

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

SEACAR Habitat Analyses

Last compiled on 22 May, 2025

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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-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

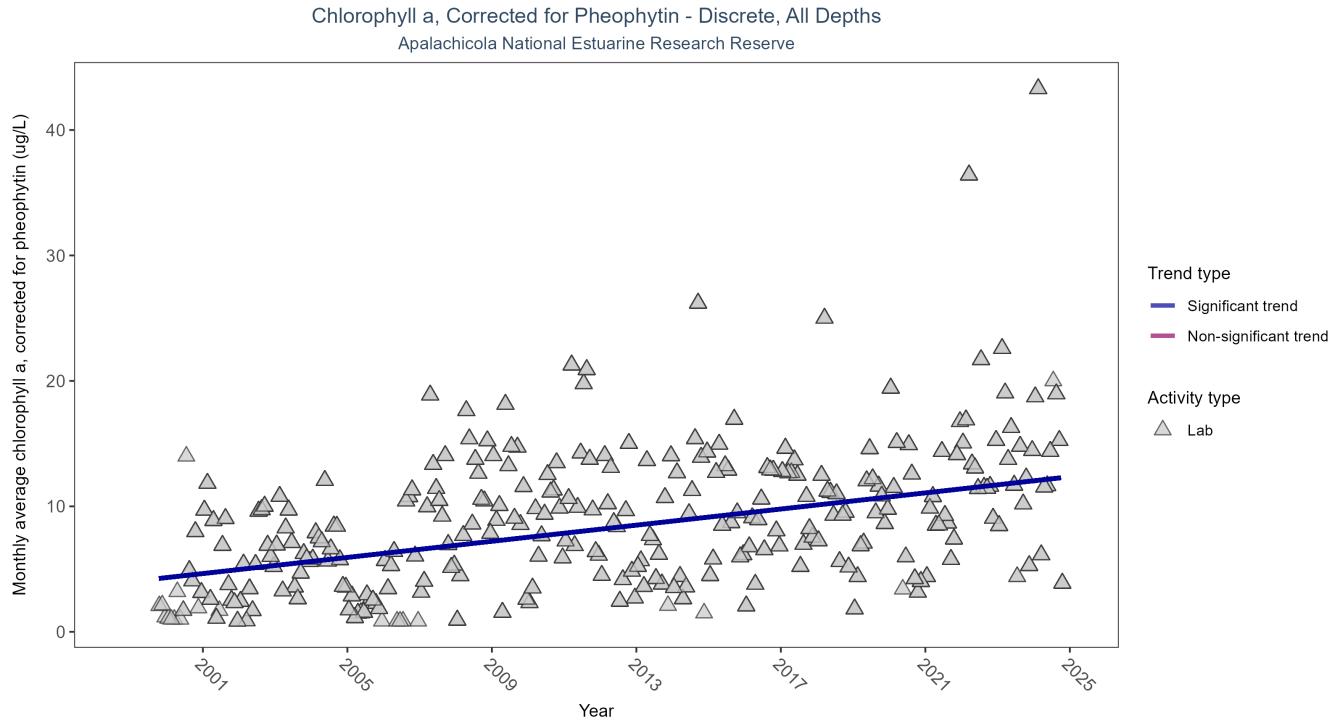


Figure 1: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) 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	Significantly increasing trend	9047	26	1999 - 2024	7.6	0.3423	4.0006	0.3215	0

Monthly average chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, increased by 0.32 µg/L per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

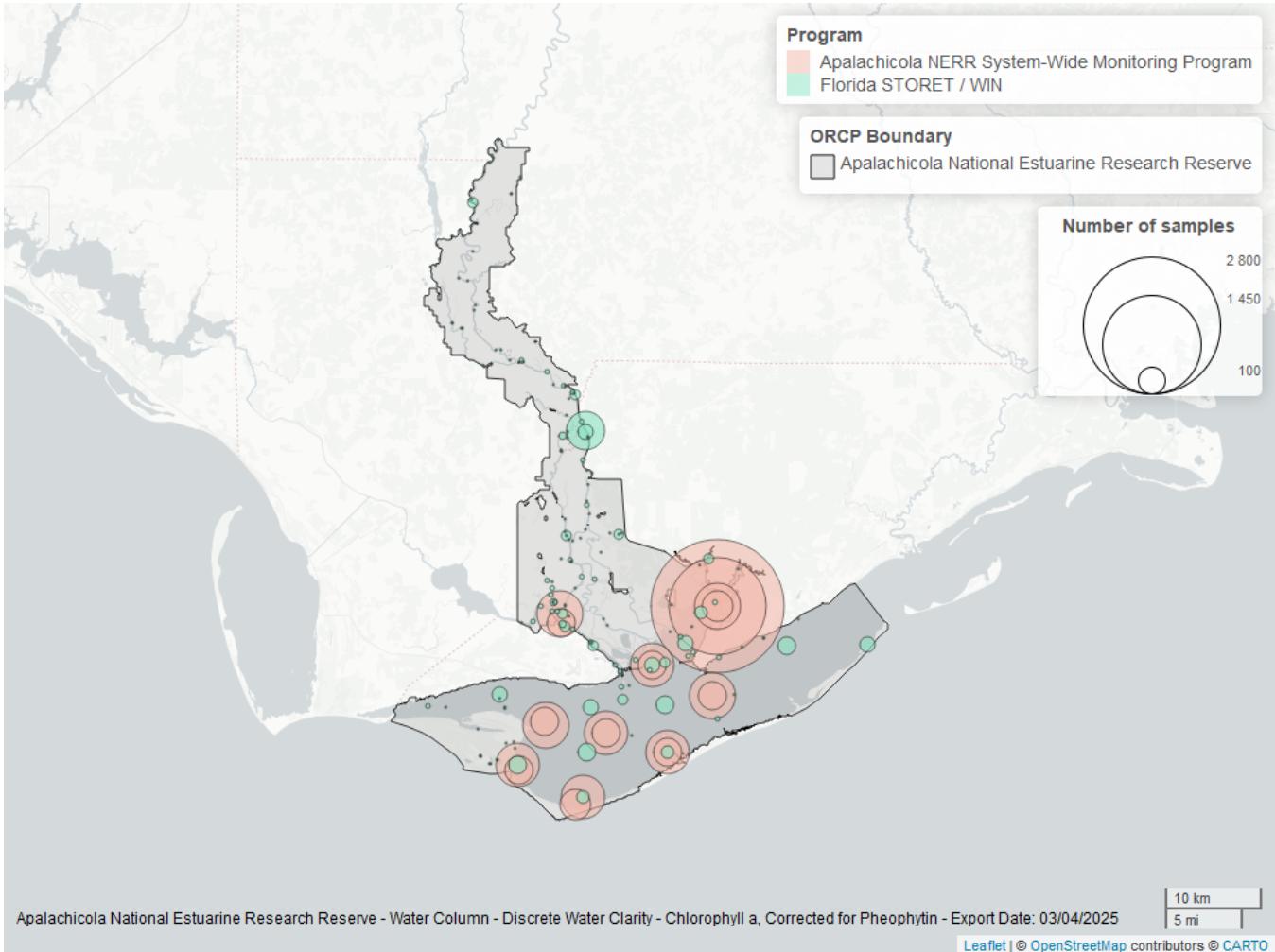


Figure 2: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
355	8015	2002	2024
5002	1148	1999	2024

Program names:

355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

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

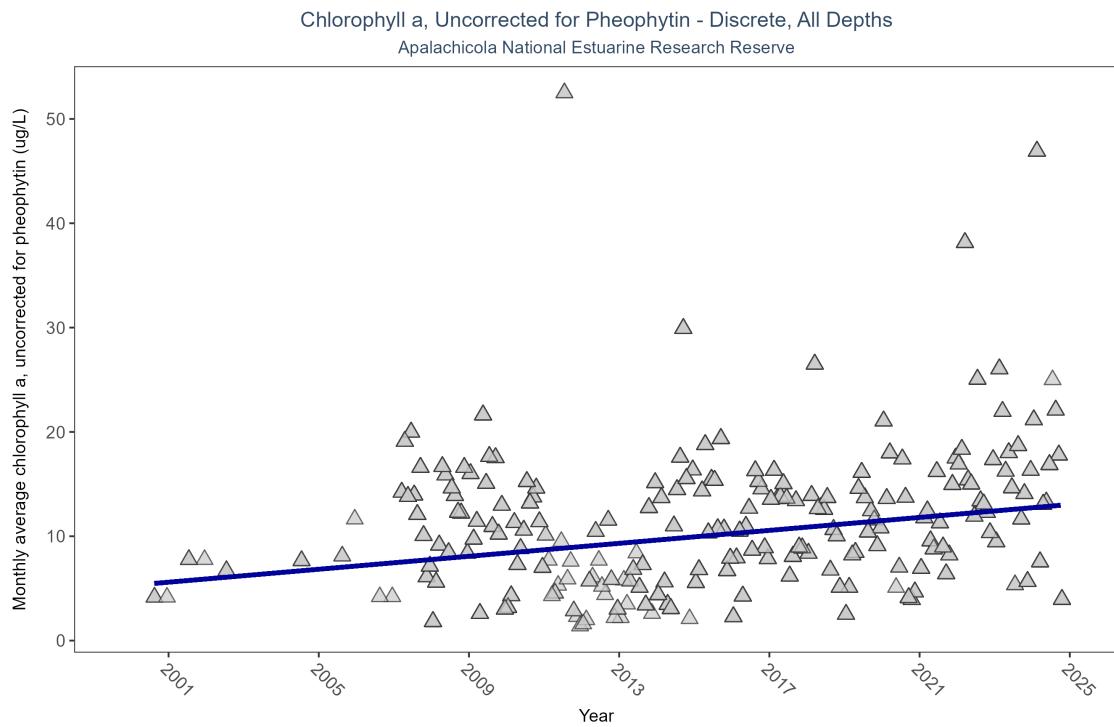


Figure 3: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) 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	τ_{au}	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly increasing trend	4773	24	2000 - 2024	10	0.1931	5.2863	0.3104	0.0001

Monthly average chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, increased by $0.31 \mu\text{g/L}$ per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

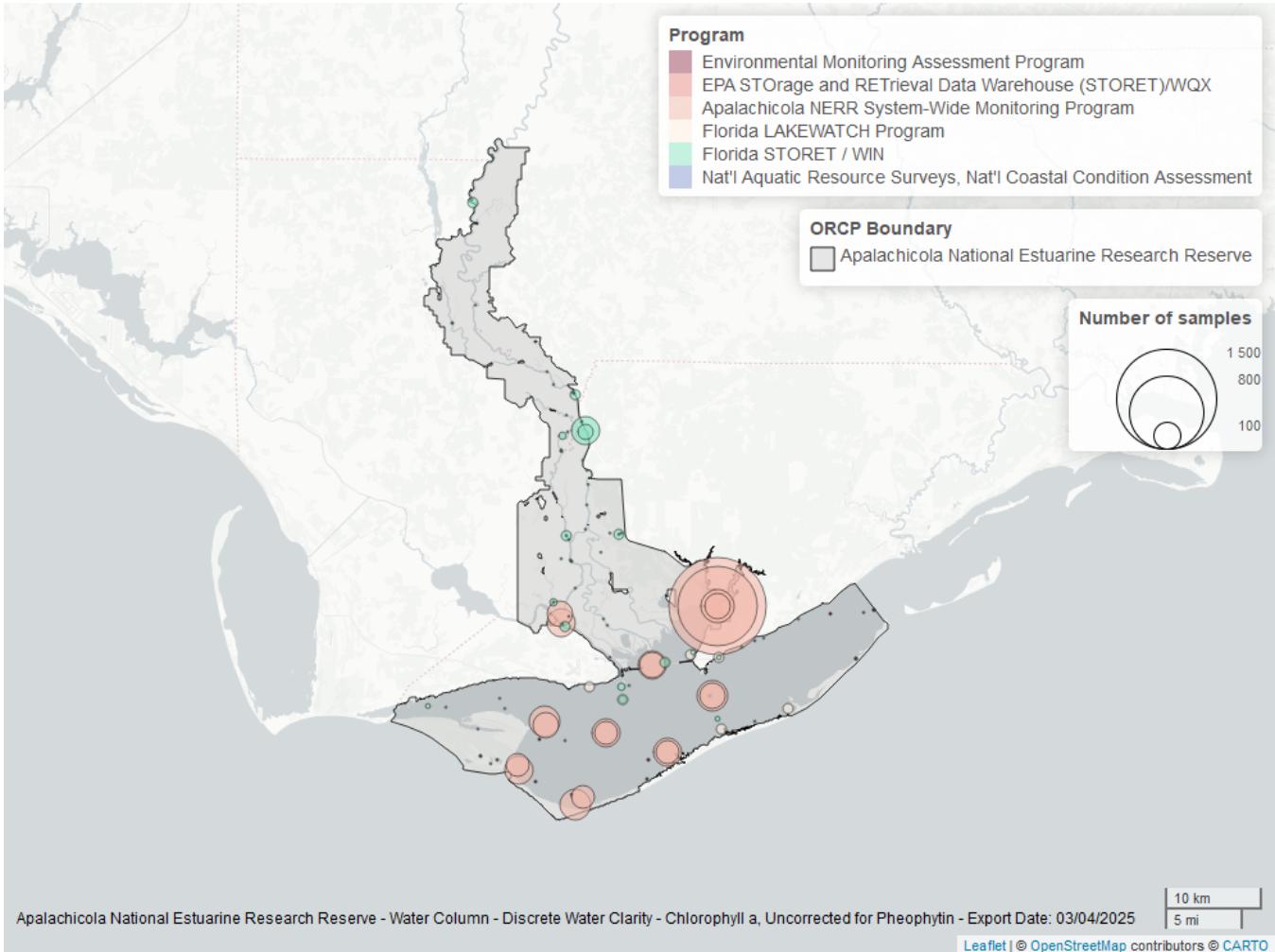


Figure 4: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
355	4456	2007	2024
5002	371	2007	2024
514	85	2007	2008
103	33	2000	2021
118	10	2000	2010
115	6	2000	2004

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵

355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program⁶

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Colored Dissolved Organic Matter - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

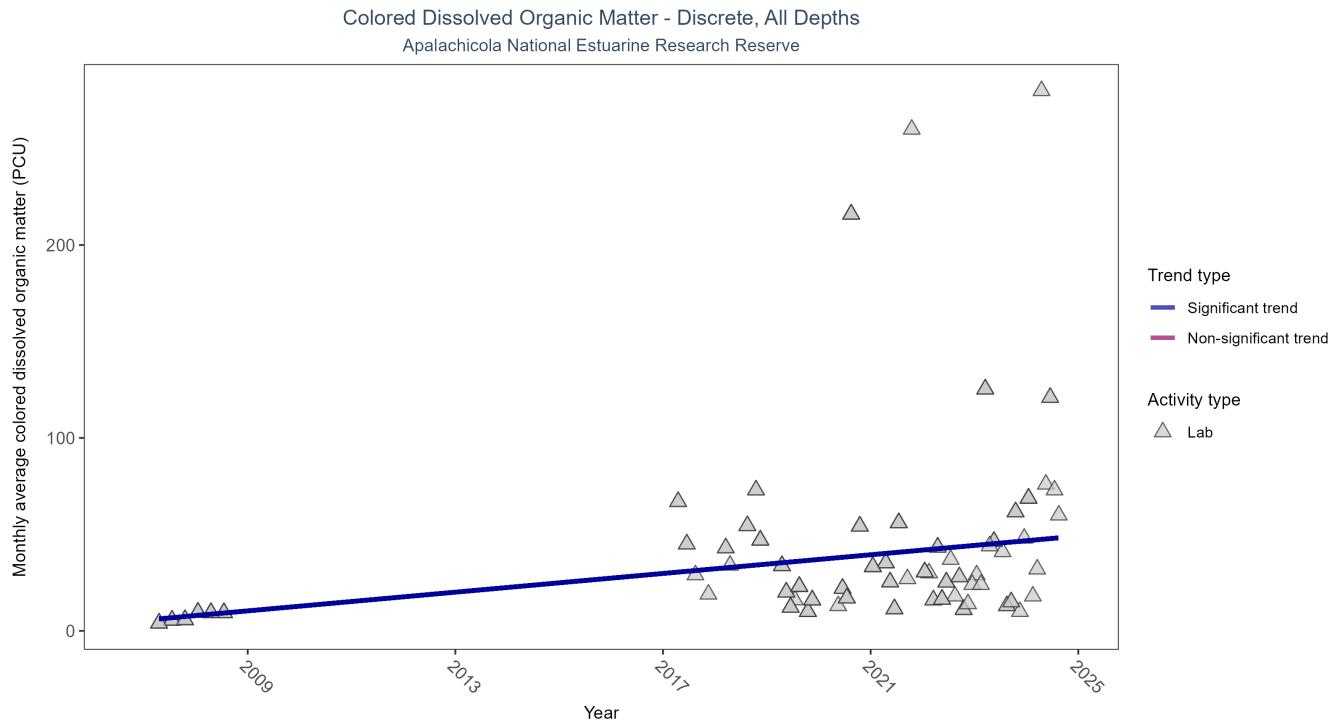


Figure 5: Scatter plot of monthly average colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed CDOM (triangles) is included in the 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	161	10	2007 - 2024	22	0.2306	5.5172	2.4238	0.0029

Monthly average colored dissolved organic matter increased by 2.42 PCU per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

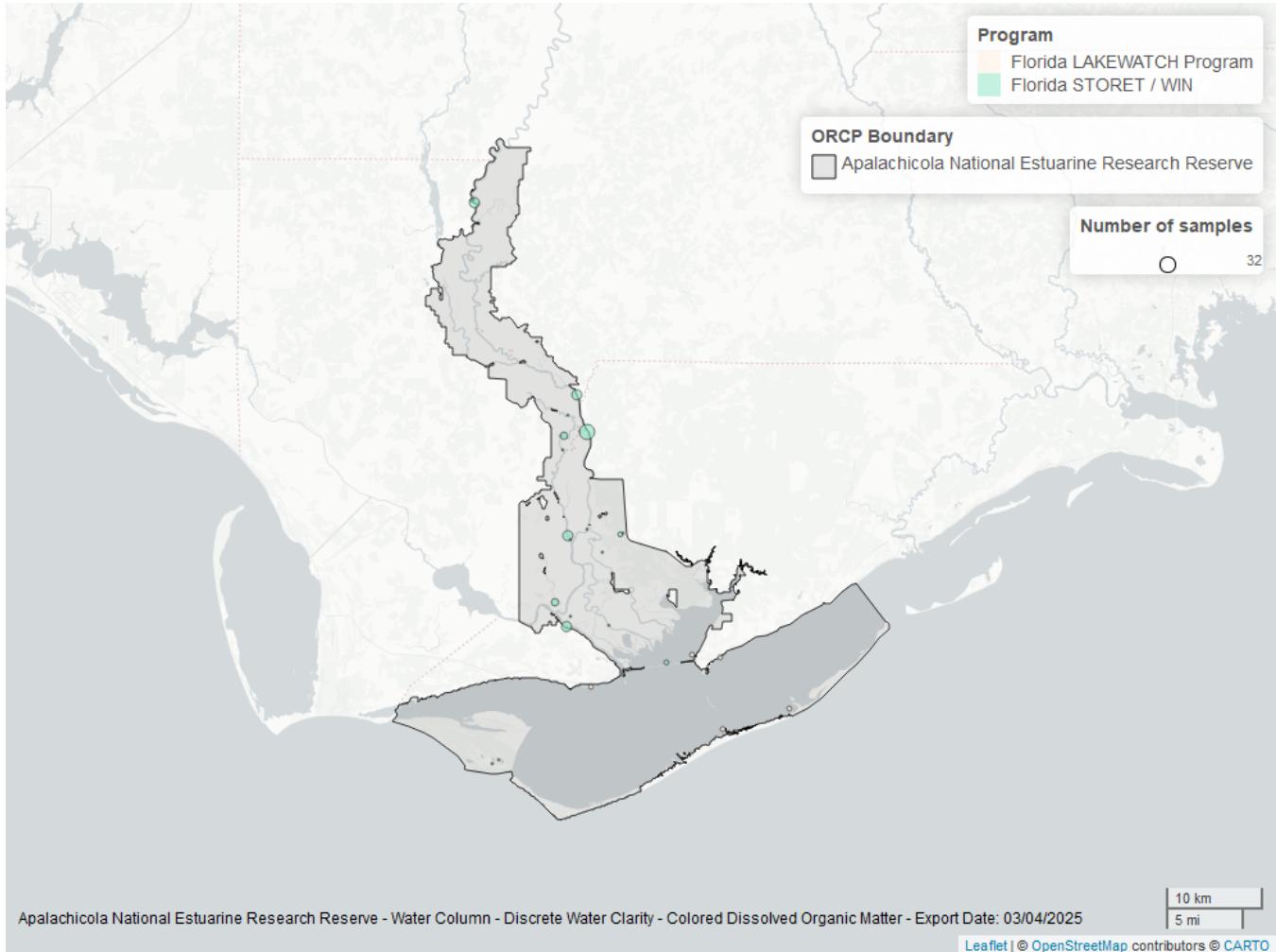


Figure 6: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	146	2017	2024
514	26	2007	2008

Program names:

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program⁶
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

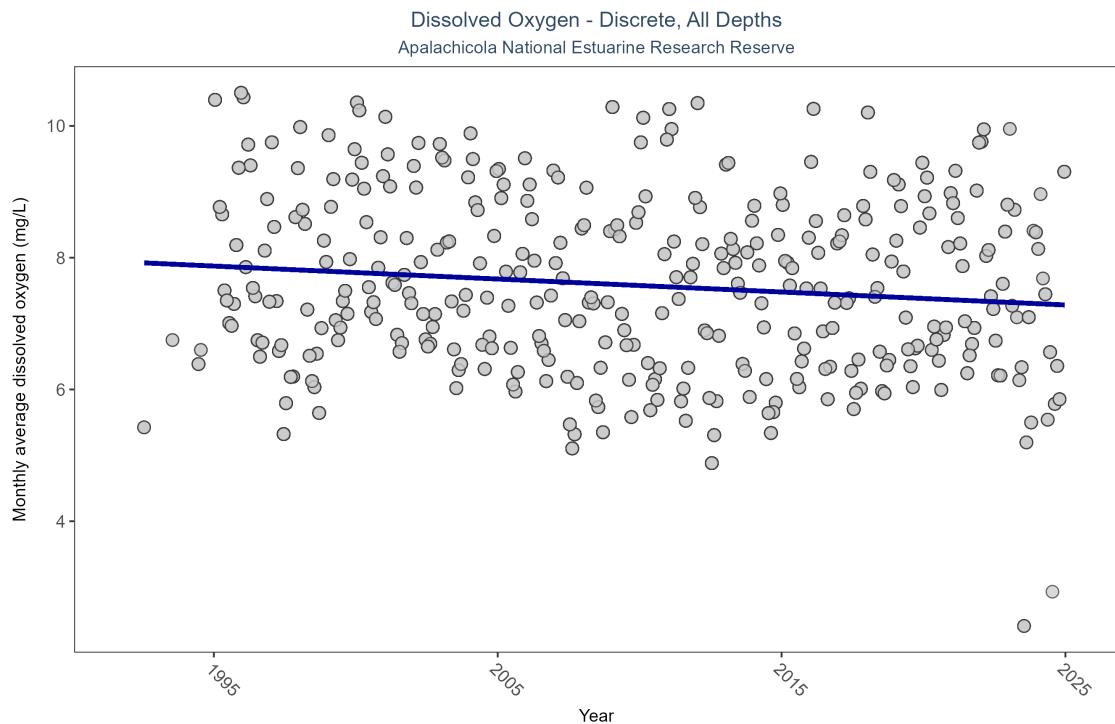


Figure 7: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

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	Significantly decreasing trend	80895	33	1992 - 2024	7.5	-0.1612	7.932	-0.0197	0

Monthly average dissolved oxygen decreased by 0.02 mg/L per year.

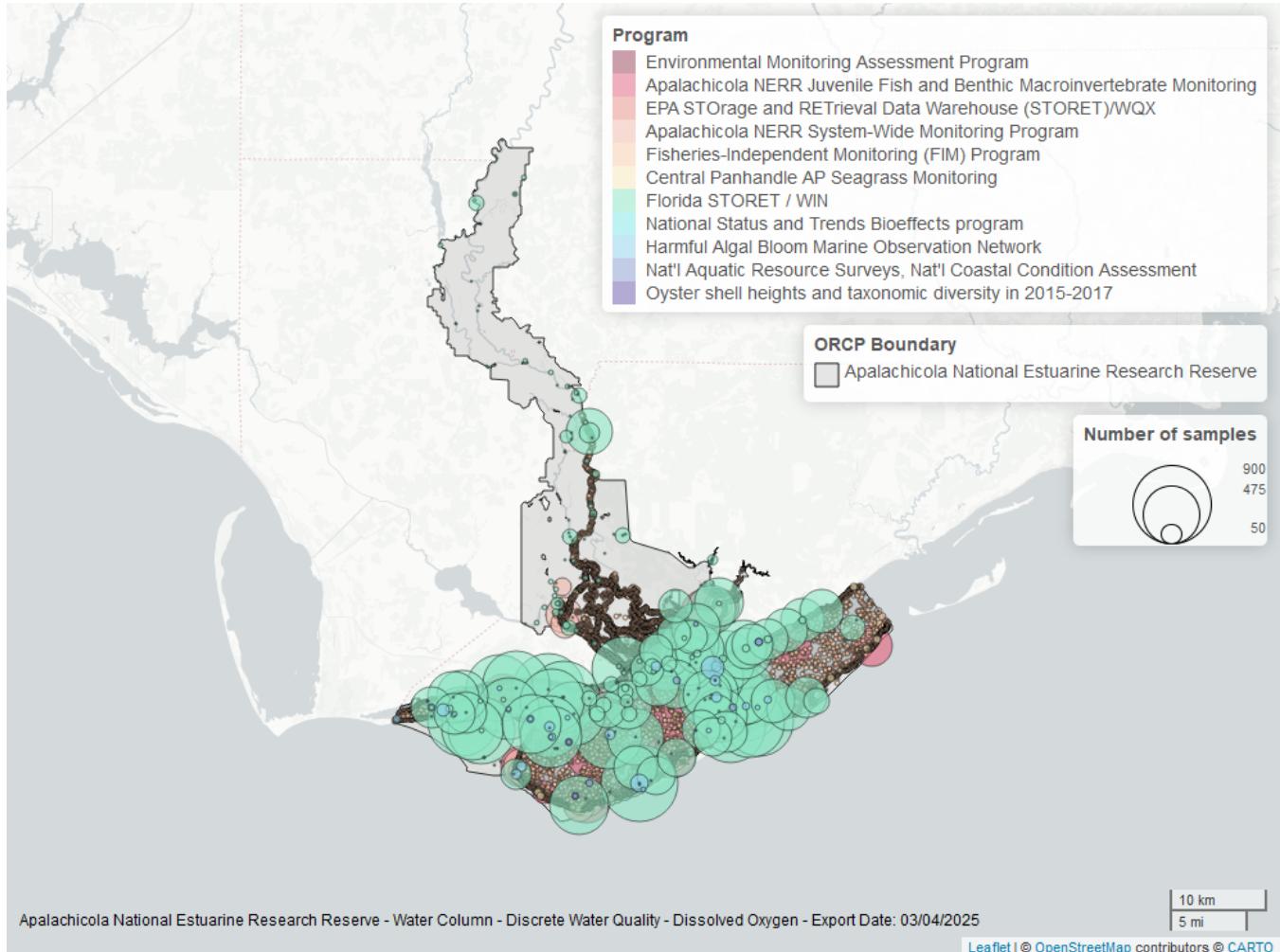


Figure 8: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
69	41529	1998	2022
5002	32087	1995	2024
129	4028	2000	2024
355	3772	2003	2024
95	410	1995	2018
557	222	2006	2023
118	78	2000	2020
115	28	1992	2004
103	24	2004	2021
119	14	1994	1994
5071	4	2017	2017

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁷

- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁸
 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴
 118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵
 119 - National Status and Trends Bioeffects program⁹
 129 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Juvenile Fish and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring¹⁰
 355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹
 557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring¹¹
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²
 5071 - Oyster shell heights and taxonomic diversity in 2015-2017 among previously documented oiled and non-oiled reefs in Louisiana, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle¹²

Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

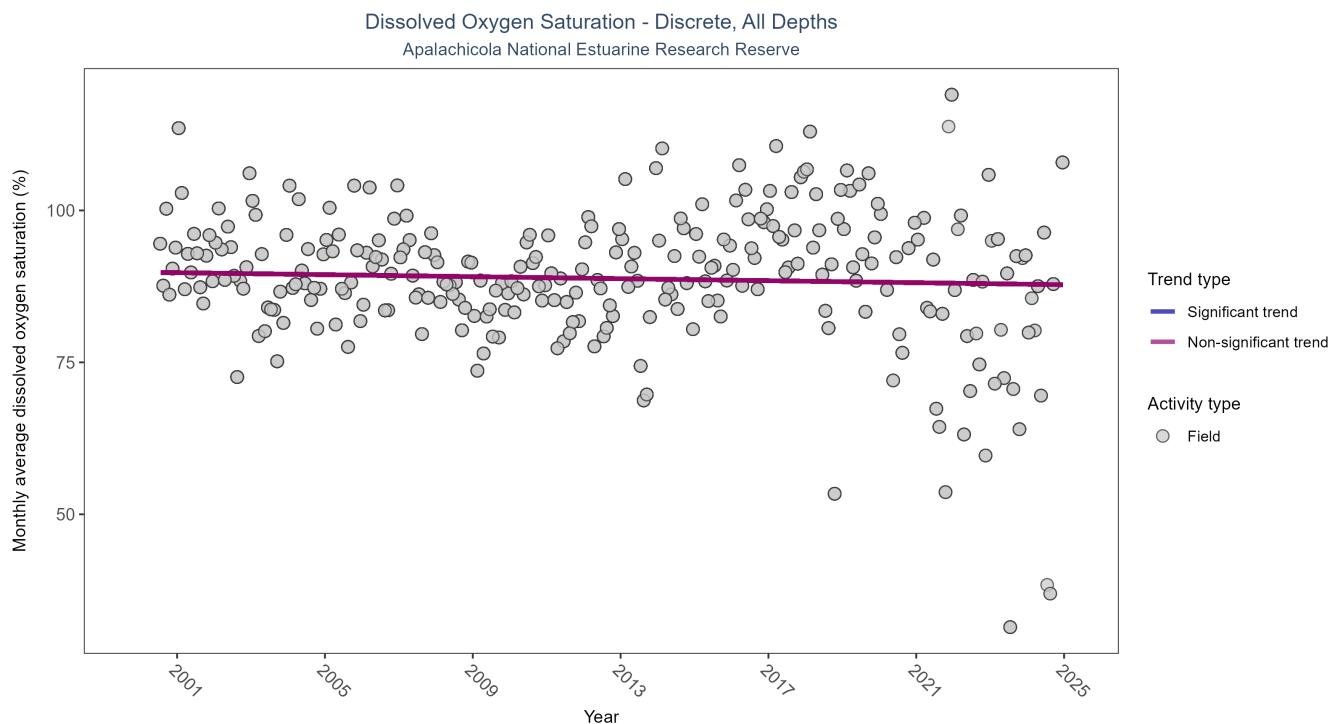


Figure 9: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen saturation values measured in the field (circles) 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	No significant trend	7013	25	2000 - 2024	91.5	-0.0495	89.8416	-0.0825	0.2262

Dissolved oxygen saturation showed no detectable trend between 2000 and 2024.

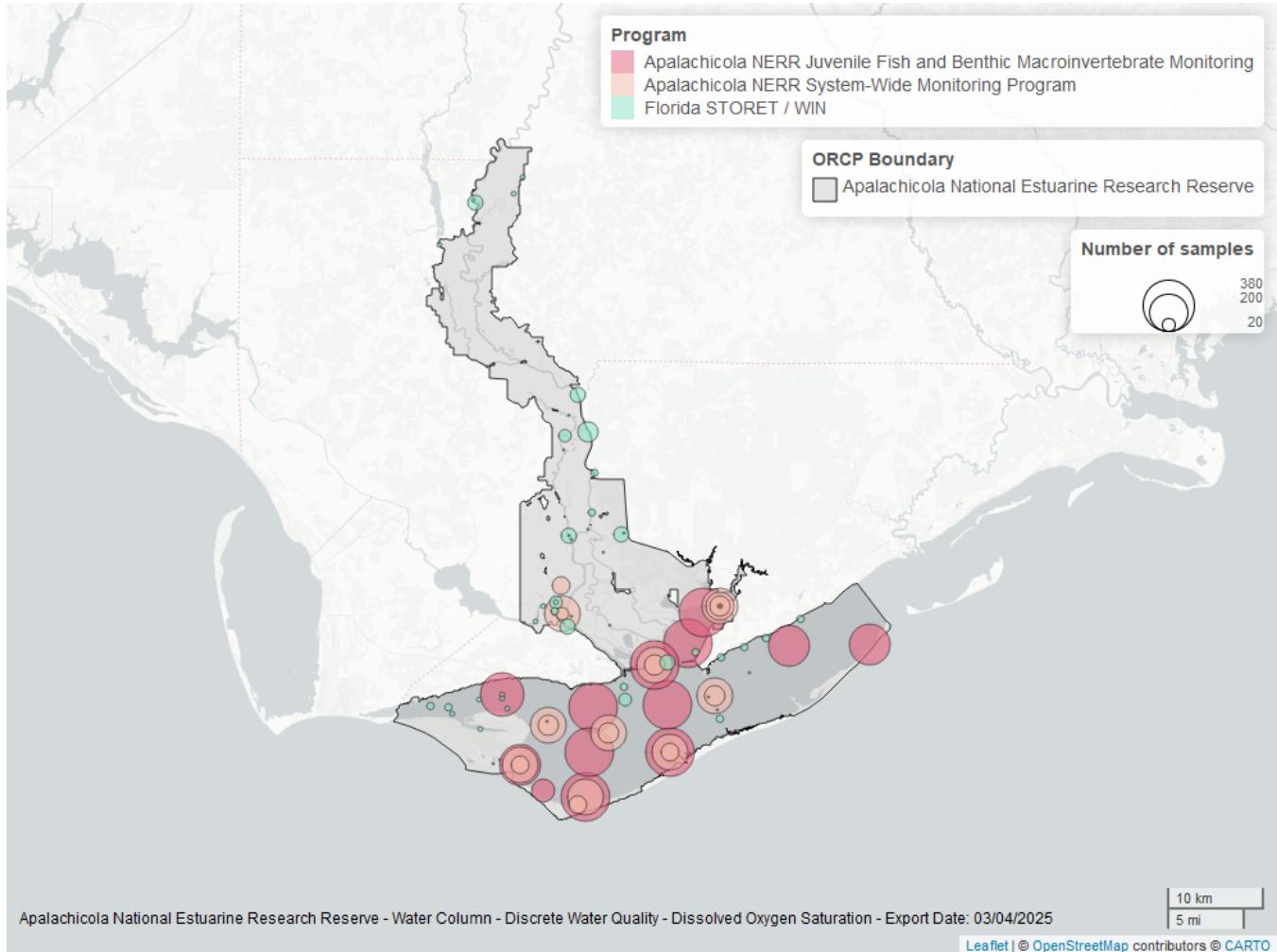


Figure 10: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
129	4010	2000	2024
355	2492	2003	2023
5002	550	2003	2024

Program names:

- 129 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Juvenile Fish and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring¹⁰
- 355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

pH - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

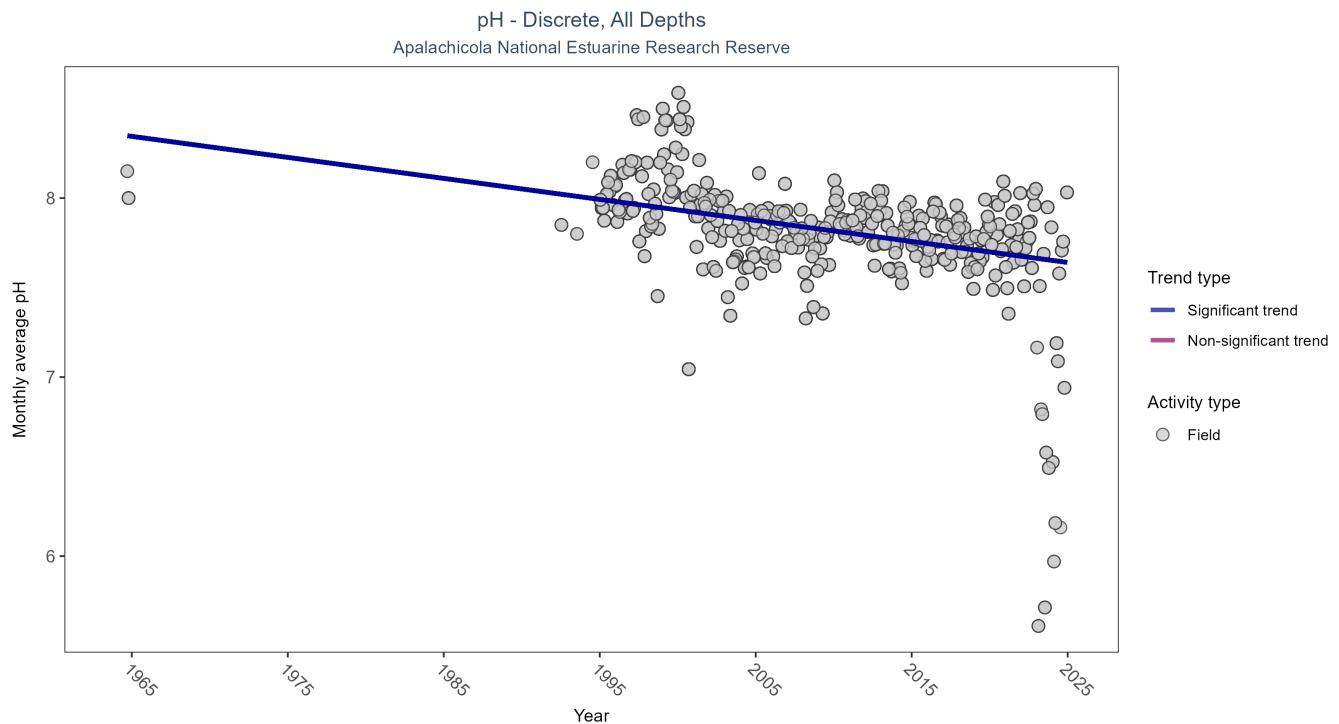


Figure 11: Scatter plot of monthly average pH over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only pH values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

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	65162	34	1964 - 2024	7.95	-0.3672	8.3562	-0.0117	0

Monthly average pH decreased by 0.01 pH units per year.

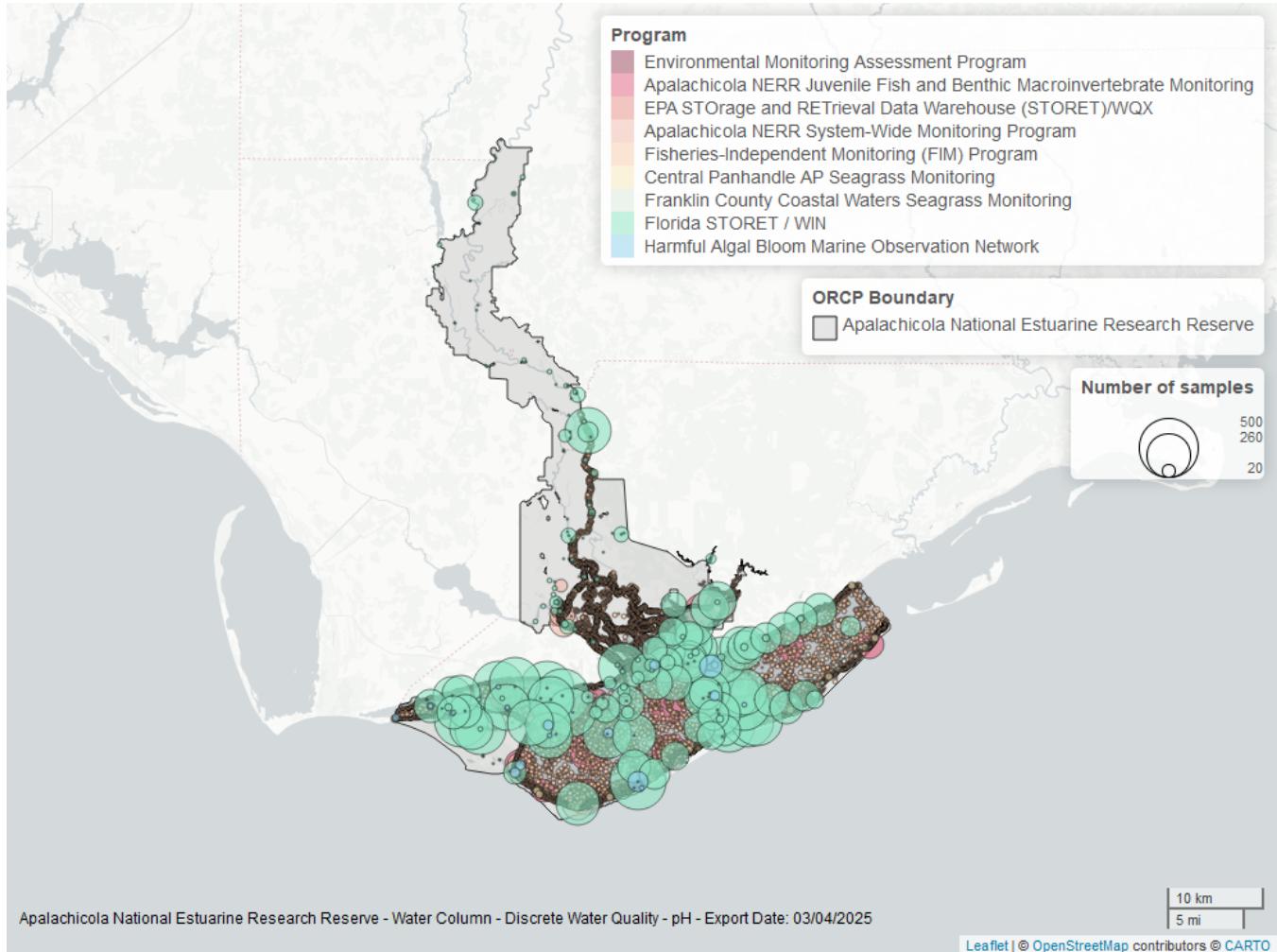


Figure 12: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for pH

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
69	41711	1998	2022
5002	19224	1995	2024
355	2547	2011	2024
129	2321	2000	2024
95	305	1964	2018
557	209	2006	2023
558	38	2008	2013
115	28	1992	2004
103	19	2004	2021

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁷

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁸

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴

129 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Juvenile Fish and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring¹⁰

355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹

557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring¹¹

558 - Franklin County Coastal Waters Seagrass Monitoring¹³

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Salinity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

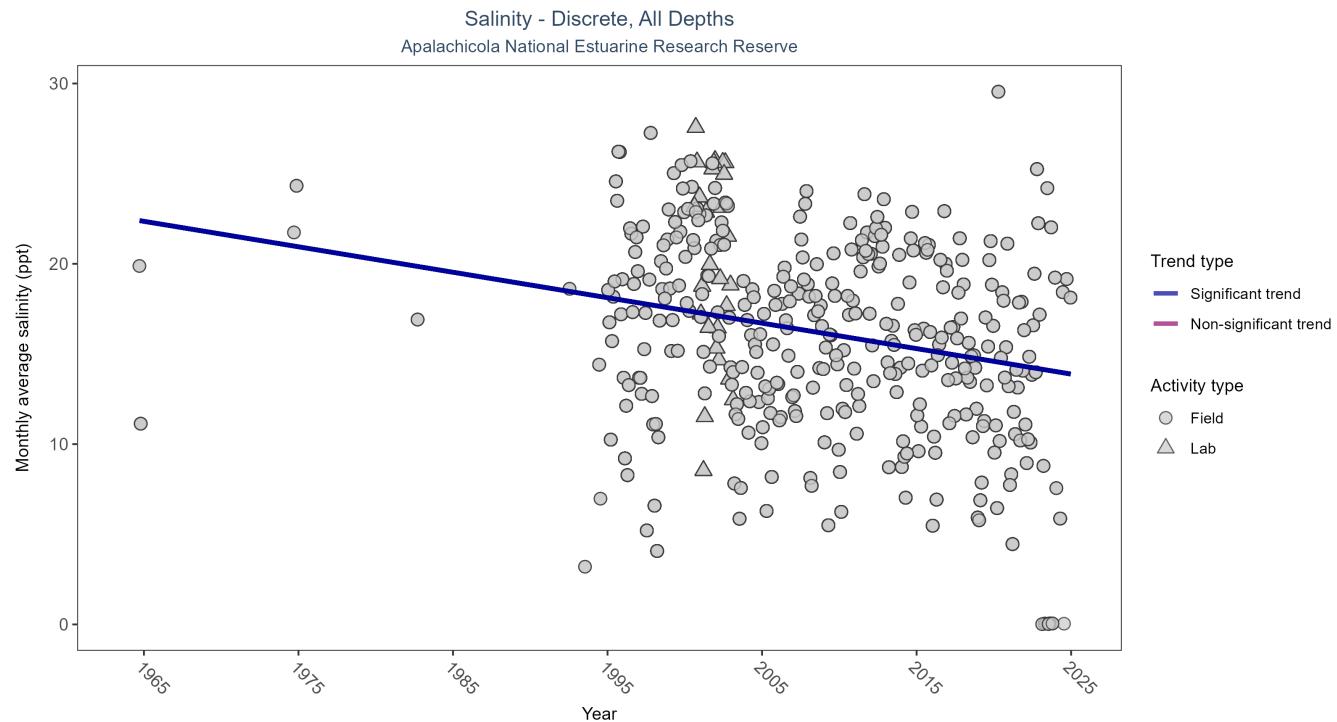


Figure 13: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines are also shown. Discrete salinity values derived from grab samples analyzed in the field (circles) or the 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	93661	36	1964 - 2024	16.79	-0.2034	22.4971	-0.1412	0

Monthly average salinity decreased by 0.14 ppt per year.

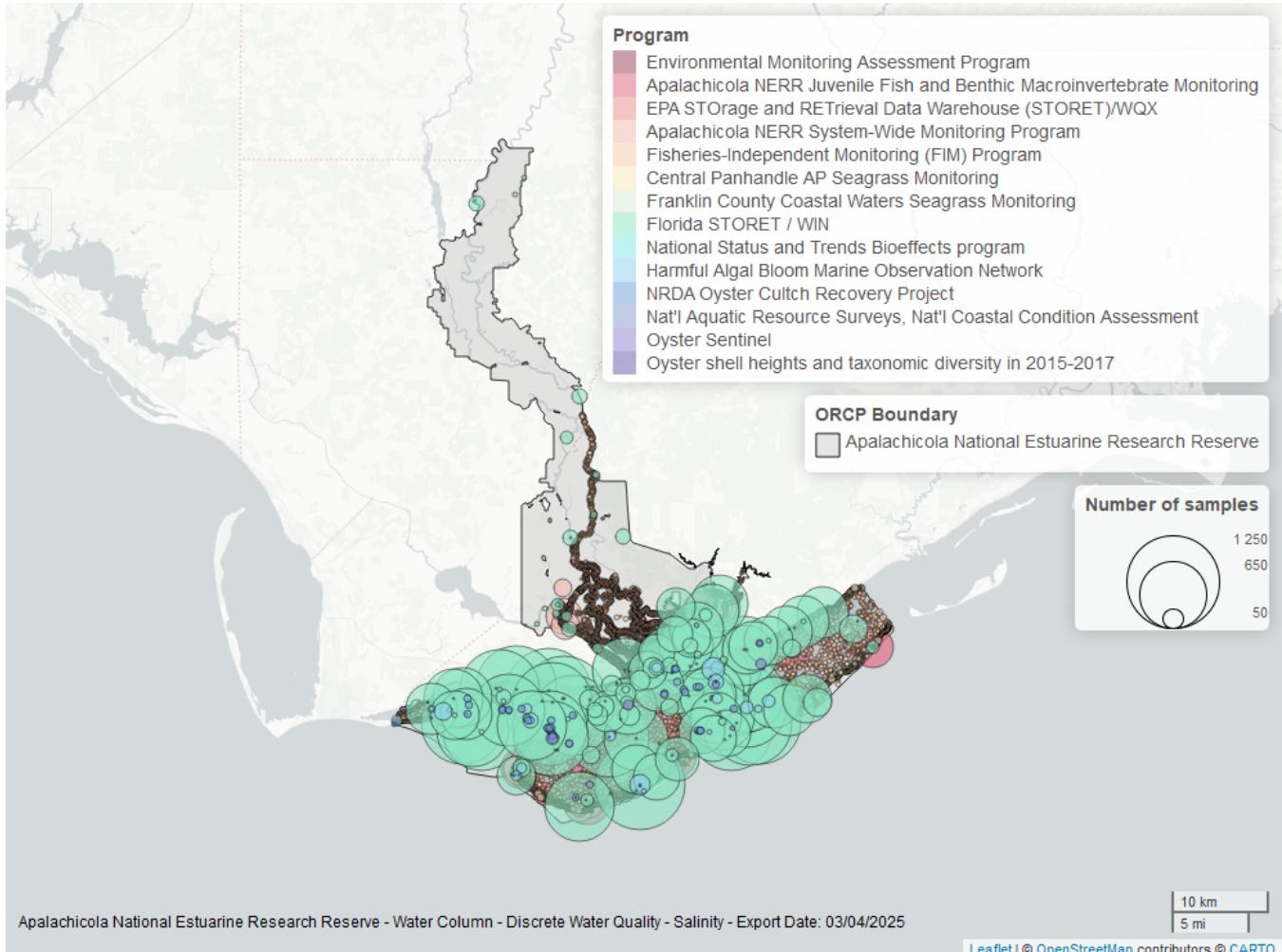


Figure 14: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Salinity

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	43865	1995	2024
69	41833	1998	2022
129	4040	2000	2024
355	3721	2003	2024
95	586	1964	2018
4044	280	2007	2023
557	222	2006	2023
558	132	2008	2014
118	79	2015	2020
456	63	2005	2015
115	28	1992	2004
119	14	1994	1994
5071	4	2017	2017
103	3	2004	2004

Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁷
 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁸
 103 - EPA STORET and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴
 118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵
 119 - National Status and Trends Bioeffects program⁹
 129 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Juvenile Fish and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring¹⁰
 355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹
 456 - Oyster Sentinel¹⁴
 557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring¹¹
 558 - Franklin County Coastal Waters Seagrass Monitoring¹³
 4044 - NRDA Oyster Cutch Recovery Project¹⁵
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²
 5071 - Oyster shell heights and taxonomic diversity in 2015-2017 among previously documented oiled and non-oiled reefs in Louisiana, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle¹²

Secchi Depth - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

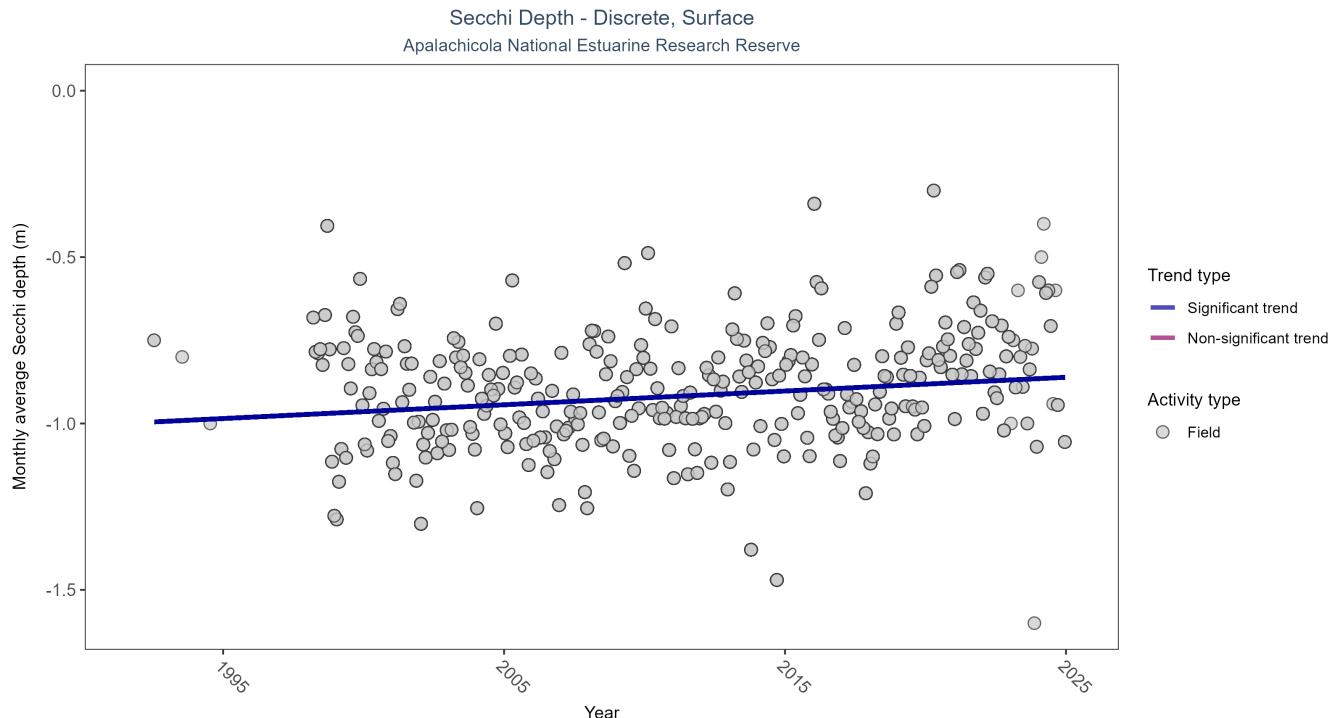


Figure 15: Scatter plot of monthly average Secchi depth over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Secchi depth is only measured in the field (circles).

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 increasing trend	45190	30	1992 - 2024	-0.8	0.1547	-0.9975	0.0041	0.0001

Monthly average Secchi depth became shallower by less than 0.01 m per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

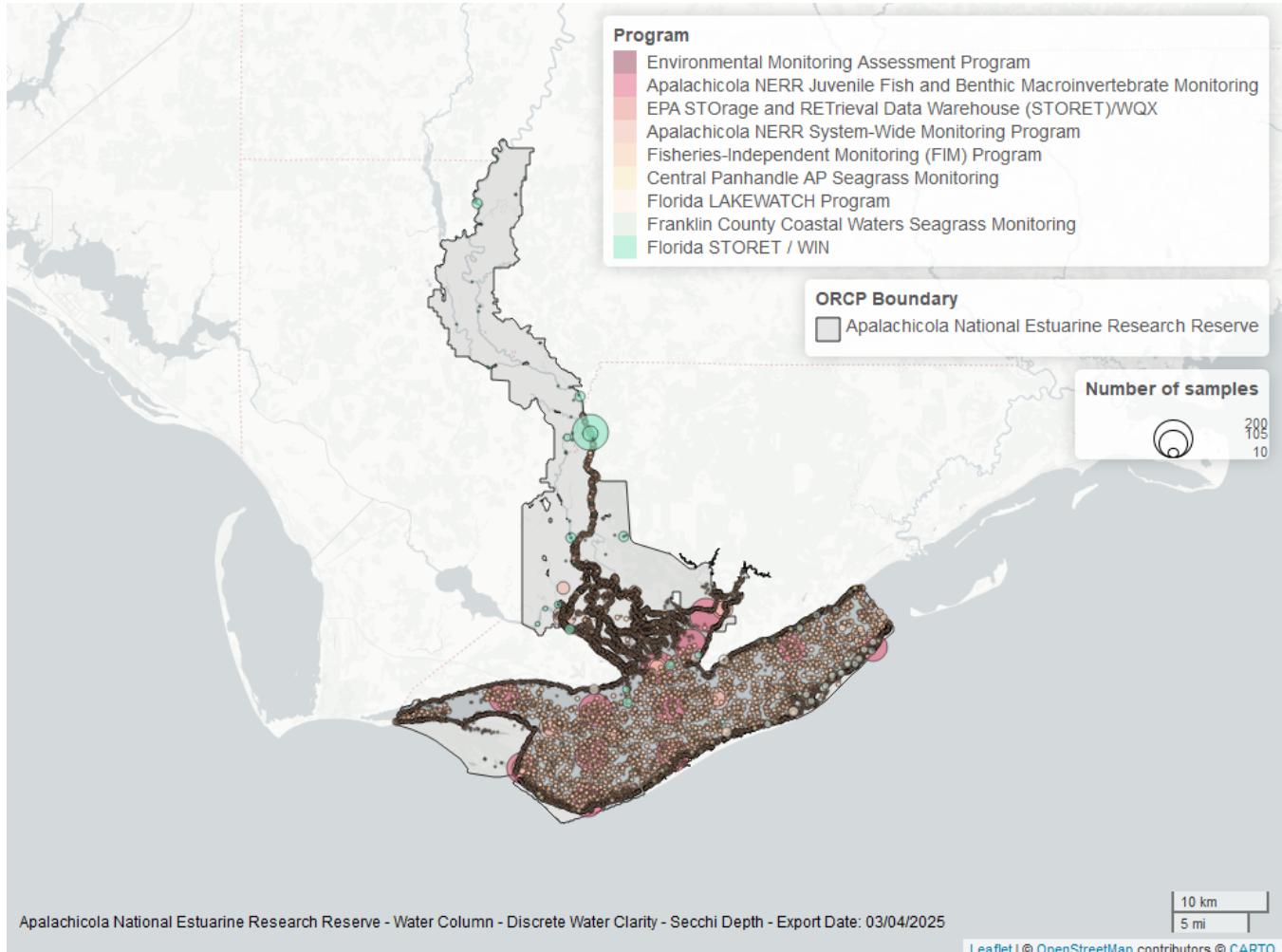


Figure 16: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
69	41353	1998	2022
129	1997	2000	2024
355	952	2011	2019
5002	474	2003	2024
558	188	2008	2017
557	128	2006	2023
514	80	2007	2008
115	10	1992	2004
103	10	2021	2021

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁷

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴

- 129 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Juvenile Fish and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring¹⁰
 355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹
 514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program⁶
 557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring¹¹
 558 - Franklin County Coastal Waters Seagrass Monitoring¹³
 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

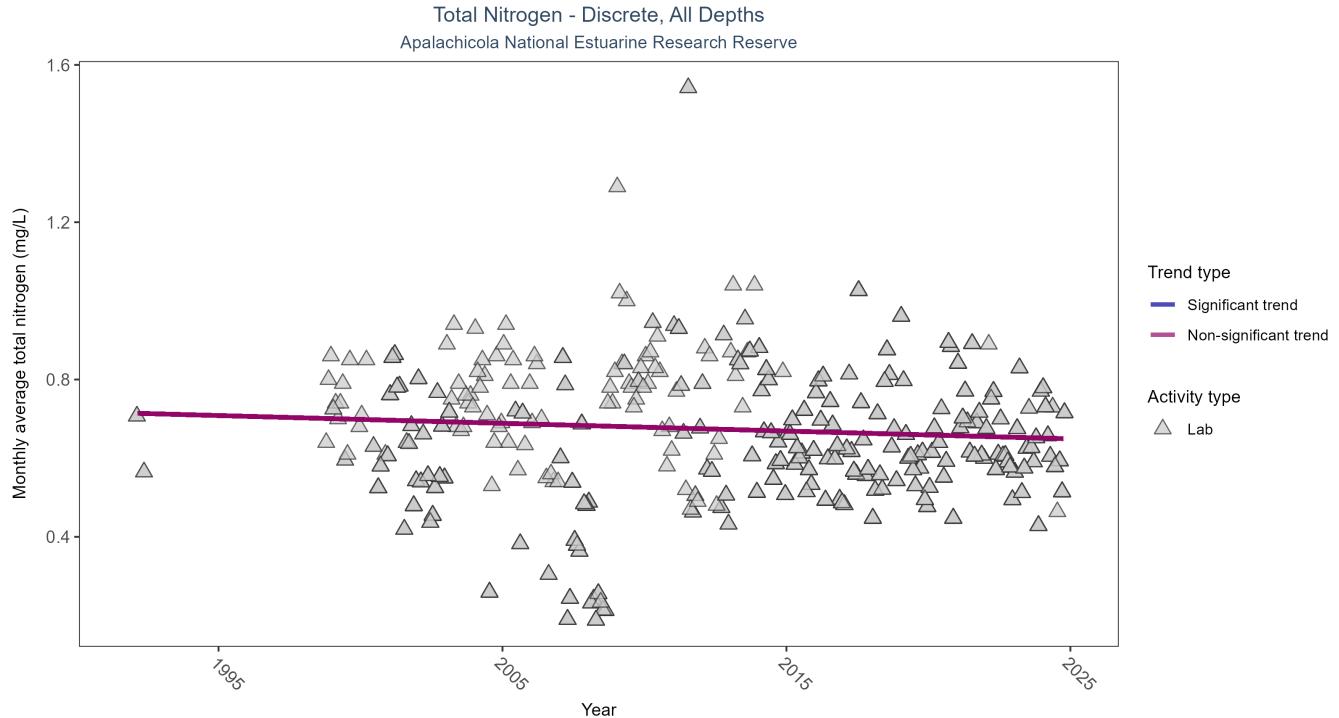


Figure 17: Scatter plot of monthly average total nitrogen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only nitrogen values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the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

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

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	τ_{au}	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	4227	28	1992 - 2024	0.63	-0.0691	0.7144	-0.002	0.1237

Total nitrogen showed no detectable trend between 1992 and 2024.

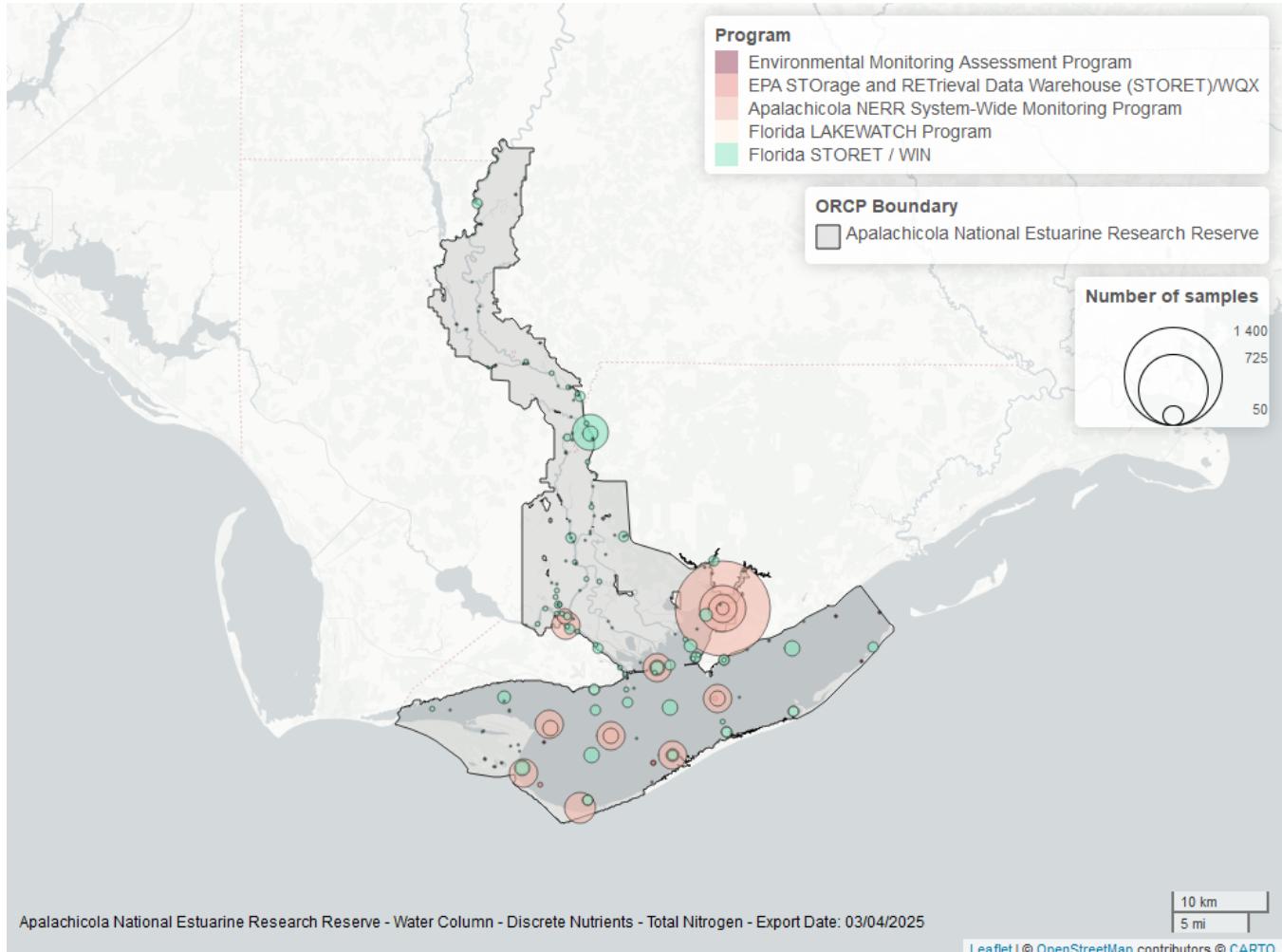


Figure 18: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 23: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
355	3094	2013	2024
5002	1034	1992	2024
514	83	2007	2008
103	28	2000	2006
115	6	2000	2004

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴

355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program⁶

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Total Phosphorus - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

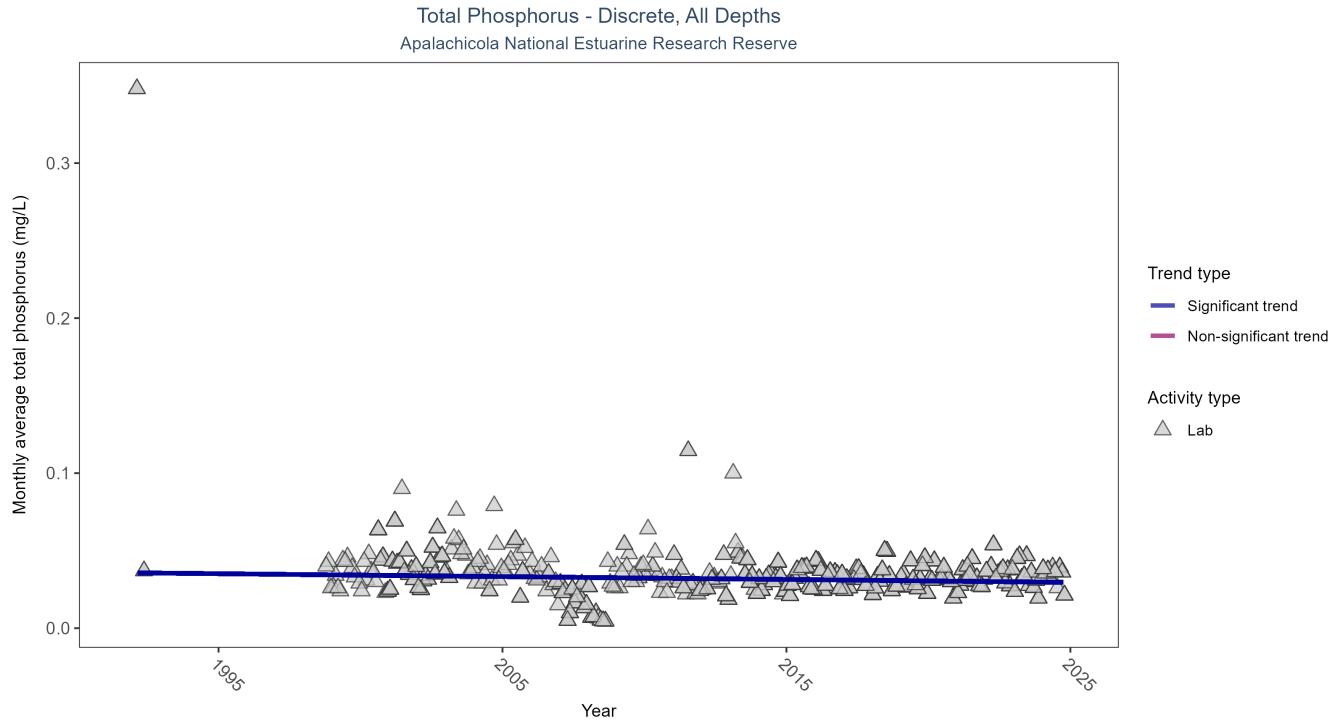


Figure 19: Scatter plot of monthly average total phosphorus over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only phosphorus values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included 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	4566	28	1992 - 2024	0.031	-0.1165	0.0357	-0.0002	0.0043

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

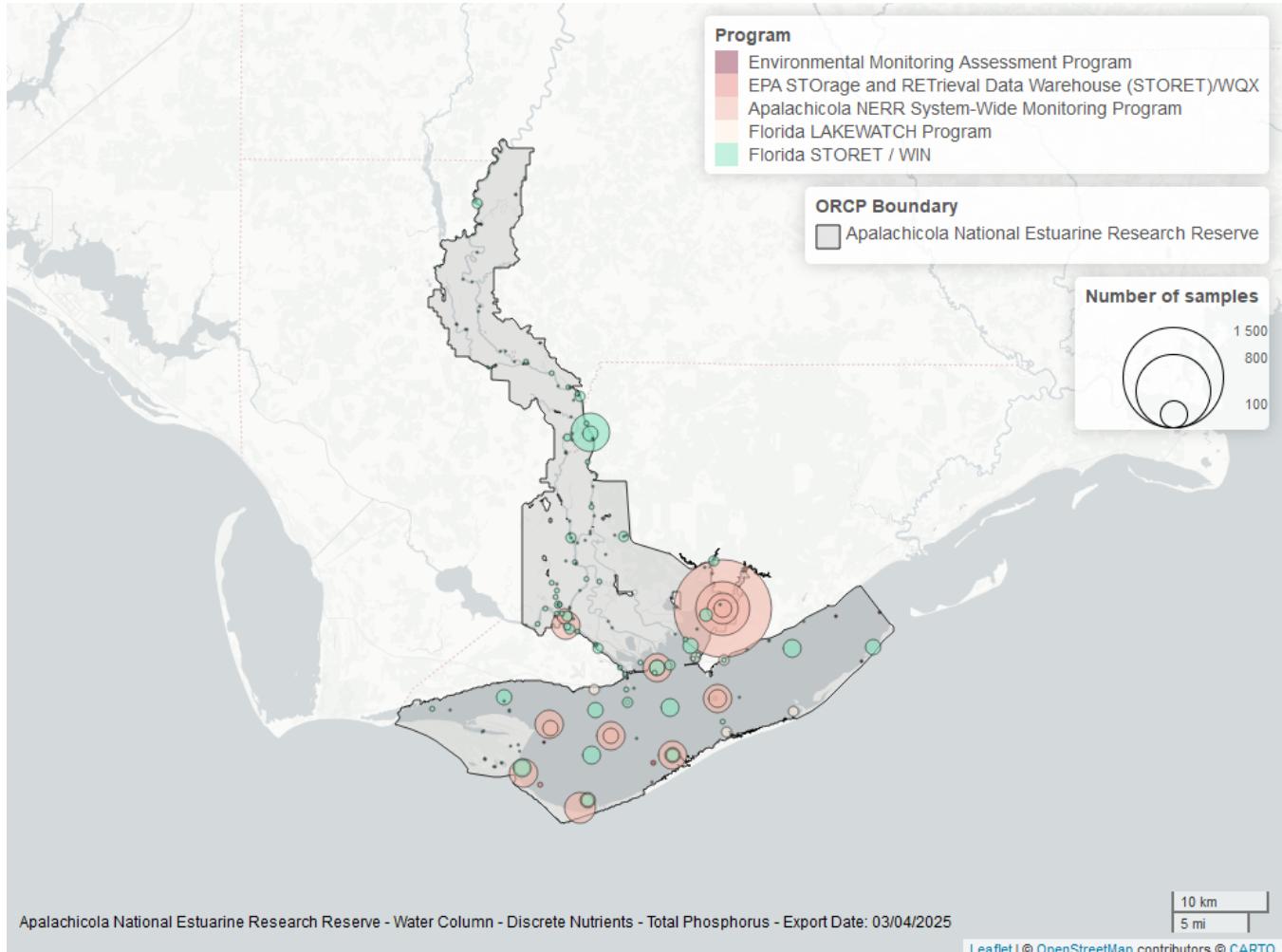


Figure 20: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 25: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
355	3385	2013	2024
5002	1166	1992	2024
514	83	2007	2008
103	26	2000	2021
115	6	2000	2004

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴

355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program⁶

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Total Suspended Solids - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

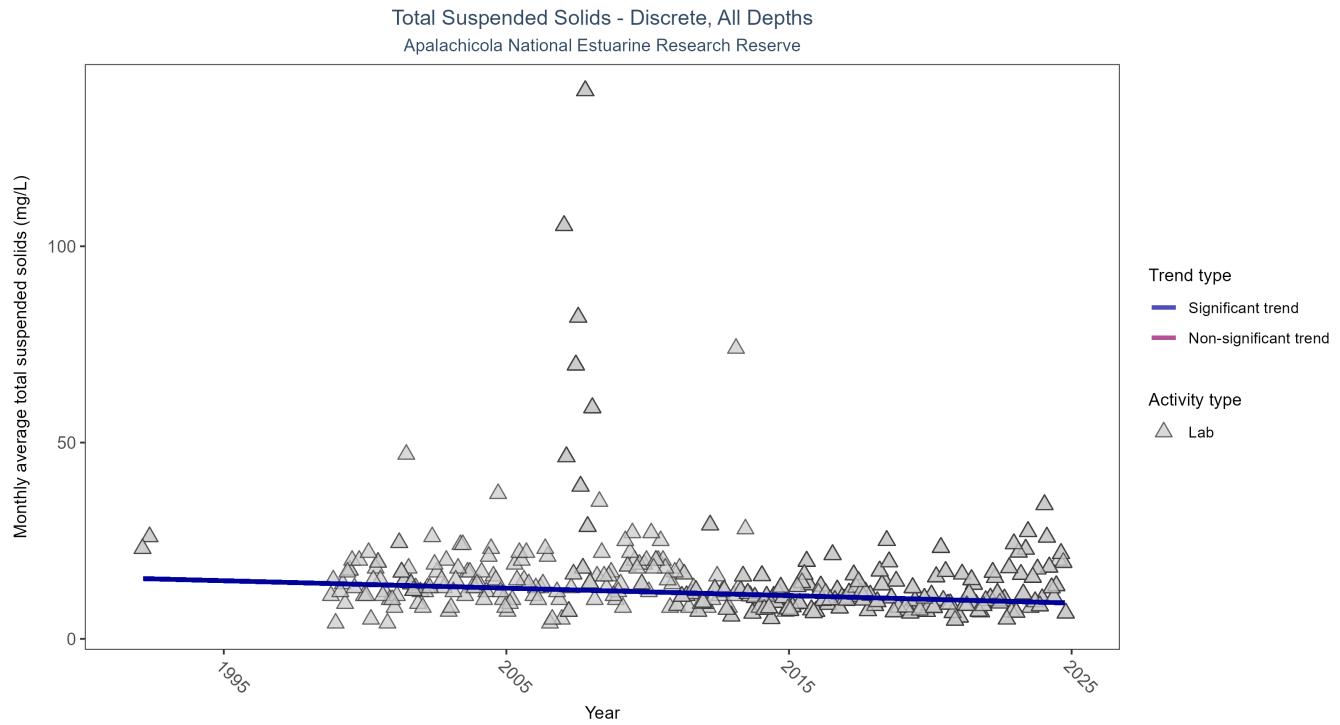


Figure 21: Scatter plot of monthly average total suspended solids (TSS) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only TSS values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included 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	4038	28	1992 - 2024	10	-0.2003	15.3723	-0.1894	0

Monthly average total suspended solids decreased by 0.19 mg/L per year, indicating an increase in water clarity.

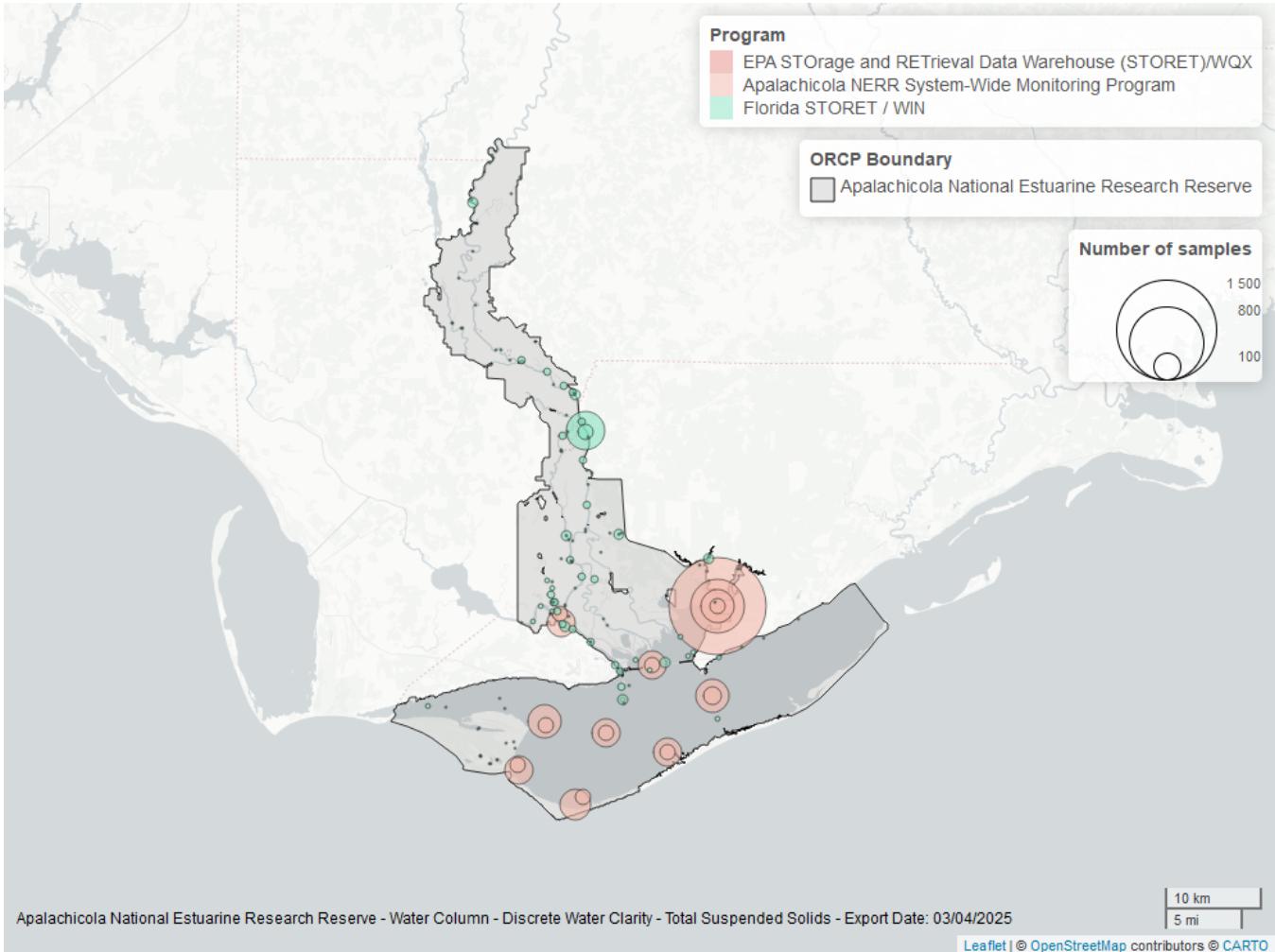


Figure 22: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 27: Programs contributing data for Total Suspended Solids

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
355	3505	2013	2024
5002	726	1992	2024
103	10	2021	2021

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³

355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Turbidity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

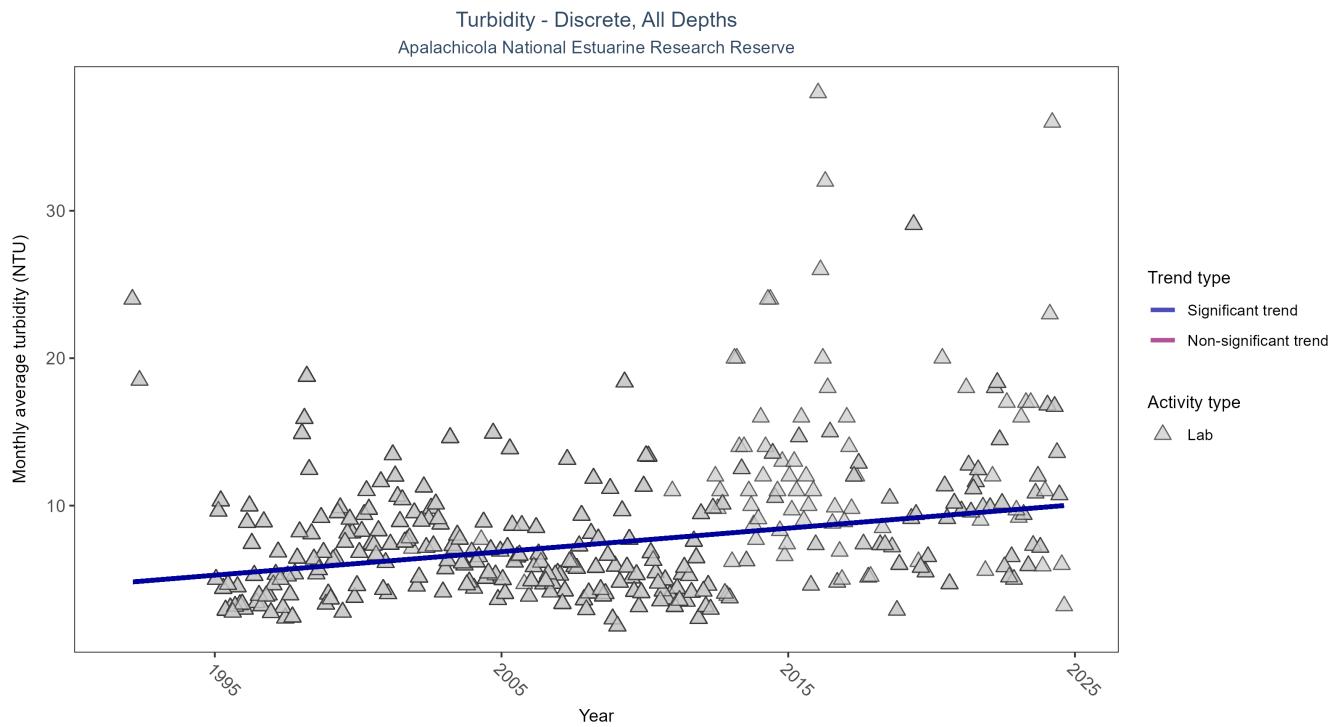


Figure 23: Scatter plot of monthly average turbidity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only turbidity values measured in the laboratory (triangles) are included in the plot.

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	Significantly increasing trend	22964	31	1992 - 2024	5.1	0.2493	4.8013	0.1594	0

Monthly average turbidity increased by 0.16 NTU per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

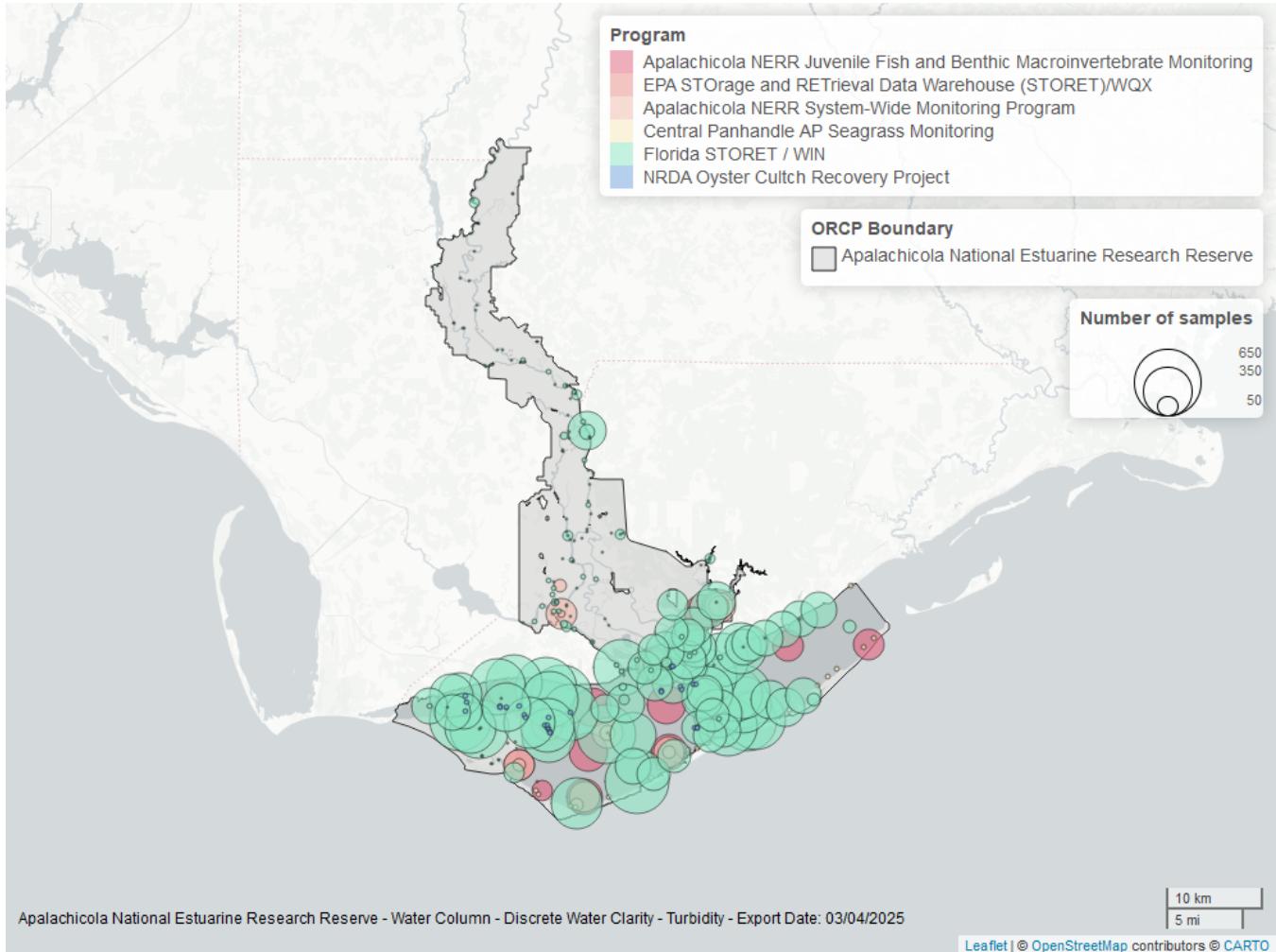


Figure 24: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 29: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	22969	1992	2024
129	2325	2000	2024
355	1833	2004	2019
4044	112	2021	2023
557	78	2022	2023
103	13	2005	2021

Program names:

- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
- 129 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Juvenile Fish and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring¹⁰
- 355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹
- 557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring¹¹
- 4044 - NRDA Oyster Cutch Recovery Project¹⁵
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²

Water Temperature - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

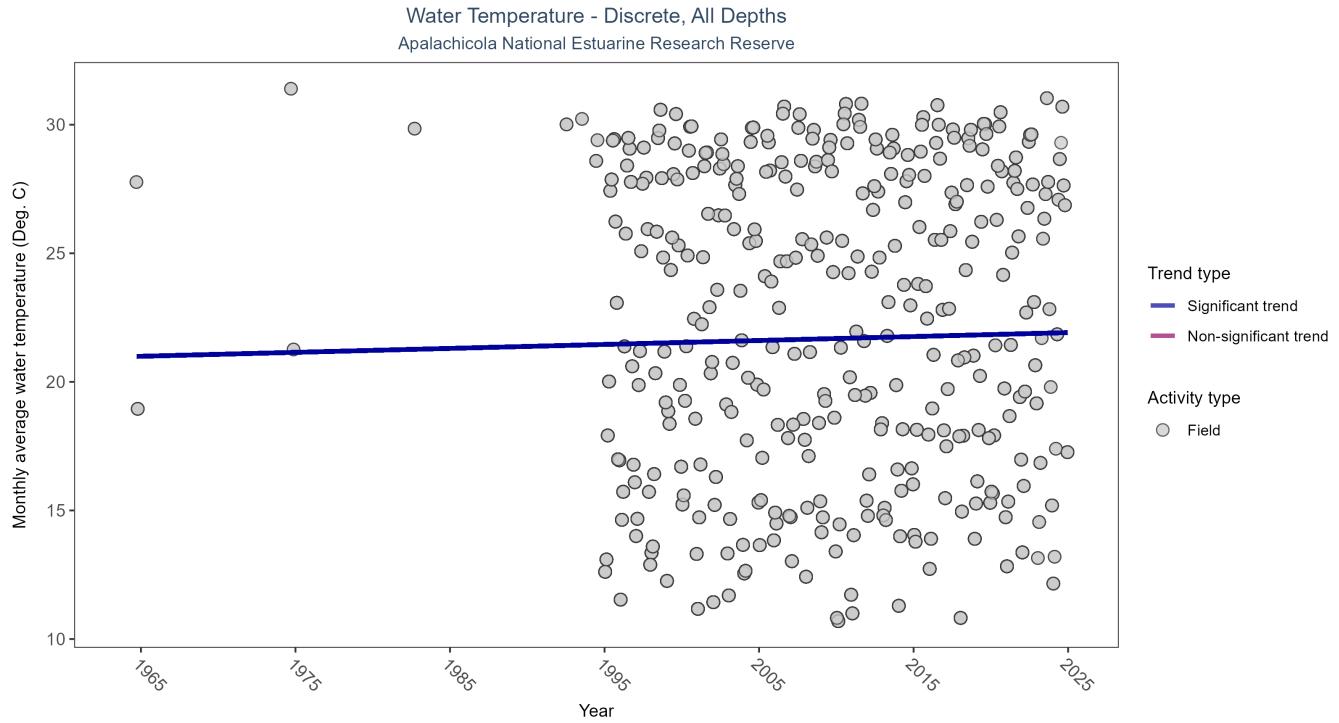


Figure 25: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only water temperature measurements taken in the field (circles) are included in 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	93895	36	1964 - 2024	23.4	0.0861	20.9793	0.0154	0.0222

Monthly average water temperature increased by 0.02°C per year.

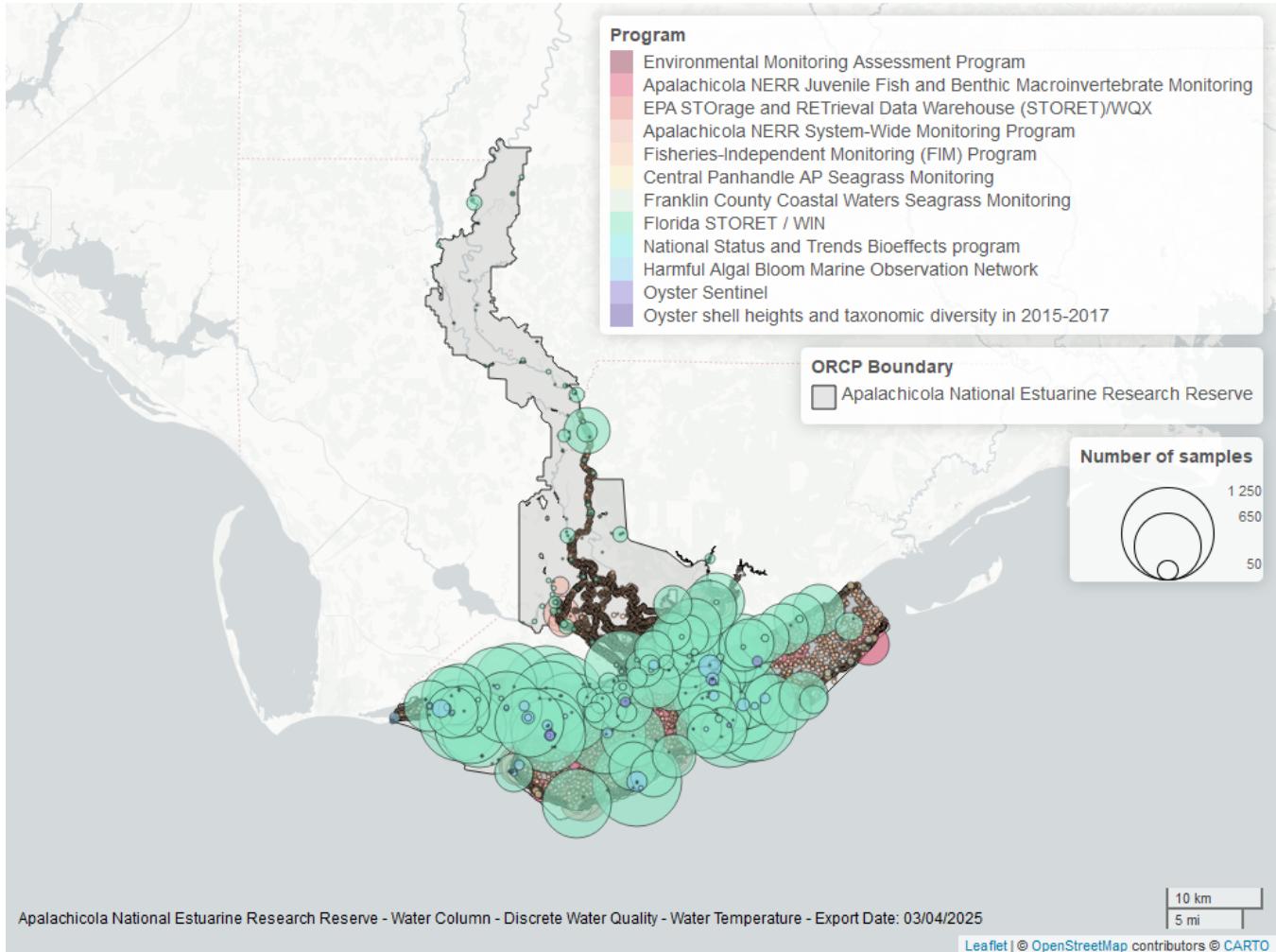


Figure 26: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 31: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	44355	1995	2024
69	41971	1998	2022
129	4033	2000	2024
355	3776	2003	2024
95	537	1964	2018
557	222	2006	2023
558	146	2008	2017
456	63	2005	2015
115	28	1992	2004
103	20	2004	2021
119	14	1994	1994
5071	4	2017	2017

Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁷
- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁸
- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
- 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴
- 119 - National Status and Trends Bioeffects program⁹
- 129 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Juvenile Fish and Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring¹⁰
- 355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹
- 456 - Oyster Sentinel¹⁴
- 557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring¹¹
- 558 - Franklin County Coastal Waters Seagrass Monitoring¹³
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN²
- 5071 - Oyster shell heights and taxonomic diversity in 2015-2017 among previously documented oiled and non-oiled reefs in Louisiana, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle¹²

Water Quality - Continuous

The following files were used in the continuous analysis:

- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Dissolved_Oxygen_NW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Dissolved_Oxygen_Saturation_NW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_pH_NW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Salinity_NW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Turbidity_NW-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Water_Temperature_NW-2025-Mar-06.txt*

Continuous monitoring locations in Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Table 32: Station overview for Continuous parameters by Program

ProgramID	ProgramLocationID	Years of Data	Use in Analysis	Parameters
5	APCF1	20	TRUE	TempW
355	apabpwq	6	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW
355	apacpwq	24	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW
355	apadbwq	24	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW
355	apaebwq	29	TRUE	Turb
355	apaebwq	31	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , TempW
355	apaeswq	30	TRUE	Turb
355	apaeswq	31	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , TempW
355	apalmwq	10	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW
355	apapcwq	10	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW

Program names:

5 - National Data Buoy Center¹⁶

355 - Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve System-Wide Monitoring Program¹



Figure 27: Map showing continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. Sites marked as *Use In Analysis* (green) are featured in this report.

Dissolved Oxygen - Continuous

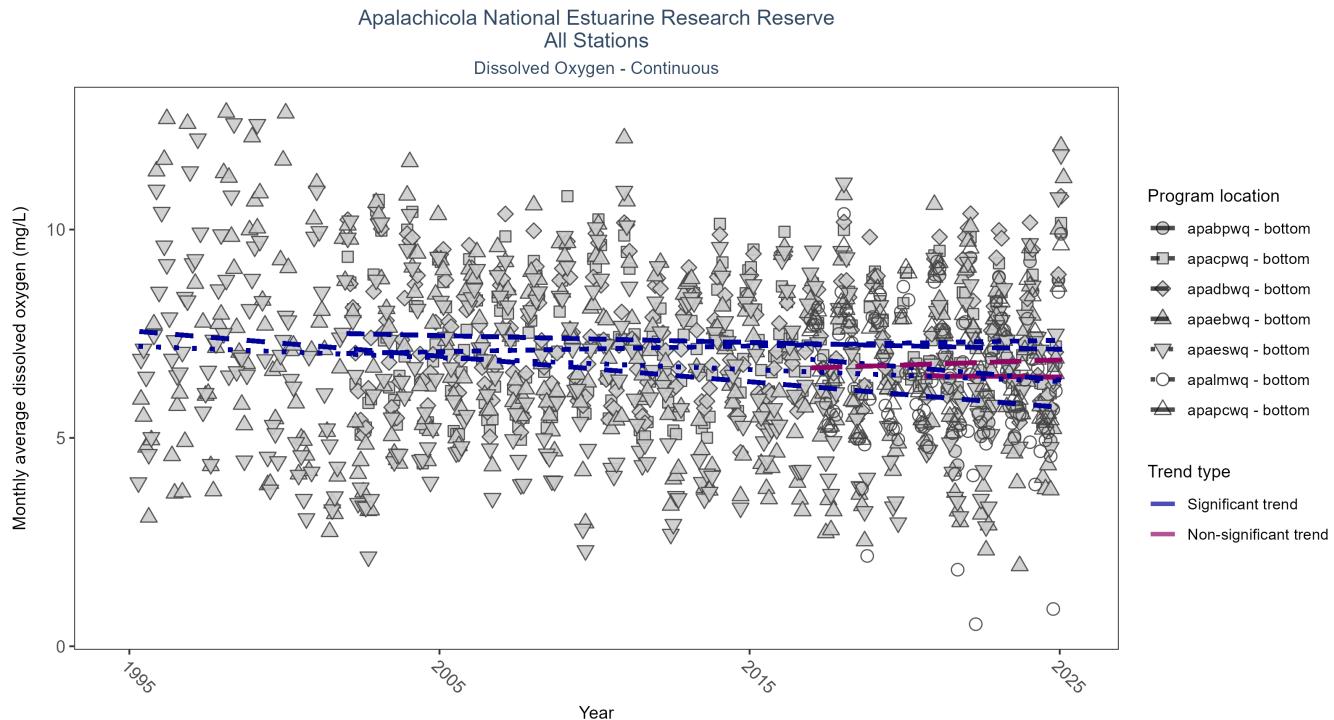


Figure 28: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 33: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
apaeswq	Significantly decreasing trend	715193	31	1995 - 2025	6.8	-0.15	7.21	-0.03	0.00
apaebwq	Significantly decreasing trend	665356	31	1995 - 2025	6.8	-0.28	7.57	-0.06	0.00
apapcwq	No significant trend	267810	10	2016 - 2025	6.9	0.07	6.66	0.02	0.35
apadbwq	Significantly decreasing trend	621272	24	2002 - 2025	7.3	-0.15	7.50	-0.02	0.00
apabpwq	No significant trend	149136	6	2020 - 2025	6.5	-0.05	6.50	-0.01	0.94
apalmwq	Significantly decreasing trend	255049	10	2016 - 2025	6.3	-0.22	6.94	-0.06	0.01
apacpwq	Significantly increasing trend	616896	24	2002 - 2025	7.1	0.12	7.03	0.01	0.00

At one program location, monthly average dissolved oxygen increased by 0.01 mg/L per year. At four program locations, monthly average dissolved oxygen decreased between 0.02 and 0.06 mg/L per year. No detectable change in monthly average dissolved oxygen was observed at two locations.

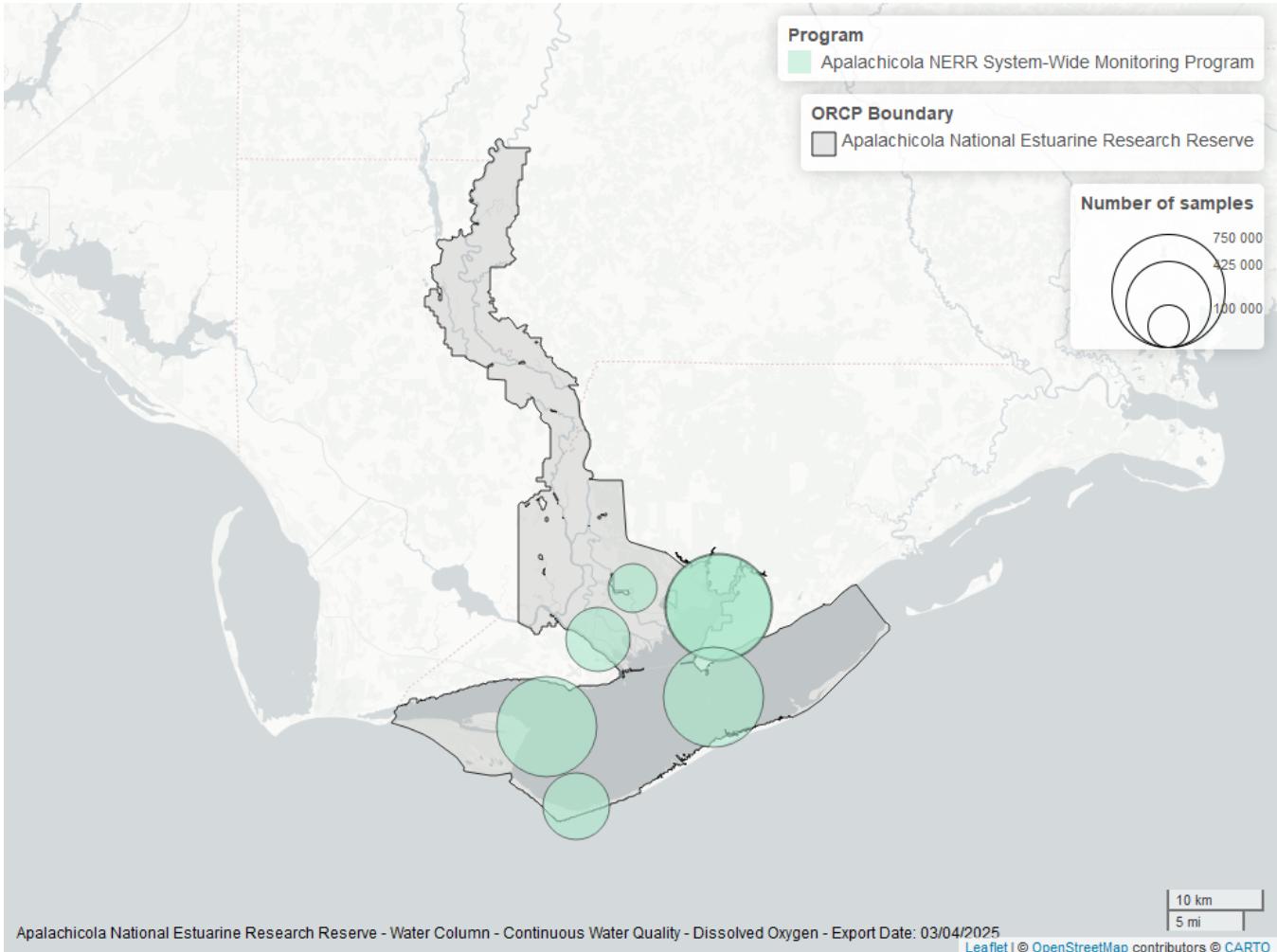


Figure 29: Map showing location of dissolved oxygen continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Continuous

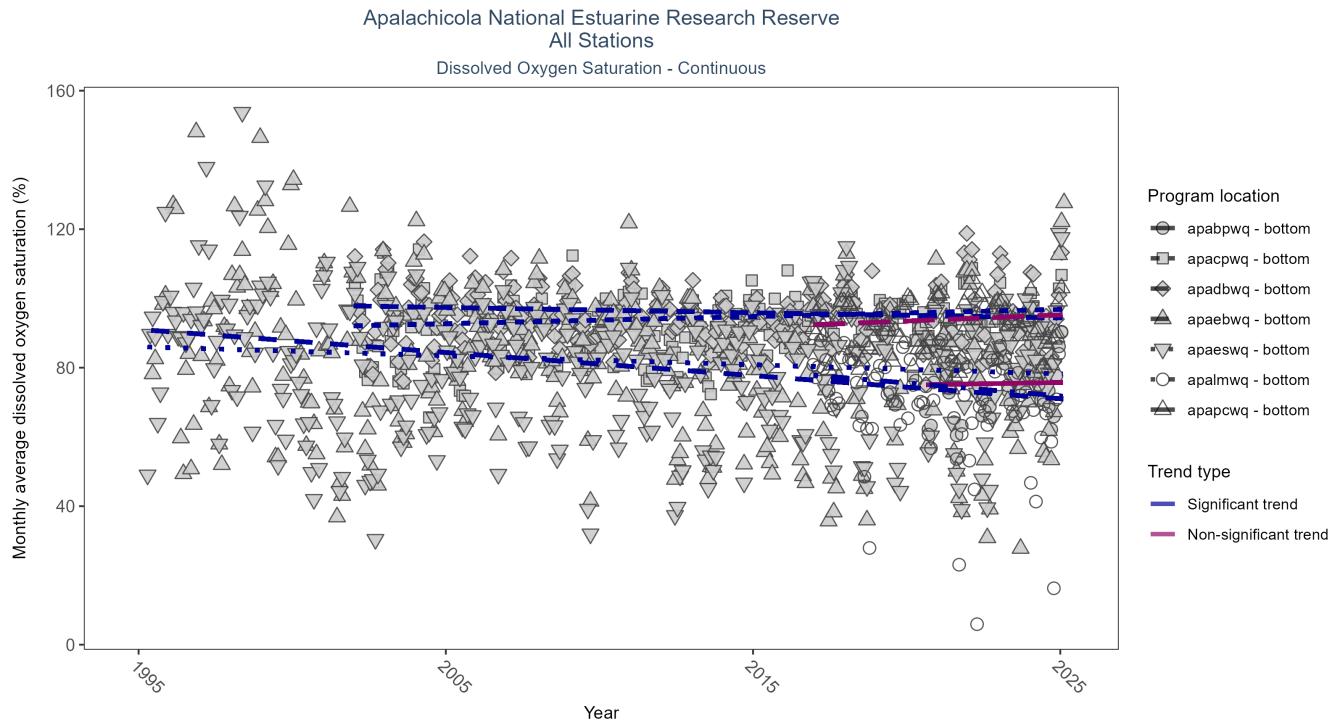


Figure 30: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 34: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
apadbwq	Significantly decreasing trend	624721	24	2002 - 2025	94.7	-0.10	97.83	-0.15	0.02
apalmwq	Significantly decreasing trend	255585	10	2016 - 2025	74.7	-0.22	78.57	-0.75	0.01
apacpwq	Significantly increasing trend	618424	24	2002 - 2025	94.2	0.16	92.07	0.21	0.00
apaebwq	Significantly decreasing trend	661181	31	1995 - 2025	84.8	-0.25	91.06	-0.67	0.00
apapcqw	No significant trend	271266	10	2016 - 2025	94.1	0.11	92.05	0.35	0.16
apabpwq	No significant trend	149136	6	2020 - 2025	76.5	0.07	74.97	0.15	0.47
apaeswq	Significantly decreasing trend	716357	31	1995 - 2025	84.2	-0.11	86.07	-0.26	0.00

At one program location, monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation increased by 0.21% per year. At four program locations, monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation decreased between 0.15 and 0.75% per year. No detectable change in monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation was observed at two locations.

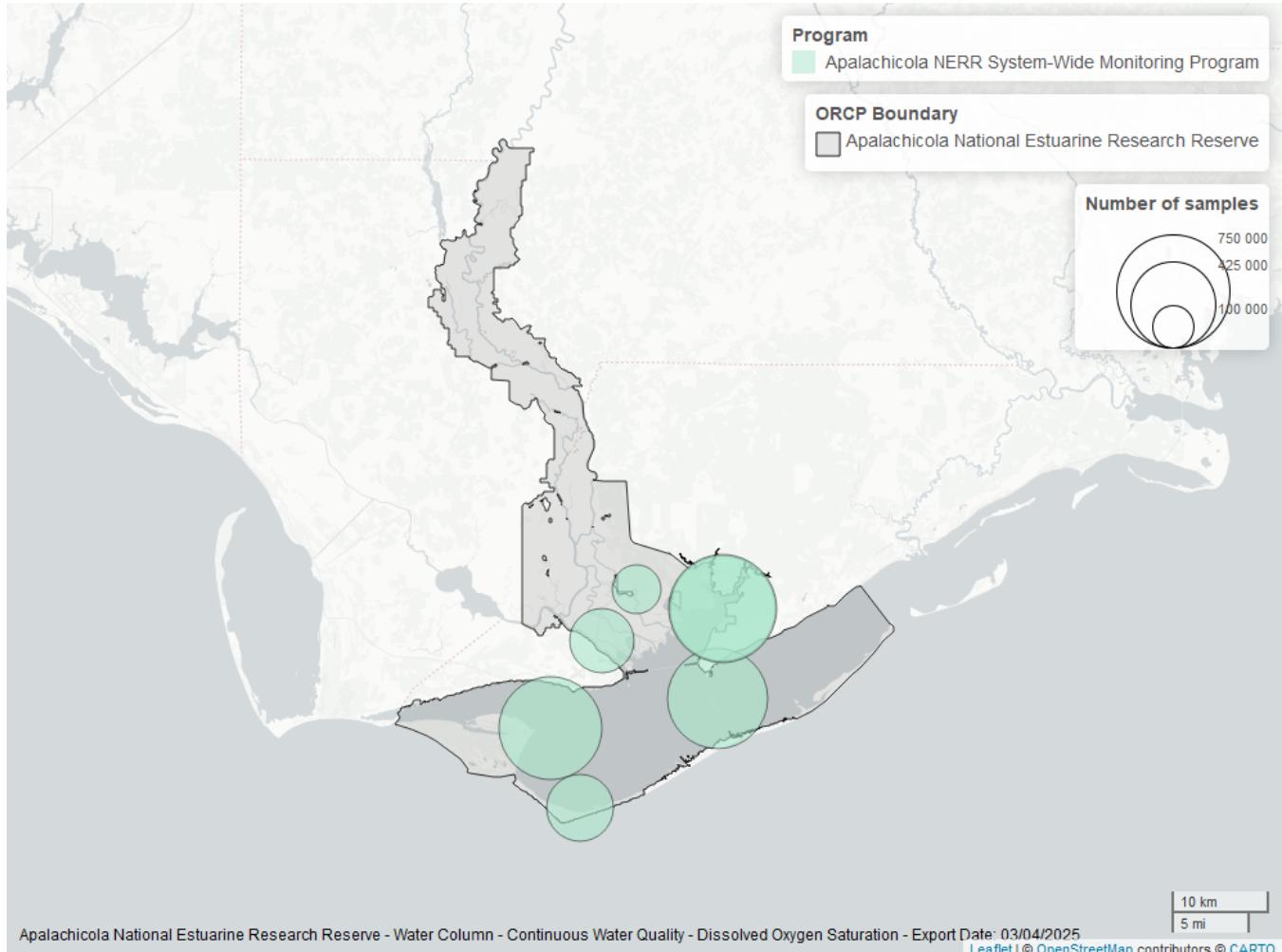


Figure 31: Map showing location of dissolved oxygen saturation continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

pH - Continuous

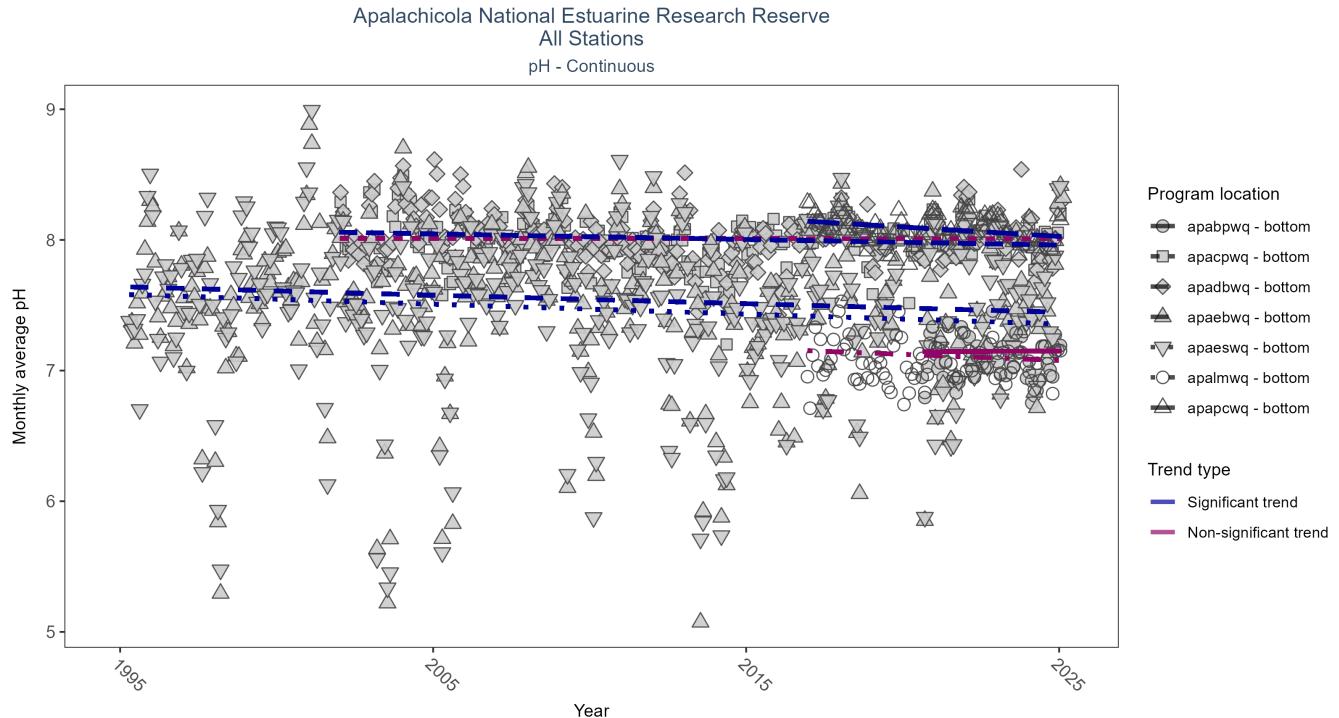


Figure 32: Scatter plot of monthly average pH over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 35: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for pH - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
apaebwq	Significantly decreasing trend	717948	31	1995 - 2025	7.6	-0.11	7.64	-0.01	0.00
apalmwq	No significant trend	263183	10	2016 - 2025	7.1	-0.07	7.16	-0.01	0.43
apaeswq	Significantly decreasing trend	719429	31	1995 - 2025	7.5	-0.12	7.58	-0.01	0.00
apadbwq	Significantly decreasing trend	602330	24	2002 - 2025	8.0	-0.14	8.06	0.00	0.00
apacpwq	No significant trend	614654	24	2002 - 2025	8.0	-0.01	8.01	0.00	0.91
apabpwq	No significant trend	150448	6	2020 - 2025	7.1	-0.01	7.14	0.00	1.00
apapcqw	Significantly decreasing trend	267739	10	2016 - 2025	8.1	-0.28	8.16	-0.01	0.00

At four program locations, monthly average pH decreased between less than 0.01 and 0.01 pH units per year. No detectable change in monthly average pH was observed at three locations.

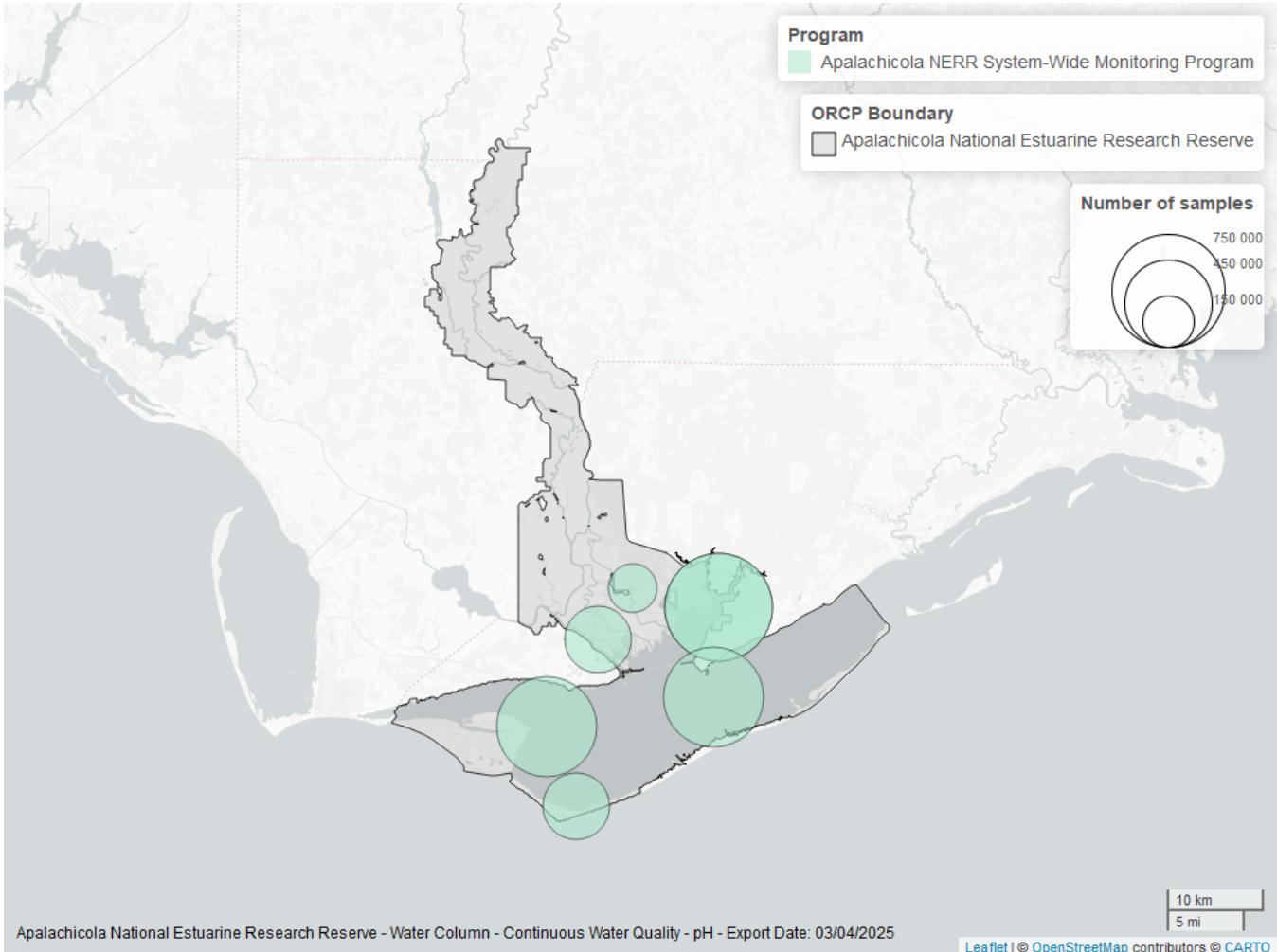


Figure 33: Map showing location of ph continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Salinity - Continuous

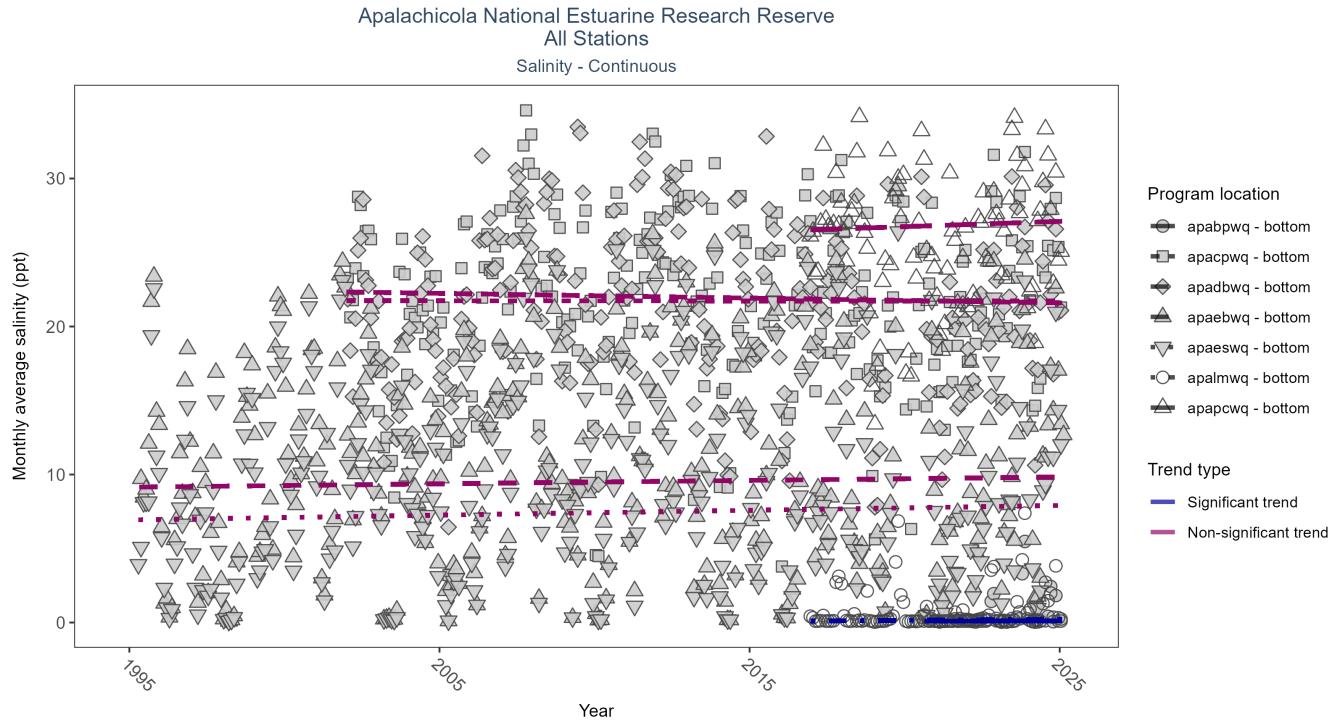


Figure 34: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 36: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Salinity - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
apadbwq	No significant trend	619355	24	2002 - 2025	22.1	-0.03	22.34	-0.03	0.44
apalmwq	Significantly increasing trend	270761	10	2016 - 2025	0.1	0.23	0.09	0.01	0.01
apaebwq	No significant trend	747149	31	1995 - 2025	9.9	0.04	9.14	0.02	0.31
apaeswq	No significant trend	759370	31	1995 - 2025	7.6	0.05	6.93	0.03	0.17
apapcwq	No significant trend	270115	10	2016 - 2025	26.8	0.03	26.46	0.07	0.70
apacpwq	No significant trend	631122	24	2002 - 2025	22.5	0.00	21.74	0.00	0.99
apabpwq	Significantly increasing trend	151688	6	2020 - 2025	0.1	0.28	0.09	0.01	0.02

At two program locations, monthly average salinity increased by 0.01 ppt per year. No detectable change in monthly average salinity was observed at five locations.

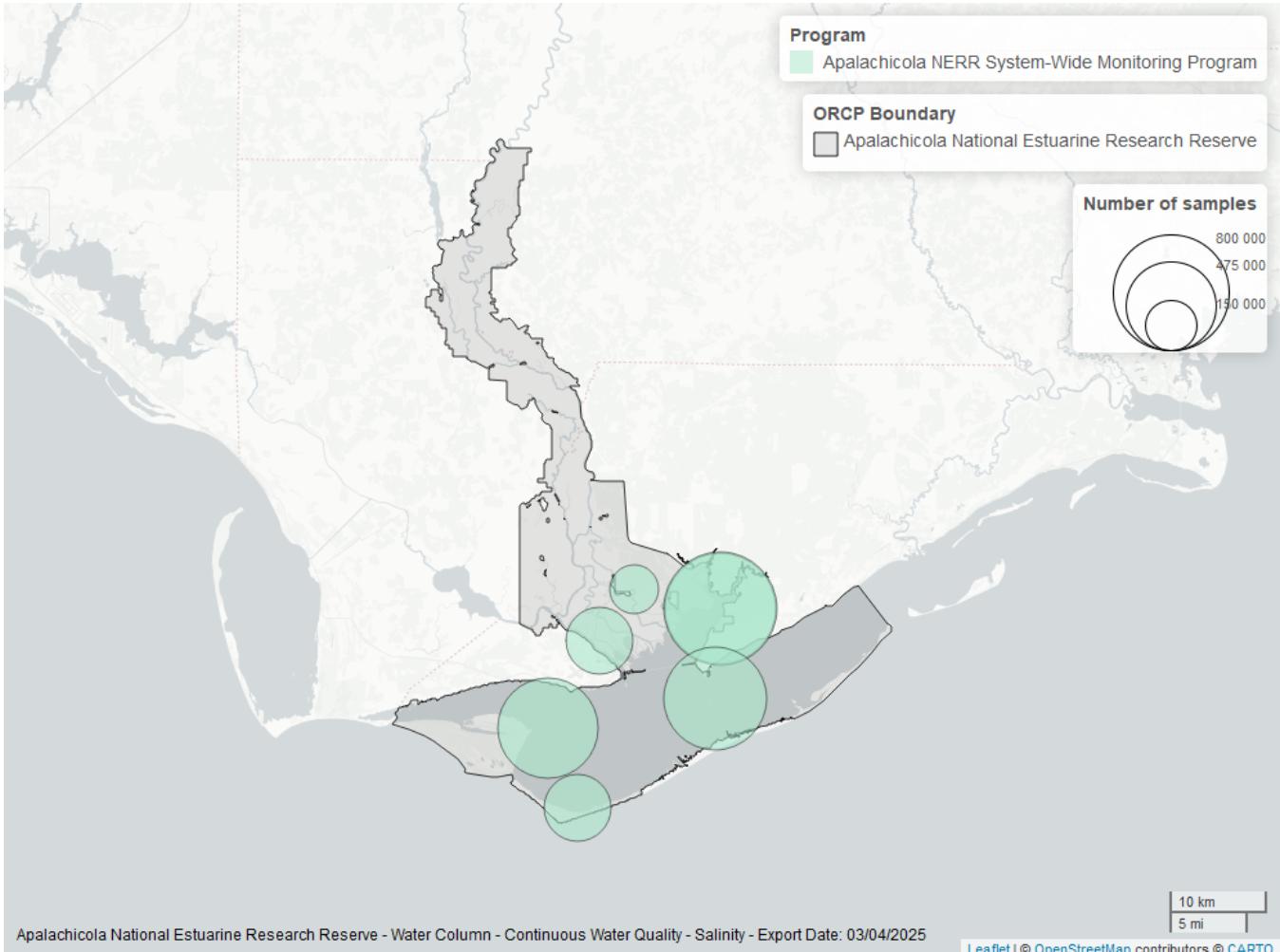


Figure 35: Map showing location of salinity continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Turbidity - Continuous

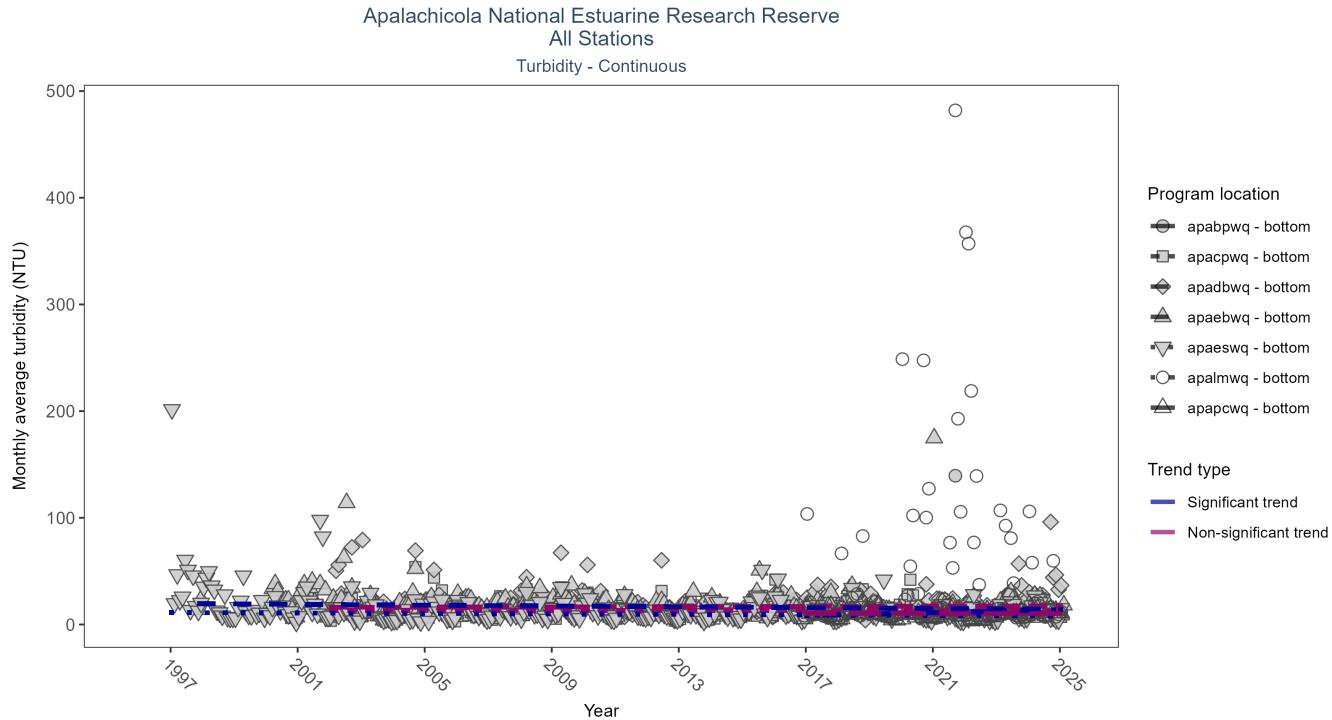


Figure 36: Scatter plot of monthly average turbidity over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 37: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Turbidity - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
apaebwq	Significantly decreasing trend	635704	27	1997 - 2025	13	-0.19	19.68	-0.19	0.00
apeeswq	Significantly decreasing trend	703229	30	1996 - 2025	9	-0.15	11.32	-0.11	0.00
apacpwq	No significant trend	628175	24	2002 - 2025	8	-0.01	13.20	-0.01	0.87
apabpwq	No significant trend	151683	6	2020 - 2025	11	0.09	10.12	0.19	0.69
apadbwq	No significant trend	605643	24	2002 - 2025	10	0.04	16.11	0.05	0.32
apalmwq	Significantly increasing trend	245206	10	2016 - 2025	12	0.20	7.63	0.70	0.02
apapcqw	No significant trend	258576	10	2016 - 2025	7	-0.03	10.47	-0.03	0.78

At one program location, monthly average turbidity increased by 0.70 NTU per year. At two program locations, monthly average turbidity decreased by 0.11 NTU per year at one site and by 0.19 NTU per year at the other. No detectable change in monthly average turbidity was observed at four locations.

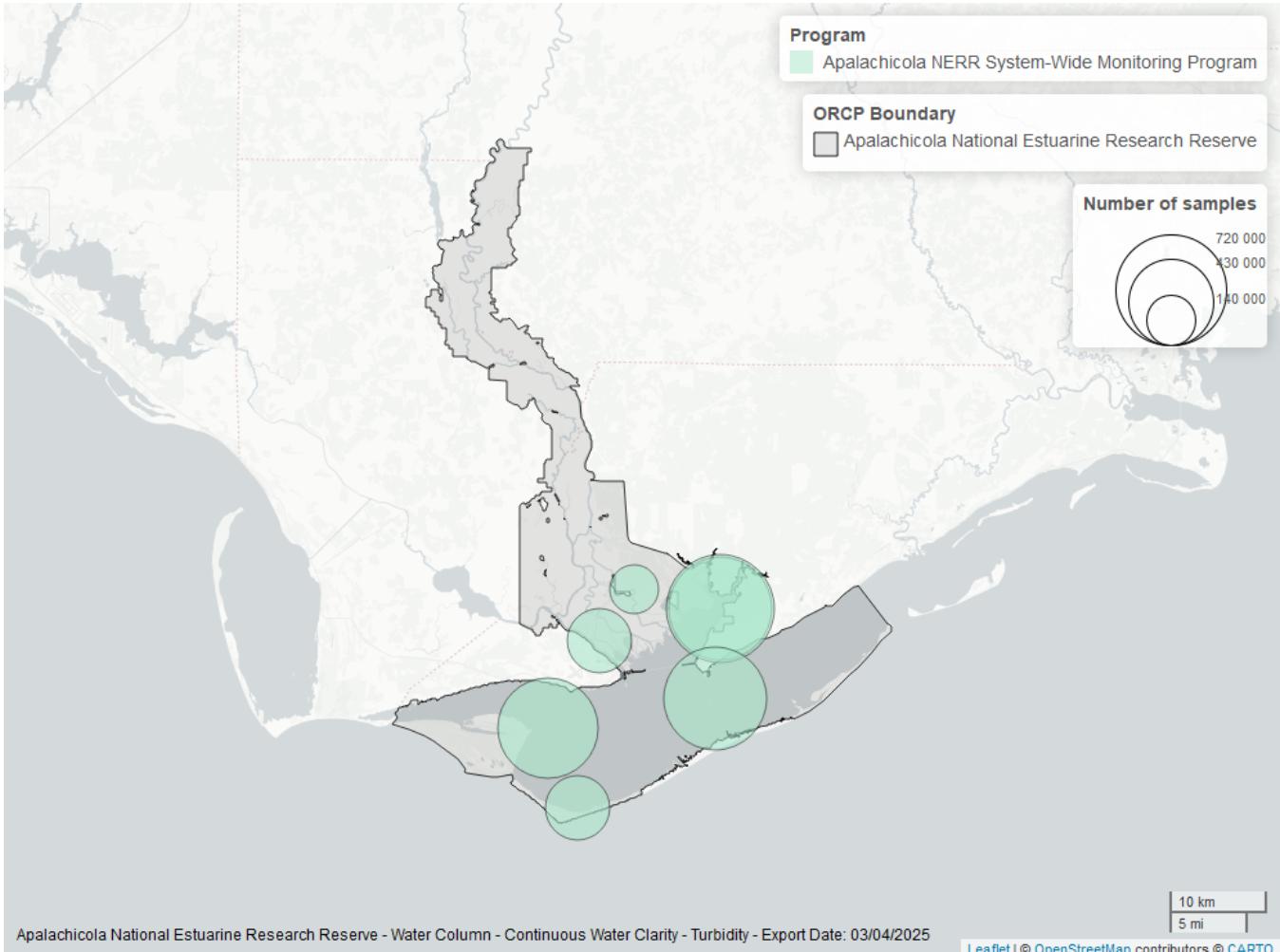


Figure 37: Map showing location of turbidity continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Water Temperature - Continuous

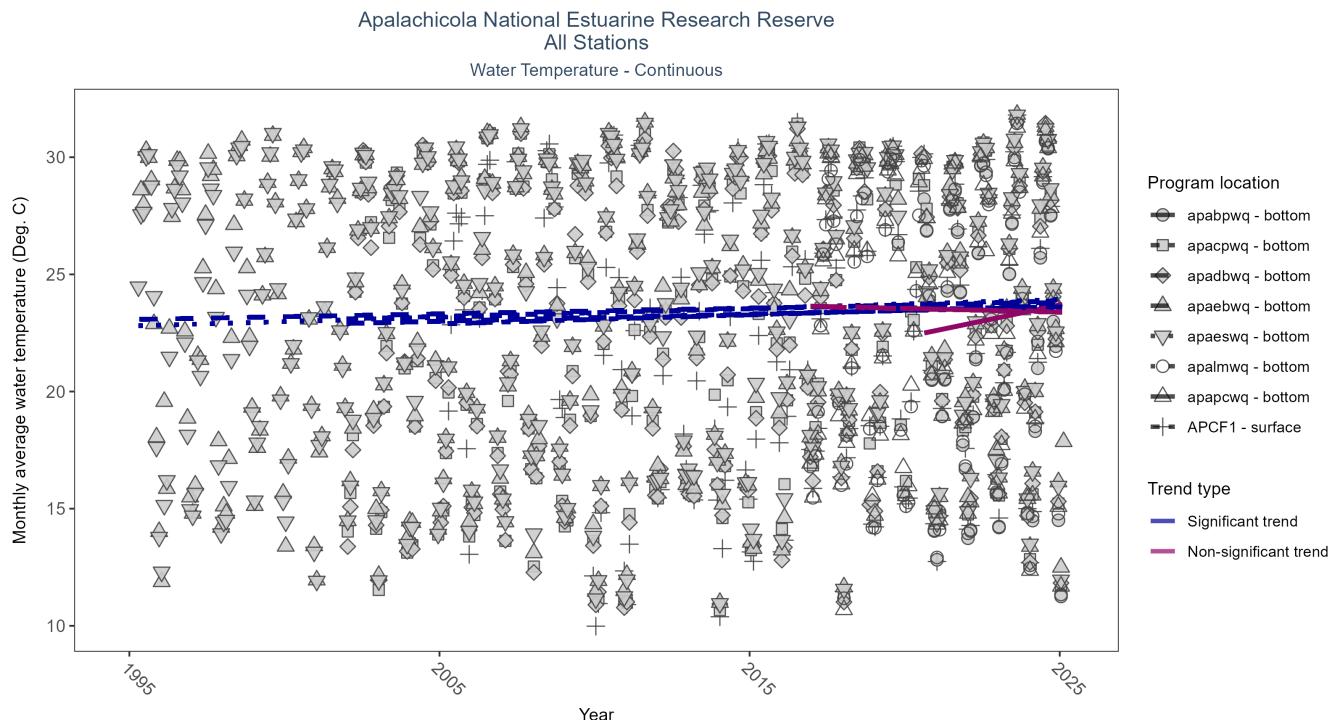


Figure 38: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 38: 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
APCF1	Significantly increasing trend	1331232	20	2005 - 2024	23.5	0.12	22.89	0.04	0.03
apaebwq	Significantly increasing trend	762203	31	1995 - 2025	24.2	0.15	23.07	0.02	0.00
apalmwq	No significant trend	273020	10	2016 - 2025	22.6	-0.03	23.64	-0.02	0.70
apaeswq	Significantly increasing trend	768616	31	1995 - 2025	24.2	0.19	22.80	0.04	0.00
apadbwq	Significantly increasing trend	644531	24	2002 - 2025	23.3	0.14	22.90	0.03	0.00
apacpwq	Significantly increasing trend	670115	24	2002 - 2025	23.5	0.15	23.10	0.03	0.00
apabpwq	No significant trend	151688	6	2020 - 2025	22.5	0.17	22.32	0.27	0.22
apapcwq	No significant trend	273607	10	2016 - 2025	23.1	-0.06	23.68	-0.03	0.47

At five program locations, monthly average water temperature increased between 0.02 and 0.04°C per year. No detectable change in monthly average water temperature was observed at three locations.

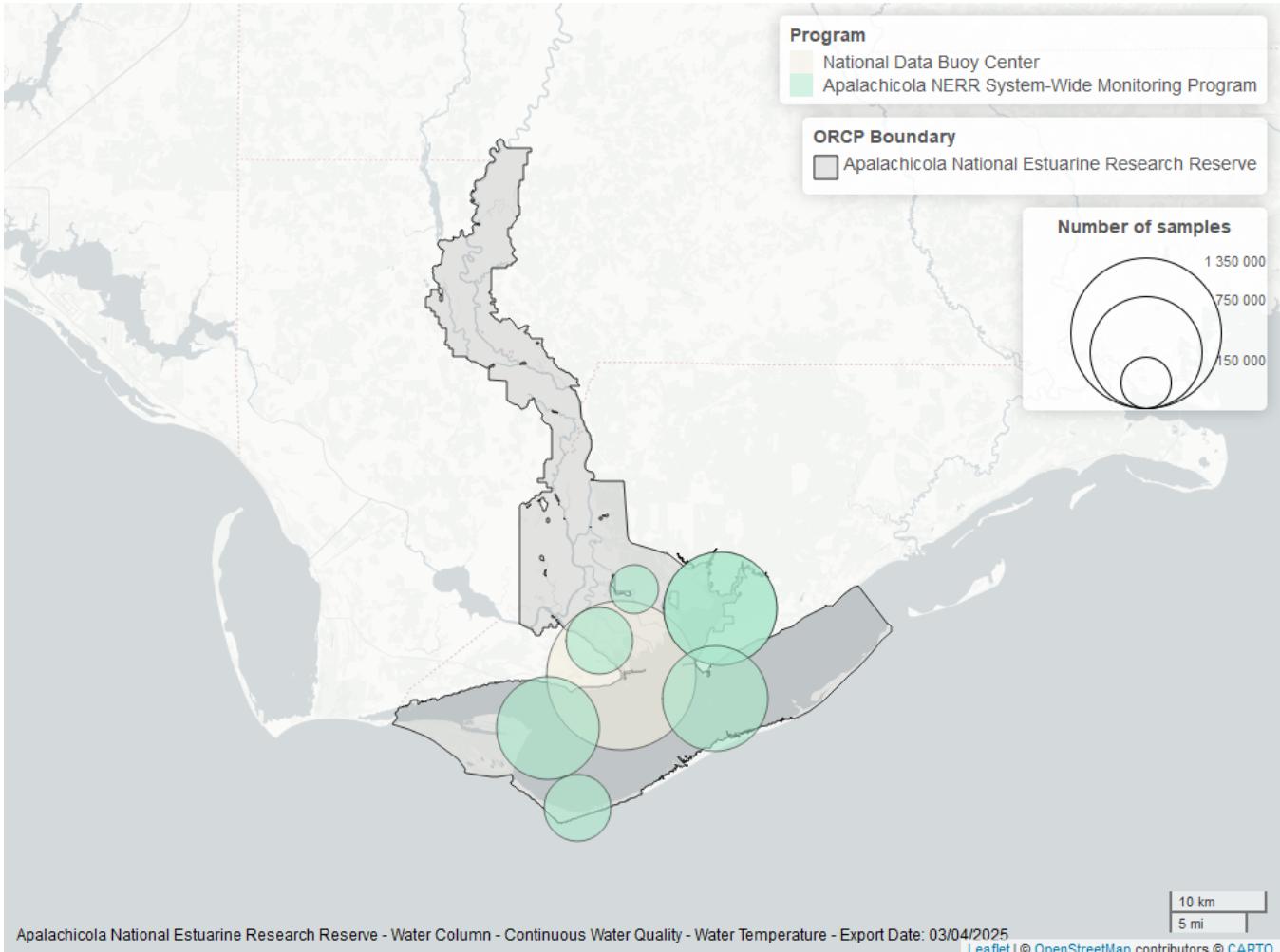


Figure 39: Map showing location of water temperature continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
SAV Percent Cover - Sample Locations

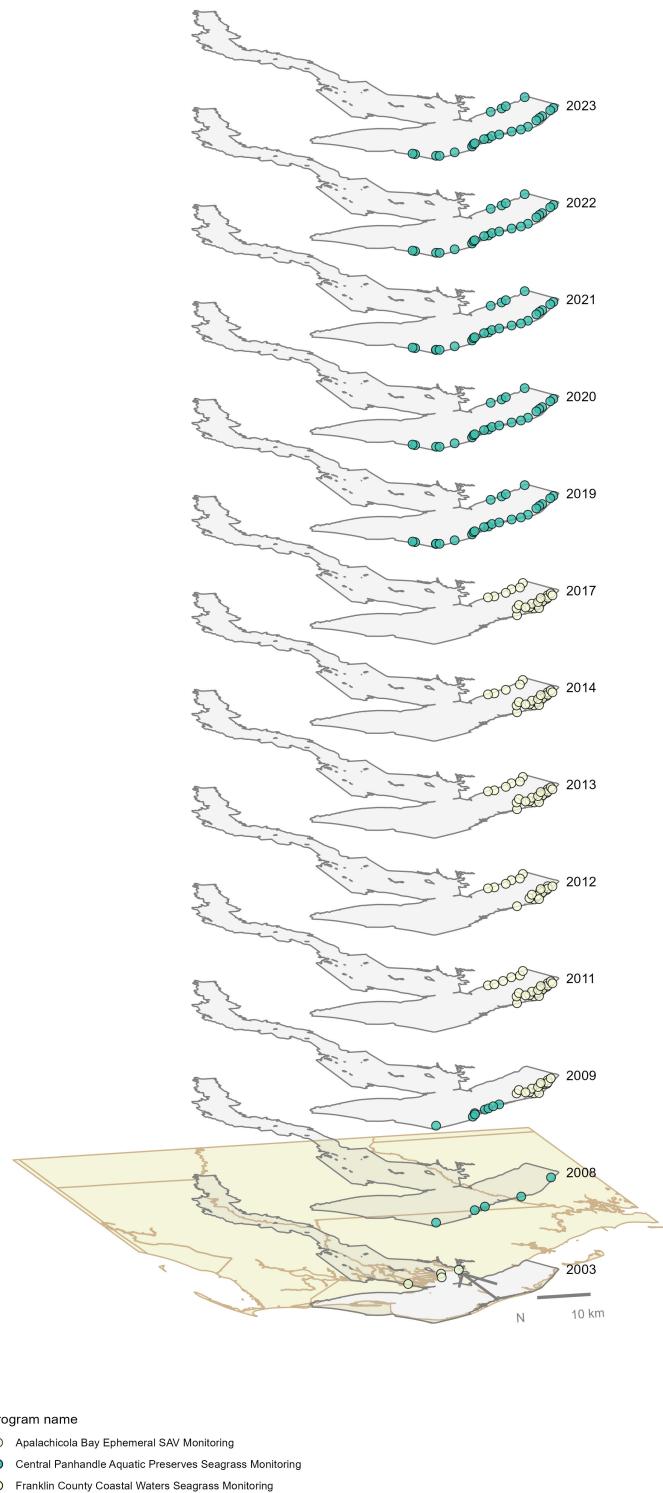


Figure 40: Maps showing the temporal scope of SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve* by Program name.

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

Sampling locations by Program:

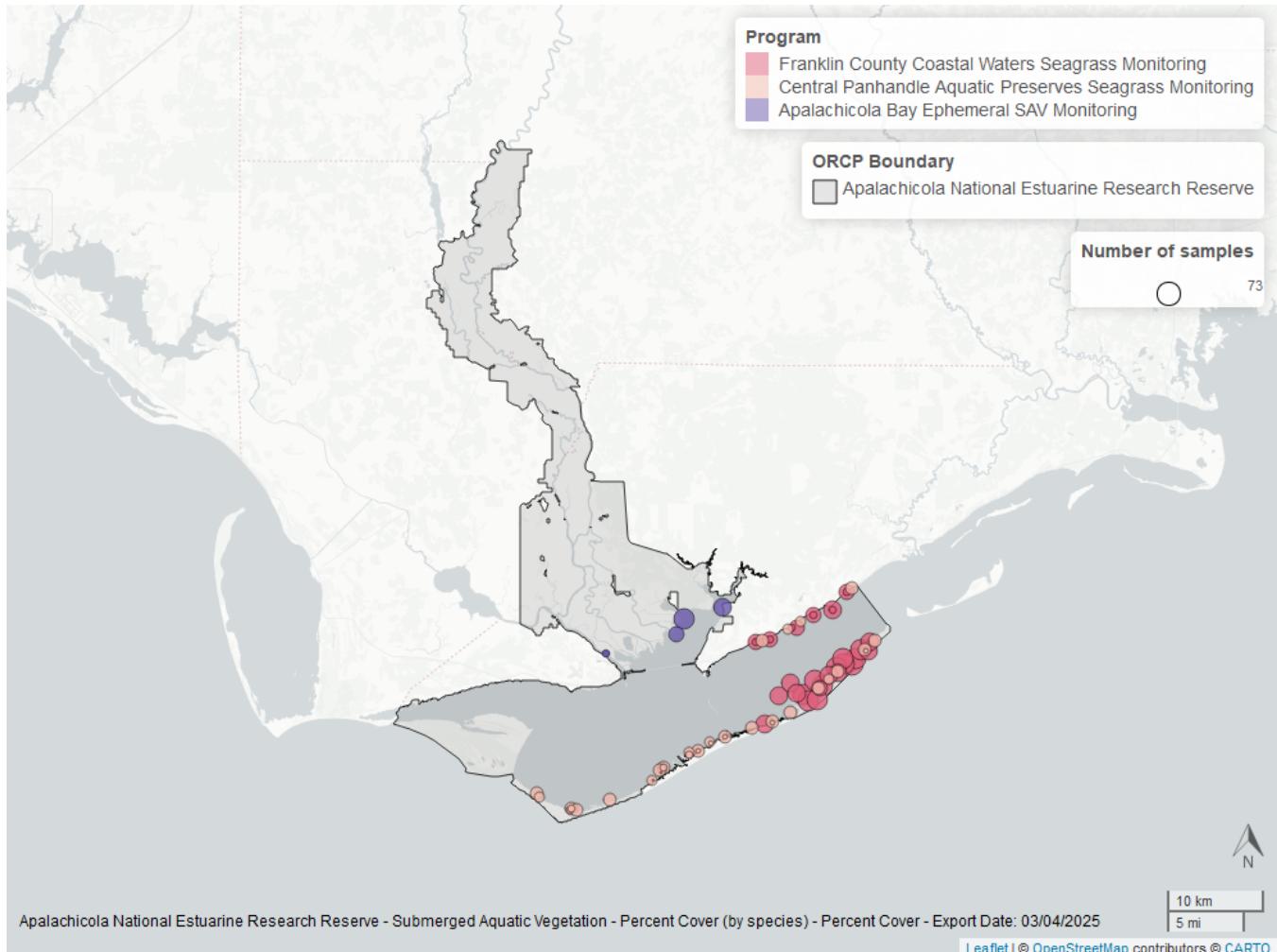


Figure 41: Map showing SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The point size reflects the number of samples at a given sampling site.

Table 39: Program Information for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

ProgramID	N-Data	YearMin	YearMax	method	Sample Locations	
557	590	2008	2023	Braun Blanquet	35	
997	79	2003	2003	Braun Blanquet	4	
558	1402	2009	2017	Percent Cover	32	
997	81	2003	2003	Percent Cover	4	

Program names:

557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring¹¹

558 - Franklin County Coastal Waters Seagrass Monitoring¹³

997 - Apalachicola Bay Ephemeral SAV Monitoring¹⁷

997 - Apalachicola Bay Ephemeral SAV Monitoring¹⁷

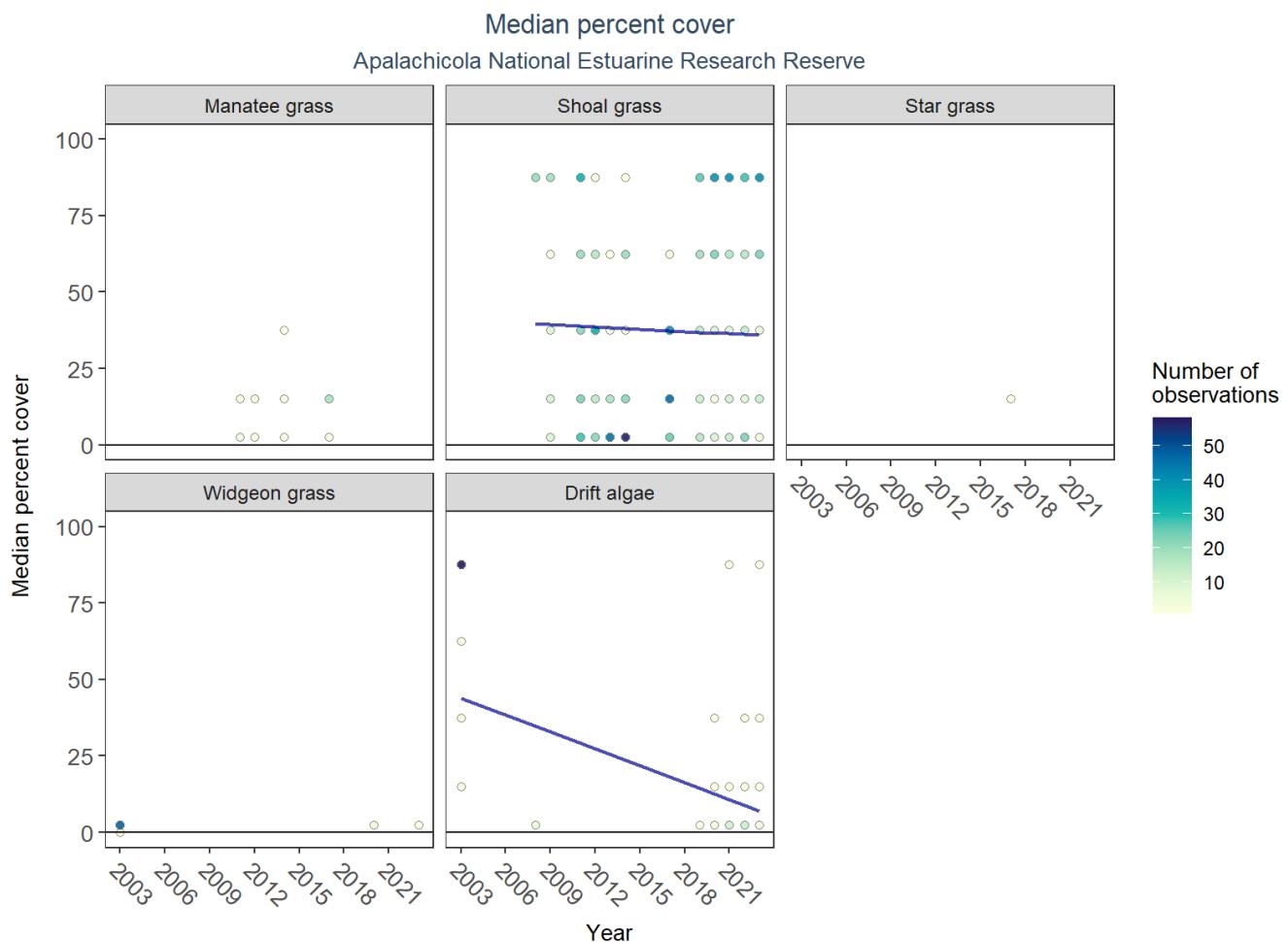


Figure 42: Scatter plots of median percent cover of submerged aquatic vegetation over time by group. Plots for time series that included five or more years of observations show the estimated trend as a blue line.

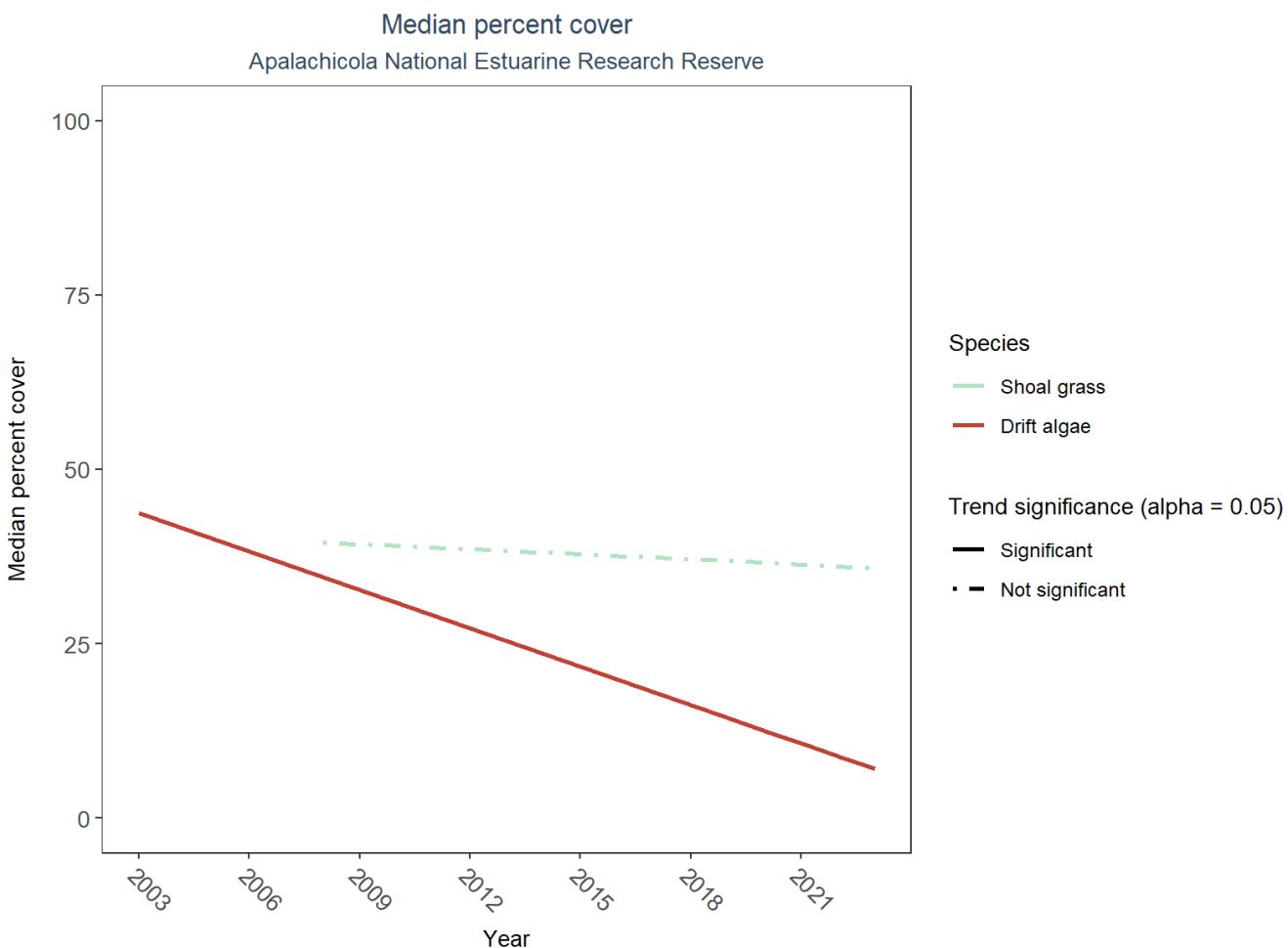


Figure 43: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve - simplified

Table 40: Percent Cover Trend Analysis for Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

CommonName	Trend Significance (0.05)	Period of Record	LME-Intercept	LME-Slope	p
Drift algae	Significantly decreasing trend	2003 - 2023	60.30762	-1.8362618	0.0314661
Shoal grass	No significant trend	2008 - 2023	42.98087	-0.2444919	0.7268447
Star grass	Insufficient data to calculate trend	-	-	-	-
No grass in quadrat	Model did not fit the available data	2003 - 2023	-	-	-
Widgeon grass	Insufficient data to calculate trend	-	-	-	-
Manatee grass	Insufficient data to calculate trend	-	-	-	-

An annual decrease in percent cover was observed for drift algae (-1.8%). No detectable change in percent cover was observed for shoal grass. Trends in percent cover could not be evaluated for manatee grass, star grass, and widgeon grass due to insufficient data.

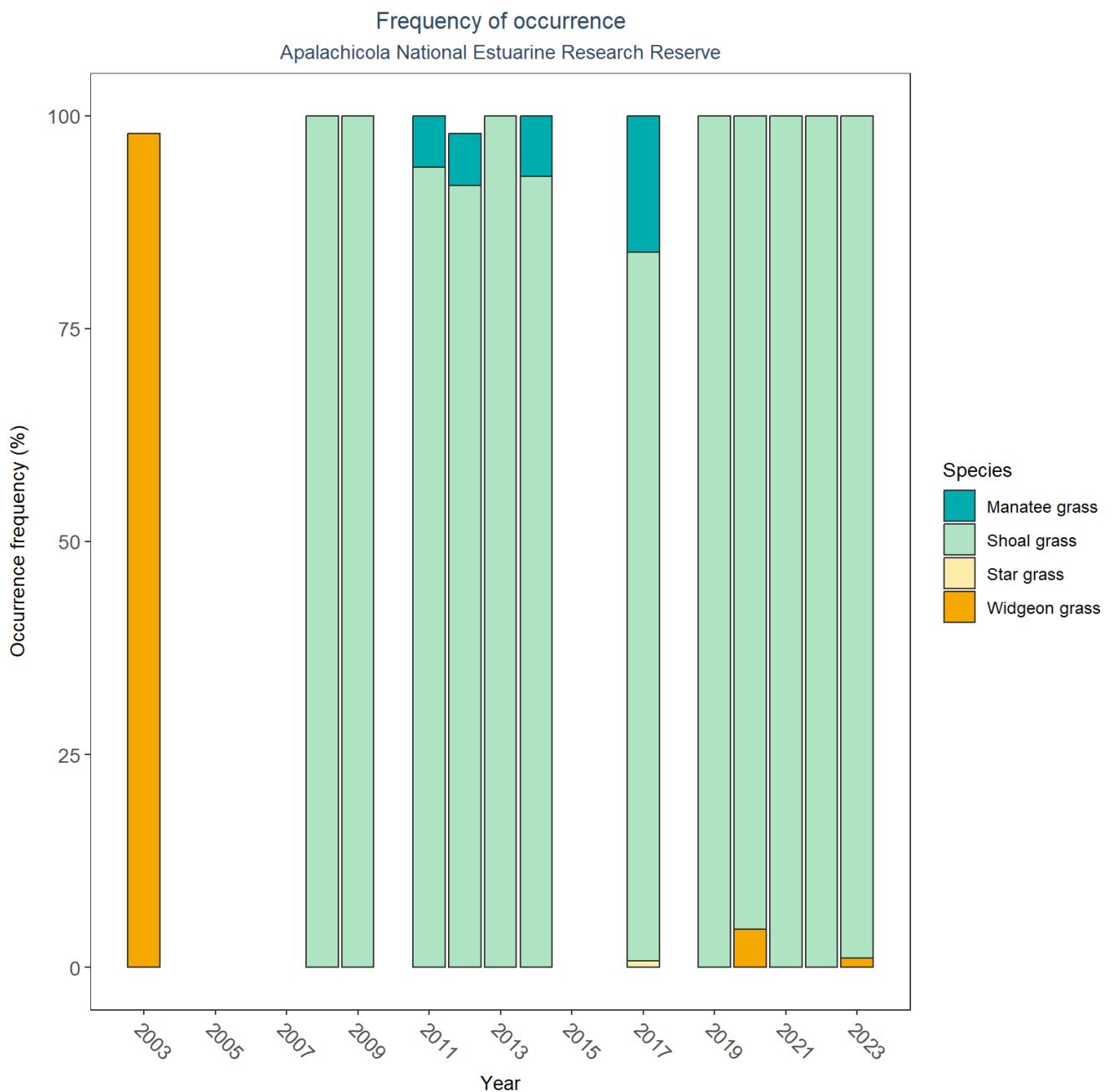


Figure 44: Frequency of occurrence for various seagrass species in Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Nekton

The data file used is: **All_NEKTON_Parameters-2025-Mar-06.txt**

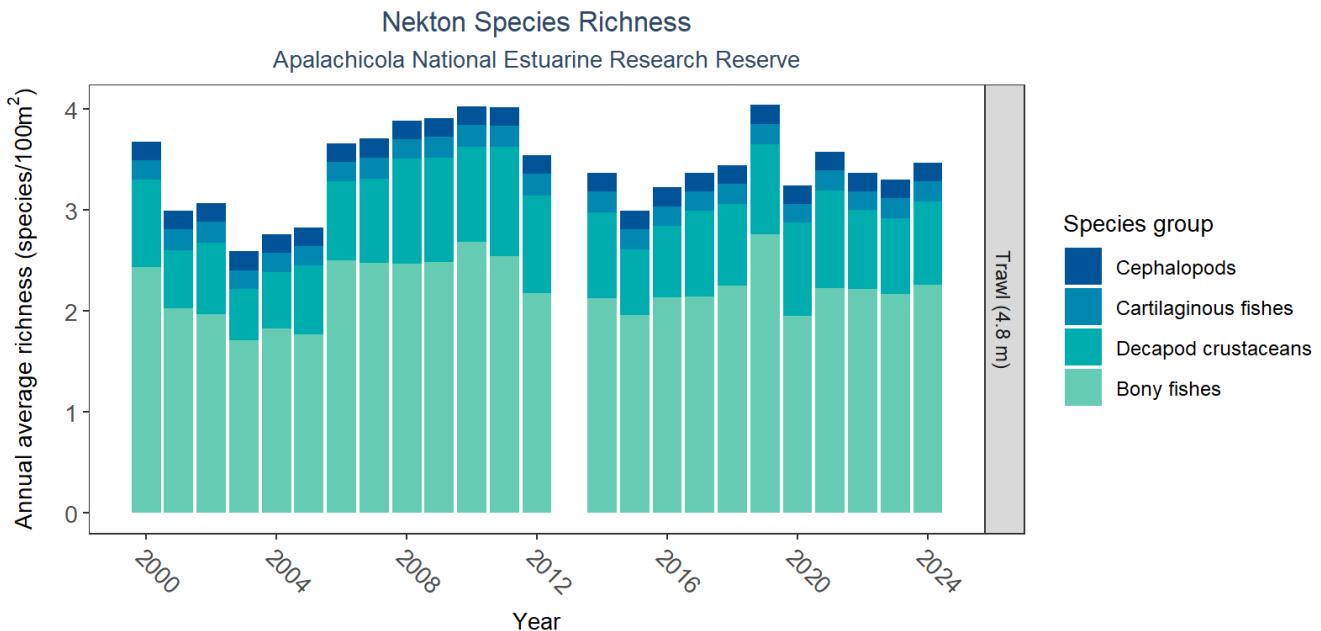


Figure 45: Bar graph(s) of annual average nekton richness over time for species groups occurring in at least 1% of samples. The bar colors represent species groups including bony fishes, cartilaginous fishes, decapod crustaceans (e.g., shrimps, crabs, and lobsters), and cephalopods (e.g., squid). Gear types and sizes are indicated in the panel label.

Table 41: Nekton Species Richness

Gear Type	Sample Count	Number of Years	Period of Record	Median N of Taxa	Mean N of Taxa
Trawl (4.8)	5685	24	2000 - 2024	0.74	1.13

The median annual number of taxa was 0.74 based on 5,685 observations collected by 4.8-meter trawl between 2000 and 2024.

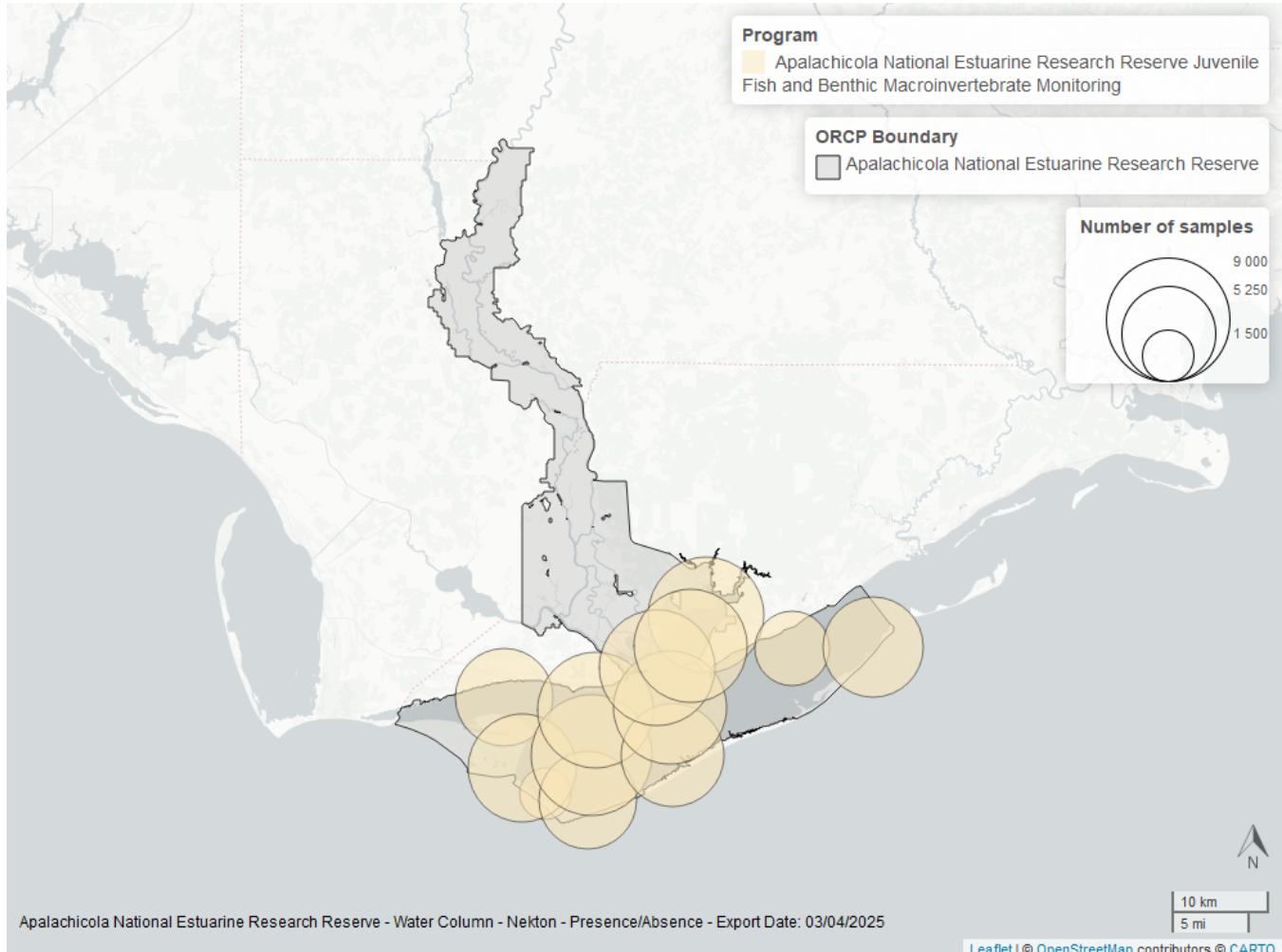


Figure 46: Map showing location of nekton sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Coastal Wetlands

The data file used is: All_CW_Parameters-2025-Mar-06.txt

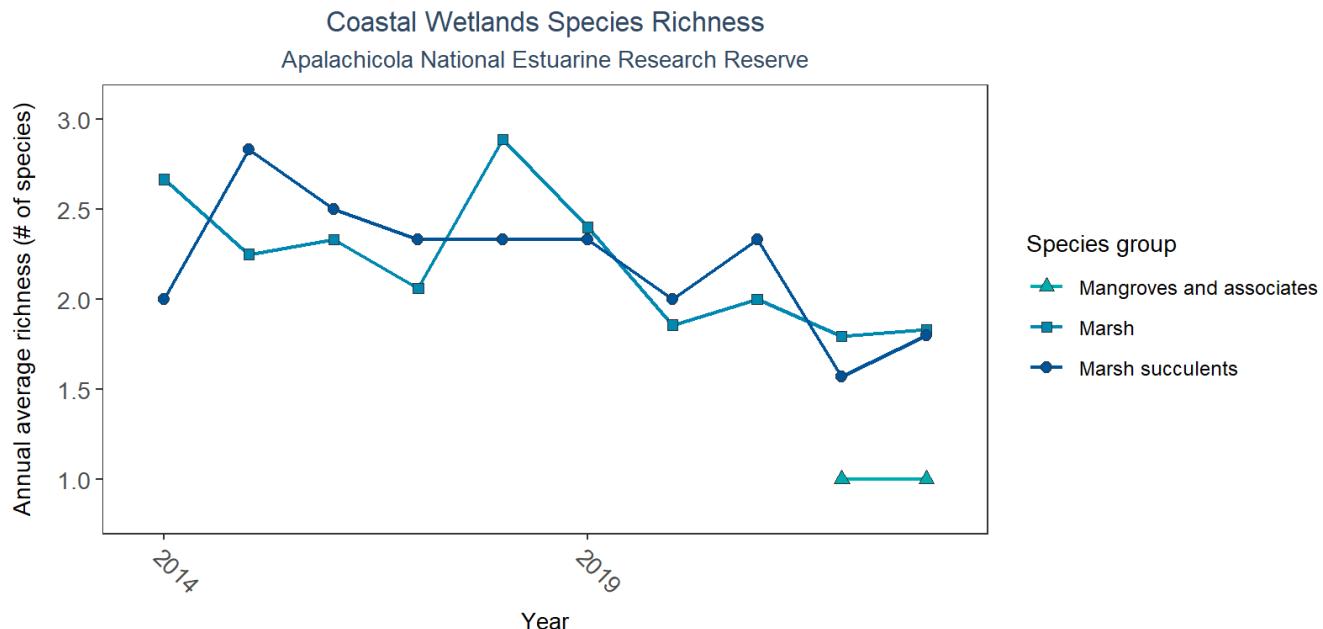


Figure 47: Line graph of annual average coastal wetlands species richness over time for mangroves and associates (triangles), marsh (squares), and marsh succulents (circles). If the time series by species group included more than one year of observations, a line connects data points for visualization.

Table 42: 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	4	2	2022 - 2023	1.0	1.00
Marsh	144	10	2014 - 2023	1.5	2.08
Marsh succulents	56	10	2014 - 2023	3.0	2.20

Between 2022 and 2023, the median annual number of species for *mangroves and associates* was 1 based on 4 observations. Between 2014 and 2023, the median annual number of species for *marsh* was 1.5 based on 144 observations. Between 2014 and 2023, the median annual number of species for *marsh succulents* was 3 based on 56 observations.

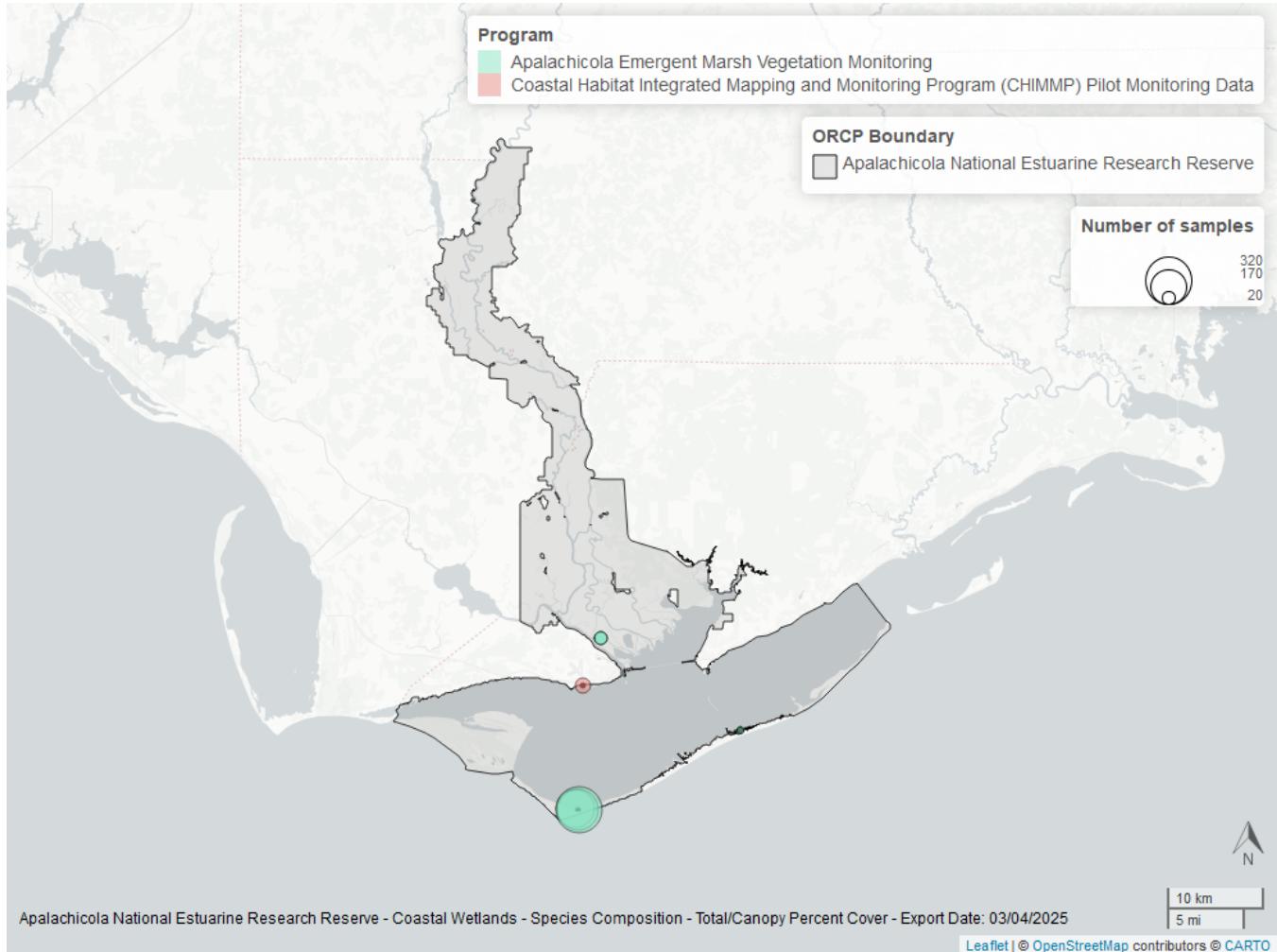


Figure 48: Map showing location of coastal wetlands sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Oyster

The data file used is: All_OYSTER_Parameters-2025-Apr-24.txt

Density

Natural

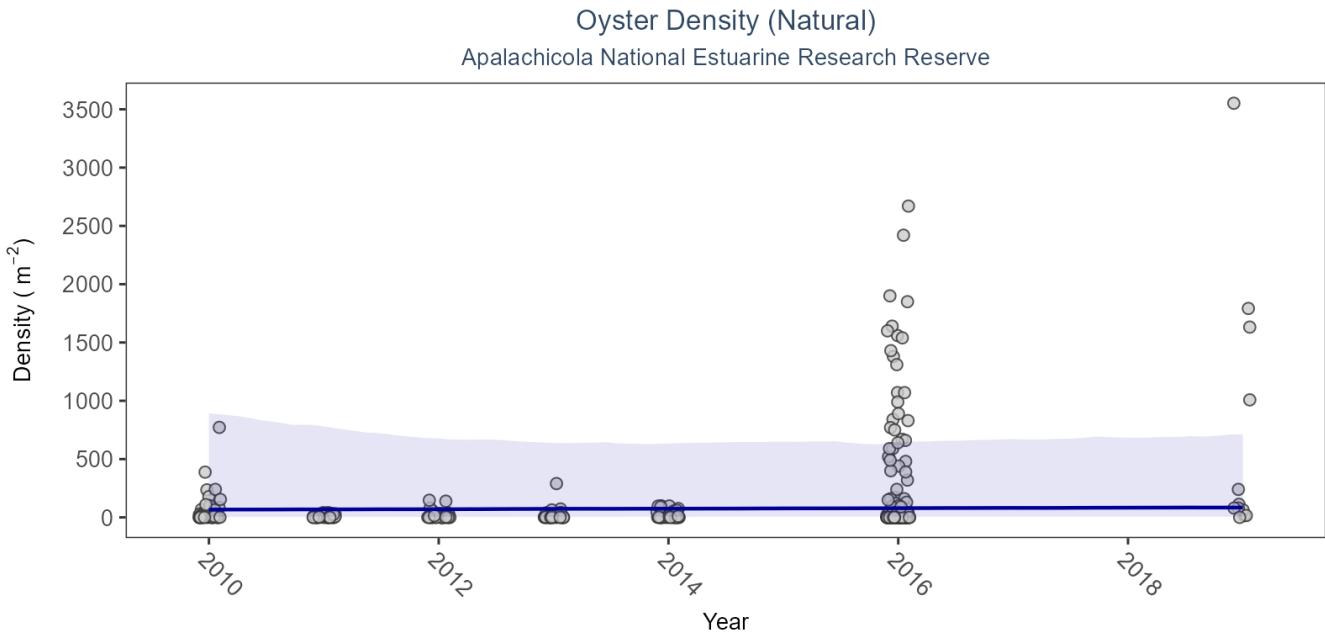


Figure 49: Scatter plot of oyster density over time. If the time series included five or more years with observations, an estimated trend (blue line) and a 95% credible interval (purple band) may also be plotted. Data points are jittered horizontally to reduce overlap.

Table 43: Model results for Oyster Density - Natural

Shell Type	Habitat Type	Trend Status	Estimate	Standard Error	Credible Interval
Live Oysters	Natural	No significant change	2.24	76.45	0.15 to -6.18

For natural reefs, density increased by an average of 2.24 oysters per square meter per year. For restored reefs, density decreased by an average of 11.57 oysters per square meter per year.

Restored

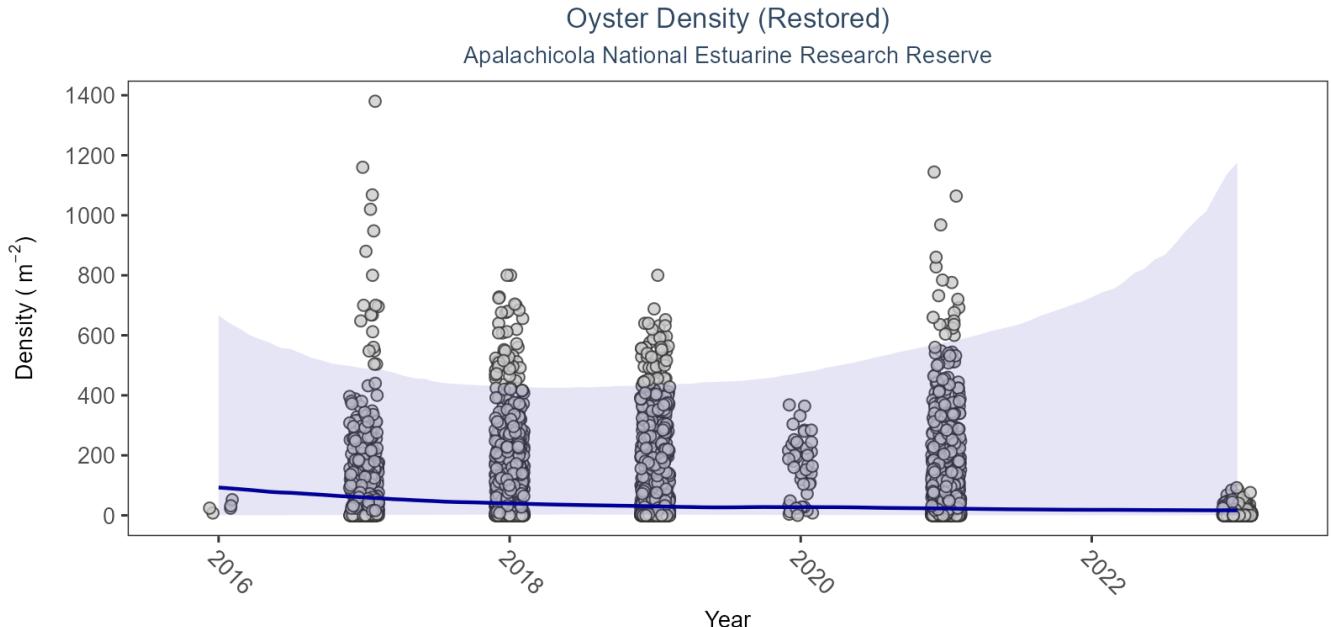


Figure 50: Scatter plot of oyster density over time. If the time series included five or more years with observations, an estimated trend (blue line) and a 95% credible interval (purple band) may also be plotted. Data points are jittered horizontally to reduce overlap.

Table 44: Model results for Oyster Density - Restored

<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	Restored	No significant change	-11.57	54.61	-0.03 to 72.25

For natural reefs, density increased by an average of 2.24 oysters per square meter per year. For restored reefs, density decreased by an average of 11.57 oysters per square meter per year.

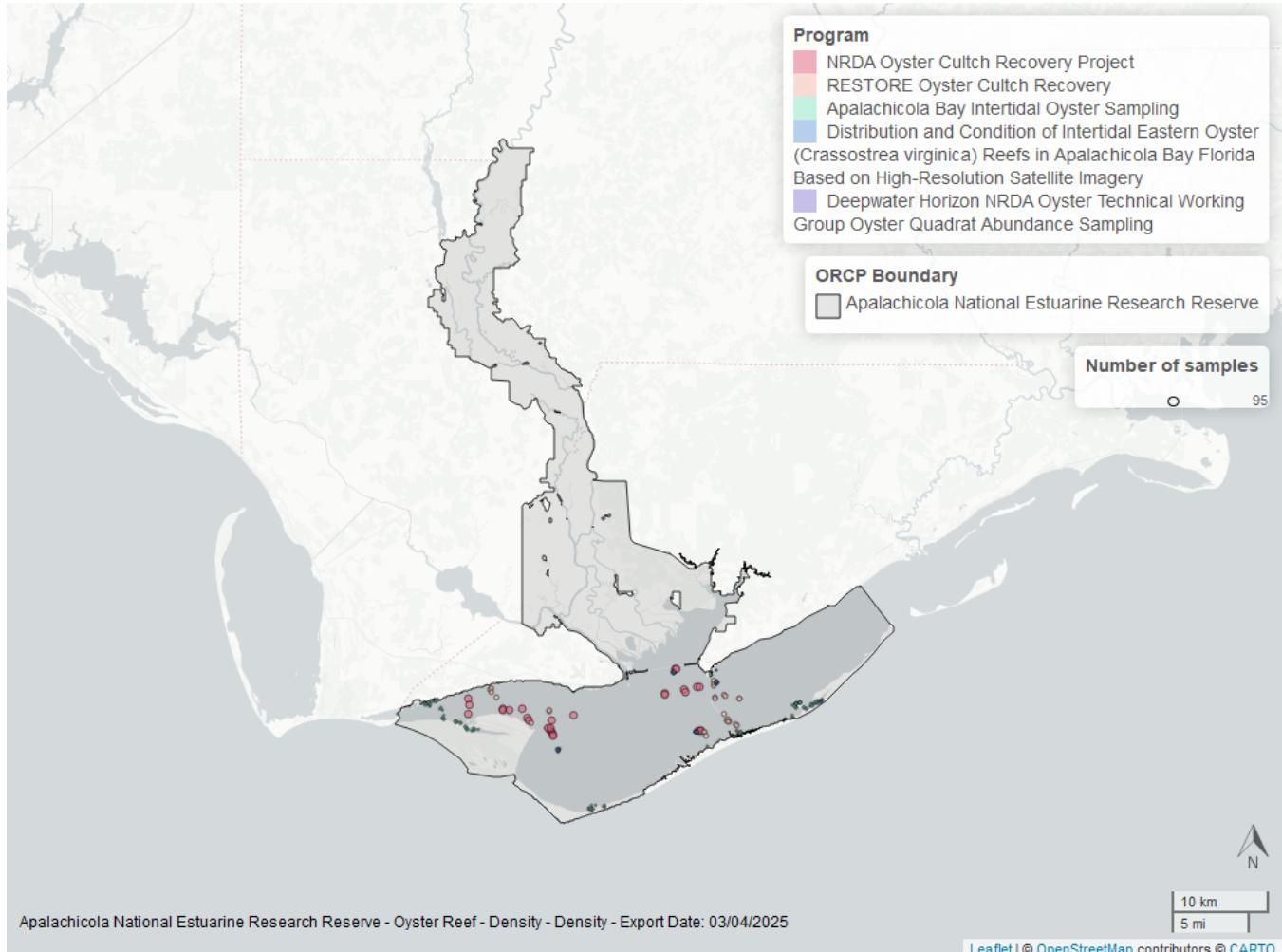


Figure 51: Map showing location of oyster density sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Percent Live

Natural

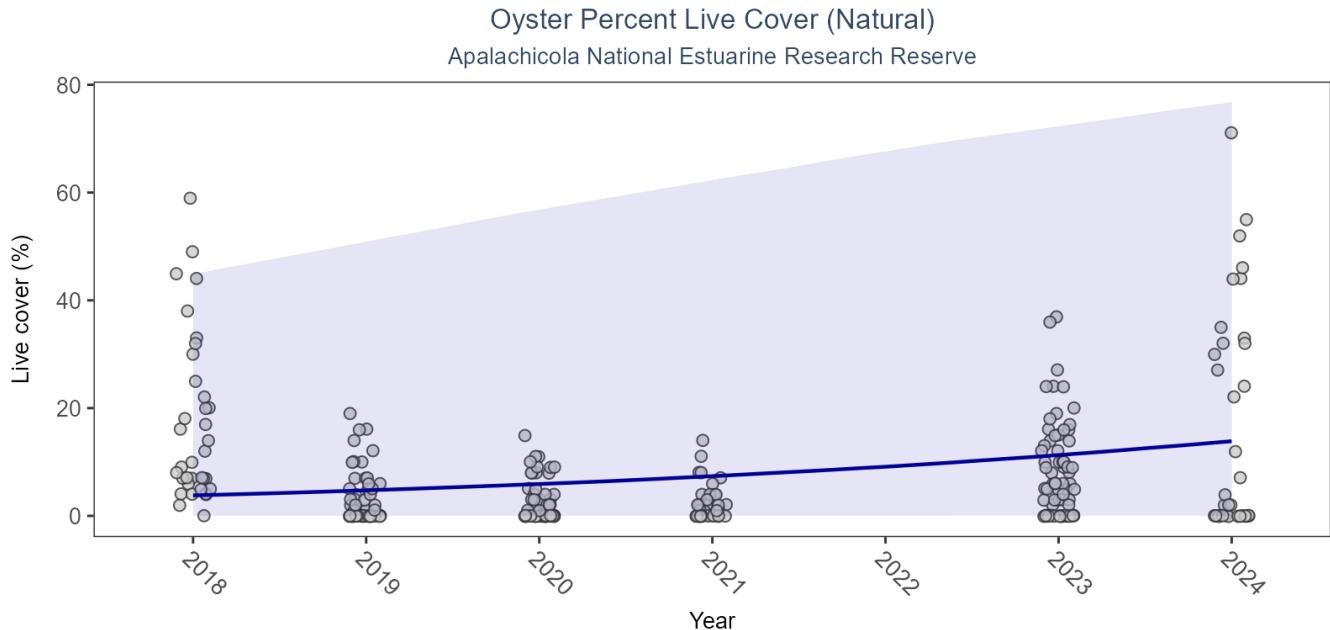


Figure 52: Scatter plot of percent live oysters over time. If the time series included five or more years with observations, an estimated trend (blue line) and a 95% credible interval (purple band) may also be plotted. Data points are jittered horizontally to reduce overlap.

Table 45: 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 increasing trend	1.67	9.68	0 to 5.31

For natural reefs, percent live cover increased by an average of 1.67% per year. For restored reefs, percent live cover decreased by an average of 1.48% per year.

Restored

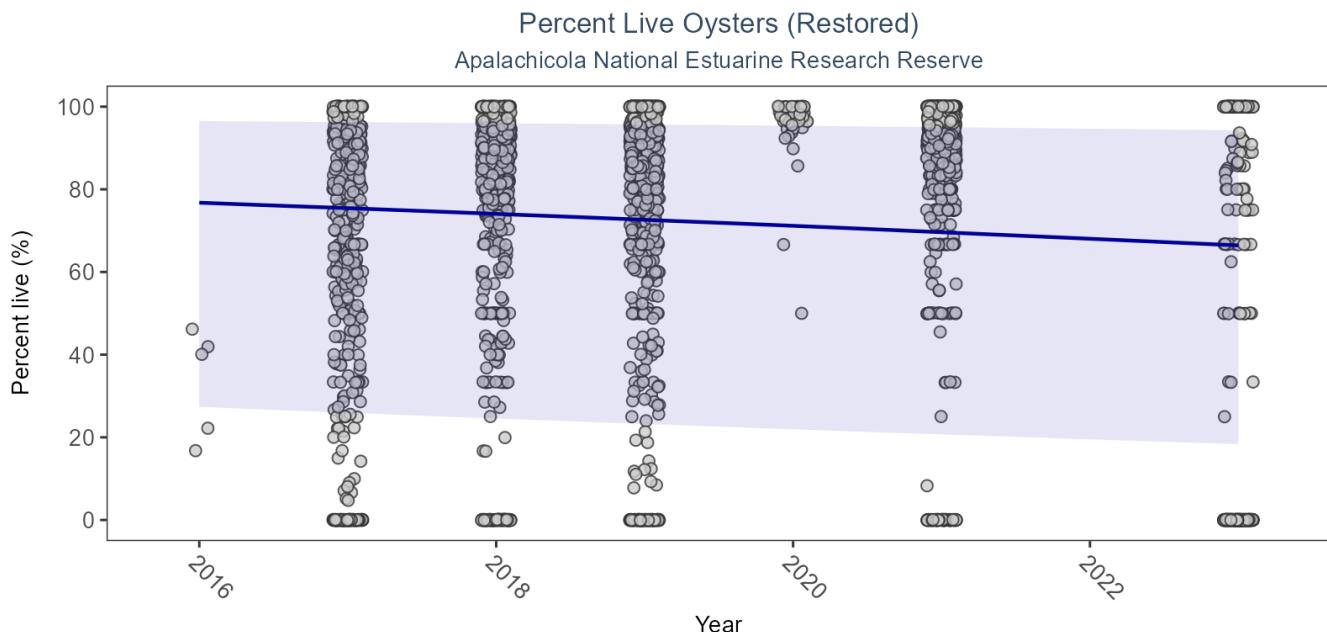


Figure 53: Scatter plot of percent live oysters over time. If the time series included five or more years with observations, an estimated trend (blue line) and a 95% credible interval (purple band) may also be plotted. Data points are jittered horizontally to reduce overlap.

Table 46: Model results for Oyster Percent Live - Restored

<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	Restored	Significantly decreasing trend	-1.48	28.56	-1.26 to -0.3

For natural reefs, percent live cover increased by an average of 1.67% per year. For restored reefs, percent live cover decreased by an average of 1.48% per year.

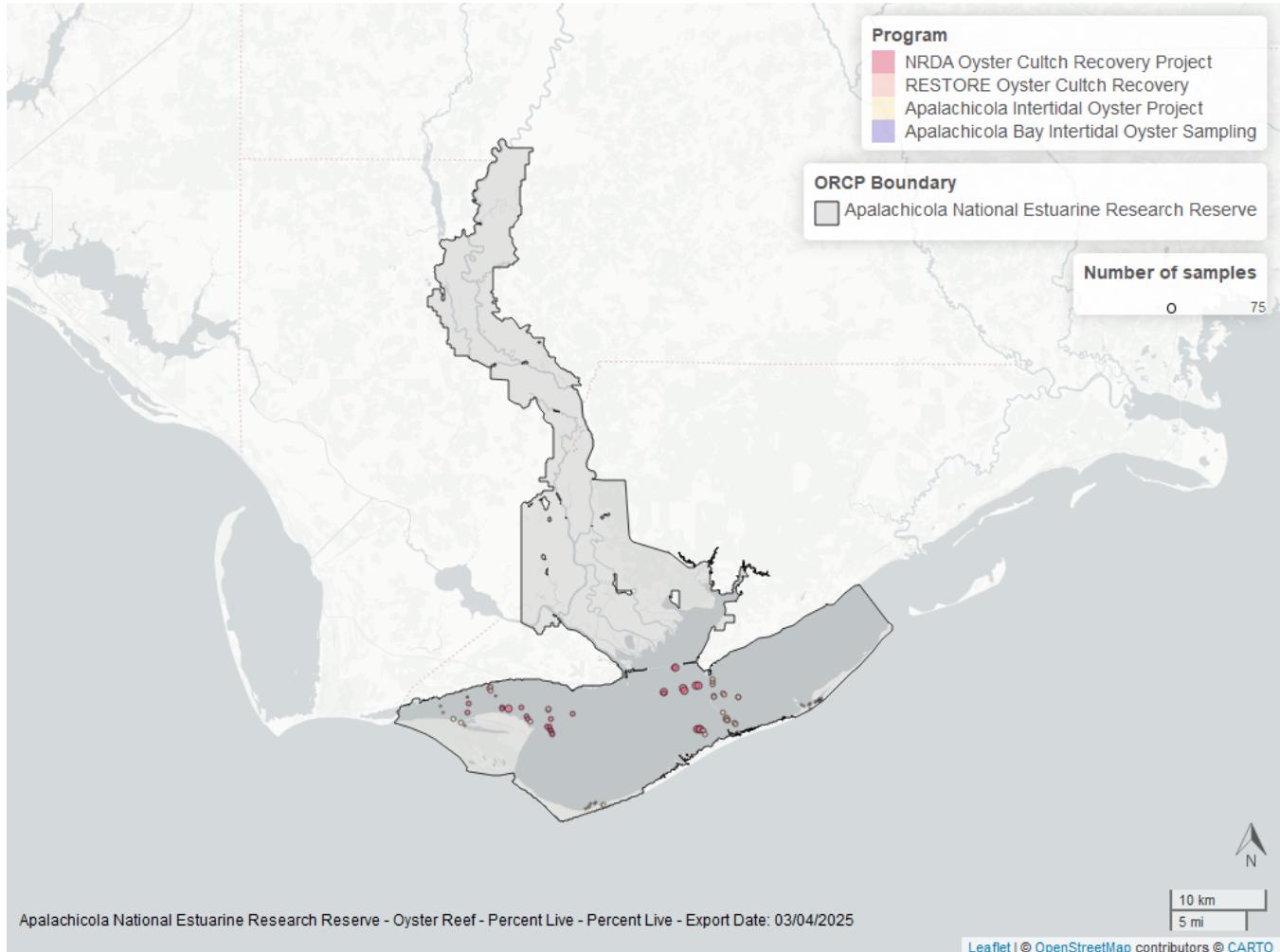


Figure 54: Map showing location of oyster percent live sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Shell Height

Natural

Oyster Size Class (Natural)
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

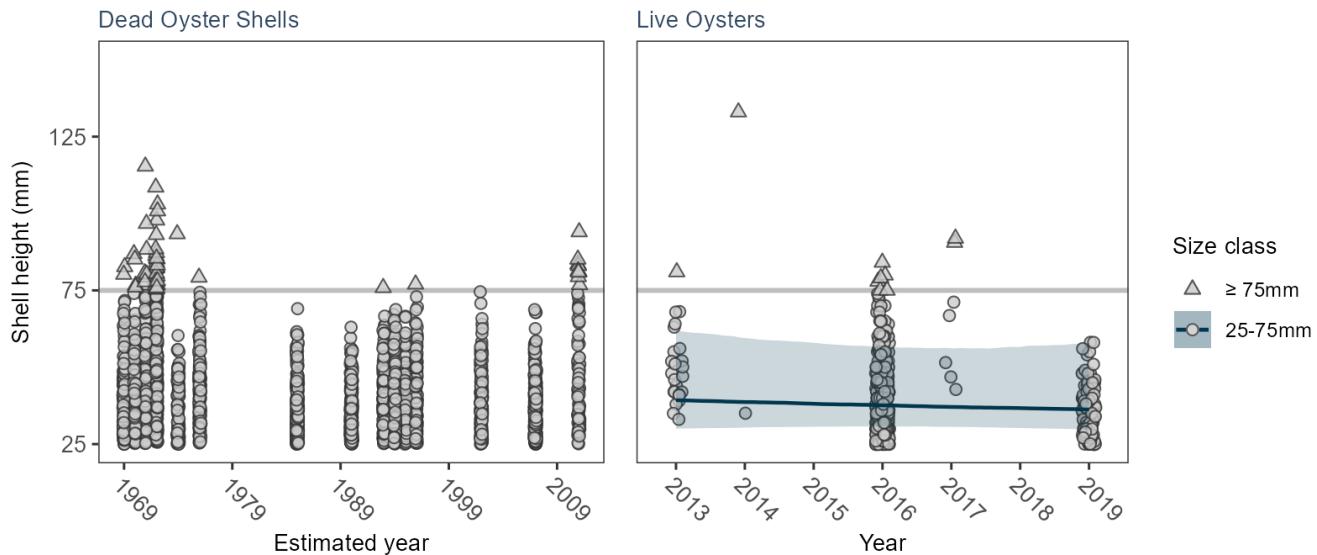


Table 47: Model results for Oyster Shell Height - Natural

<i>Shell Type</i>	<i>SizeClass</i>	<i>Habitat Type</i>	<i>Trend Status</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>Credible Interval</i>
Dead Oyster Shells	>75mm	Natural	-	-	-	-
Dead Oyster Shells	25-75mm	Natural	-	-	-	-
Dead Oyster Shells		Natural	-	-	-	-
Live Oysters	>75mm	Natural	-	-	-	-
Live Oysters	25-75mm	Natural	No significant change	-1.18	4.54	-10.28 to 7.86
Live Oysters		Natural	-	-	-	-

For natural reefs, annual average live oyster shell height in the 25-75mm size class decreased by 1.18mm per year, and there was insufficient data to calculate a trend for live oysters in the >=75mm size class. For restored reefs, a model could not be fitted for live oysters in either the 25-75mm or the >=75mm size class. Models are not run on dead oyster shell measurements.

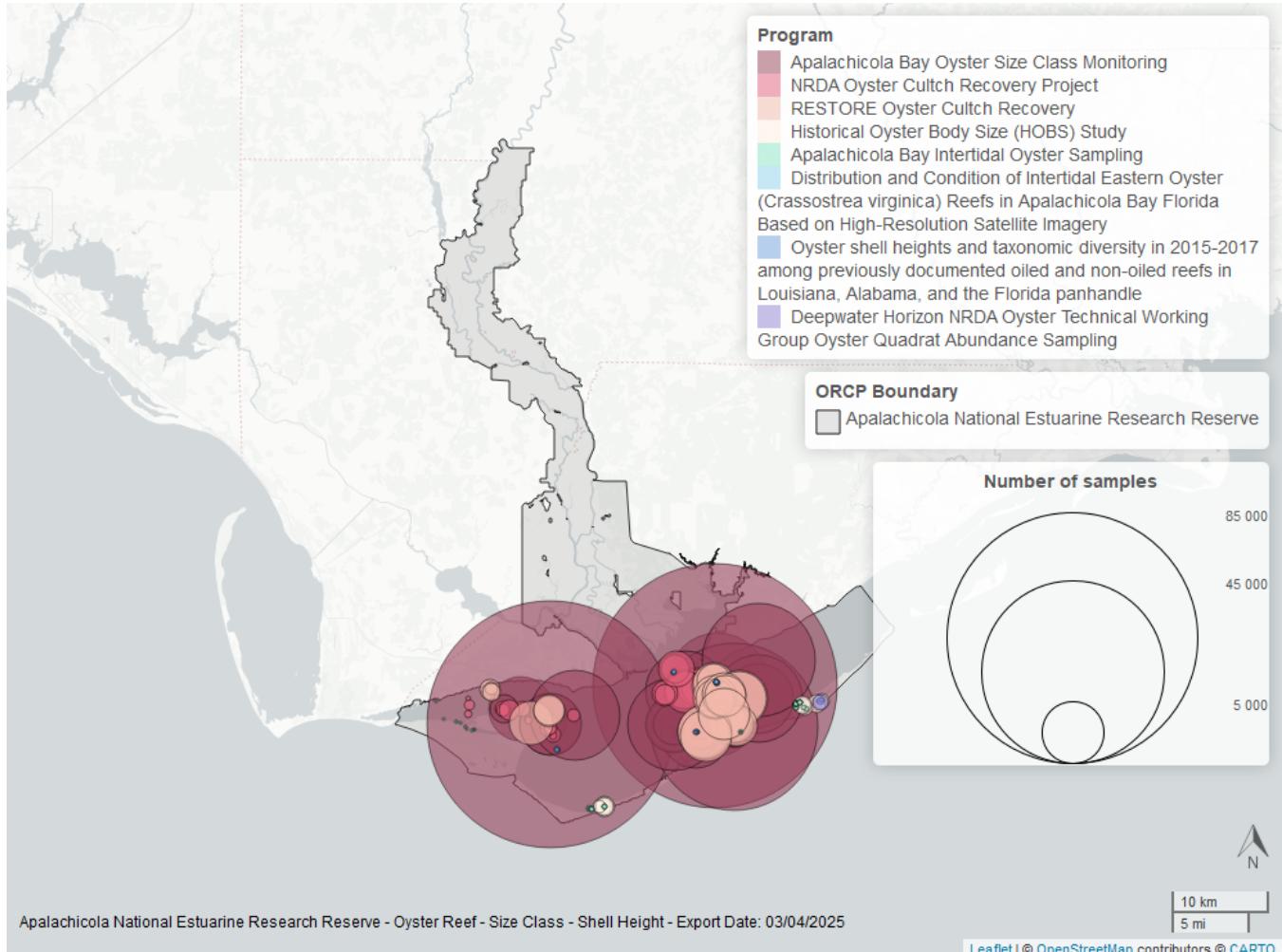


Figure 55: Map showing location of oyster shell height sampling locations within the boundaries of *Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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