

# Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve

## SEACAR Habitat Analyses

Last compiled on 22 May, 2025

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## Funding & Acknowledgements

The data used in this analysis is from the Export Standardized Tables in the SEACAR Data Discovery Interface (DDI). Documents and information available through the SEACAR DDI are owned by the data provider(s) and users are expected to provide appropriate credit following accepted citation formats. Users are encouraged to access data to maximize utilization of gained knowledge, reducing redundant research and facilitating partnerships and scientific innovation.

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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 determination; 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-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Chlorophyll\_a\_uncorrected\_for\_pheophytin-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Colored\_dissolved\_organic\_matter\_CDOM-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Dissolved\_Oxygen-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_Saturation-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_pH-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Salinity-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Secchi\_Depth-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Nitrogen-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Phosphorus-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Suspended\_Solids\_TSS-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Turbidity-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Water\_Temperature-2025-Mar-06.txt*

## Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

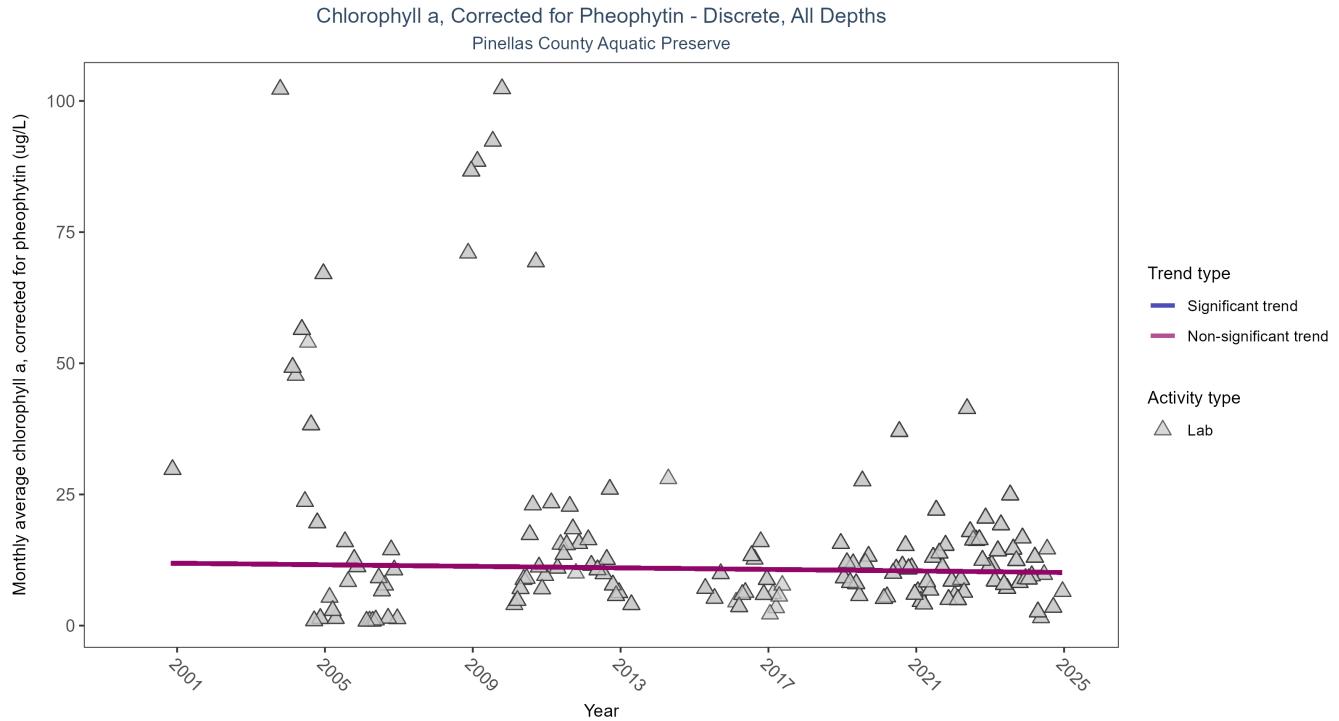


Figure 1: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) 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	No significant trend	3536	22	2000 - 2024	5.5	-0.0344	11.9598	-0.0734	0.5299

Chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, showed no detectable trend between 2000 and 2024.

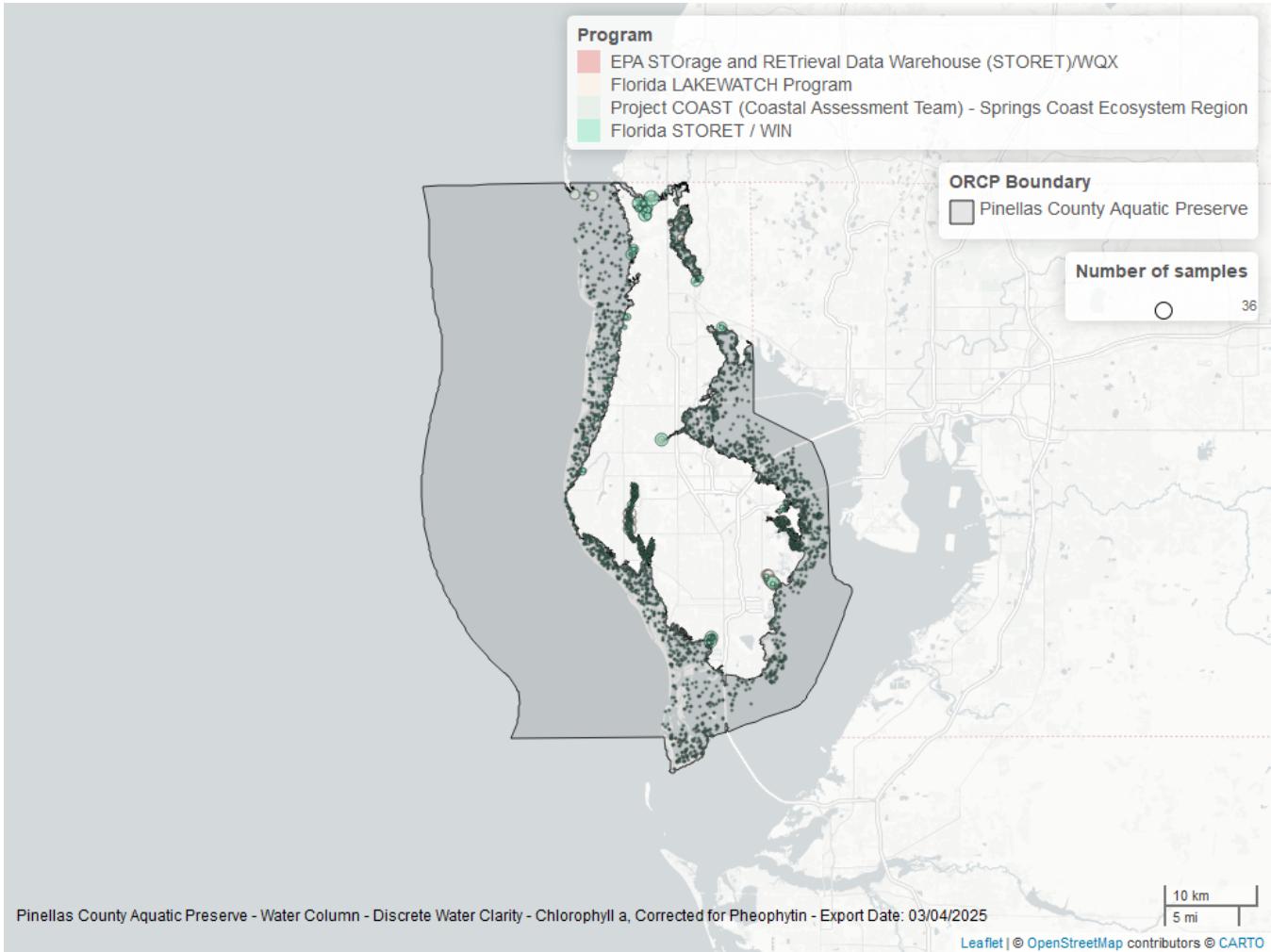


Figure 2: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	2795	2000	2024
103	478	2020	2021
514	274	2018	2024
5008	34	2023	2024

#### Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program<sup>2</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

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

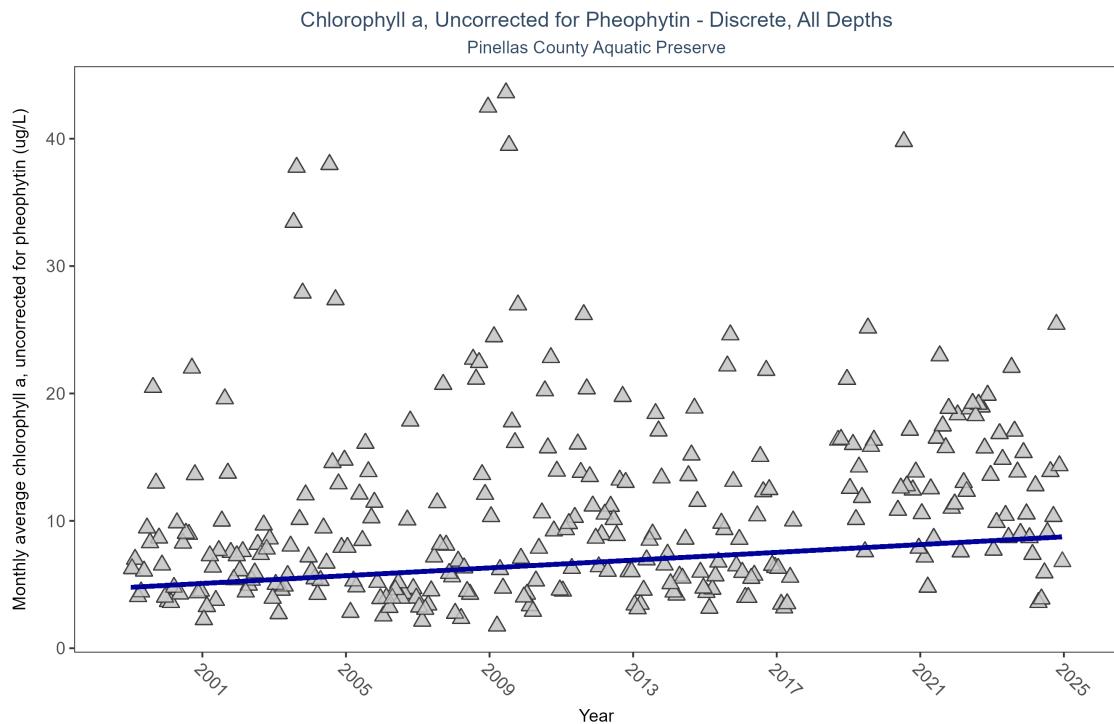


Figure 3: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) 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	Significantly increasing trend	6736	26	1999 - 2024	6.2	0.2256	4.7811	0.1525	0

Monthly average chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, increased by  $0.15 \mu\text{g/L}$  per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

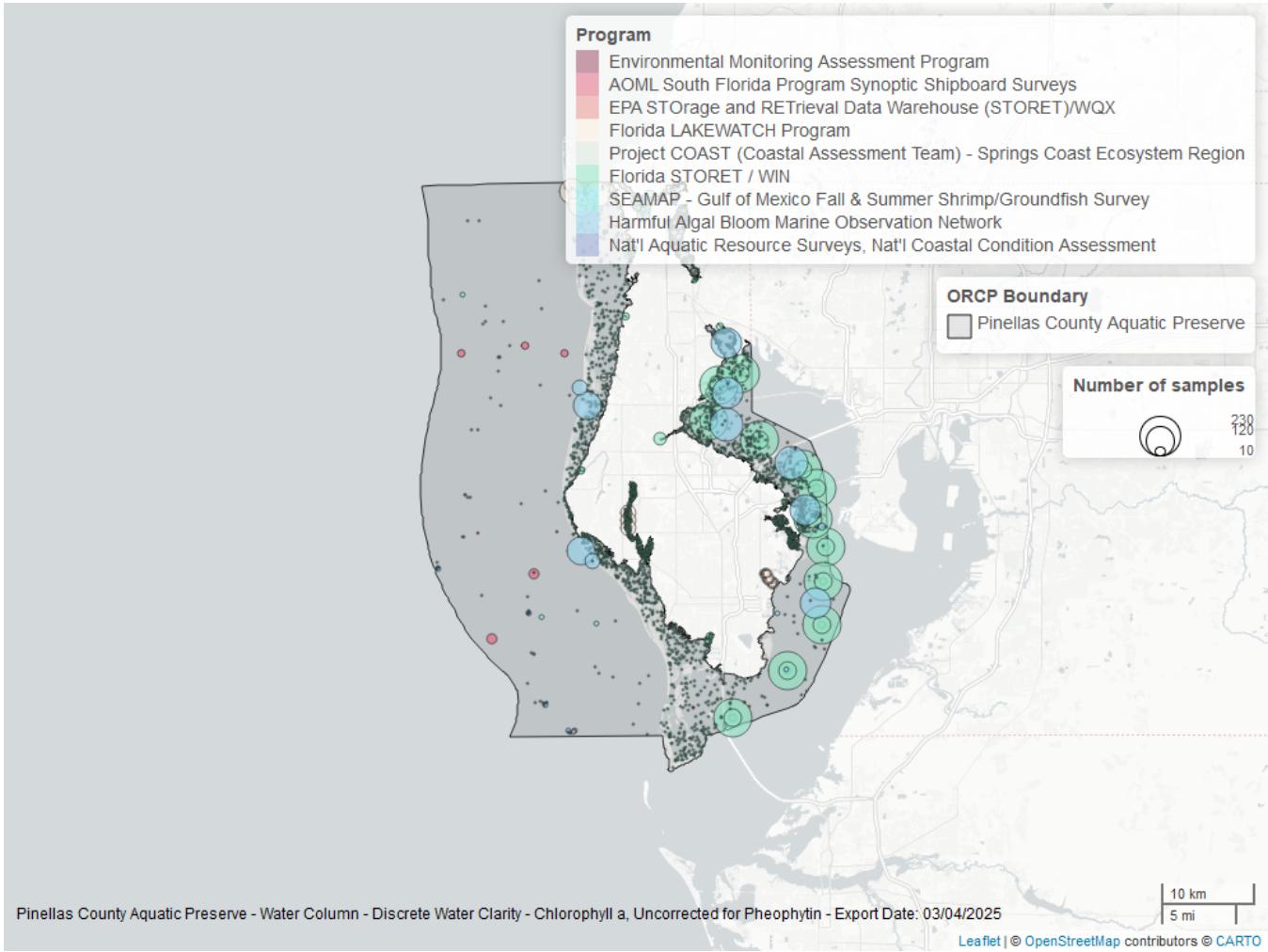


Figure 4: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	5688	1999	2024
95	1495	2000	2018
514	766	2001	2024
103	296	2000	2021
3	73	2018	2024
5008	34	2023	2024
115	9	2000	2004
118	8	2000	2010
60	6	2014	2014

#### Program names:

3 - Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) South Florida Program Synoptic Shipboard Surveys<sup>5</sup>

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey<sup>6</sup>

- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>7</sup>  
 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>  
 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>  
 118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment<sup>9</sup>  
 514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program<sup>2</sup>  
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>  
 5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## Colored Dissolved Organic Matter - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

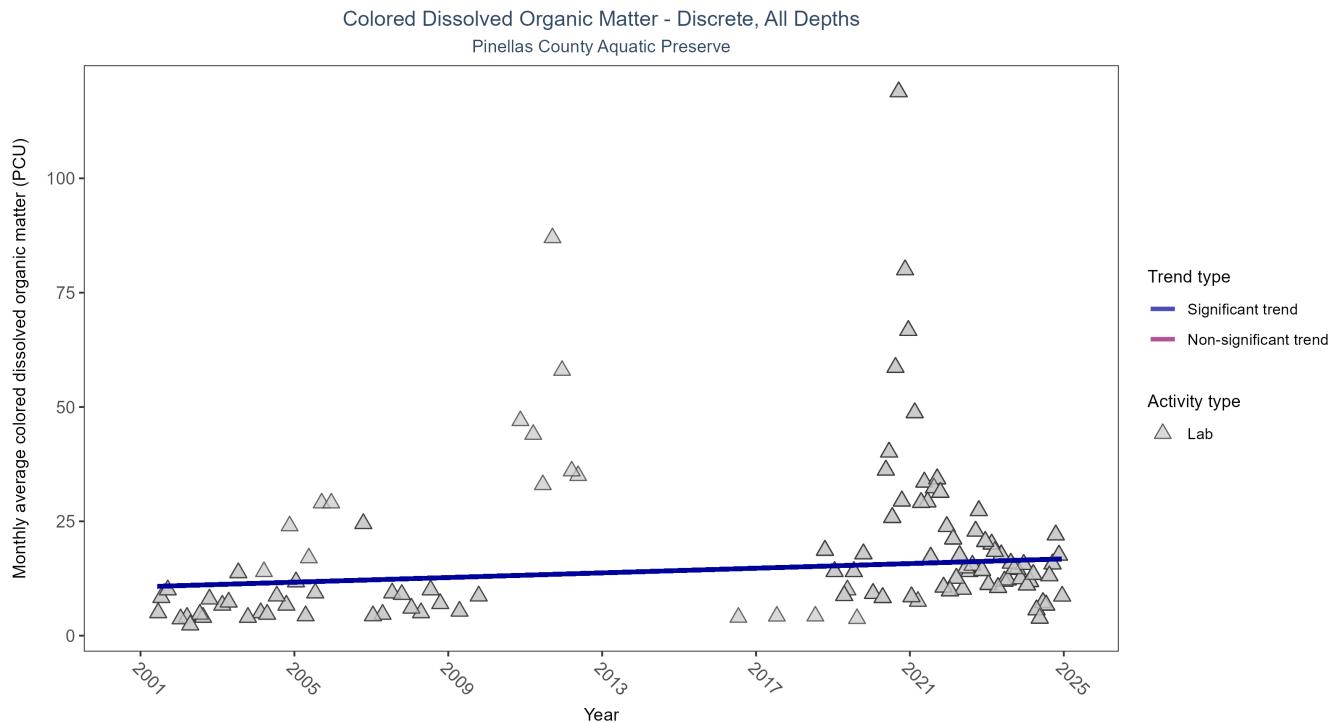


Figure 5: Scatter plot of monthly average colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed CDOM (triangles) is included in the plot.

Table 10: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly increasing trend	1108	21	2001 - 2024	10	0.0962	10.6756	0.2544	0.0149

Monthly average colored dissolved organic matter increased by 0.25 PCU per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

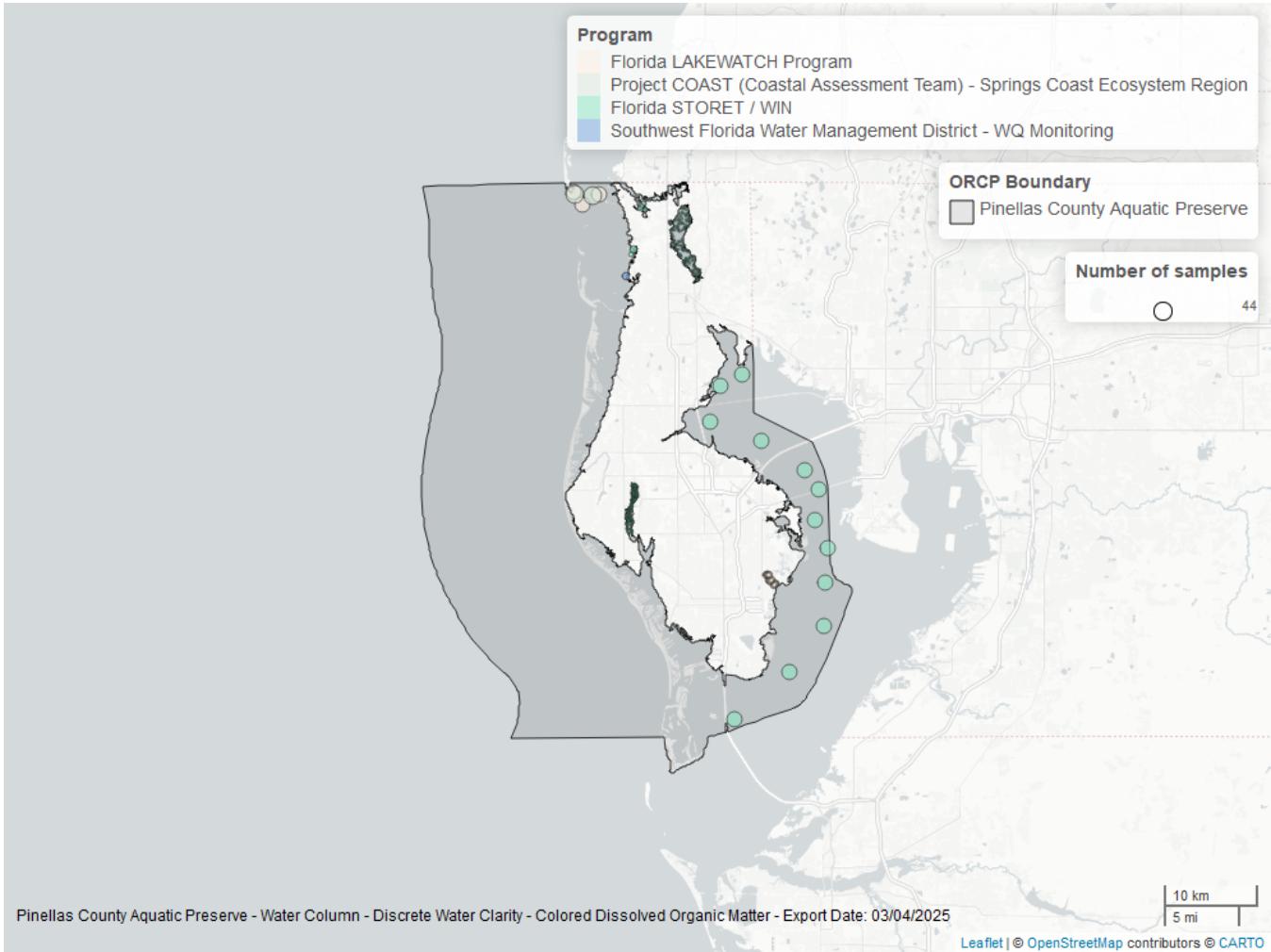


Figure 6: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	754	2020	2024
514	261	2001	2024
5008	88	2021	2024
479	12	2016	2023

#### Program names:

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring<sup>10</sup>

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program<sup>2</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

#### Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

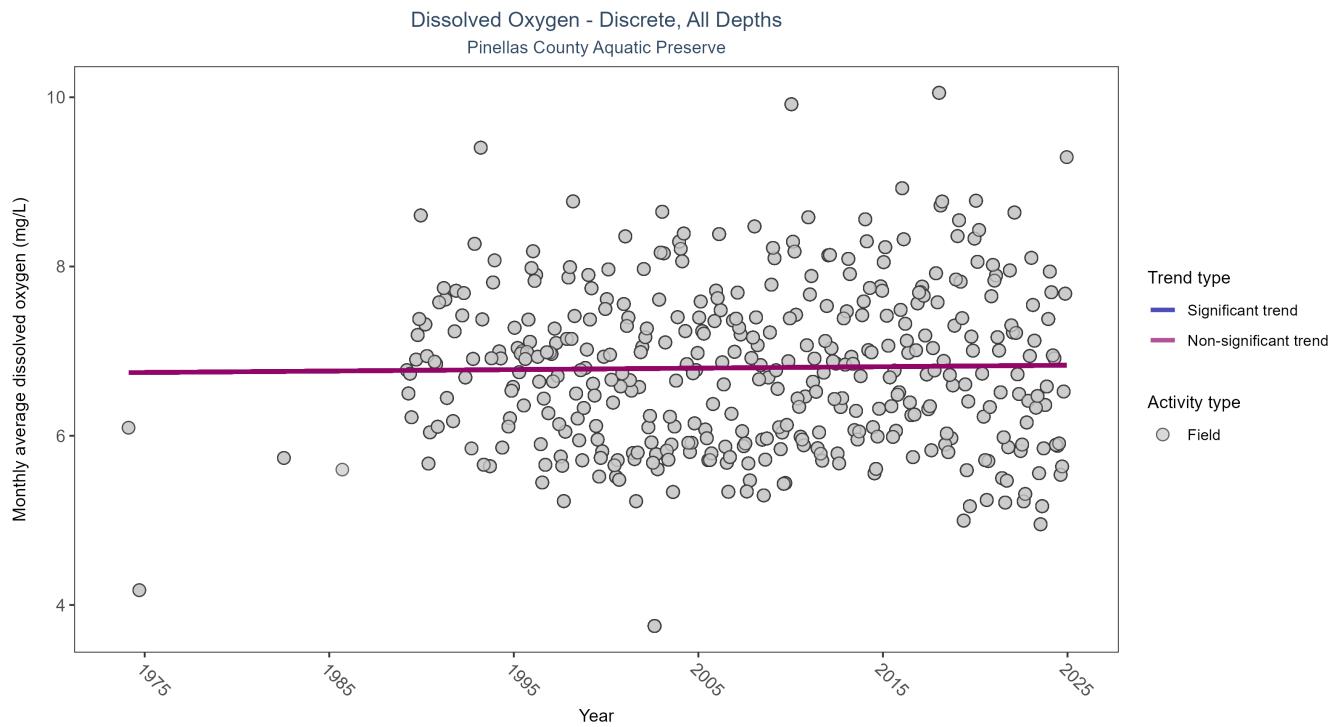


Figure 7: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 12: 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	95696	39	1974 - 2024	6.6	0.0304	6.7457	0.0017	0.4701

Dissolved oxygen showed no detectable trend between 1974 and 2024.

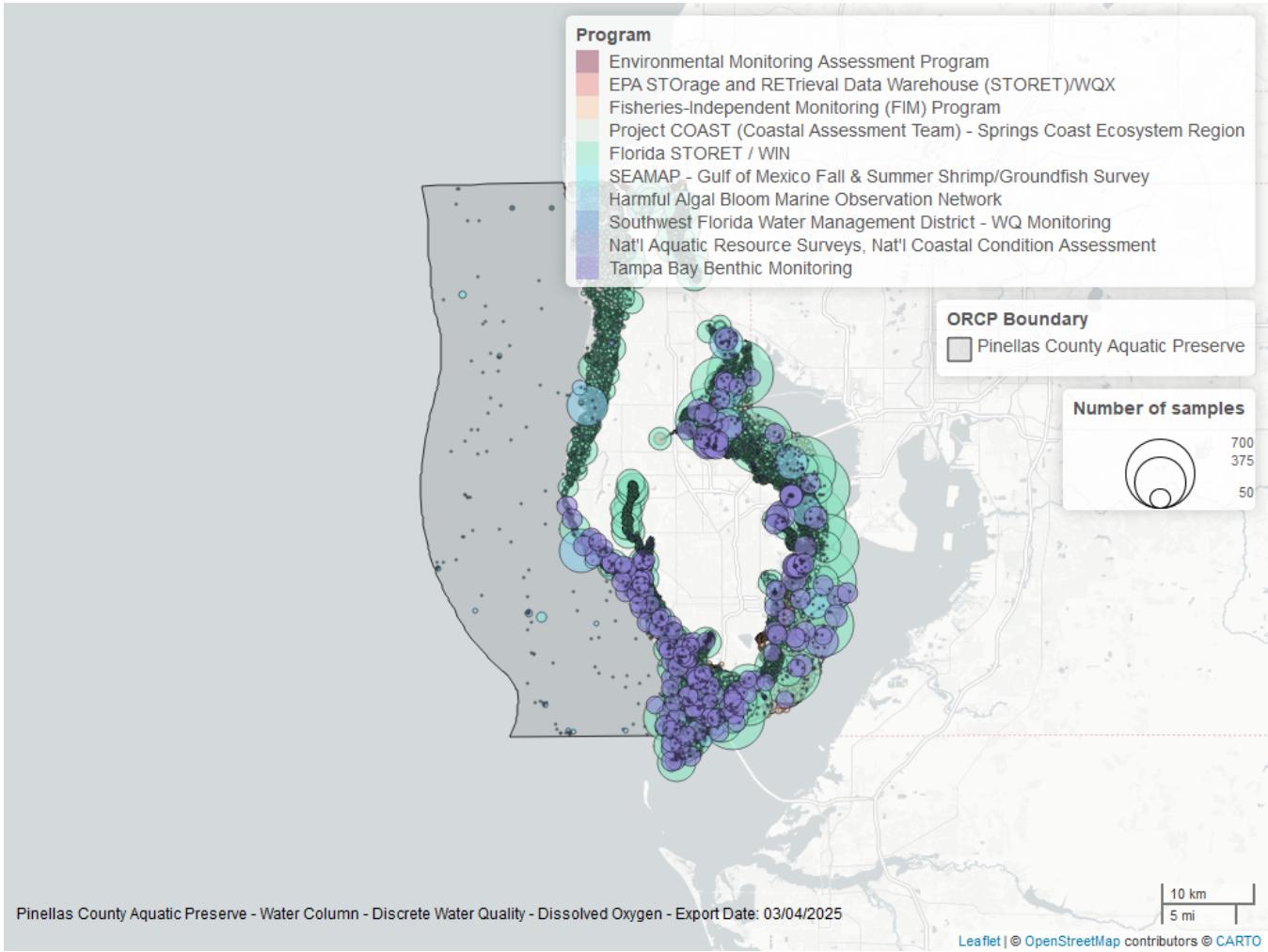


Figure 8: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	51114	1995	2024
69	29644	1989	2022
4067	11552	1993	2022
95	2371	1974	2018
103	1548	2003	2021
5008	88	2021	2024
118	32	2000	2020
115	29	2000	2004
60	21	2014	2014
479	9	2016	2023

#### Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey<sup>6</sup>

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>11</sup>

- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>7</sup>  
 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>  
 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>  
 118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment<sup>9</sup>  
 479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring<sup>10</sup>  
 4067 - Tampa Bay Benthic Monitoring<sup>12</sup>  
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>  
 5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

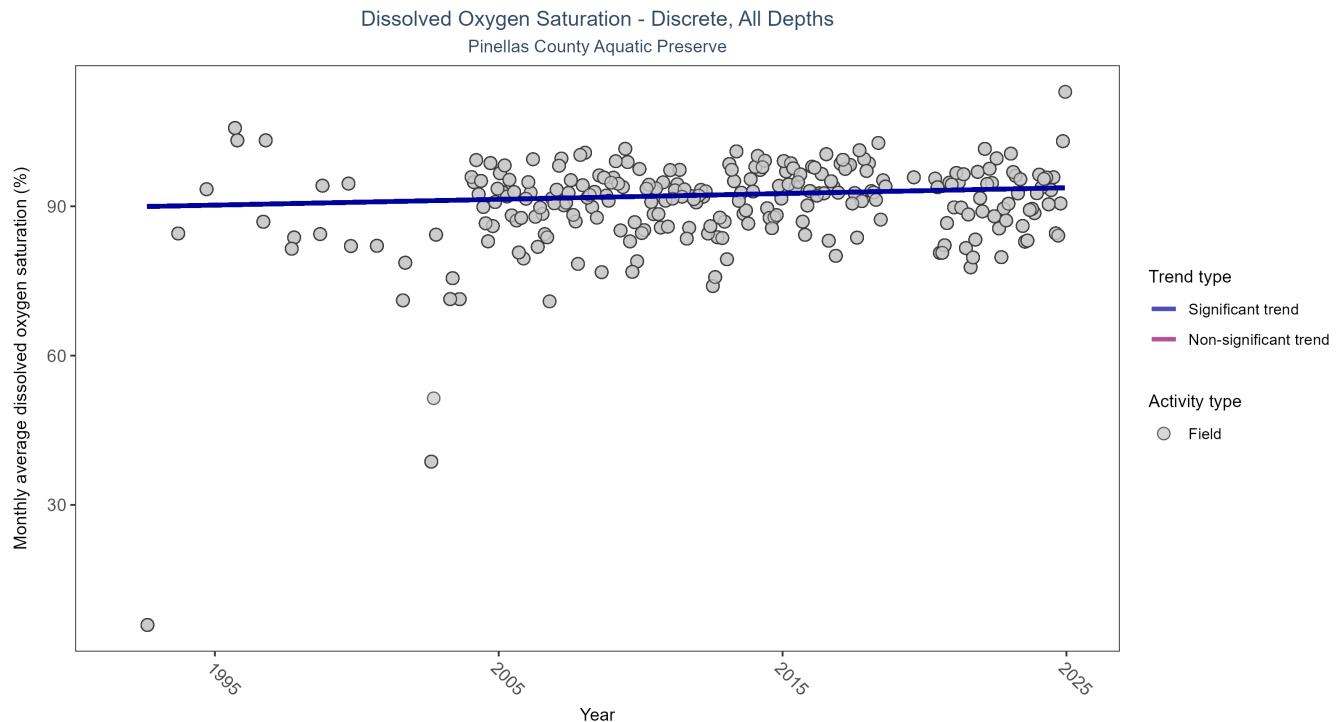


Figure 9: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen saturation values measured in the field (circles)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

Table 14: 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 increasing trend	30336	33	1992 - 2024	90.9	0.1112	89.8889	0.1163	0.0177

Monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation increased by 0.12% per year.

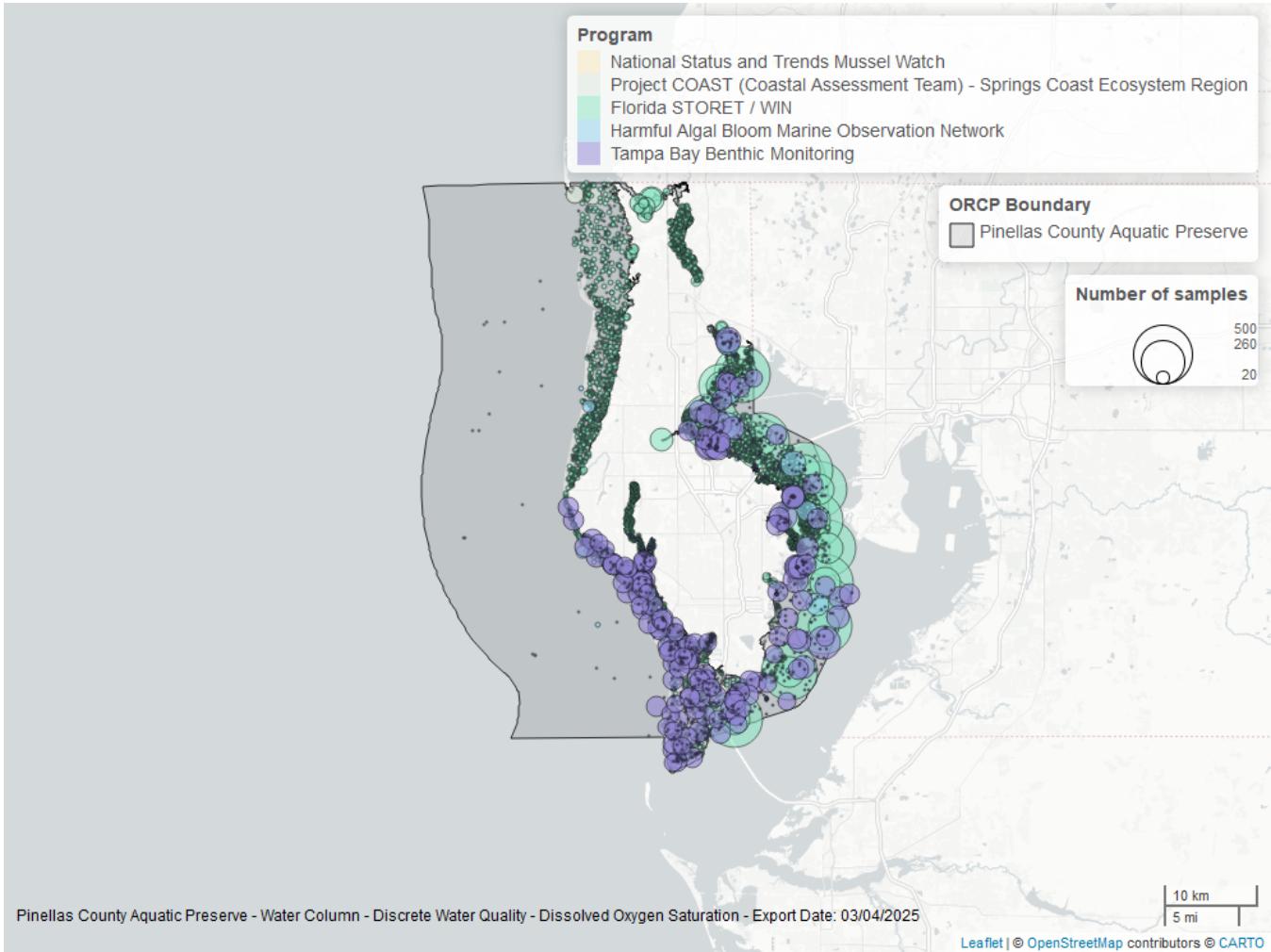


Figure 10: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	19059	2004	2024
4067	10988	1993	2022
95	638	2002	2018
5008	88	2021	2024
102	66	1992	1992

#### Program names:

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>7</sup>

102 - National Status and Trends Mussel Watch<sup>13</sup>

4067 - Tampa Bay Benthic Monitoring<sup>12</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

#### pH - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

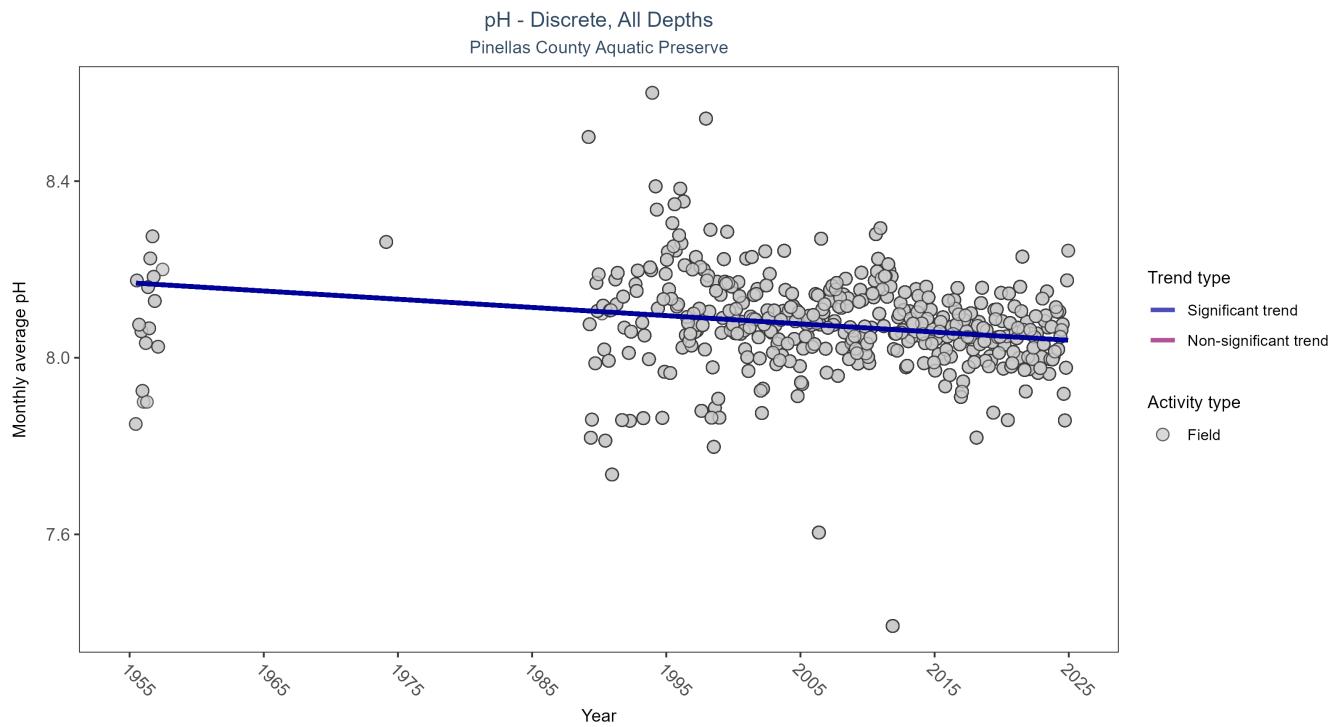


Figure 11: Scatter plot of monthly average pH over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only pH values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 16: 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	90916	40	1955 - 2024	8.1	-0.1758	8.1698	-0.0019	0

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

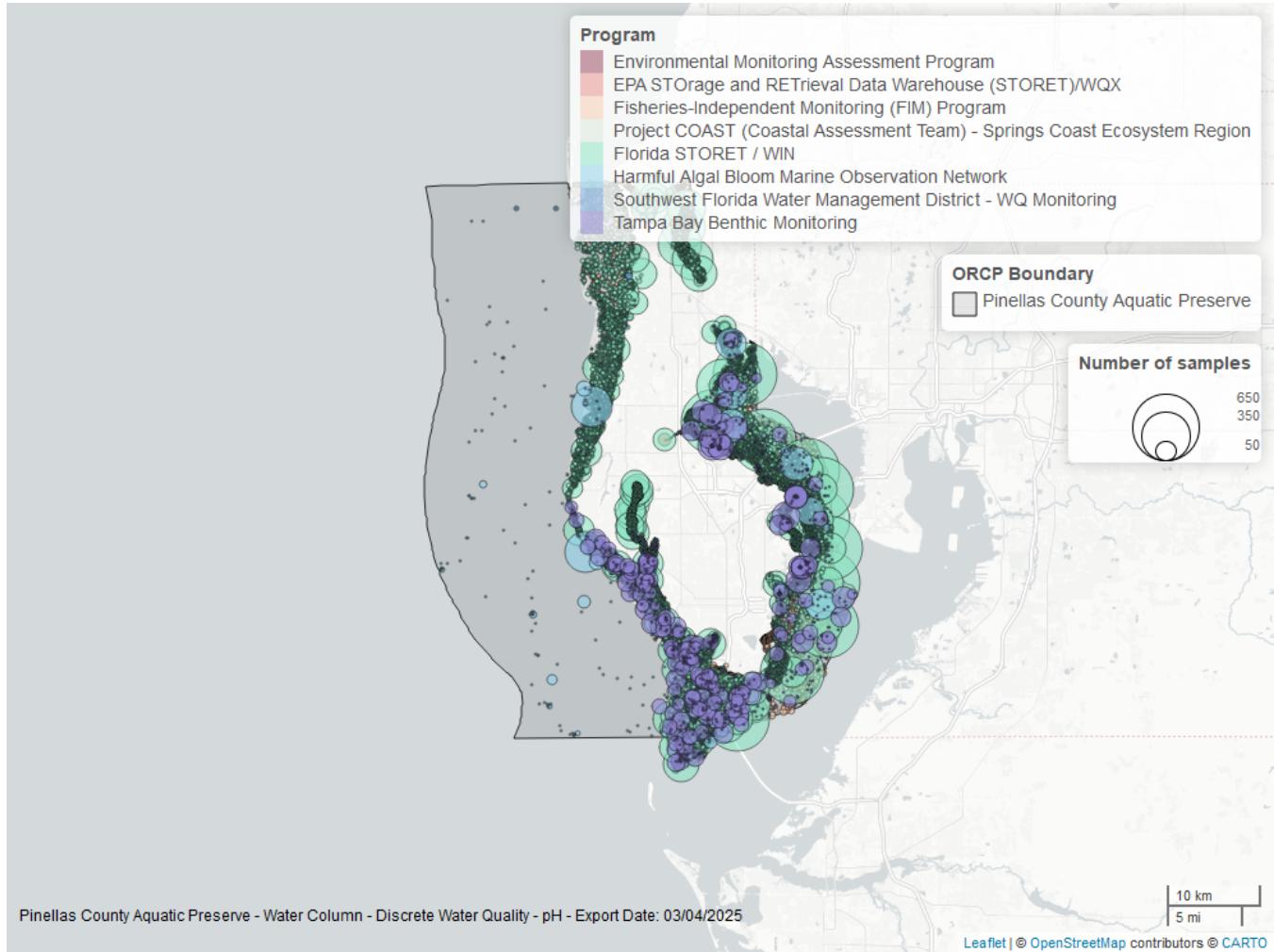


Figure 12: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for pH

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	49072	1995	2024
69	29267	1989	2022
4067	8992	1993	2022
95	2304	1955	2018
103	1563	2004	2021
5008	88	2021	2024
115	29	2000	2004
479	9	2016	2023

#### Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>11</sup>

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>7</sup>

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring<sup>10</sup>

4067 - Tampa Bay Benthic Monitoring<sup>12</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## Salinity - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

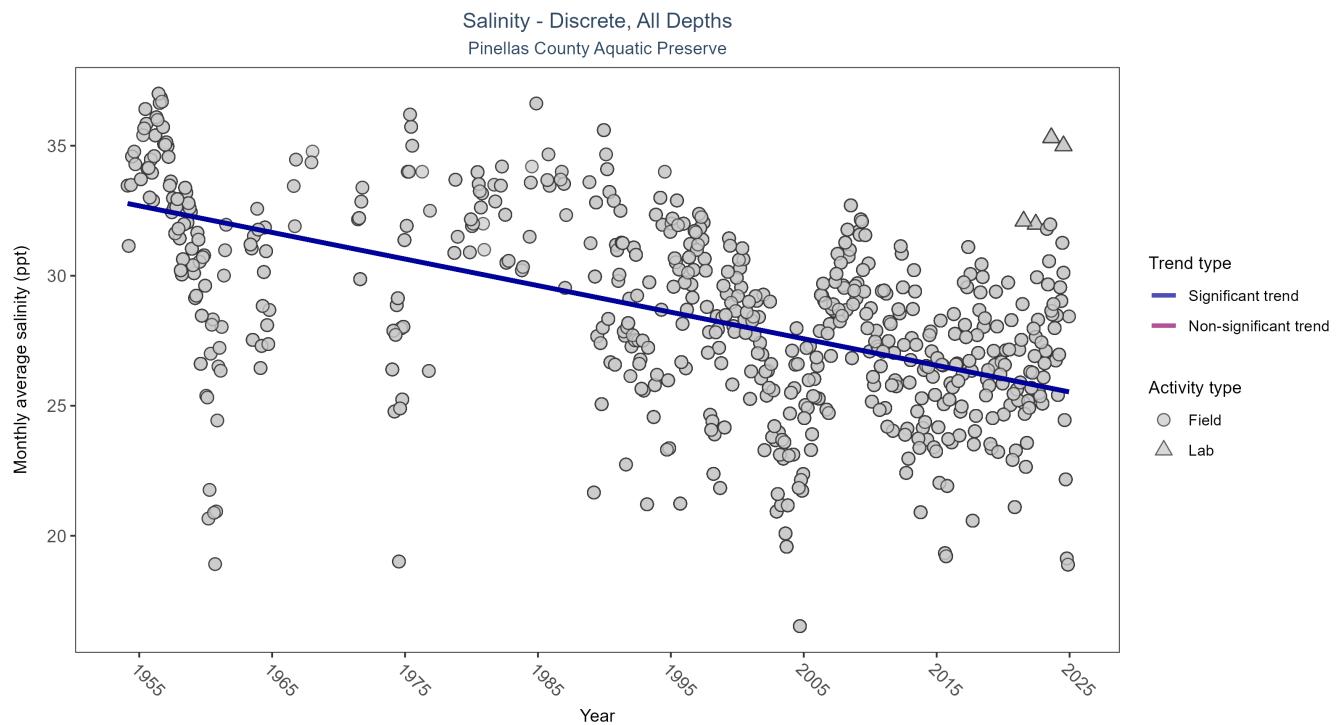


Figure 13: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines are also shown. Discrete salinity values derived from grab samples analyzed in the field (circles) or the laboratory (triangles) are both included in the plot.

Table 18: 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	93483	64	1954 - 2024	28.91	-0.3855	32.7897	-0.1022	0

Monthly average salinity decreased by 0.1 ppt per year.

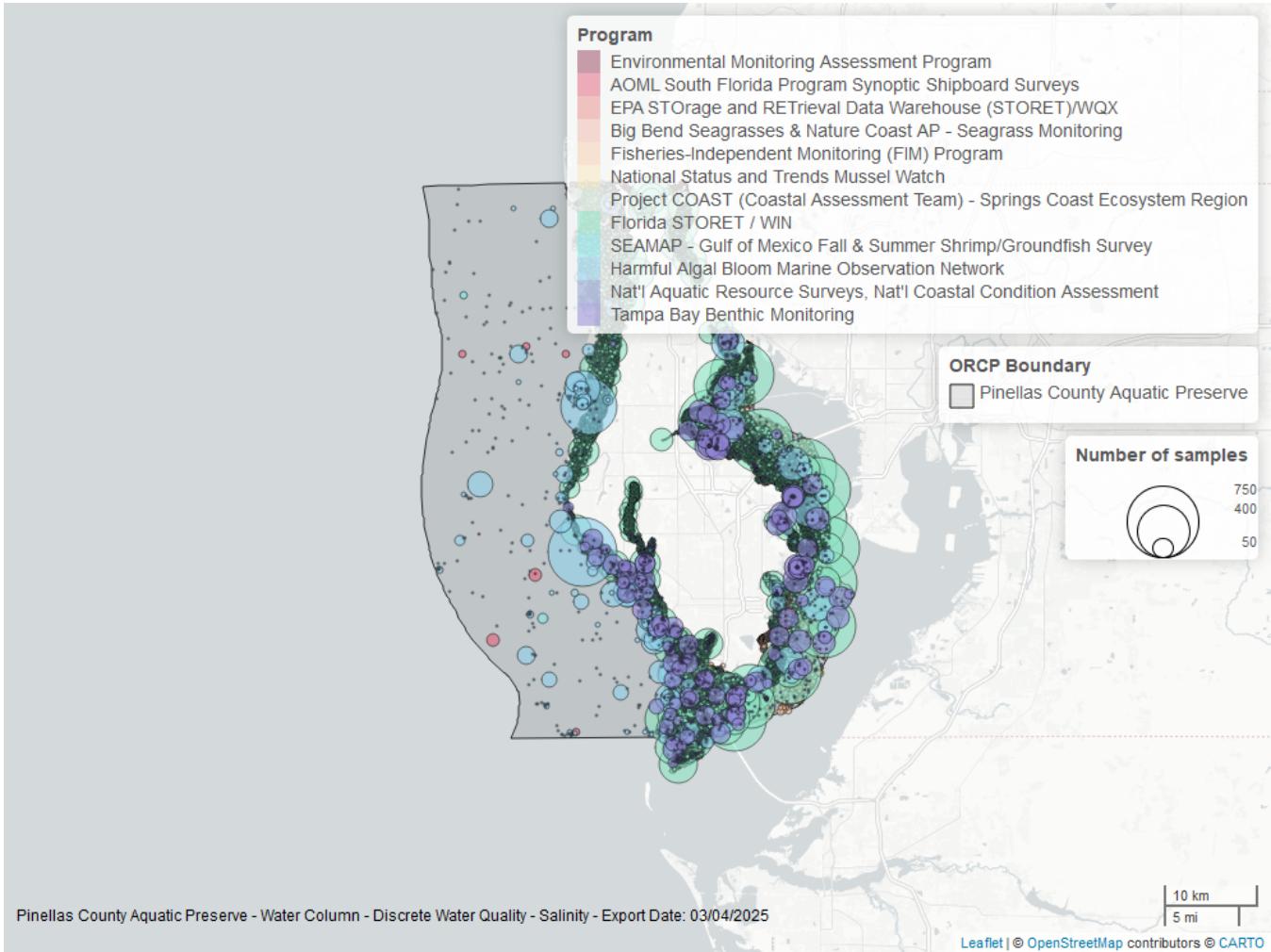


Figure 14: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Salinity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	48967	1995	2024
69	29934	1989	2022
4067	7232	1993	2022
95	7197	1954	2018
3	98	2018	2024
5008	92	2021	2024
102	66	1992	1992
560	32	2021	2024
115	29	2000	2004
118	24	2015	2020
60	21	2014	2014
103	2	2004	2004

#### Program names:

3 - Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) South Florida Program Synoptic Shipboard

Surveys<sup>5</sup>

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey<sup>6</sup>

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>11</sup>

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>7</sup>

102 - National Status and Trends Mussel Watch<sup>13</sup>

103 - EPA STORET and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment<sup>9</sup>

560 - Big Bend Seagrasses & Nature Coast Aquatic Preserves - Seagrass Monitoring<sup>14</sup>

4067 - Tampa Bay Benthic Monitoring<sup>12</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## Secchi Depth - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

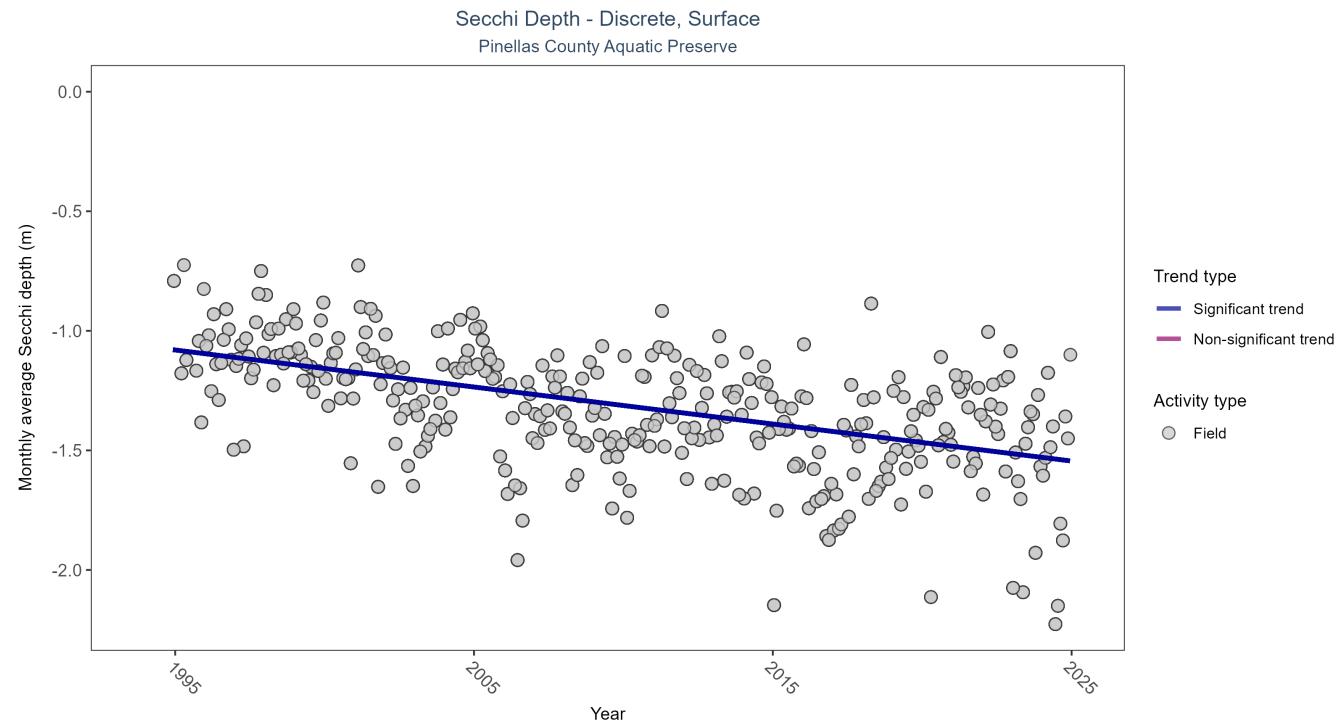


Figure 15: Scatter plot of monthly average Secchi depth over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Secchi depth is only measured in the field (circles).

Table 20: 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	30963	31	1994 - 2024	-1.2	-0.3897	-1.0647	-0.0155	0

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

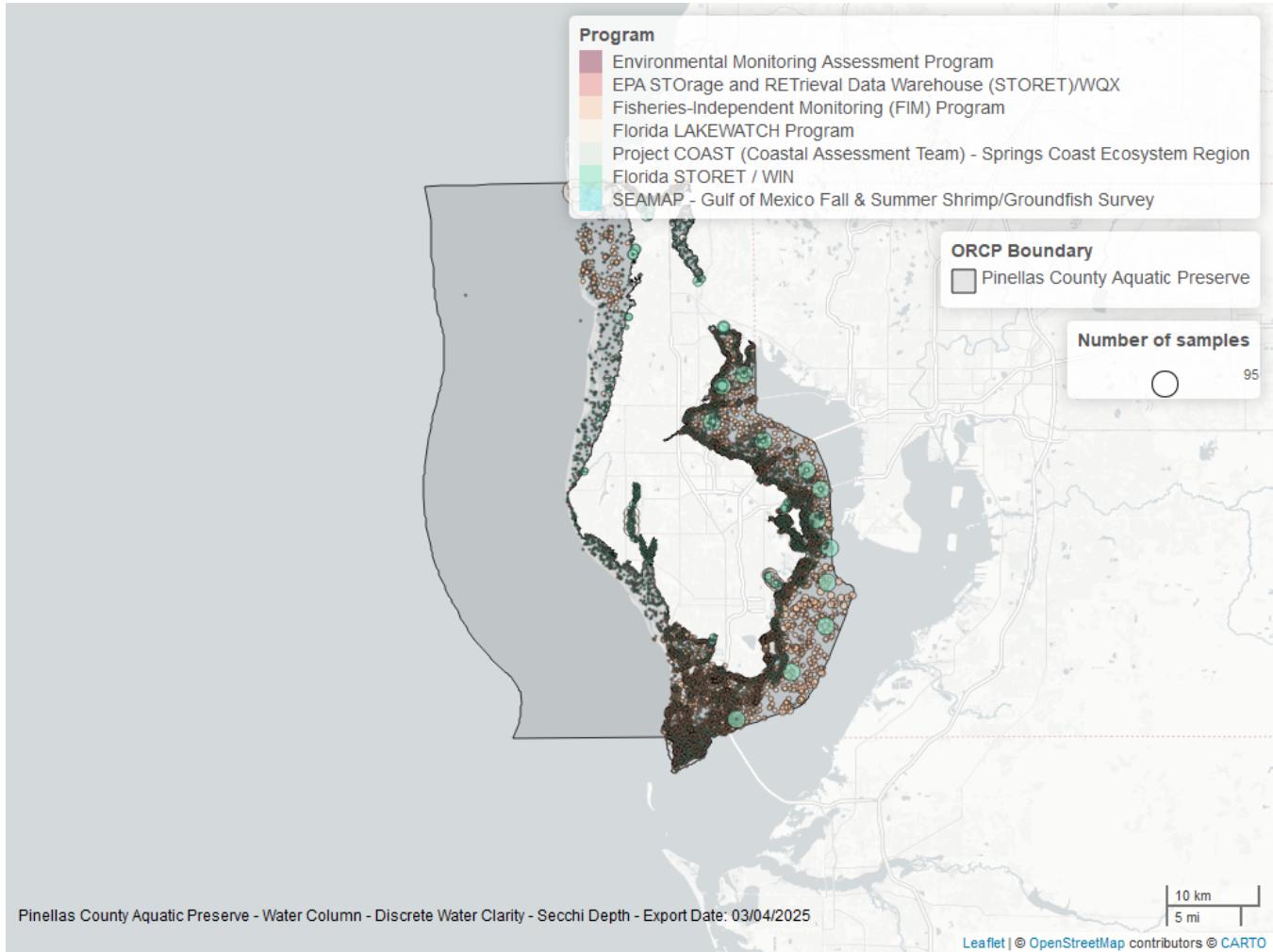


Figure 16: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
69	26436	1994	2022
5002	2927	1999	2024
514	828	2001	2024
103	699	2020	2021
5008	64	2021	2024
115	8	2000	2004
60	2	2014	2014

#### Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey<sup>6</sup>

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>11</sup>

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program<sup>2</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## 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 NO<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 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

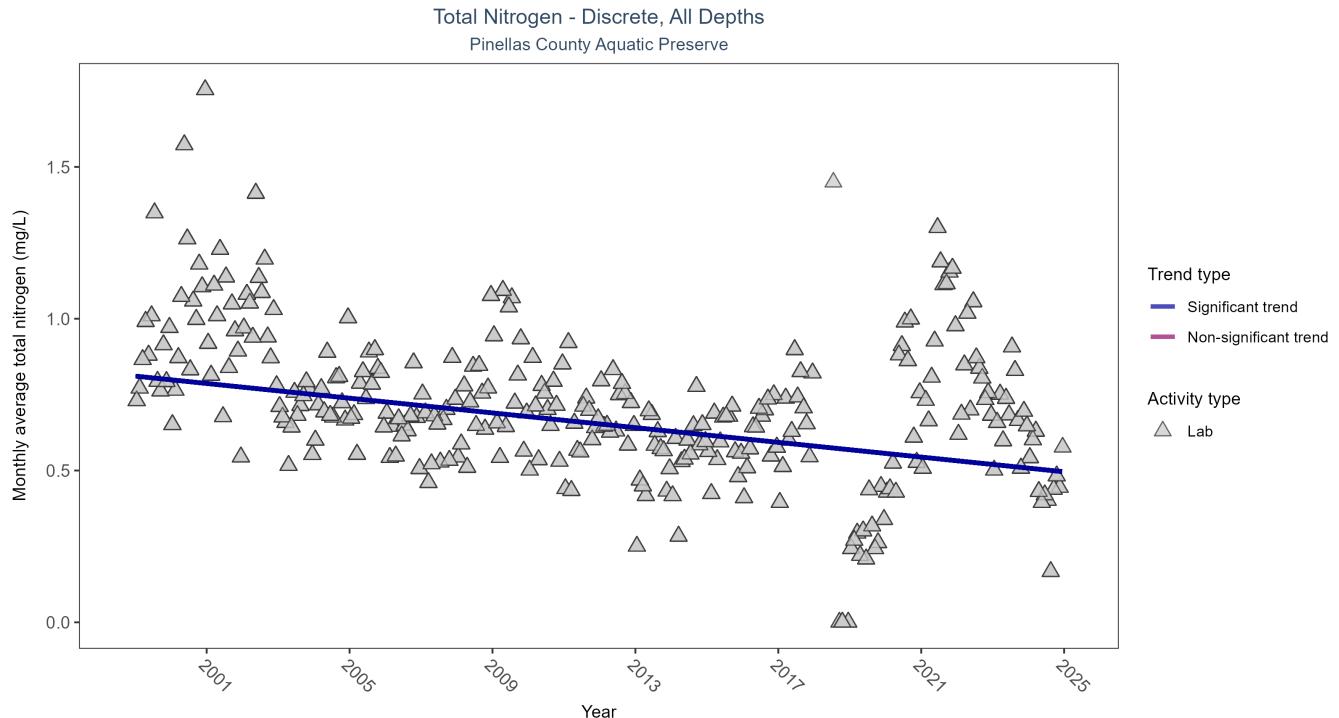


Figure 17: Scatter plot of monthly average total nitrogen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only nitrogen values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the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

Table 22: 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	Significantly decreasing trend	16068	26	1999 - 2024	0.59	-0.2877	0.811	-0.0121	0

Monthly average total nitrogen decreased by 0.01 mg/L per year.

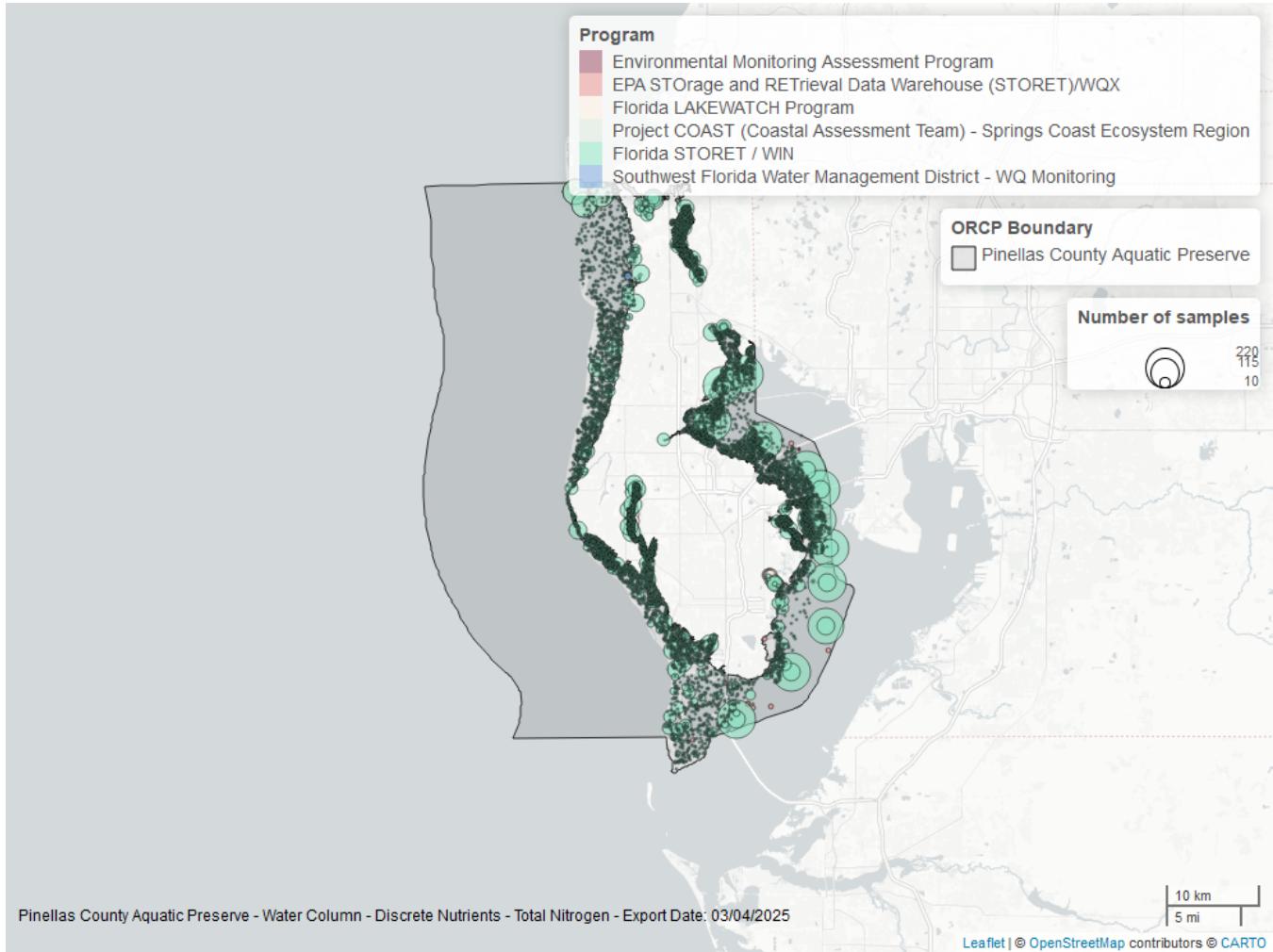


Figure 18: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 23: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	15158	1999	2024
514	856	2001	2024
103	72	2000	2006
5008	32	2023	2024
479	12	2016	2023
115	9	2000	2004

#### Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring<sup>10</sup>

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program<sup>2</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## Total Phosphorus - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

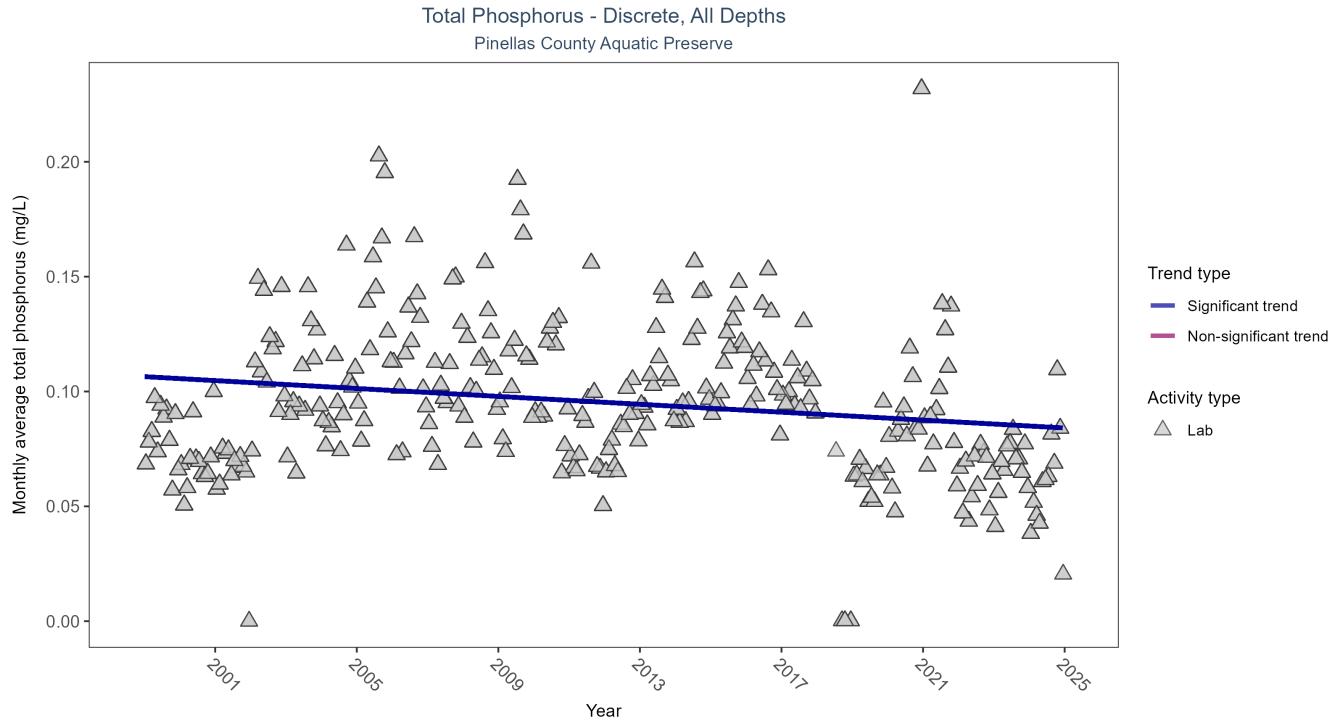


Figure 19: Scatter plot of monthly average total phosphorus over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only phosphorus values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included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

Table 24: 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	15909	26	1999 - 2024	0.088	-0.1589	0.1065	-0.0009	0.0001

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

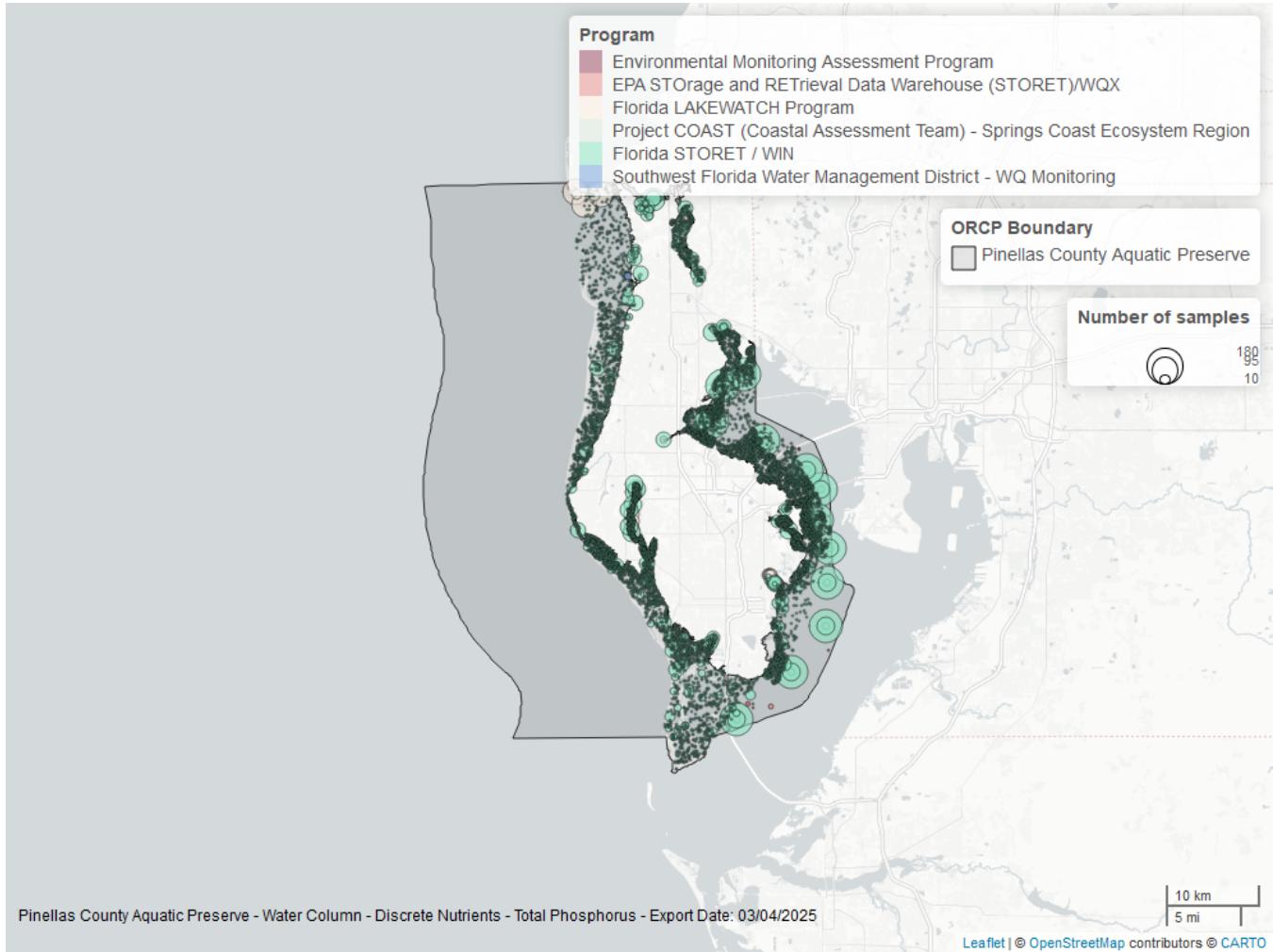


Figure 20: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 25: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	14440	1999	2024
514	859	2001	2024
103	723	2000	2021
5008	32	2023	2024
479	12	2016	2023
115	9	2000	2004

#### Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring<sup>10</sup>

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program<sup>2</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## Total Suspended Solids - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

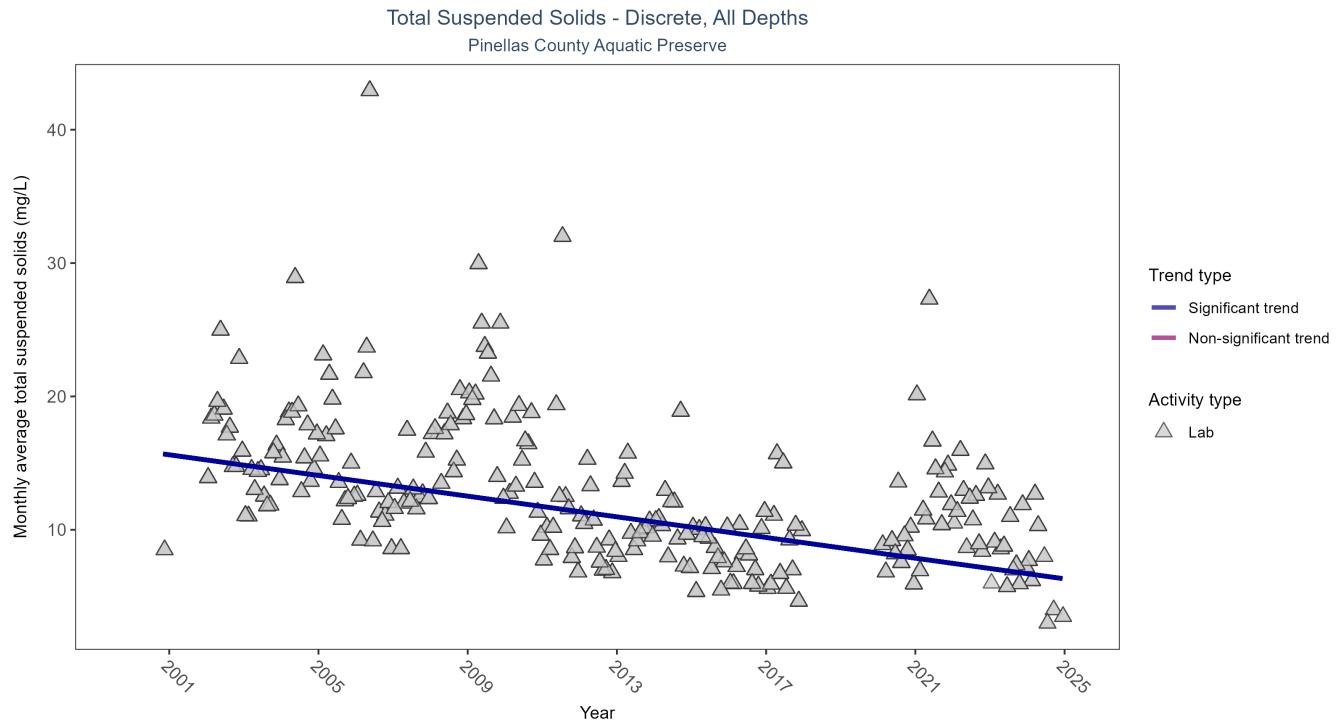


Figure 21: Scatter plot of monthly average total suspended solids (TSS) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only TSS values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included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

Table 26: 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 decreasing trend	12088	22	2000 - 2024	10	-0.4036	16.0107	-0.3876	0

Monthly average total suspended solids decreased by 0.39 mg/L per year, indicating an increase in water clarity.

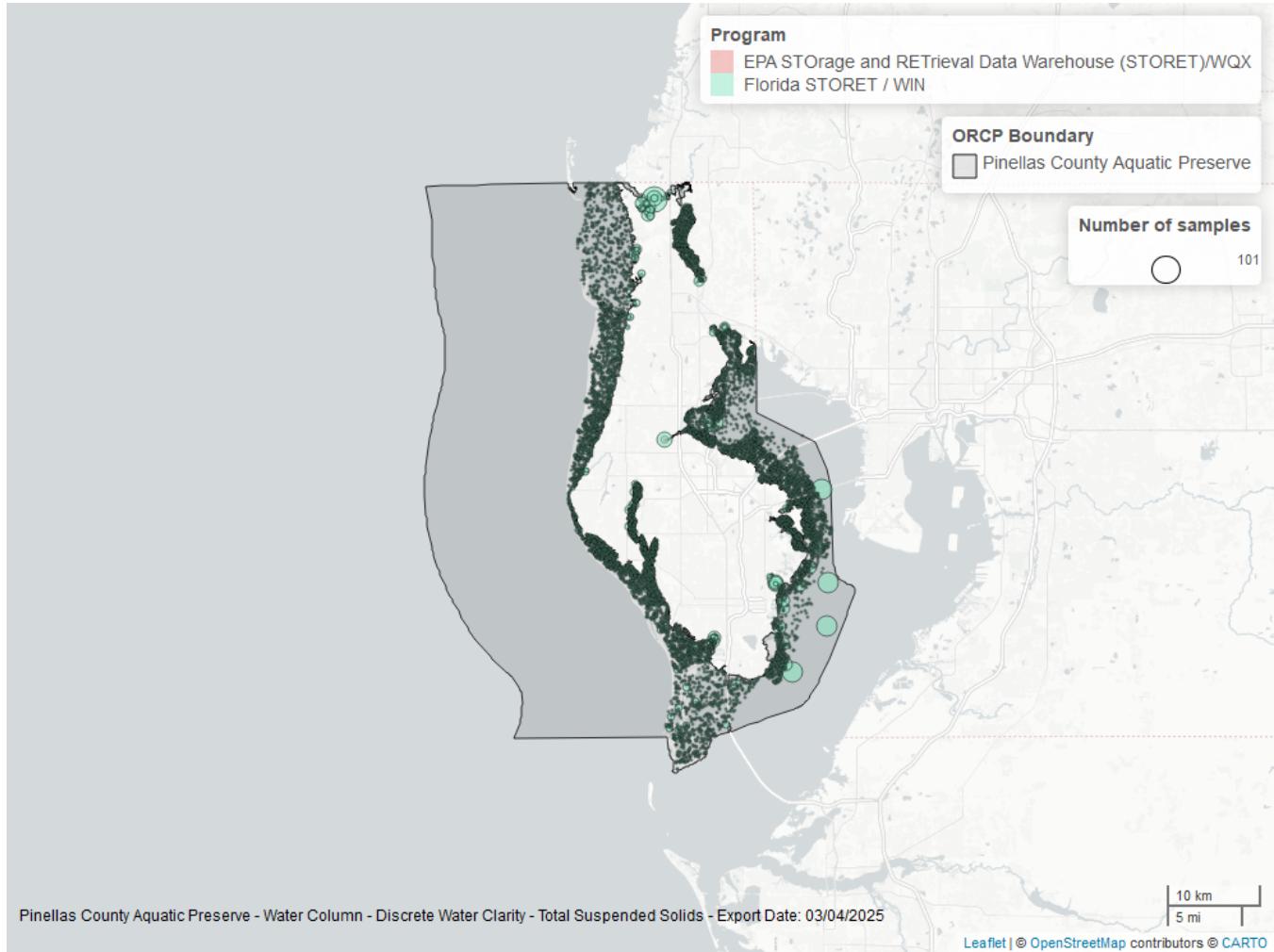


Figure 22: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 27: Programs contributing data for Total Suspended Solids

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	12208	1999	2024
103	484	2020	2021

#### Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

#### Turbidity - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

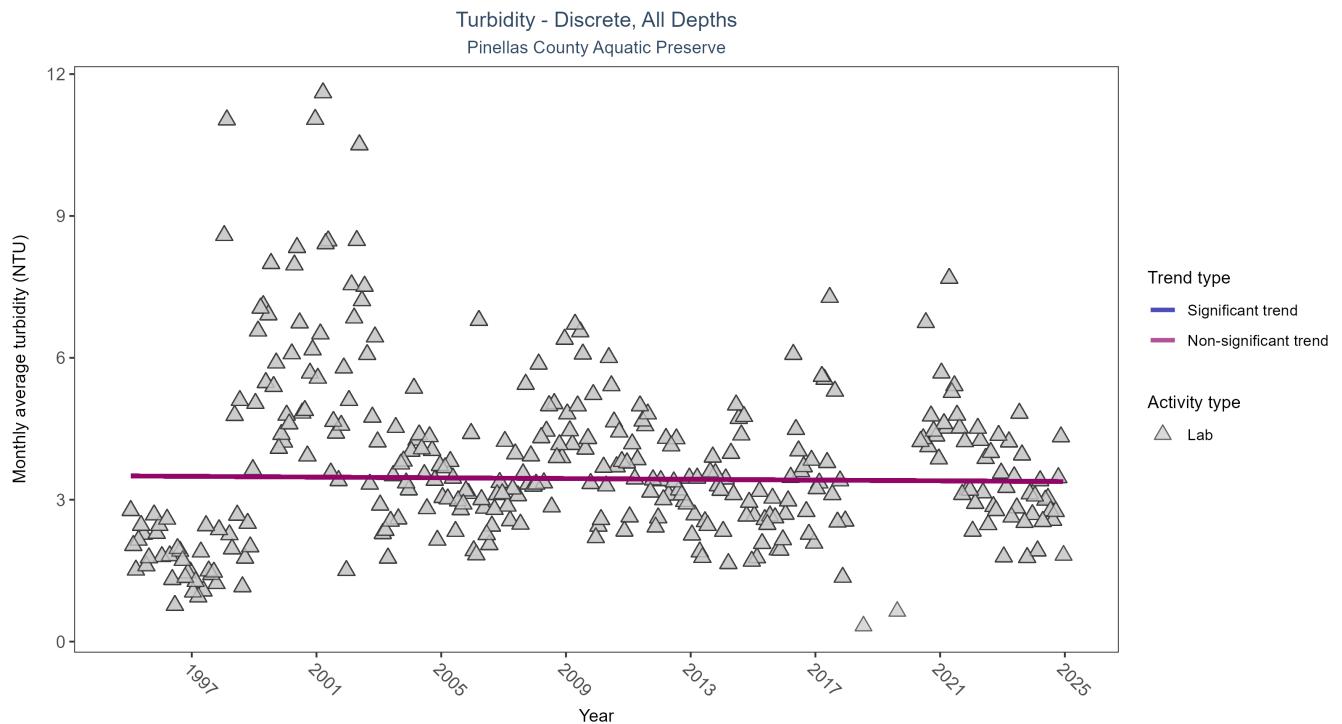


Figure 23: Scatter plot of monthly average turbidity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only turbidity values measured in the laboratory (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 28: 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	21129	30	1995 - 2024	2.5	-0.0174	3.5018	-0.0039	0.6964

Turbidity showed no detectable trend between 1995 and 2024.

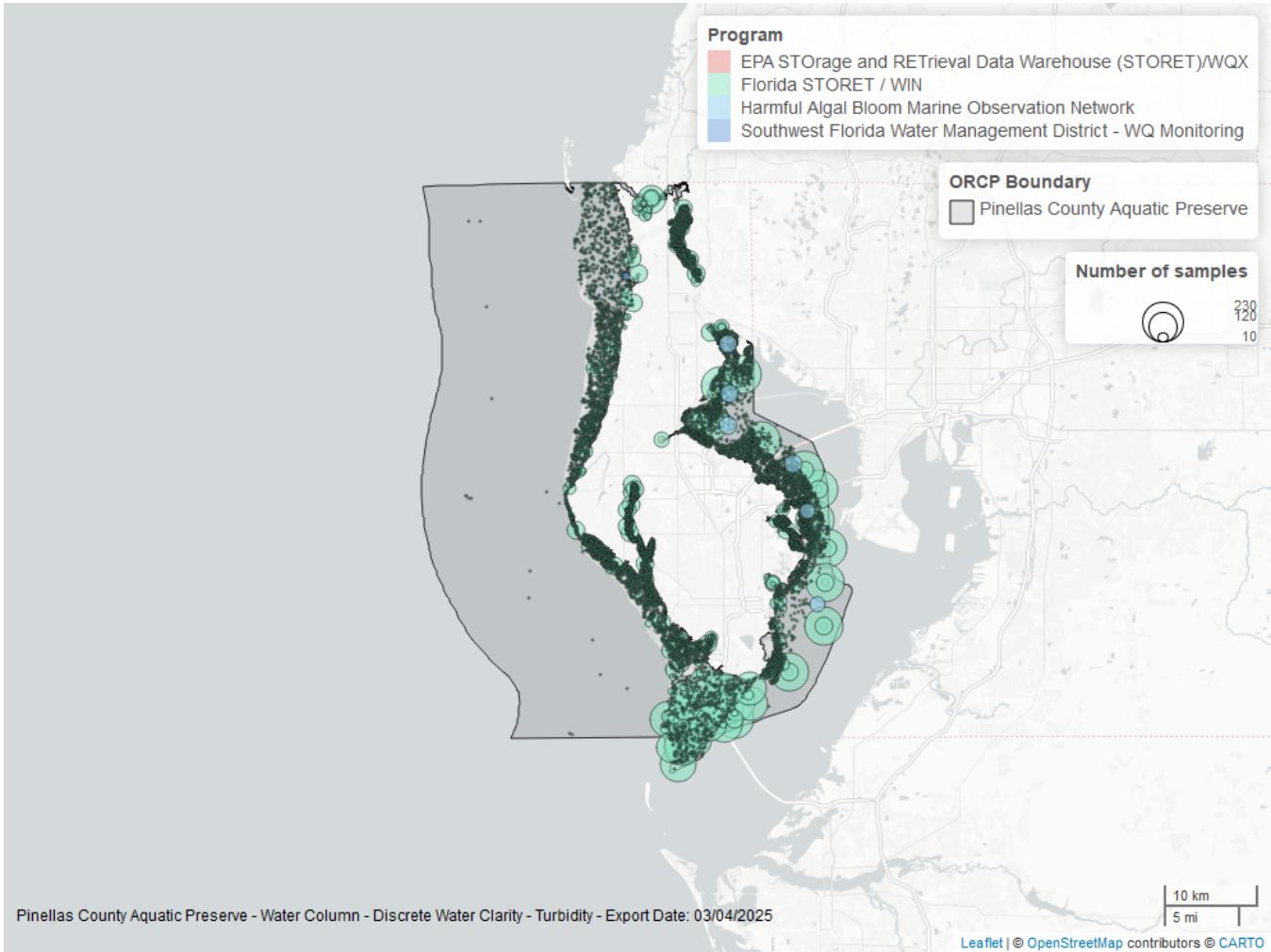


Figure 24: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 29: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	21861	1995	2024
103	621	2006	2021
95	323	2000	2016
479	12	2016	2023

#### Program names:

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>7</sup>

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring<sup>10</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

#### Water Temperature - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

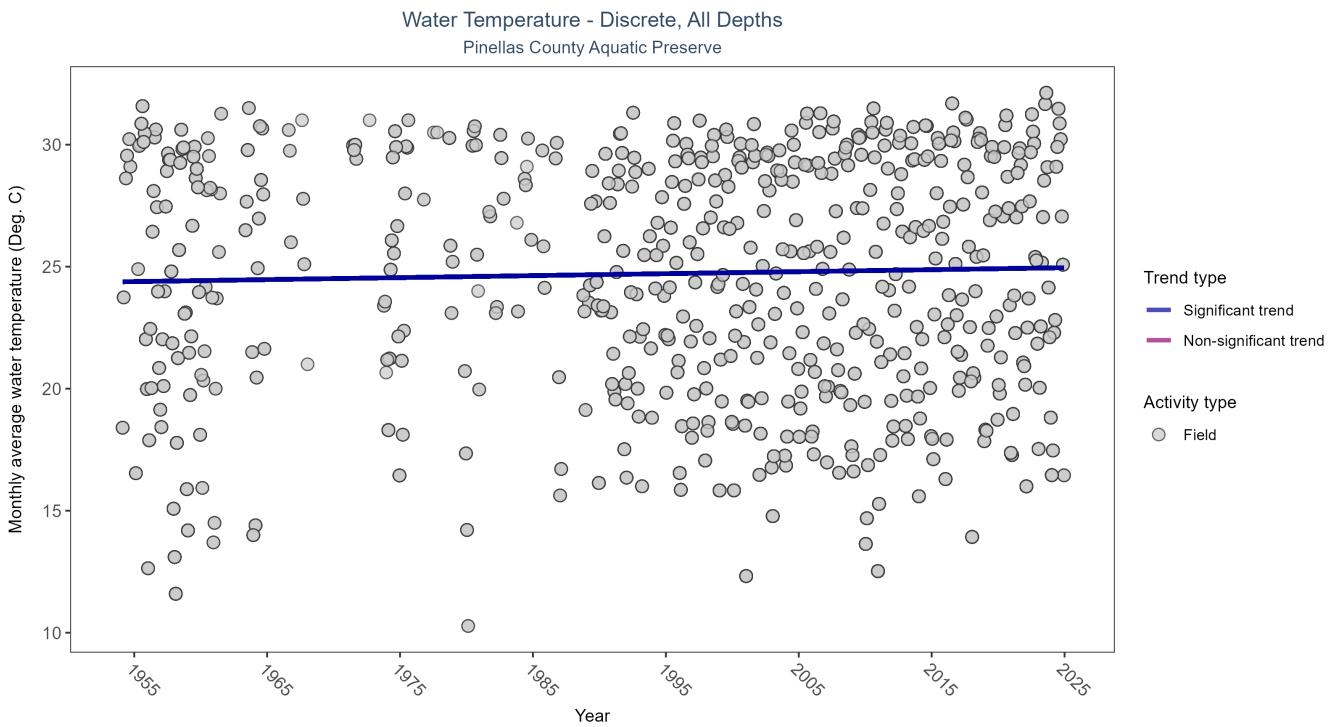


Figure 25: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only water temperature measurements taken in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 30: 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	101357	67	1954 - 2024	26.58	0.0883	24.3802	0.0081	0.0022

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

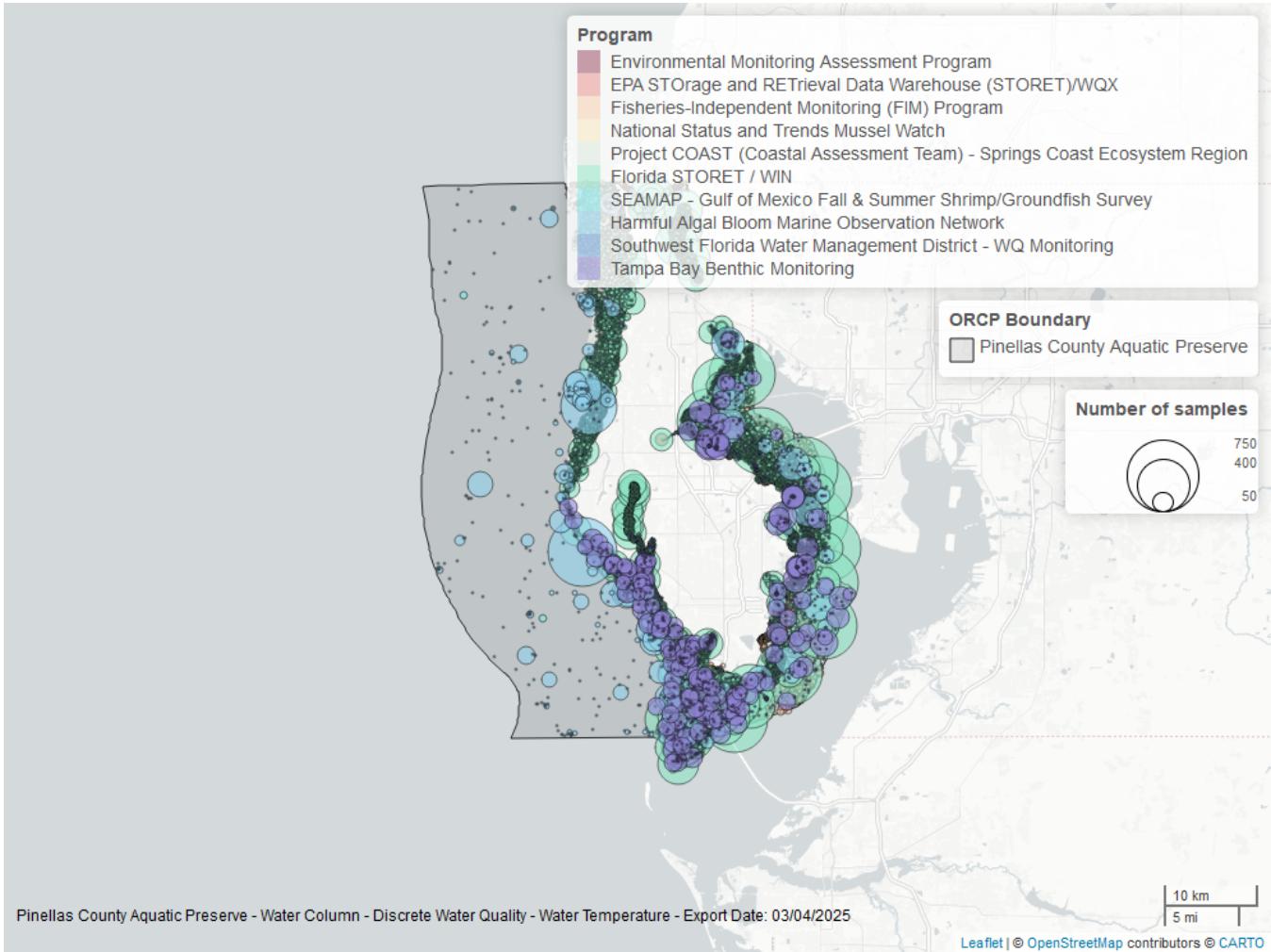


Figure 26: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 31: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	51580	1995	2024
69	29993	1989	2022
4067	10431	1993	2022
95	7597	1954	2018
103	1564	2004	2021
5008	88	2021	2024
102	66	1992	1992
115	29	2000	2004
60	18	2014	2014
479	9	2016	2023

#### Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey<sup>6</sup>

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>11</sup>

- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>7</sup>
- 102 - National Status and Trends Mussel Watch<sup>13</sup>
- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>
- 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program<sup>8</sup>
- 479 - Southwest Florida Water Management District - Water Quality Monitoring<sup>10</sup>
- 4067 - Tampa Bay Benthic Monitoring<sup>12</sup>
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>
- 5008 - Project COAST (Coastal Assessment Team) - Springs Coast Ecosystem Region<sup>4</sup>

## Water Quality - Continuous

The following files were used in the continuous analysis:

- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_SW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_Saturation\_SW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_pH\_SW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Salinity\_SW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Turbidity\_SW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Water\_Temperature\_SW-2025-Mar-06.txt*

### Continuous monitoring locations in Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve

Table 32: Station overview for Continuous parameters by Program

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>ProgramLocationID</i>	<i>Years of Data</i>	<i>Use in Analysis</i>	<i>Parameters</i>
5	CWBF1	20	TRUE	TempW
5	FHPF1	4	FALSE	TempW
7	02310175	4	FALSE	TempW
7	02310207	3	FALSE	TempW

#### Program names:

5 - National Data Buoy Center<sup>15</sup>

7 - National Water Information System<sup>16</sup>

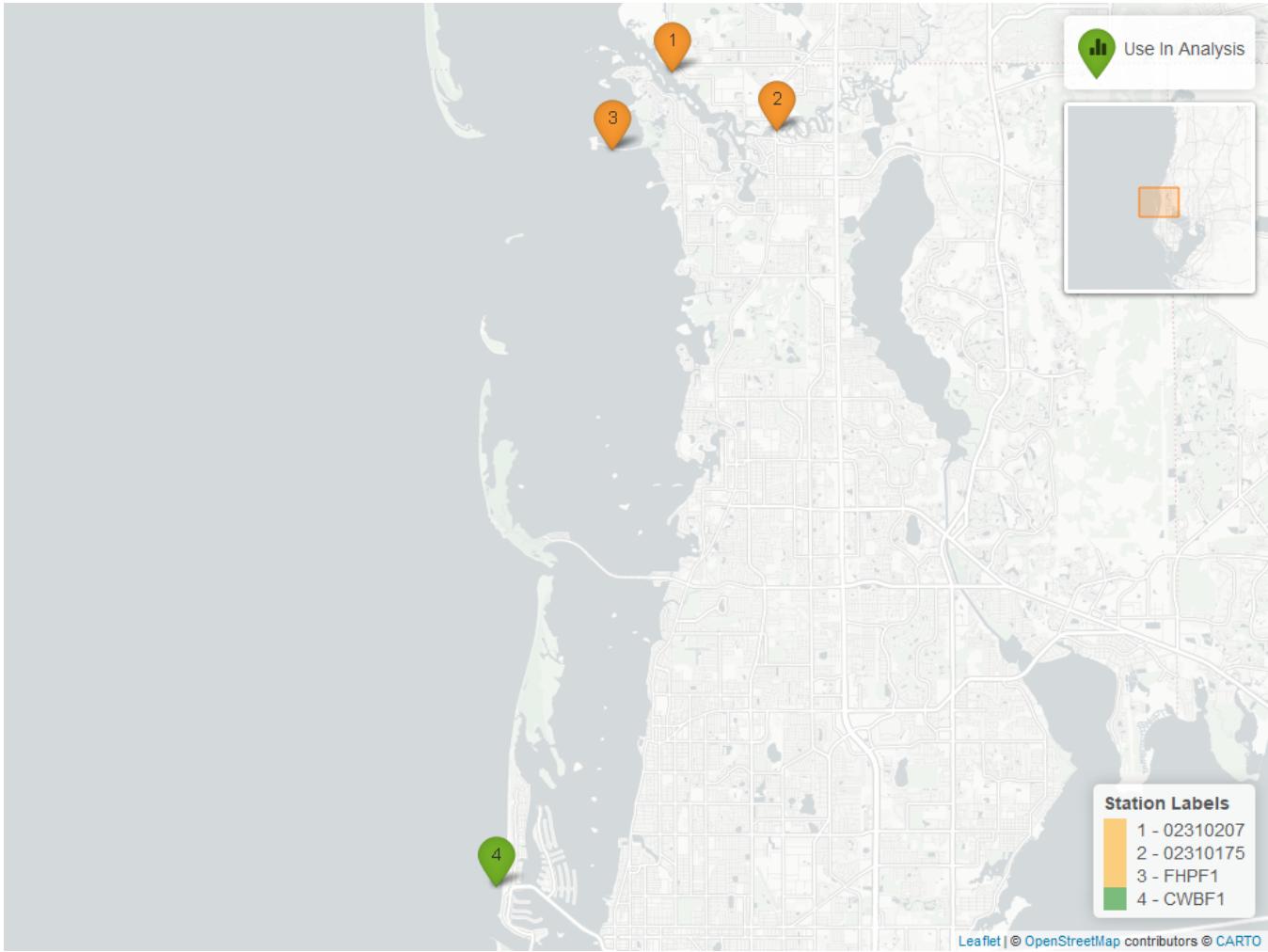


Figure 27: Map showing continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. Sites marked as *Use In Analysis* (green) are featured in this report.

## Water Temperature - Continuous

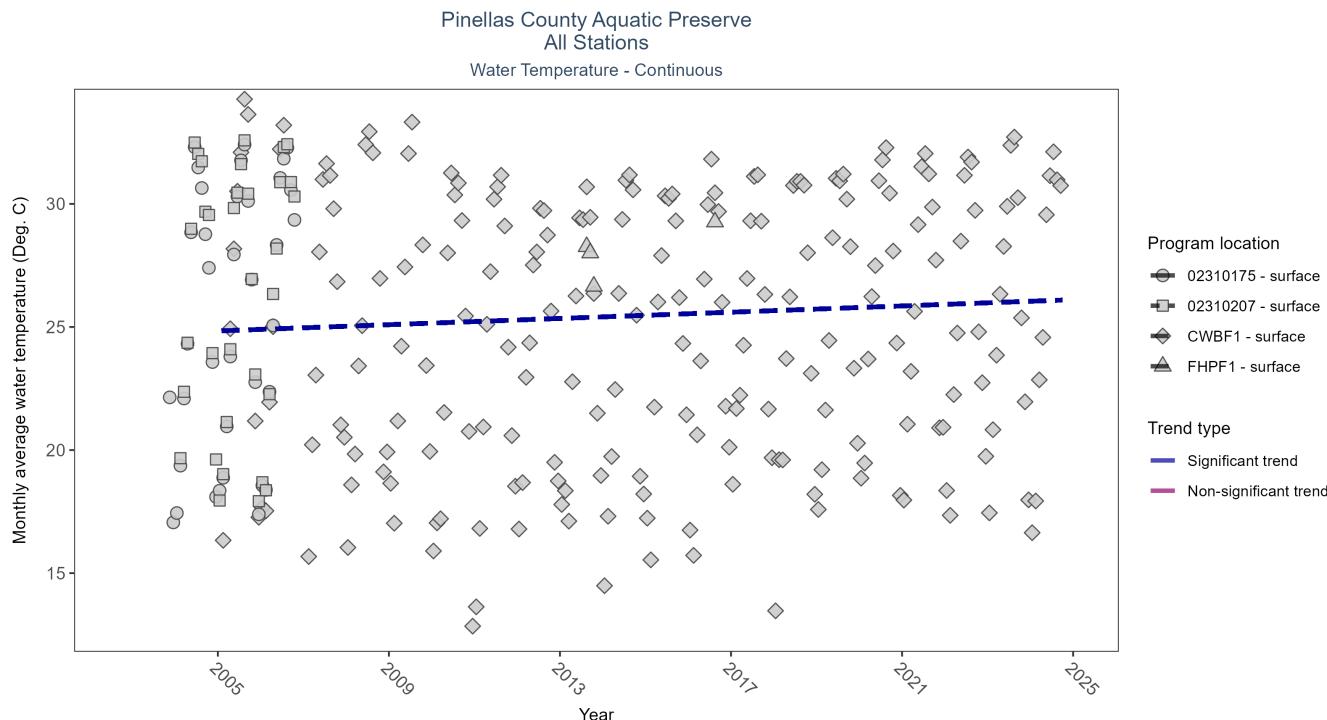


Figure 28: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 33: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Water Temperature - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
CWBF1	Significantly increasing trend	1397582	20	2005 - 2024	25.40	0.18	24.84	0.06	0
FHPF1	Insufficient data to calculate trend	12636	2	2013 - 2016	27.90	-	-	-	-
02310175	Insufficient data to calculate trend	1421	4	2003 - 2006	26.50	-	-	-	-
02310207	Insufficient data to calculate trend	1424	3	2004 - 2006	27.55	-	-	-	-

At one program location, monthly average water temperature increased by  $0.06^{\circ}\text{C}$  per year. There was insufficient data to fit a model for three locations.

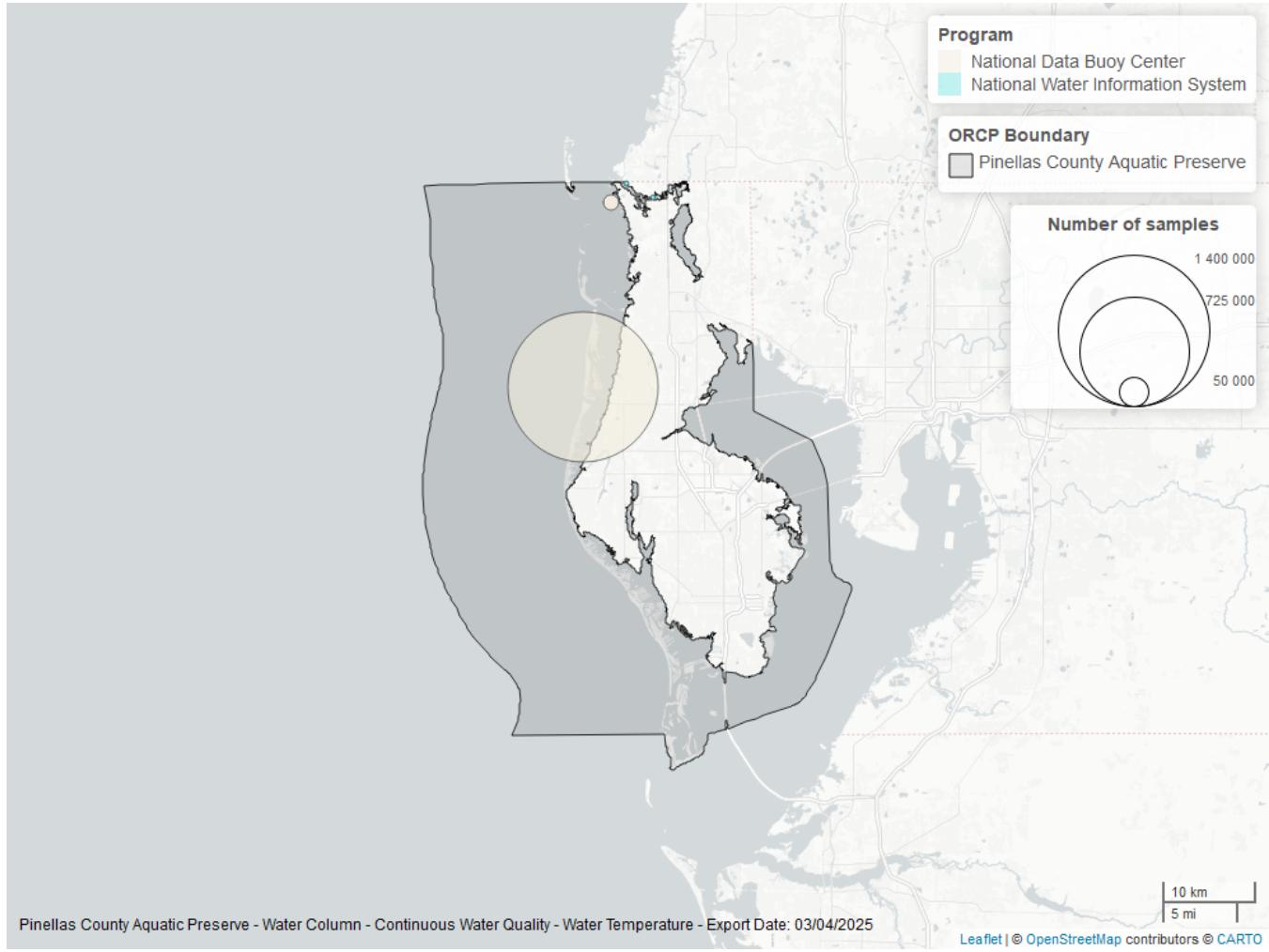


Figure 29: Map showing location of water temperature continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

# Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

The data file used is: All\_SAV\_Parameters-2025-Mar-06.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

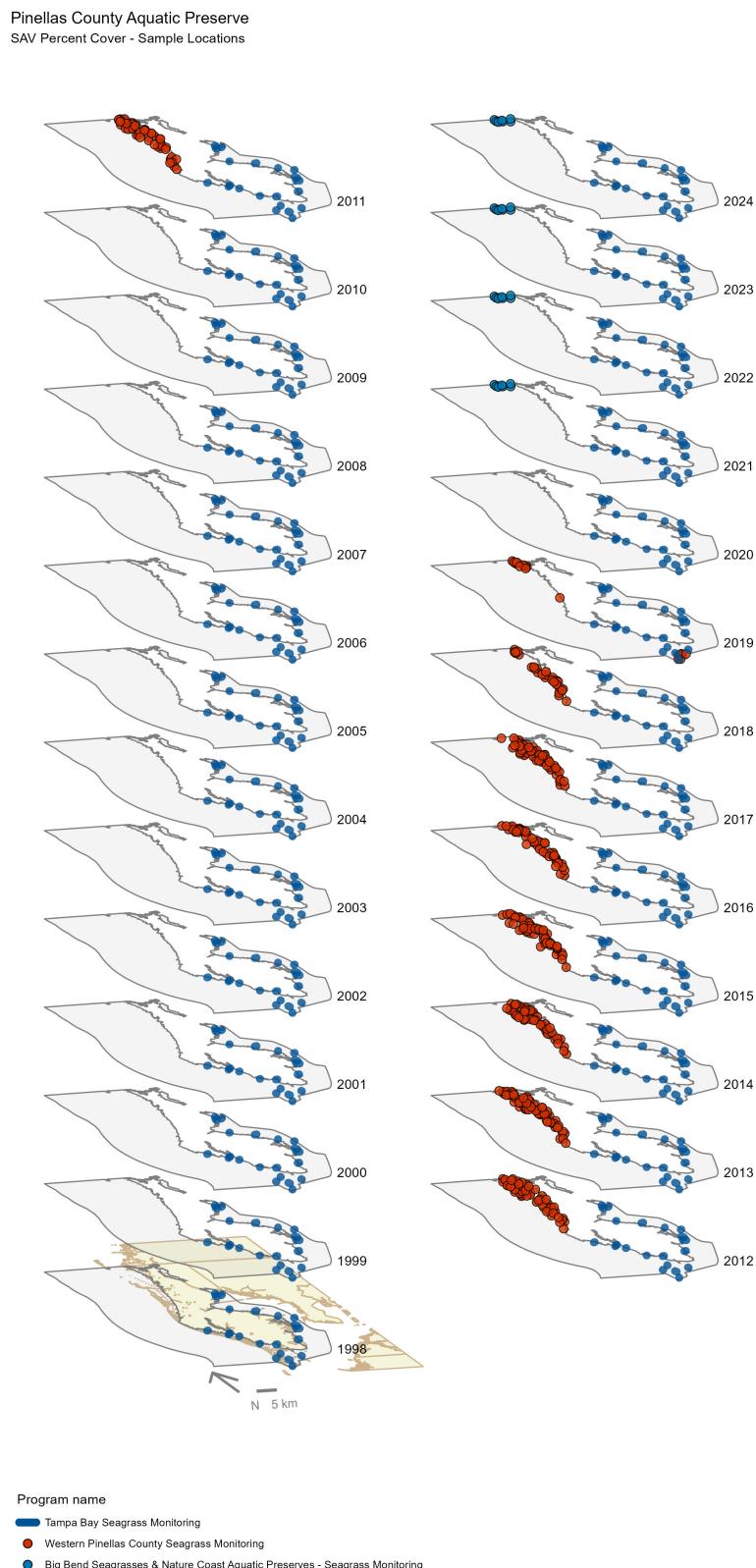


Figure 30: Maps showing the temporal scope of SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve* by Program name.

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

### Sampling locations by Program:

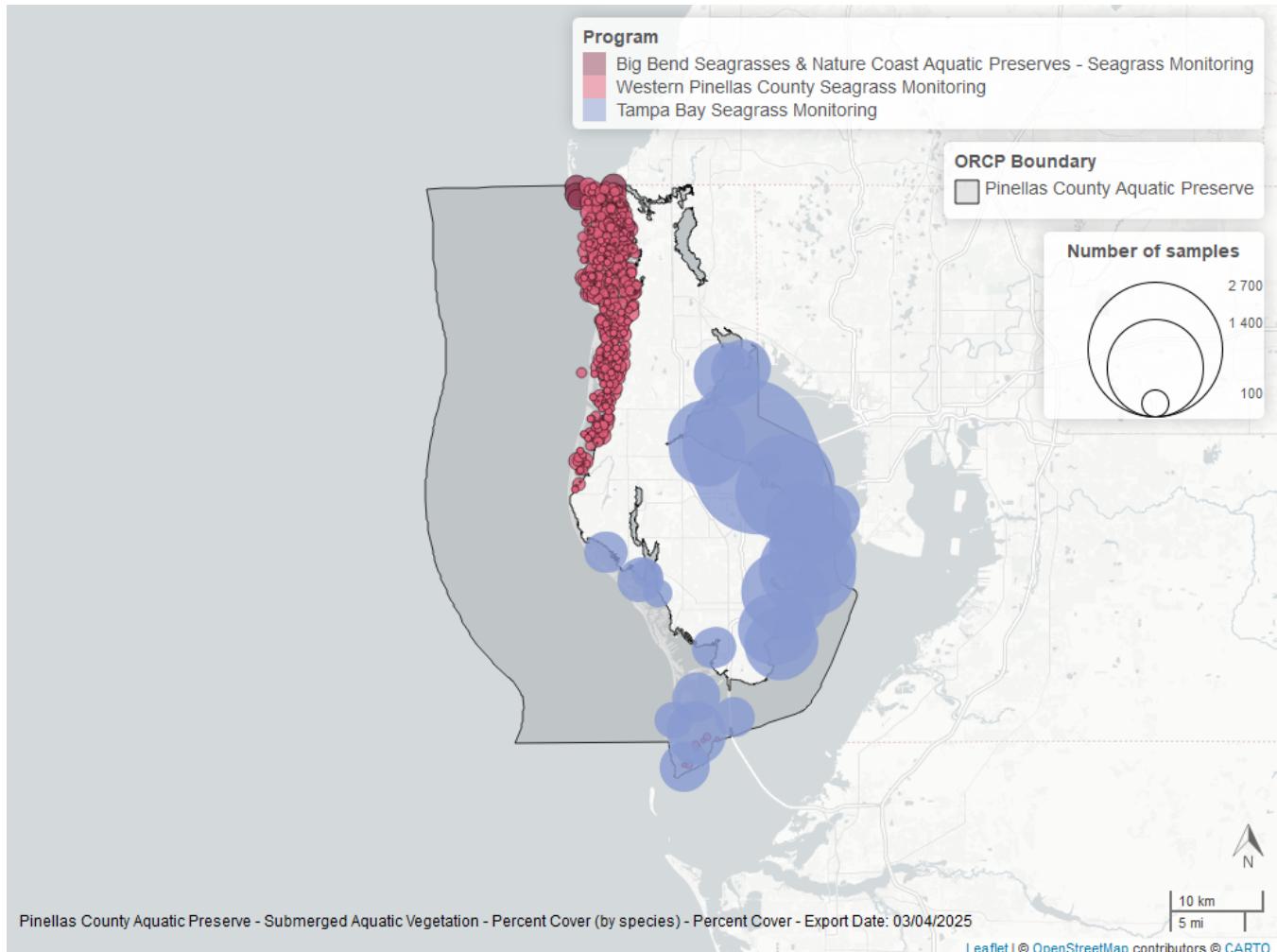


Figure 31: Map showing SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The point size reflects the number of samples at a given sampling site.

Table 34: Program Information for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

ProgramID	N-Data	YearMin	YearMax	method	Sample Locations
565	15374	1998	2023	Braun Blanquet	27
560	347	2021	2024	Modified Braun Blanquet	8
560	325	2021	2024	Percent Cover	8
564	8342	2011	2019	Percent Cover	441

### Program names:

560 - Big Bend Seagrasses & Nature Coast Aquatic Preserves - Seagrass Monitoring<sup>14</sup>

560 - Big Bend Seagrasses & Nature Coast Aquatic Preserves - Seagrass Monitoring<sup>14</sup>

564 - Western Pinellas County Seagrass Monitoring<sup>17</sup>

565 - Tampa Bay Seagrass Monitoring<sup>18</sup>

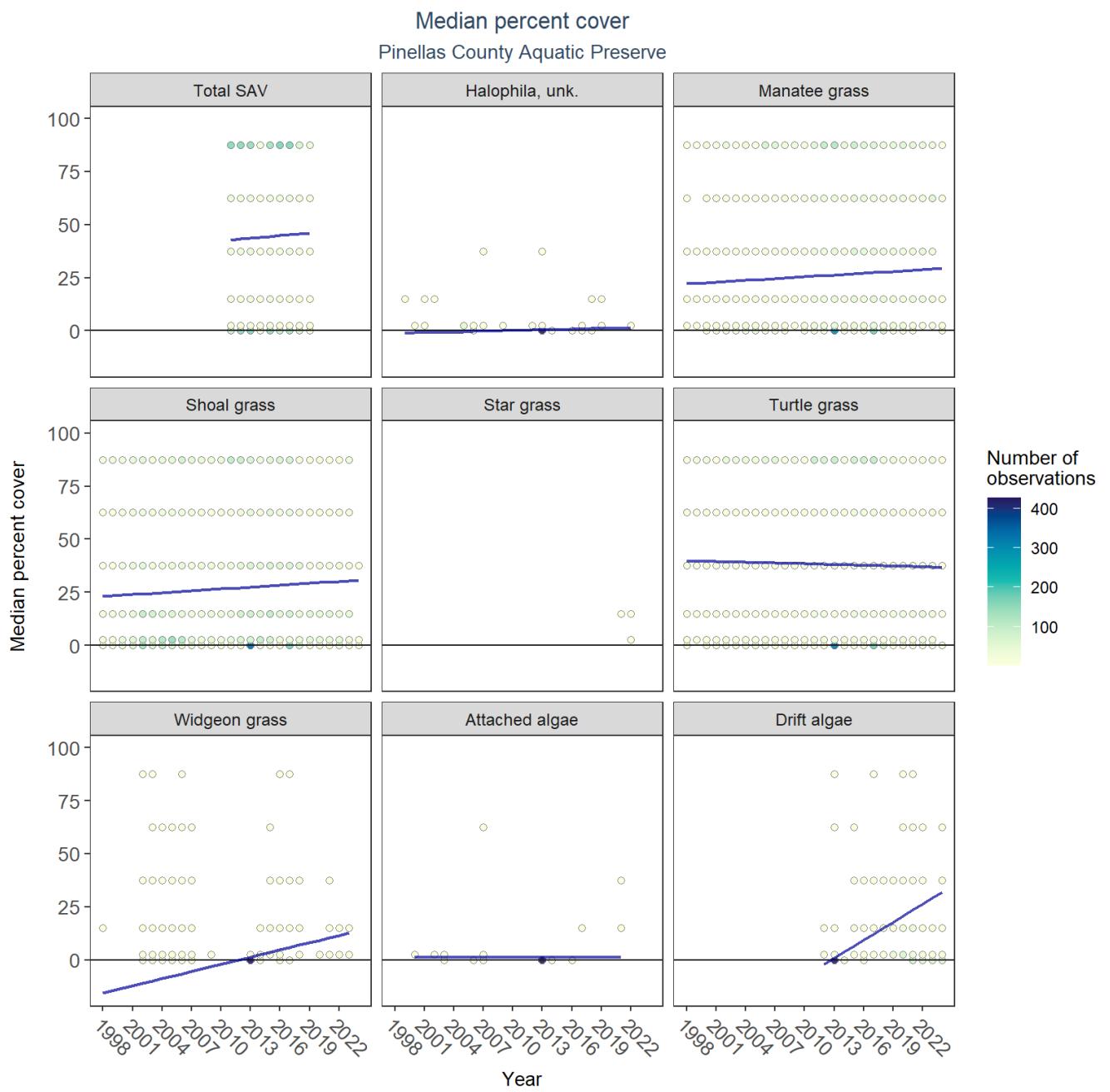


Figure 32: Scatter plots of median percent cover of submerged aquatic vegetation over time by group. Plots for time series that included five or more years of observations show the estimated trend as a blue line.

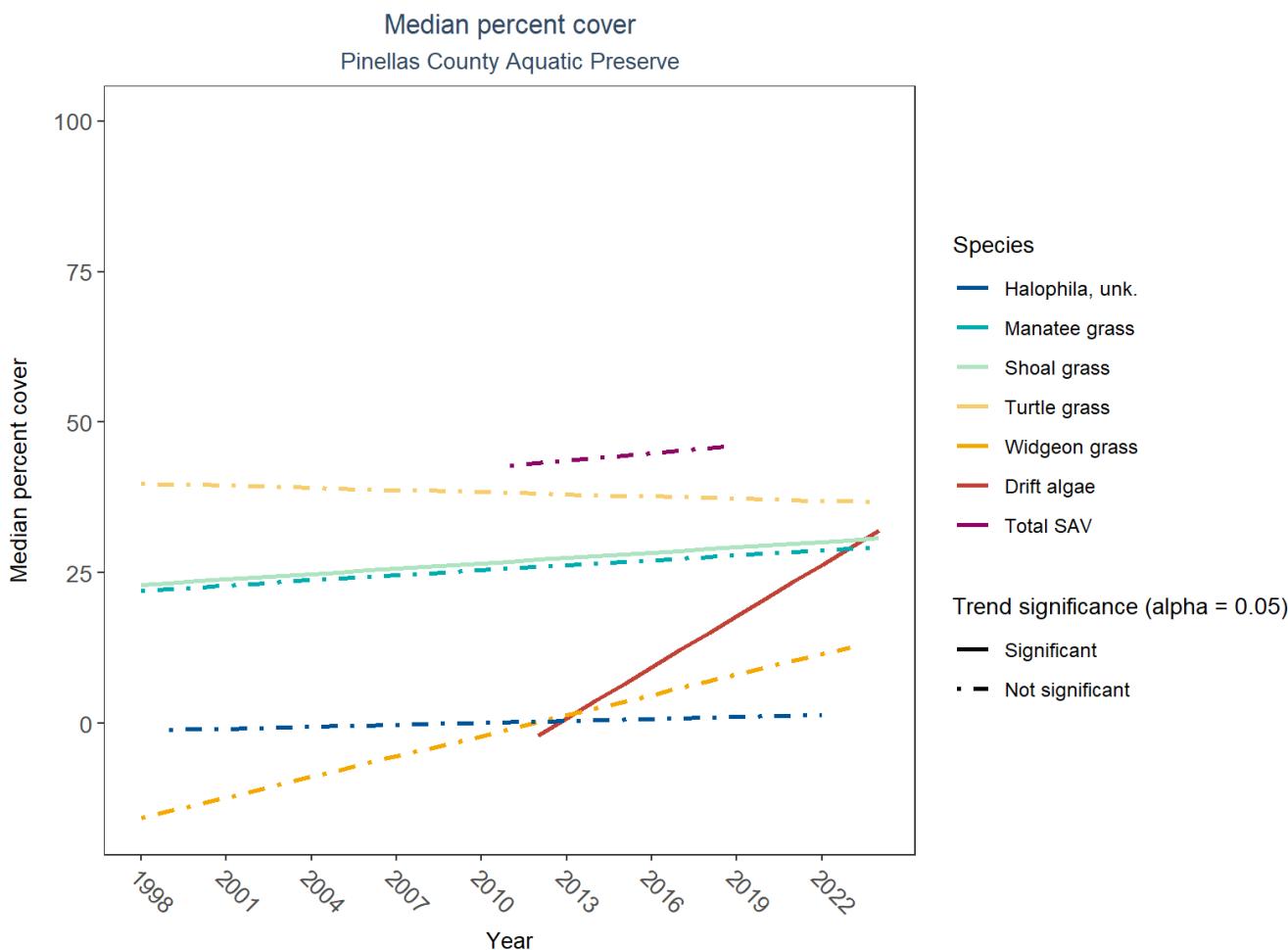


Figure 33: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve - simplified

Table 35: Percent Cover Trend Analysis for Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve

CommonName	Trend Significance (0.05)	Period of Record	LME-Intercept	LME-Slope	p
Attached algae	No significant trend	2000 - 2021	1.347015	-0.0087532	0.9562060
Drift algae	Significantly increasing trend	2012 - 2024	-52.911759	2.8290320	0.0000013
Shoal grass	Significantly increasing trend	1998 - 2024	21.831277	0.2964167	0.0307571
Star grass	Insufficient data to calculate trend	-	-	-	-
No grass in quadrat	Model did not fit the available data	1998 - 2024	-	-	-
Widgeon grass	No significant trend	1998 - 2023	-20.188293	1.1326621	0.3805949
Manatee grass	No significant trend	1998 - 2024	20.957341	0.2793998	0.2227673
Turtle grass	No significant trend	1998 - 2024	40.314783	-0.1187577	0.4904156
Total SAV	No significant trend	2011 - 2019	35.605413	0.4199159	0.5741279
Halophila, unk.	No significant trend	1999 - 2022	-1.636642	0.1093123	0.6581673

Annual increases in percent cover were observed for shoal grass (0.3%) and drift algae (2.8%). Total SAV, unknown *Halophila*, manatee grass, turtle grass, widgeon grass, and attached algae showed no detectable change in percent cover. Trends in percent cover could not be evaluated for star grass due to insufficient data.

Frequency of occurrence  
Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve

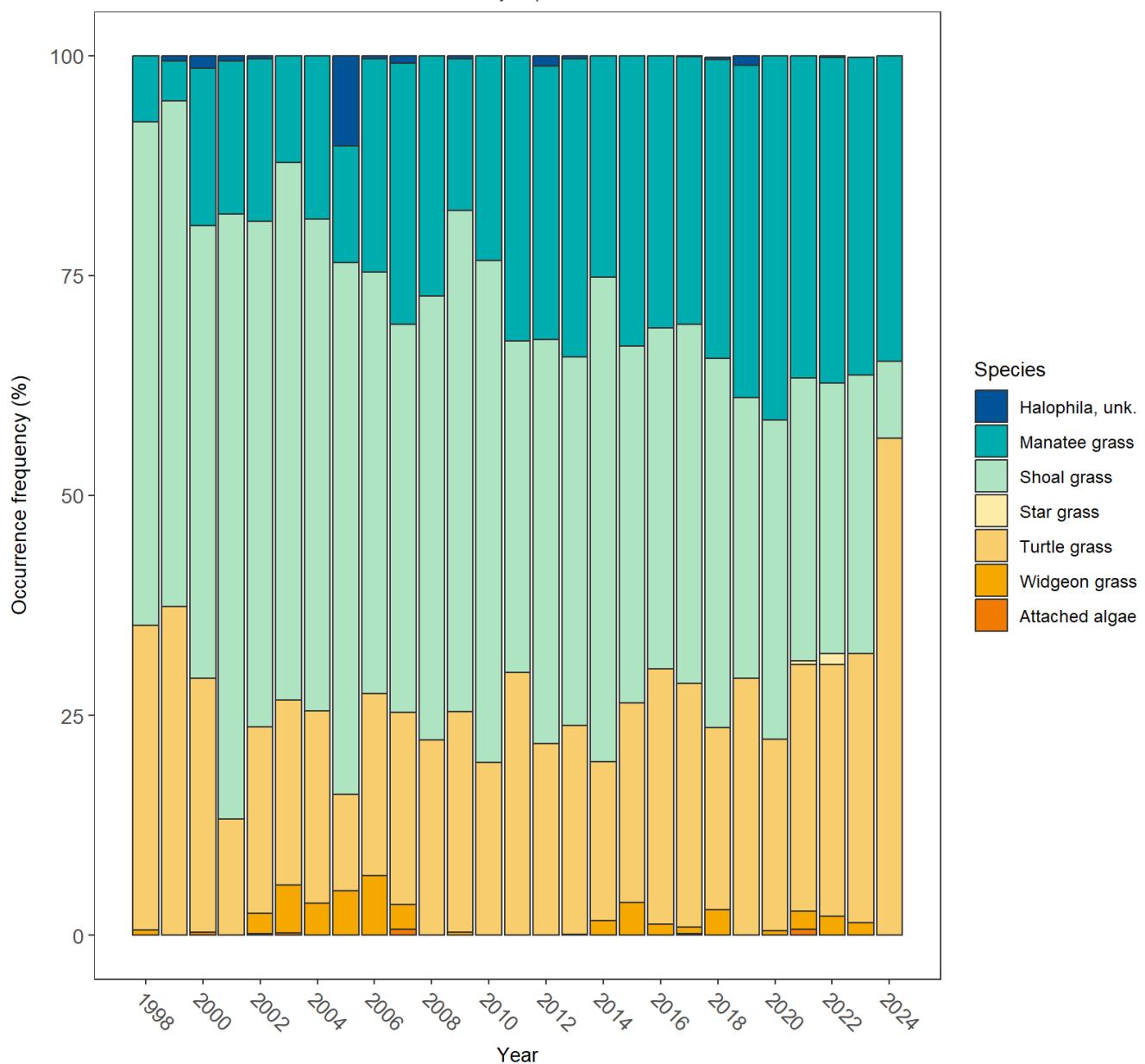


Figure 34: Frequency of occurrence for various seagrass species in Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve

# Nekton

The data file used is: All\_NEKTON\_Parameters-2025-Mar-06.txt

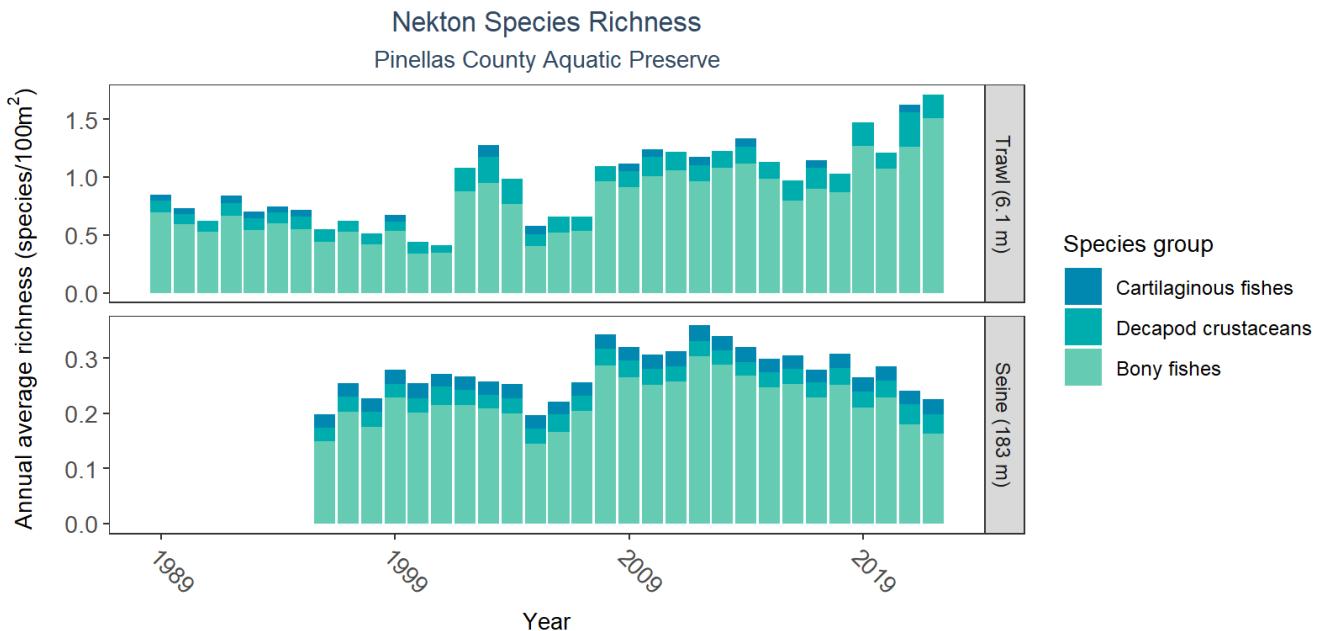


Figure 35: Bar graph(s) of annual average nekton richness over time for species groups occurring in at least 1% of samples. The bar colors represent species groups including bony fishes, cartilaginous fishes, decapod crustaceans (e.g., shrimps, crabs, and lobsters), and cephalopods (e.g., squid). Gear types and sizes are indicated in the panel label.

Table 36: Nekton Species Richness

Gear Type	Sample Count	Number of Years	Period of Record	Median N of Taxa	Mean N of Taxa
Trawl (6.1)	5254	34	1989 - 2022	0.3	0.54
Seine (183)	4407	27	1996 - 2022	0.1	0.15

The median annual number of taxa was 0.10 based on 4,407 observations collected by 183-meter seine between 1996 and 2022, and the median annual number of taxa was 0.30 based on 5,254 observations collected by 6.1-meter trawl between 1989 and 2022.

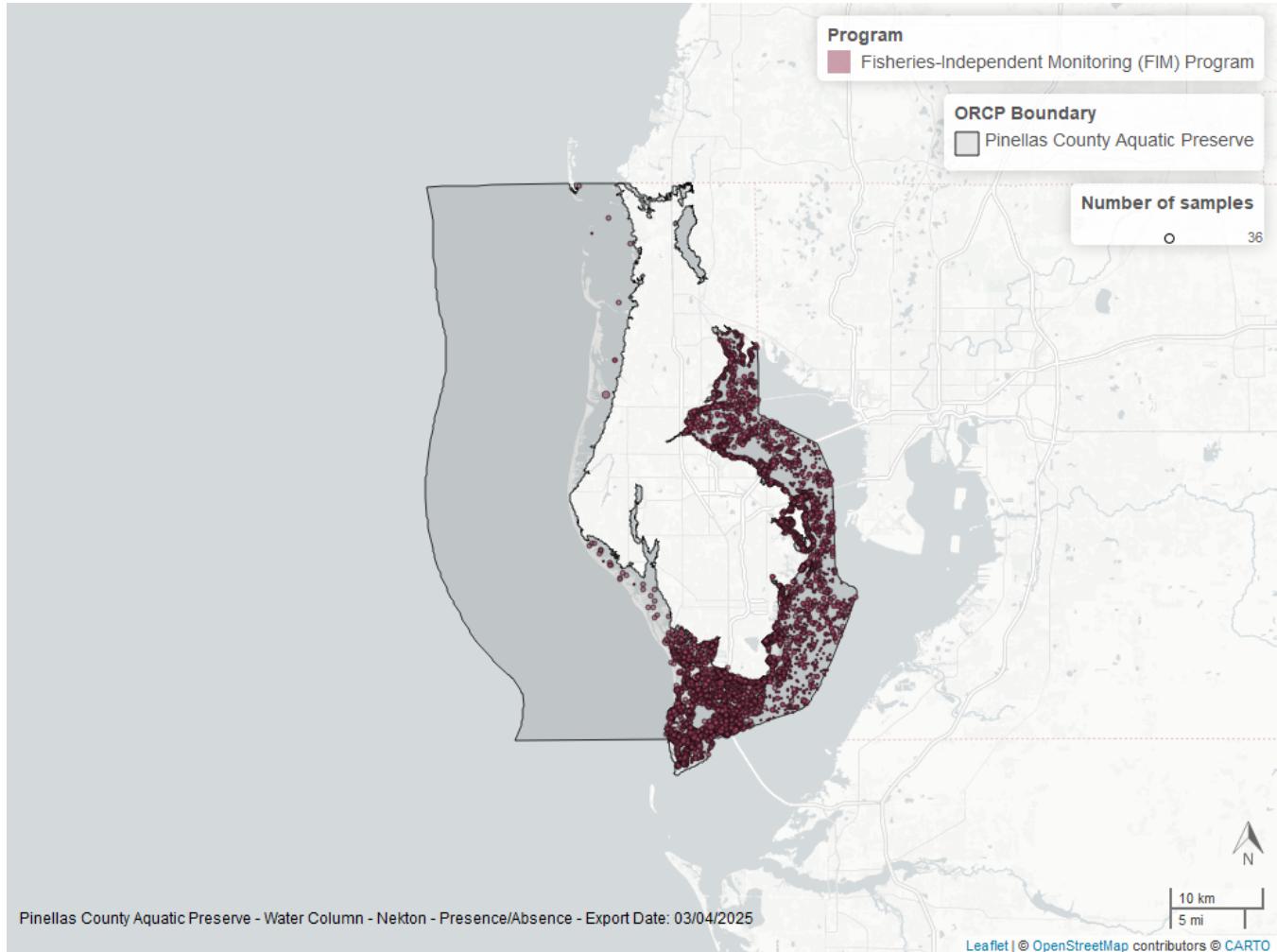


Figure 36: Map showing location of nekton sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

## Coastal Wetlands

The data file used is: All\_CW\_Parameters-2025-Mar-06.txt

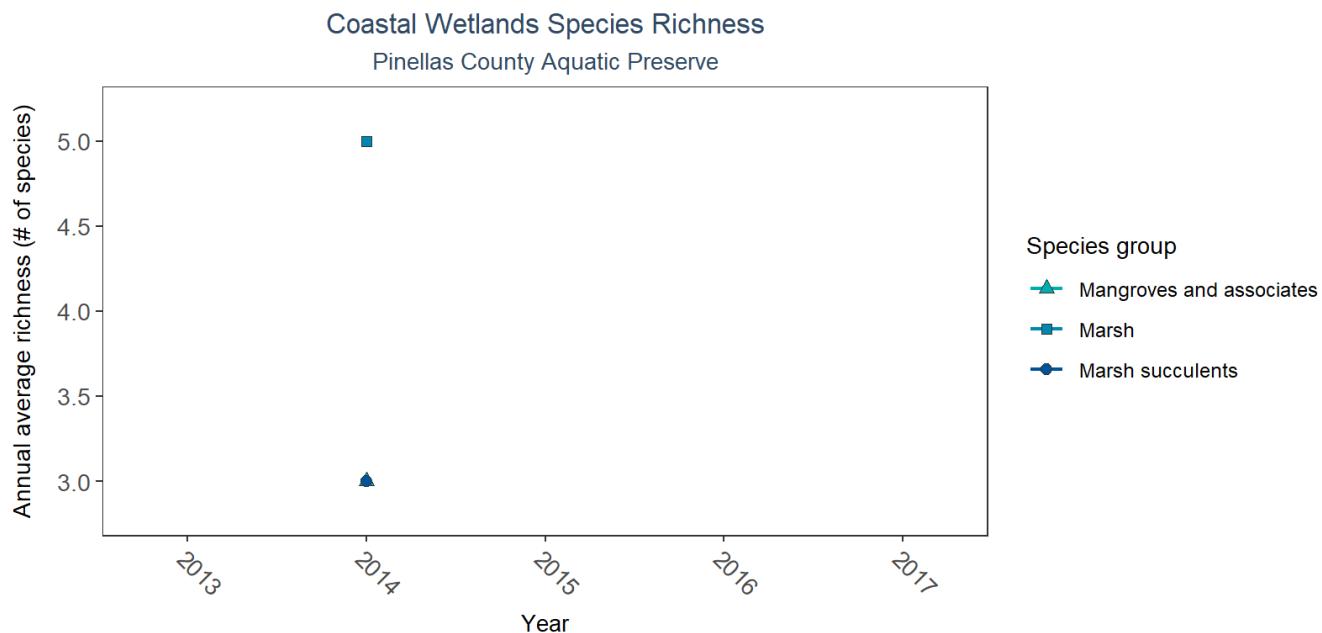


Figure 37: Line graph of annual average coastal wetlands species richness over time for mangroves and associates (triangles), marsh (squares), and marsh succulents (circles). If the time series by species group included more than one year of observations, a line connects data points for visualization.

Table 37: Coastal Wetlands Species Richness

Species Group	Sample Count	Number of Years	Period of Record	Median N of Taxa	Mean N of Taxa
Mangroves and associates	1	1	2014 - 2014	3	3
Marsh	1	1	2014 - 2014	5	5
Marsh succulents	1	1	2014 - 2014	3	3

In the year 2014, 3 species were observed for *mangroves and associates* based on 1 observation. In the year 2014, 5 species were observed for *marsh* based on 1 observation. In the year 2014, 3 species were observed for *marsh succulents* based on 1 observation.

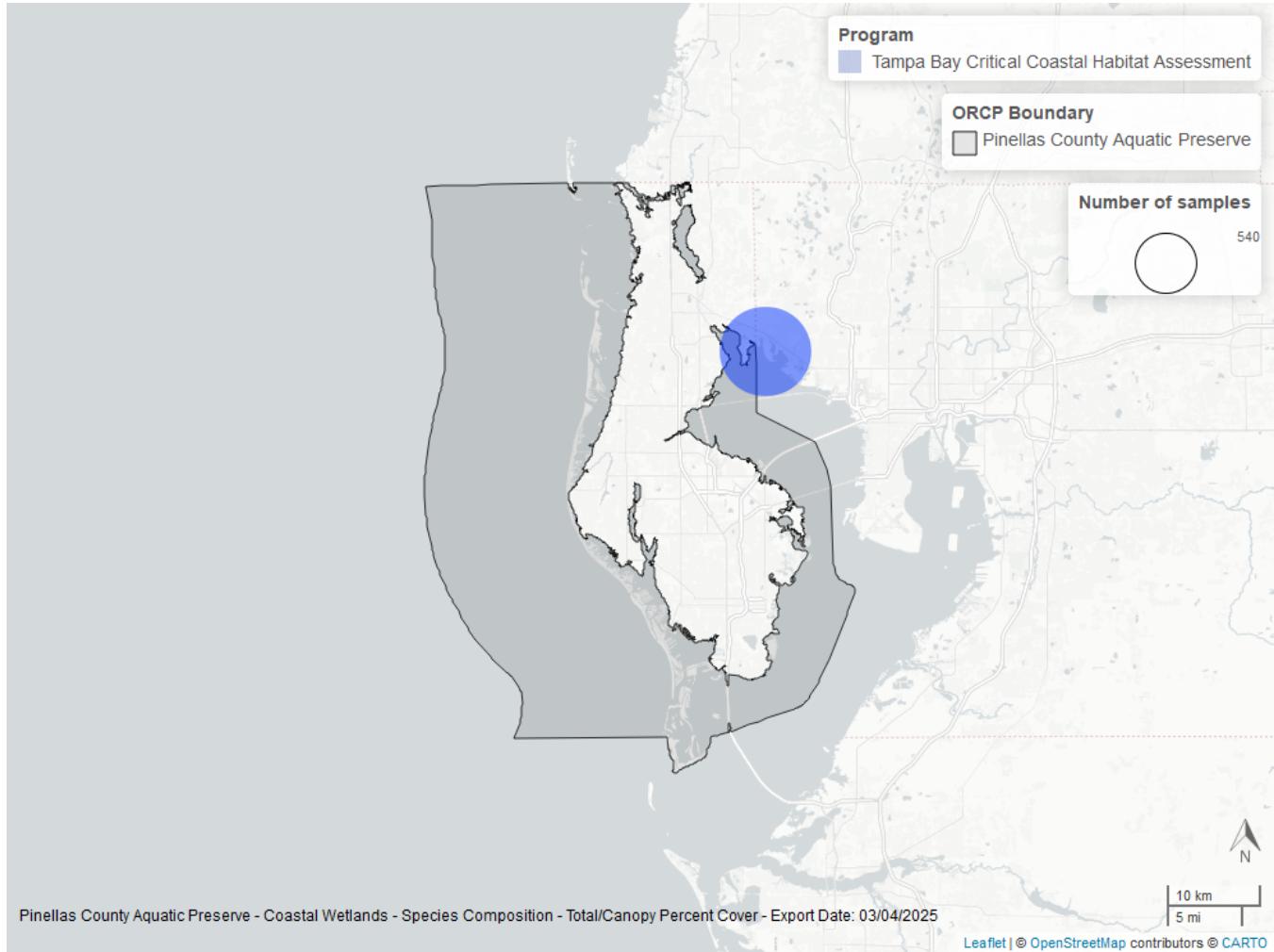


Figure 38: Map showing location of coastal wetlands sampling locations within the boundaries of *Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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