NC Department of Environmental Quality’s Division of Water Resources’s, Ambient Monitoring System (AMS) is the primary organization responsible for tracking water quality of NC’s estuarine waters. A long-term record of changes in the number of active water quality monitoring stations was conducted by identifying the number of unique stations sampled during each year from 1966 to 2022. This was accomplished by using the Water Quality Portal ([Water Quality Data Home](https://www.waterqualitydata.us/)) to extract “Sampling Activity” for water bodies of type “Estuary” for all “Site ID” for “Organization ID”s NC01WQ, NC02WQ, and NC03WQ. The search returned an Excel spreadsheet which is included here in the metadata as “DWQ\_AMS\_EutrophicationMonitoringActivity.xlsx”. The number of unique sampling stations during each calendar year was tallied from the spreadsheet using the Matlab script included here in the metadata and entitled “DWQ\_AMS\_EutrophicationMonitoringActivity.m”.