

Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve

SEACAR Habitat Analyses

Last compiled on 08 January, 2025

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Funding & Acknowledgements

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

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Threshold Filtering

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

Table 1: Continuous Water Quality threshold values

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

Table 2: Discrete Water Quality threshold values

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

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

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

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

Value Qualifiers

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

STORET and WIN value qualifier codes

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

Table 4: Value Qualifier codes excluded from analysis

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

Discrete Water Quality Value Qualifiers

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

H - Value based on field kit 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	Yes	Optional parameter not collected
SWMP	-2	No	Missing data
SWMP	-3	No	Data rejected due to QA/QC
SWMP	-4	No	Outside low sensor range
SWMP	-5	No	Outside high sensor range
SWMP	0	Yes	Passed initial QA/QC checks
SWMP	1	No	Suspect data
SWMP	2	Yes	Reserved for future use
SWMP	3	Yes	Calculated data: non-vented depth/level sensor correction for changes in barometric pressure
SWMP	4	Yes	Historical: Pre-auto QA/QC
SWMP	5	Yes	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-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Chlorophyll_a_uncorrected_for_pheophytin-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Colored_dissolved_organic_matter_CDOM-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Dissolved_Oxygen-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Dissolved_Oxygen_Saturation-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_pH-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Salinity-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Secchi_Depth-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Nitrogen-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Phosphorus-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Suspended_Solids_TSS-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Turbidity-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Water_Temperature-2024-Dec-08.txt*

Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

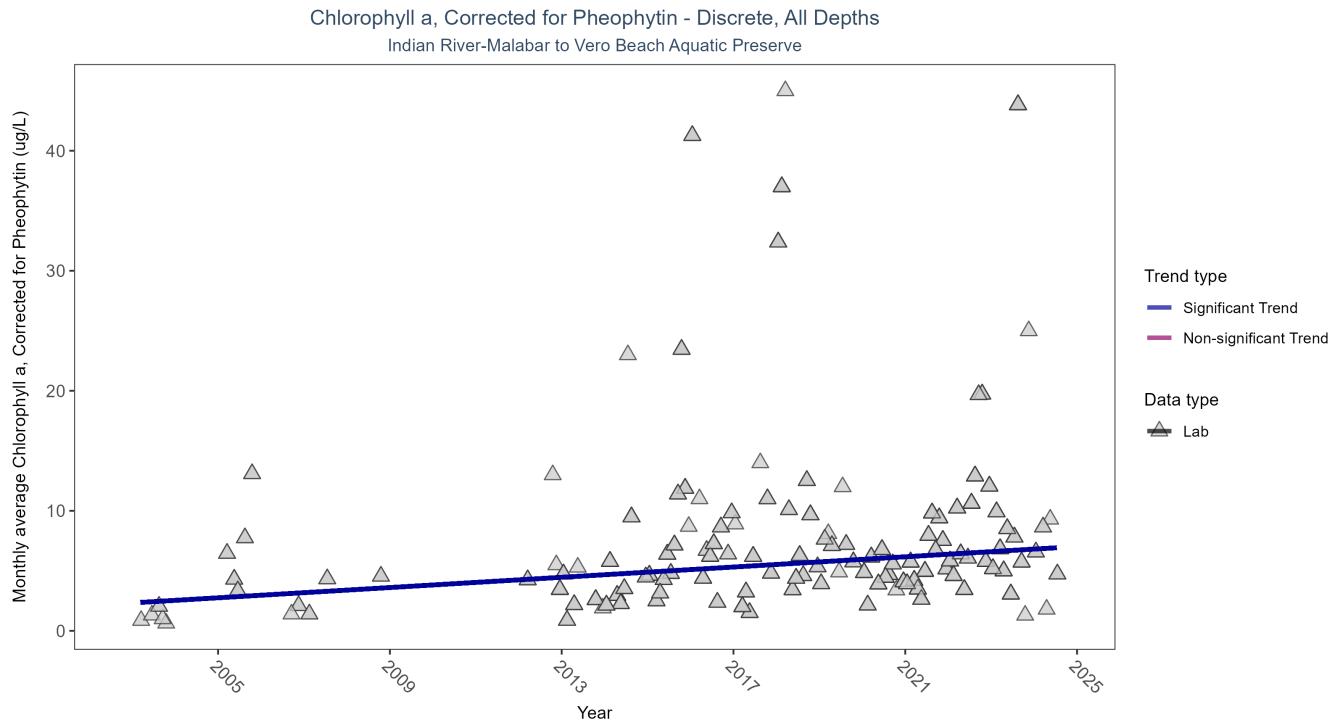


Figure 1: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	722	18	4.6	TRUE	0.2296	0.0016	0.2135	2.3254	4.2063	0.9635	1

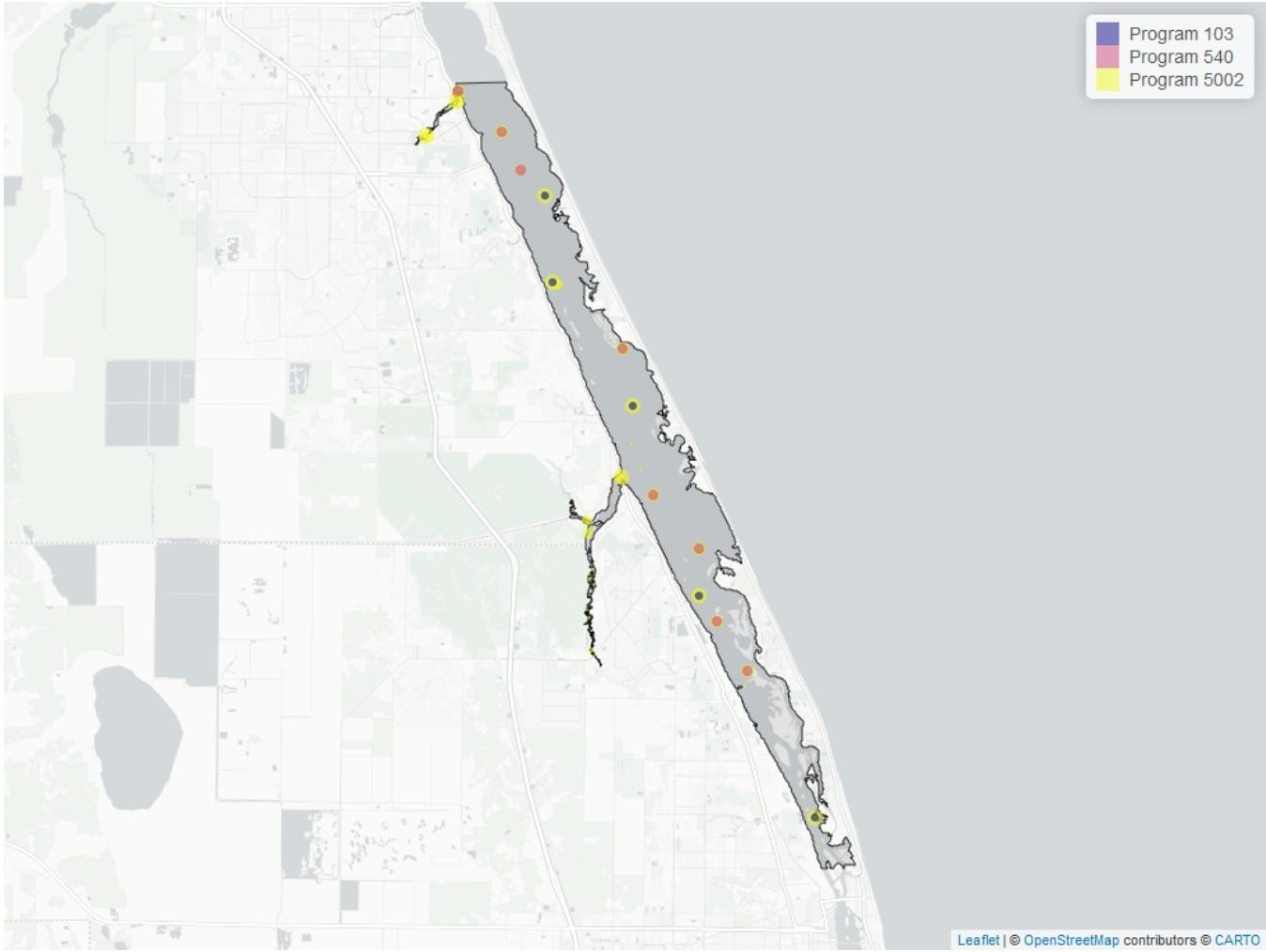


Figure 2: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	586	2003	2024
540	127	2016	2020
103	35	2020	2021

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

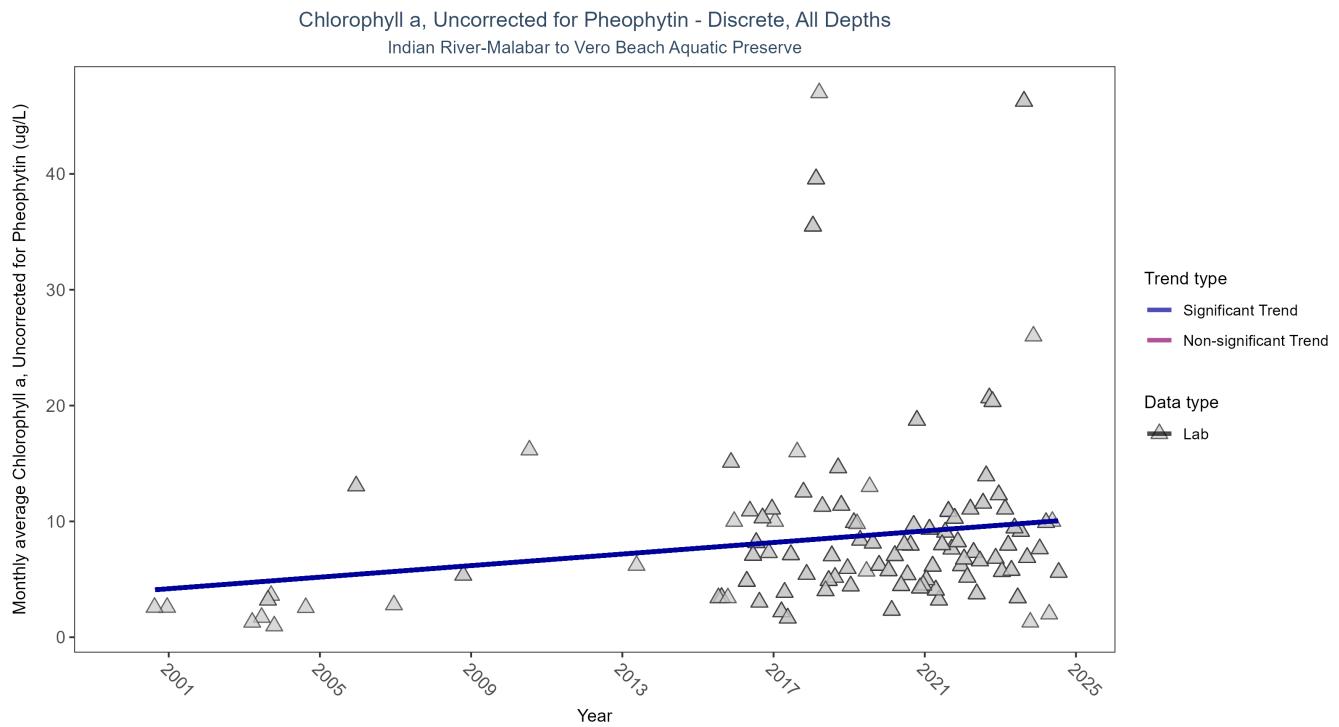


Figure 3: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	562	18	6	TRUE	0.1553	0.0148	0.2494	3.9385	12.2711	0.3436	1

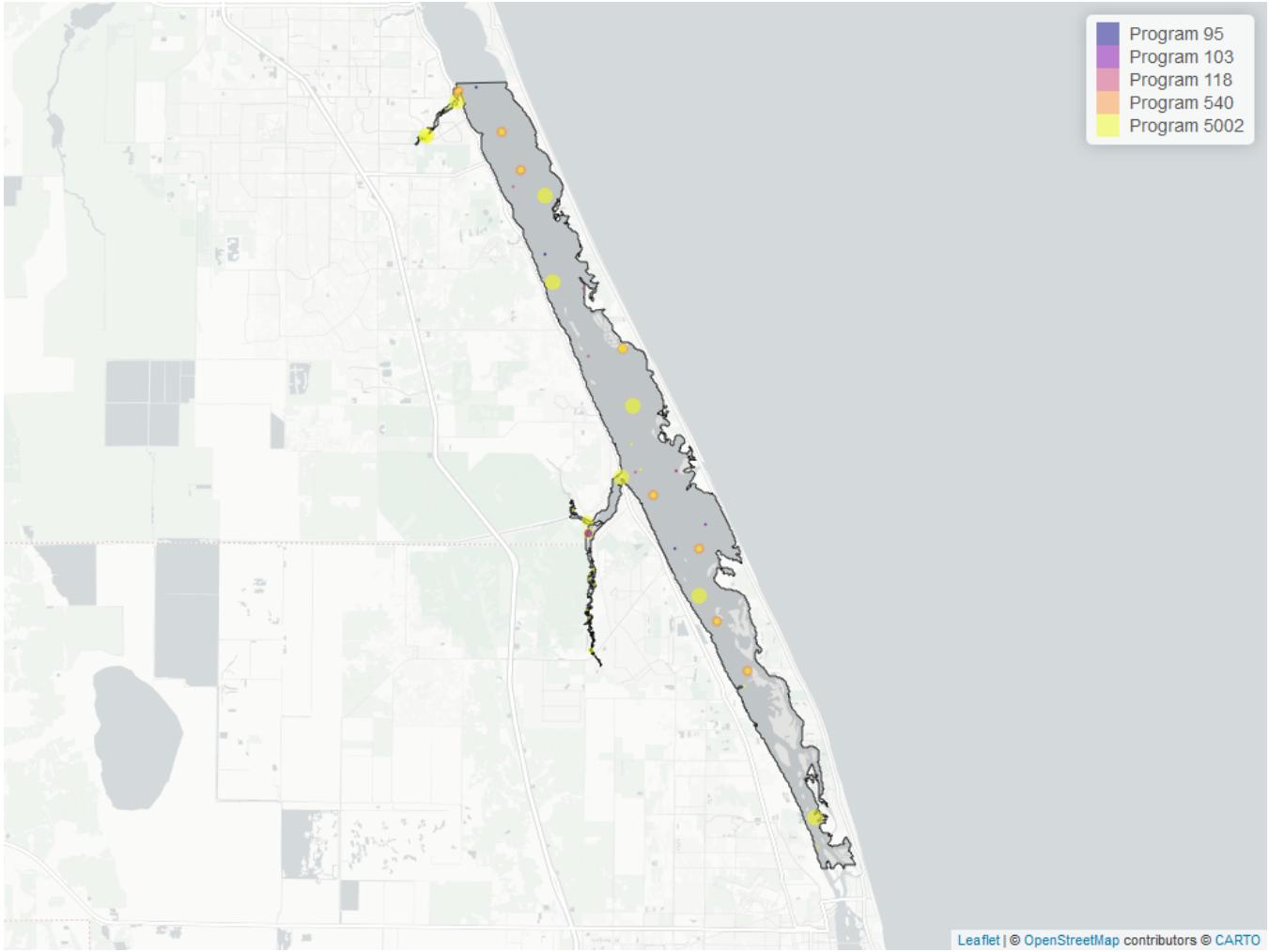


Figure 4: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	427	2003	2024
540	131	2016	2020
103	14	2000	2021
118	5	2000	2010
95	3	2018	2018

Program names:

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁴

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

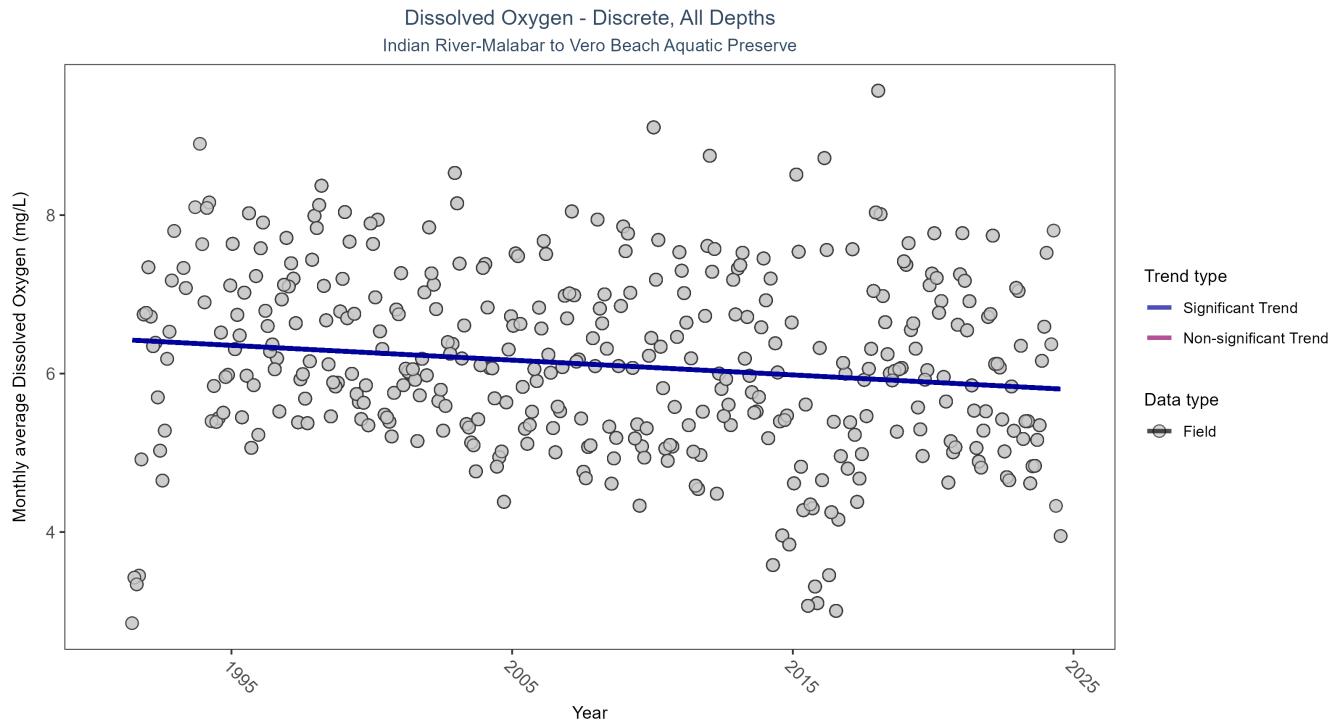


Figure 5: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	56816	34	6.2	TRUE	-0.1713	0	-0.0187	6.4308	9.6707	0.5602	-1

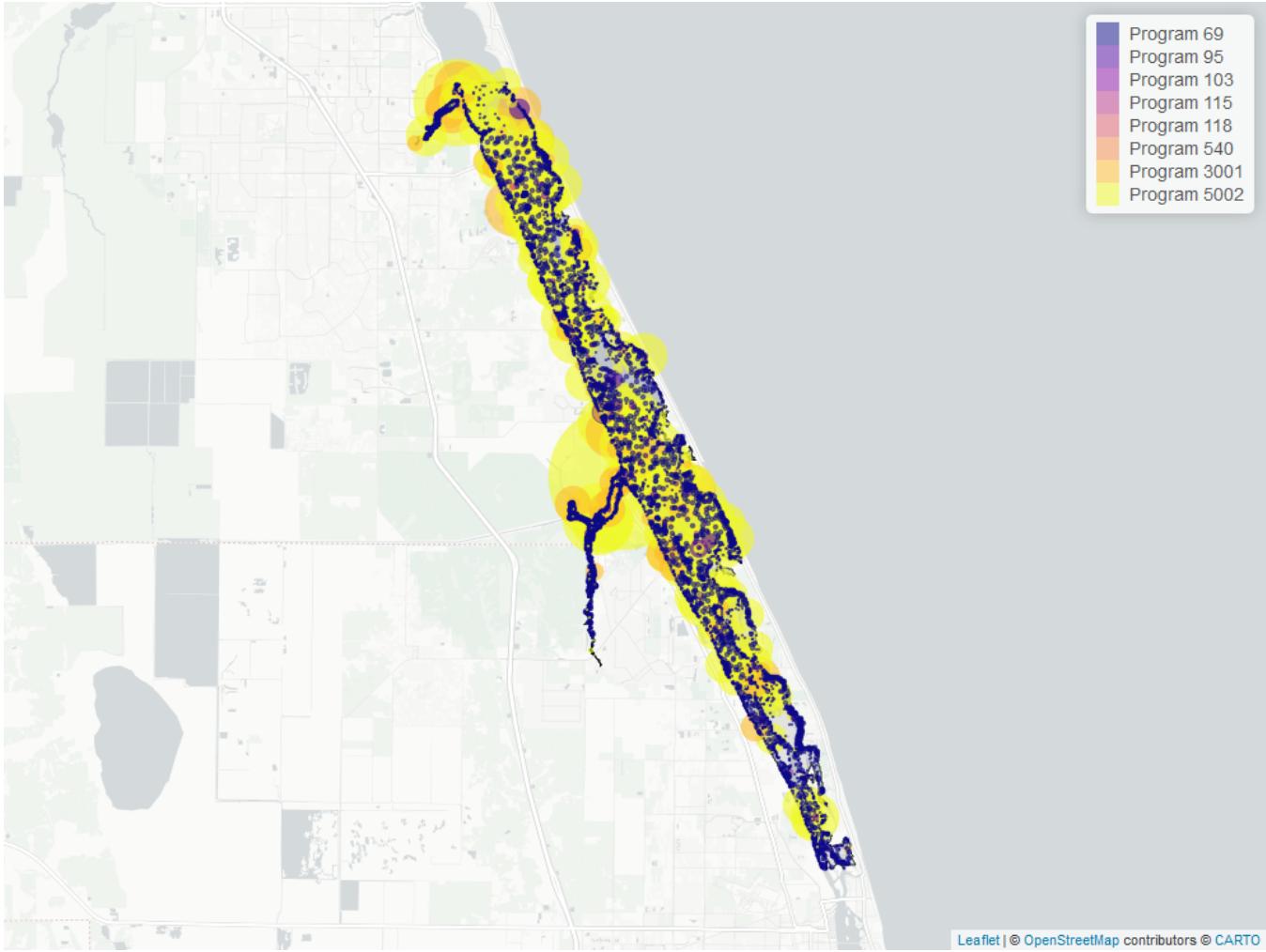


Figure 6: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Dissolved Oxygen. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	29584	1991	2024
69	19356	1991	2022
3001	6309	1991	2023
3013	1107	2003	2023
95	494	1996	2018
540	127	2016	2020
103	63	2004	2021
115	28	1994	1995
118	15	2000	2021

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁴

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁷

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)⁸

3013 - Seagrass (SJRWMD)⁹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

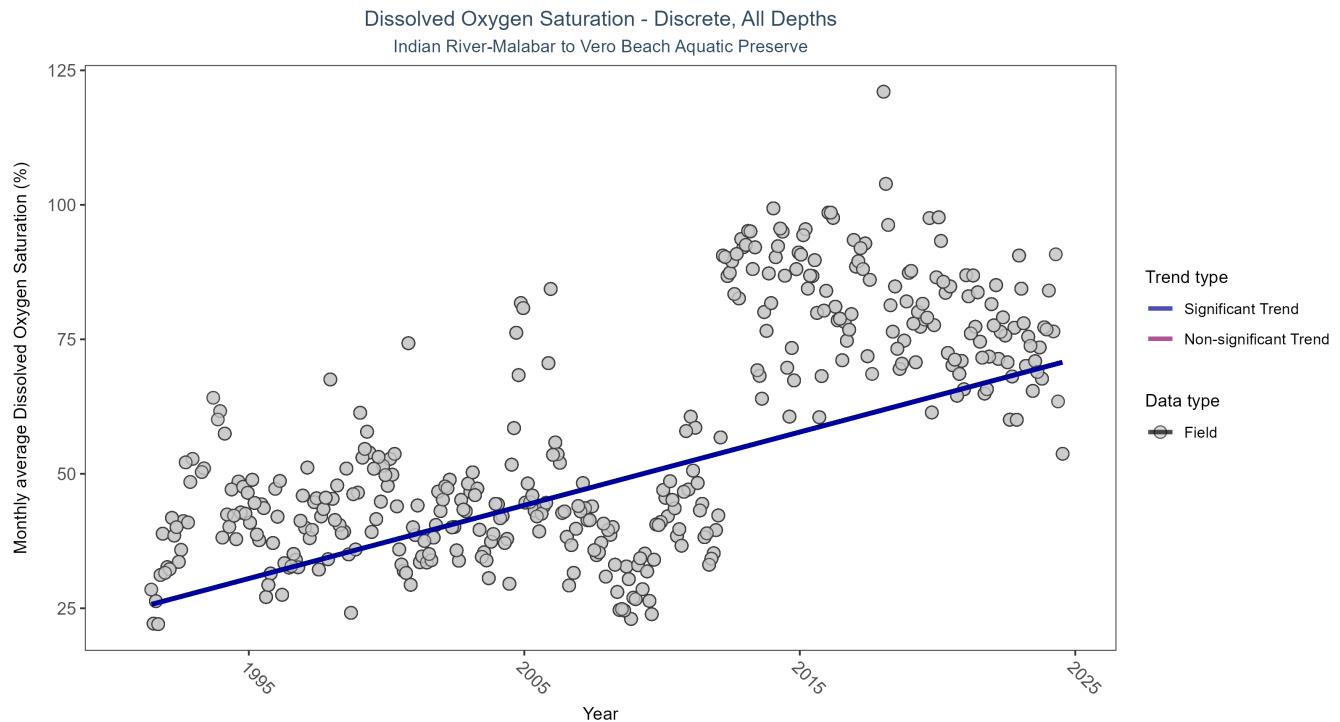


Figure 7: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	13189	34	68.845	TRUE	0.4097	0	1.3612	25.0941	2.8534	0.9925	1

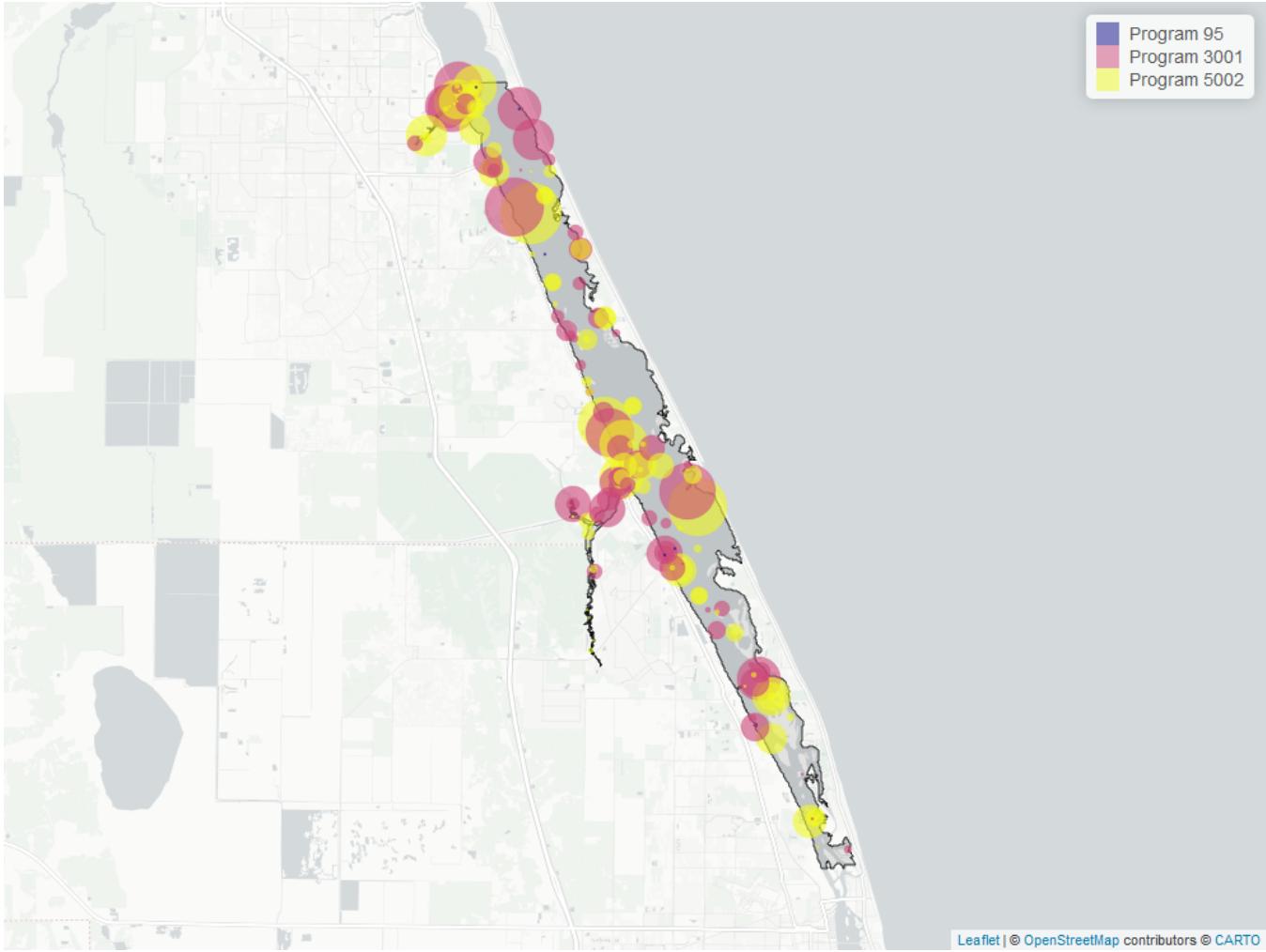


Figure 8: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
3001	6321	1991	2023
5002	6302	1991	2024
3013	570	2012	2023
95	5	2016	2018

Program names:

- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁴
- 3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)⁸
- 3013 - Seagrass (SJRWMD)⁹
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

pH - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

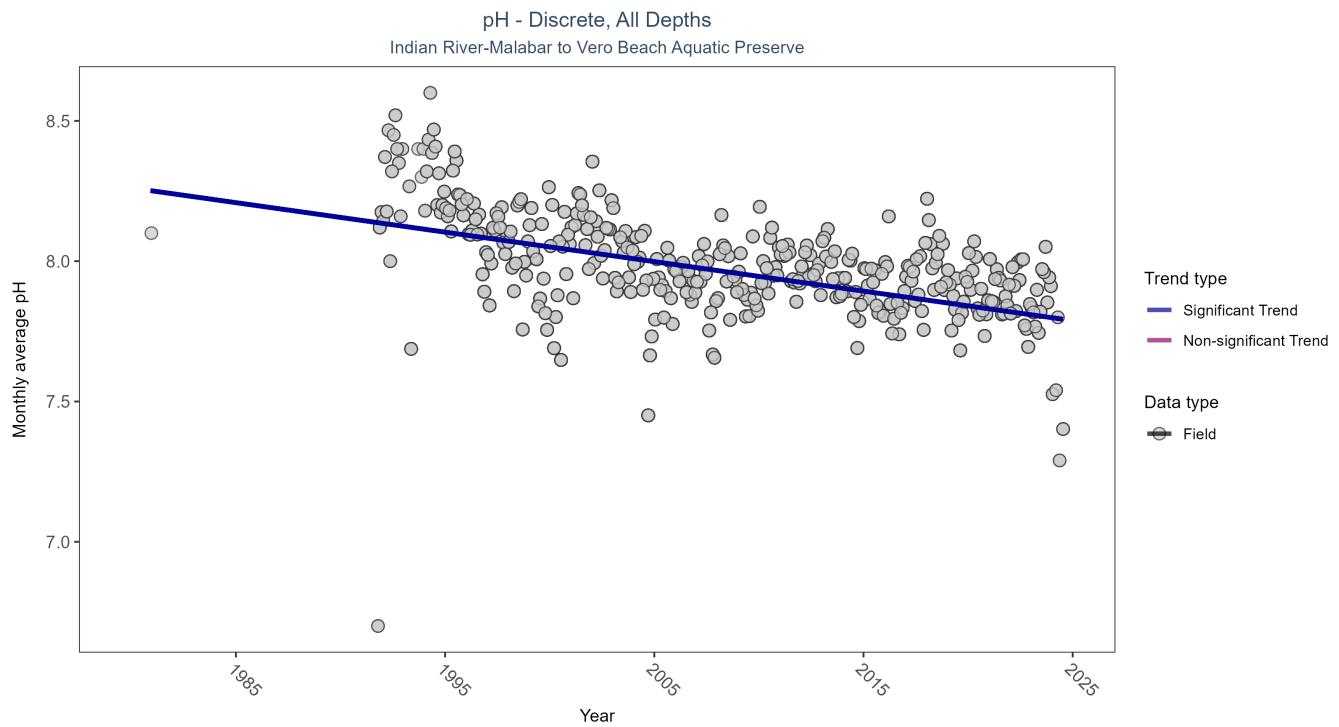


Figure 9: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for pH - Discrete

Table 14: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for pH

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	47822	35	8	TRUE	-0.4351	0	-0.0105	8.2612	3.5851	0.9805	-1

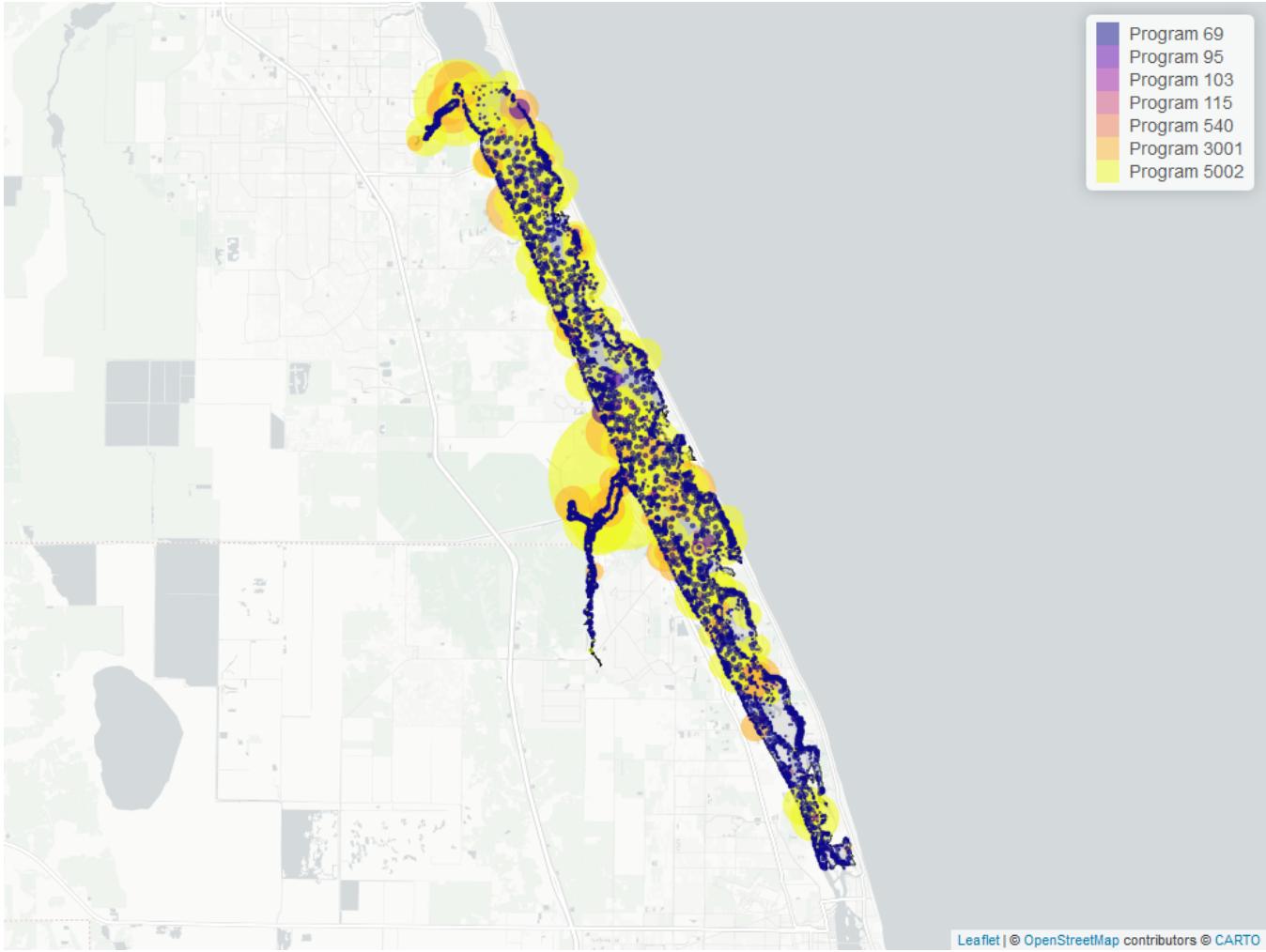


Figure 10: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for pH. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for pH

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	22018	1995	2024
69	19360	1991	2022
3001	5913	1991	2023
3013	1119	2003	2023
95	454	1980	2018
540	119	2016	2020
103	62	2004	2021
115	22	1994	1995

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁴

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁷

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)⁸

3013 - Seagrass (SJRWM)⁹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Salinity - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

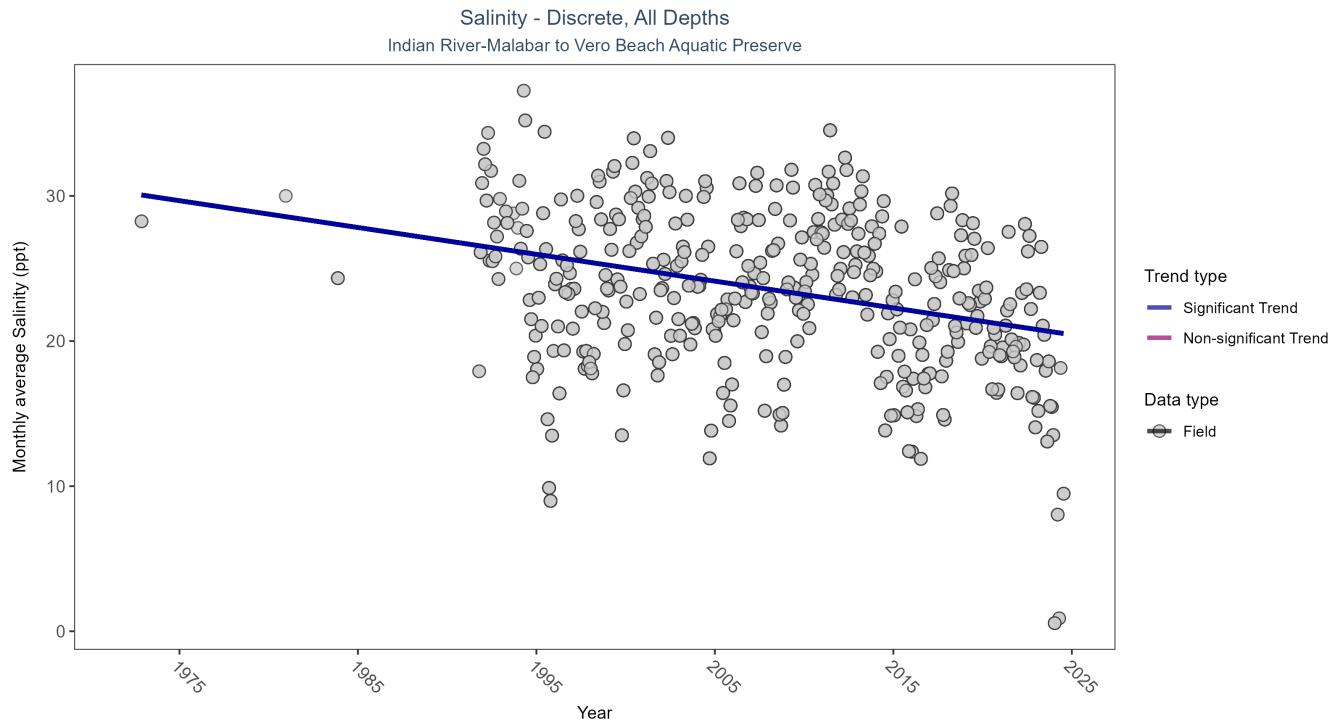


Figure 11: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Salinity - Discrete

Table 16: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Salinity

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	59743	37	26.09	TRUE	-0.253	0	-0.1848	30.2261	9.1161	0.6112	-1

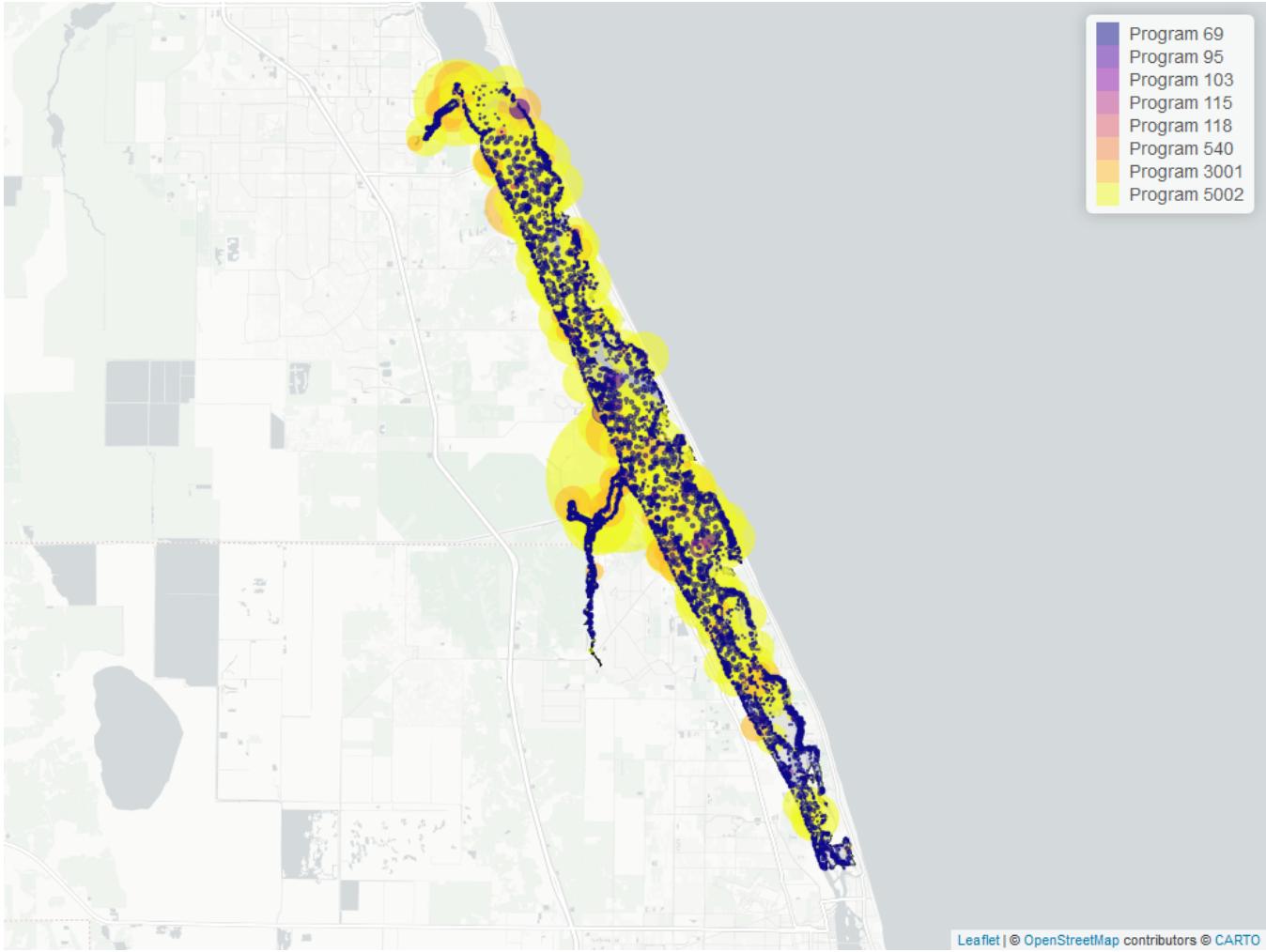


Figure 12: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Salinity. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for Salinity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	32335	1991	2024
69	19425	1991	2022
3001	6272	1991	2023
3013	1123	2003	2023
95	527	1972	2018
540	127	2016	2020
115	25	1994	1995
118	10	2015	2021
103	2	2004	2004

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁴

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁷

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment⁵

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)⁸

3013 - Seagrass (SJRWMD)⁹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Secchi Depth - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

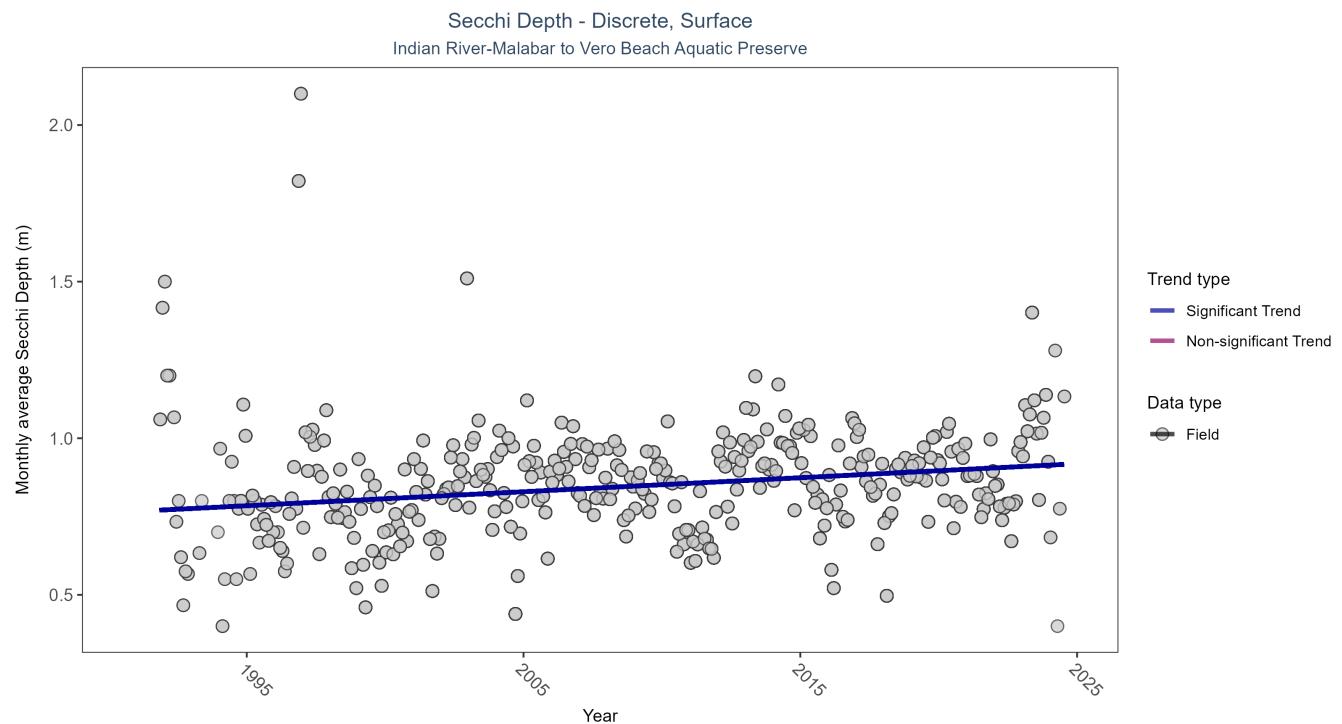


Figure 13: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Secchi Depth - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
Surface	27008	34	0.8	TRUE	0.1775	0	0.0045	0.7666	4.6429	0.9472	1

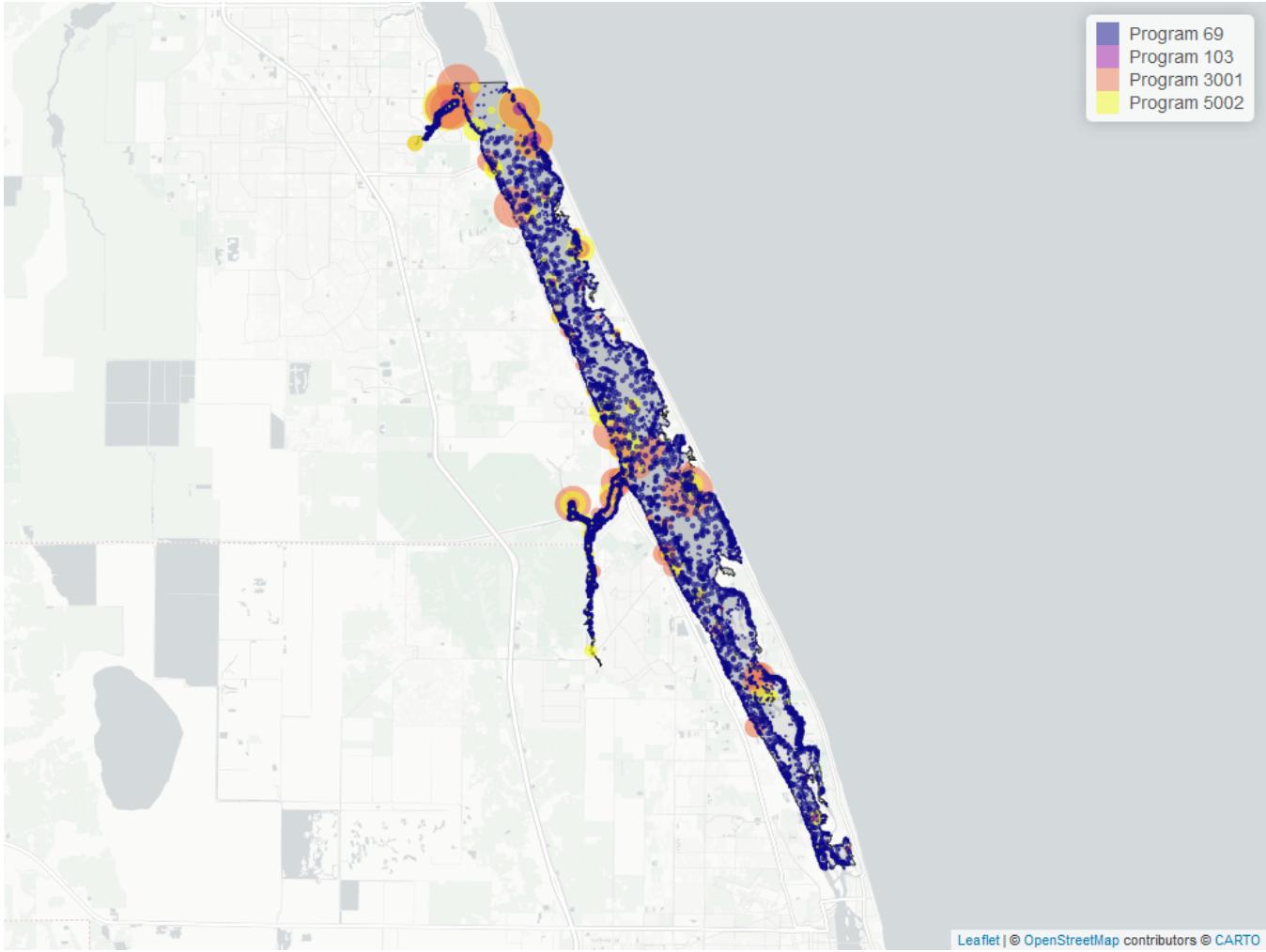


Figure 14: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Secchi Depth. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
69	19263	1995	2022
3001	4033	1991	2023
5002	2632	2005	2024
3013	1129	2003	2023
103	148	2020	2021

Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶
- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹
- 3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)⁸
- 3013 - Seagrass (SJRWMD)⁹
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Total Nitrogen - Discrete Water Quality

Total Nitrogen Calculation:

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

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

Additional Information:

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

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

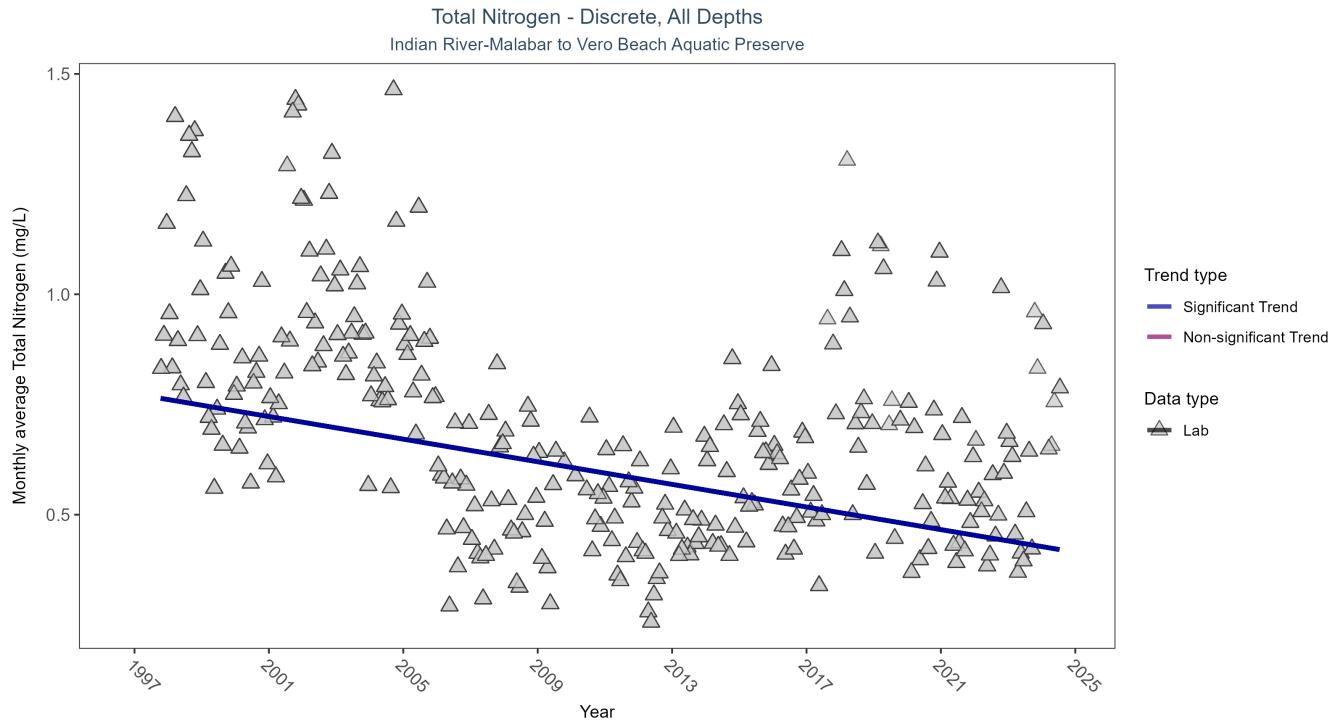


Figure 15: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Total Nitrogen - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	3133	28	0.655	TRUE	-0.2962	0	-0.0128	0.774	7.3569	0.7695	-1

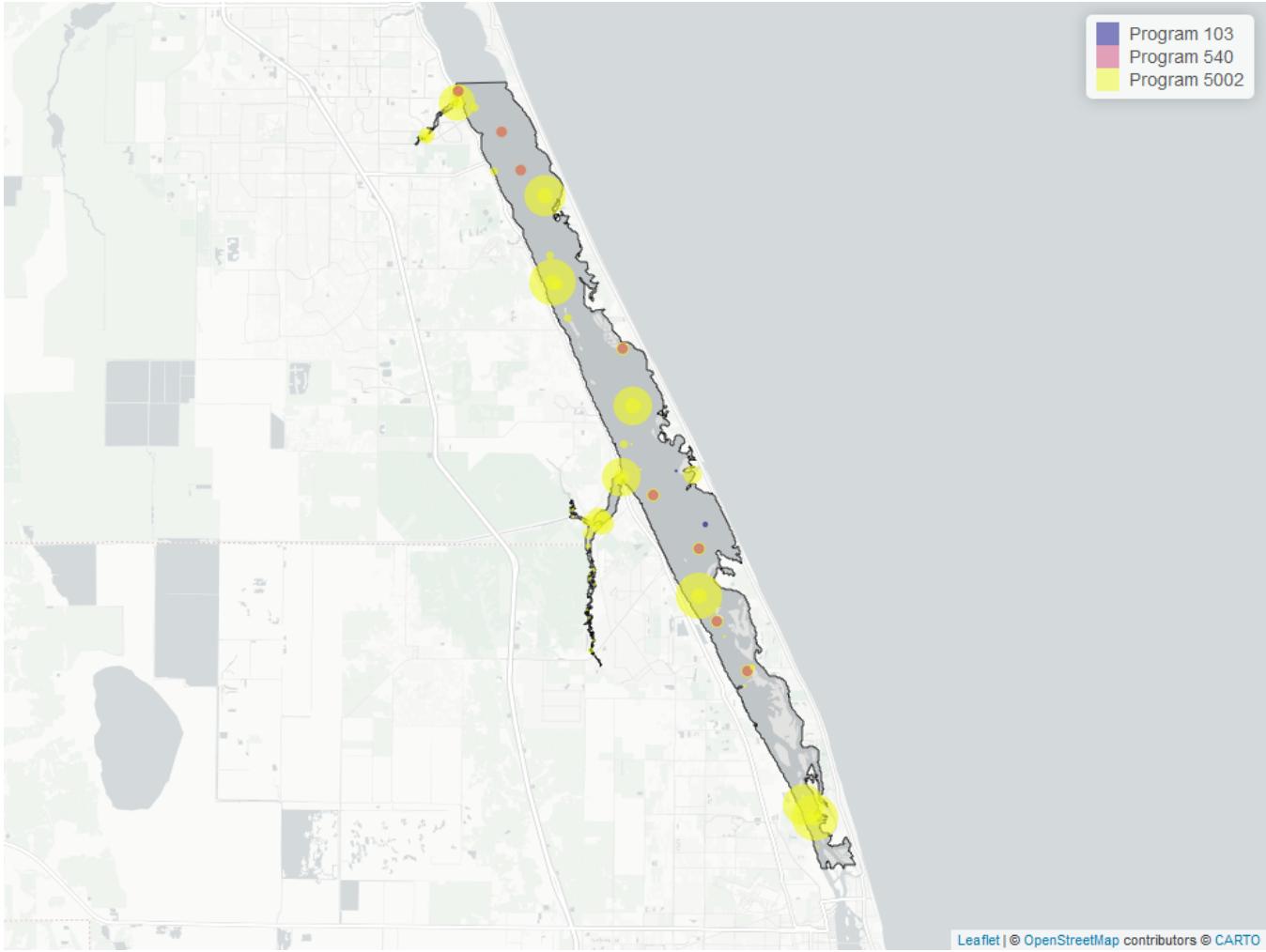


Figure 16: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Total Nitrogen. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	3007	1997	2024
540	122	2016	2020
103	4	2000	2004

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Total Phosphorus - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

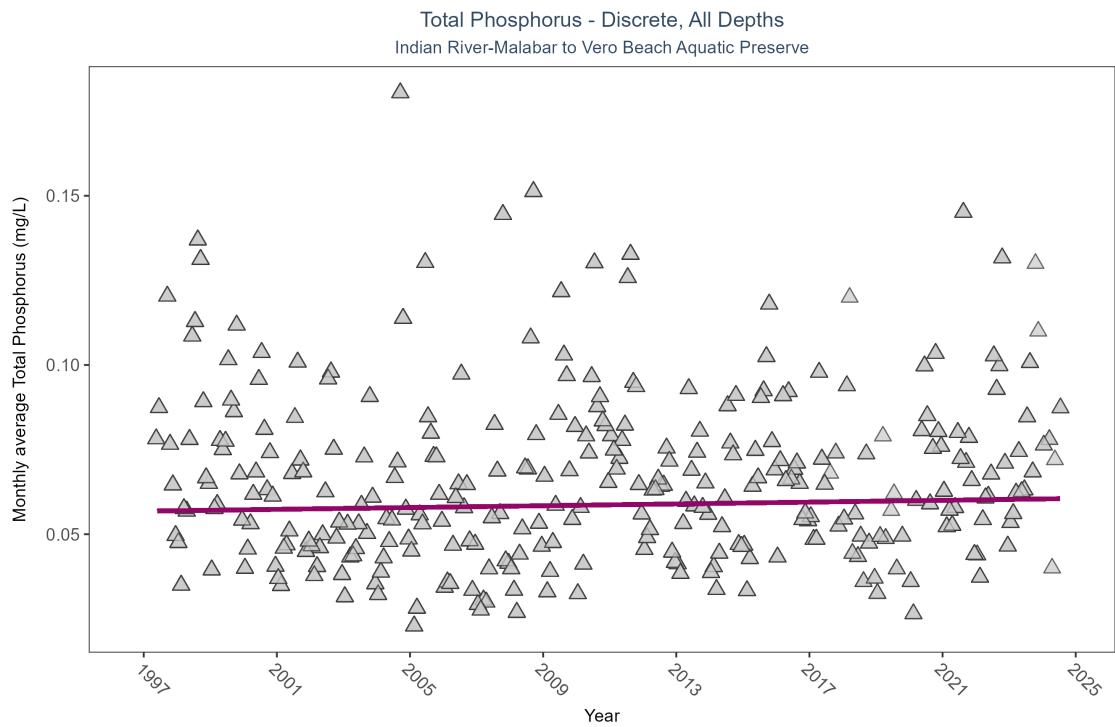


Figure 17: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Total Phosphorus - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	6411	28	0.054	TRUE	0.0445	0.2606	0.0001	0.0568	14.912	0.1866	0

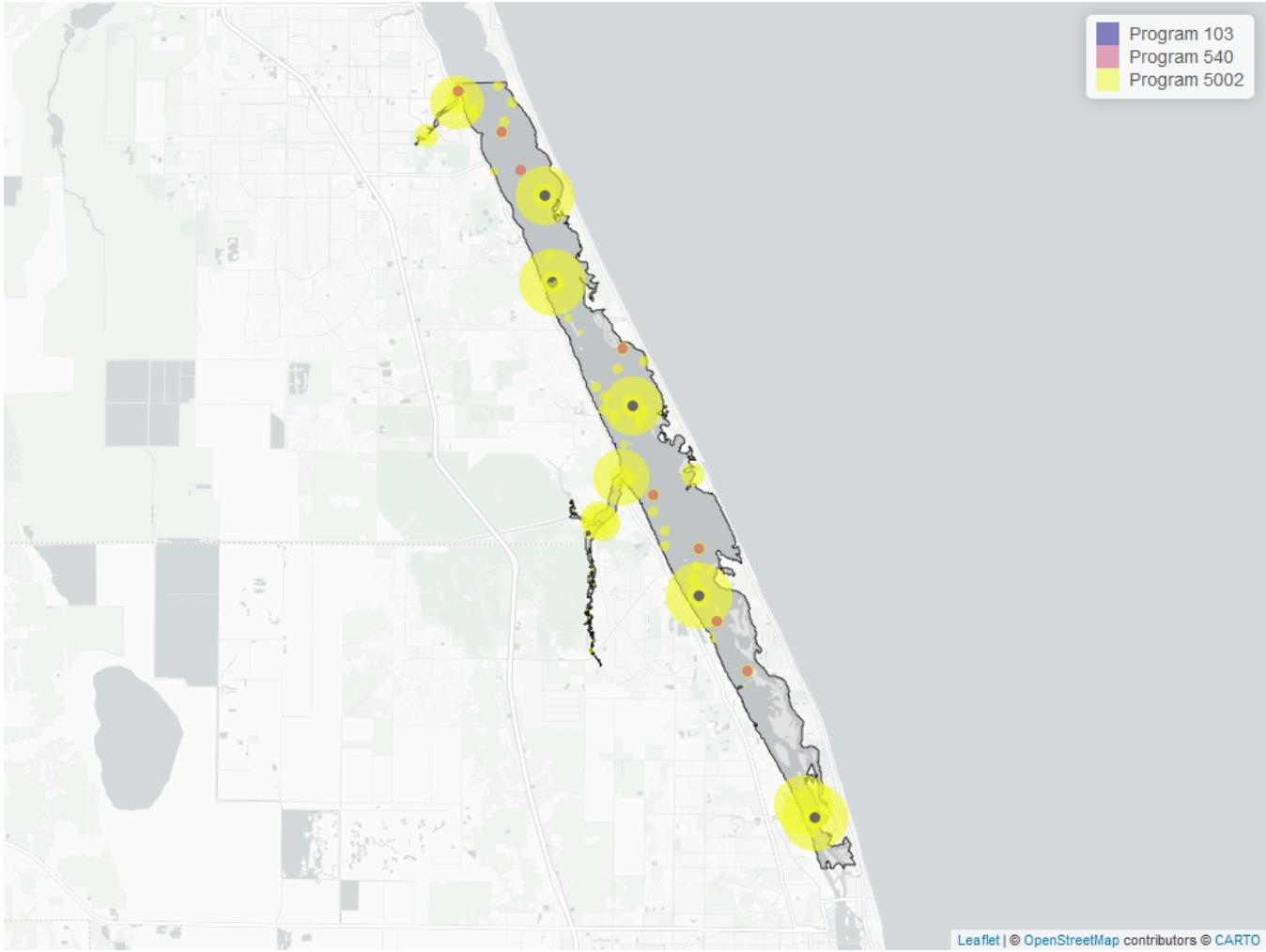


Figure 18: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Total Phosphorus. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 23: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	6316	1997	2024
540	126	2016	2020
103	76	2020	2021

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Total Suspended Solids - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

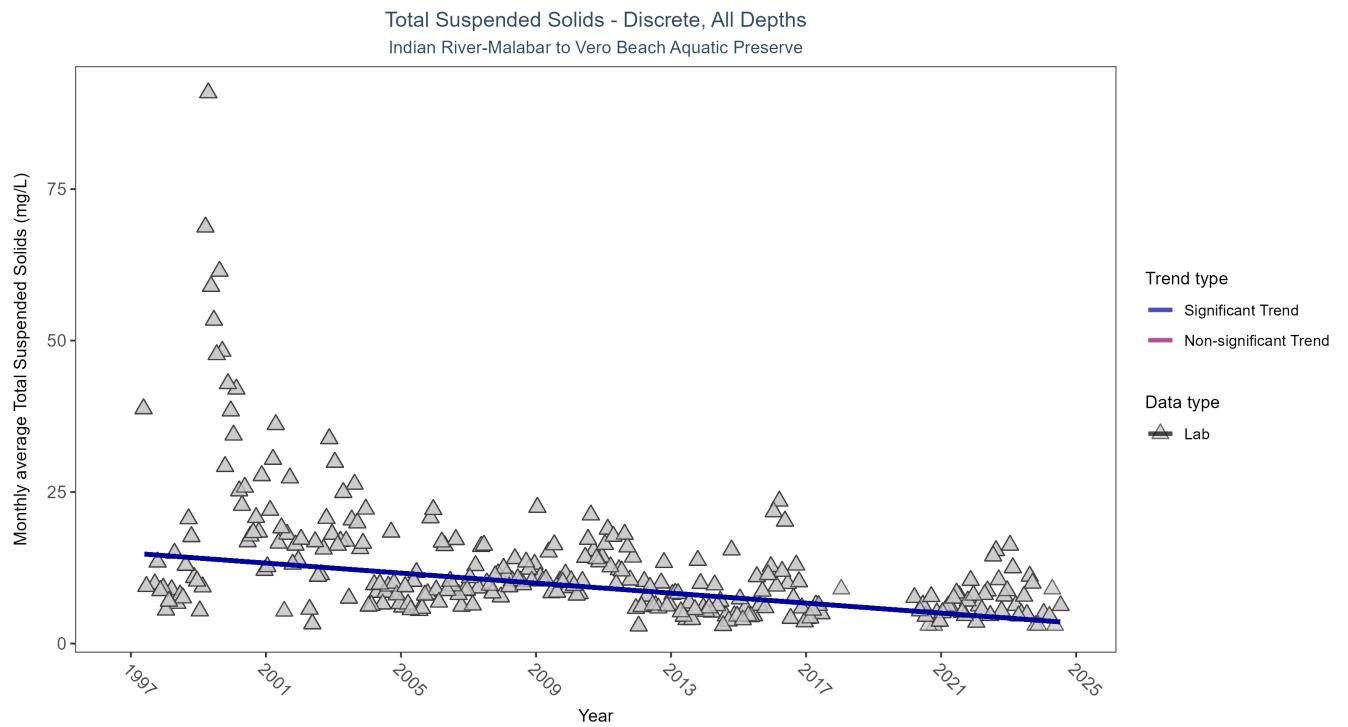


Figure 19: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Total Suspended Solids - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	3248	27	9	TRUE	-0.4026	0	-0.4127	14.9248	4.6591	0.9465	-1

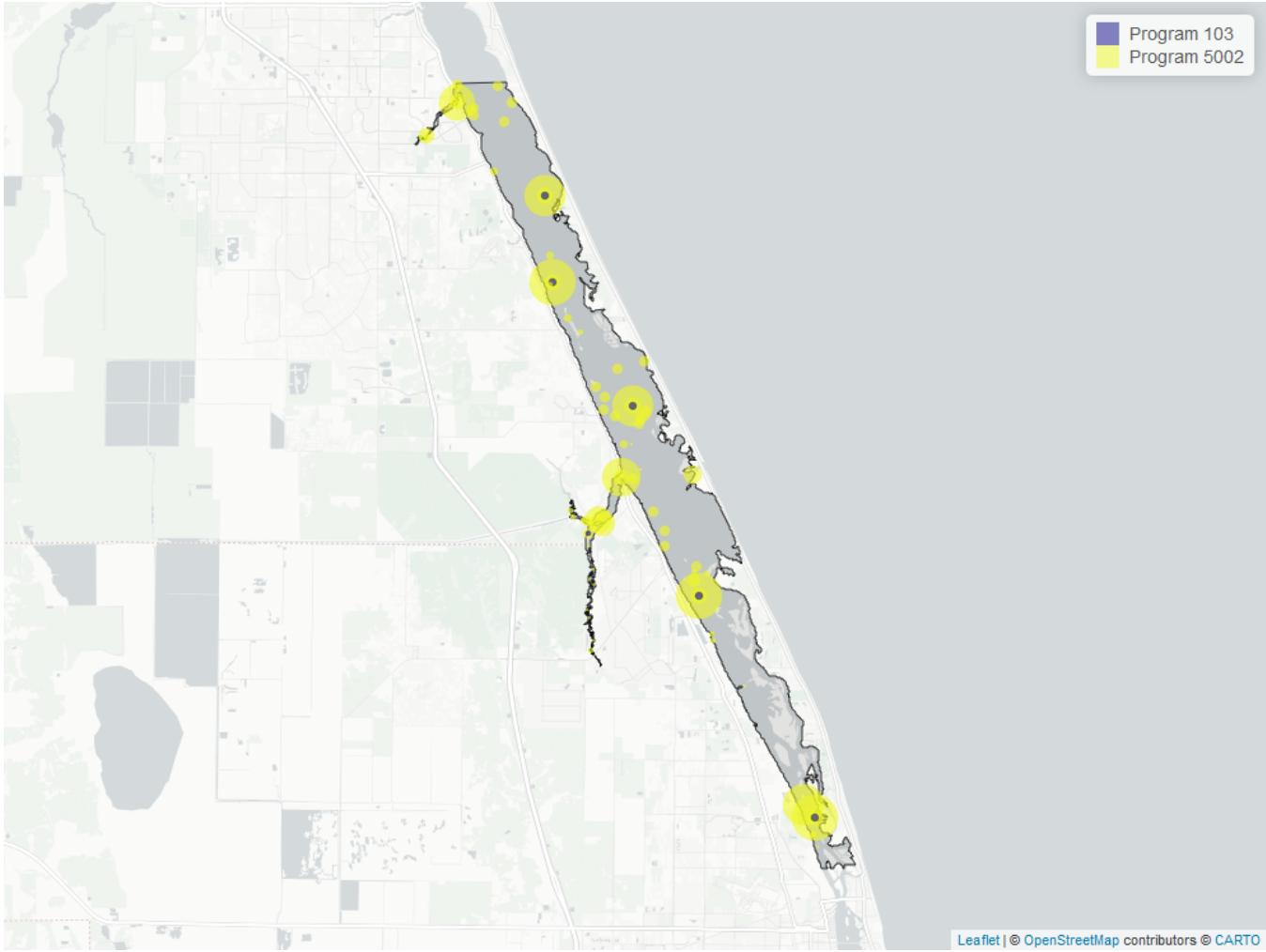


Figure 20: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Total Suspended Solids. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 25: Programs contributing data for Total Suspended Solids

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	3302	1997	2024
103	41	2020	2021

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Turbidity - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

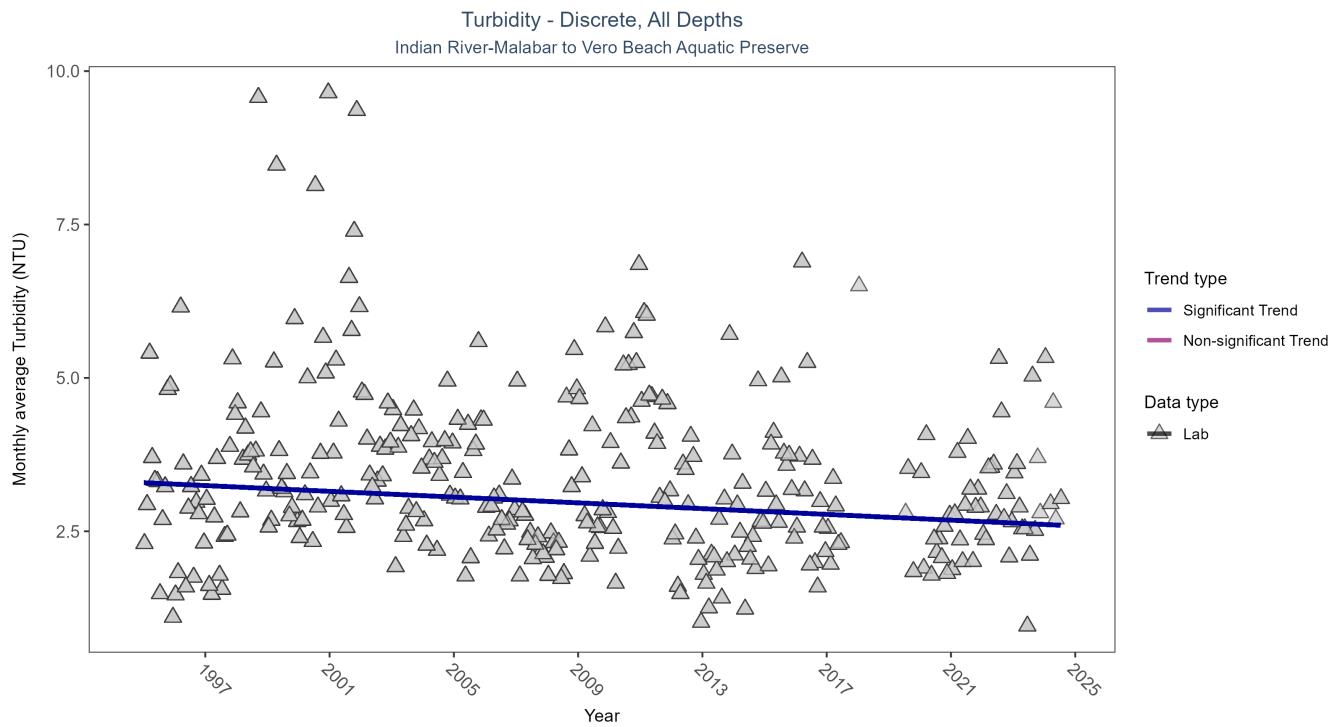


Figure 21: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Turbidity - Discrete

Table 26: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Turbidity

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	14393	30	2.8	TRUE	-0.1285	0.0015	-0.0235	3.2924	14.8366	0.1901	-1

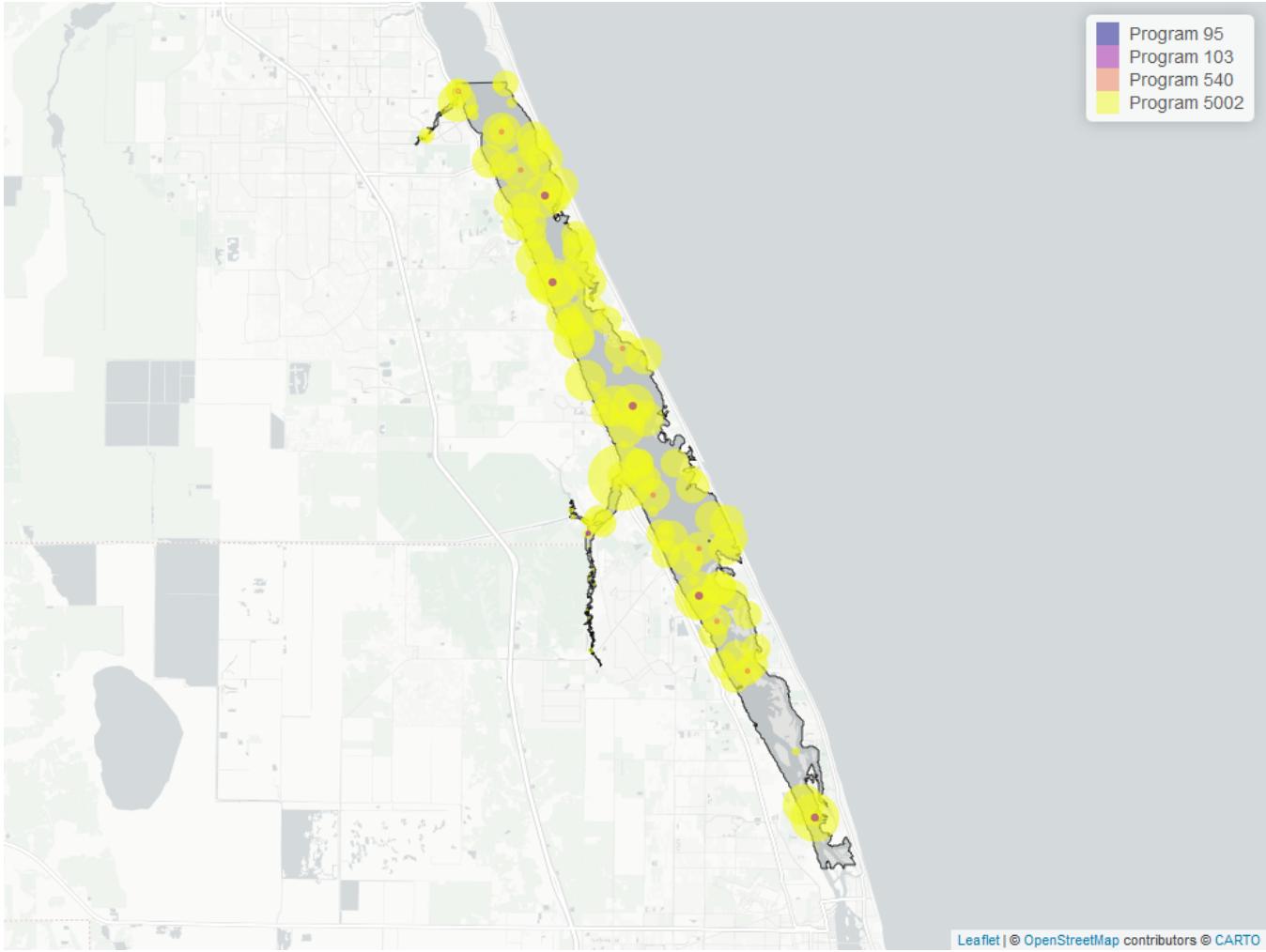


Figure 22: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Turbidity. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 27: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	14964	1995	2024
3013	938	2004	2019
103	40	2020	2021
540	29	2019	2020
95	1	2008	2008

Program names:

- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁴
- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹
- 540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²
- 3013 - Seagrass (SJRWMD)⁹
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Water Temperature - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

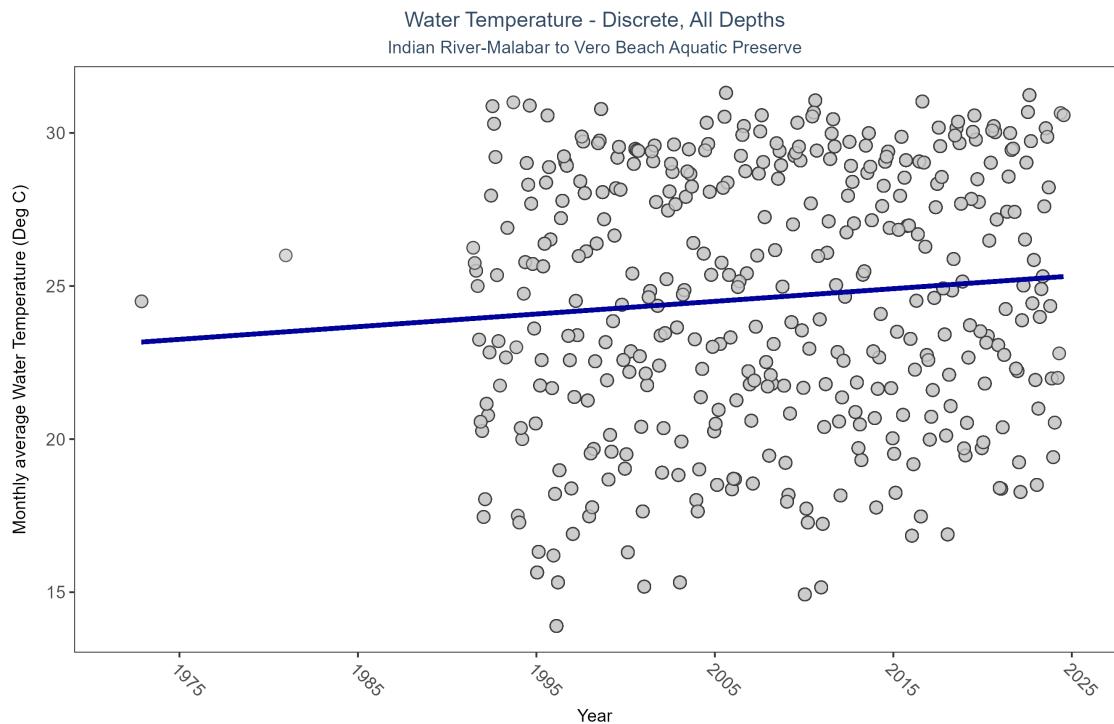


Figure 23: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Water Temperature - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	58890	36	25.5	TRUE	0.2206	0	0.0414	23.1344	4.7506	0.9426	1

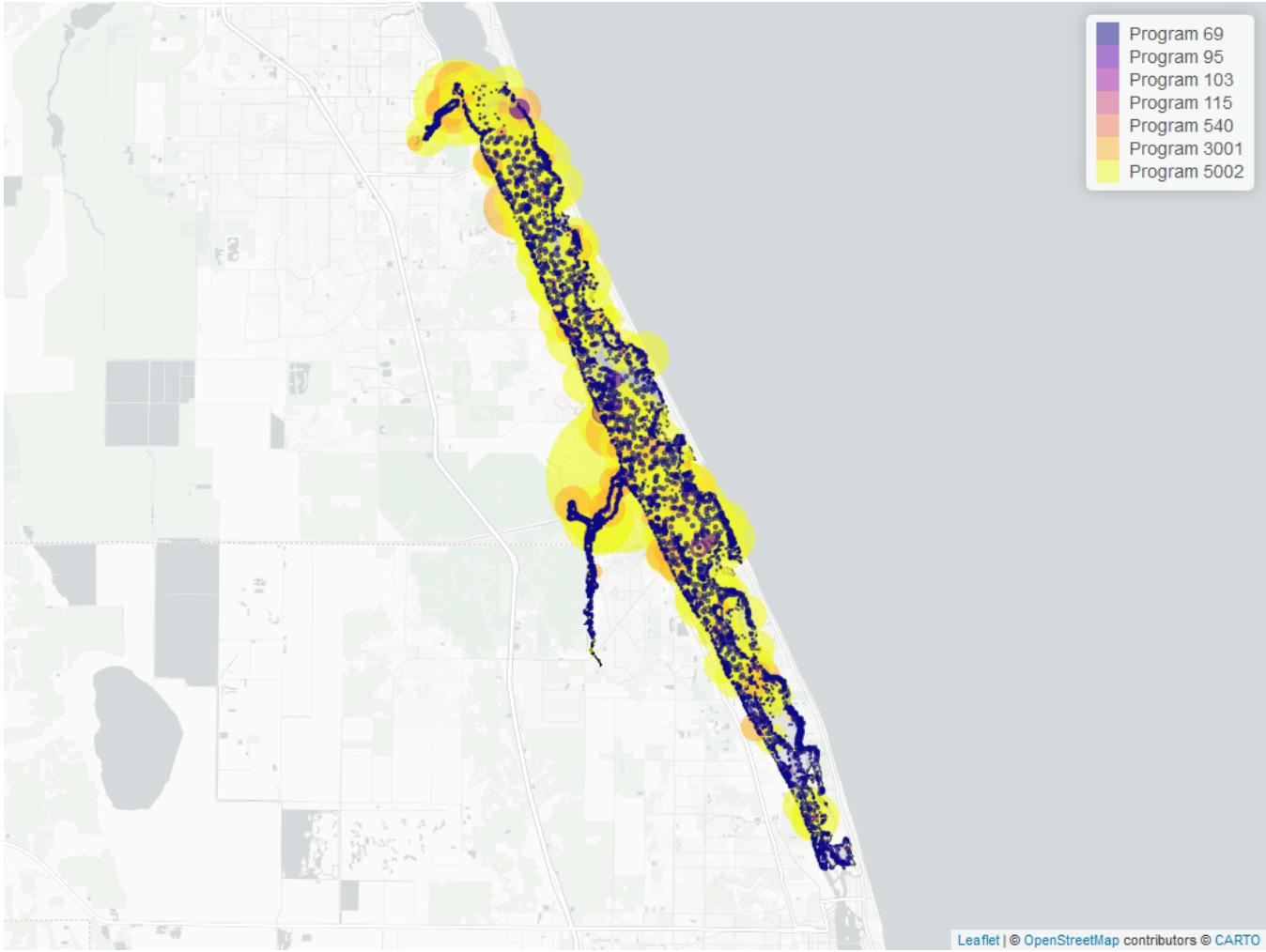


Figure 24: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Water Temperature. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 29: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	32808	1991	2024
69	19428	1991	2022
3001	6298	1991	2023
3013	1115	2003	2023
95	509	1972	2018
540	127	2016	2020
103	62	2004	2021
115	25	1994	1995

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program⁶

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network⁴

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX¹

115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁷

540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program²

3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)⁸

3013 - Seagrass (SJRWMD)⁹

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN³

Water Quality - Continuous

The following files were used in the continuous analysis:

- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Dissolved_Oxygen_NE-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Dissolved_Oxygen_Saturation_NE-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_pH_NE-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Salinity_NE-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Turbidity_NE-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Water_Temperature_NE-2024-Dec-08.txt*

Continuous monitoring locations in Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve

Table 30: Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves Continuous Water Quality Monitoring (5005)

Program	LocationID	Years of Data	Use in Analysis	Parameters
IRDM		5	TRUE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW

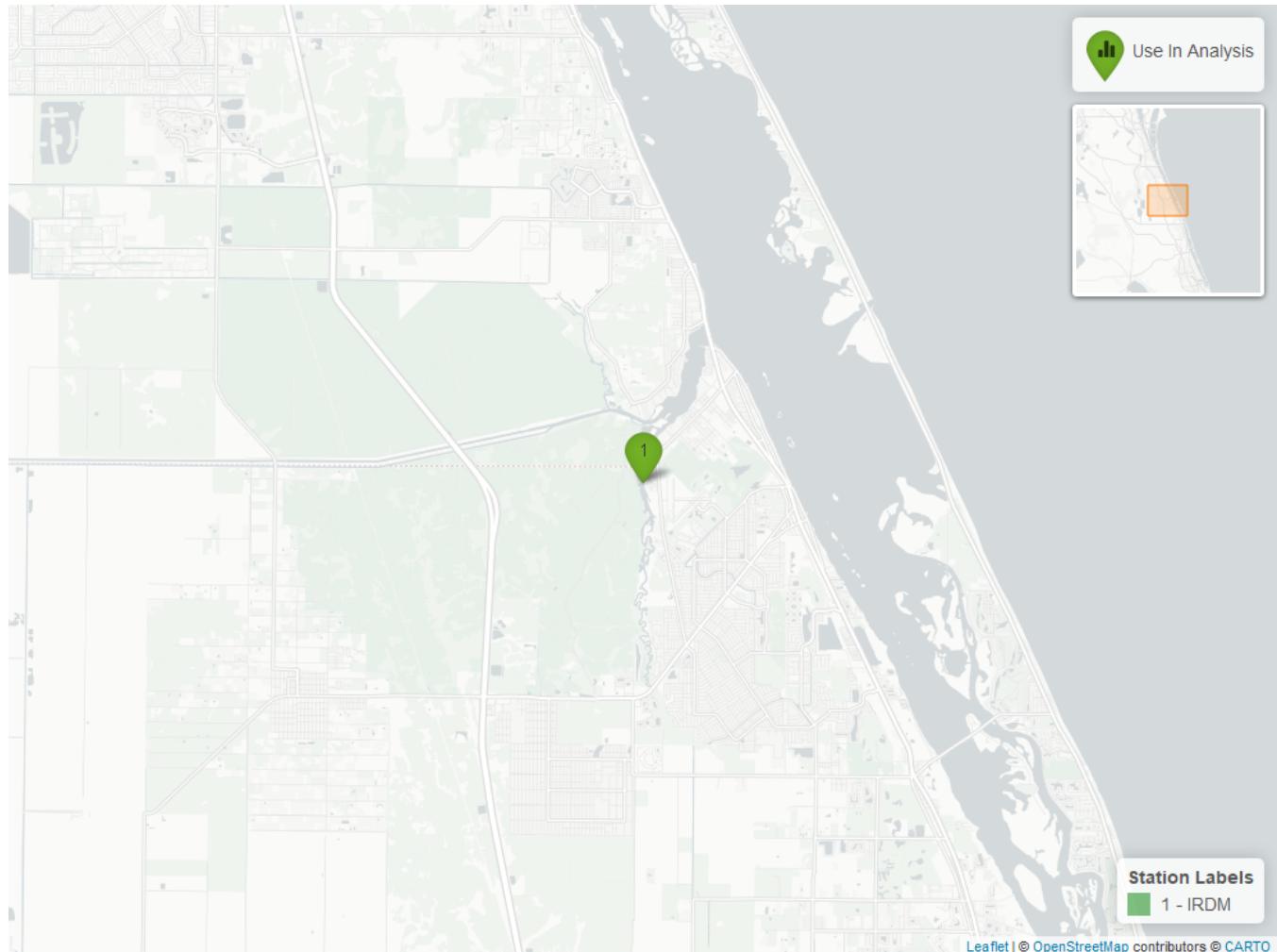


Figure 25: Map showing Continuous Water Quality Monitoring sampling locations within the boundaries of Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve. Sites marked as *Use In Analysis* are featured in this report.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

The data file used is: All_SAV_Parameters-2024-Dec-08.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

Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve
SAV Percent Cover - Sample Locations



Figure 26: Maps showing the temporal scope of SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve* by Program name.

Sampling locations by Program:

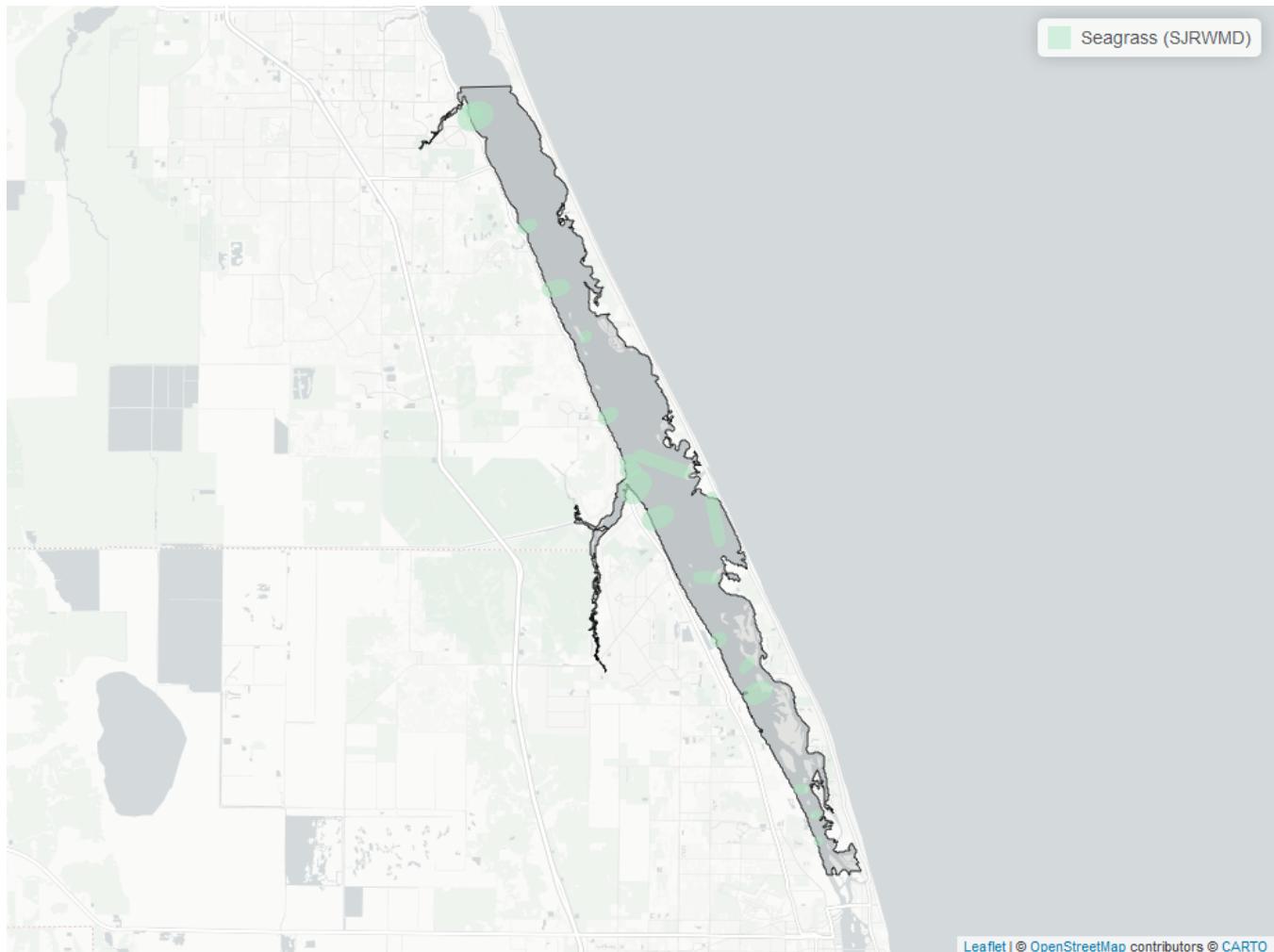


Figure 27: Map showing SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve*. The point size reflects the number of samples at a given sampling site.

Table 31: Seagrass (SJRWM) - Program 3013

<i>N-Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>	<i>method</i>	<i>Sample Locations</i>
123999	1994	2023	Percent Cover	19
146527	1994	2023	Percent Occurrence	19

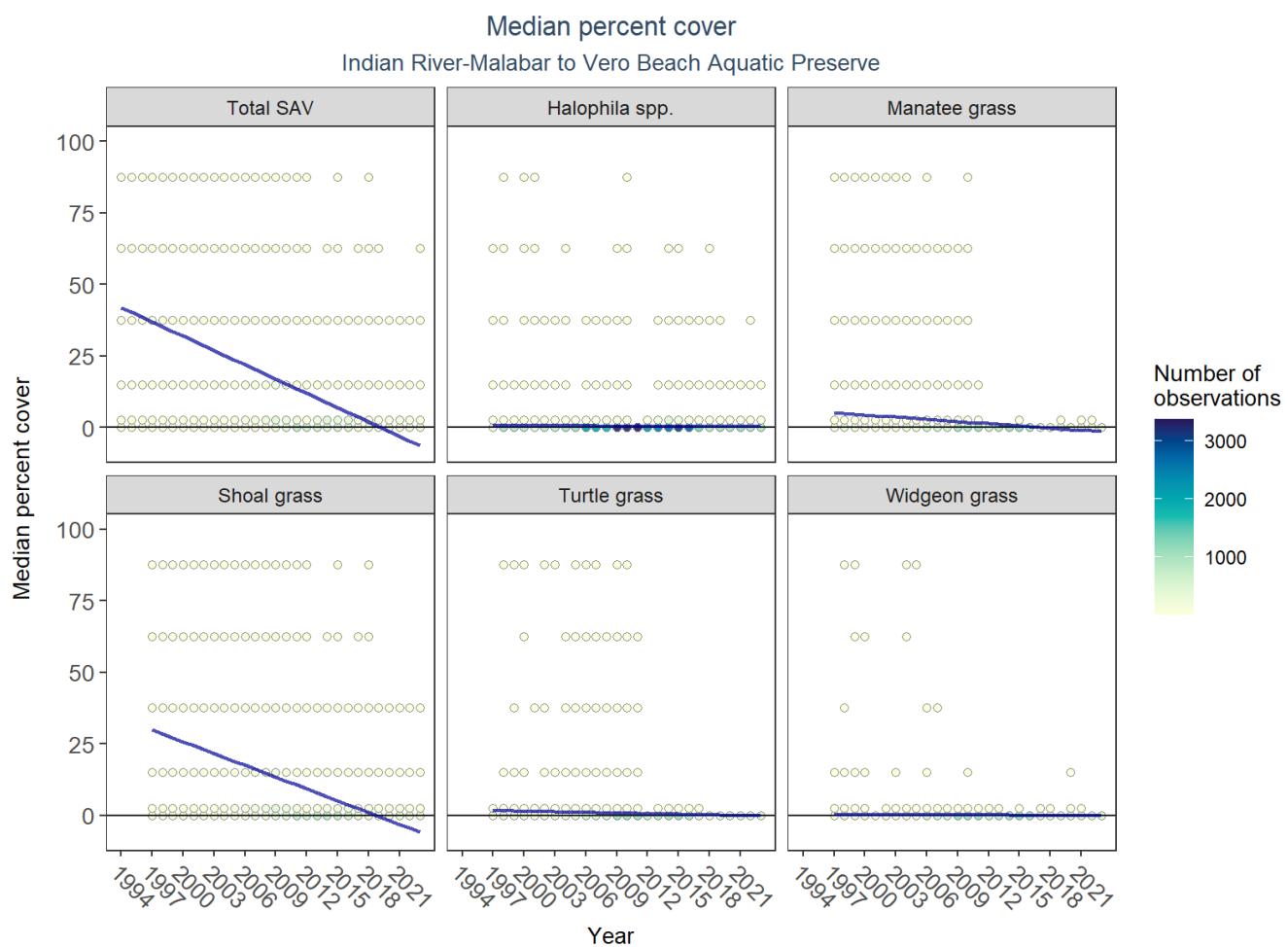


Figure 28: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve

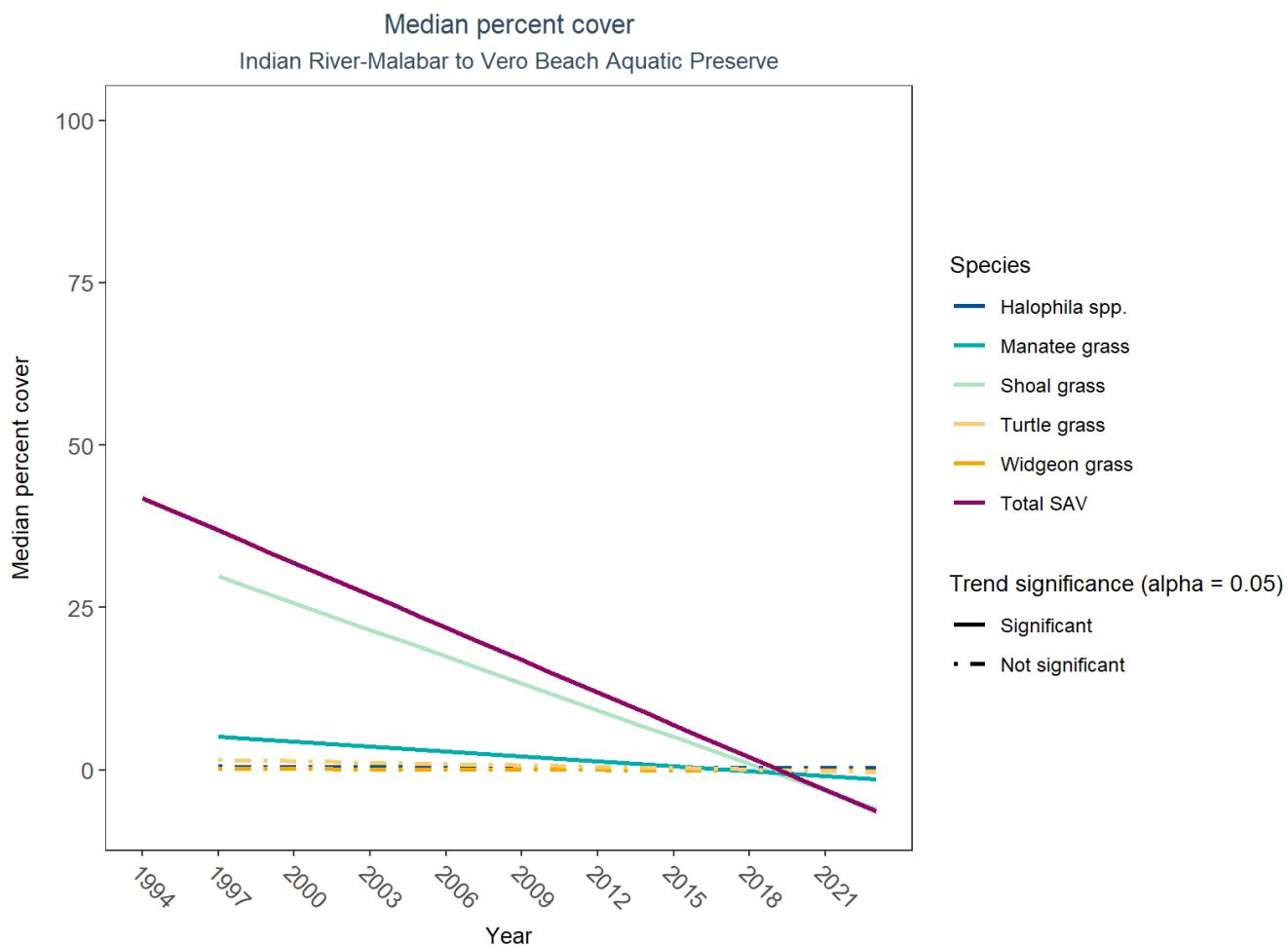


Figure 29: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve - simplified

Table 32: Percent Cover Trend Analysis for Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve

CommonName	Trend Significance (0.05)	Period of Record	LME-Intercept	LME-Slope	p
Drift algae	Insufficient data to calculate trend	-	-	-	-
Shoal grass	Significantly decreasing trend	1997 - 2023	33.9584136	-1.3749485	0.0000000
Halophila spp.	No significant trend	1997 - 2023	0.5666968	-0.0076418	0.3586450
Widgeon grass	No significant trend	1997 - 2023	0.2581593	-0.0123387	0.1027930
Manatee grass	Significantly decreasing trend	1997 - 2023	5.9003807	-0.2543566	0.0044713
Turtle grass	No significant trend	1997 - 2023	1.8113108	-0.0714913	0.0978987
Total SAV	Significantly decreasing trend	1994 - 2023	41.8891869	-1.6639276	0.0000000
Total seagrass	Insufficient data to calculate trend	-	-	-	-

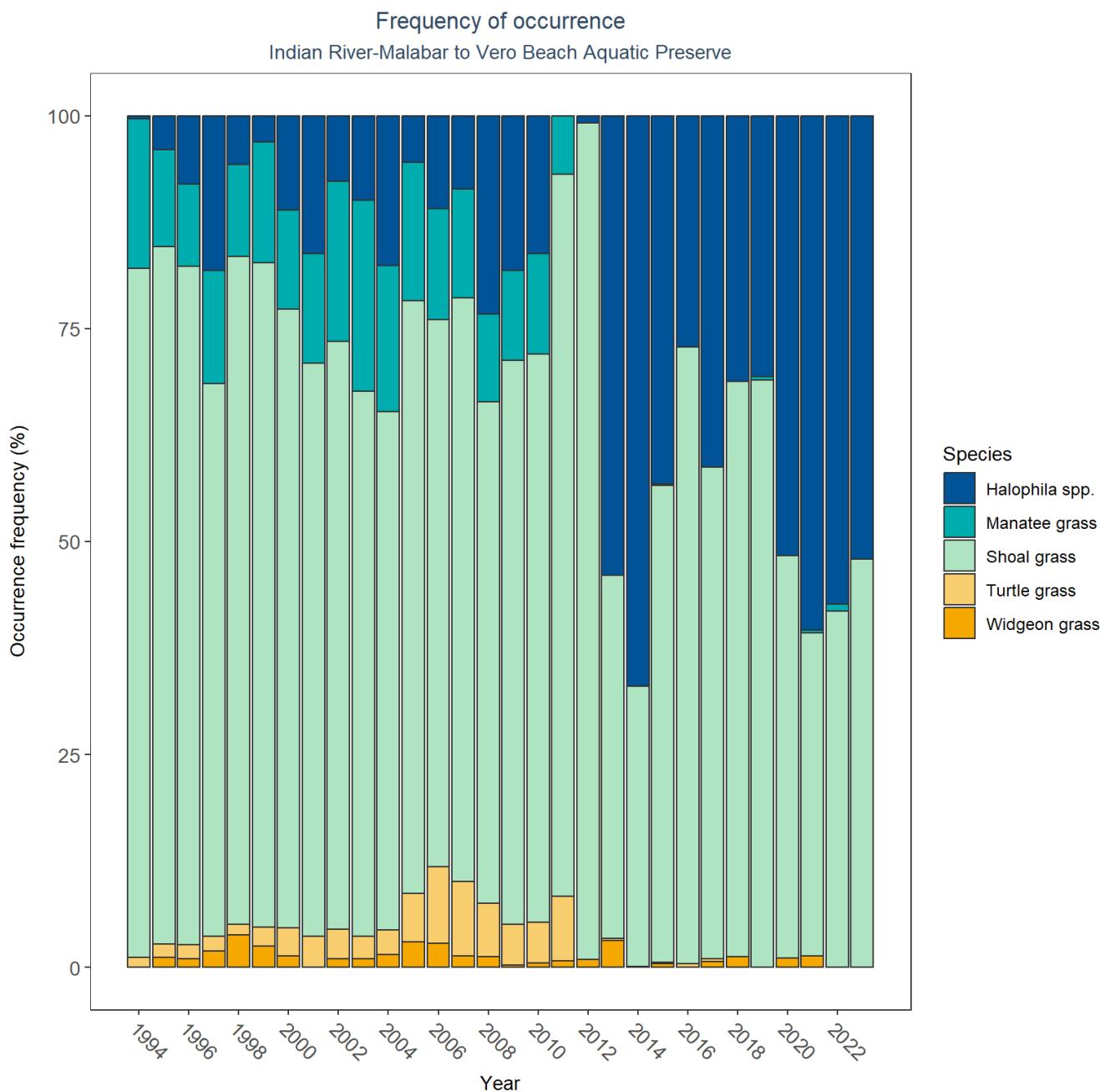


Figure 30: Frequency of occurrence for various seagrass species in Indian River-Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve

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1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse \(STORET\)/WQX](#). (2023).
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6. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). [Fisheries-Independent Monitoring \(FIM\) Program](#). (2022).
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8. Volusia County (Florida); Marine Discovery Center. [Lagoon Watch \(Formerly Marine Discovery Center\)](#). (2023).
9. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). [Seagrass \(SJRWMD\)](#). (2023).