

Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve

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

<i>Parameter Name</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Low Threshold</i>	<i>High Threshold</i>
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

<i>Parameter Name</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Low Threshold</i>	<i>High Threshold</i>
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	-	-

<i>Parameter Name</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Low Threshold</i>	<i>High Threshold</i>
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	-0.000001	25
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	%	-0.000001	310
Fluorescent Dissolved Organic Matter	QSE	-	-
Light Extinction Coefficient	m ⁻¹	-	-
NO ₂ +3, Filtered	mg/L	-	-
Nitrate (NO ₃)	mg/L	-	-
Nitrite (NO ₂)	mg/L	-	-
Nitrogen, organic	mg/L	-	-
Phosphate, Filtered (PO ₄)	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

<i>SEACAR QAQC Description</i>	<i>Include</i>	<i>SEACAR QAQCFlagCode</i>
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

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

Discrete Water Quality Value Qualifiers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Systemwide Monitoring Program (SWMP) value qualifier codes

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

Table 5: SWMP Value Qualifier codes

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

Water Column

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

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

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Analysis

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

Water Quality - Discrete

The following files were used in the discrete analysis:

- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Chlorophyll_a_corrected_for_pheophytin-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Chlorophyll_a_uncorrected_for_pheophytin-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Colored_dissolved_organic_matter_CDOM-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Dissolved_Oxygen-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Dissolved_Oxygen_Saturation-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_pH-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Salinity-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Secchi_Depth-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Nitrogen-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Phosphorus-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Total_Suspended_Solids_TSS-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Turbidity-2025-Mar-06.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_Water_Temperature-2025-Mar-06.txt*

Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

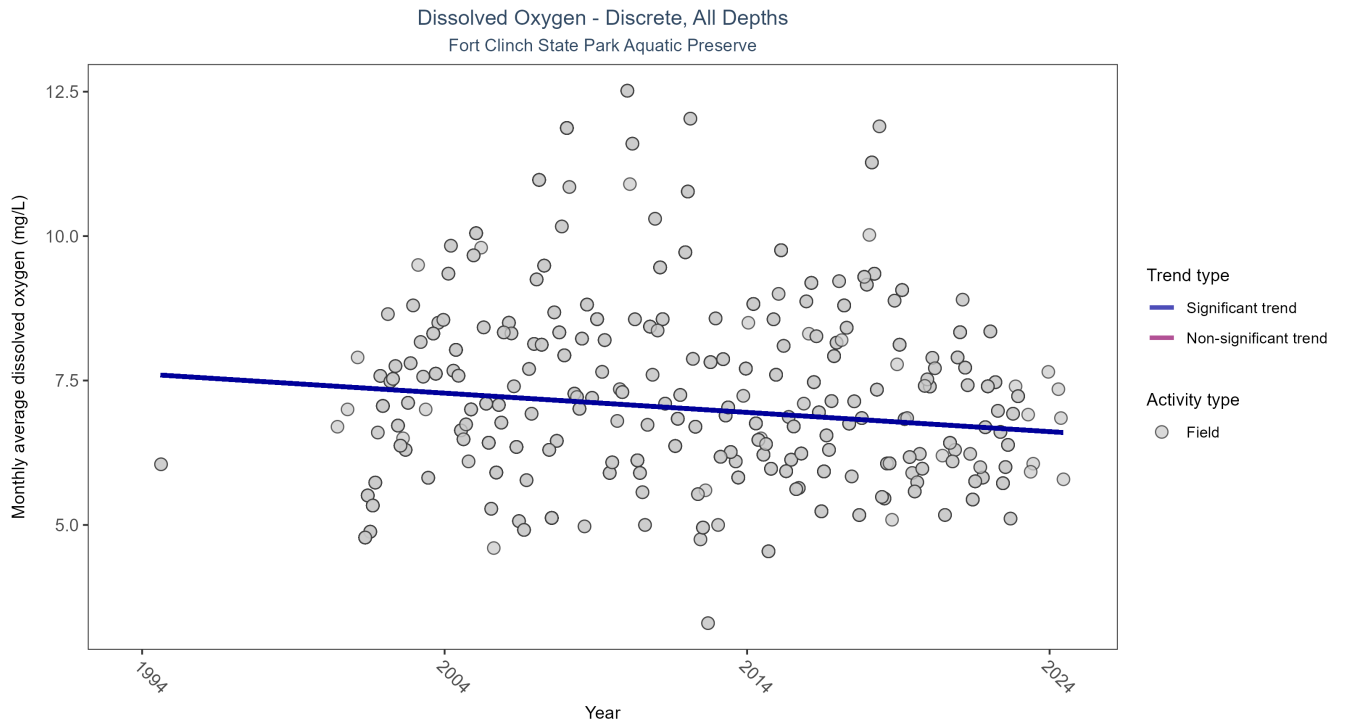


Figure 1: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 6: 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	1641	26	1994 - 2024	7.1	-0.1847	7.6147	-0.0333	0

Monthly average dissolved oxygen decreased by 0.03 mg/L per year.

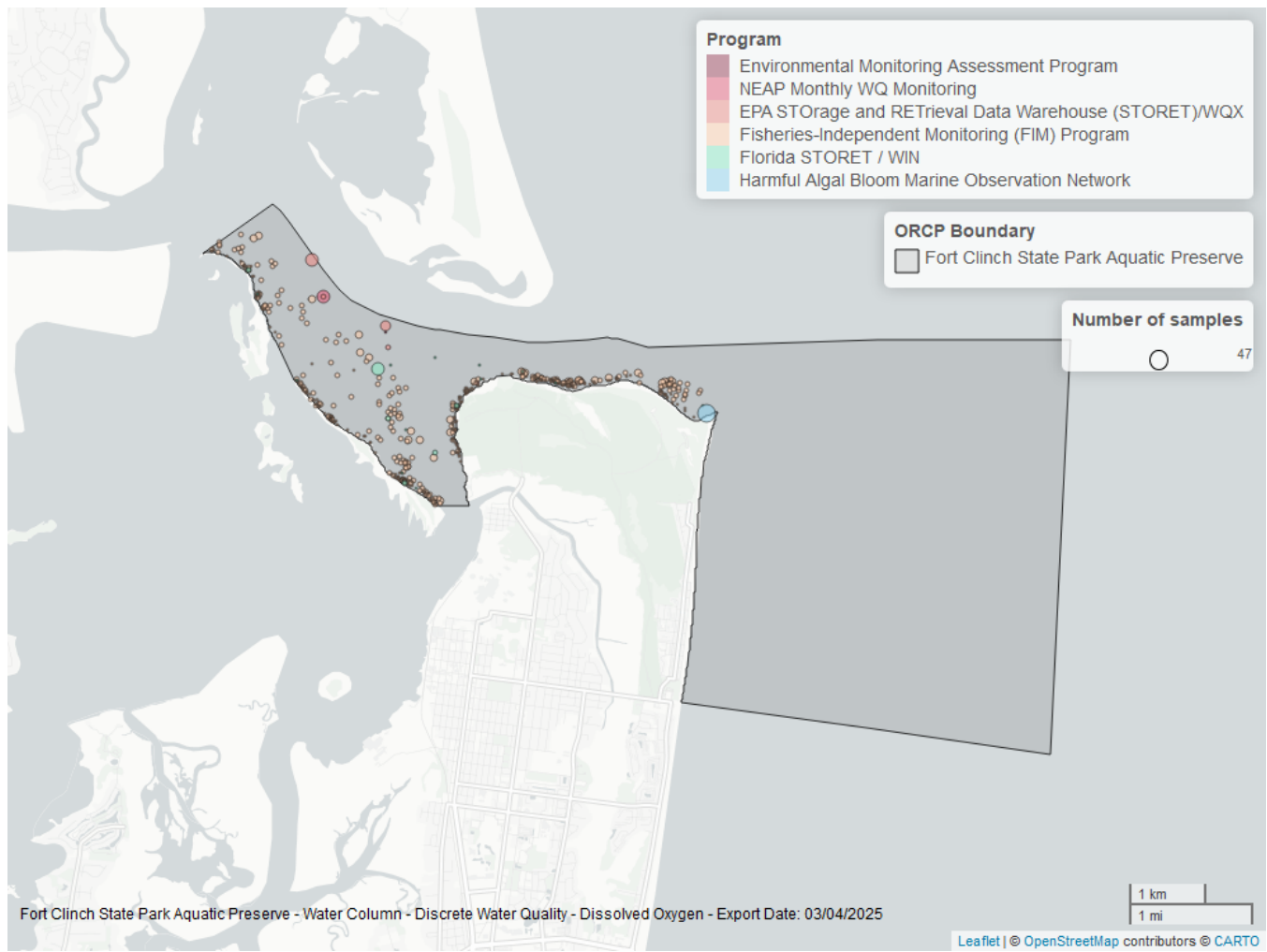


Figure 2: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 7: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
69	1461	2001	2022
103	56	2004	2021
5002	52	2000	2014
95	47	2014	2018
5016	25	2019	2024
115	2	1994	1994

Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program¹
 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network²
 103 - EPA STORage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵
 5016 - NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring⁶

pH - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

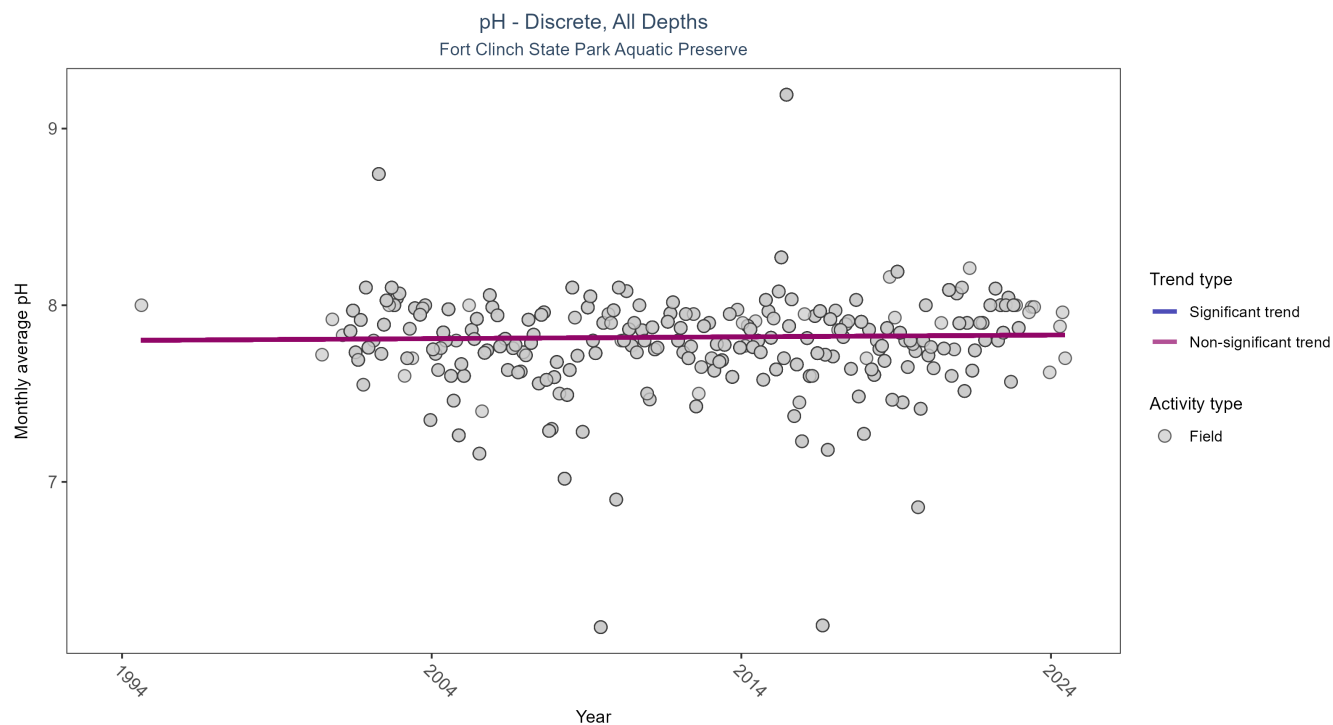


Figure 3: Scatter plot of monthly average pH over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only pH values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 8: 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	1631	26	1994 - 2024	7.8	0.0303	7.8006	0.001	0.5561

pH showed no detectable trend between 1994 and 2024.

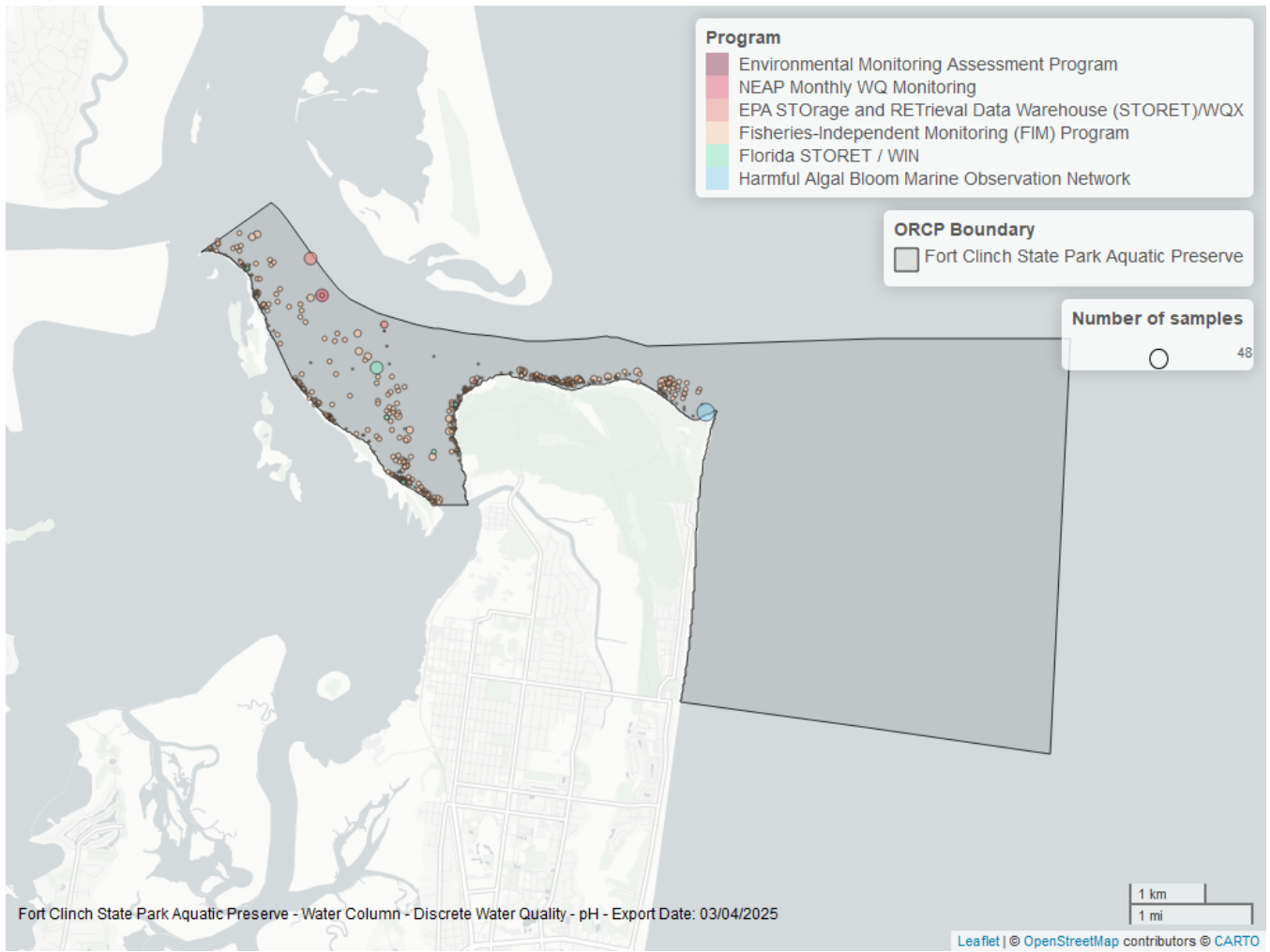


Figure 4: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 9: Programs contributing data for pH

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
69	1463	2001	2022
5002	52	2000	2014
95	48	2014	2018
103	45	2004	2021
5016	25	2019	2024
115	1	1994	1994

Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program¹
- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network²
- 103 - EPA STORage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
- 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵
- 5016 - NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring⁶

Salinity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

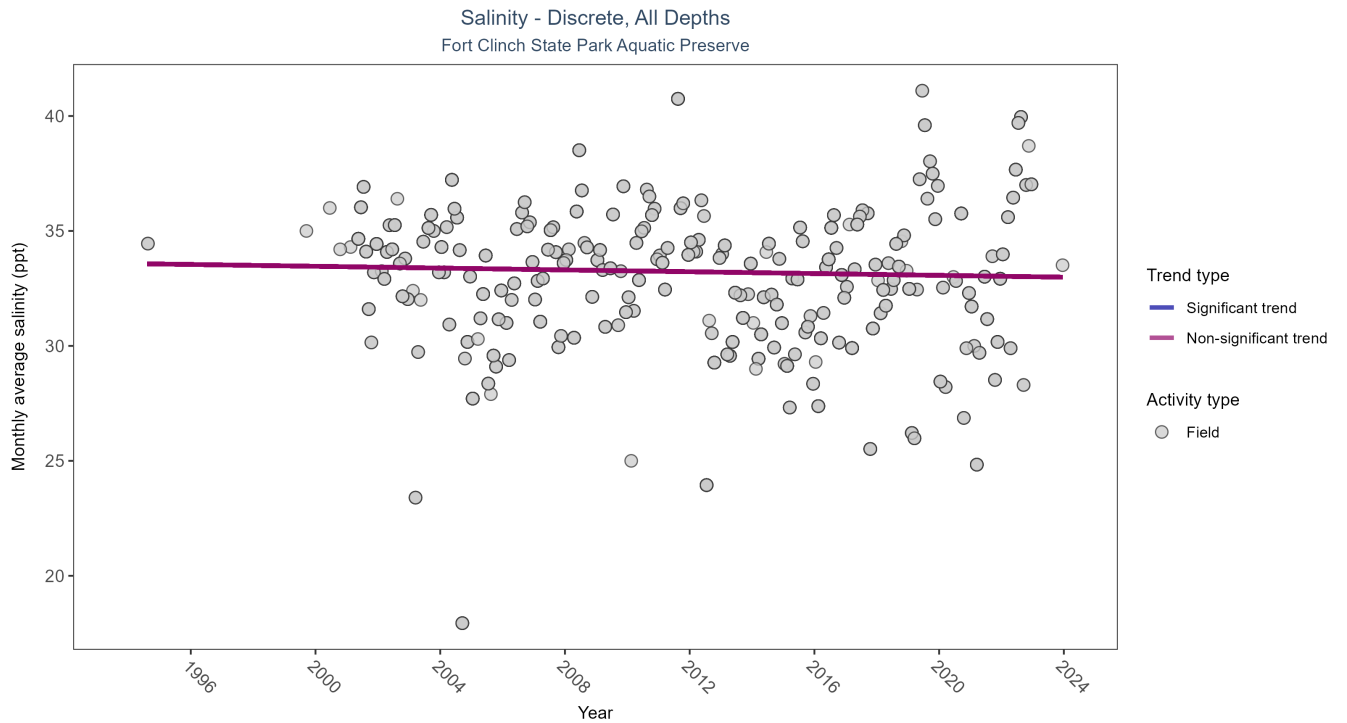


Figure 5: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines are also shown. Discrete salinity values derived from grab samples analyzed in the field (circles) or the laboratory (triangles) are both included in the plot.

Table 10: 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	No significant trend	1638	26	1994 - 2023	33.5	-0.0384	33.5816	-0.0197	0.3912

Salinity showed no detectable trend between 1994 and 2023.

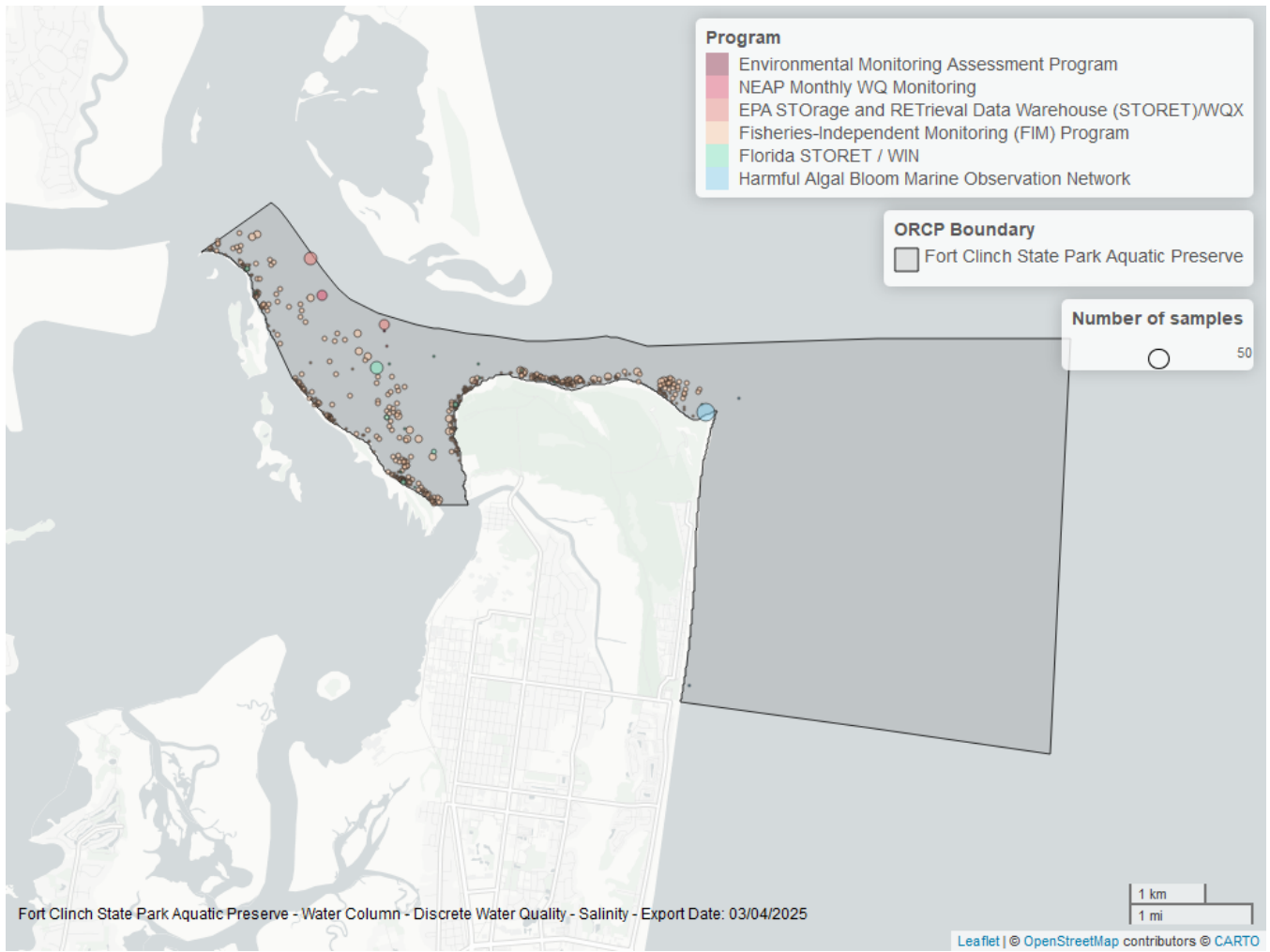


Figure 6: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Salinity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
69	1476	2001	2022
95	52	1999	2018
5002	51	2000	2014
103	43	2004	2007
5016	18	2019	2023
115	2	1994	1994

Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program¹
95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network²
103 - EPA STORage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵
5016 - NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring⁶

Secchi Depth - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

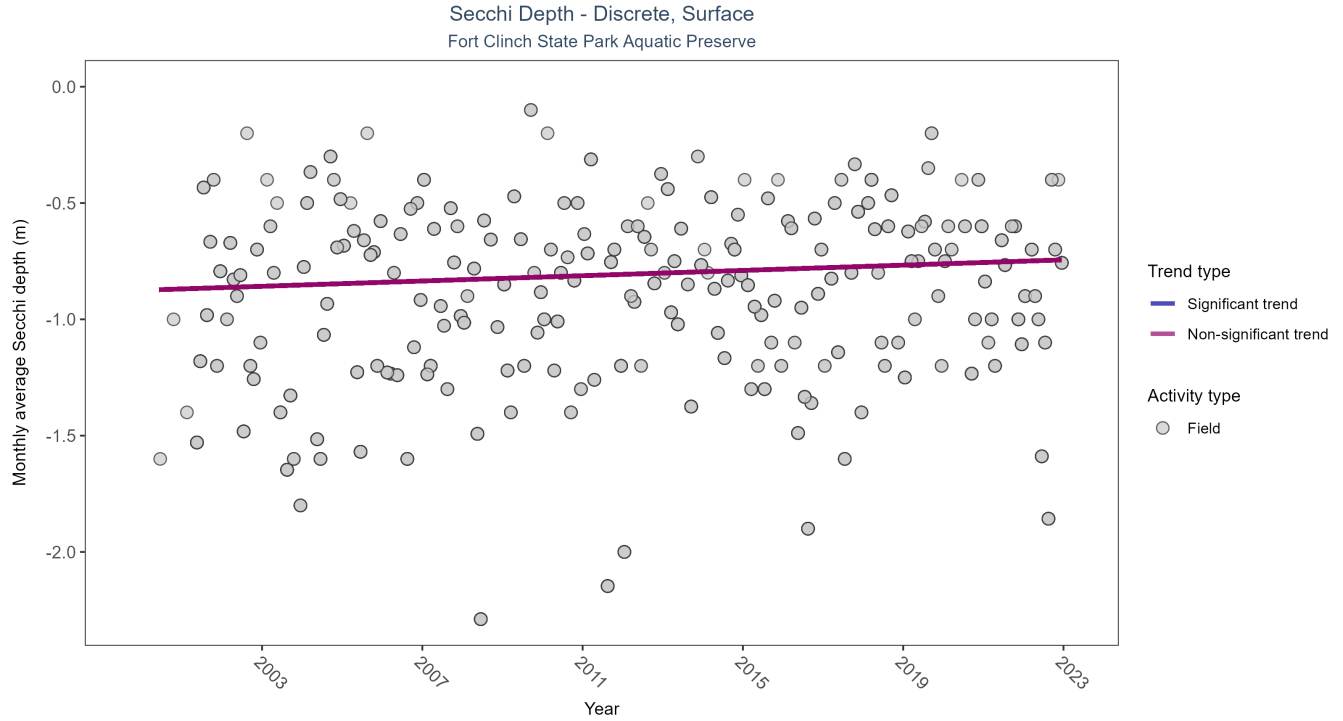


Figure 7: Scatter plot of monthly average Secchi depth over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Secchi depth is only measured in the field (circles).

Table 12: 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	No significant trend	1511	23	2000 - 2022	-0.9	0.0647	-0.875	0.0057	0.1556

Secchi depth showed no detectable trend between 2000 and 2022.

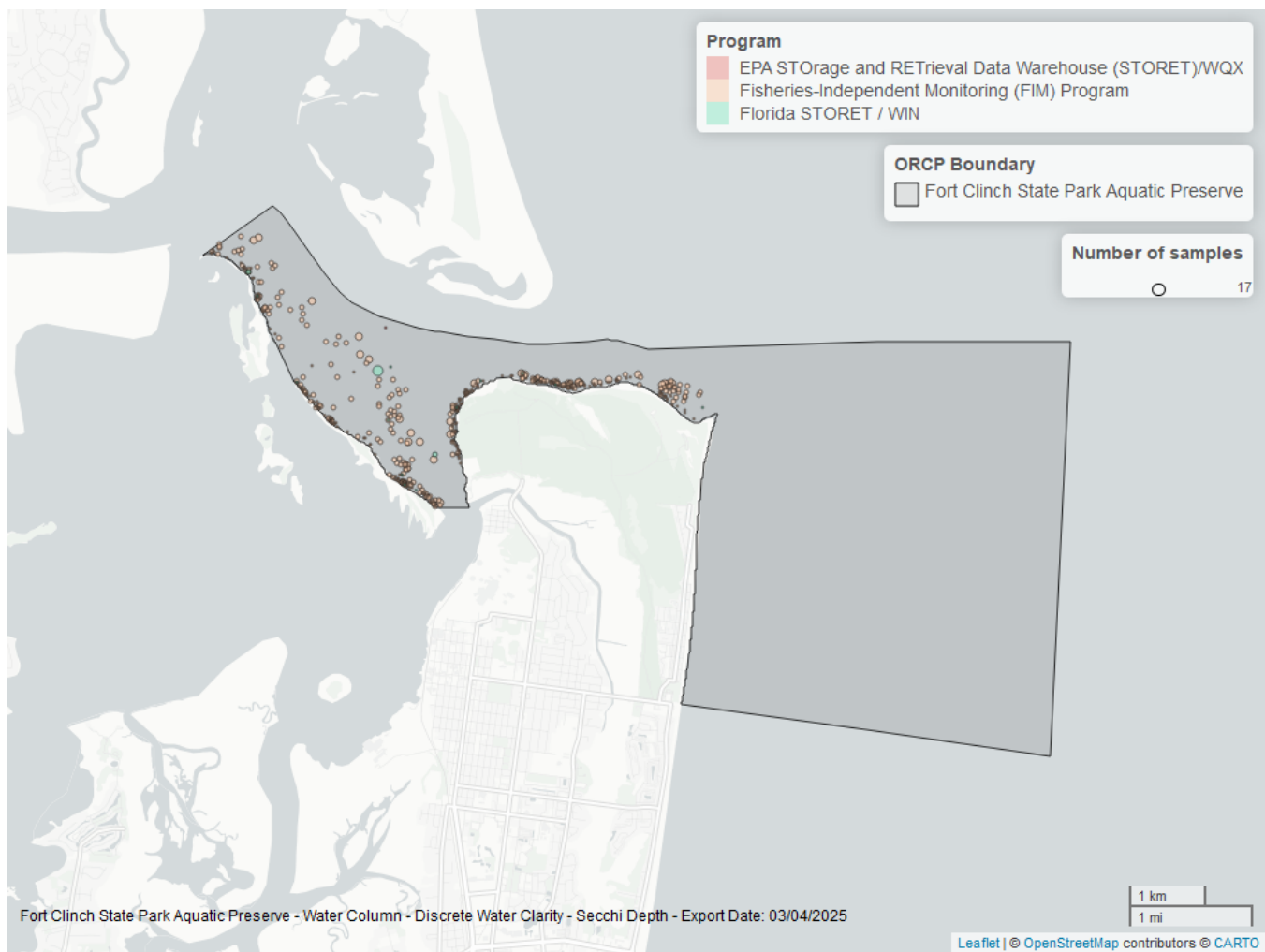


Figure 8: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
69	1474	2001	2022
5002	35	2000	2014
103	2	2007	2007

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program¹

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

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵

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

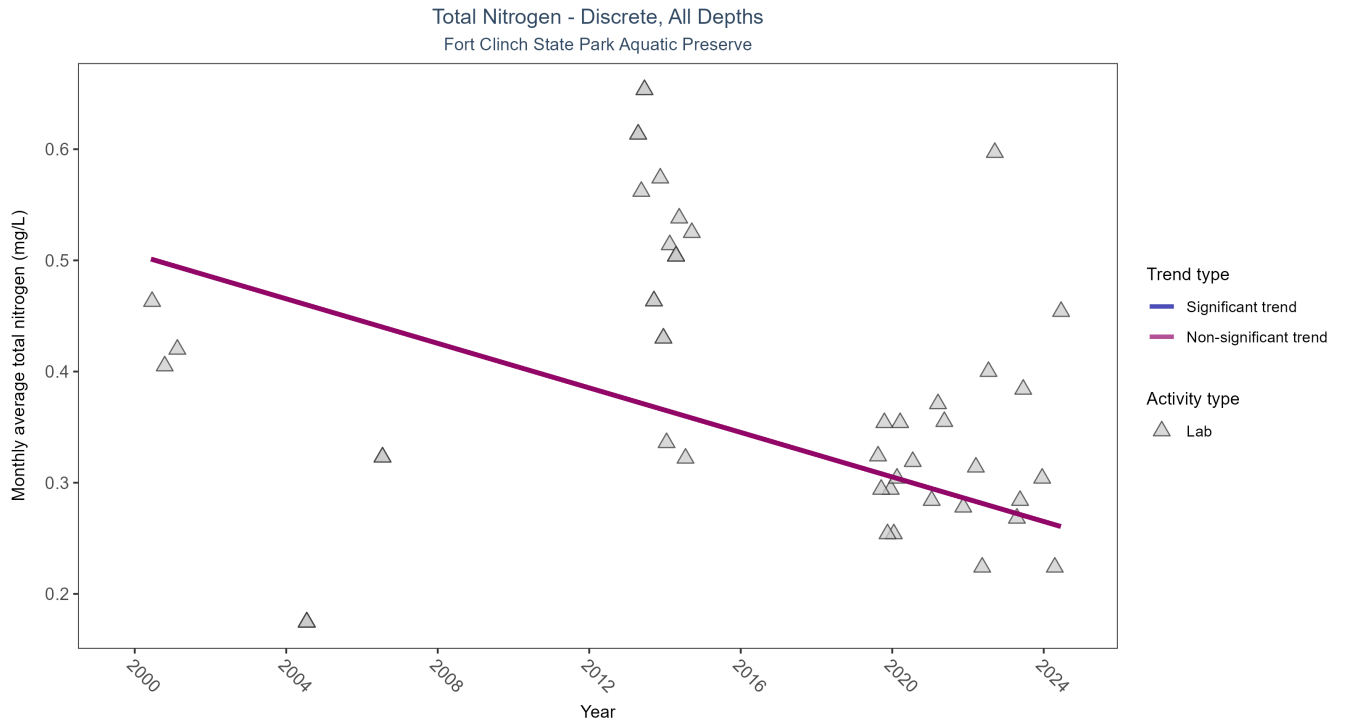


Figure 9: Scatter plot of monthly average total nitrogen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only nitrogen values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 14: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Nitrogen

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	55	12	2000 - 2024	0.354	-0.3333	0.5055	-0.01	0.0908

Total nitrogen showed no detectable trend between 2000 and 2024.

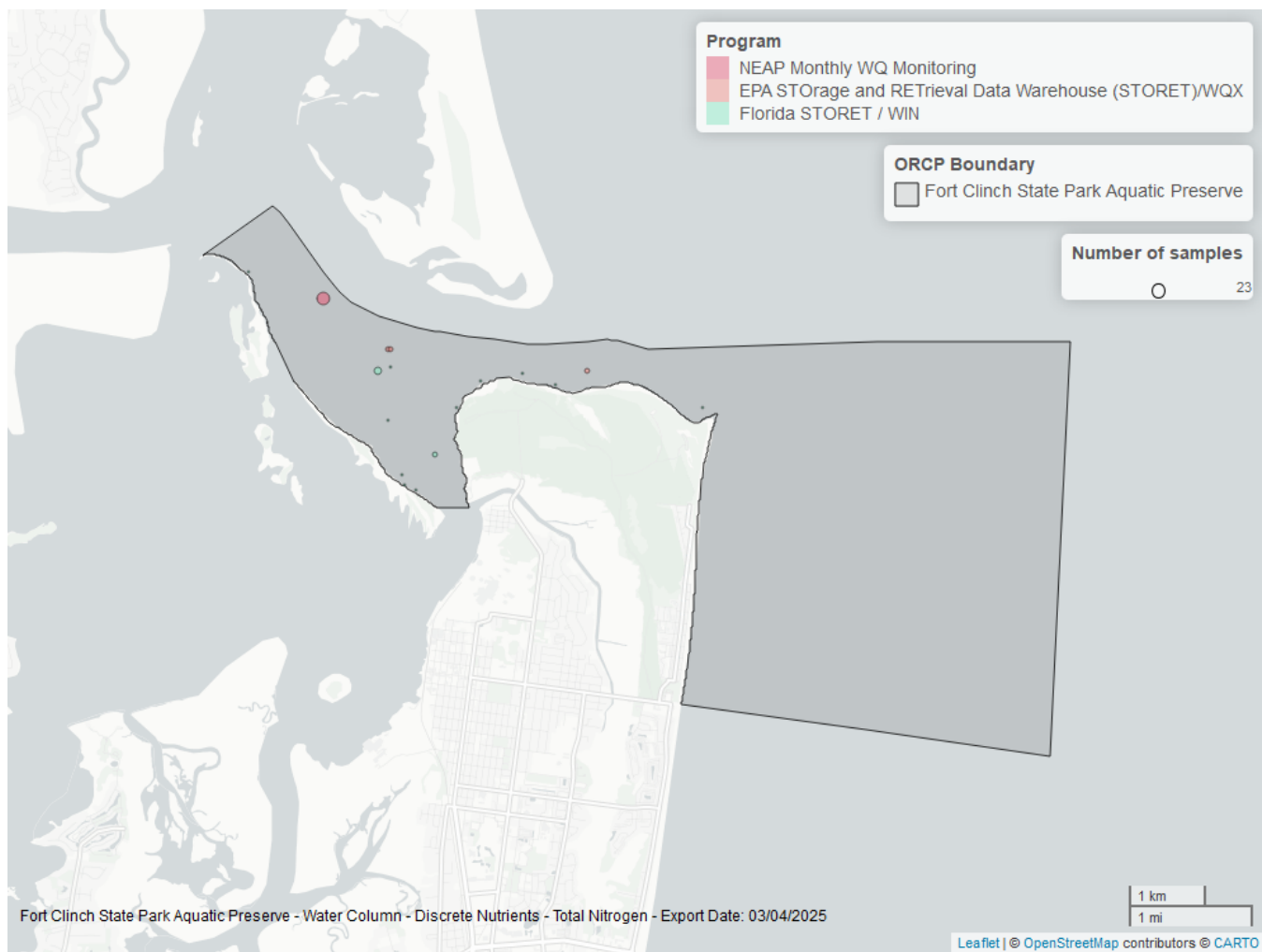


Figure 10: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	23	2000	2014
5016	23	2019	2024
103	9	2004	2006

Program names:

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

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵

5016 - NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring⁶

Total Phosphorus - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

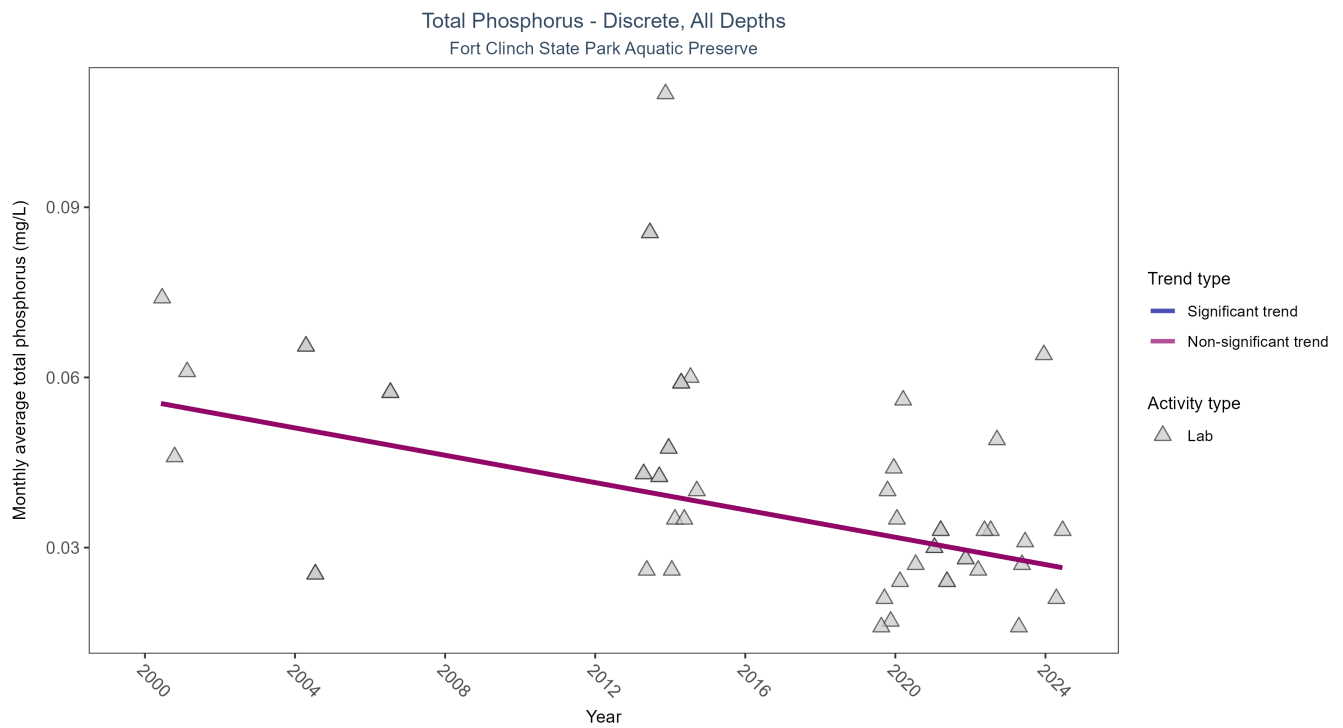


Figure 11: Scatter plot of monthly average total phosphorus over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only phosphorus values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 16: 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	No significant trend	58	12	2000 - 2024	0.034	-0.2583	0.0559	-0.0012	0.2374

Total phosphorus showed no detectable trend between 2000 and 2024.

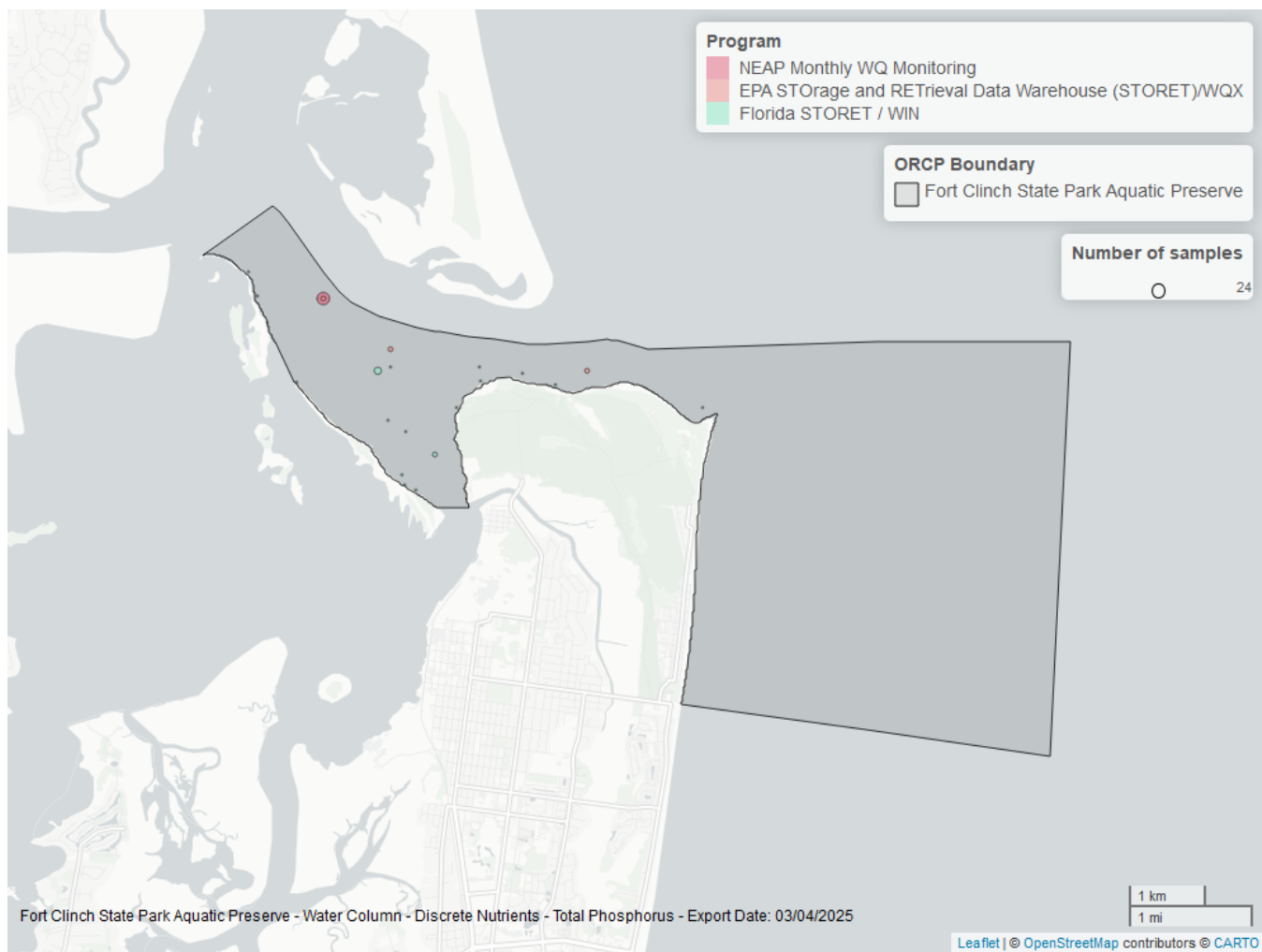


Figure 12: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	27	2000	2014
5016	24	2019	2024
103	10	2004	2021

Program names:

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

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵

5016 - NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring⁶

Turbidity - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

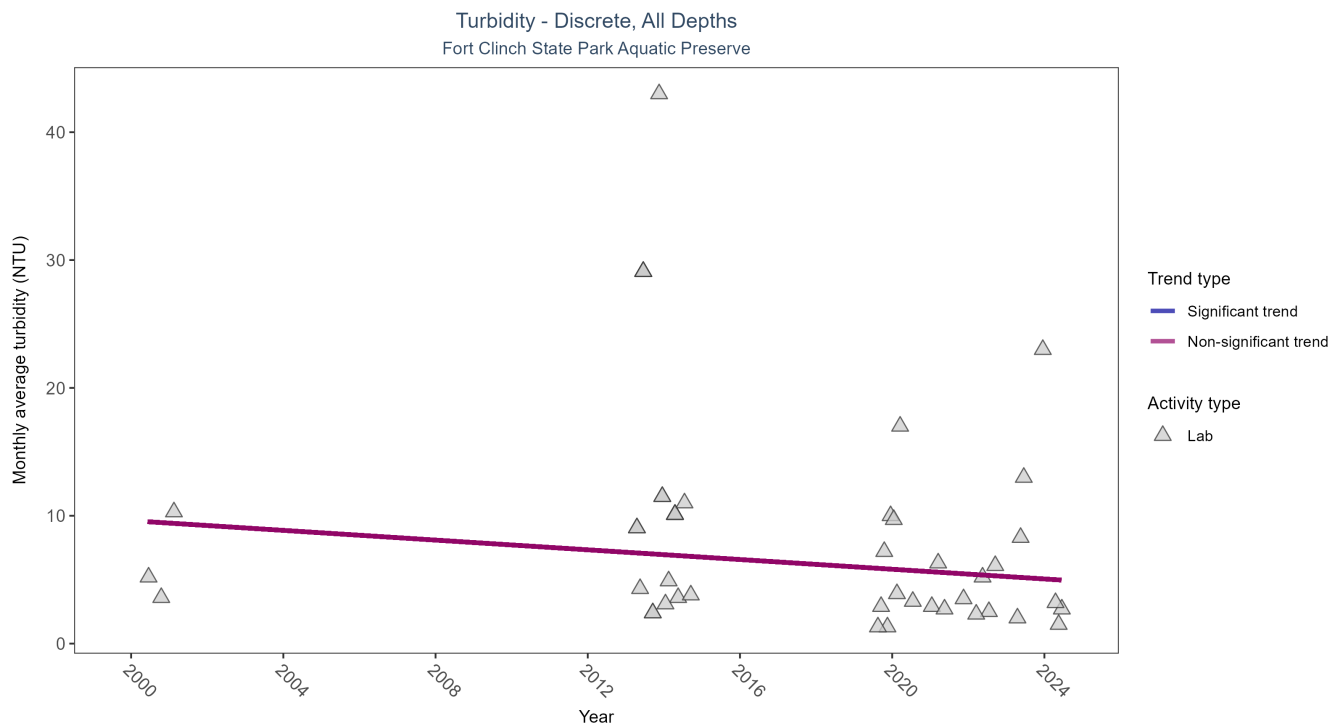


Figure 13: Scatter plot of monthly average turbidity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only turbidity values measured in the laboratory (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 18: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Turbidity

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	49	10	2000 - 2024	5	-0.221	9.6158	-0.19	0.3061

Turbidity showed no detectable trend between 2000 and 2024.

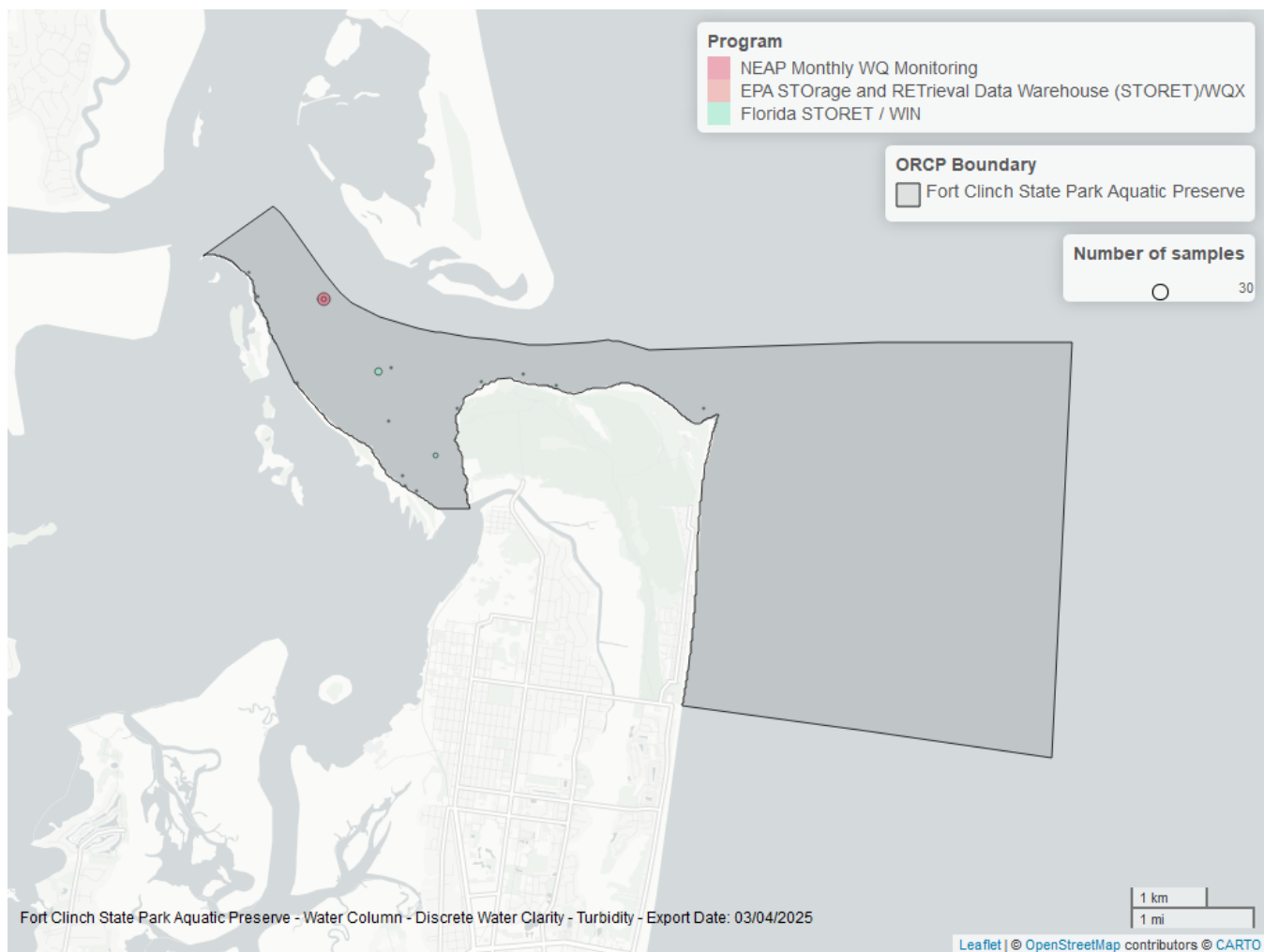


Figure 14: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5016	30	2019	2024
5002	25	2000	2014
103	4	2021	2021

Program names:

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

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵

5016 - NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring⁶

Water Temperature - Discrete

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

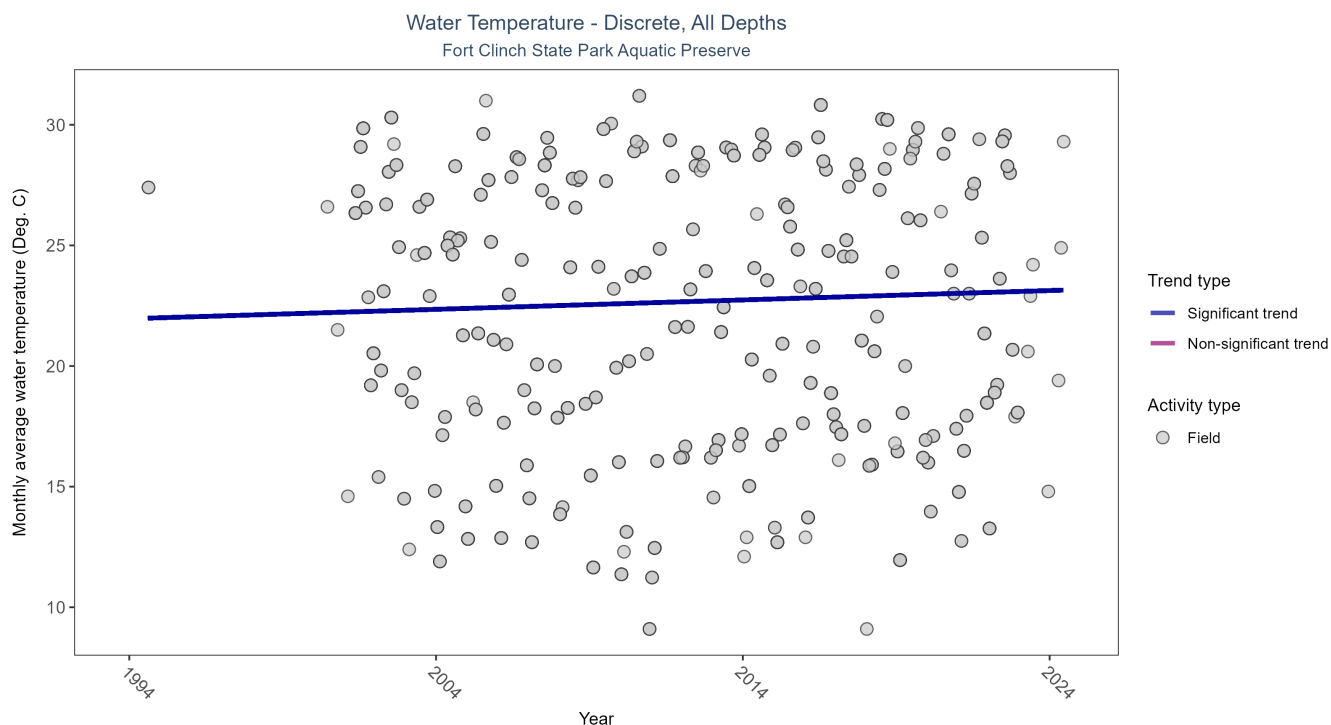


Figure 15: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only water temperature measurements taken in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 20: 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	1662	26	1994 - 2024	23.2	0.089	21.961	0.0389	0.0395

Monthly average water temperature increased by 0.04°C per year.

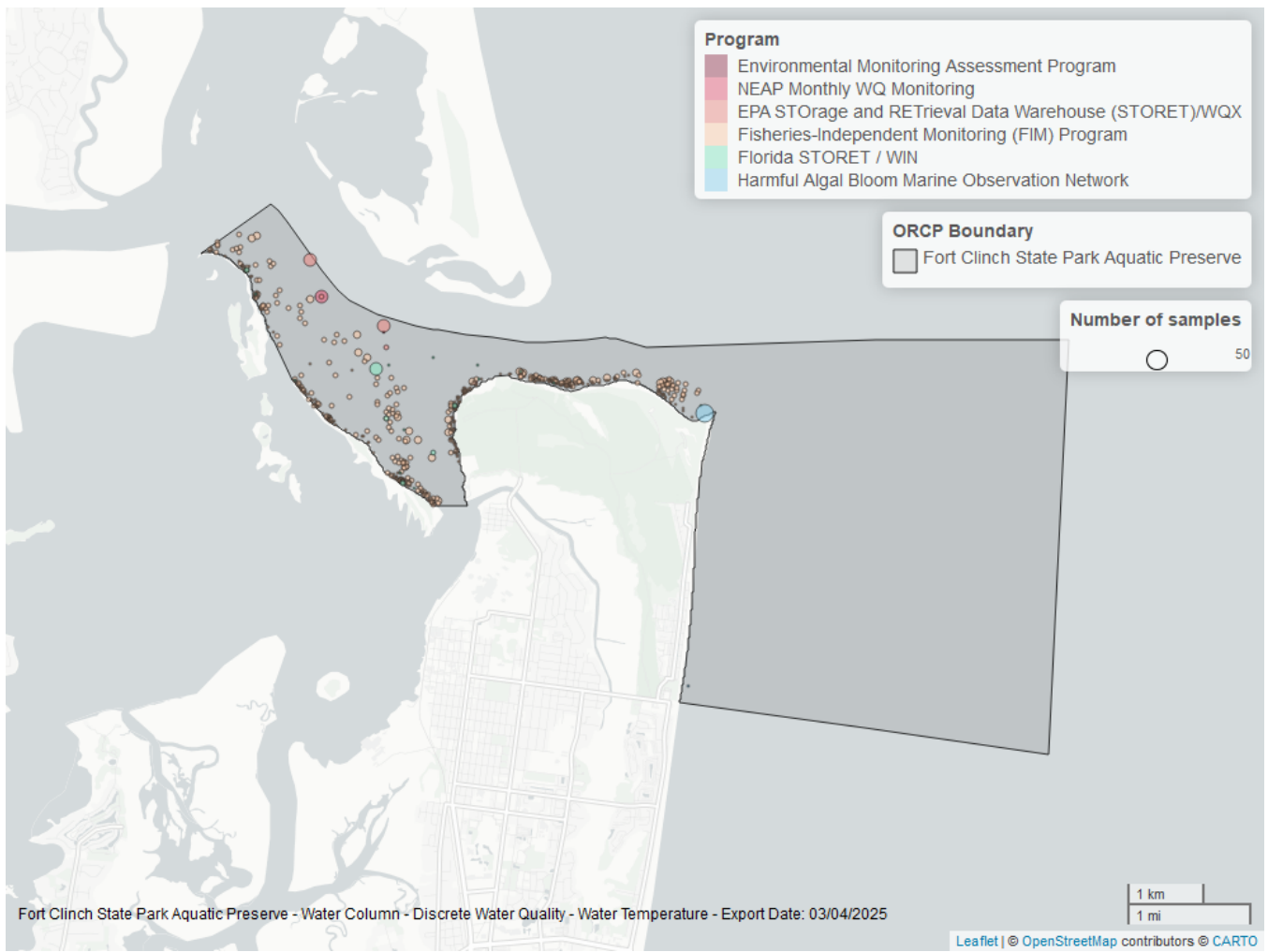


Figure 16: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *Fort Clinch State Park Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
69	1477	2001	2022
103	55	2004	2021
5002	52	2000	2014
95	51	2014	2018
5016	25	2019	2024
115	2	1994	1994

Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program¹
 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network²
 103 - EPA STORage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX³
 115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program⁴
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN⁵
 5016 - NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring⁶

References

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3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse \(STORET\)/WQX](#). (2023).
4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Office of Research and Development. [Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program](#). (2004).
5. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). [Florida STORET / WIN](#). (2024).
6. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP); Northeast Florida Aquatic Preserves; Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration. [NEAP Monthly Water Quality Monitoring](#) . (2024).