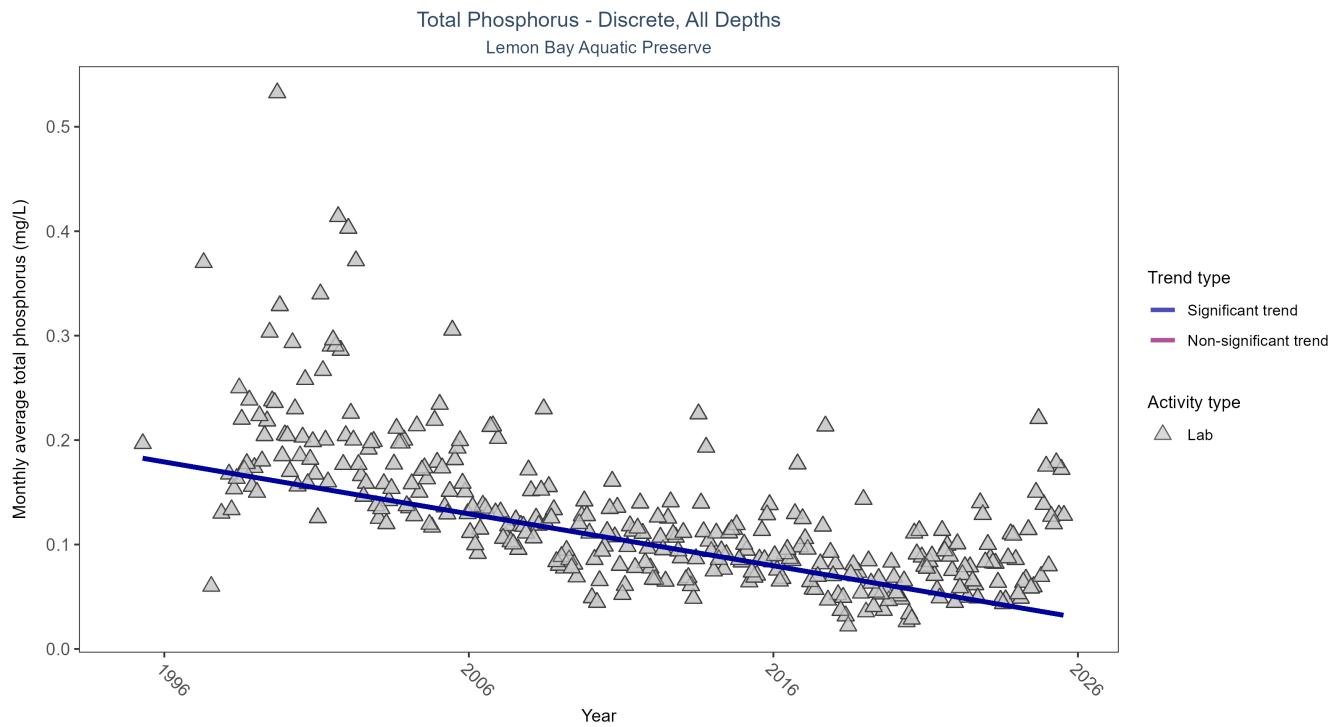


Figure 17: Scatter plot of monthly average total phosphorus over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only phosphorus values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 22: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Phosphorus

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly decreasing trend	2944	30	1995 - 2025	0.09	-0.5378	0.184	-0.005	0

Monthly average total phosphorus decreased by less than 0.01 mg/L per year.

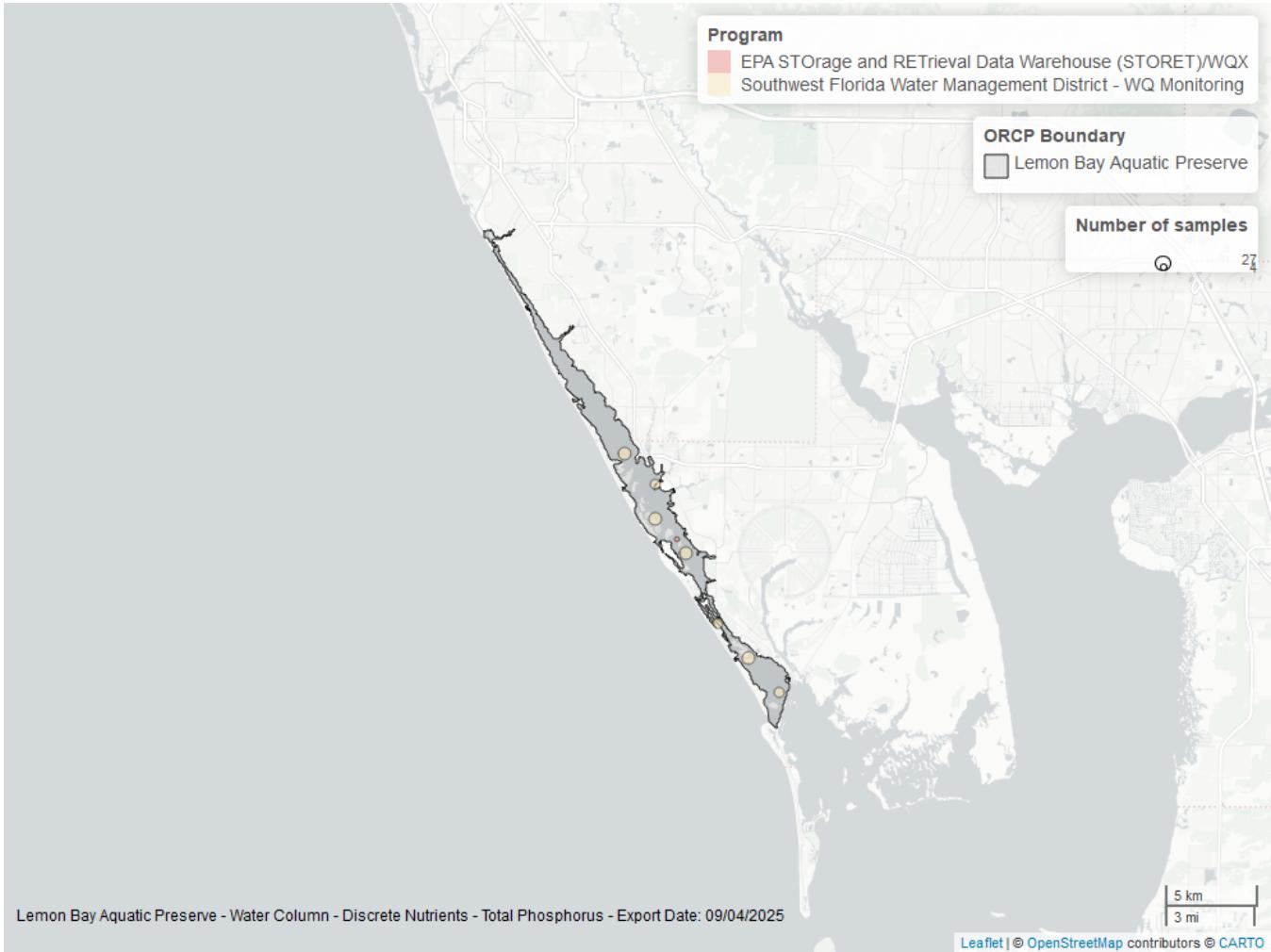


Figure 18: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 23: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	1773	1995	2025
476	1079	1998	2025
479	152	2007	2016
103	4	2005	2005

Program names:

- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX⁴
- 476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹
- 479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Total Suspended Solids - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

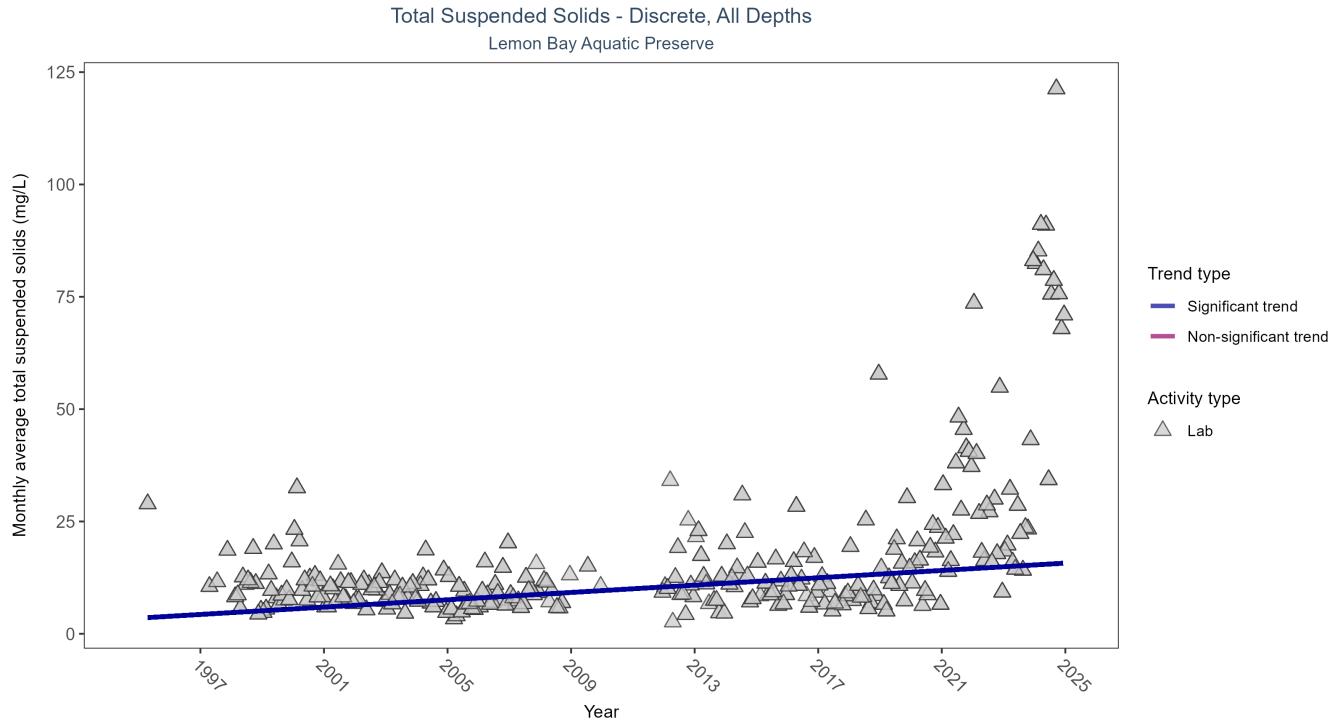


Figure 19: Scatter plot of monthly average total suspended solids (TSS) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only TSS values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 24: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Suspended Solids

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly increasing trend	1068	28	1995 - 2024	10.5	0.3245	3.4879	0.4081	0

Monthly average total suspended solids increased by 0.41 mg/L per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

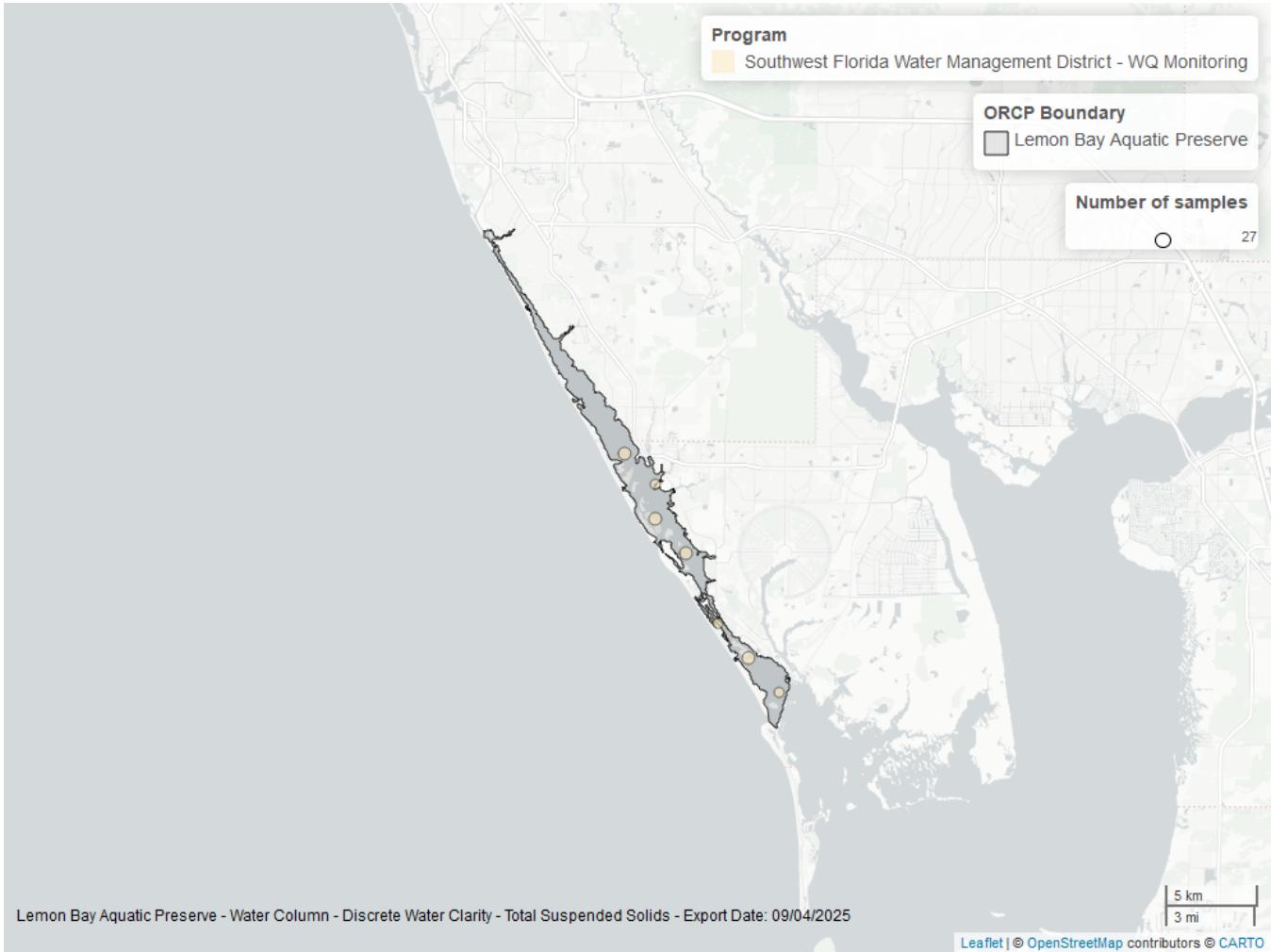


Figure 20: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 25: Programs contributing data for Total Suspended Solids

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	917	1995	2024
513	172	2001	2009
479	152	2007	2016

Program names:

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷

513 - Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network⁸

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Turbidity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

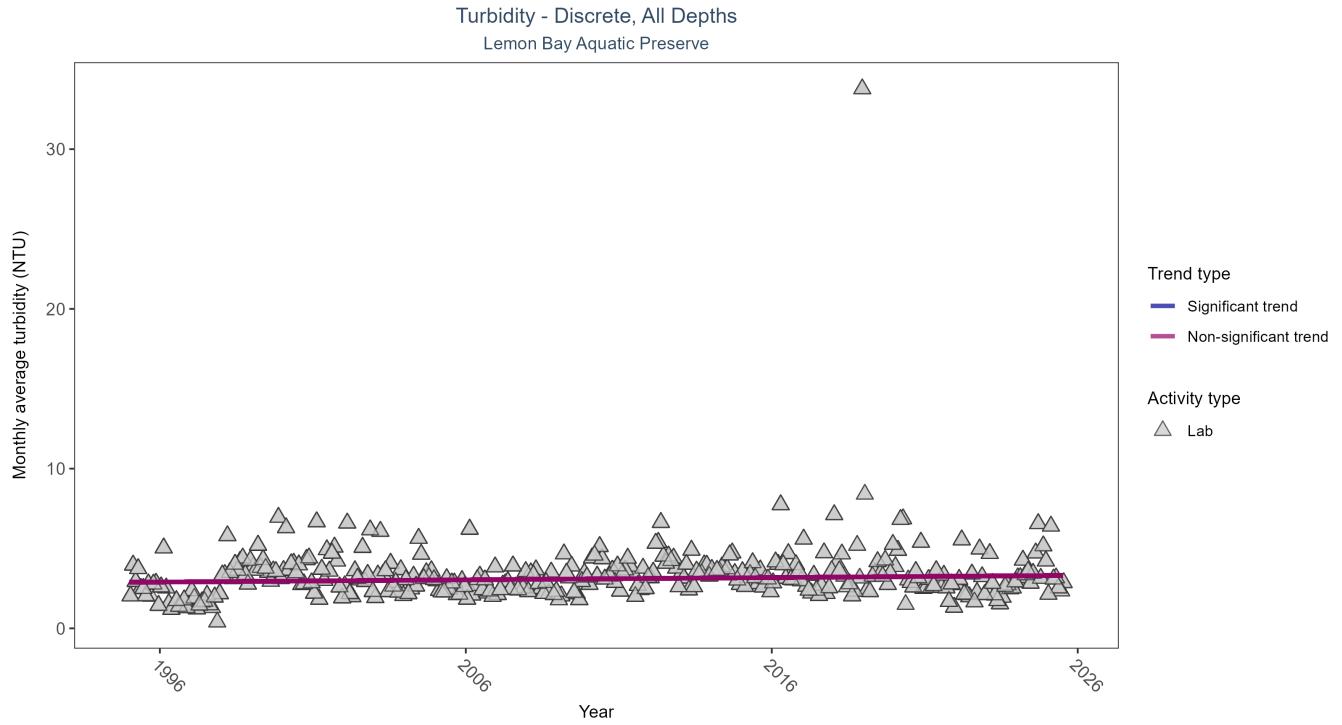


Figure 21: Scatter plot of monthly average turbidity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only turbidity values measured in the laboratory (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 26: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Turbidity

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	5961	31	1995 - 2025	2.6	0.0699	2.8844	0.0141	0.0613

Turbidity showed no detectable trend between 1995 and 2025.

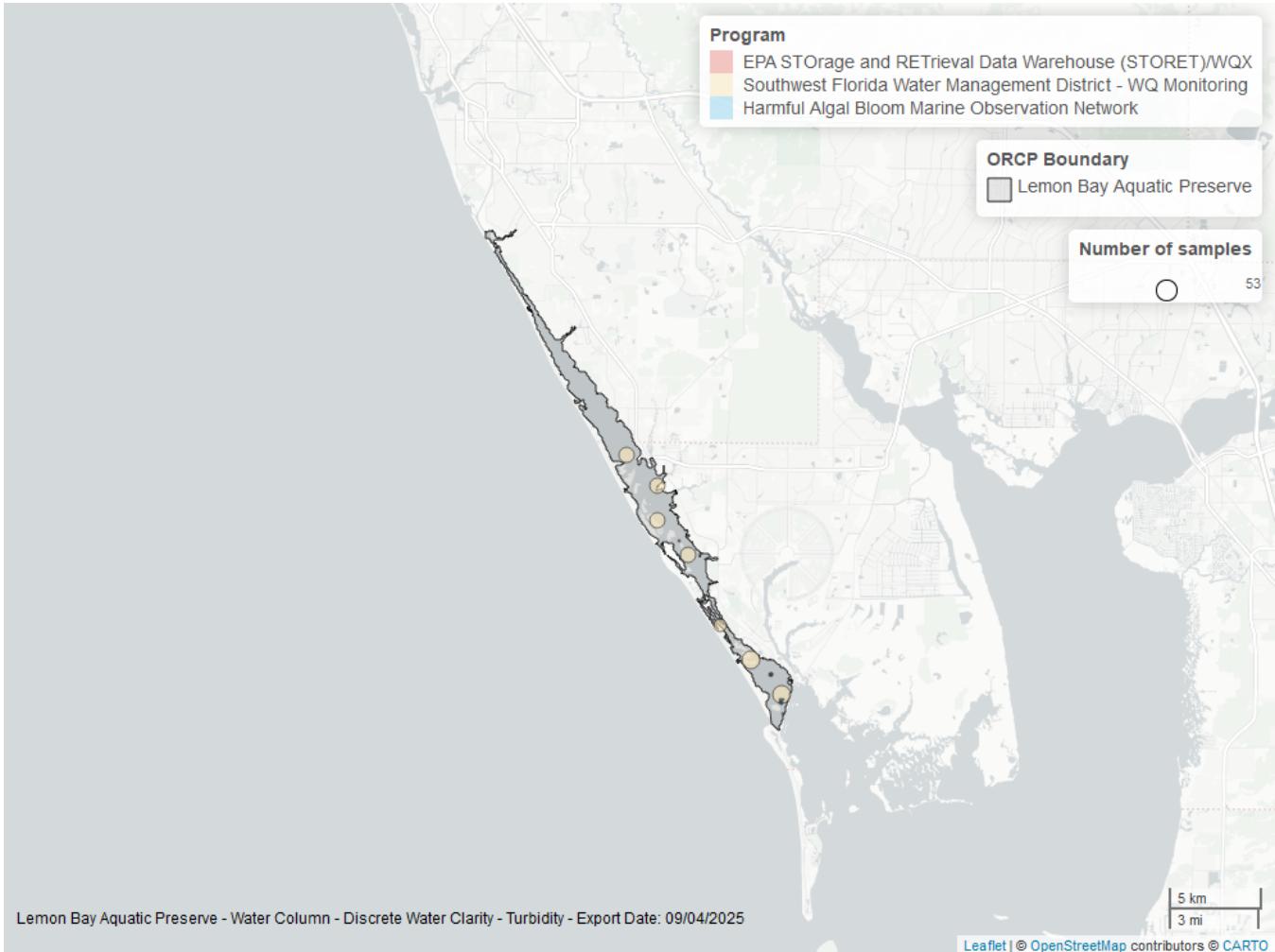


Figure 22: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 27: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	4665	1995	2025
476	1118	1998	2025
479	278	2001	2016
513	185	2001	2009
95	14	2003	2004
103	2	2005	2005

Program names:

- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network³
- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX⁴
- 476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹
- 479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷
- 513 - Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network⁸
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Water Temperature - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

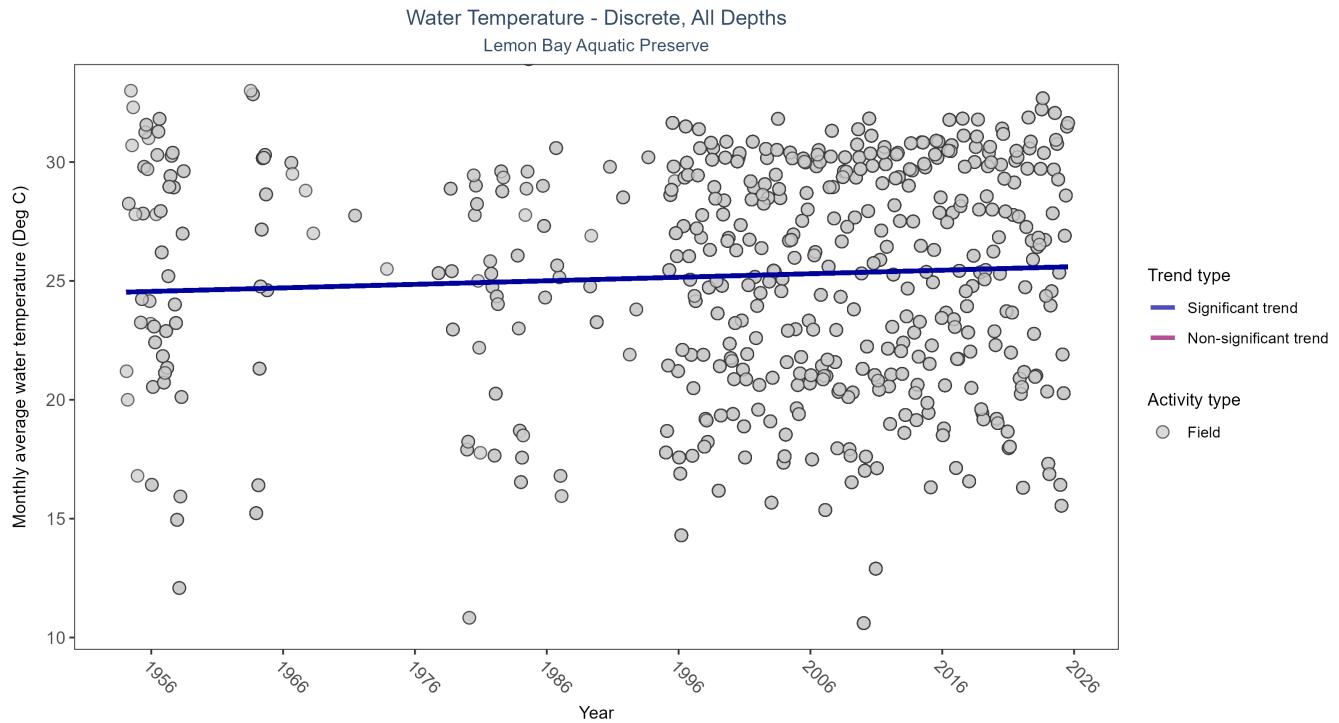


Figure 23: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only water temperature measurements taken in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 28: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Water Temperature

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly increasing trend	14451	59	1954 - 2025	26.4	0.1201	24.5279	0.0149	0.0001

Monthly average water temperature increased by 0.01°C per year.

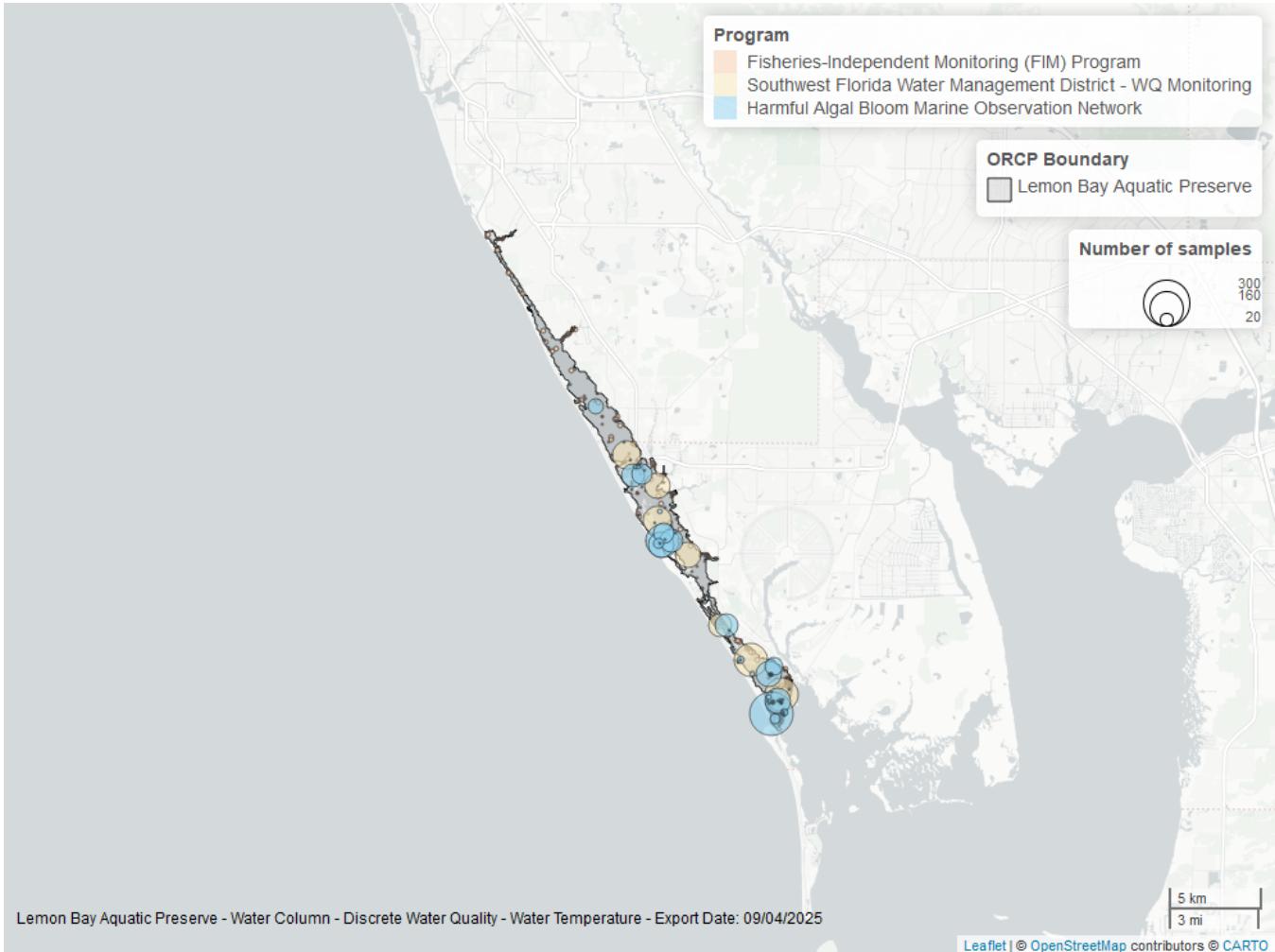


Figure 24: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 29: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	10263	1995	2025
95	1330	1954	2018
476	1067	1998	2025
69	940	1989	2024
479	865	2001	2016

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network³

476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network¹

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring⁷

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

The data file used is: All_SAV_Parameters-2025-Sep-04.txt

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) refers to plants and plant-like macroalgae species that live entirely underwater. The two primary categories of SAV inhabiting Florida estuaries are *benthic macroalgae* and *seagrasses*. They often grow together in dense beds or meadows that carpet the seafloor. *Macroalgae* include multicellular species of green, red and brown algae that often live attached to the substrate by a holdfast. They tend to grow quickly and can tolerate relatively high nutrient levels, making them a threat to seagrasses and other benthic habitats in areas with poor water quality. In contrast, *seagrasses* are grass-like, vascular, flowering plants that are attached to the seafloor by extensive root systems. *Seagrasses* occur throughout the coastal areas of Florida, including protected bays and lagoons as well as deeper offshore waters on the continental shelf. *Seagrasses* have taken advantage of the broad, shallow shelf and clear water to produce two of the most extensive seagrass beds anywhere in continental North America.

Parameters

Percent Cover measures the fraction of an area of seafloor that is covered by SAV, usually estimated by evaluating multiple small areas of seafloor. Percent cover is often estimated for total SAV, individual types of vegetation (seagrass, attached algae, drift algae) and individual species.

Frequency of Occurrence was calculated as the number of times a taxon was observed in a year divided by the number of sampling events, multiplied by 100. Analysis is conducted at the quadrat level and is inclusive of all quadrats (i.e., quadrats evaluated using Braun-Blanquet, modified Braun-Blanquet, and percent cover.)

Species

Turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*) is the largest of the Florida seagrasses, with longer, thicker blades and deeper root structures than any of the other seagrasses. It is considered a climax seagrass species.

Shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*) is an early colonizer of vegetated areas and usually grows in water too shallow for other species except *widgeon grass*. It can often tolerate larger salinity ranges than other seagrass species. *Shoal grass* is characterized by thin, flat blades, that are narrower than *turtle grass* blades.

Manatee grass (*Syringodium filiforme*) is easily recognizable because its leaves are thin and cylindrical instead of the flat, ribbon-like form shared by many other seagrass species. The leaves can grow up to half a meter in length. *Manatee grass* is usually found in mixed seagrass beds or small, dense monospecific patches.

Widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) grows in both fresh and salt water and is widely distributed throughout Florida's estuaries in less saline areas, particularly in inlets along the east coast. This species resembles *shoal grass* in certain environments but can be identified by the pointed tips of its leaves.

Three species of *Halophila spp.* are found in Florida - **Star grass** (*Halophila engelmannii*), **Paddle grass** (*Halophila decipiens*), and **Johnson's seagrass** (*Halophila johnsonii*). These are smaller, more fragile seagrasses than other Florida species and are considered ephemeral. They grow along a single long rhizome, with short blades. These species are not well-studied, although surveys are underway to define their ecological roles.

Notes

Star grass, *Paddle grass*, and *Johnson's seagrass* will be grouped together and listed as **Halophila spp.** in the following managed areas. This is because several surveys did not specify to the species level:

- Banana River Aquatic Preserve
- Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve
- Indian River-Vero Beach to Ft. Pierce Aquatic Preserve
- Jensen Beach to Jupiter Inlet Aquatic Preserve
- Loxahatchee River-Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve
- Mosquito Lagoon Aquatic Preserve

- Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve
SAV Percent Cover - Sample Locations

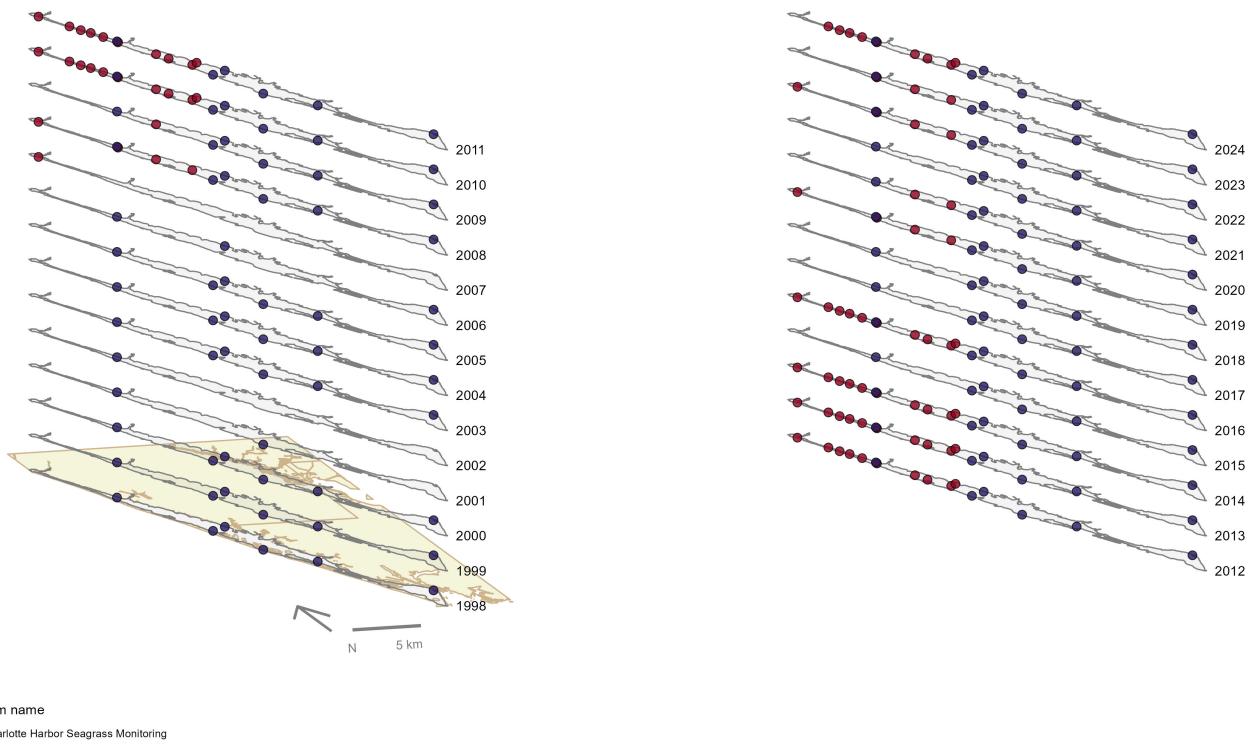


Figure 25: Maps showing the temporal scope of SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve* by Program name.

Click [here](#) to view spatio-temporal plots on GitHub.

Sampling locations by Program:

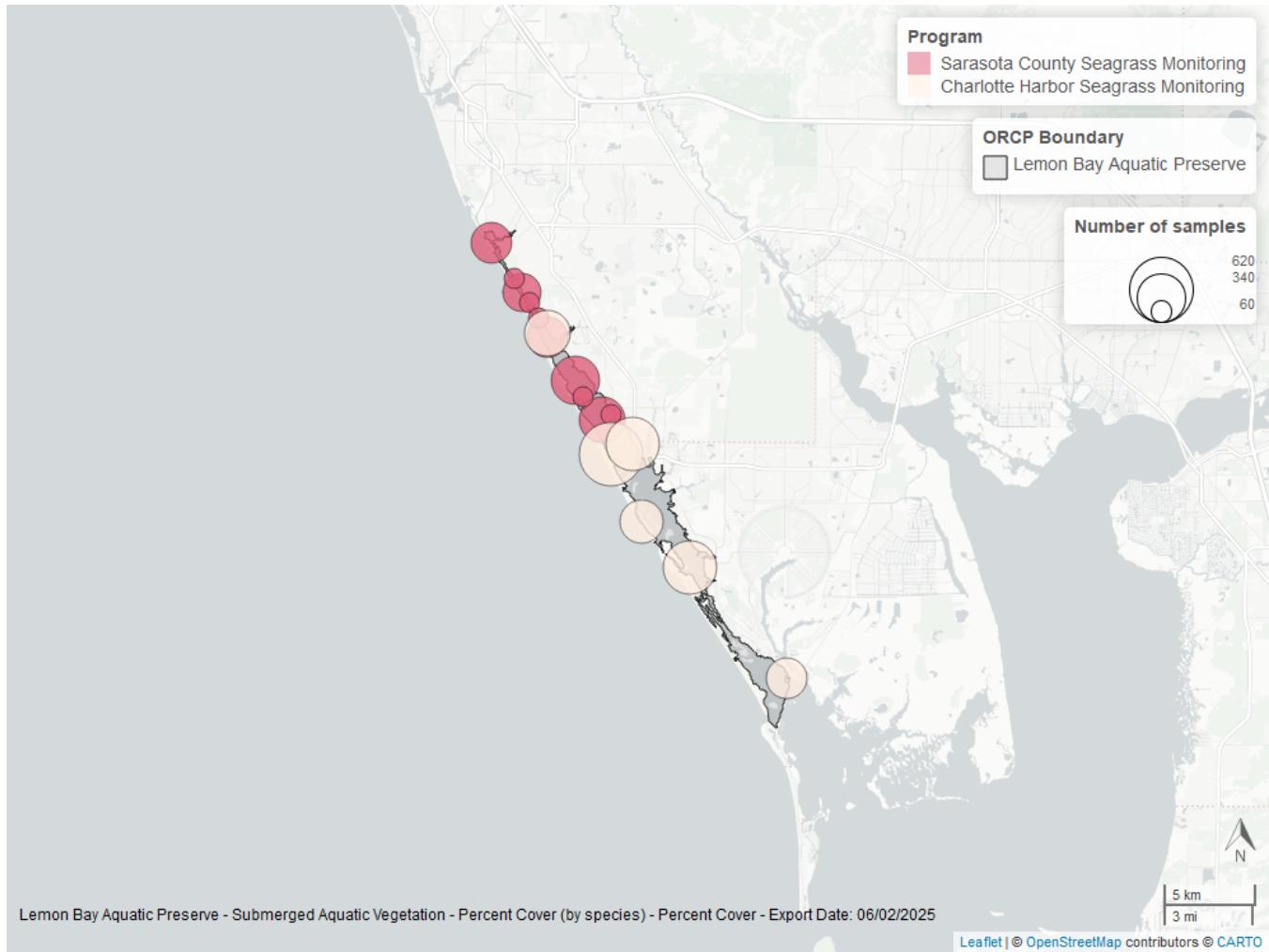


Figure 26: Map showing SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The point size reflects the number of samples at a given sampling site.

Table 30: Program Information for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

ProgramID	N-Data	YearMin	YearMax	method	Sample Locations
570	2209	1998	2024	Braun Blanquet	6
568	1397	2007	2024	Percent Cover	10

Program names:

568 - Sarasota County Seagrass Monitoring⁹

570 - Charlotte Harbor Seagrass Monitoring¹⁰

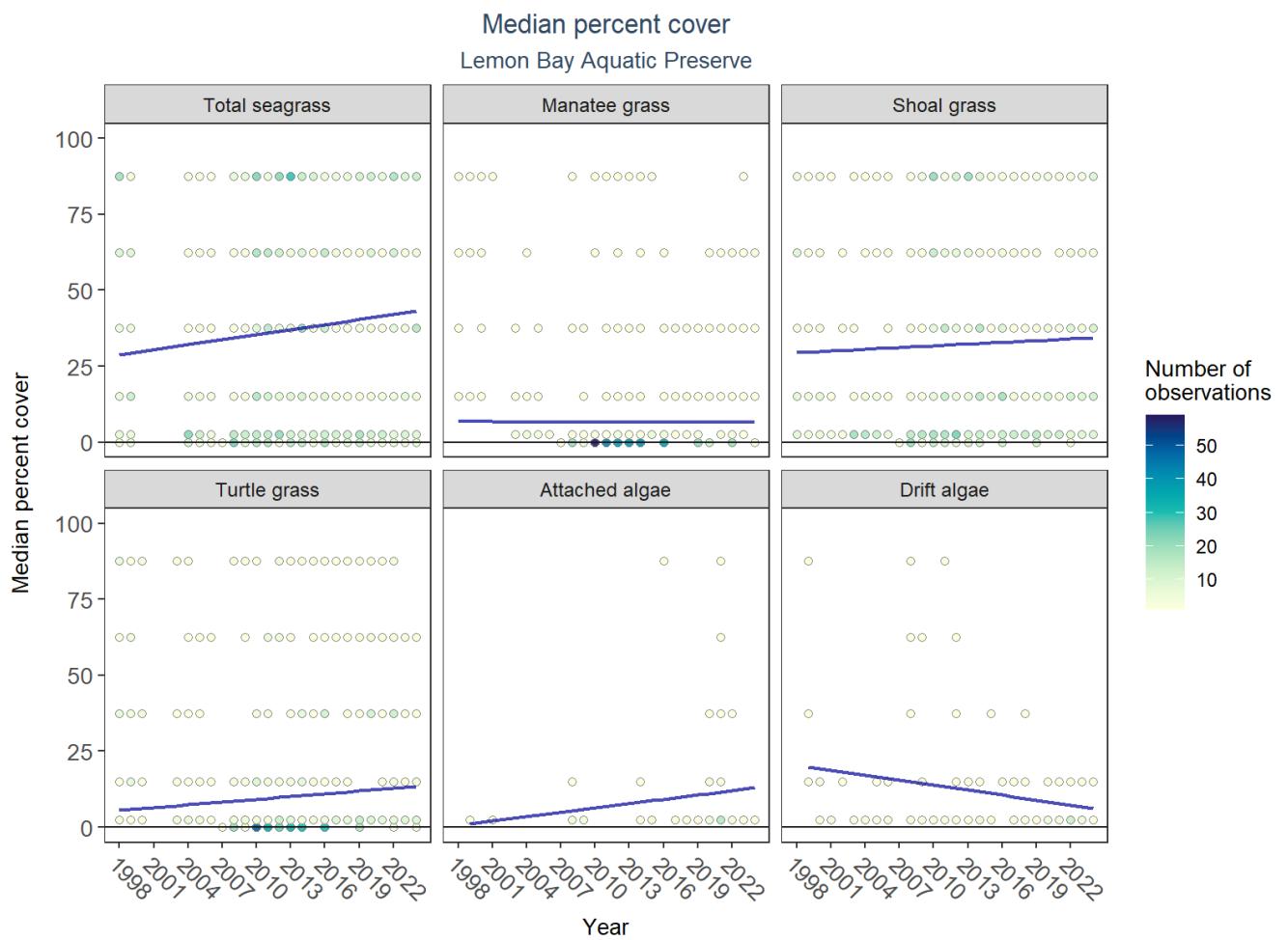


Figure 27: Scatter plots of median percent cover of submerged aquatic vegetation over time by group. Plots for time series that included five or more years of observations show the estimated trend as a blue line.

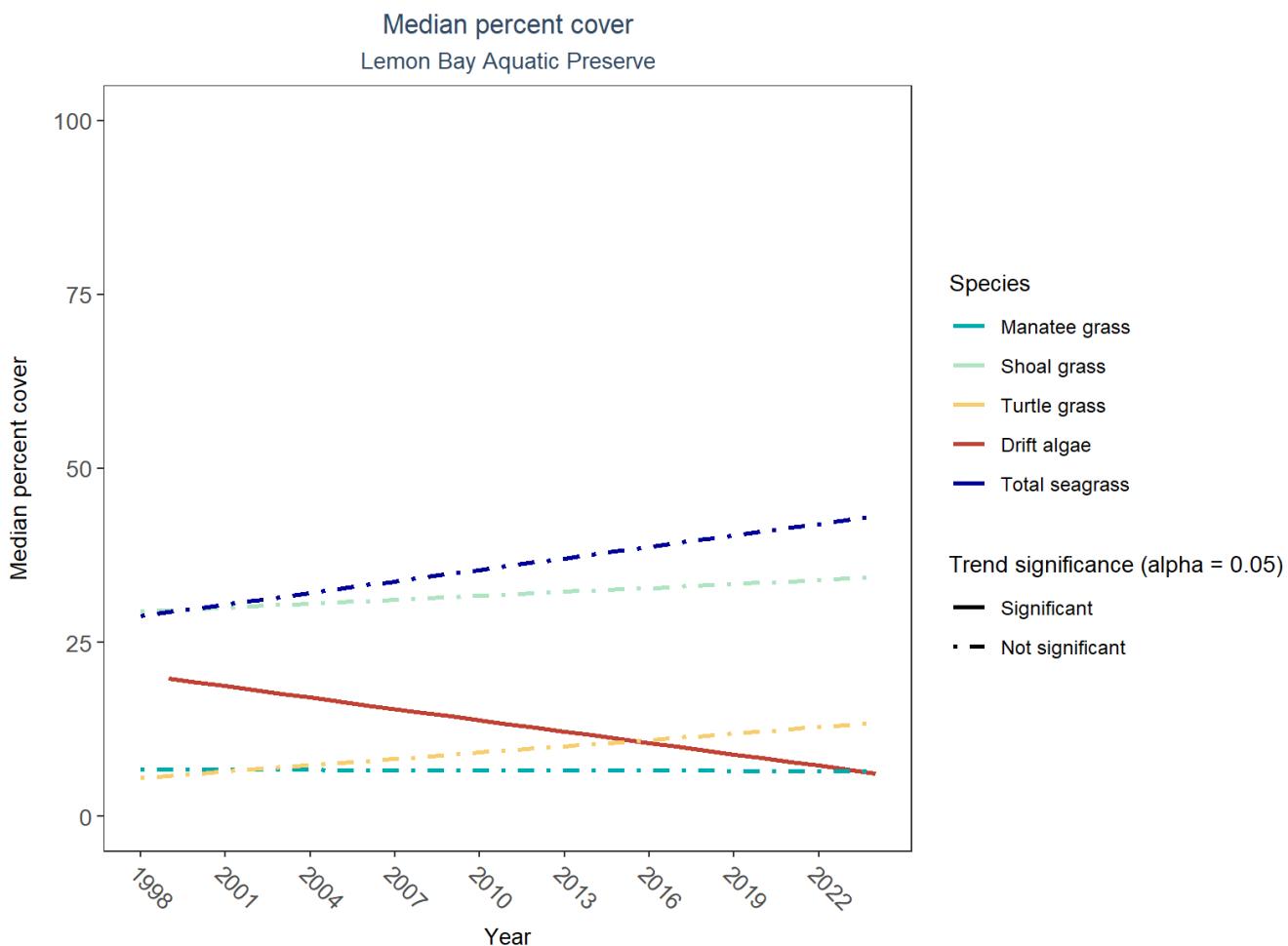


Figure 28: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve - simplified

Table 31: Percent Cover Trend Analysis for Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve

CommonName	Trend Significance (0.05)	Period of Record	LME-Intercept	LME-Slope	p
Attached algae	No significant trend	1999 - 2024	-1.172258	0.4710001	0.2600063
Drift algae	Significantly decreasing trend	1999 - 2024	22.530993	-0.5442751	0.0227362
Shoal grass	No significant trend	1998 - 2024	28.685694	0.1887747	0.5983172
No grass in quadrat	Model did not fit the available data	1998 - 2024	-	-	-
Manatee grass	No significant trend	1998 - 2024	6.783823	-0.0086613	0.9626967
Turtle grass	No significant trend	1998 - 2024	4.315207	0.3038590	0.4537040
Total seagrass	No significant trend	1998 - 2024	26.641958	0.5494435	0.2467879

An annual decrease in percent cover was observed for drift algae (-0.5%). Total seagrass, manatee grass, shoal grass, turtle grass, and attached algae showed no detectable change in percent cover.

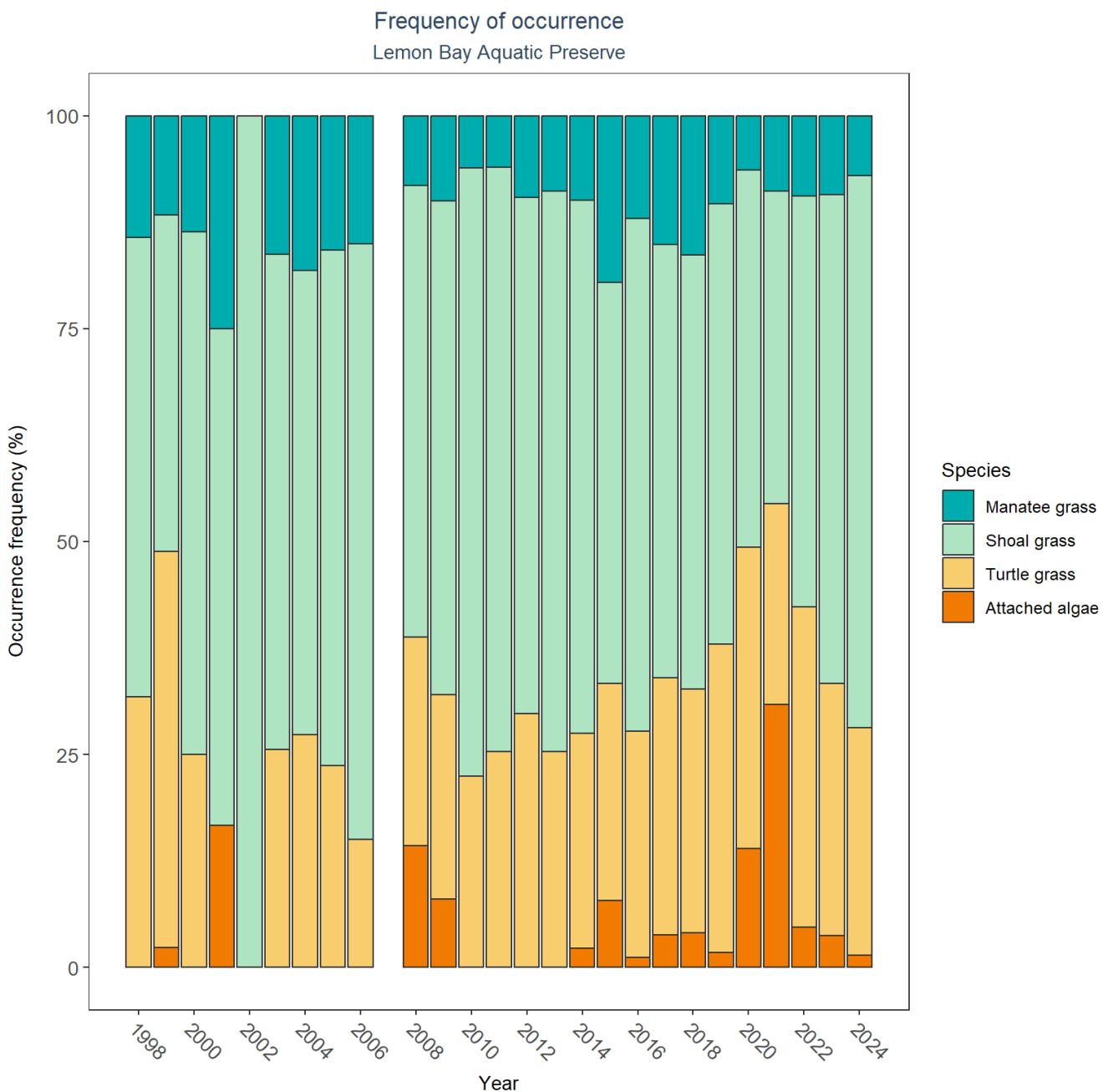


Figure 29: Frequency of occurrence for various seagrass species in Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve

SAV Water Column Analysis

The following parameters are available for Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve within the SAV_WC_Report:

- Colored Dissolved Organic Matter
- Chlorophyll a
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Dissolved Oxygen Saturation
- pH
- Salinity

- Secchi Depth
- Water Temperature
- Total Nitrogen
- Total Suspended Solids
- Turbidity

Access the reports here: [DRAFT_SAV_WC_Report_2024-11-20.pdf](#)

Nekton

The data file used is: All_NEKTON_Parameters-2025-Sep-04.txt

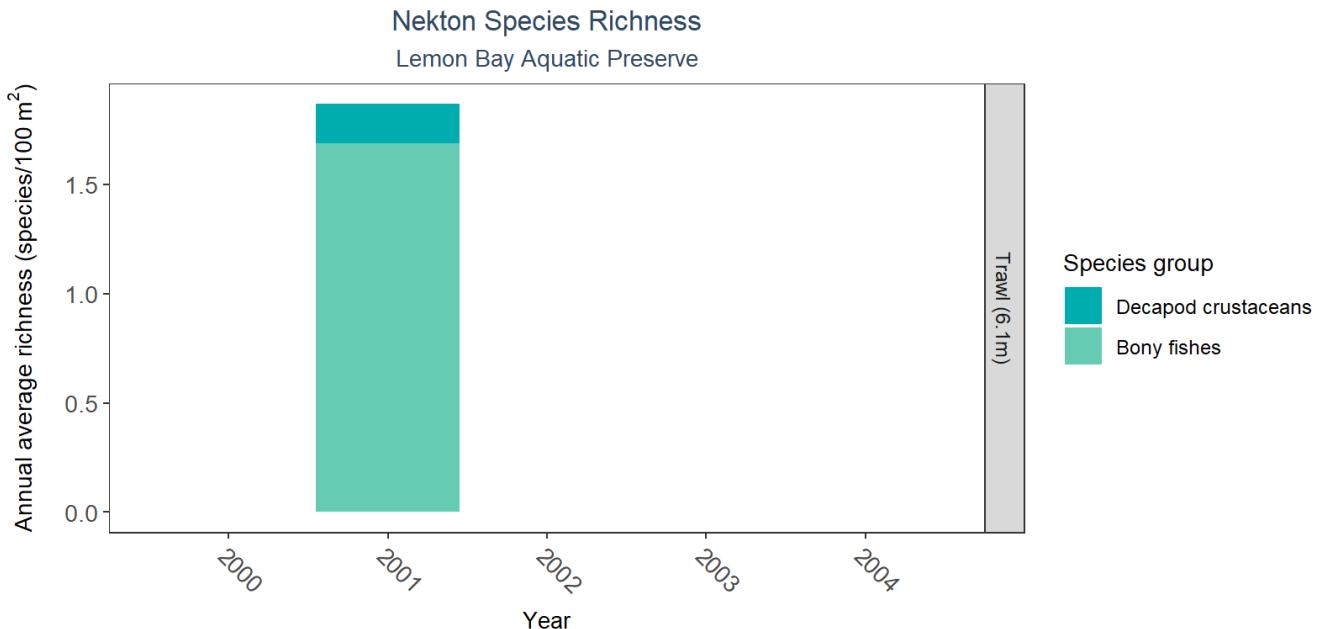


Figure 30: Bar graph(s) of annual average nekton richness over time for species groups occurring in at least 1% of samples. The bar colors represent species groups including bony fishes, cartilaginous fishes, decapod crustaceans (e.g., shrimps, crabs, and lobsters), and cephalopods (e.g., squid). Gear types and sizes are indicated in the panel label.

Table 32: Nekton Species Richness

Gear Type	Sample Count	Number of Years	Period of Record	Median N of Taxa	Mean N of Taxa
Trawl (6.1)	6	1	2001 - 2001	0.74	0.93

The median annual number of taxa was 0.74 based on 6 observations collected by 6.1-meter trawl between 2001 and 2001.

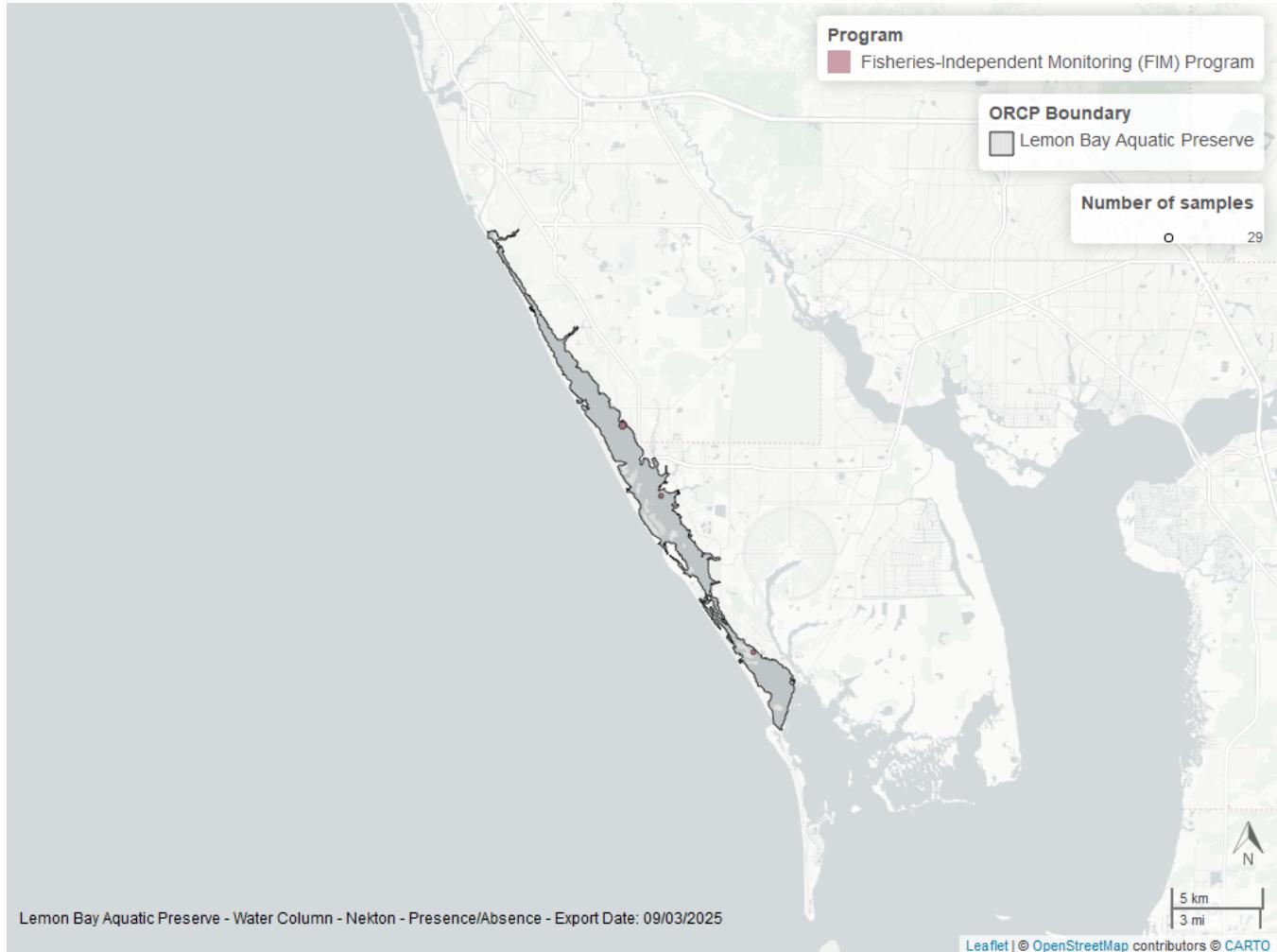


Figure 31: Map showing location of nekton sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Oyster

The data file used is: All_OYSTER_Parameters-2025-Sep-04.txt

Density

Natural

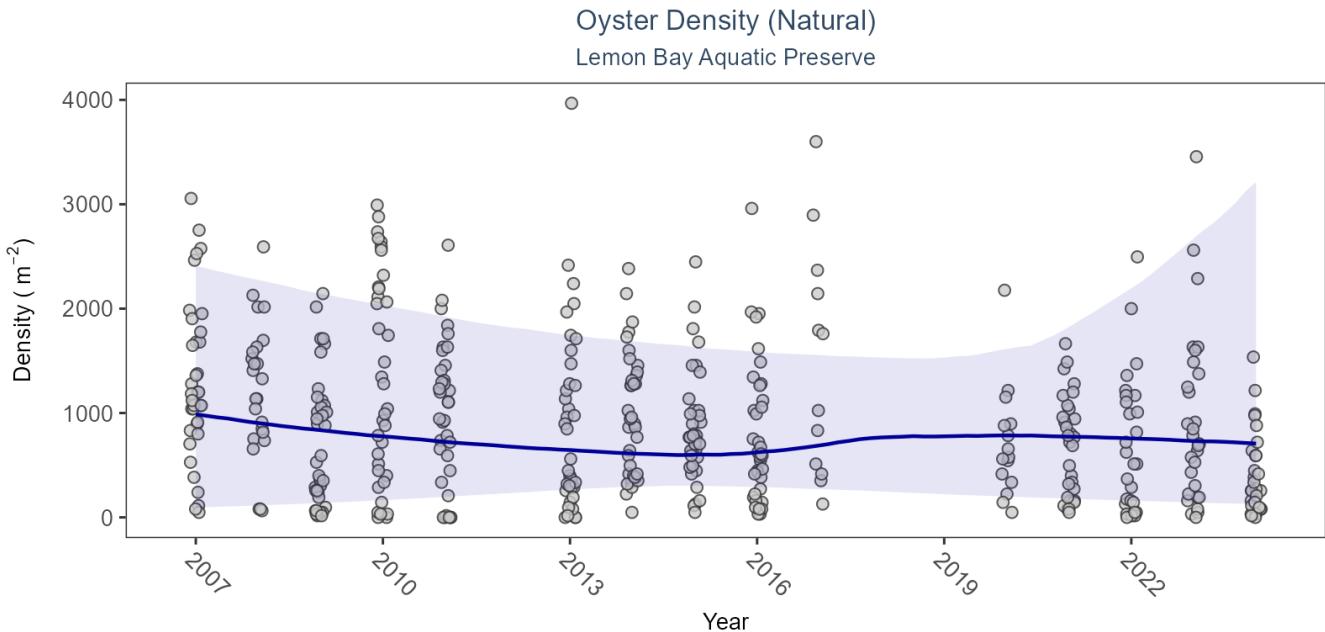


Figure 32: Scatter plot of oyster density over time. If the time series included five or more years with observations, an estimated trend (blue line) and a 95% credible interval (purple band) may also be plotted. Data points are jittered horizontally to reduce overlap.

Table 33: Model results for Oyster Density - Natural

Shell Type	Habitat Type	Trend Status	Estimate	Standard Error	Credible Interval
Live Oysters	Natural	Significantly decreasing trend	-18.38	612.39	1.95 to 25.27

For natural reefs, density decreased by an average of 17.58 oysters per square meter per year.

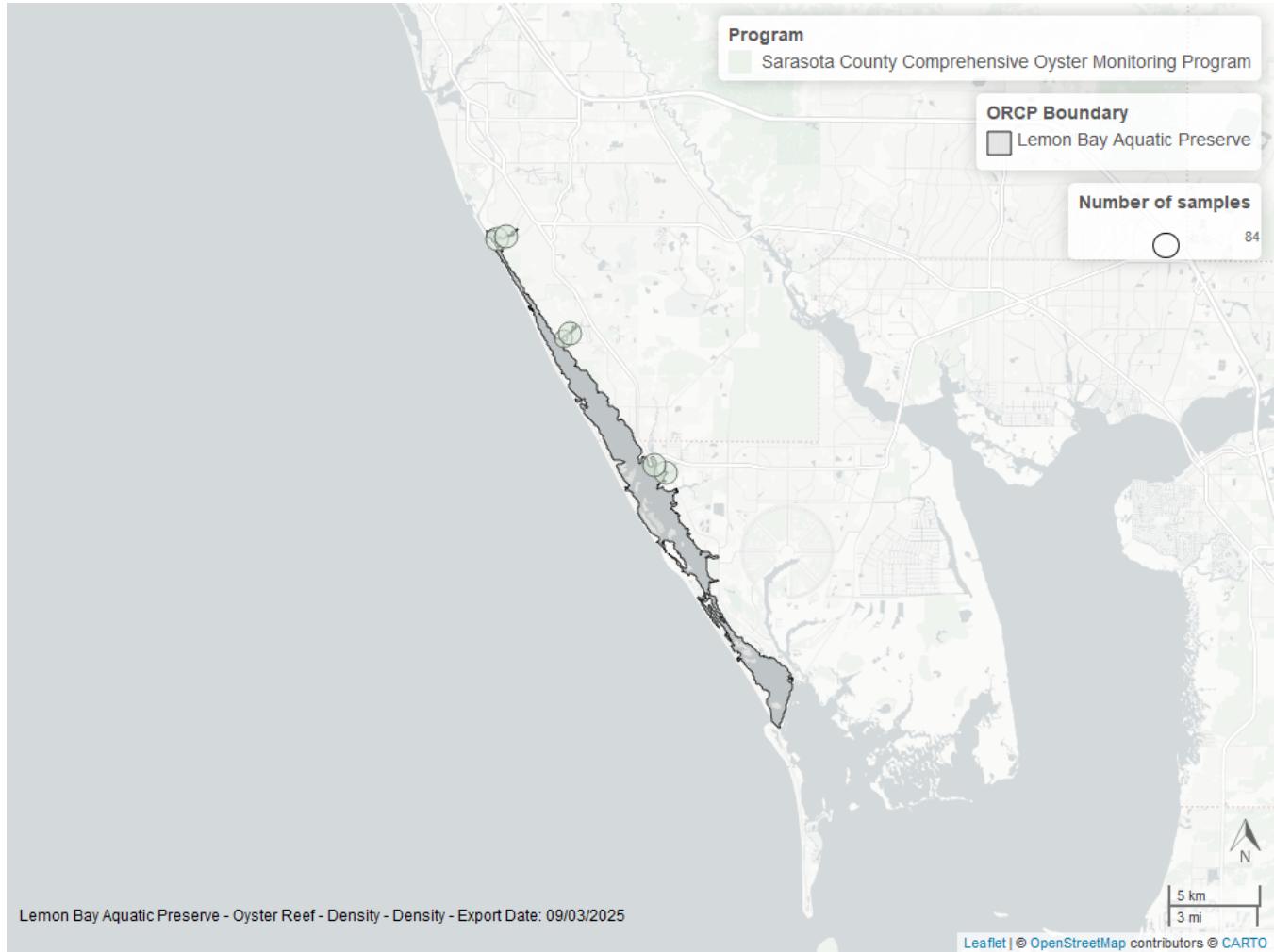


Figure 33: Map showing location of oyster density sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Percent Live

Natural

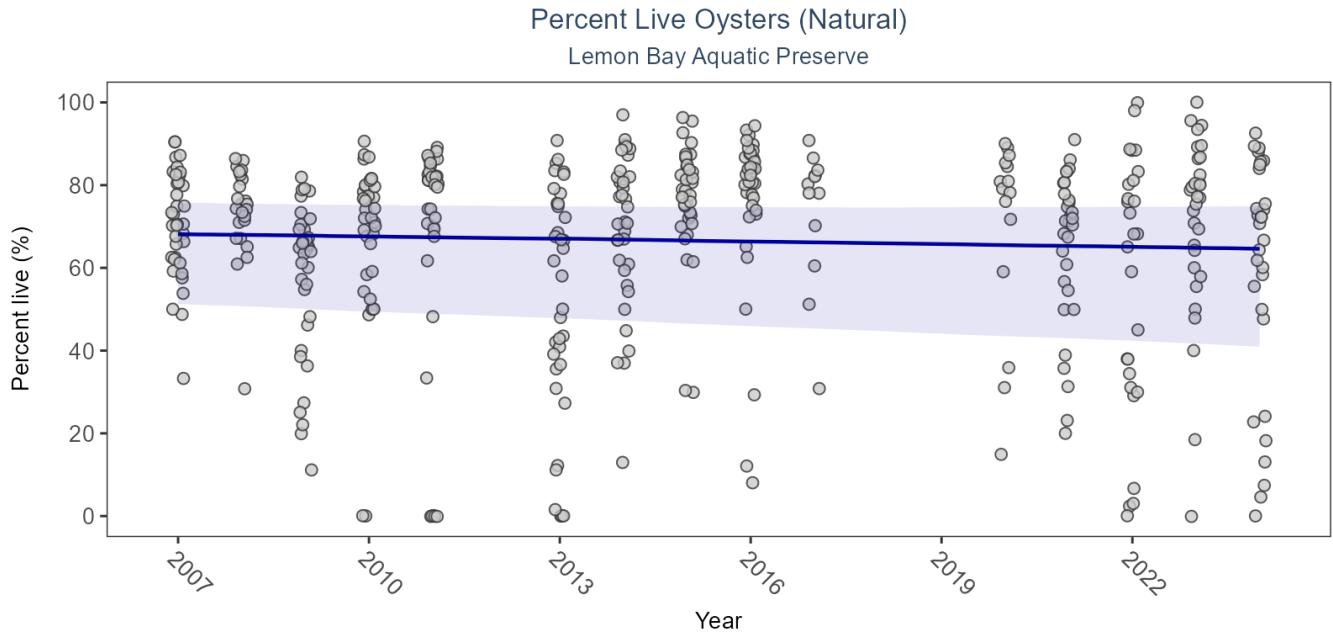


Figure 34: Scatter plot of percent live oysters over time. If the time series included five or more years with observations, an estimated trend (blue line) and a 95% credible interval (purple band) may also be plotted. Data points are jittered horizontally to reduce overlap.

Table 34: Model results for Oyster Percent Live - Natural

<i>Shell Type</i>	<i>Habitat Type</i>	<i>Trend Status</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>Credible Interval</i>
Live Oysters	Natural	Significantly decreasing trend	0	0.09	-0.01 to 0

For natural reefs, percent live cover decreased by an average of 0% per year.

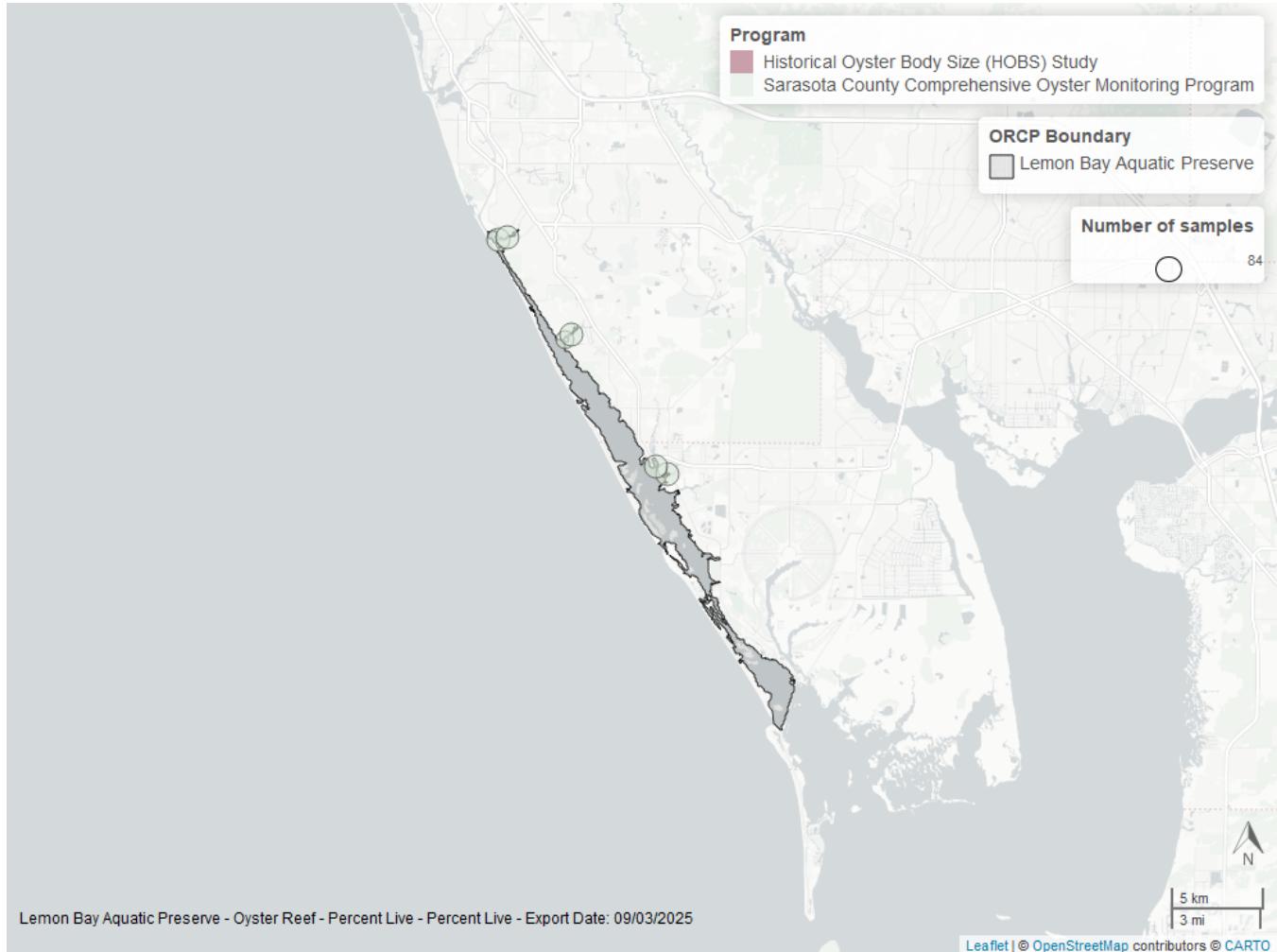


Figure 35: Map showing location of oyster percent live sampling locations within the boundaries of *Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Species list

<i>Acanthostracion quadricornis</i> ²	<i>Eucinostomus gula</i> ²	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i> ²
<i>Achirus lineatus</i> ²	<i>Eucinostomus harengulus</i> ²	<i>Ogcocephalus cubifrons</i> ²
<i>Albula</i> spp. ²	<i>Eucinostomus</i> spp. ²	<i>Ogcocephalus</i> spp. ²
<i>Aluterus schoepfii</i> ²	<i>Eugerres plumieri</i> ²	<i>Oligoplites saurus</i> ²
<i>Anarchopterus criniger</i> ²	<i>Fistularia tabacaria</i> ²	<i>Opisthonema oglinum</i> ²
<i>Anchoa hepsetus</i> ²	<i>Fundulus similis</i> ²	<i>Opsanus beta</i> ²
<i>Anchoa mitchilli</i> ²	<i>Gobiesox strumosus</i> ²	<i>Orthopristis chrysoptera</i> ²
<i>Anchoa</i> spp. ²	<i>Gobiosoma longipala</i> ²	<i>Paralichthys alboguttata</i> ²
<i>Ancylosetta quadrocellata</i> ²	<i>Gobiosoma robustum</i> ²	<i>Penaeus duorarum</i> ²
<i>Archosargus probatocephalus</i> ²	<i>Gobiosoma</i> spp. ²	<i>Penicillus capitatus</i> ¹
<i>Ariopsis felis</i> ²	<i>Haemulon plumieri</i> ²	<i>Pogonias cromis</i> ²
<i>Bagre marinus</i> ²	<i>Halodule wrightii</i> ¹	<i>Prionotus rubio</i> ²
<i>Bairdiella chrysoura</i> ²	<i>Halophila engelmannii</i> ¹	<i>Prionotus scitulus</i> ²
<i>Bathygobius soporator</i> ²	<i>Harengula jaguana</i> ²	<i>Prionotus tribulus</i> ²
<i>Brevoortia</i> spp. ²	<i>Hemiramphus brasiliensis</i> ²	<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i> ²
<i>Calamus penna</i> ²	<i>Hippocampus erectus</i> ²	<i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i> ²
<i>Callinectes sapidus</i> ²	<i>Hippocampus zosterae</i> ²	<i>Scorpaena brasiliensis</i> ²
<i>Caranx hippos</i> ²	<i>Hypoleurochilus caudovittatus</i> ²	<i>Selene vomer</i> ²
<i>Caranx latus</i> ²	<i>Hyporhamphus meeki</i> ²	<i>Serraniculus pumilio</i> ²
<i>Caulerpa mexicana</i> ¹	<i>Hyporhamphus unifasciatus</i> ²	<i>Serranus subligarius</i> ²
<i>Caulerpa prolifera</i> ¹	<i>Hypsoblennius hentz</i> ²	<i>Sphoeroides nephelus</i> ²
<i>Caulerpa sertularioides</i> ¹	<i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i> ²	<i>Sphoeroides spengleri</i> ²
<i>Caulerpa</i> spp. ¹	<i>Lagodon rhomboides</i> ²	<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i> ²
<i>Centropomus undecimalis</i> ²	<i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i> ²	<i>Strongylura marina</i> ²
<i>Centropristes striata</i> ²	<i>Limulus polyphemus</i>	<i>Strongylura notata</i> ²
<i>Chaetodipterus faber</i> ²	<i>Lucania parva</i> ²	<i>Sympodus plagiura</i> ²
<i>Chasmodes saburrae</i> ²	<i>Lutjanus analis</i> ²	<i>Syngnathus floridae</i> ²
<i>Chilomycterus schoepfii</i> ²	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i> ²	<i>Syngnathus louisianae</i> ²
<i>Chloroscombrus chrysurus</i> ²	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i> ²	<i>Syngnathus scovelli</i> ²
<i>Citharichthys macrops</i> ²	<i>Menippe</i> spp. ²	<i>Syngnathus springeri</i> ²
<i>Cynoscion arenarius</i> ²	<i>Menticirrhus americanus</i> ²	<i>Synodus foetens</i> ²
<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i> ²	<i>Menticirrhus saxatilis</i> ²	<i>Syringodium filiforme</i> ¹
<i>Diapterus auratus</i> ²	<i>Microgobius gulosus</i> ²	<i>Thalassia testudinum</i> ¹
<i>Diodon holocanthus</i> ²	<i>Monacanthus ciliatus</i> ²	Total seagrass ¹
<i>Diplectrum formosum</i> ²	<i>Mugil cephalus</i> ²	<i>Trachinotus carolinus</i> ²
<i>Diplodus holbrookii</i> ²	<i>Mugil curema</i> ²	<i>Trachinotus falcatus</i> ²
<i>Drift algae</i> ¹	<i>Mugil trichodon</i> ²	<i>Trinectes maculatus</i> ²
<i>Elops saurus</i> ²	<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i> ²	<i>Tylosurus crocodilus</i> ²
<i>Epinephelus itajara</i> ²	<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i> ²	<i>Urophycis floridae</i> ²
<i>Epinephelus morio</i> ²	<i>Nicholsina usta</i> ²	<i>Acanthostracion quadricornis</i> ²
<i>Etropus crossotus</i> ²	No grass in quadrat ¹	<i>Achirus lineatus</i> ²

1 - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, 2 - Nekton

References

1. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP); Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves. [Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network](#). (2024).
2. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). [Florida STORET / WIN](#). (2024).
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