# Coupon Bight 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	$\operatorname{ppt}$	-0.000001	70
Turbidity	NTU	-0.000001	4000
Water Temperature	Degrees C	-5.000000	45
рН	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	$_{ m mg/L}$	-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)	m mg/L	-	-
Nitrite (NO2)	mg/L	-	-
Nitrogen, organic	mg/L	-	-
Phosphate, Filtered (PO4)	mg/L	-	-
Salinity	$\operatorname{ppt}$	-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	m 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	$SEACAR\ QAQCF lagCode$
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	Н	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.
- ${f S}$  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	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, andwater 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-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
- $\bullet \ \ Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Dissolved\_Oxygen-2024-Dec-08.txt$
- Combined WQ WC NUT Dissolved Oxygen Saturation-2024-Dec-08.txt
- $\bullet \quad Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_pH\text{--}2024\text{--}Dec\text{--}08.txt$
- Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Salinity-2024-Dec-08.txt
- Combined WQ WC NUT Secchi Depth-2024-Dec-08.txt
- $\bullet \quad Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Nitrogen-2024-Dec-08.txt$
- Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Phosphorus-2024-Dec-08.txt
- $\bullet \ \ Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Suspended\_Solids\_TSS-2024-Dec-08.txt$
- $\bullet \quad Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Turbidity \hbox{-} 2024 \hbox{-} Dec \hbox{-} 08.txt$
- $\bullet$  Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Water\_Temperature-2024-Dec-08.txt

# Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete Water Quality Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

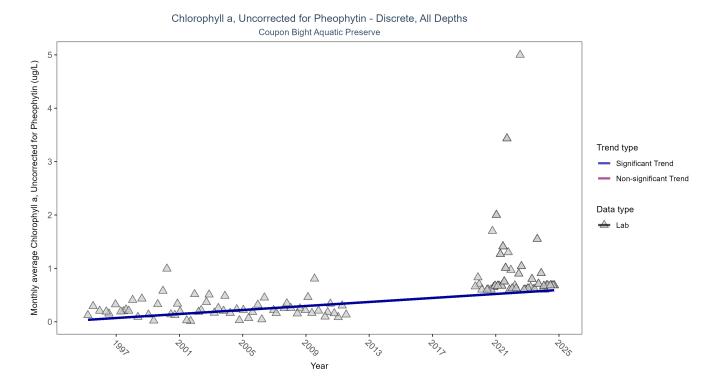


Figure 1: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

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

${\bf Relative Depth}$	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	${\bf Senn Intercept}$	${\it ChiSquared}$	${\it pChiSquared}$	Trend
All	182	23	0.6	TRUE	0.4324	0	0.0188	0.0325	1.7976	0.9991	1

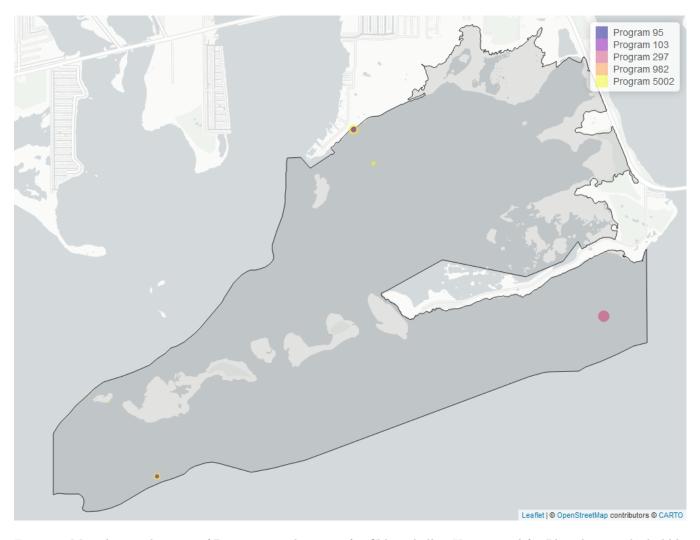


Figure 2: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

Program ID	$N\_Data$	YearMin	YearMax
5002	91	2019	2024
297	61	1995	2011
103	32	2020	2021

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

297- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring  $\operatorname{Project}^2$ 

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

#### Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete Water Quality

#### Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete, All Depths Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

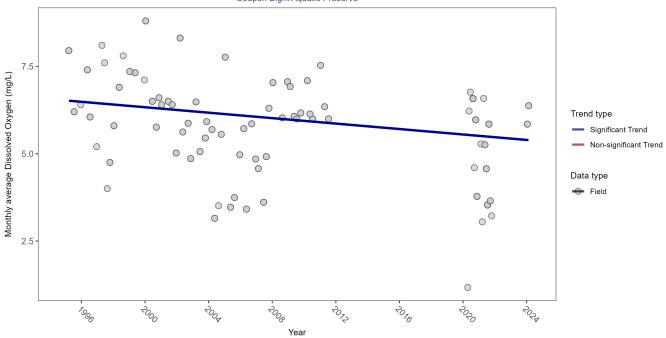


Figure 3: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

Table 8: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Dissolved Oxygen

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	159	20	5.9905	TRUE	-0.2504	0.022	-0.039	6.5239	12.5321	0.325	-1

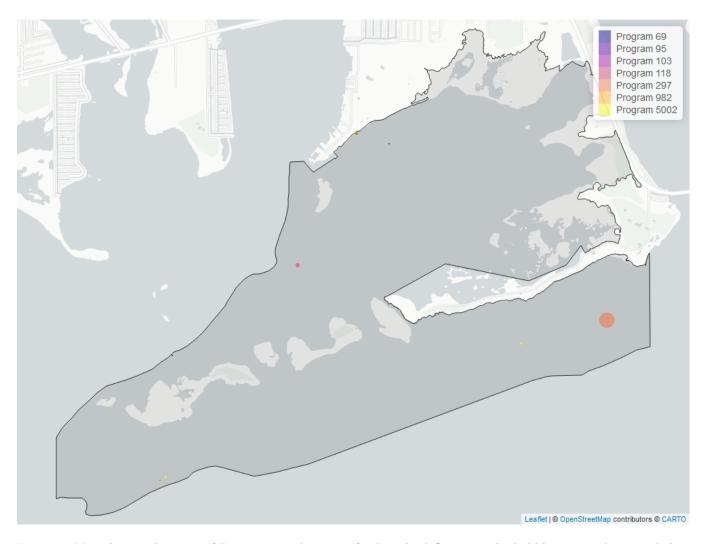


Figure 4: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Dissolved Oxygen. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 9: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

Program ID	$N\_Data$	YearMin	YearMax
297	111	1995	2011
5002	33	2020	2024
118	7	2020	2020
103	4	2021	2021
69	4	2000	2000

- 69 Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>4</sup>
- 103 EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>
- 118 National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment<sup>5</sup>
- 297 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring Project<sup>2</sup>
- 5002 Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

## Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete Water Quality

## Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete, All Depths Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

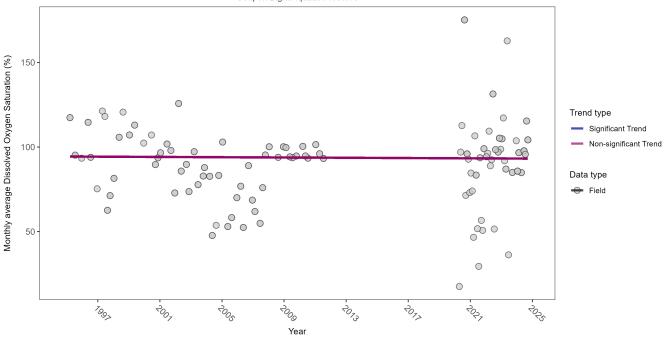


Figure 5: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	190	22	93.65	TRUE	-0.0039	0.86	-0.041	94.3848	19.6127	0.0509	0

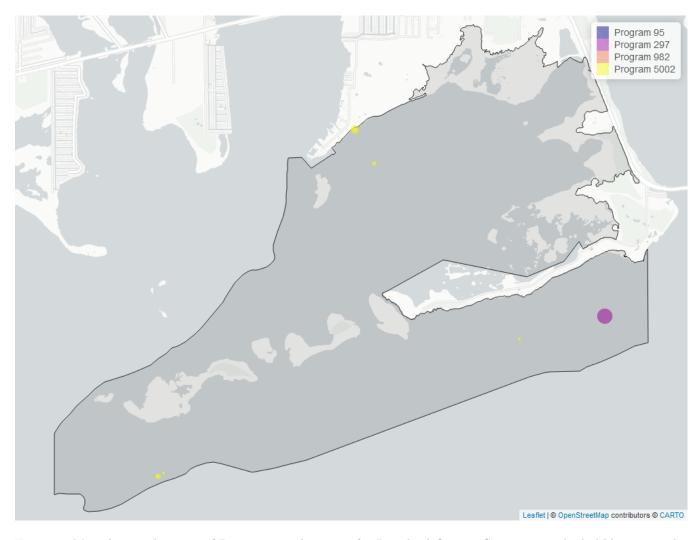


Figure 6: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

$\overline{ProgramID}$	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
297	112	1995	2011
5002	83	2020	2024

297- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring Project  $^2$  5002- Florida STORET / WIN  $^3$ 

#### Salinity - Discrete Water Quality

#### Salinity - Discrete, All Depths Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

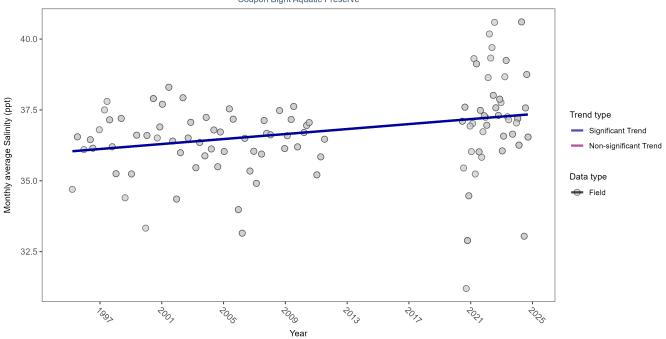


Figure 7: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Salinity - Discrete

Table 12: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Salinity

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	${\bf Senn Intercept}$	ChiSquared	${\it pChiSquared}$	Trend
All	200	22	36.7	TRUE	0.3305	0	0.044	36.0329	14.094	0.2278	1

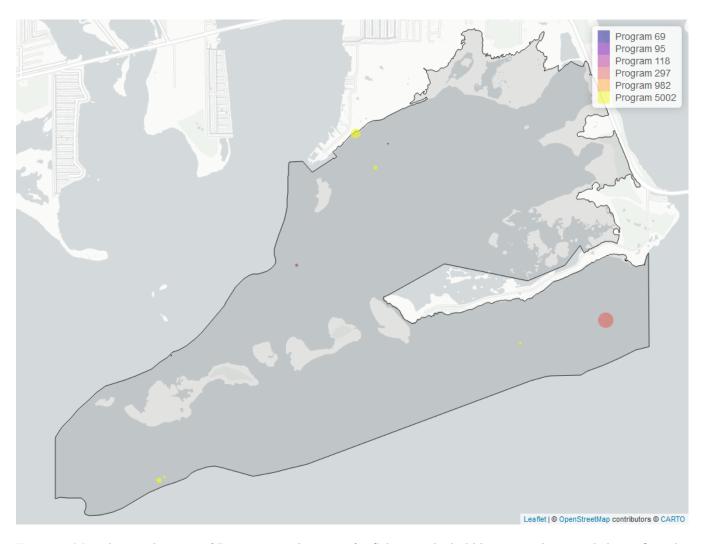


Figure 8: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Salinity. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Salinity

$\overline{ProgramID}$	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
297	111	1995	2011
5002	84	2020	2024
118	6	2020	2020
69	4	2000	2000

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>4</sup>

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment  $^5$ 

297- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring  $\operatorname{Project}^2$ 

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

#### 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 + 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"

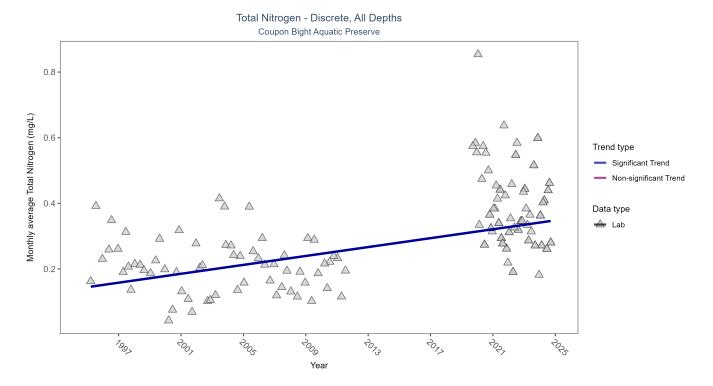


Figure 9: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Total Nitrogen - Discrete

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

${\bf Relative Depth}$	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	${\bf SennIntercept}$	ChiSquared	${\it pChiSquared}$	Trend
All	161	23	0.285	TRUE	0.3474	0	0.0068	0.1446	5.7511	0.8894	1

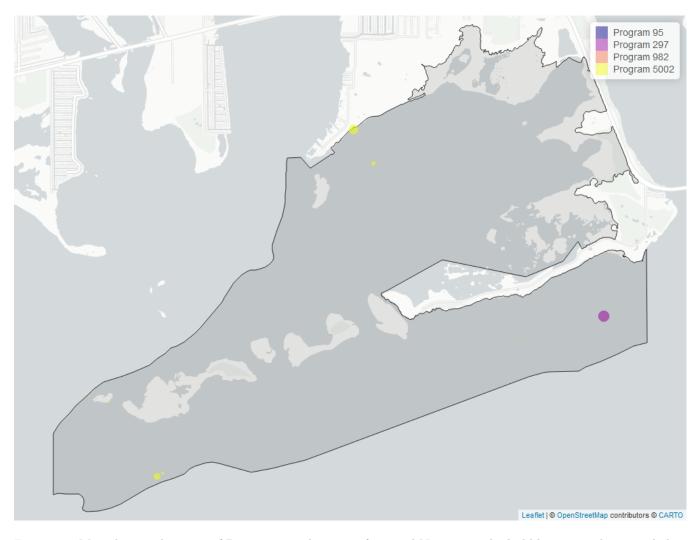


Figure 10: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Total Nitrogen. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

$\overline{ProgramID}$	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	97	2019	2024
297	64	1995	2011

297- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring Project $^2$  5002- Florida STORET / WIN $^3$ 

#### Total Phosphorus - Discrete Water Quality

#### Total Phosphorus - Discrete, All Depths Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

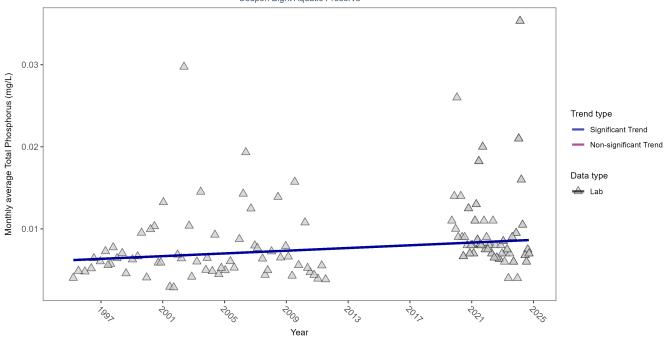


Figure 11: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Total Phosphorus - Discrete

Table 16: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Phosphorus

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	178	23	0.0071	TRUE	0.2168	0.0044	0.0001	0.0062	5.4067	0.9099	1

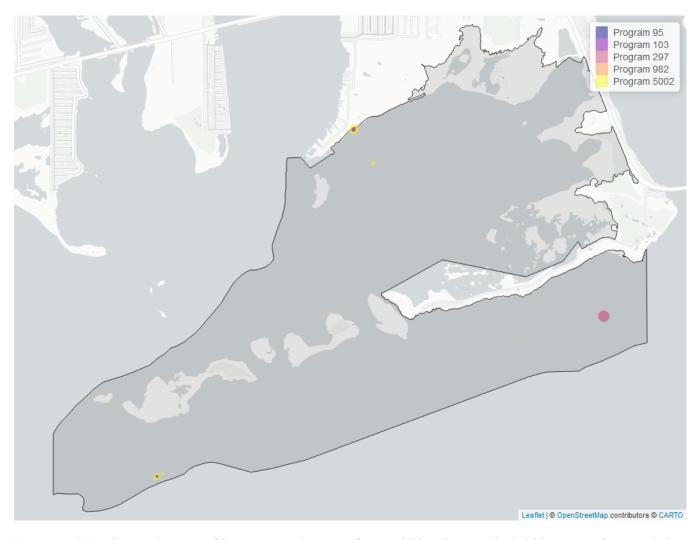


Figure 12: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Total Phosphorus. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

$\overline{ProgramID}$	$N\_Data$	YearMin	YearMax
5002	100	2019	2024
297	64	1995	2011
103	16	2020	2021

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX  $^{\! 1}$ 

297- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring  $\operatorname{Project}^2$ 

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

### Turbidity - Discrete Water Quality

#### Turbidity - Discrete, All Depths Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

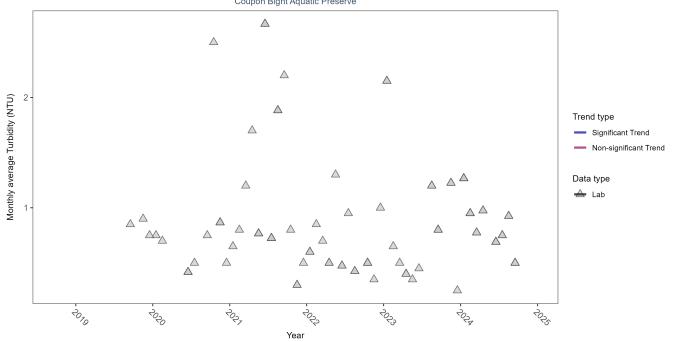


Figure 13: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Turbidity - Discrete

Table 18: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Turbidity

${\bf Relative Depth}$	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	${\bf Senn Intercept}$	ChiSquared	${\it pChiSquared}$	Trend
All	95	6	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

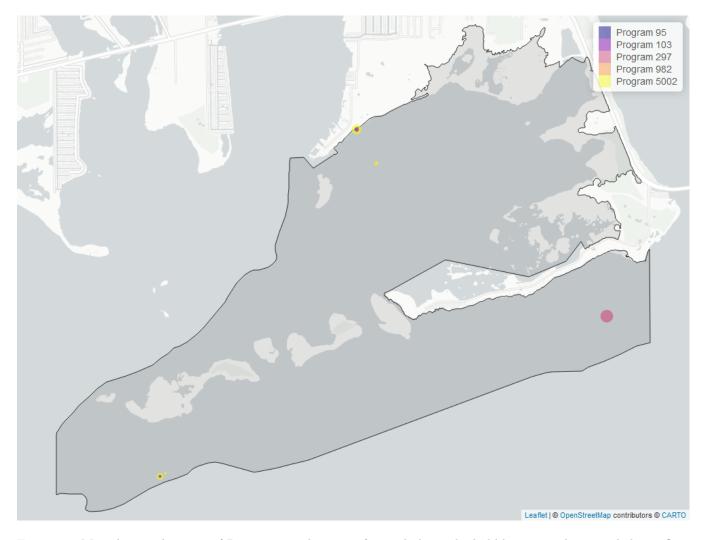


Figure 14: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Turbidity. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

$\overline{ProgramID}$	$N\_Data$	YearMin	YearMax
5002	97	2019	2024
297	74	1995	2011
103	16	2020	2021

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>1</sup>

297- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring  $\mathrm{Project}^2$ 

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>3</sup>

#### Water Temperature - Discrete Water Quality

#### Water Temperature - Discrete, All Depths Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

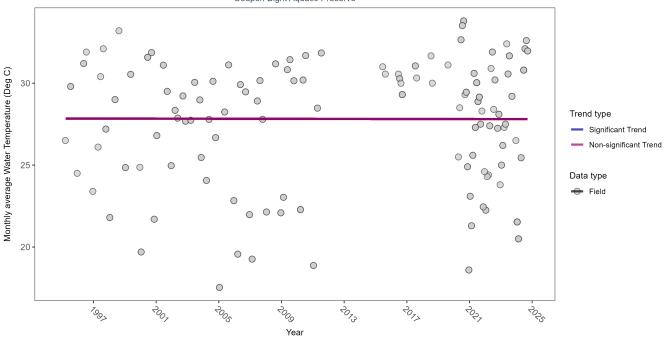


Figure 15: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Water Temperature - Discrete

Table 20: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Water Temperature

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	240	27	28.4957	TRUE	-0.0058	0.852	-0.0013	27.8428	4.4587	0.9545	0

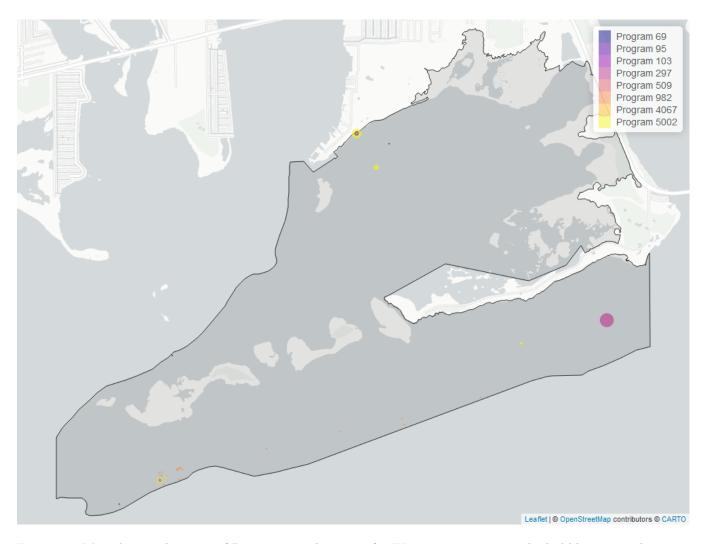


Figure 16: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Water Temperature. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

$\overline{ProgramID}$	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
297	110	1995	2011
5002	96	2020	2024
982	23	2015	2023
103	13	2020	2021
69	4	2000	2000
95	1	2010	2010

- 69 Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>4</sup>
- 95- Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network $^6$
- 103 EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX  $^{\! 1}$
- 297 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring Project<sup>2</sup>
- 982 Florida Keys Bleach Watch  $^7$
- 5002 Florida STORET / WIN $^3$

## Water Quality - Continuous

The following files were used in the continuous analysis:

- $\bullet \ \ Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_SE-2024-Dec-08.txt$
- $\bullet \ \ Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_Saturation\_SE-2024-Dec-08.txt$
- $\bullet \ \ Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_pH\_SE\text{-}2024\text{-}Dec\text{-}08.txt$
- $\bullet$  Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Salinity\_SE-2024-Dec-08.txt
- $\bullet \ \ Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Turbidity\_SE\text{-}2024\text{-}Dec\text{-}08.txt$
- $\bullet \ \ Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Water\_Temperature\_SE\text{-}2024\text{-}Dec\text{-}08.txt$

#### Continuous monitoring locations in Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

Table 22: Florida Keys Aquatic Preserves Continuous Water Quality Monitoring (10004)

$\overline{ProgramLocationID}$	Years of Data	Use in Analysis	Parameters
FKCB	1	FALSE	DO , DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW

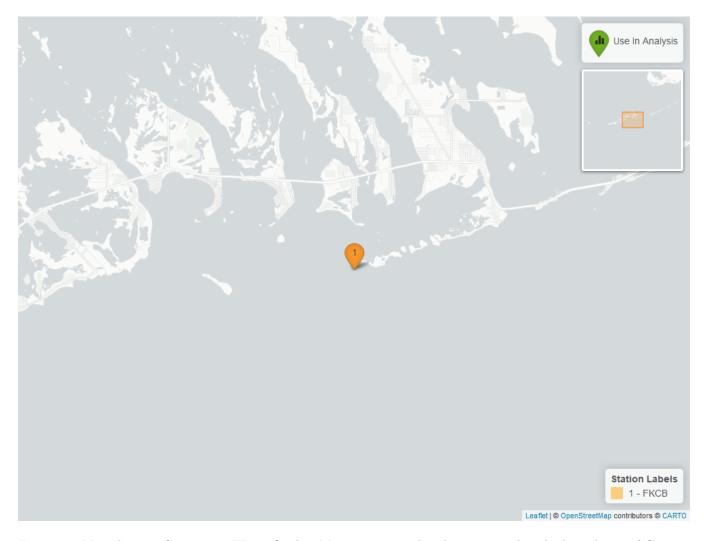


Figure 17: Map showing Continuous Water Quality Monitoring sampling locations within the boundaries of Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve. Sites marked as *Use In Analysis* are featured in this report.

## Coral Reef

The data file used is: All\_CORAL\_Parameters-2024-Dec-08.txt Species Richness

## Grazers and Reef-Dependent Species Richness Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

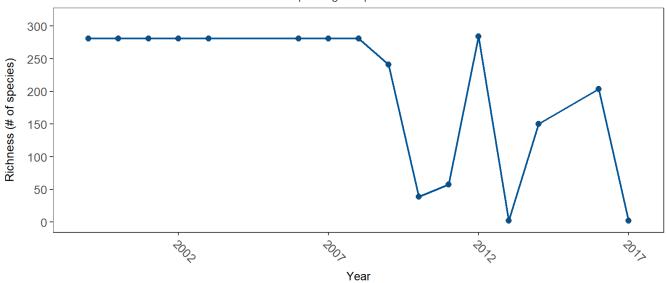


Figure 18: Figure for Coral Species Richness in Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve

Table 23: Coral Species Richness

N-Years	$Earliest \it Year$	$Latest \it Year$	$N ext{-}Data$	Min	Max	Median	Mean	StDev	Year-MinRichness	Year-MaxRichness
16	1999	2017	72	2	284	281	182.12	126.81	2013	2012

### References

- 1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX. (2023).
- 2. Florida International University (FIU). Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Monitoring Project. (2023).
- 3. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Florida STORET / WIN. (2024).
- 4. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program. (2022).
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