

# **Fighting the Tides: Long term spatial and temporal trends of a tropical Freshwater-Estuary-Marine ecosystem.**

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# **Co-authors (in no particular order of importance)**

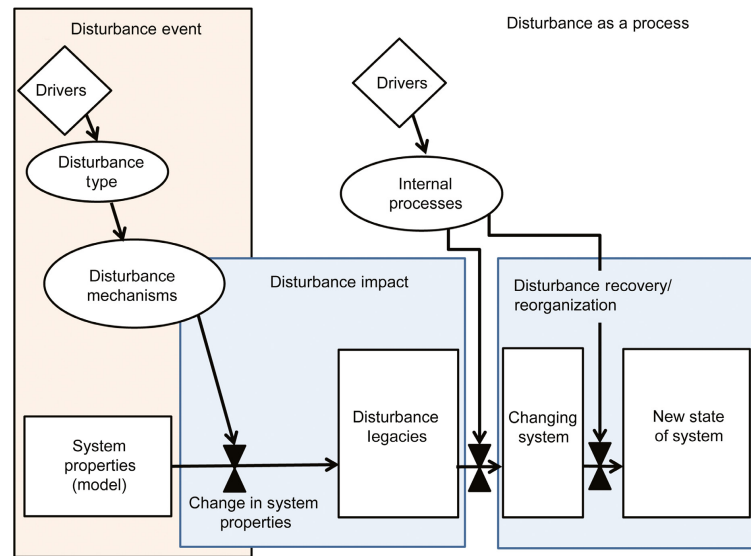
Joseph N. Boyer, Stephen Davis, Jim Fourqurean, Evelyn E. Gaiser, John S Kominoski, Chris Madden, Donatto Surratt, Serge Thomas

## **Land Acknowledgment**

I'm presenting to you from the former lands of the Calusa. The Everglades, as we know it today, have been cared for by innumerable generations of original peoples of the past, whose memory we honor. Today, these lands are cared for by the indigenous sovereignties known as the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Sovereign Miccosukee Seminole Nation. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and future as we learn from this land.

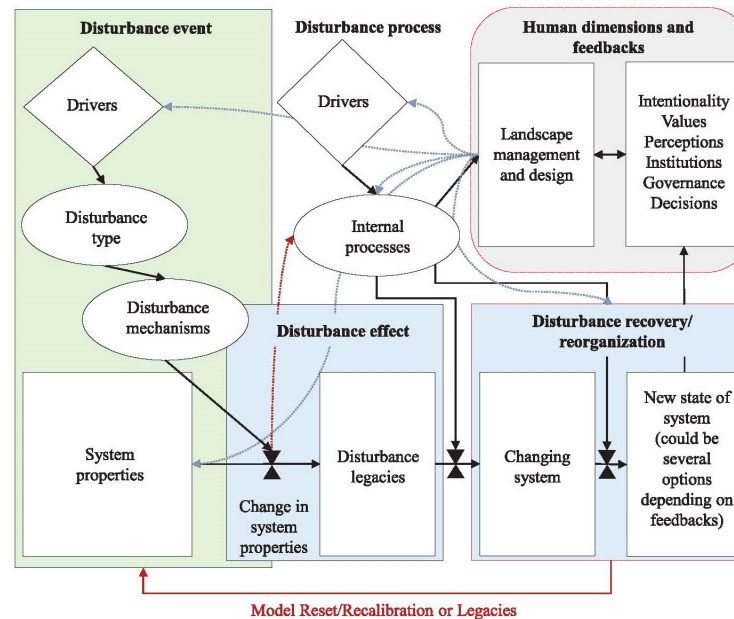
## **Ecosystem Acknowledgment**

We acknowledge the diversity of the ecosystems discussed in this system from the iconic Ridge and Slough to the barrier islands and reefs. The south Florida ecosystem are valuable beyond the vast array of ecosystem services it provides.



A general model of disturbance by Peters et al 2011 adapted by Grimm et al (2017)

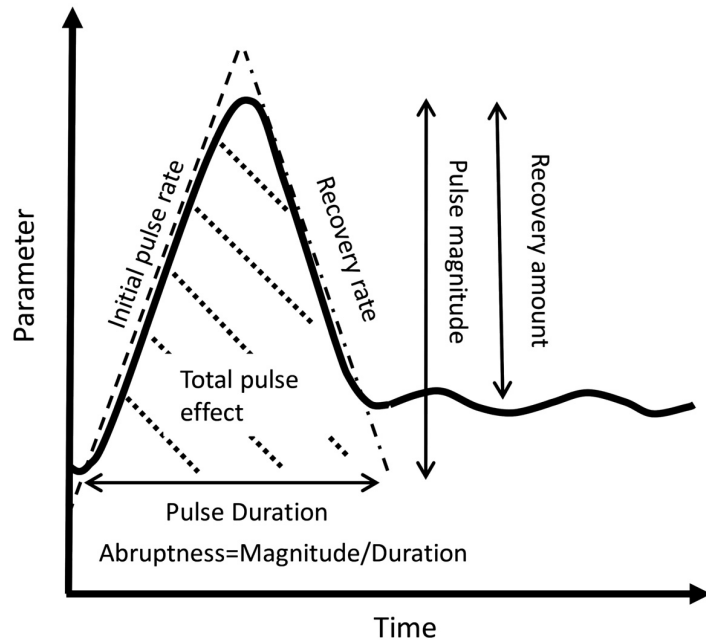
- Disturbances are crucial drivers of ecological processes
    - Some level of stress leads to disruptions
  - Applied to exogenic and endogenic disturbances.
- 
- Grimm et al (2017) Does the ecological concept of disturbance have utility in urban social–ecological–technological systems? [Ecosystem Health and Sustainability](#)
  - Peters et al (2011) Cross-system comparisons elucidate disturbance complexities and generalities. [Ecosphere](#) \*Grim



## Modified conceptual framework on disturbance ecology and links to events, effects and trajectories by Gaiser et al (2020)

- Slightly modified from Peters et al and Grimm et al
  - Human dimension of disturbance, feedback loops and effects (intended and unintended)
- Understanding the role of disturbances in regulating ecosystems is complicated
  - Type (press vs pulse), magnitude (episodic vs constant/gradual), duration, frequency, spatial scale, disturbance legacies

# Pulse

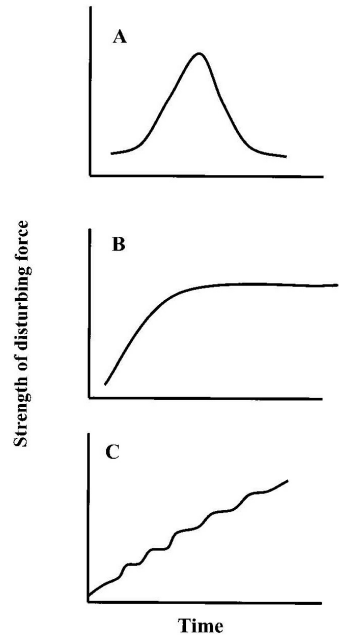


Quantifying the dimensions of pulse events  
from Jentsch and White (2019).

Pulse events can be characterized by:

1. fluctuation in physical environmental conditions (i.e. heat waves, droughts)
2. abiotic changes in resource supplies (i.e. upwelling, lake turnover)
3. change in biotic resources through sudden demographic events (i.e. mortality events)
4. changes through abrupt alteration of biotic structure (i.e. biomass altering process)
5. Spatial subsidies (transfer resources across space)

# Pulse-Press-Ramp



**A)** Pulse events - short term and sharply delineated disturbances

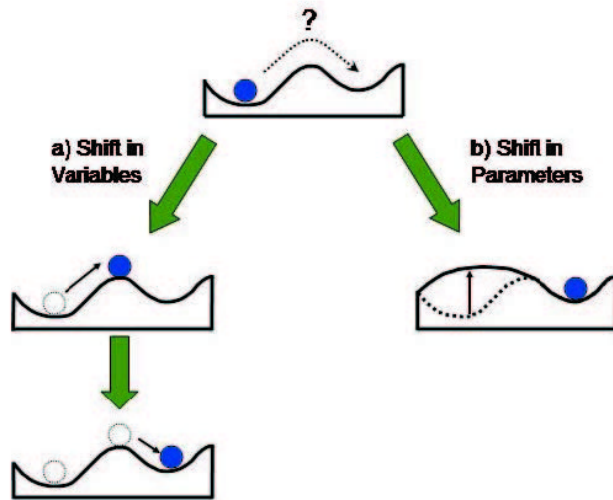
**B)** Press events - arise sharply then reach a constant level (i.e. sedimentation post-landslide)

**C)** Ramp events - strength of a disturbance steadily increases over time (i.e. SLR)

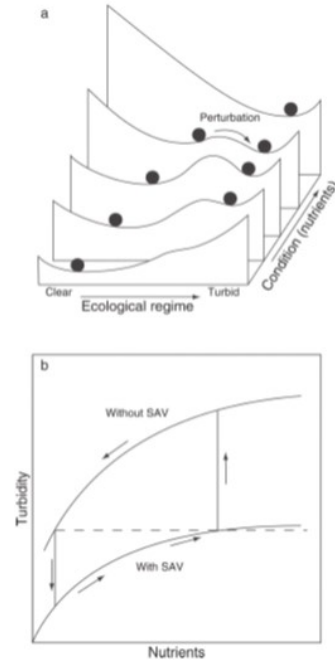
- nuanced press event or press with pulse events intermixed (maybe an integrated disturbance?)

Generalized examples of disturbance from Lake (2000).

# Stable States

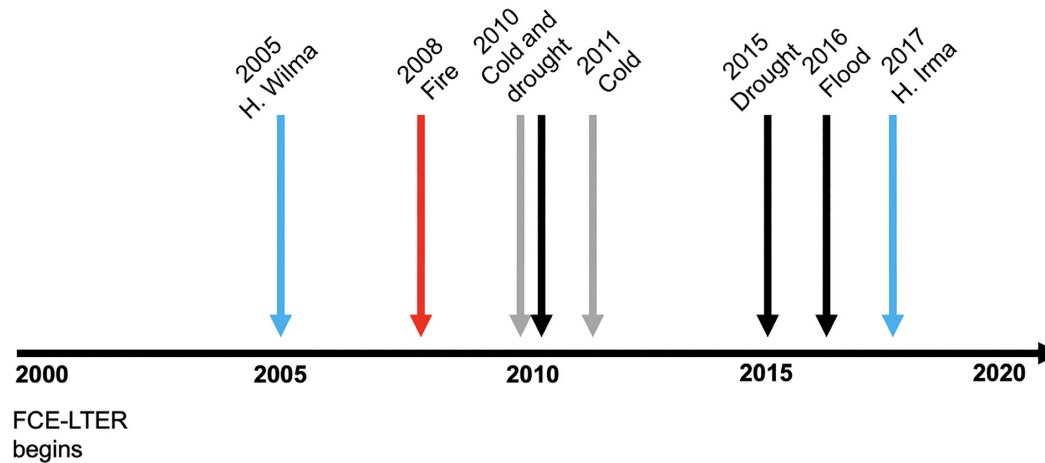


Beisner B, Haydon D, Cuddington K (2003) Alternative stable states in ecology. [Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment](#)



Hobbs WO, Hobbs JMR, LaFrançois T, et al (2012) A 200-year perspective on alternative stable state theory and lake management from a biomanipulated shallow lake. [Ecological Applications](#)

# Disturbance Legacy - FCE Edition



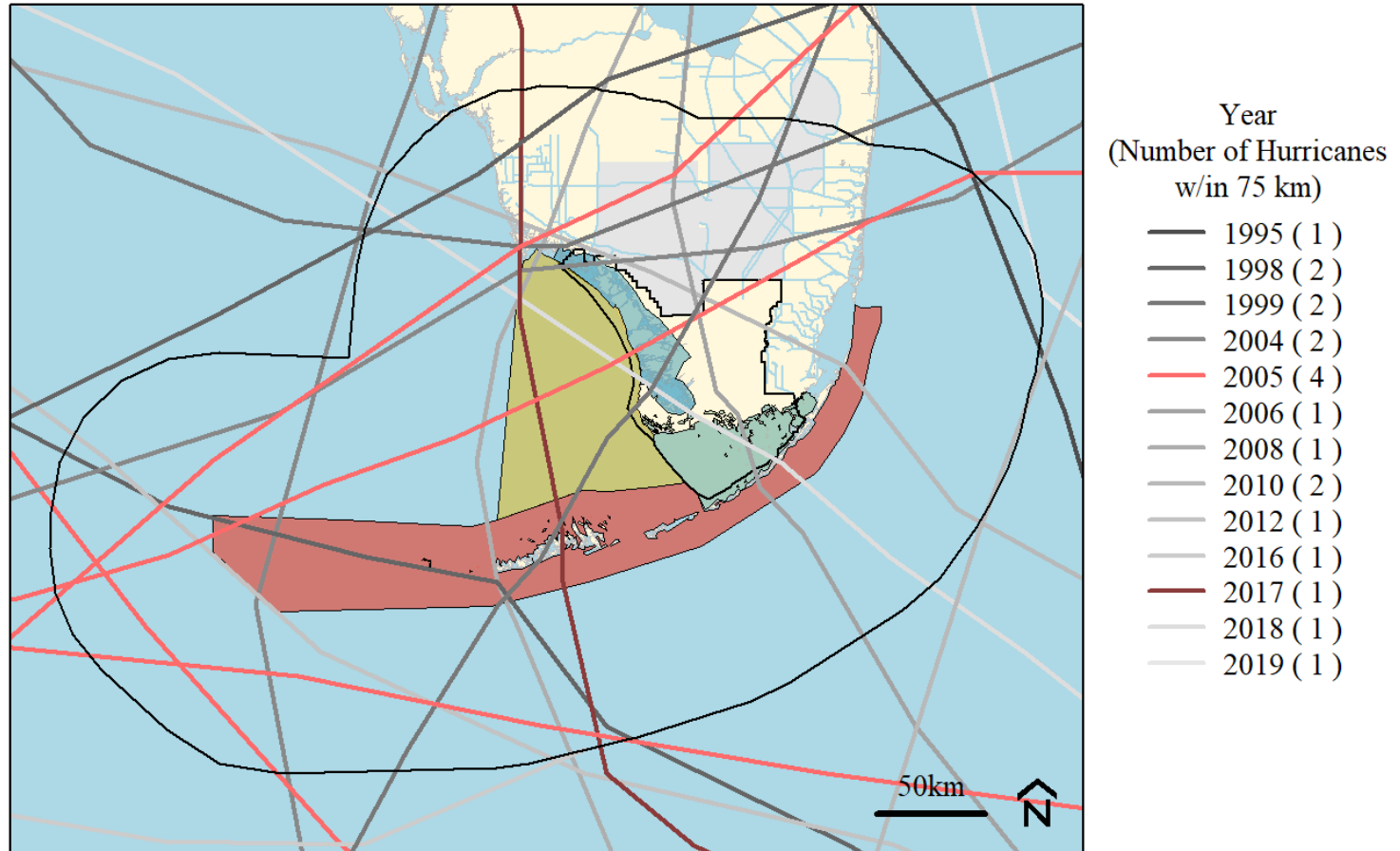
Disturbance history of ecologically important events that occurred within the Florida Coastal Everglades from Kominoski et al (2020)

Subtropical coastal systems are exposed to multiple disturbances operating at many spatiotemporal scales that influence biogeochemistry, including long-term presses (i.e., sea-level rise, freshwater restoration), episodic regional pulses (i.e., hurricanes, droughts, temperature extremes, fires), and localized ecosystem legacies of both presses and pulses (i.e., seagrass die-off, peat collapse).

Kominoski JS, Gaiser EE, Castaneda-Moya E, et al (2020) Disturbance legacies increase and synchronize nutrient concentrations and bacterial productivity in coastal ecosystems. [Ecology](#)

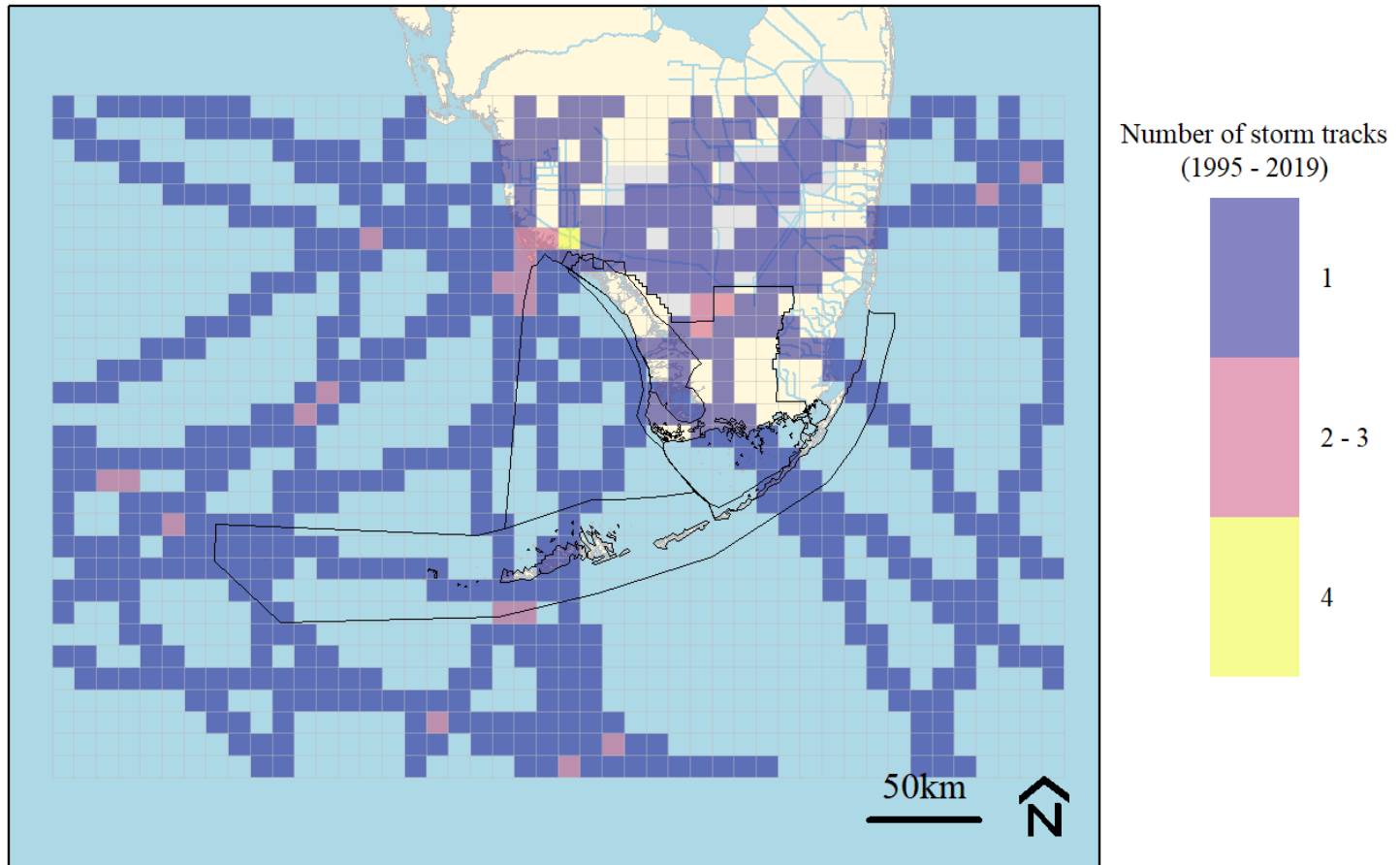


# Here's the story of the Hurricane(s) ...



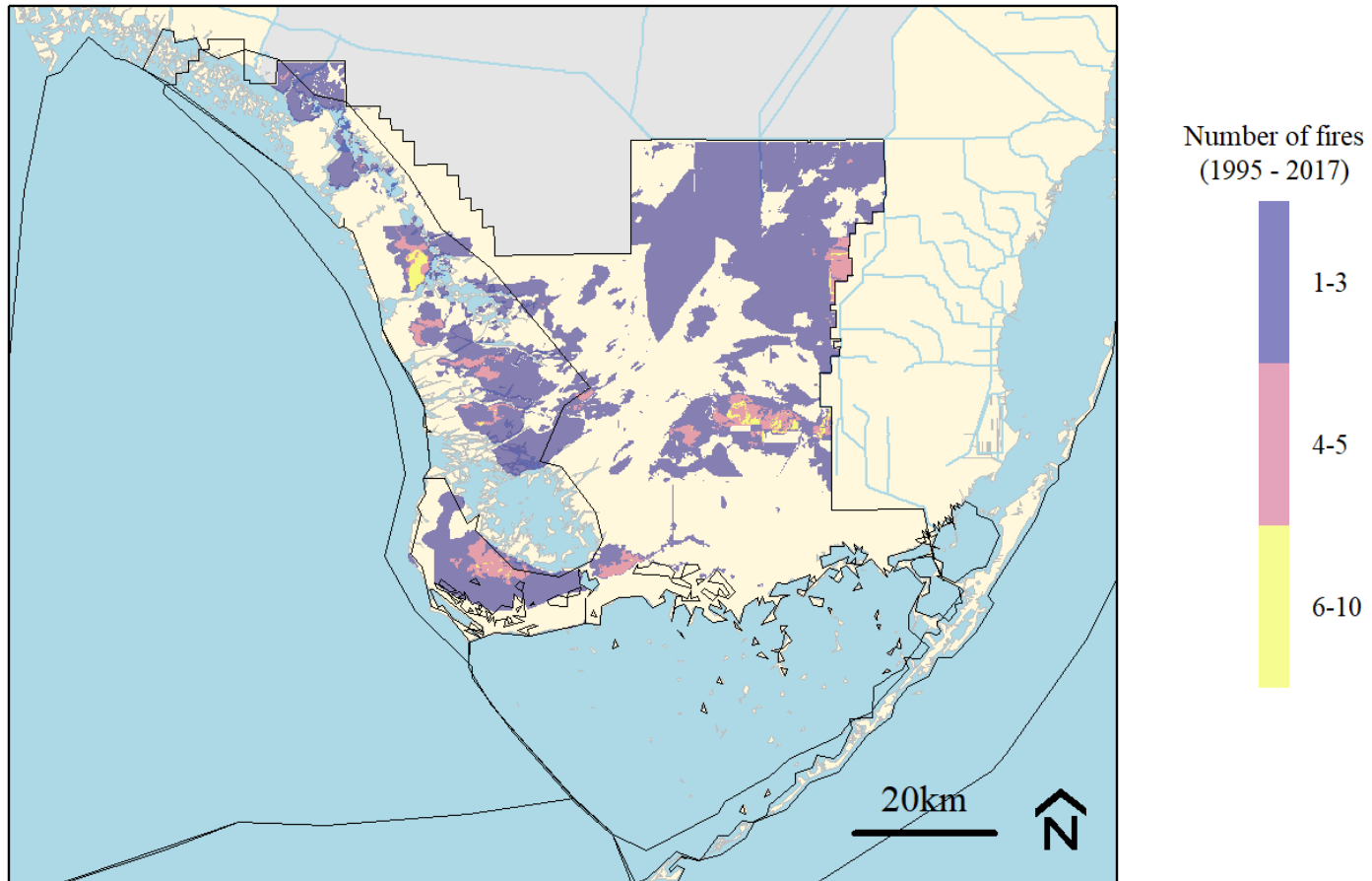
History of hurricane and tropical storms across South Florida.

# Here's the story of the Hurricane(s) ... past 2

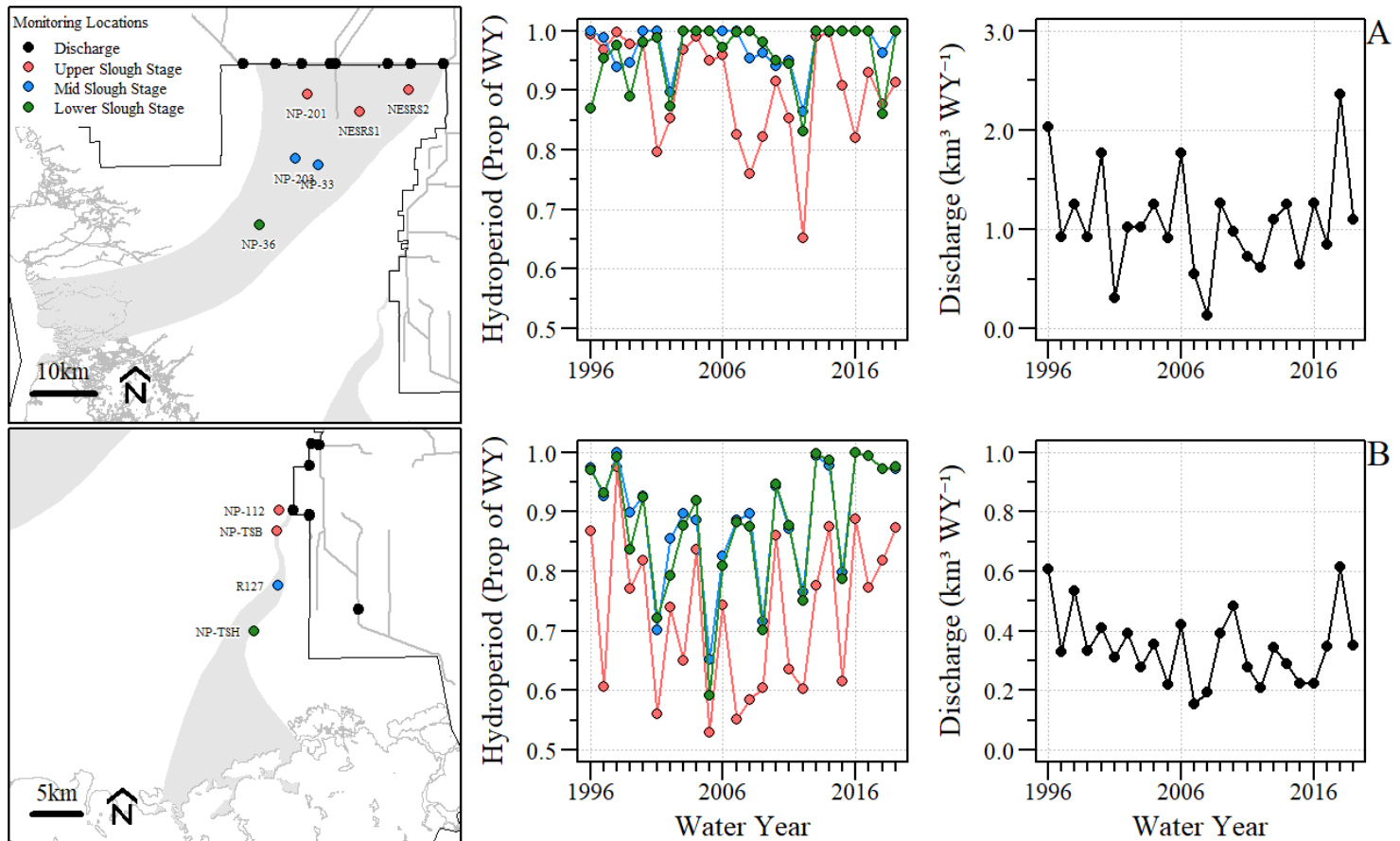


Hurricane and tropical storms (centerline) frequency analysis across South Florida.

**...we didn't light it, but we tried to fight it...**



Fire occurrence frequency analysis across Everglades National Park.



Annual hydroperiod and discharge volumes for Shark River Slough (SRS; top) and Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins (TSCB; bottom) between May 1, 1995 and April 30, 2019 (WY1996 – 2019).

# Objective

- Compile a robust multi-decadal dataset on total and dissolved nutrient concentrations and chlorophyll-a across a coastal wetland-estuary-marine continuum to evaluate biogeochemical signals of disturbance at an unprecedented landscape scale

# Questions

This study was used to address two specific questions related to temporal and spatial trends in water quality:

1. Where is the greatest rate of direction change in biogeochemical constituents?
2. Do spatial patterns of biogeochemical change and disturbance interact?

# Data

- Water Quality Data collected between May 1995 and May 2019

## Data Sets

- Southeast Environmental Research Center of Florida International University (SERC)
- Florida Coastal Long-Term Ecological Research (FCE LTER)
- South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

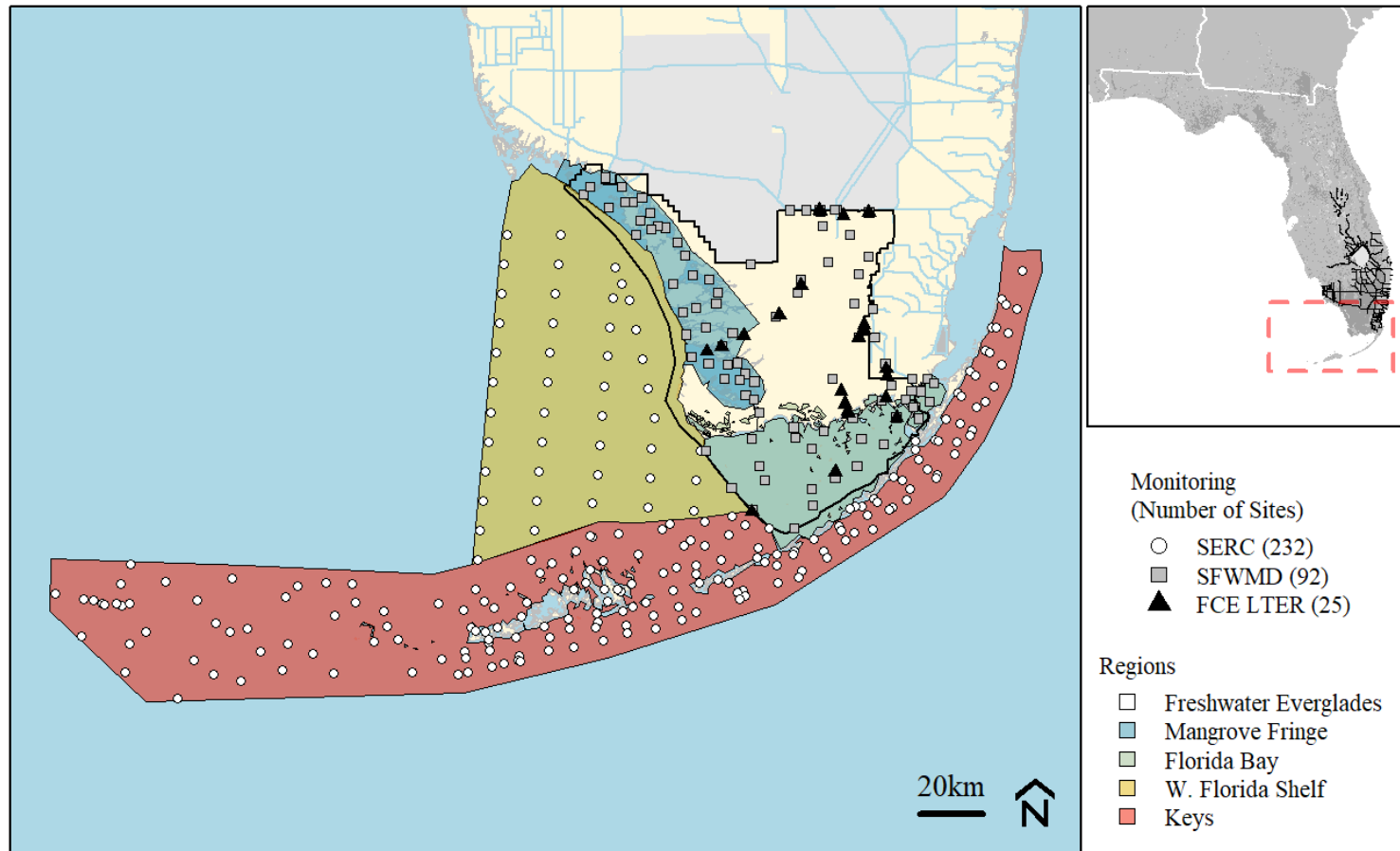
## Parameters

- Total phosphorus (TP)
- Ortho-phosphate/soluble-reactive phosphorus (SRP)
- Total nitrogen (TN)
- Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN; calculated as nitrate + nitrite + ammonia)
- Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a)
- Total Dissolved Carbon (TOC)
- TN:TP molar ratio

## Analyses

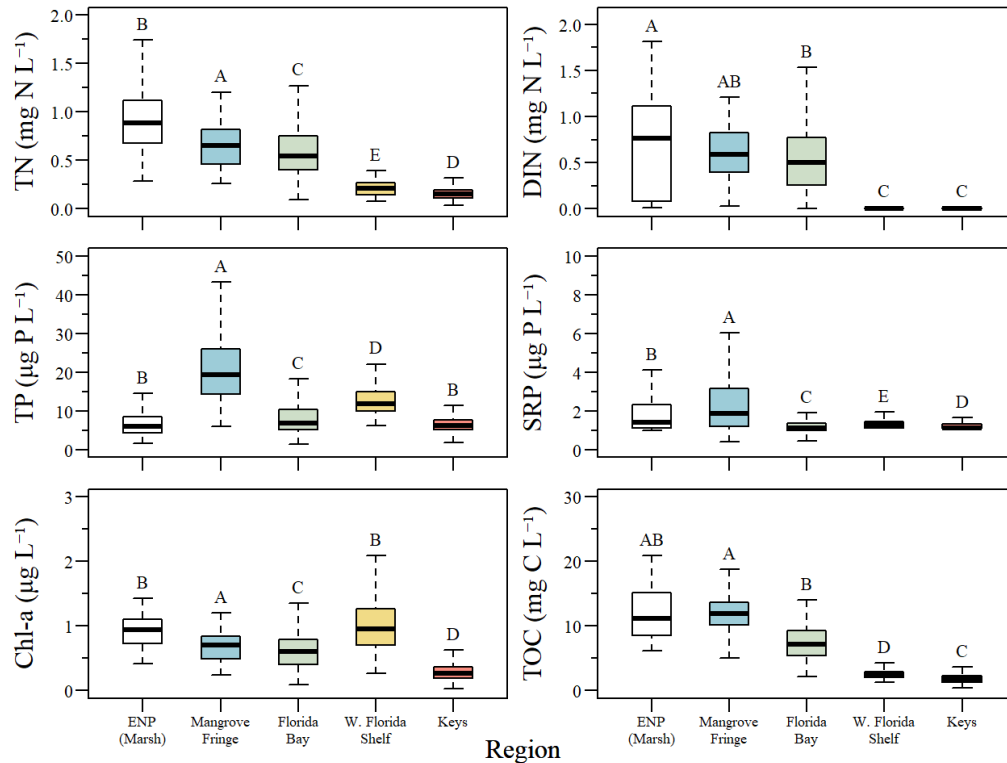
- Kruskal-Wallis (and Dunn's multiple comparison test) between regions
- Annual Kendall trend (and Thiel-Sen slope) test
- Spatio-temporal Generalized Additive Model

# Sampling Map



Long-term monitoring locations sampled by SERC, FCE and SFWMD.

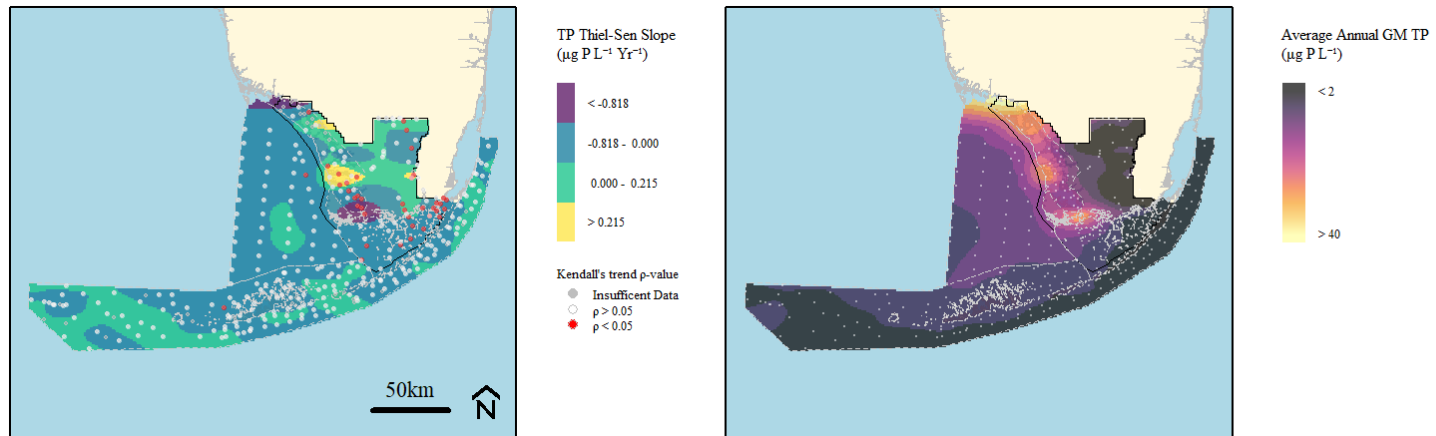
# Regional Comparison



Comparison of annual geometric mean total nitrogen (TN), dissolved inorganic nutrient (DIN), total phosphorous (TP), soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP), chlorophyll-a (Chl-a), and total organic carbon (TOC) concentrations across the five regions across the study area. Letters above boxplots indicate pairwise comparisons between regions using Dunn's test of multiple comparisons.



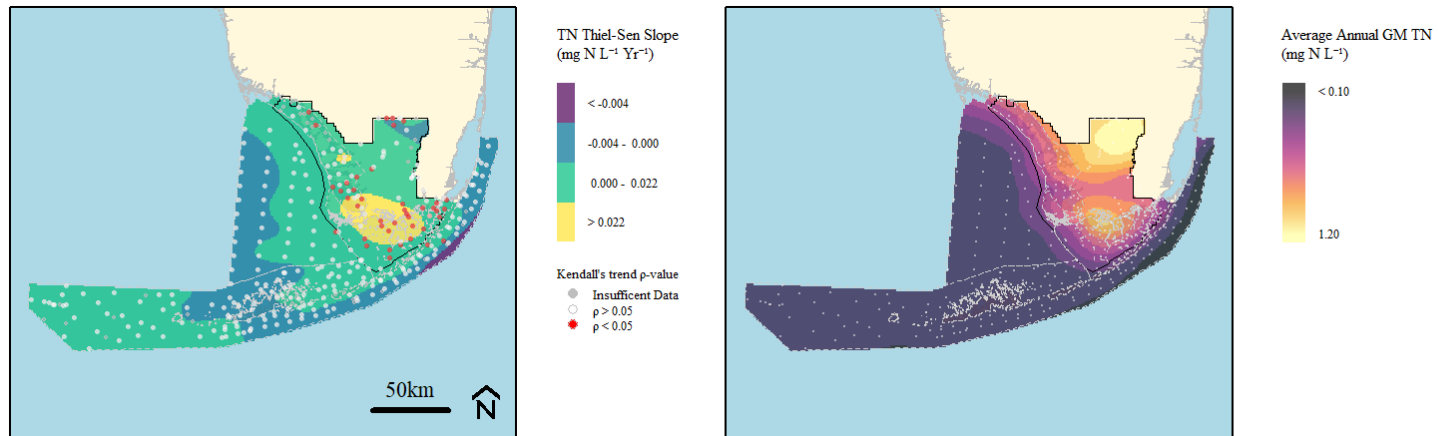
# Total Phosphorus Trend



Annual rate of change for geometric mean total phosphorus (TP) concentrations and average annual geometric mean TP concentrations at individual stations across the Everglades-Florida Bay-West Florida Shelf-Keys ecosystem during the period of record.

- Significant decreases in Freshwater Everglades (Restoration...Thank You!).
- Significant increases in coastal mangrove fringes (TP highest in this region).
  - Ecotone effect?
  - Biomass turnover?
  - Press/Pulse Disturbance?

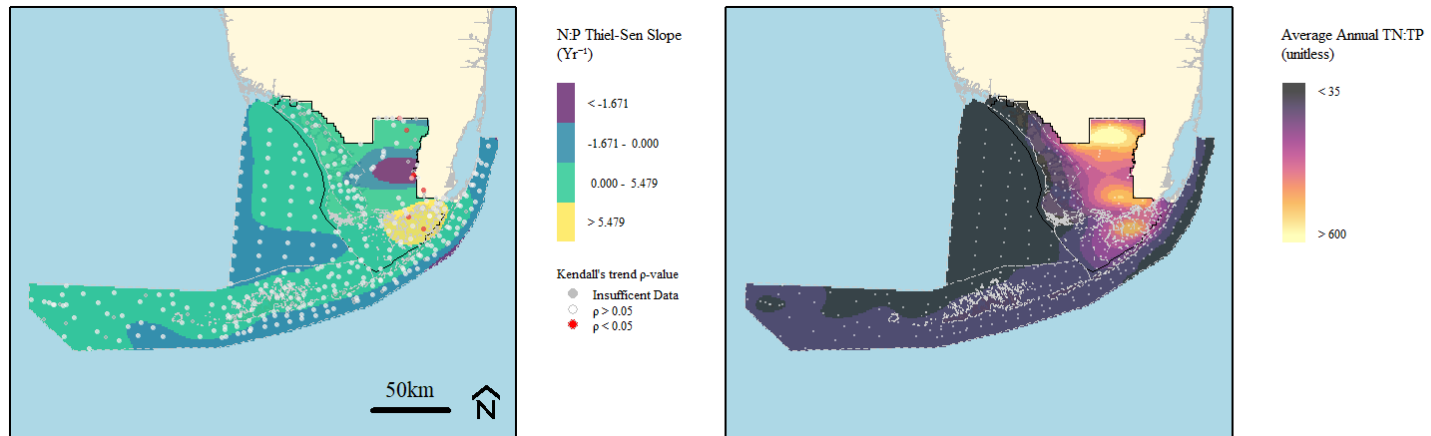
# Total Nitrogen Trend



Annual rate of change for geometric mean total nitrogen (TN) concentrations and average annual geometric mean TN concentrations at individual stations across the Everglades-Florida Bay-West Florida Shelf-Kkeys ecosystem during the period of record.

- Significant increases lower Shark River, Coastal fringe and Florida Bay.
  - Ecotone effect?
  - Biomass turnover? (fringe = Mangrove; Florida Bay = Seagrass)
  - Press/Pulse Disturbance?
- Florida Bay average concentrations lower than freshwater Everglades.

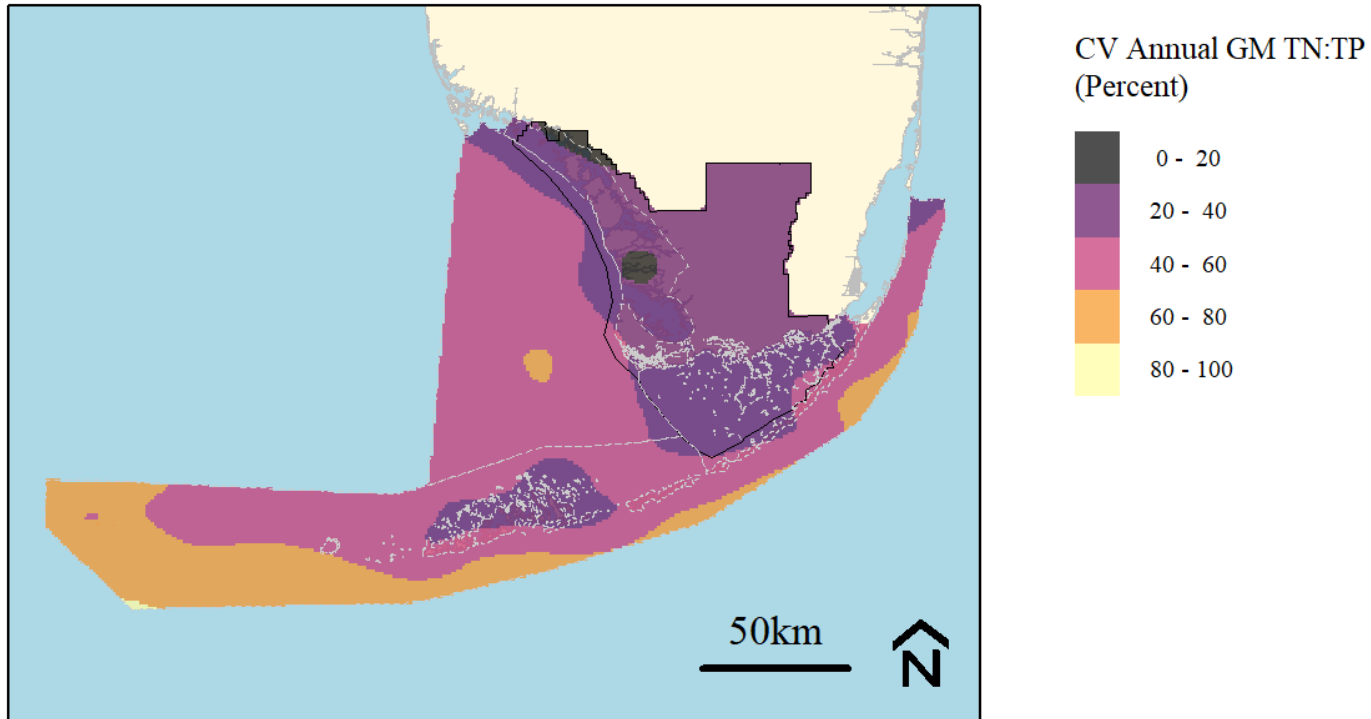
# N:P Trend



Annual rate of change for geometric mean total nitrogen to total phosphorus (TN:TP) molar ratio and average annual geometric mean TN:TP at individual stations across the Everglades-Florida Bay-West Florida Shelf-Kkeys ecosystem during the period of record.

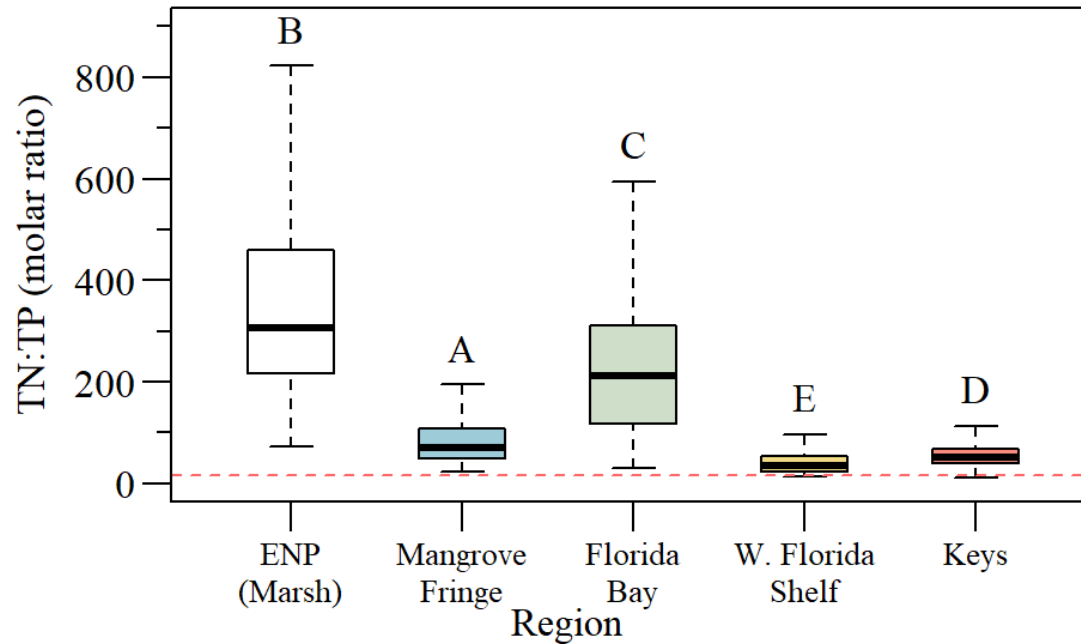
- Increases in P limitation in eastern Florida Bay.
- Reef track and Shelf co-limited or N-limited.

# N:P Variability



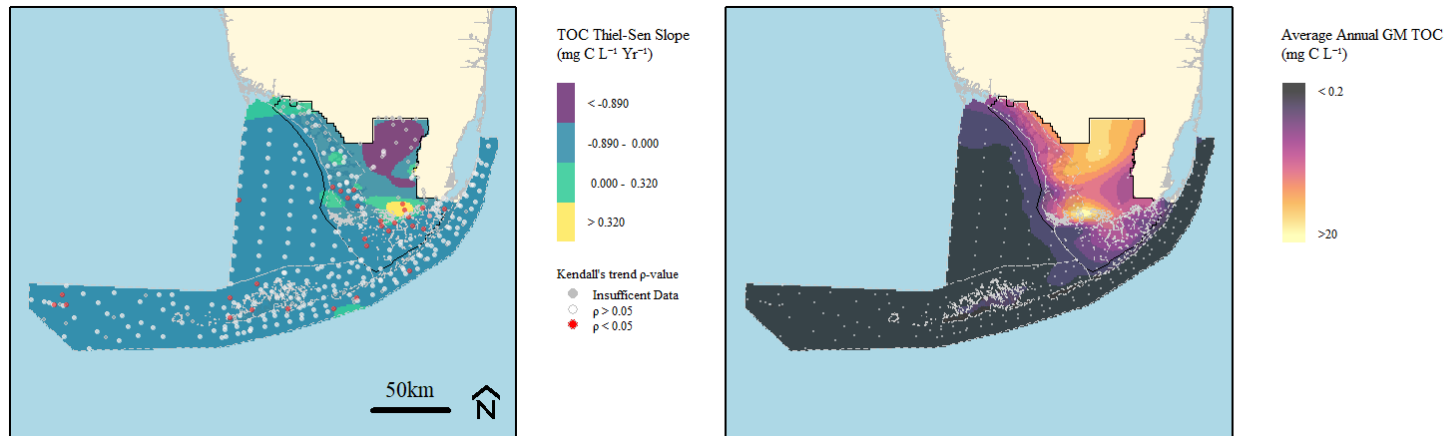
Coefficients of Variation of annual geometric mean TN:TP at individual stations across the Everglades-Florida Bay-West Florida Shelf-Keys ecosystem during the period of record.

# N:P Variability



Comparison of annual geometric mean total nitrogen to total phosphorus (TN:TP) ratio across the five regions across the study area. Letters above boxplots indicate pairwise comparisons between regions using Dunn's test of multiple comparisons.

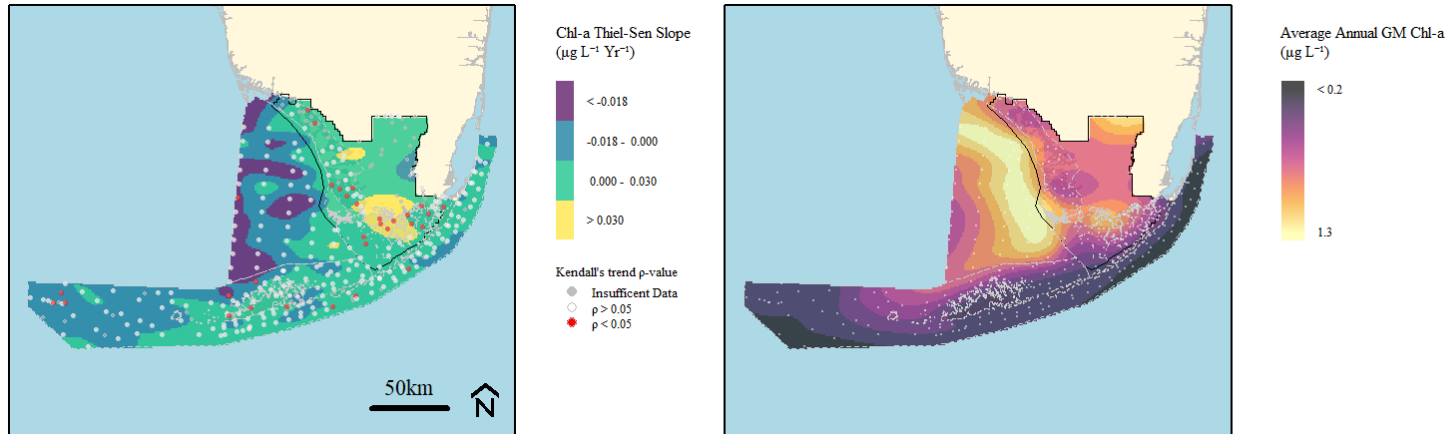
# Organic Carbon Trend



Annual rate of change for geometric mean total organic carbon (TOC) concentrations and average annual geometric mean TOC concentration at individual stations across the Everglades-Florida Bay-West Florida Shelf-Keys ecosystem during the period of record.

- Increases in TOC concentration Taylor River/Florida Bay Mangrove Fringe (browning?).
- Declines in TOC freshwater Everglades (Not significant) and coastal Fringe/coastal lakes (Gulf side).
- Have we seen changes in productivity in these regions?

# Chlorophyll Trend



Annual rate of change for geometric mean chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) concentrations and average annual geometric mean Chl-a concentration at individual stations across the Everglades-Florida Bay-West Florida Shelf-Keys ecosystem during the period of record.

- Increases in Florida bay
- Higher concentrations in WFS relative to other regions

# Spatio-Temporal Model description

$$E(y_i) = \alpha + f_1(WY_i) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) + f_3(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i, WY_i)$$

$E(y_i)$  = Either TN or TP Annual Geometric Mean

$f_1(WY_i)$  = Water Year Term

$f_2(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$  = Spatial Term (i.e. Lat/Long)

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Effectively, the first two smooths are the main effects of

1. long-term trend,
2. spatial variation

The remaining tensor product is the interaction terms which models how the long-term trend varies spatially

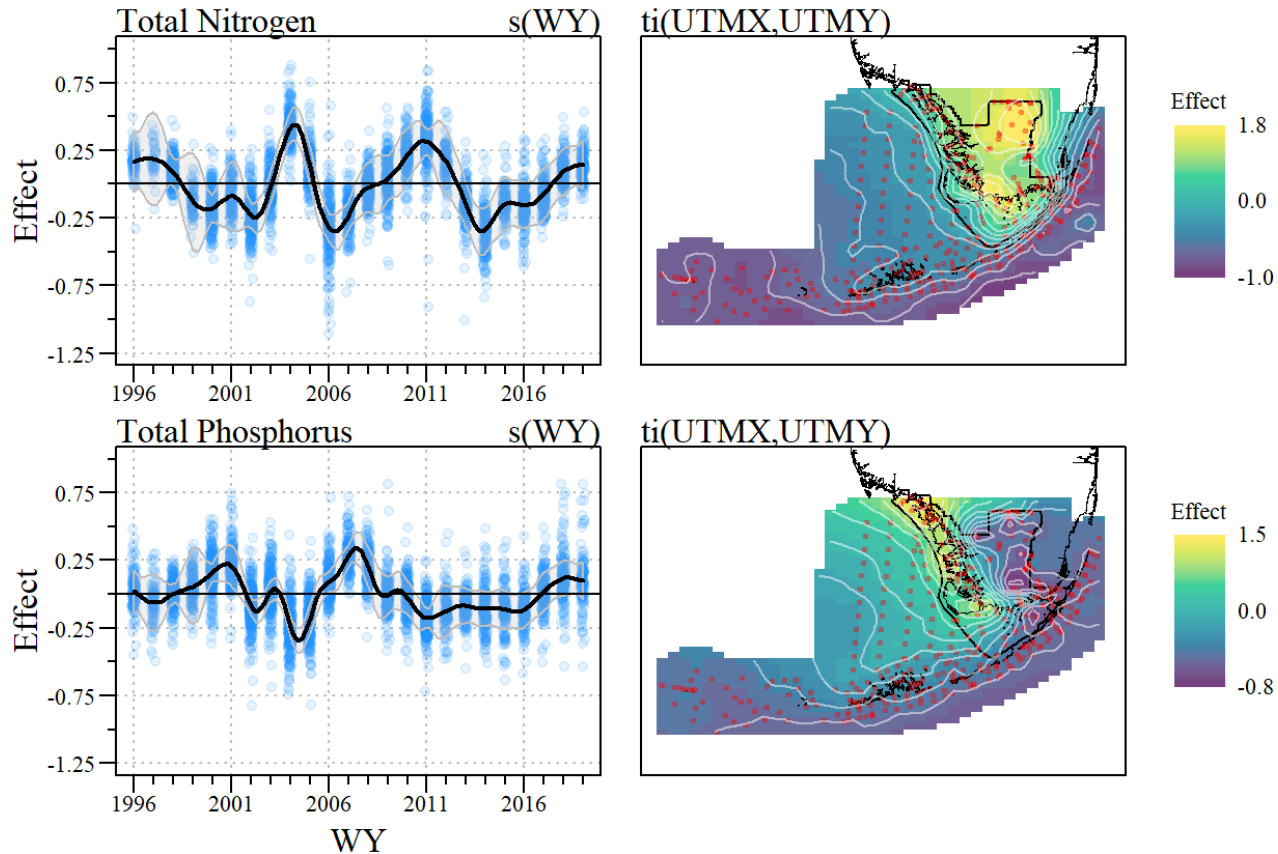
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For more GAM goodness please see

- [Dr Gavin Simpson Intro to GAMS](#)
- [GAMs in R by Noam Ross](#)
- Simpson (2018) *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 6:149. doi: [10.3389/fevo.2018.00149](https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2018.00149)



# TN and TP Spatio-temporal Model



Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus spatial and temporal generalized additive model effects plot.

# TN Spatio-temporal Model

Component	Term	Estimate	Std Error	t-value	p-value
A. parametric coefficients	(Intercept)	-1.51	0.03	-49.76	<0.01

Component	Term	edf	Ref. df	F-value	p-value
B. smooth terms	s(WY)	18.00	18.46	38.20	<0.01
	s(UTMX,UTMY)	141.05	199.00	155.19	<0.01
	ti(WY,UTMX,UTMY)	529.49	704.07	9.08	<0.01

Adjusted R-squared: 0.96, Deviance explained 0.97

fREML: -760.87, Scale est.: 0.03, N: 4206

# TP Spatio-temporal Model

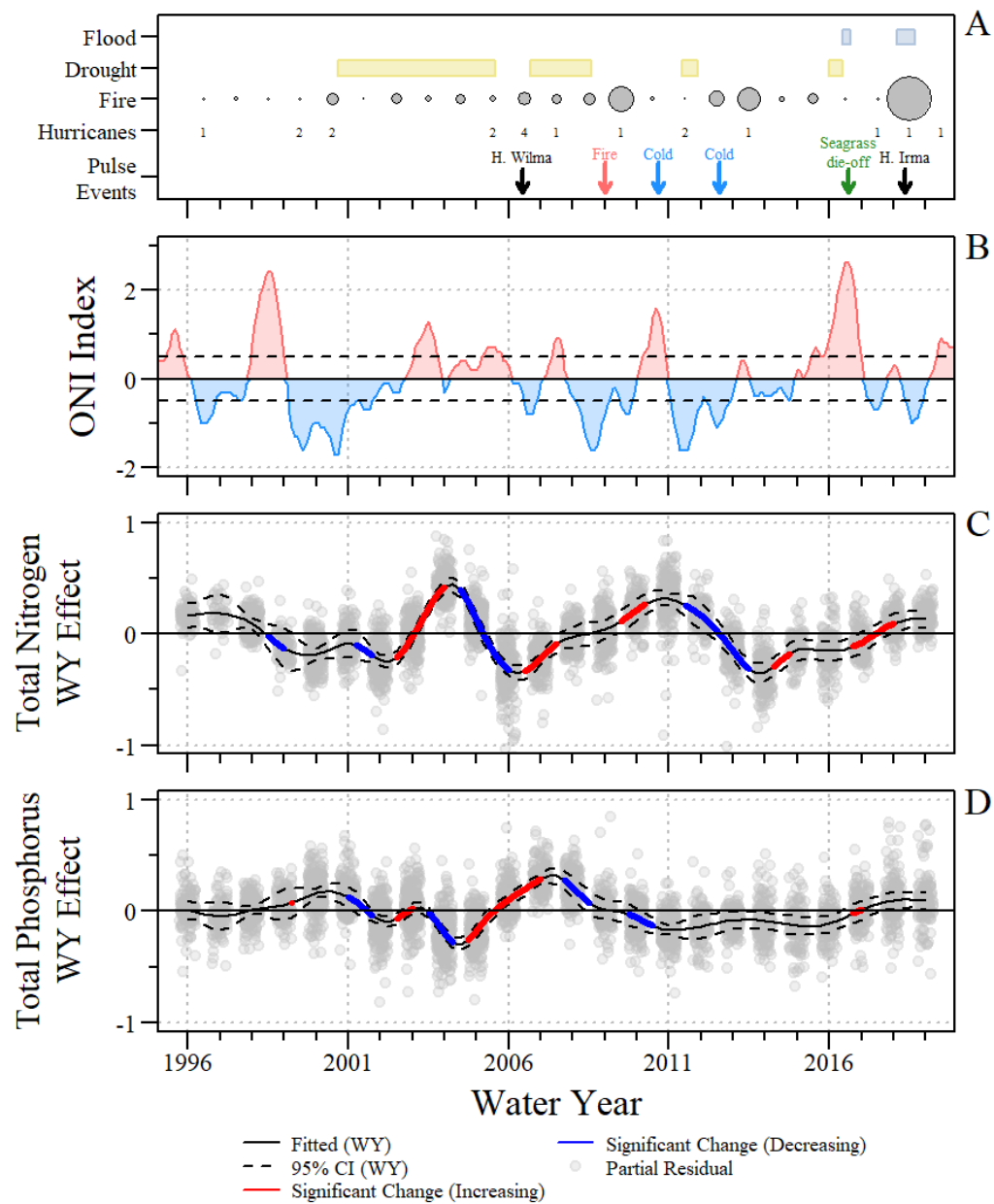
Component	Term	Estimate	Std Error	t-value	p-value
A. parametric coefficients	(Intercept)	2.06	0.03	74.33	<0.01

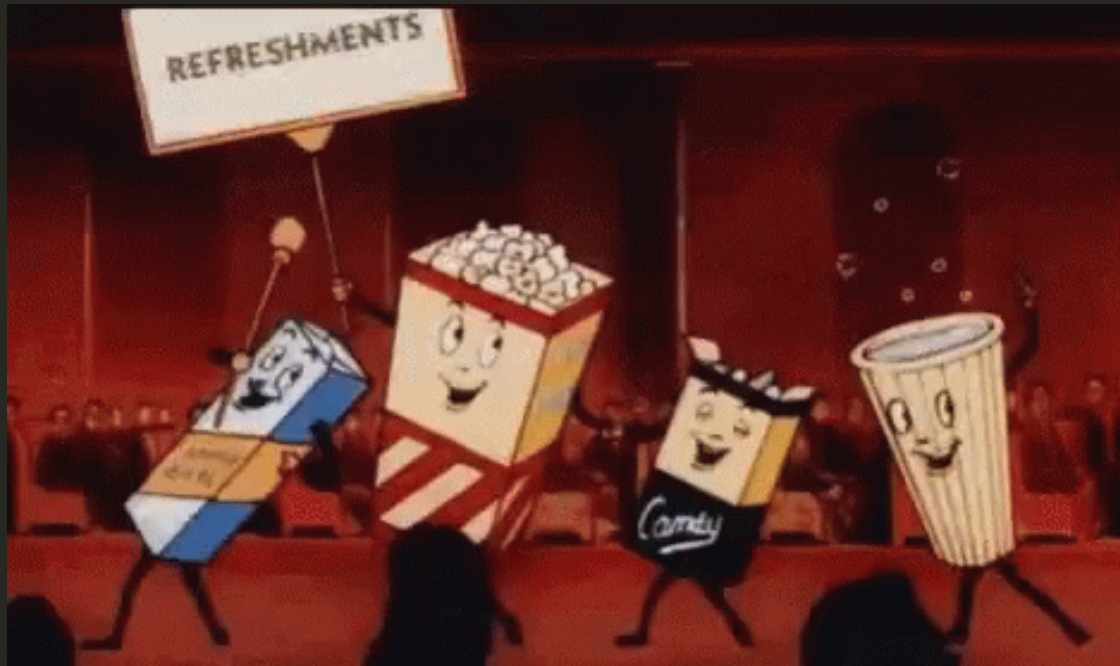
  

Component	Term	edf	Ref. df	F-value	p-value
B. smooth terms	s(WY)	19.95	20.37	25.23	<0.01
	s(UTMX,UTMY)	239.70	303.00	66.71	<0.01
	ti(WY,UTMX,UTMY)	569.63	1914.00	2.01	<0.01

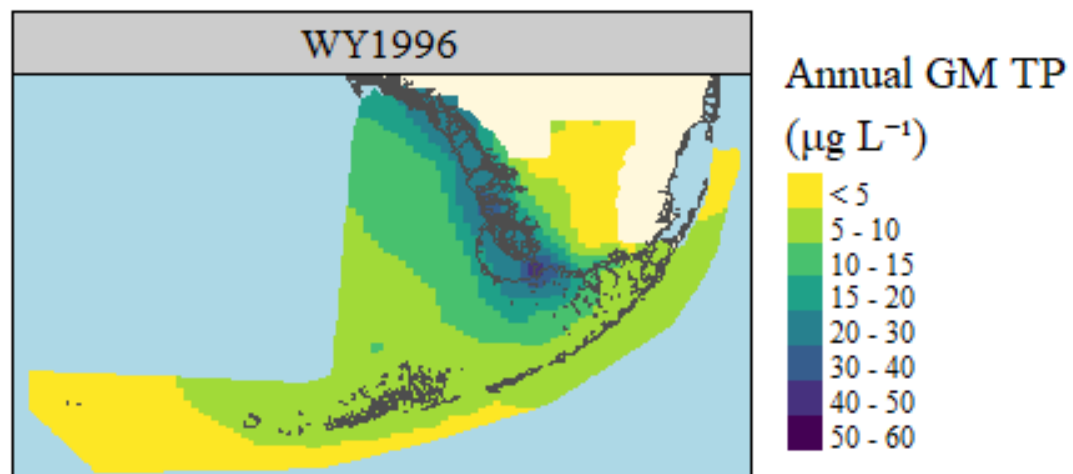
Adjusted R-squared: 0.91, Deviance explained 0.93

fREML: -701.98, Scale est.: 0.03, N: 4575





Now Presenting...



# What we learned so far...

- Interesting spatial gradients across the greater South Everglades, Florida Bay, West Florida Shelf and Keys system.
  - Combing several large datasets over a long(ish) period of time has provide a holistic system view (some of which "we" hypothesized from "smaller" scale studies)
  - Highlights the attenuation of some nutrients across the system
  - Some systems are more of a BGChem hotspot than others
- Year-to-year variation in TN and TP across the study area, at times, correspond with pulse and press events (see GAMs).
  - suggesting a push-pull dynamic between events and spatiotemporal variation in nutrients

*"When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come."*

-- Leonardo da Vinci

# Acknowledgements

## Data



South Florida Water Management District ([DBHYDRO](#))



FIU Southeast Environmental Research Center ([SERC](#))



FIU Florida Coastal Everglades LTER ([FCE LTER](#))

## Slides

- HTML [Slide deck](#) © Julian (2022)



- RMarkdown [Source](#)



# Extras

