St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve

SEACAR Habitat Analyses

Last compiled on 22 May, 2025

Contents

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

Qualifier Source	*Value Qualifier*	*Include*	*Description*
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 $p >= 0.05$). 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

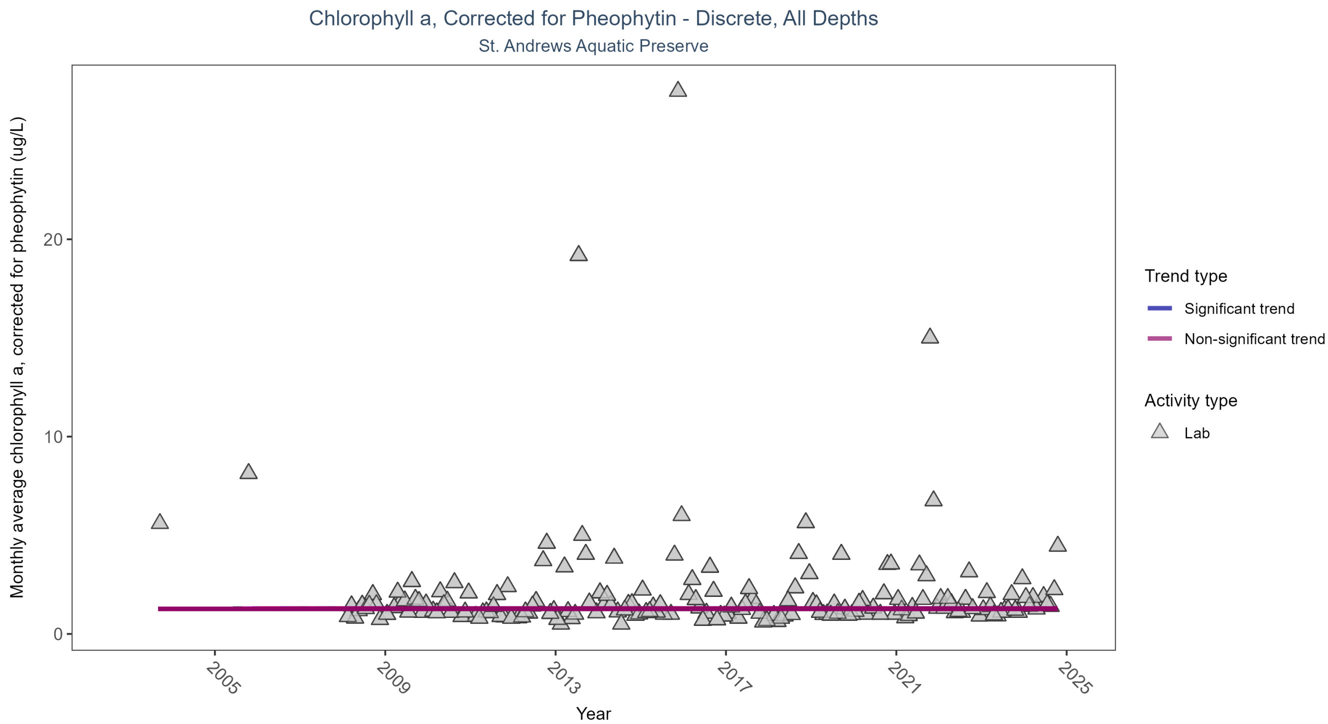

Figure 1: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) 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	852	19	2003 - 2024	1.2	0.0093	1.2718	0.0004	0.9262

Chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, showed no detectable trend between 2003 and 2024.

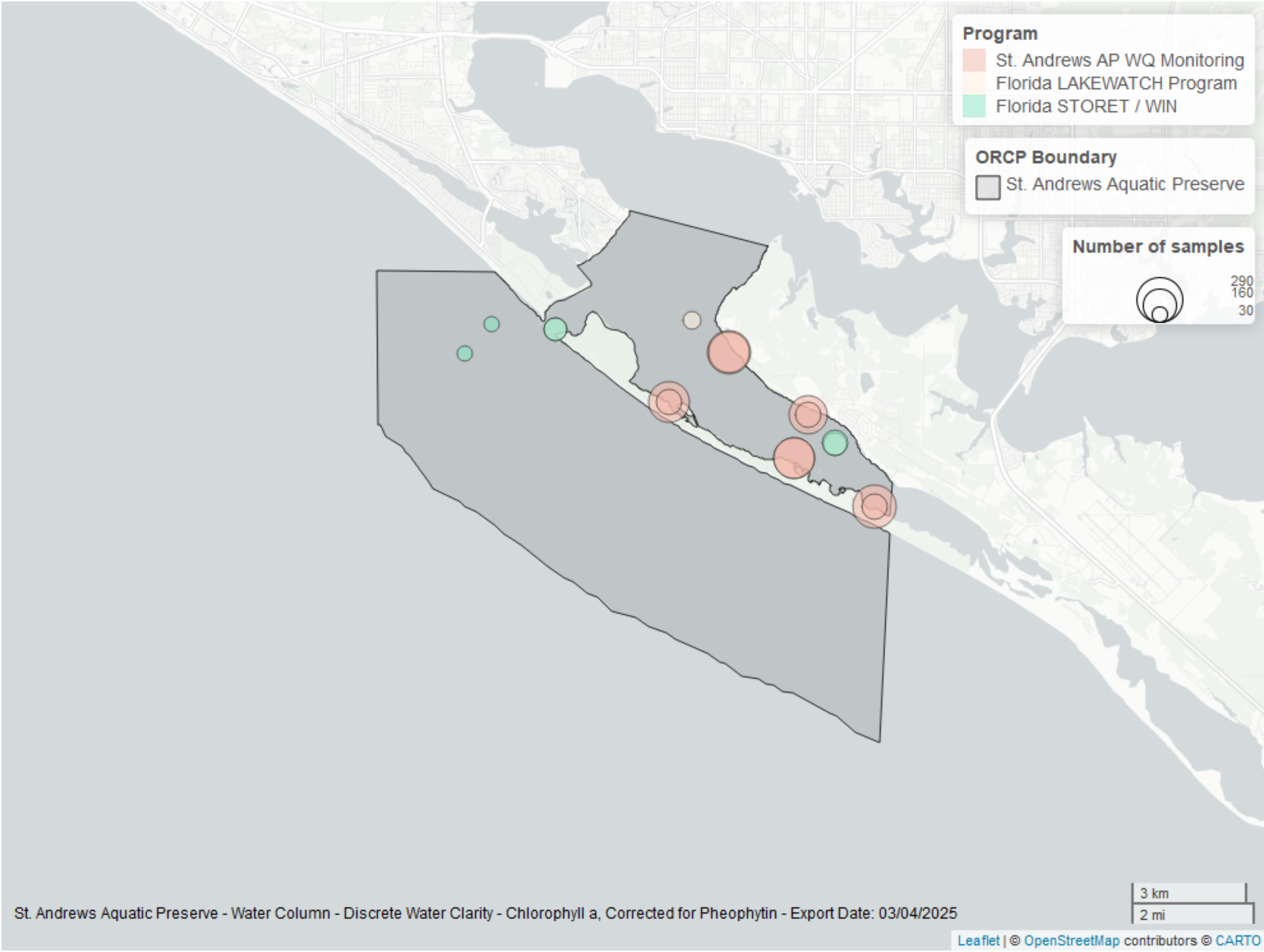

Figure 2: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	709	2003	2024
5002	84	2010	2016
514	67	2018	2024

Program names:

470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

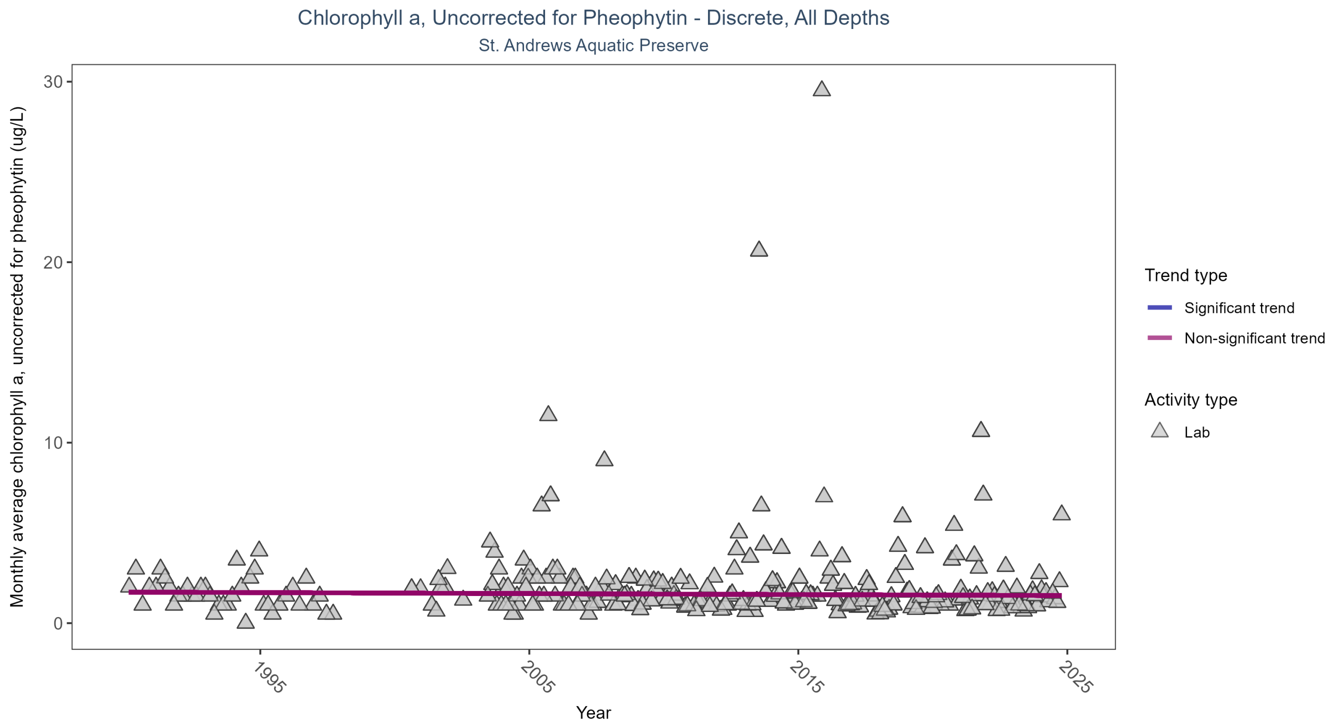

Figure 3: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles)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

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

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	1251	33	1990 - 2024	1.3	-0.0732	1.7209	-0.0055	0.1142

Chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, showed no detectable trend between 1990 and 2024.

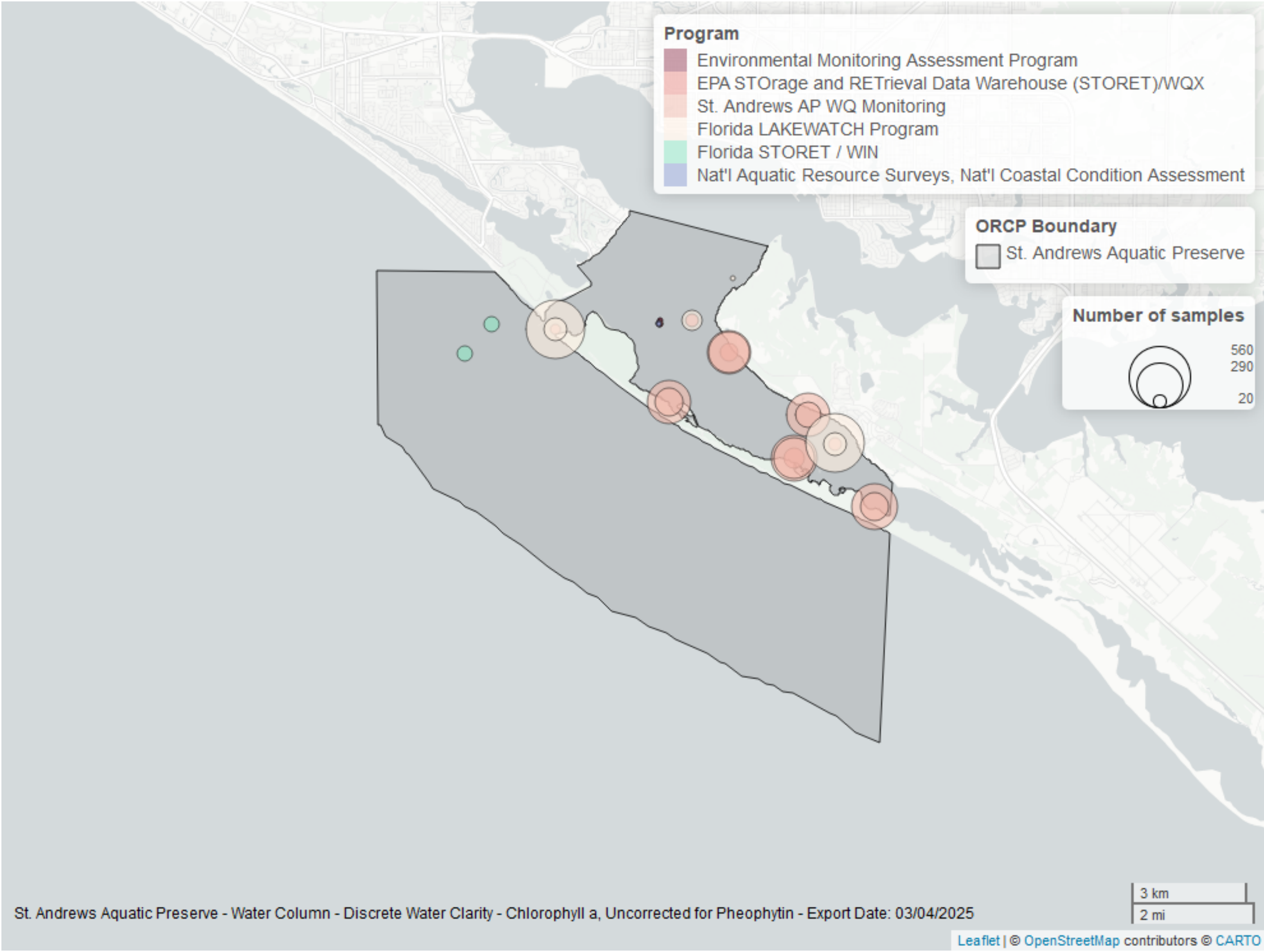

Figure 4: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	784	2000	2024
514	438	1990	2024
103	64	2000	2021
5002	22	2010	2012
115	4	2000	2003
118	2	2000	2001

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment[6]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Colored Dissolved Organic Matter - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

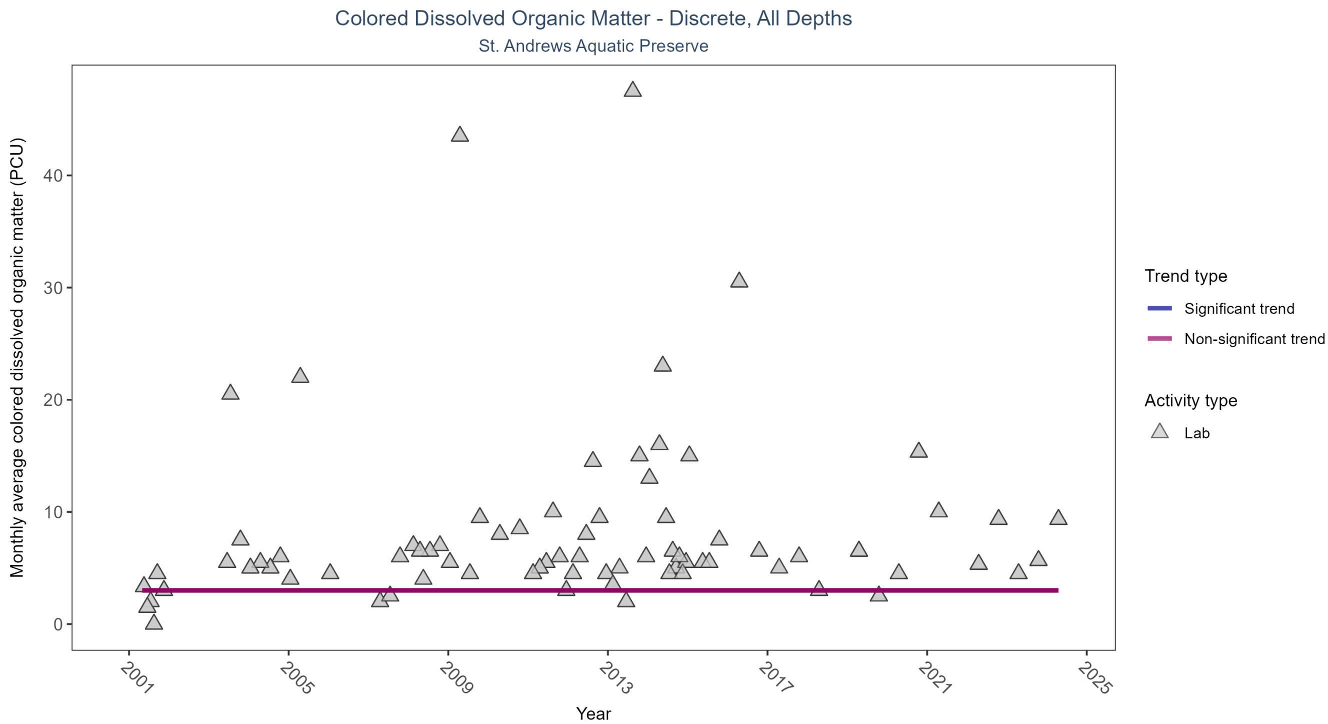

Figure 5: Scatter plot of monthly average colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed CDOM (triangles) is included in the 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	No significant trend	161	23	2001 - 2024	6	0.178	3	0	0.8787

Colored dissolved organic matter showed no detectable trend between 2001 and 2024.

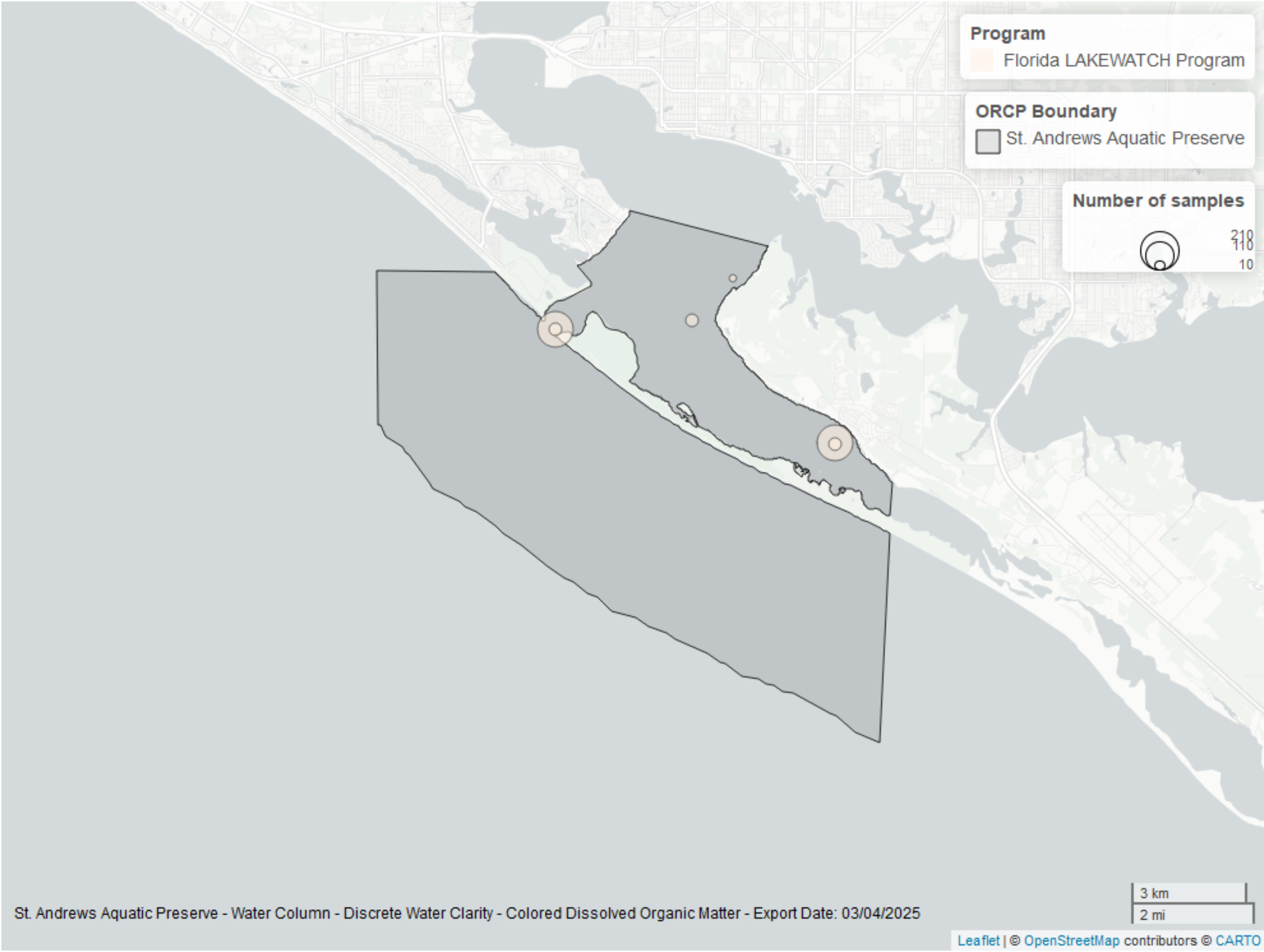

Figure 6: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	161	2001	2024

Program names:

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]

Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

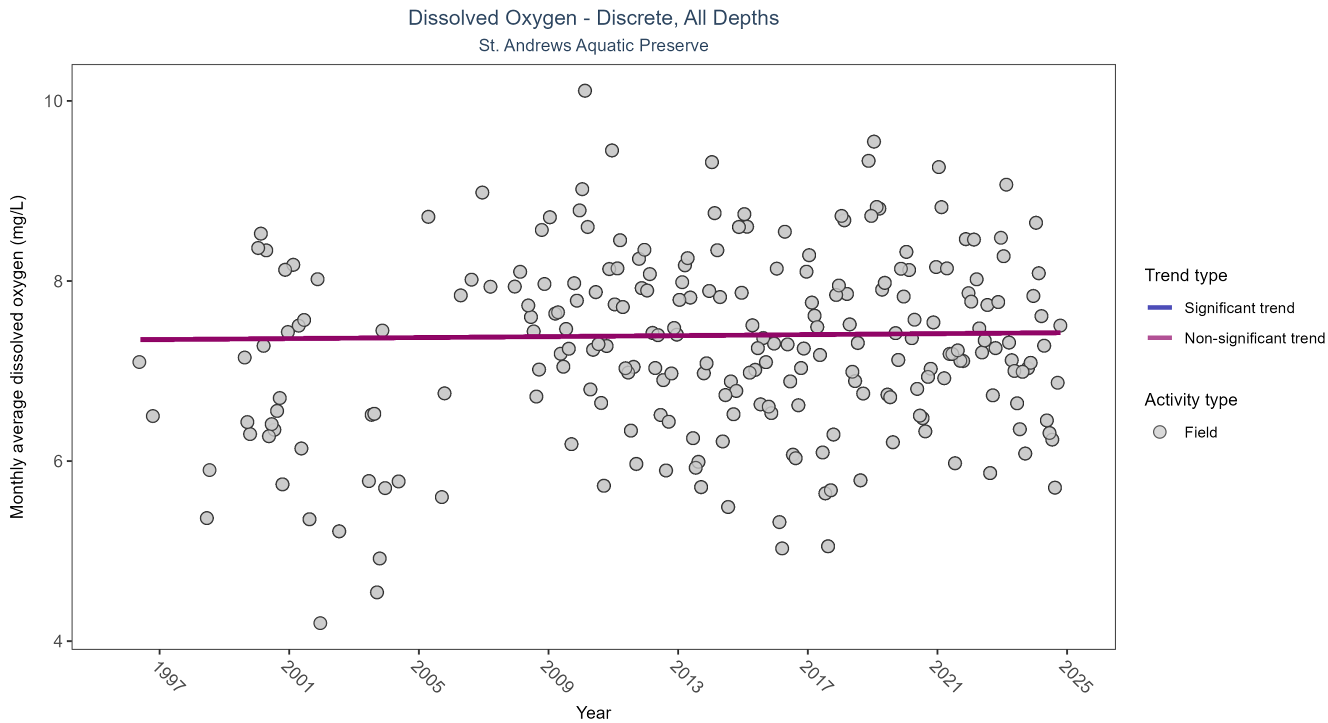

Figure 7: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

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	2835	28	1996 - 2024	7.16	0.0204	7.3466	0.0027	0.6469

Dissolved oxygen showed no detectable trend between 1996 and 2024.

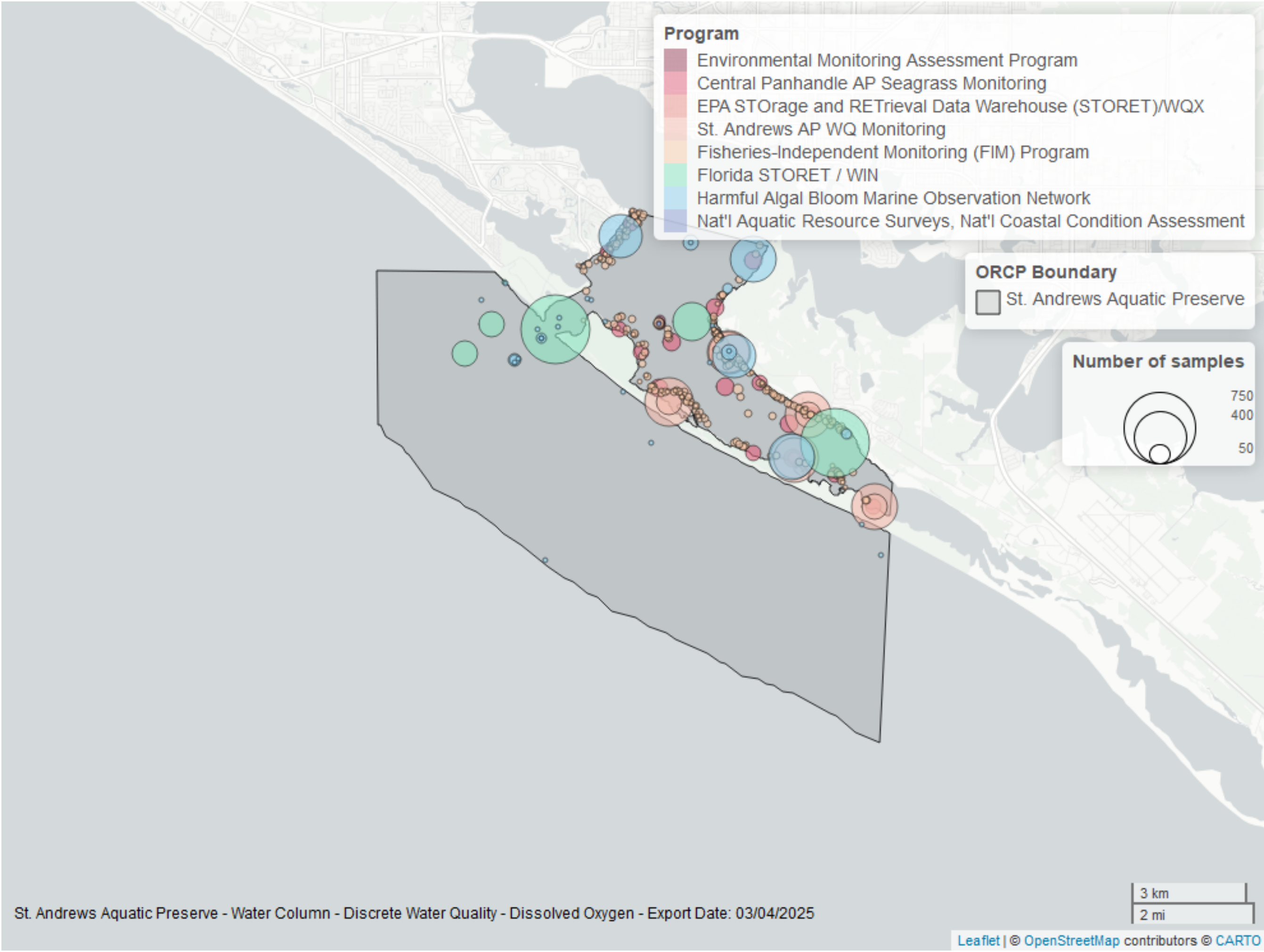

Figure 8: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	821	2000	2024
69	651	2001	2022
5002	621	2005	2024
95	491	1996	2018
557	243	2016	2023
103	22	2003	2021
115	17	2000	2003
118	2	2000	2001

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[7]
95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[8]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment[6]

470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[9]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

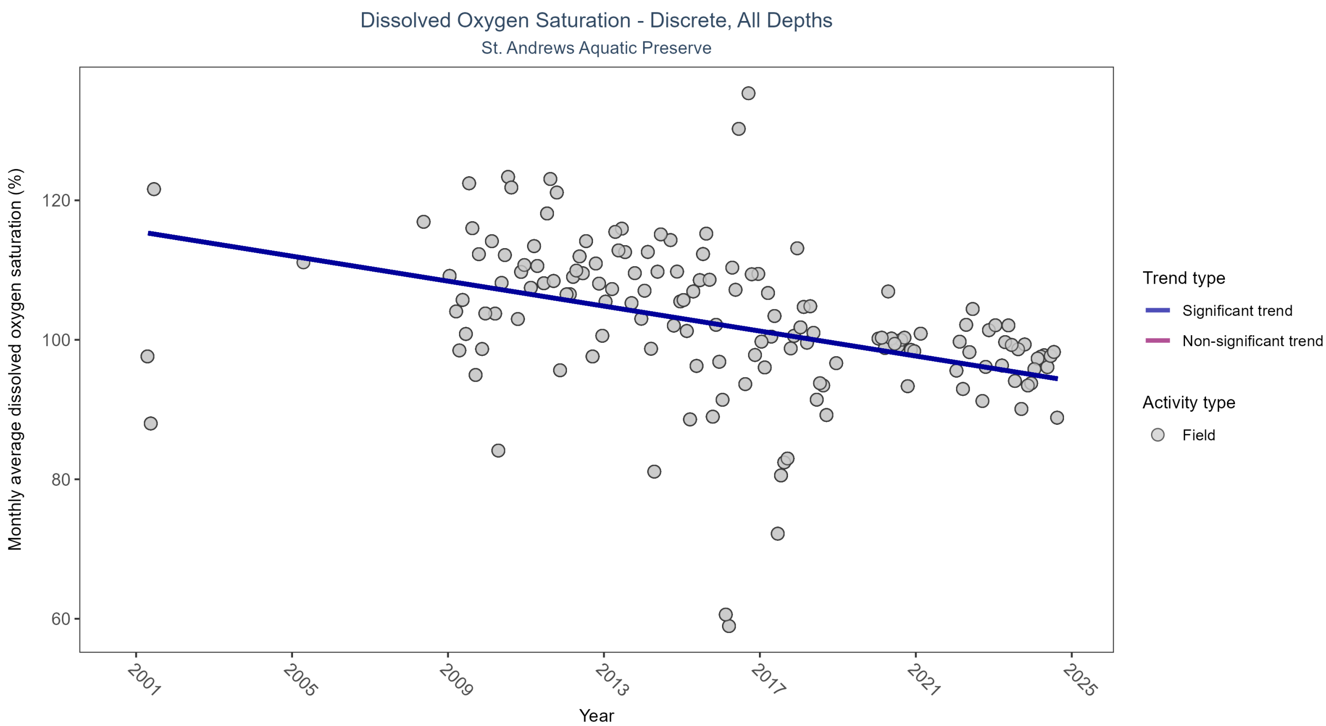

Figure 9: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen saturation values measured in the field (circles) 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 decreasing trend	901	18	2001 - 2024	101.9	-0.3978	115.5735	-0.895	0

Monthly average dissolved oxygen saturation decreased by 0.9% per year.

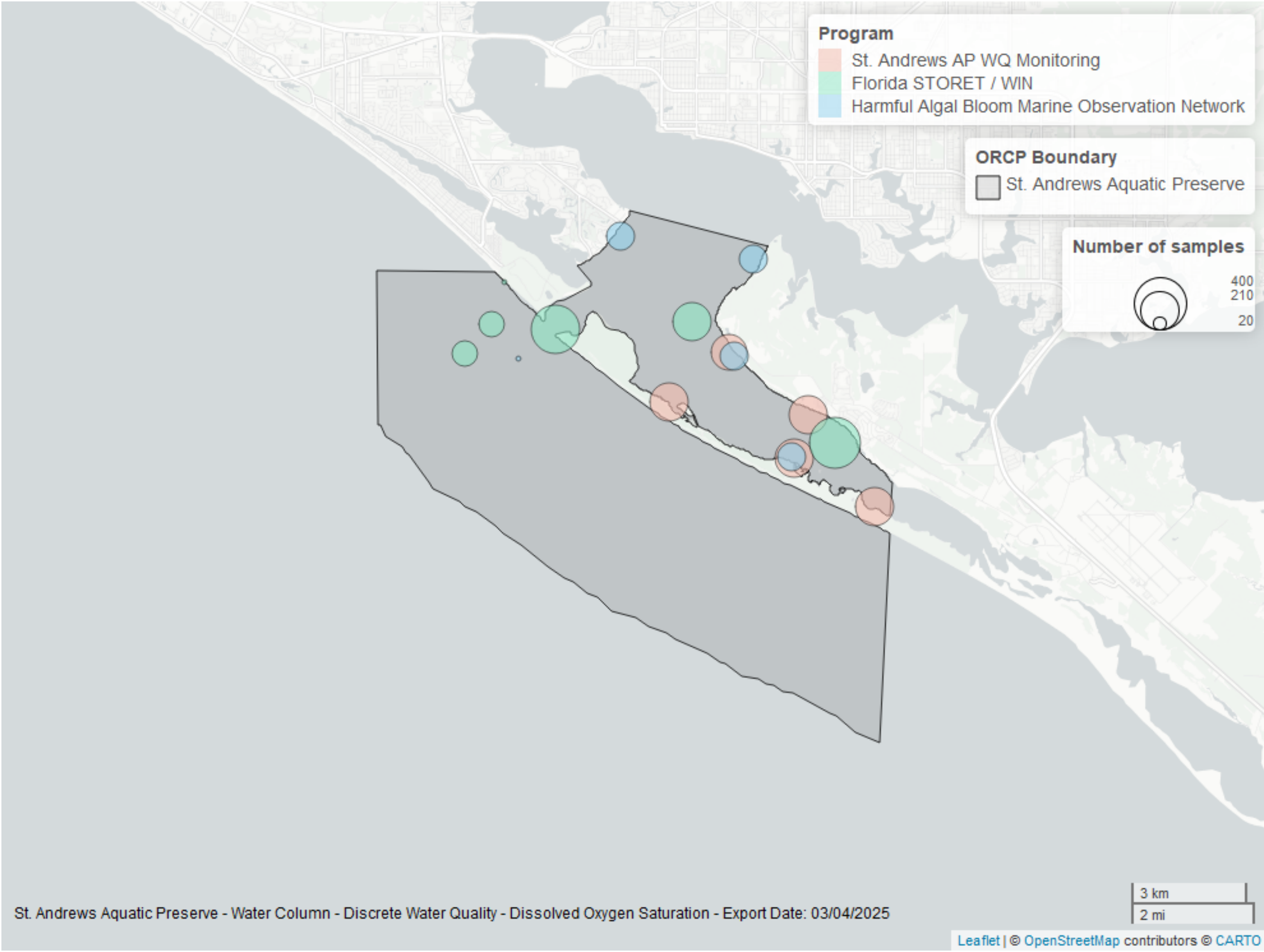

Figure 10: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
5002	395	2005	2024
470	356	2001	2015
95	161	2015	2018

Program names:

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[8]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

pH - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

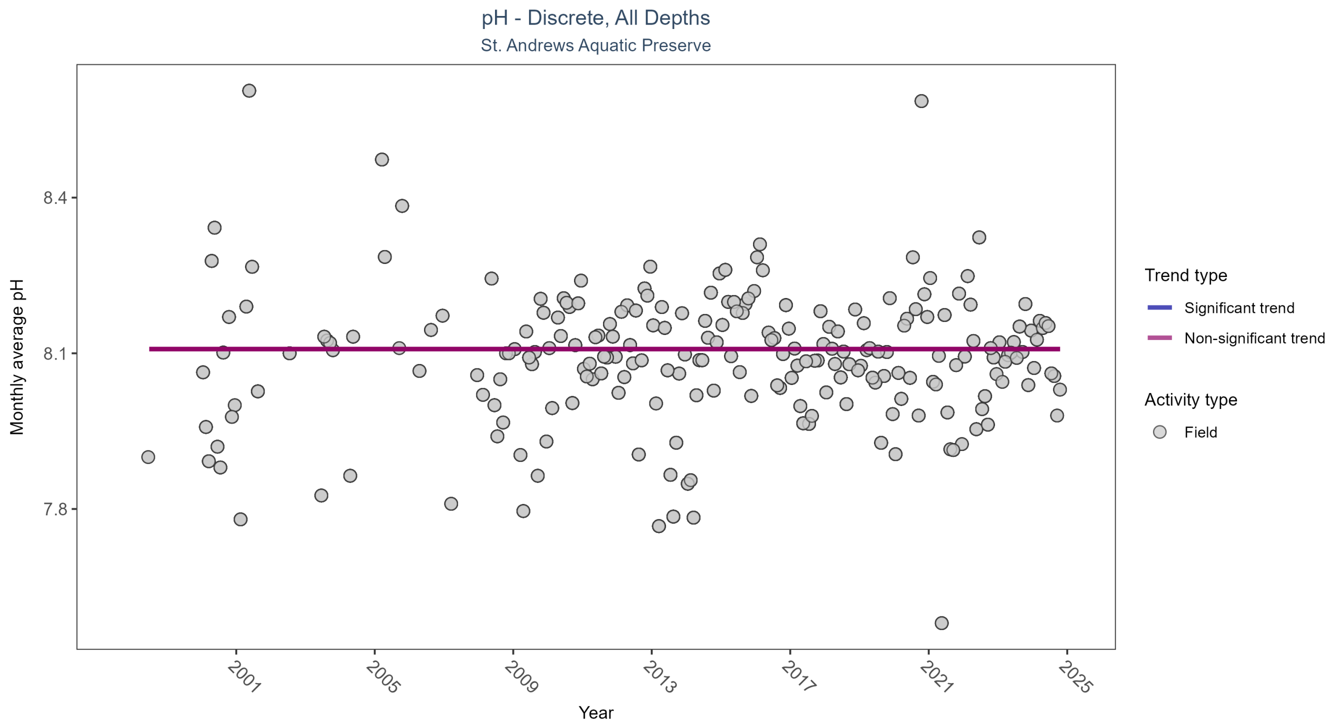

Figure 11: Scatter plot of monthly average pH over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only pH values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

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	No significant trend	2708	26	1998 - 2024	8.1	0.0046	8.1083	0	1

pH showed no detectable trend between 1998 and 2024.

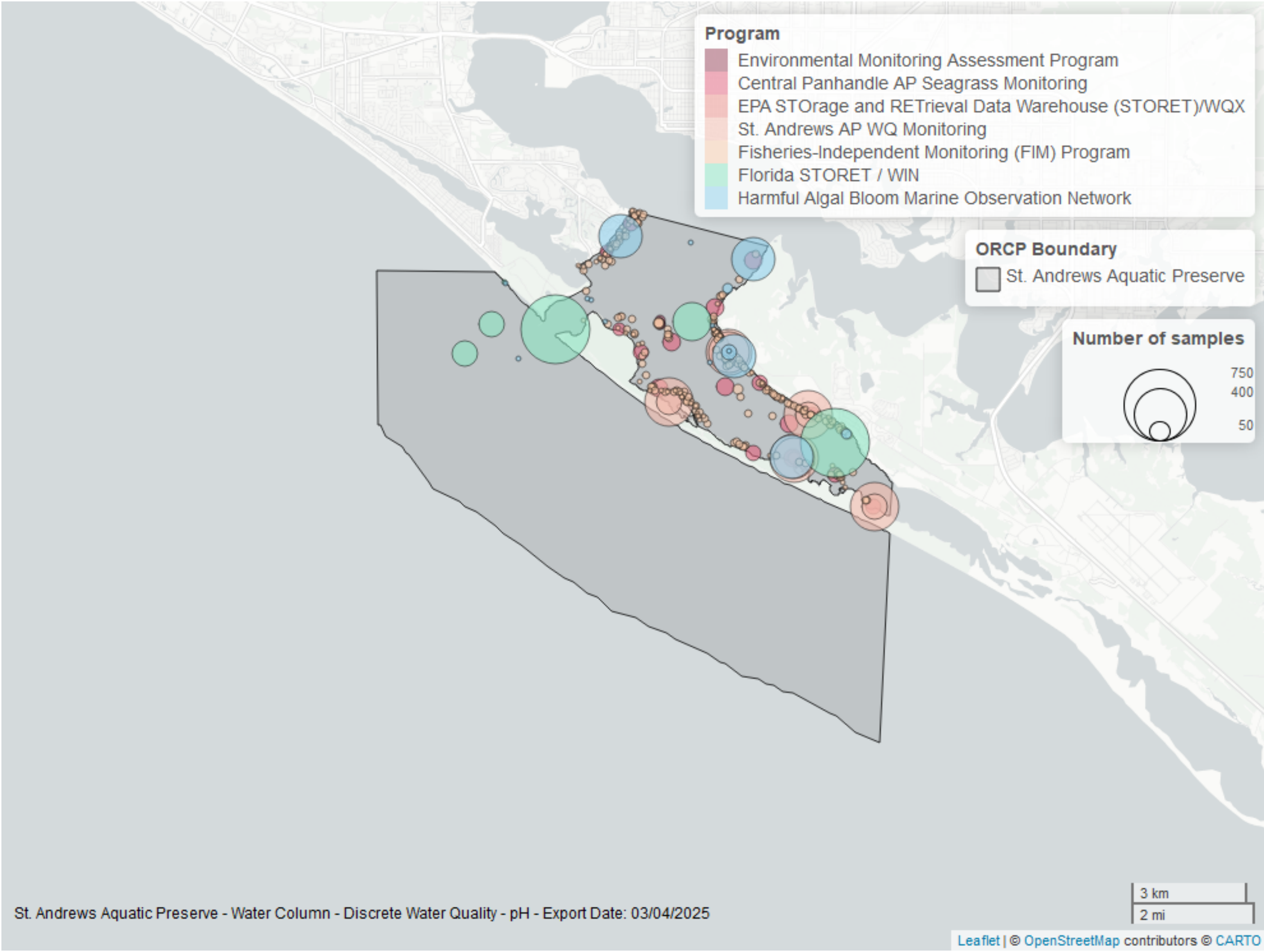

Figure 12: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for pH

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	842	2000	2024
69	629	2001	2022
5002	621	2005	2024
95	435	1998	2018
557	234	2016	2023
103	20	2021	2021
115	17	2000	2003

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[7]
95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[8]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]

557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[9]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Salinity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

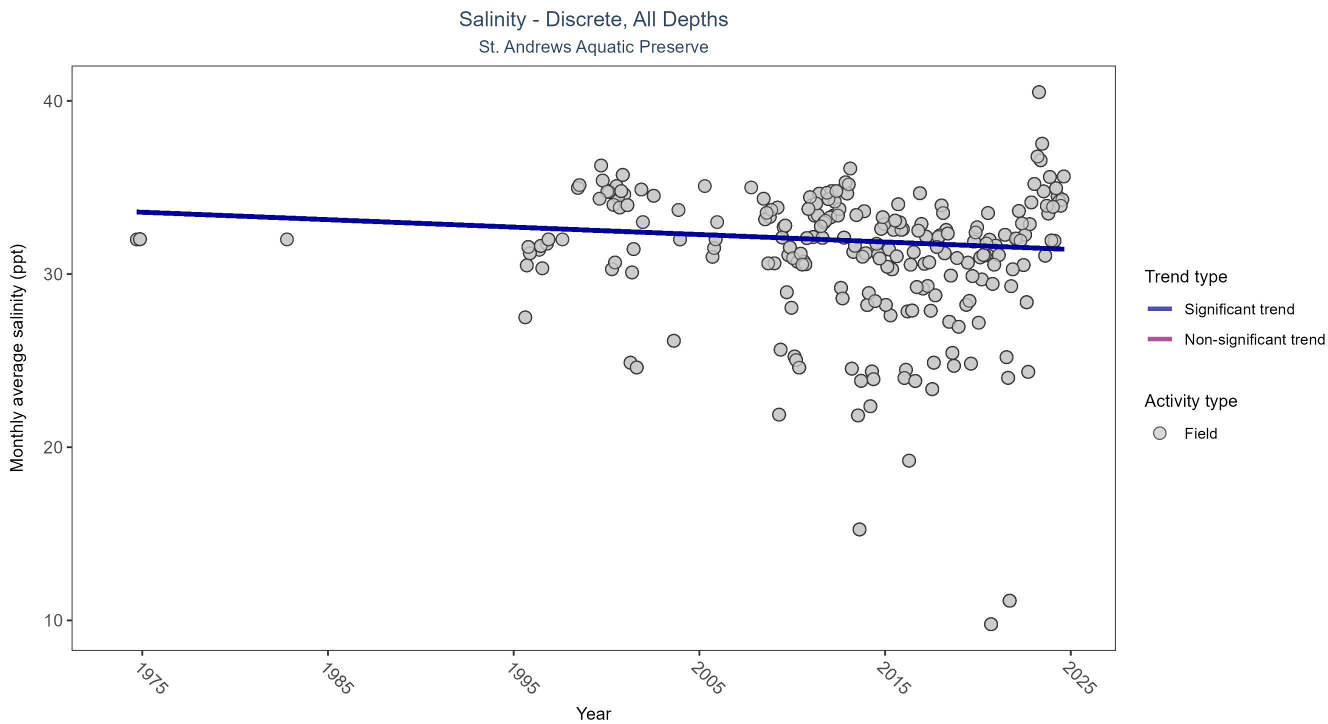

Figure 13: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines are also shown. Discrete salinity values derived from grab samples analyzed in the field (circles) or the 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	2557	30	1974 - 2024	31.8	-0.091	33.6138	-0.043	0.0378

Monthly average salinity decreased by 0.04 ppt per year.

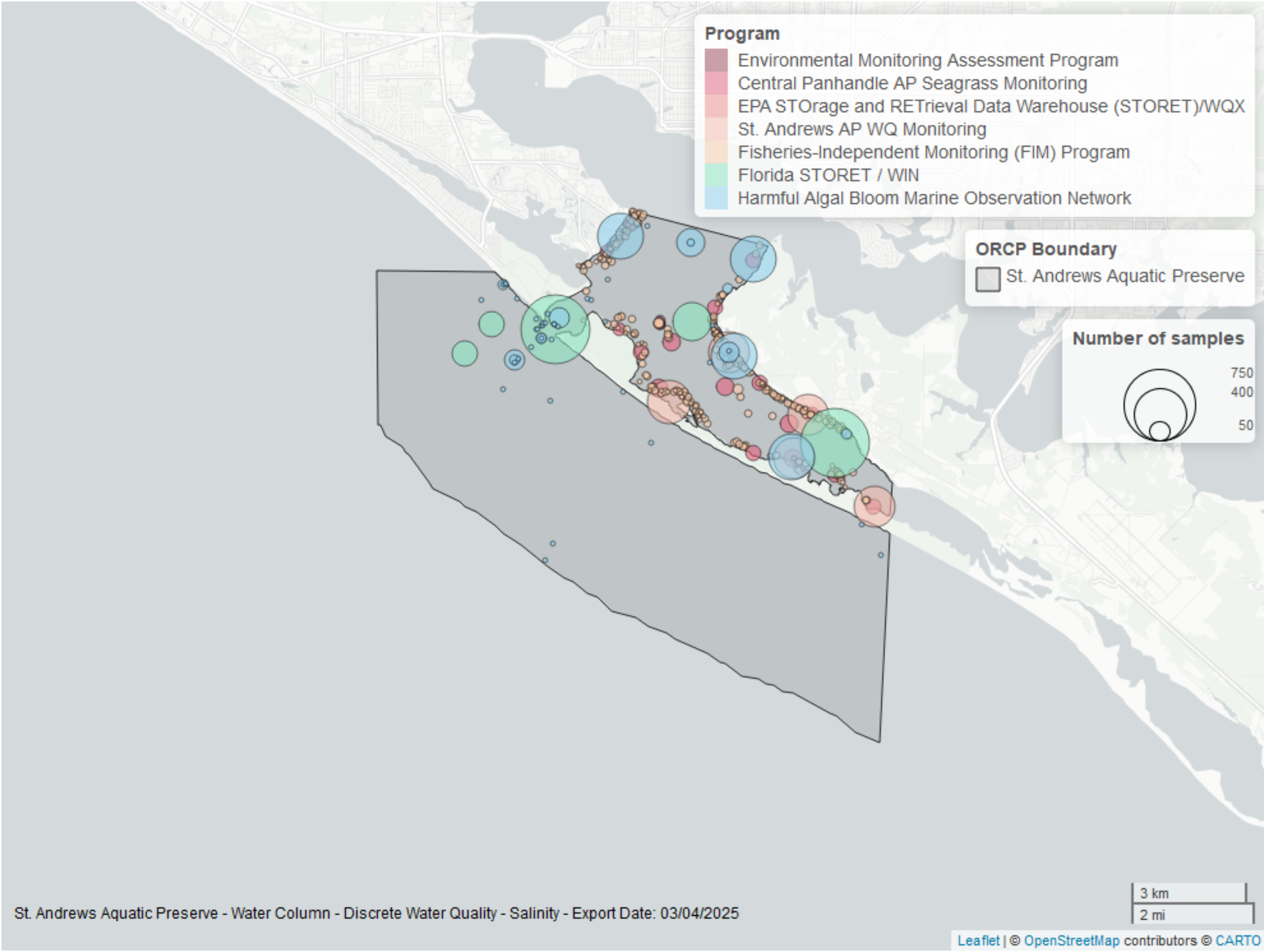

Figure 14: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Salinity

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
69	652	2001	2022
5002	628	2005	2024
95	593	1974	2018
470	444	2000	2018
557	229	2016	2023
115	17	2000	2003
103	3	2003	2003

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[7]
95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[8]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]

557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[9]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Secchi Depth - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

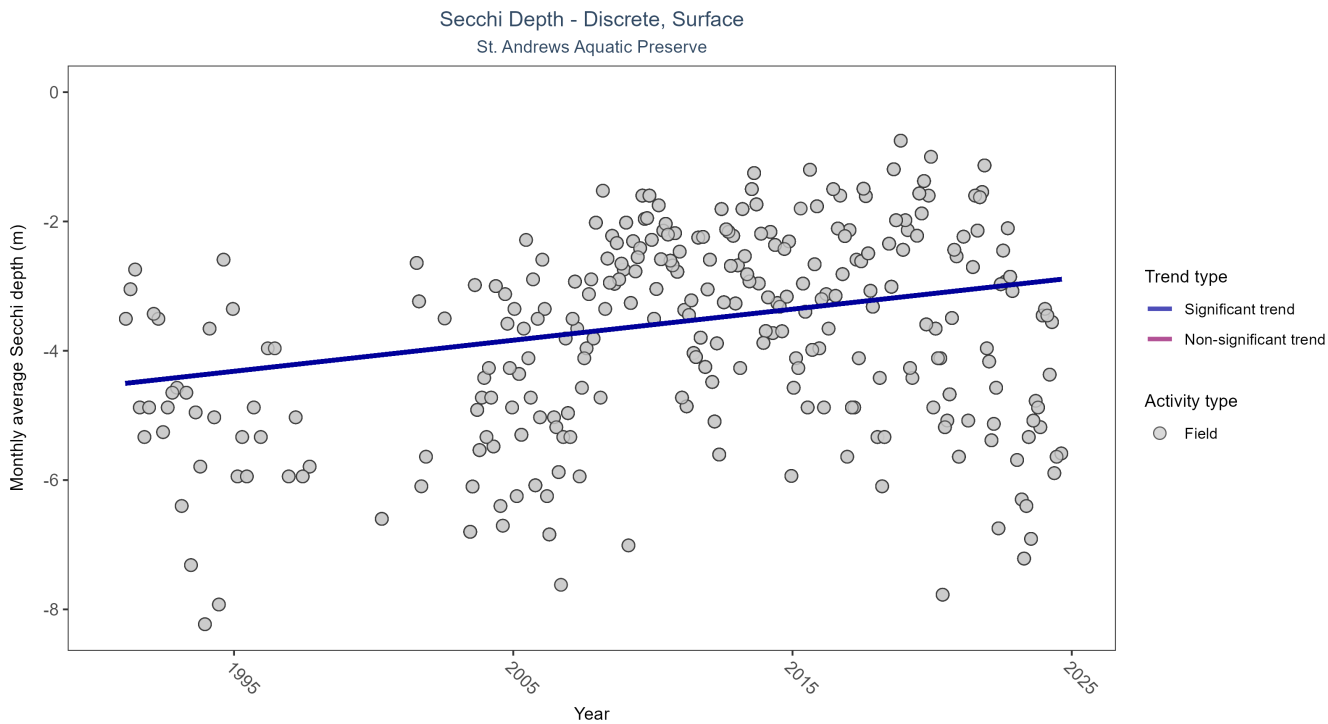

Figure 15: Scatter plot of monthly average Secchi depth over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Secchi depth is only measured in the field (circles).

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	2186	32	1991 - 2024	-2.6	0.1701	-4.5092	0.048	0

Monthly average Secchi depth became shallower by 0.05 m per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

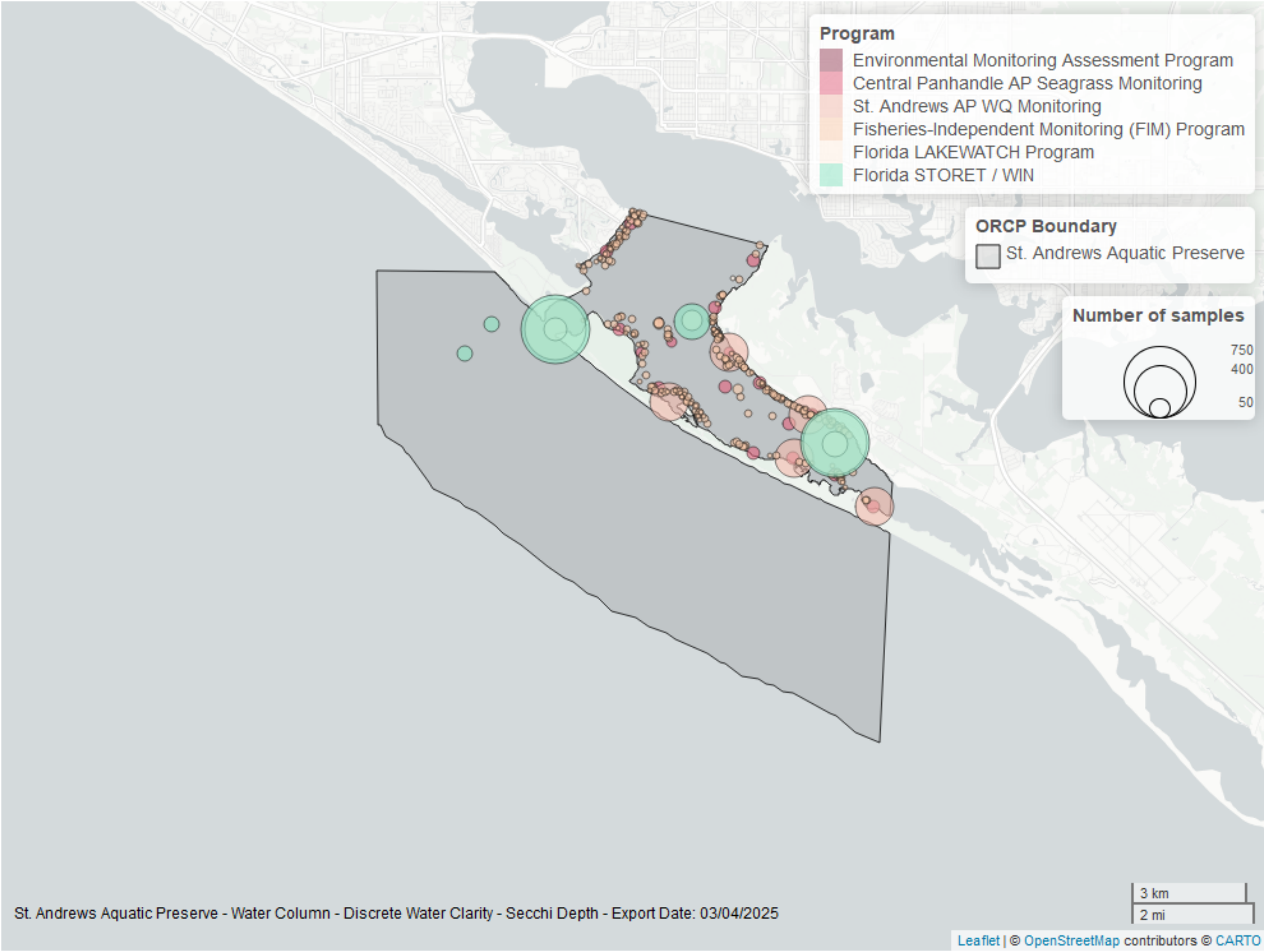

Figure 16: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
69	651	2001	2022
5002	579	2010	2024
514	482	1991	2024
470	356	2000	2015
557	116	2016	2023
115	3	2000	2002

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[7]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[9]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

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 + NO3O2;
2) TN = TKN + NO3 + NO2;
3) TN = ORGN + NH4 + NO3O2;
4) TN = ORGN + NH4 + NO2 + NO3;
5) TN = TKN + NO3;
6) TN = ORGN + NH4 + NO3;

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

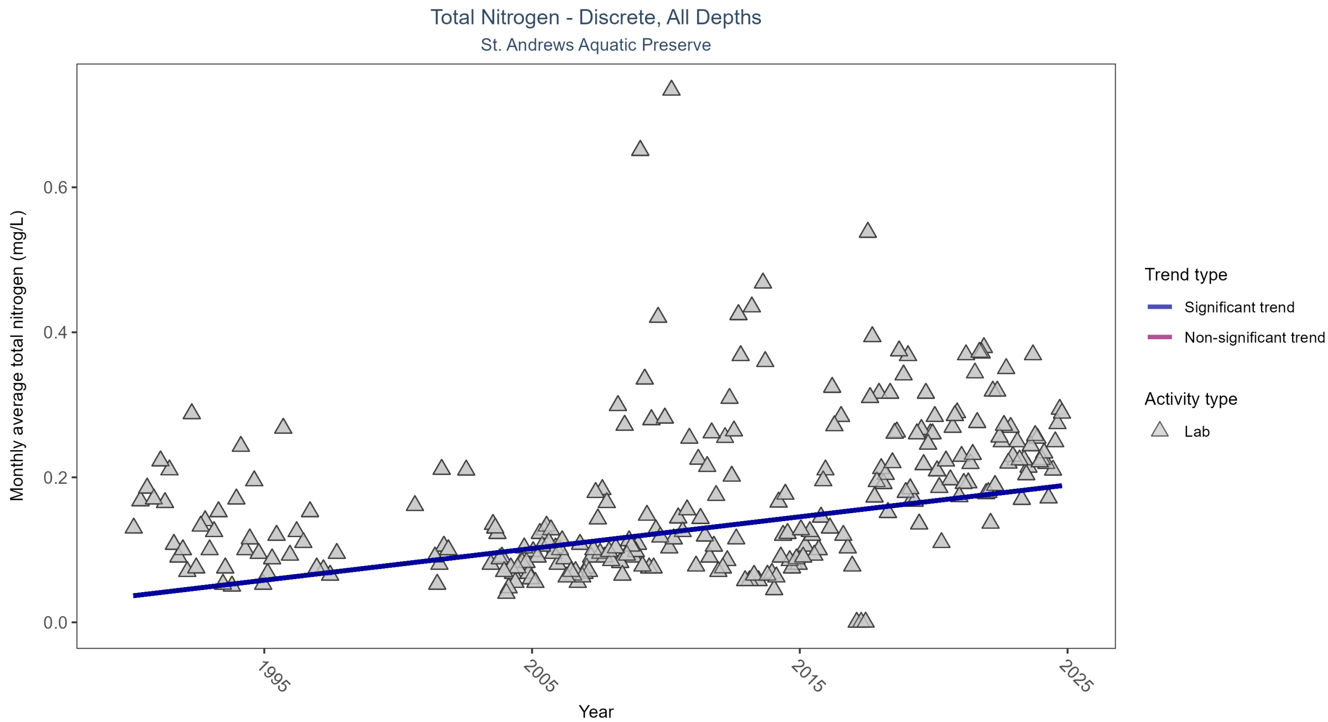

Figure 17: Scatter plot of monthly average total nitrogen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only nitrogen values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the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

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

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly increasing trend	1142	33	1990 - 2024	0.18	0.3425	0.0362	0.0044	0

Monthly average total nitrogen increased by less than 0.01 mg/L per year.

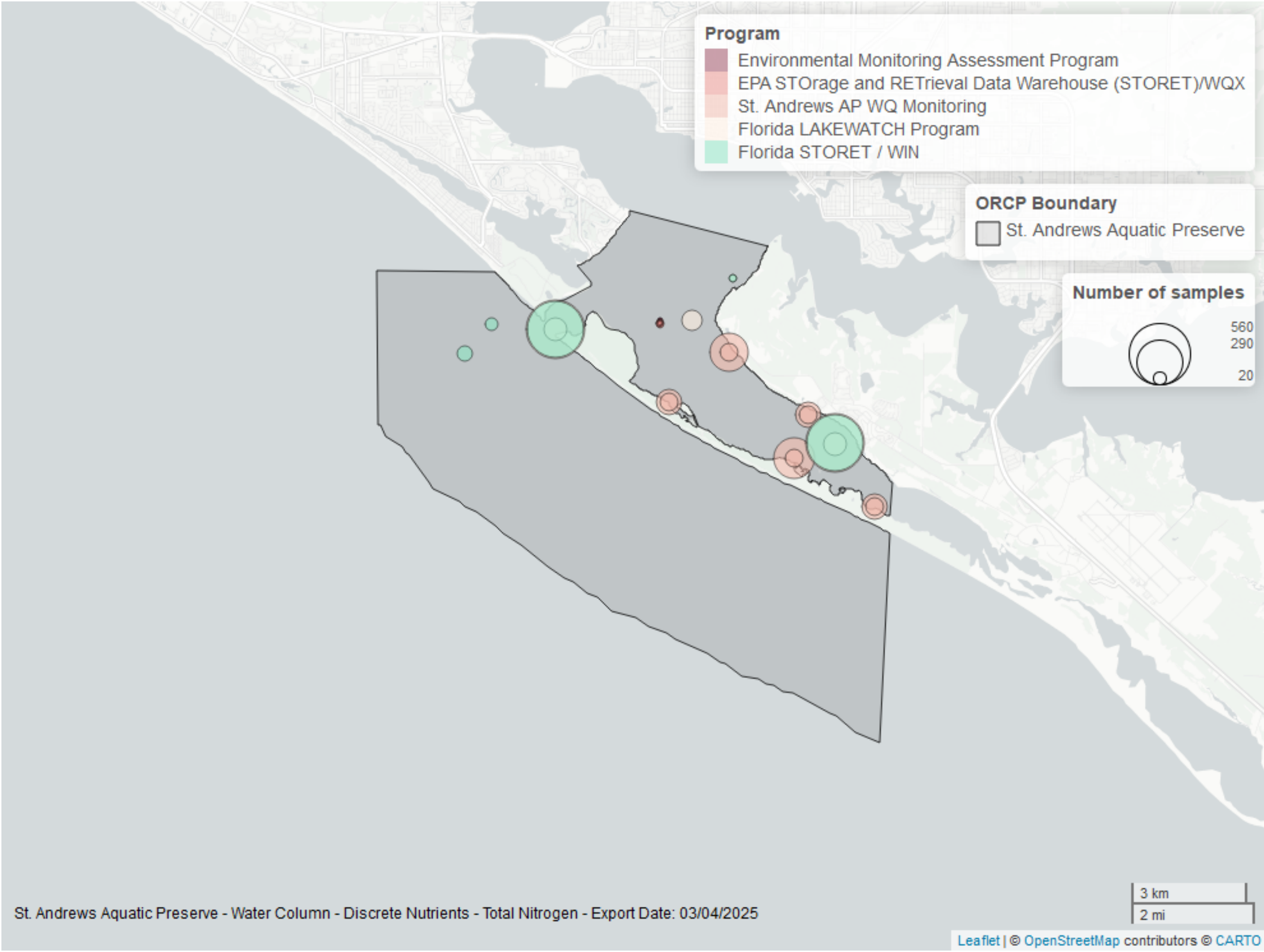

Figure 18: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 23: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	440	1990	2024
5002	350	1990	2016
470	345	2007	2024
103	12	2000	2003
115	4	2000	2003

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Total Phosphorus - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

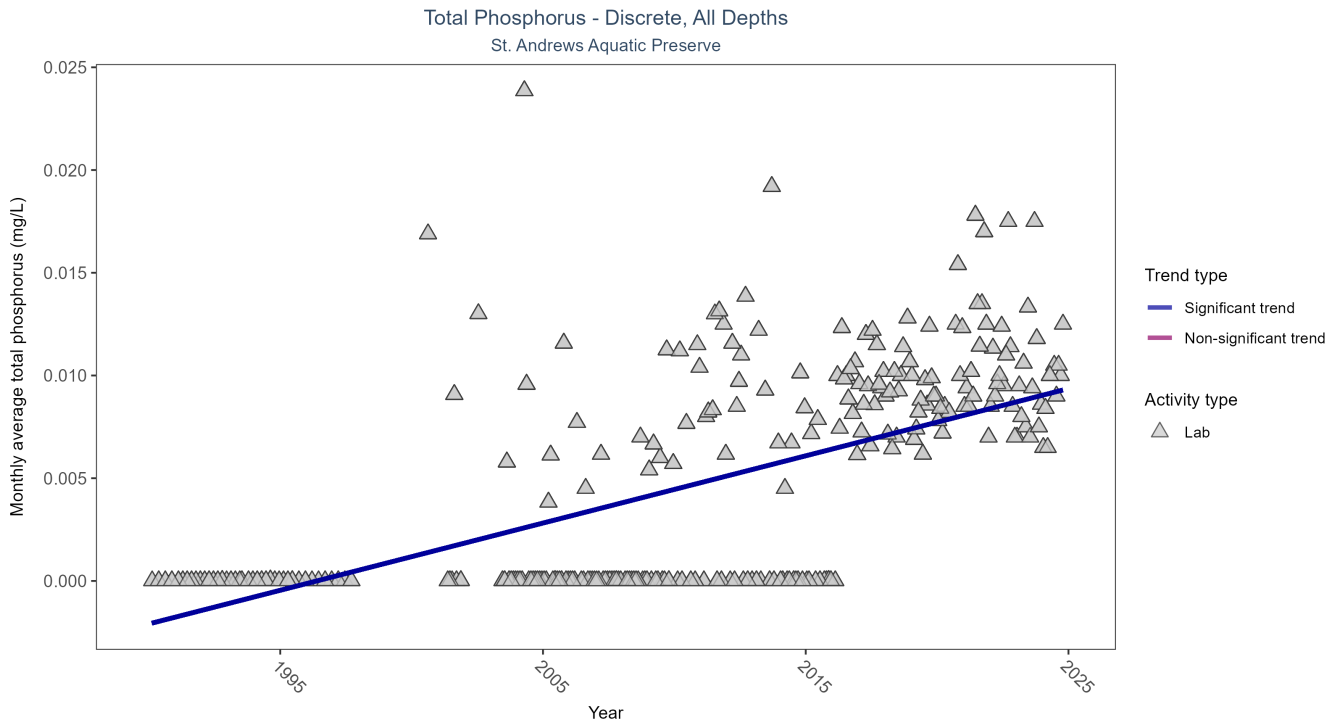

Figure 19: Scatter plot of monthly average total phosphorus over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only phosphorus values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included 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 increasing trend	985	33	1990 - 2024	0.008	0.466	-0.0021	0.0003	0

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

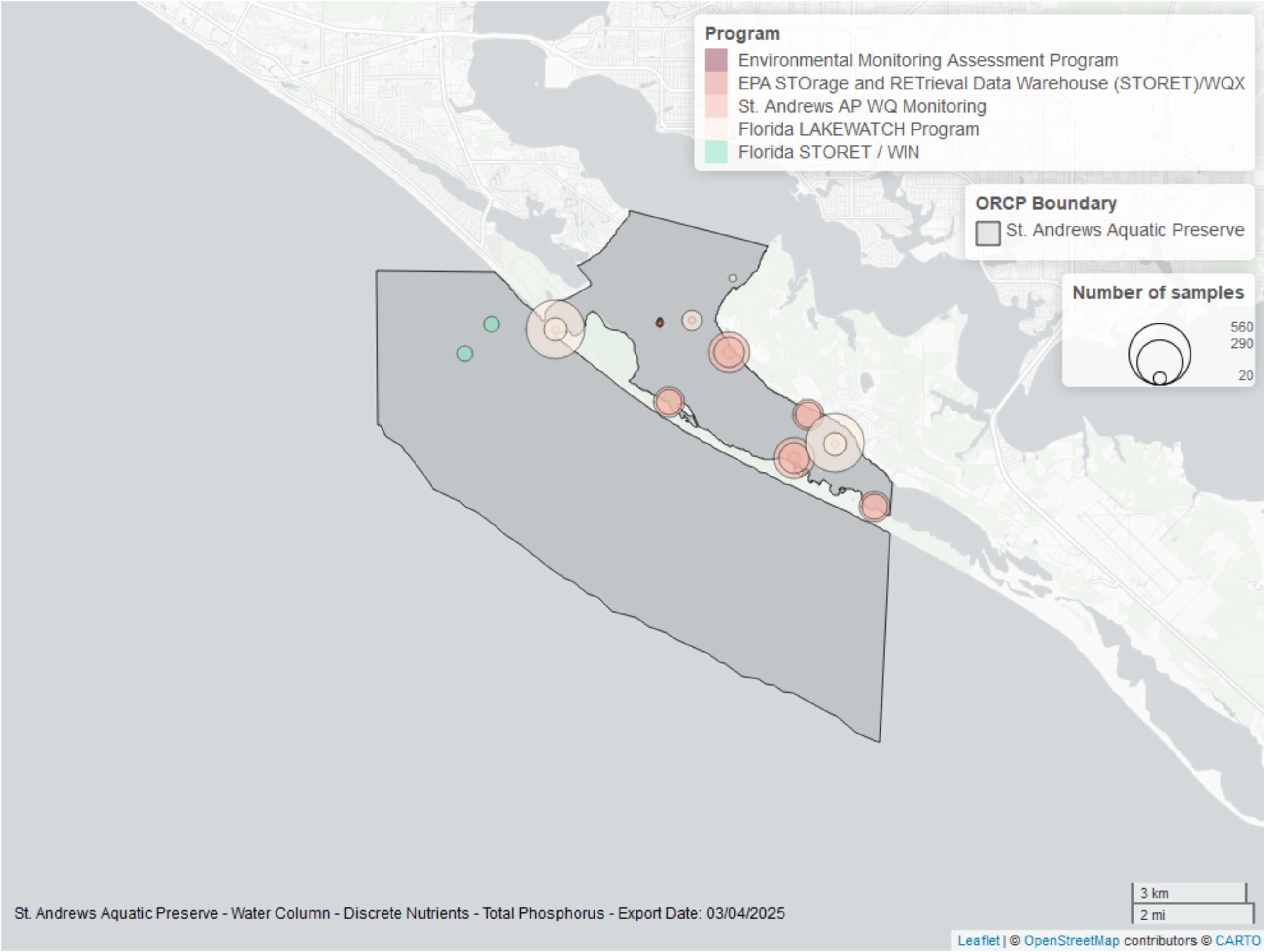

Figure 20: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 25: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	510	2004	2024
514	442	1990	2024
103	38	2000	2021
5002	22	2010	2012
115	4	2000	2003

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Total Suspended Solids - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

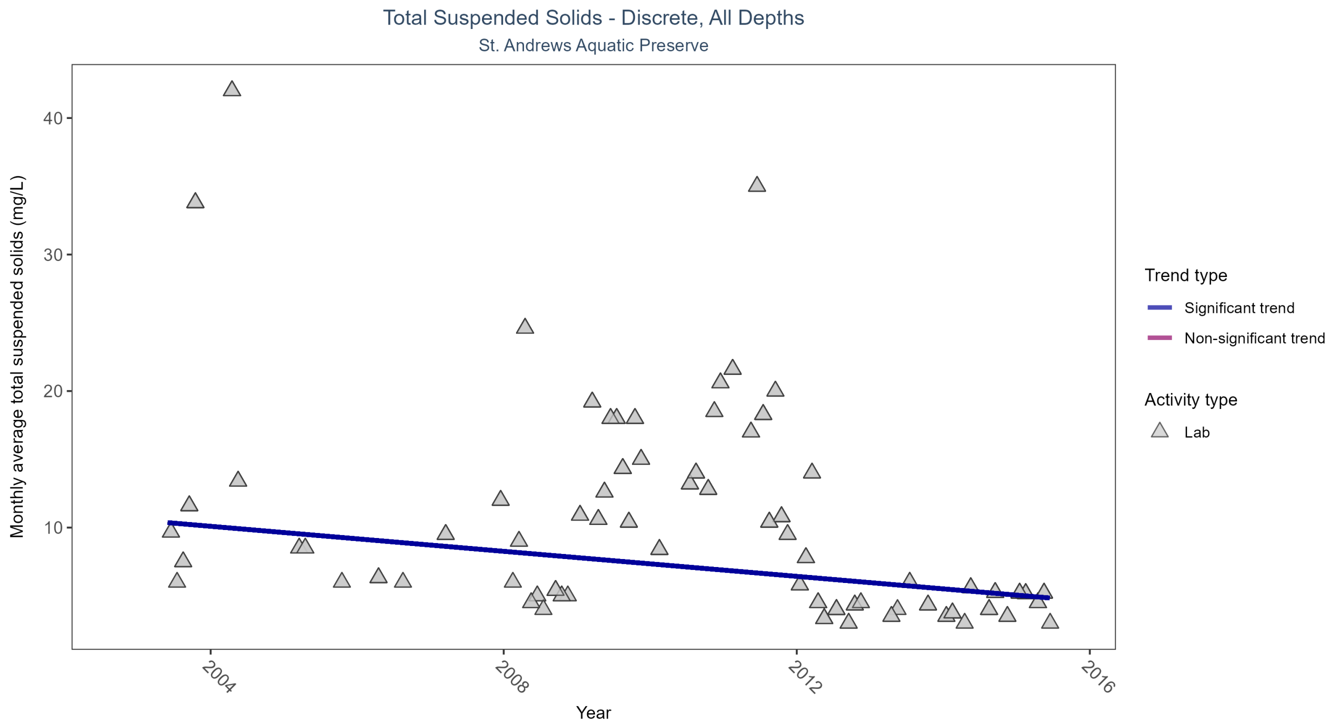

Figure 21: Scatter plot of monthly average total suspended solids (TSS) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only TSS values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included 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	263	13	2003 - 2015	9	-0.2373	10.5528	-0.4583	0.004

Monthly average total suspended solids decreased by 0.46 mg/L per year, indicating an increase in water clarity.

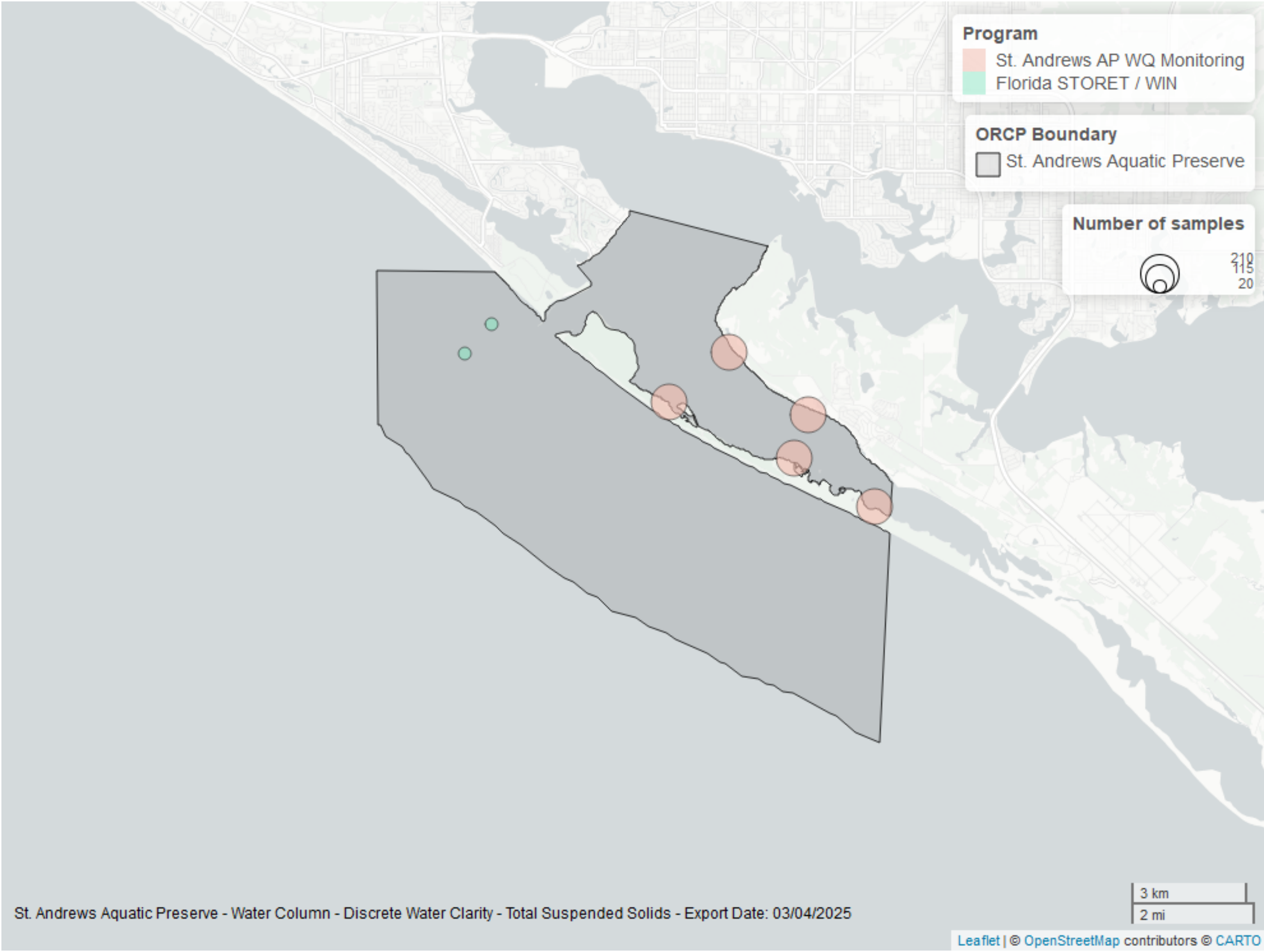

Figure 22: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 27: Programs contributing data for Total Suspended Solids

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	321	2000	2015
5002	18	2010	2012

Program names:

470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Turbidity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

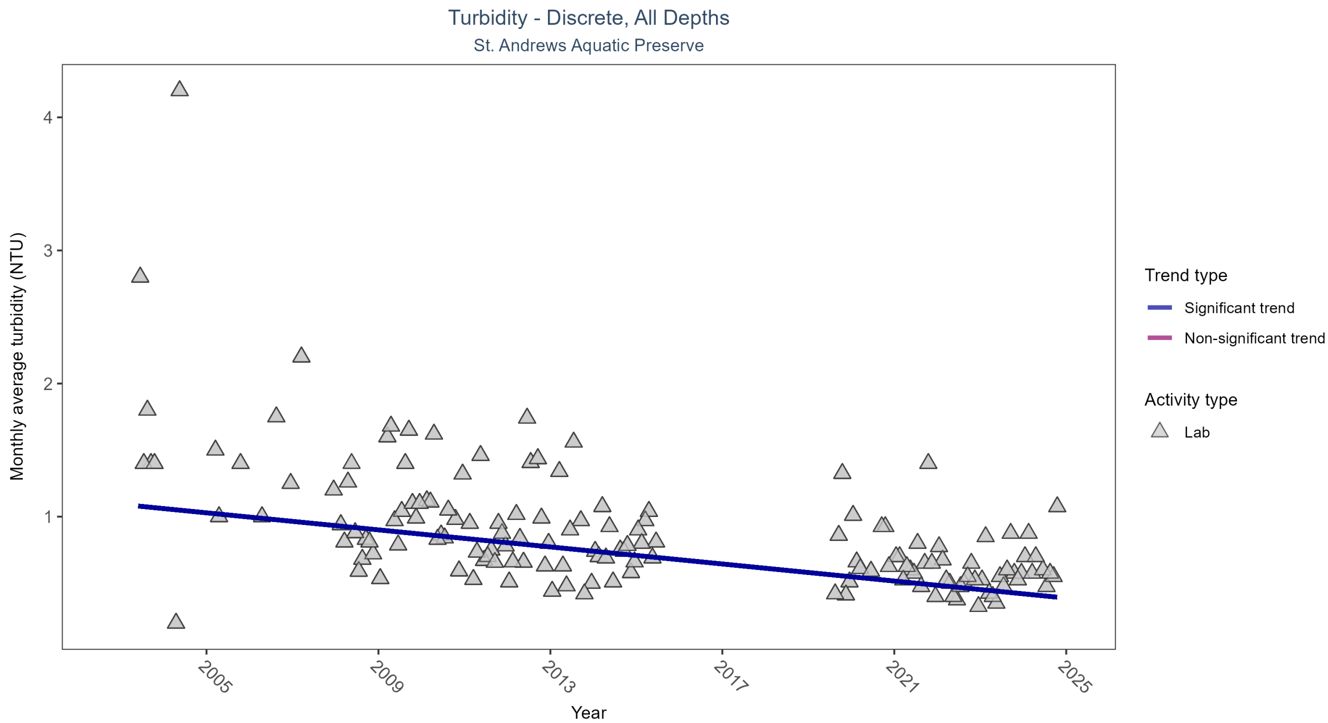

Figure 23: Scatter plot of monthly average turbidity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only turbidity values measured in the laboratory (triangles) are included in the plot.

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 decreasing trend	622	19	2003 - 2024	0.775	-0.4316	1.0929	-0.032	0

Monthly average turbidity decreased by 0.03 NTU per year, indicating an increase in water clarity.

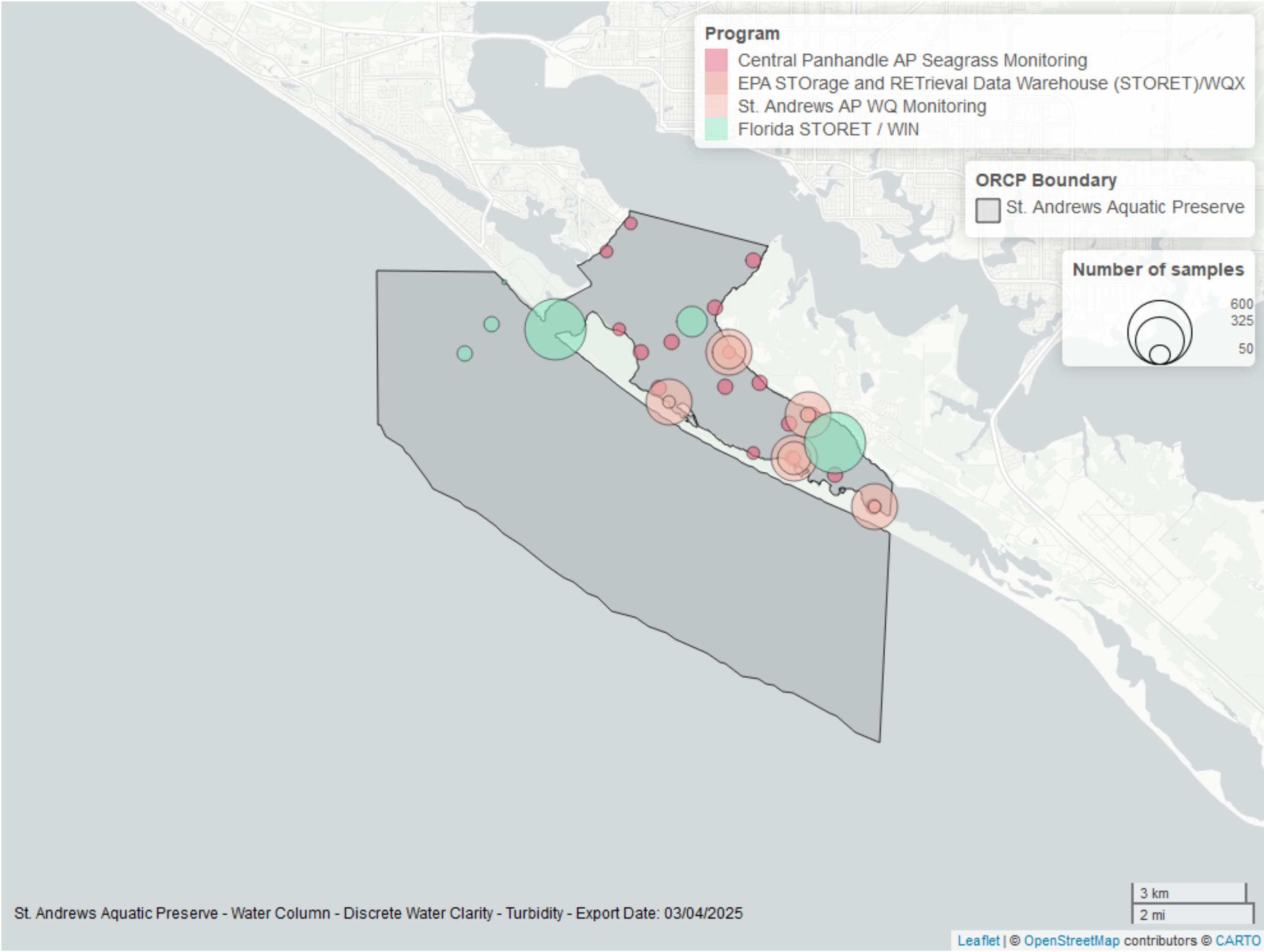

Figure 24: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 29: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	678	2000	2024
5002	460	2005	2024
557	188	2016	2023
103	20	2021	2021

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[9]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

Water Temperature - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

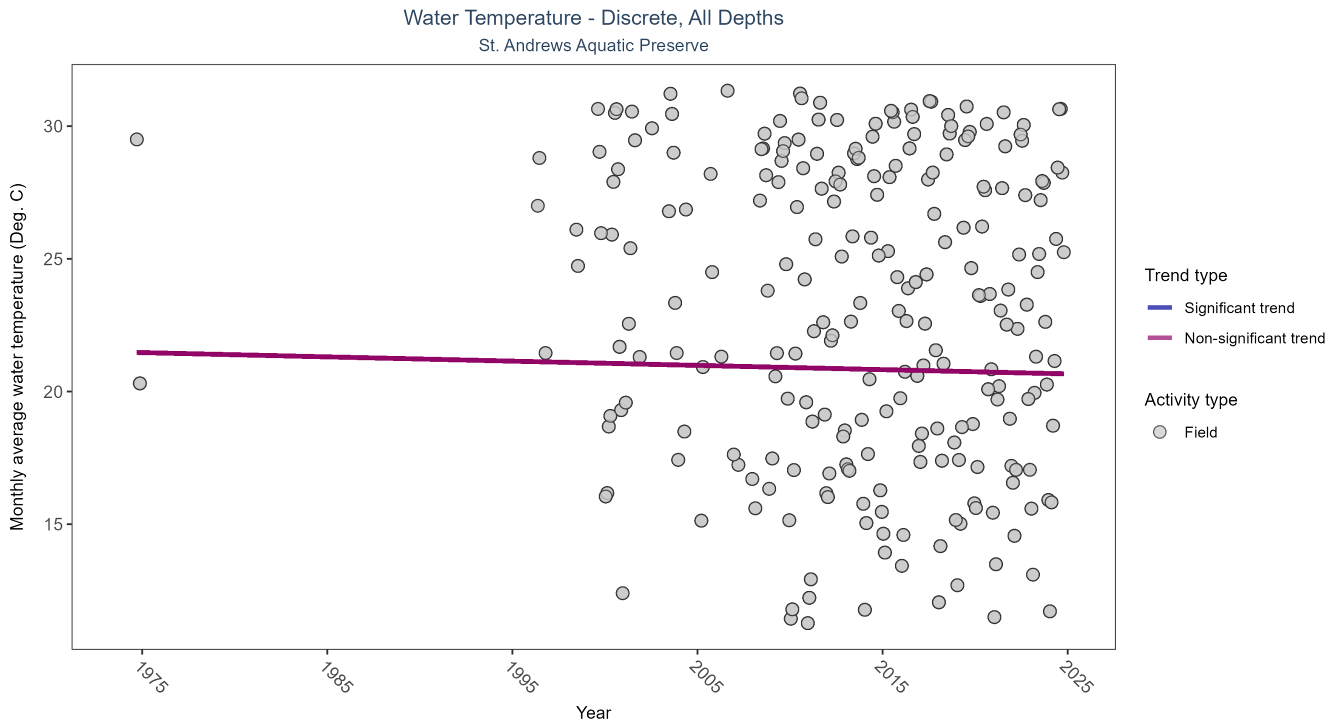

Figure 25: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only water temperature measurements taken in the field (circles) are included in 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	No significant trend	2913	29	1974 - 2024	25.38	-0.0508	21.4824	-0.0161	0.2582

Water temperature showed no detectable trend between 1974 and 2024.

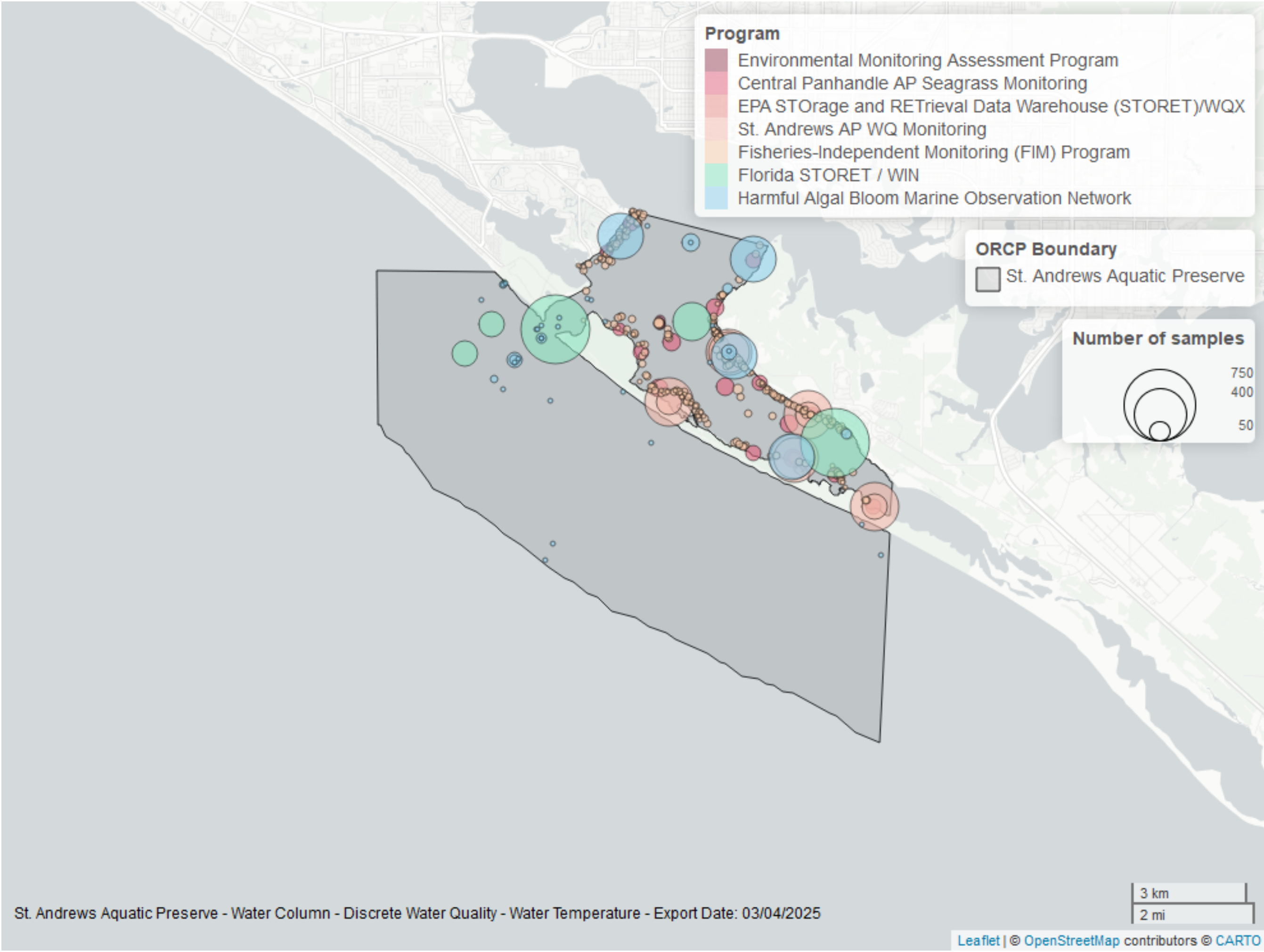

Figure 26: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 31: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
470	841	2000	2024
69	655	2001	2022
5002	627	2005	2024
95	523	1974	2018
557	231	2016	2023
103	21	2003	2021
115	17	2000	2003

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[7]
95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[8]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[4]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[5]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]

557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[9]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[3]

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

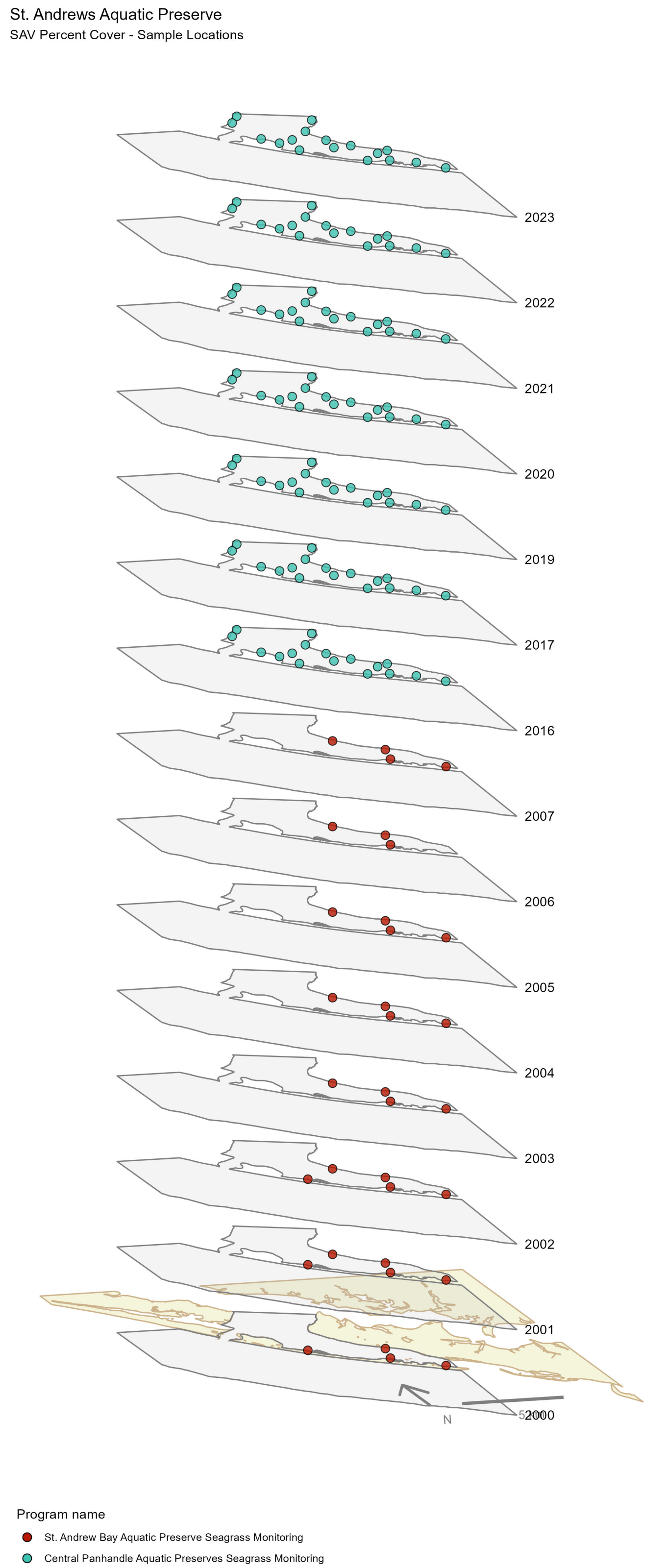

Figure 27: Maps showing the temporal scope of SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve* by Program name.

Click here to view spatio-temporal plots on GitHub.

Sampling locations by Program:

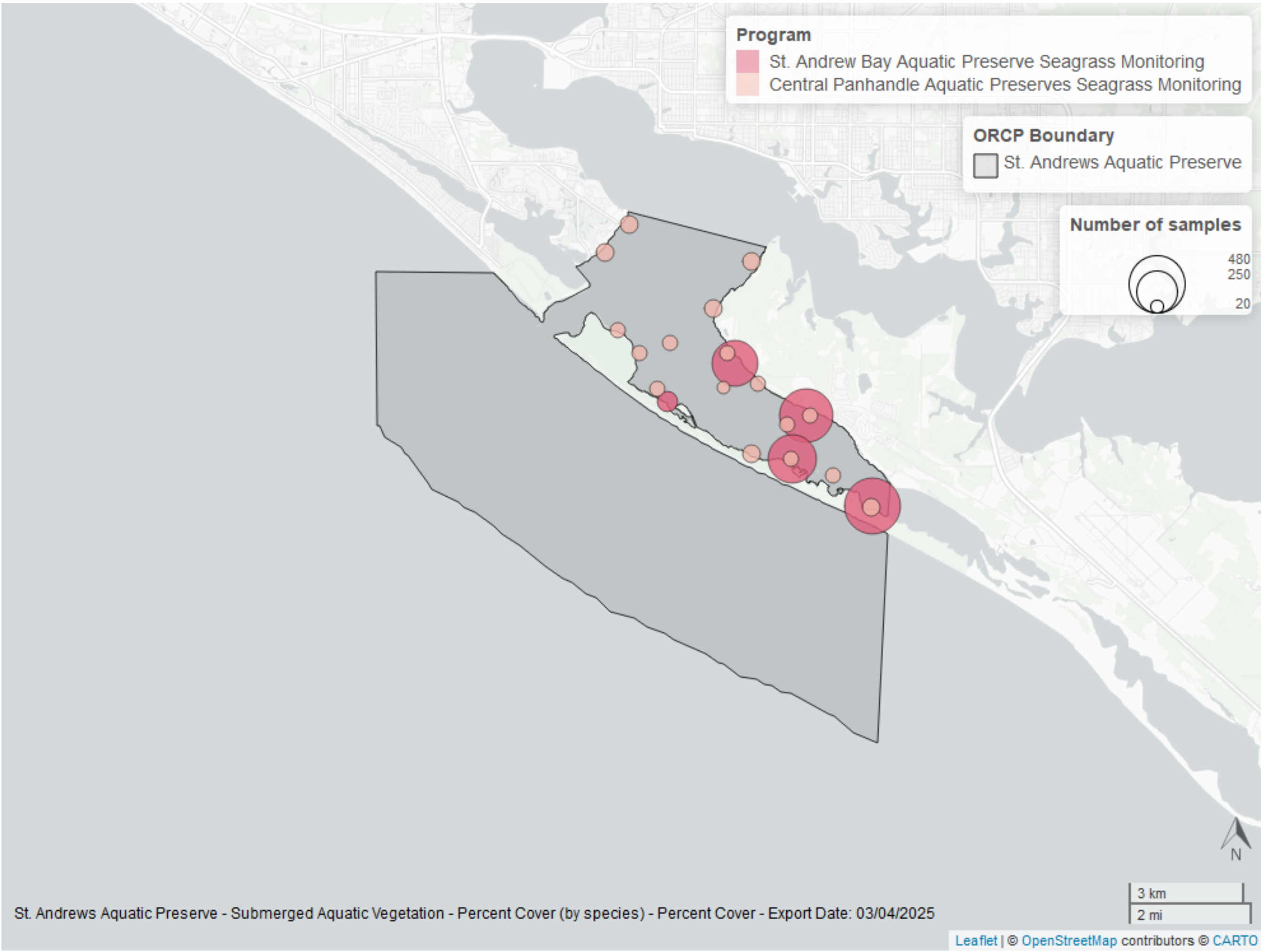

Figure 28: Map showing SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve*. The point size reflects the number of samples at a given sampling site.

Table 32: Program Information for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

ProgramID	*N-Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*	*method*	*Sample Locations*
557	703	2016	2023	Braun Blanquet	17
556	1652	2000	2007	Percent Cover	5

Program names:

556 - St. Andrew Bay Aquatic Preserve Seagrass Monitoring[10]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[9]

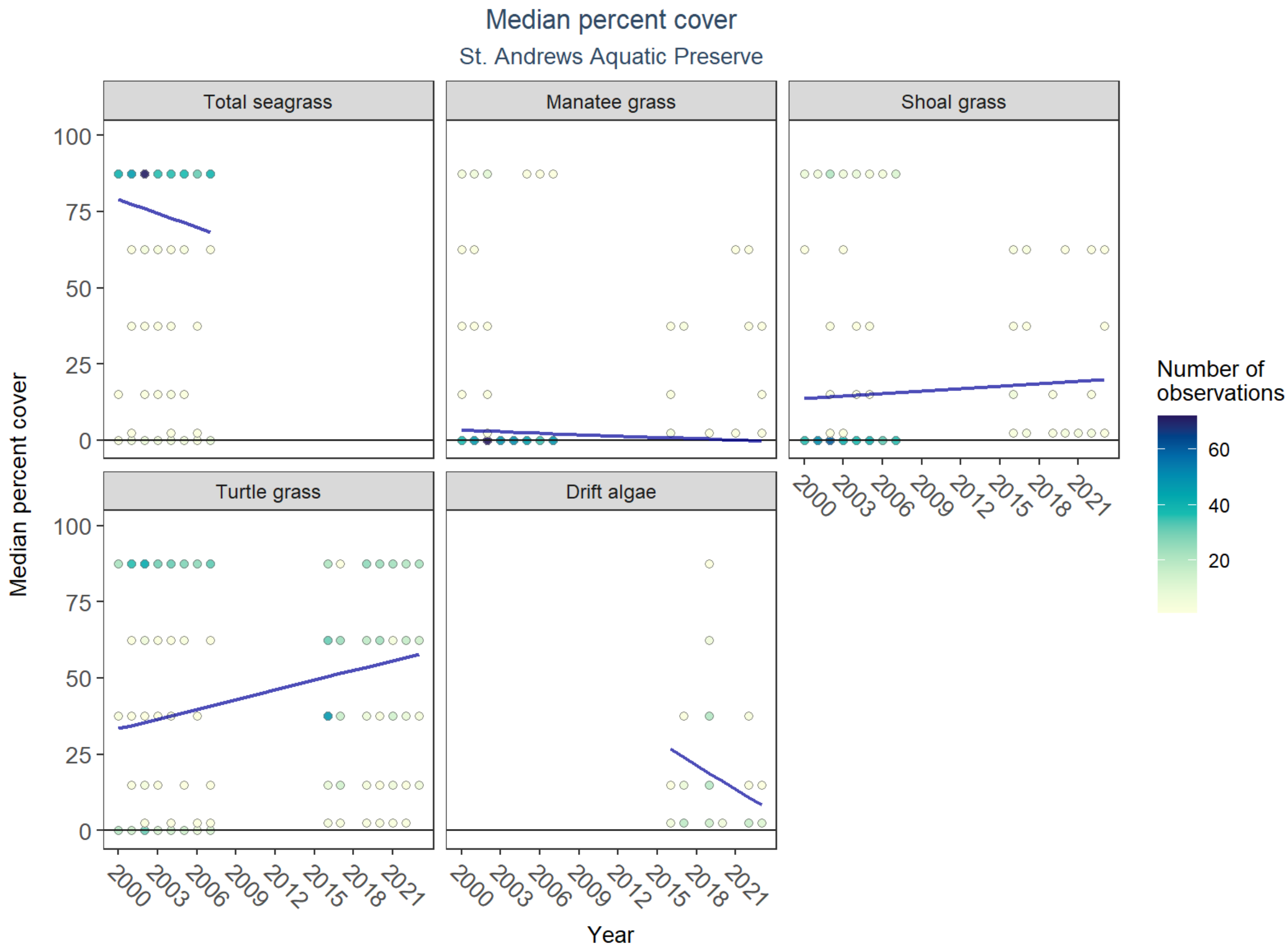

Figure 29: Scatter plots of median percent cover of submerged aquatic vegetation over time by group. Plots for time series that included five or more years of observations show the estimated trend as a blue line.

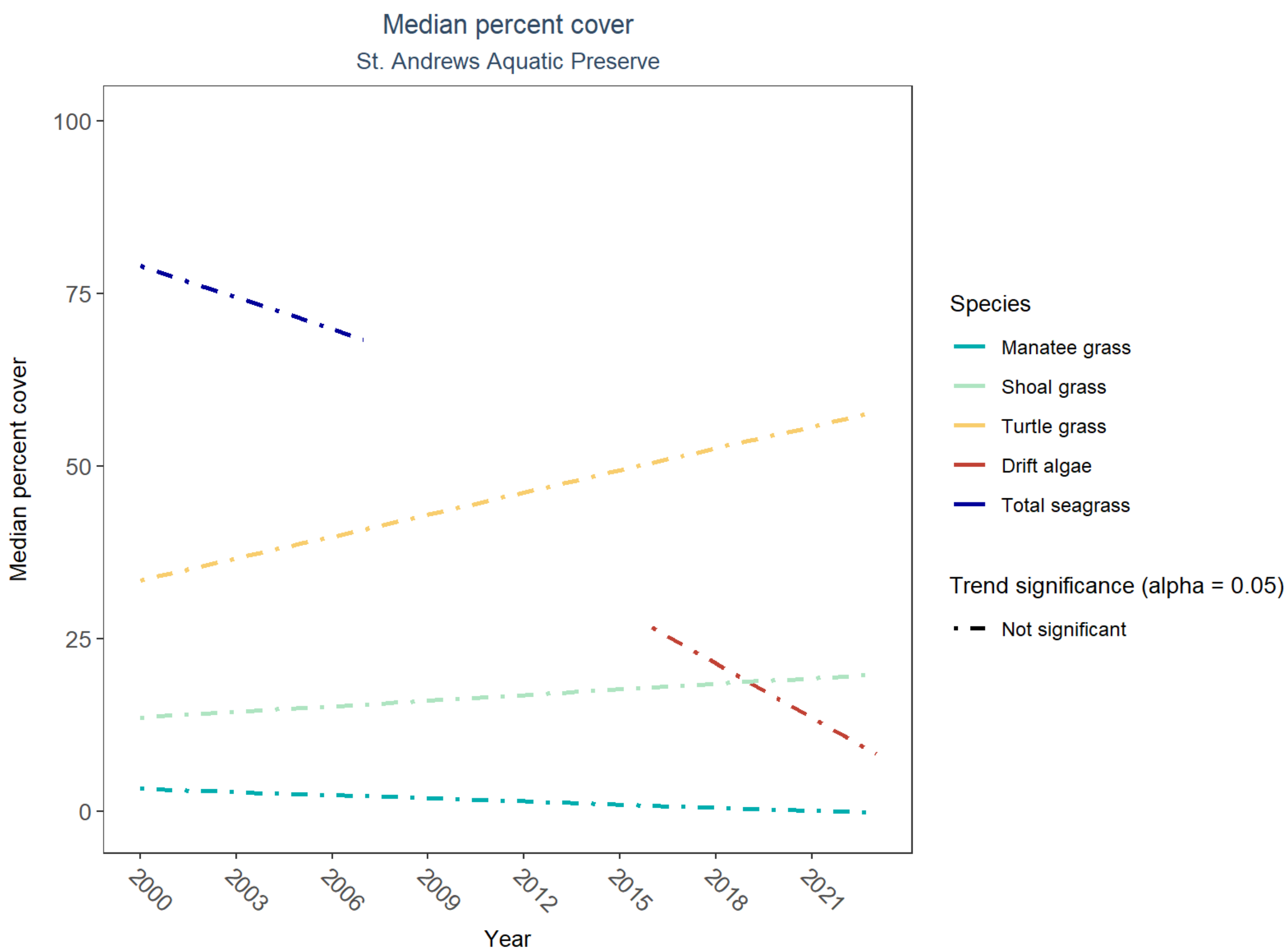

Figure 30: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve - simplified

Table 33: Percent Cover Trend Analysis for St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve

CommonName	*Trend Significance (0.05)*	*Period of Record*	*LME-Intercept*	*LME-Slope*	*p*
Drift algae	No significant trend	2016 - 2023	84.424053	-2.6242569	0.0740358
Shoal grass	No significant trend	2000 - 2023	11.986980	0.2705287	0.4854922
No grass in quadrat	Model did not fit the available data	2016 - 2023	-	-	-
Manatee grass	No significant trend	2000 - 2023	4.172902	-0.1513985	0.8195886
Turtle grass	No significant trend	2000 - 2023	27.038972	1.0624913	0.1315360
Total seagrass	No significant trend	2000 - 2007	88.135932	-1.5226835	0.1502232

Total seagrass, manatee grass, shoal grass, turtle grass, and drift algae showed no detectable change in percent cover.

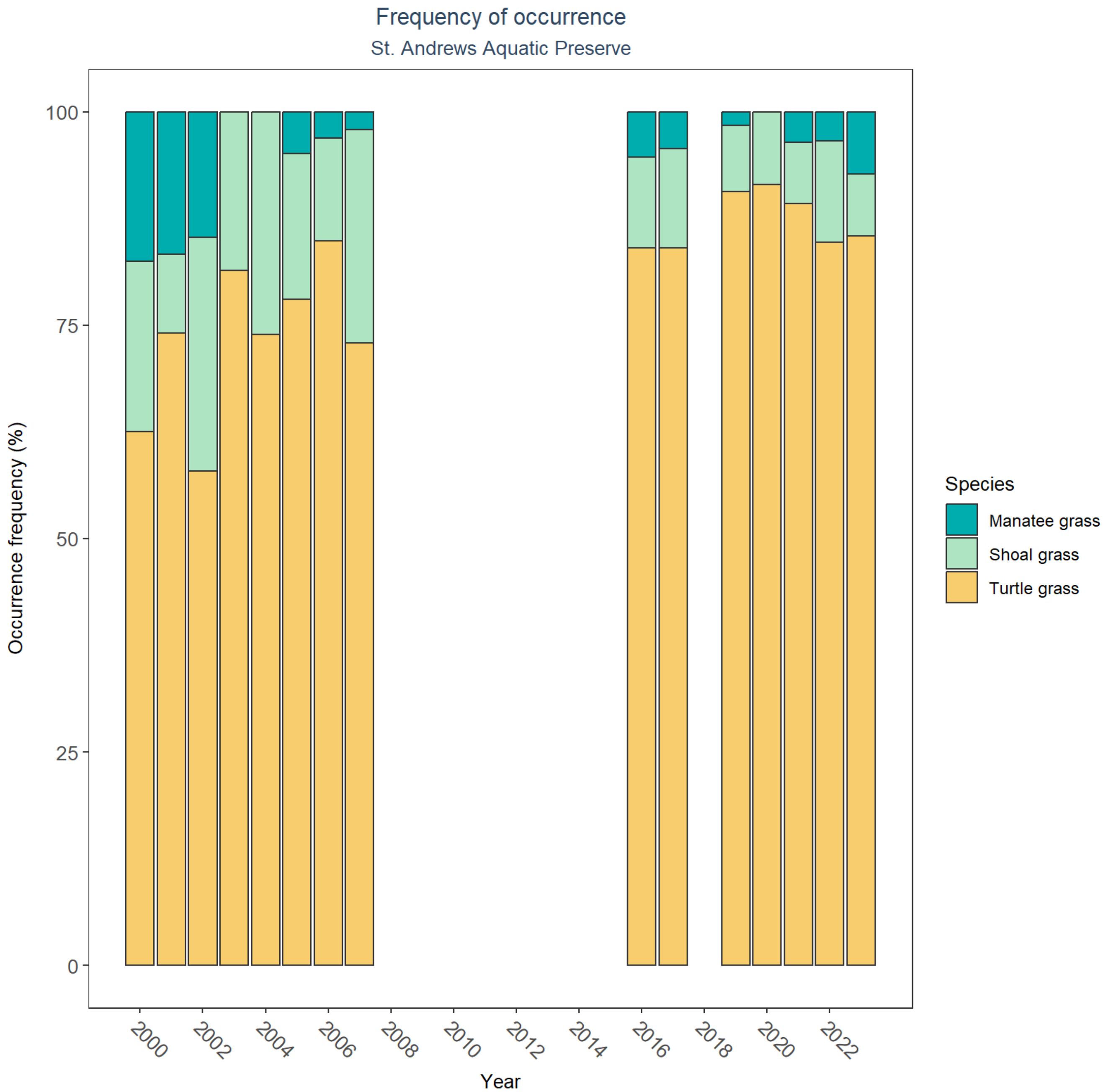

Figure 31: Frequency of occurrence for various seagrass species in St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve

References

1. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP); Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves. St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring. (2024).
2. University of Florida (UF); Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Florida LAKEWATCH Program. (2024).
3. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Florida STORET / WIN. (2024).
4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX. (2023).
5. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Office of Research and Development. Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program. (2004).
6. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Office of Water; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); National Estuary Program (NEP); coastal states. National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment. (2021).
7. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program. (2022).
8. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network. (2018).
9. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP); Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves. Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring. (2023).
10. St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association. St. Andrew Bay Aquatic Preserve Seagrass Monitoring. (2007).