St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve

SEACAR Habitat Analyses

Last compiled on 08 January, 2025

Contents

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

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	mˆ-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

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*
- *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

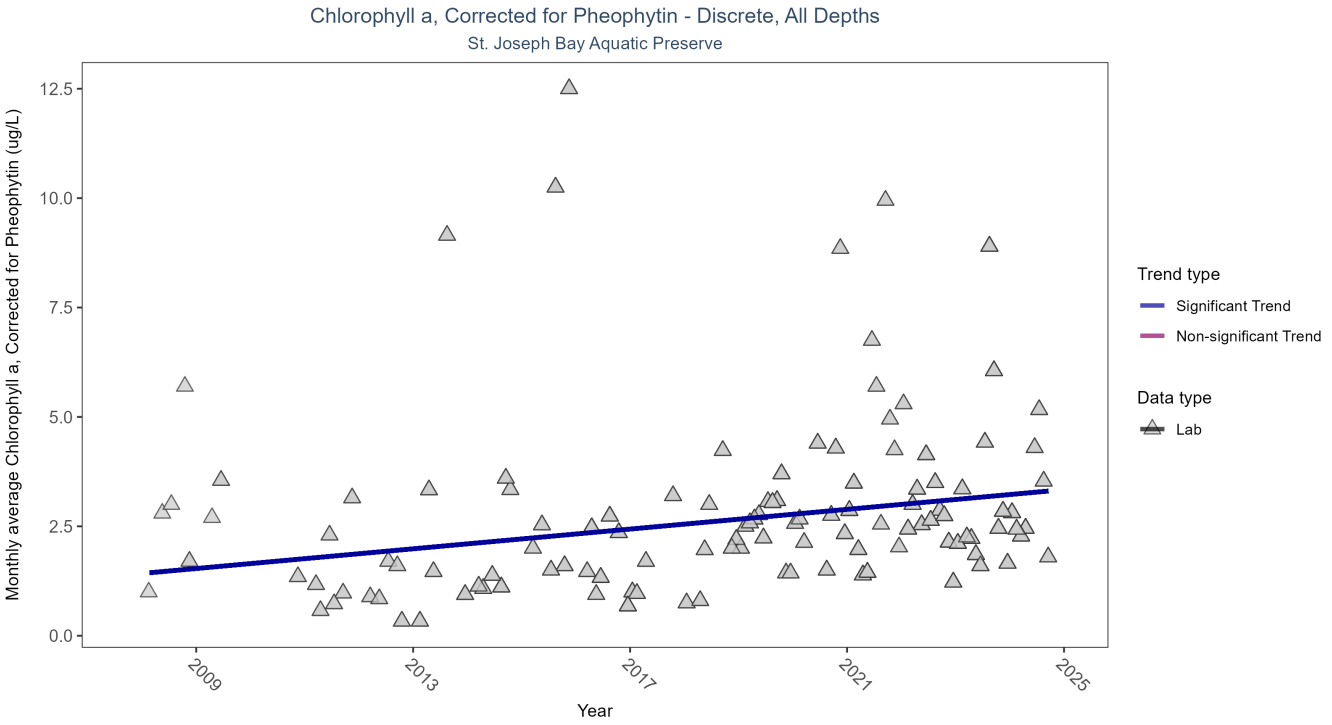

Figure 1: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

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	605	17	2	TRUE	0.2706	0.0003	0.1127	1.4231	5.7994	0.8864	1

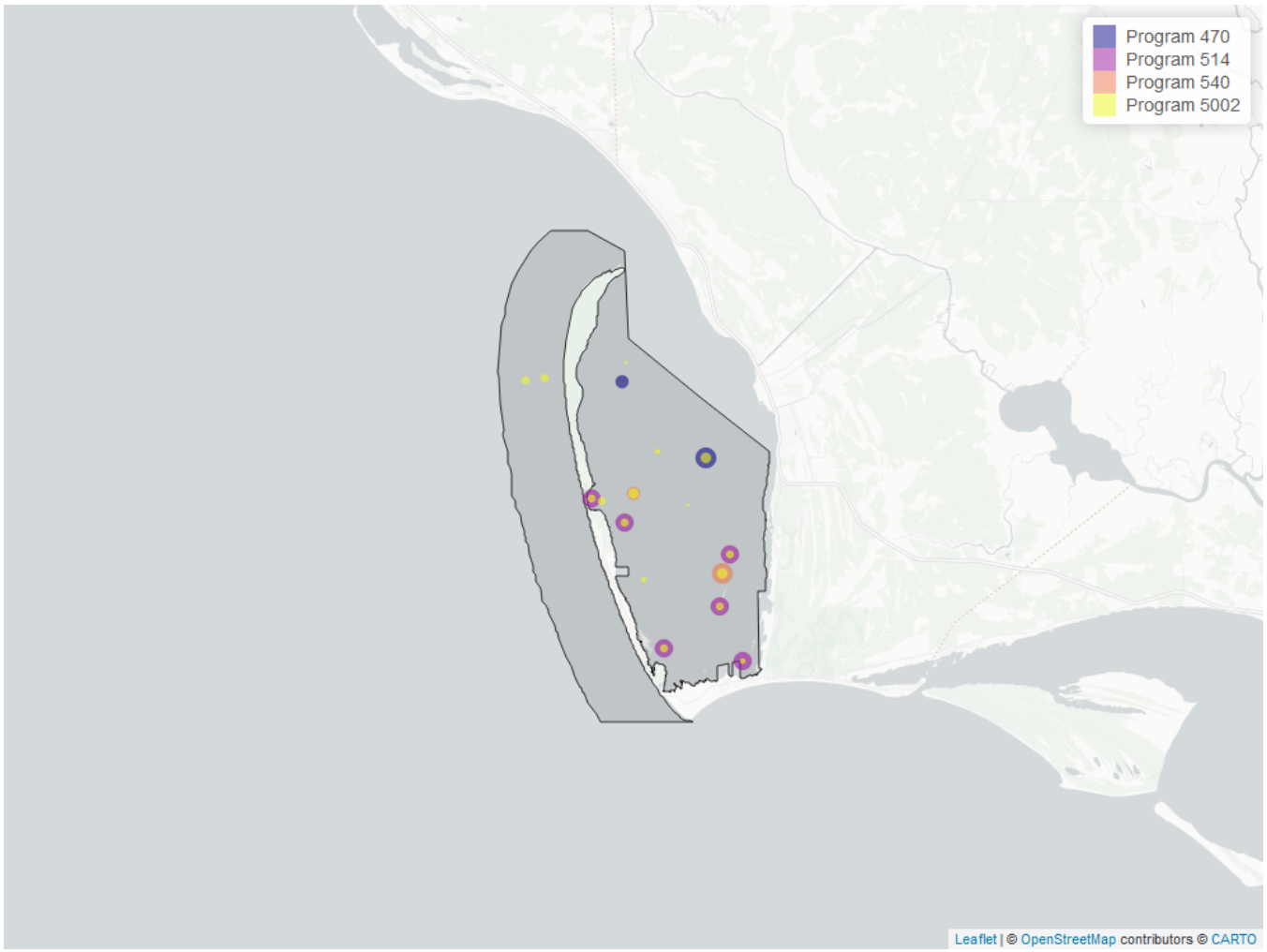

Figure 2: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	270	2018	2024
470	153	2019	2024
5002	145	2008	2017
540	39	2015	2019

Program names:

470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

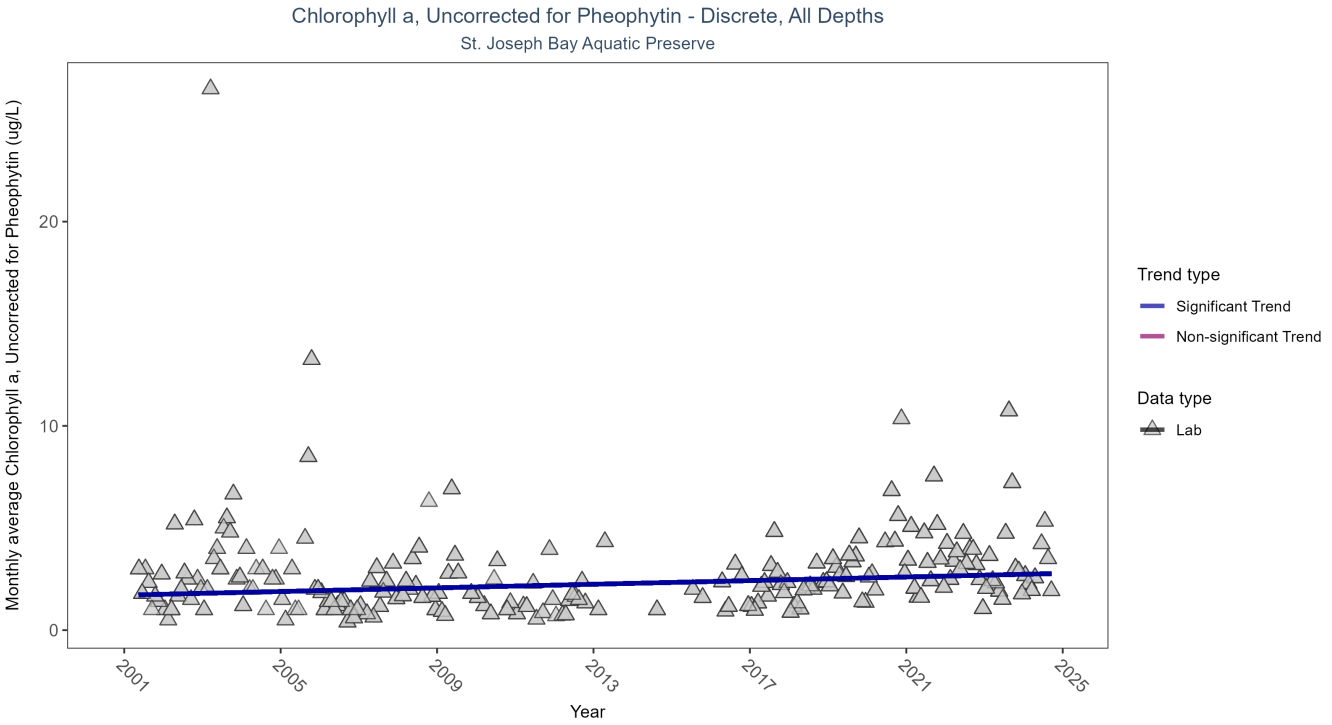

Figure 3: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

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	1354	24	2	TRUE	0.1694	0.0008	0.0444	1.7136	14.2952	0.2171	1

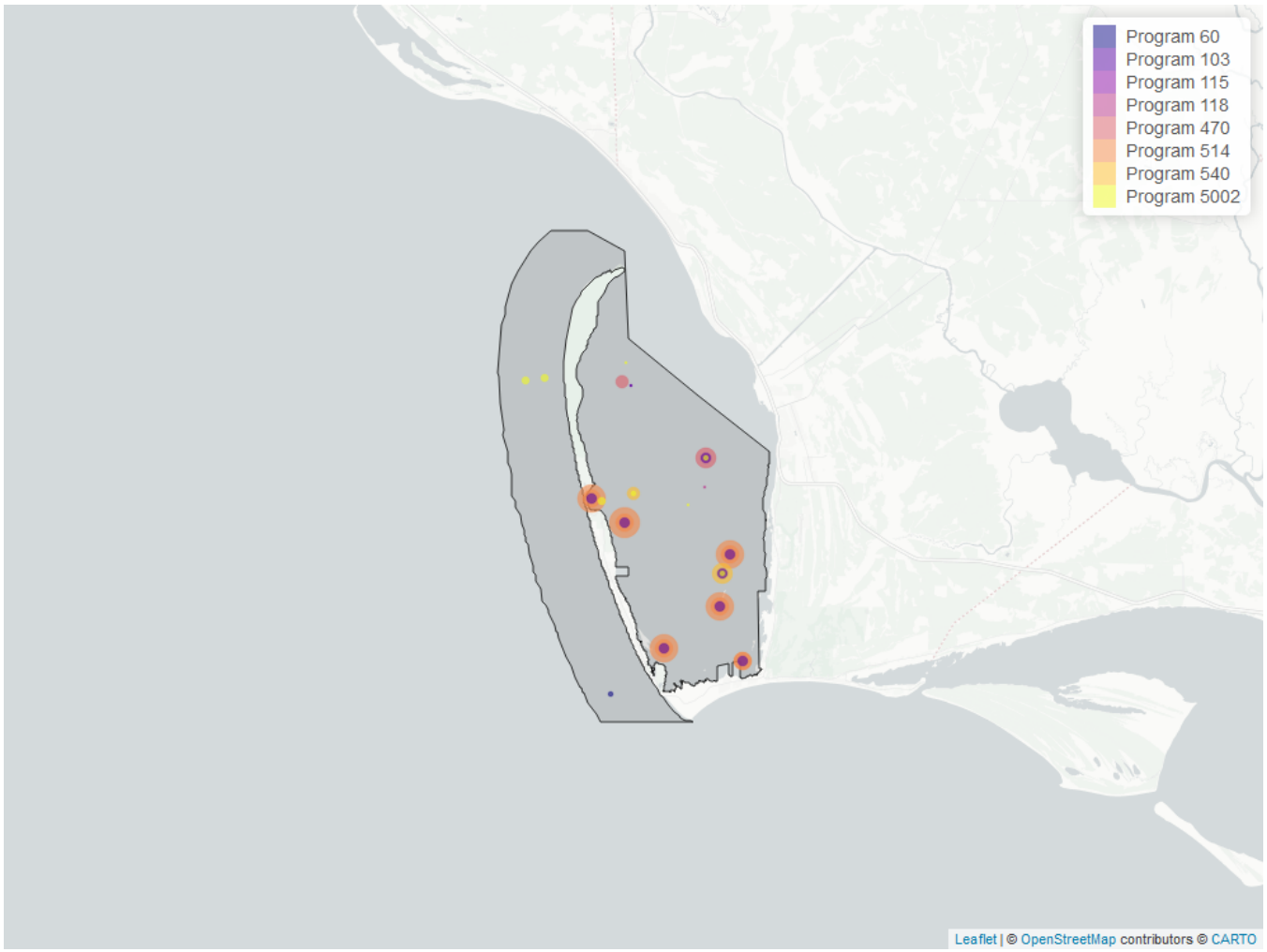

Figure 4: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

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

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	984	2001	2024
470	153	2019	2024
103	135	2002	2021
5002	49	2008	2017
540	35	2017	2019
60	3	2014	2014
115	1	2002	2002
118	1	2010	2010

Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey[5]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[6]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment[8]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Colored Dissolved Organic Matter - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

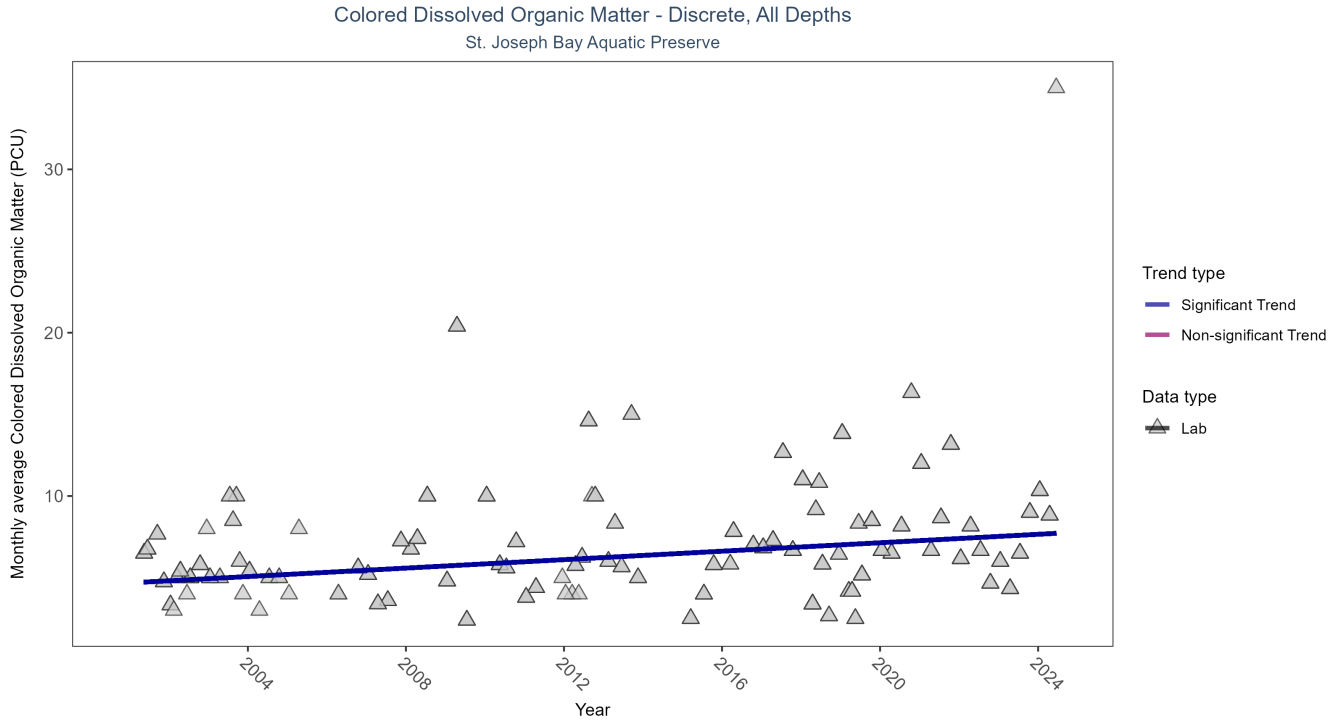

Figure 5: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter - Discrete

Table 10: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	442	23	6	TRUE	0.2413	0.0016	0.1294	4.6807	10.1306	0.5187	1

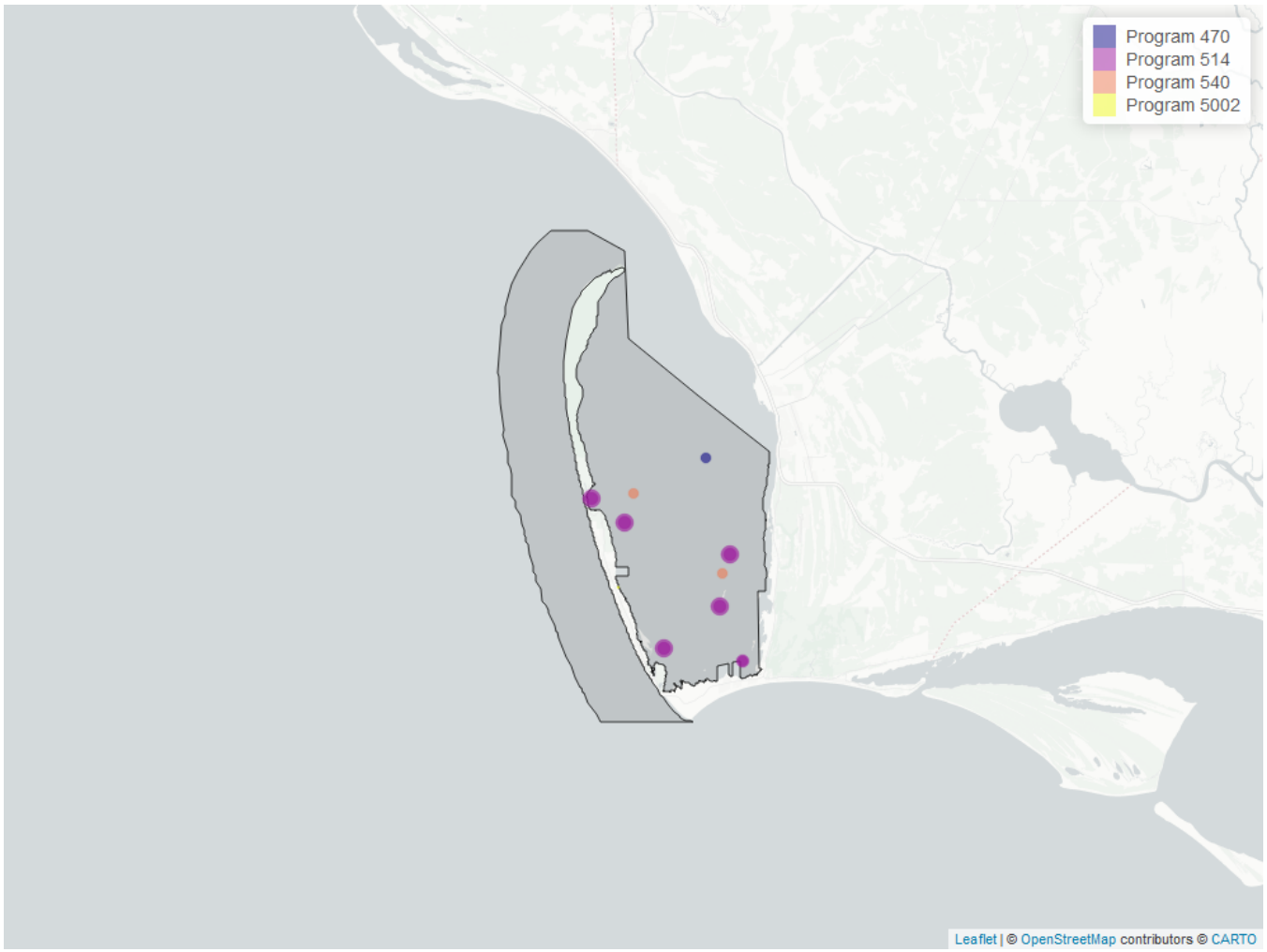

Figure 6: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Colored Dissolved Organic Matter

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	402	2001	2024
540	39	2015	2019
5002	1	2024	2024

Program names:

514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

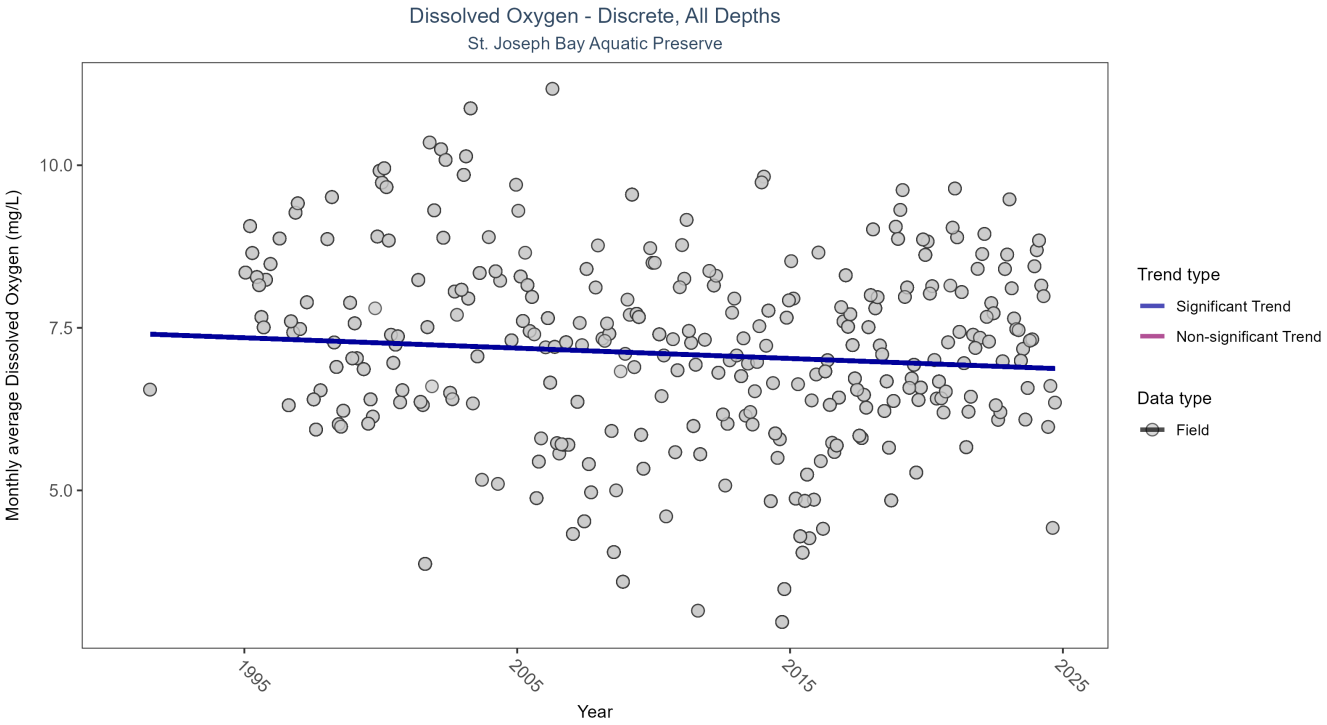

Figure 7: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	6276	31	7.14	TRUE	-0.0877	0.0208	-0.0159	7.4109	13.489	0.2626	-1

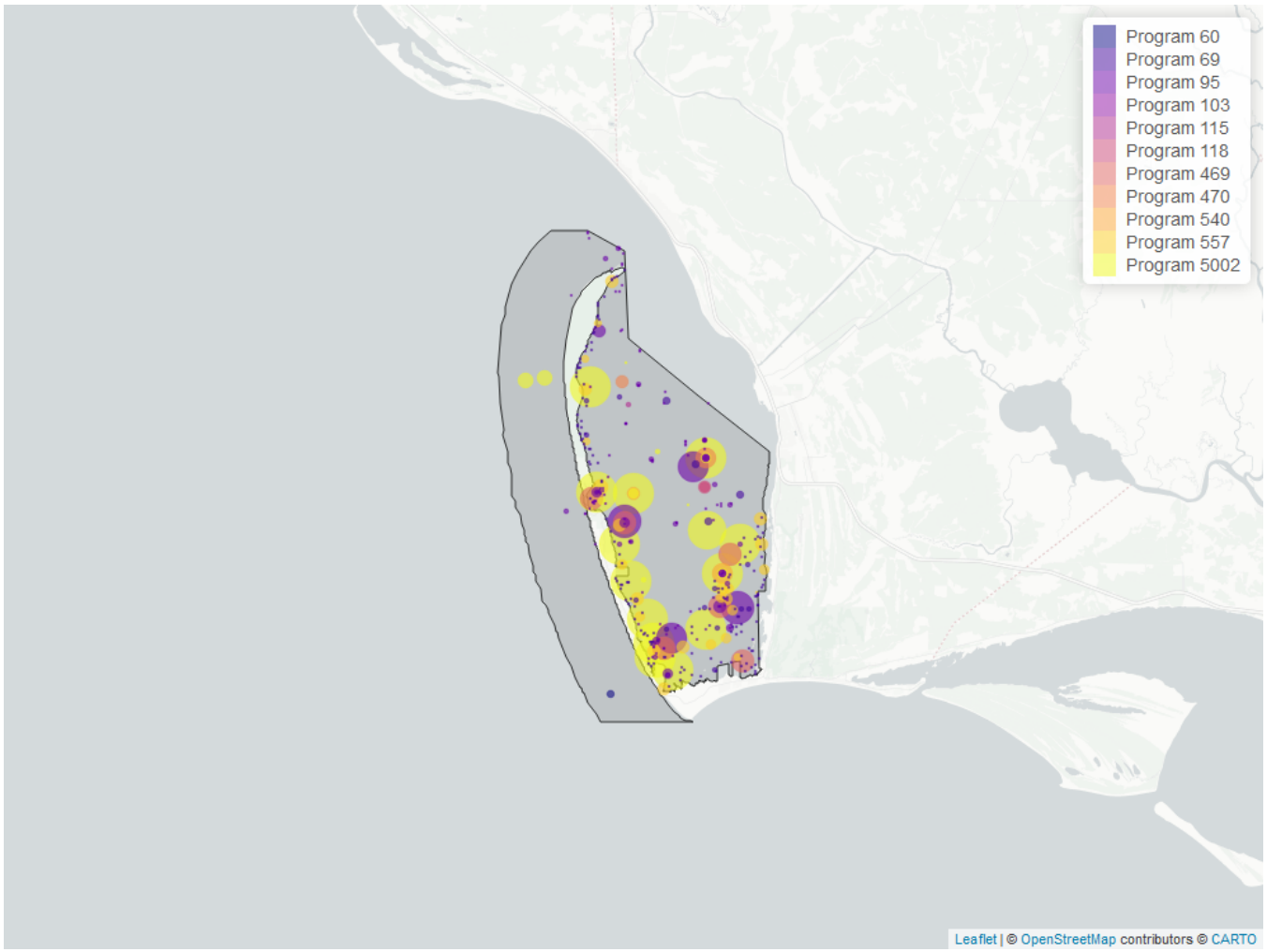

Figure 8: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Dissolved Oxygen. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
5002	3678	1995	2024
95	962	1997	2018
469	540	2016	2024
557	474	2003	2023
69	381	2001	2019
470	153	2019	2024
118	39	2015	2021
540	39	2015	2019
103	20	2021	2021
60	11	2014	2014
115	4	1991	1991

Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey[5]

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[9]
95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[10]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[6]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]
118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment[8]
469 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve WQ Monitoring[11]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[12]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

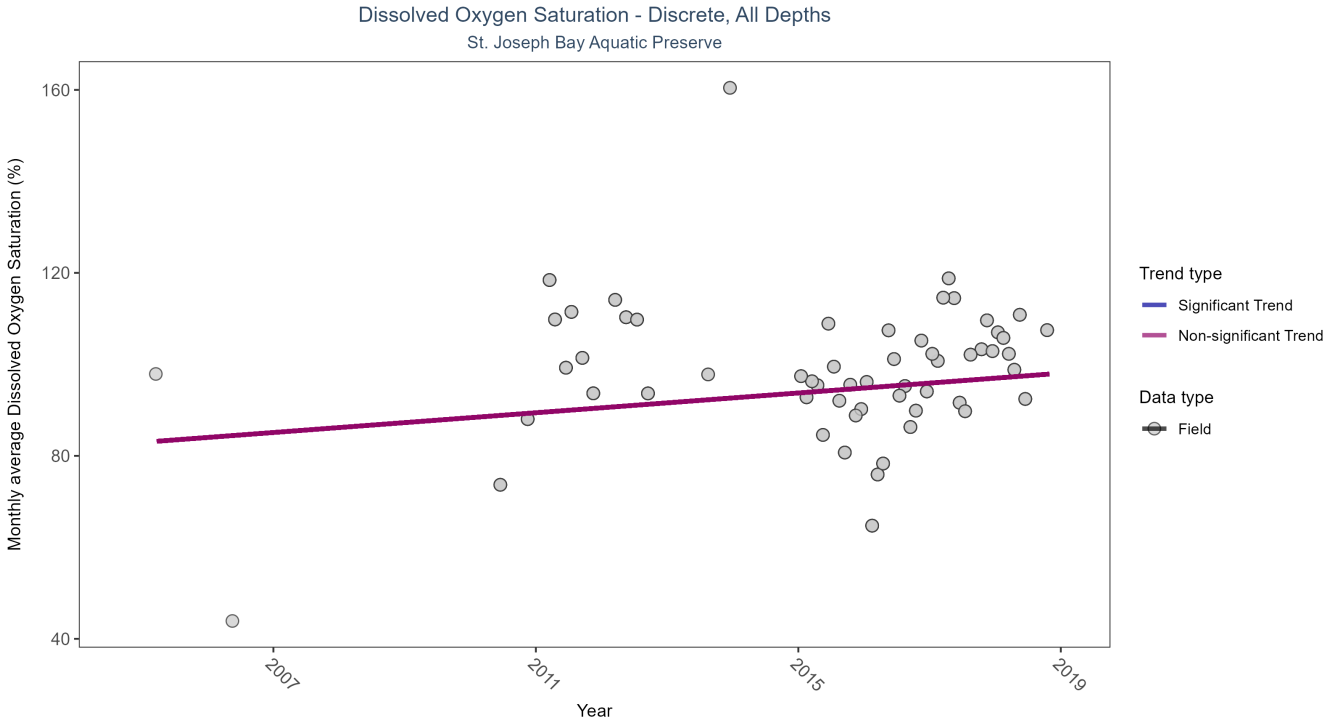

Figure 9: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation - Discrete

Table 14: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	274	10	99.9	TRUE	0.1494	0.3258	1.08	82.9424	19.2172	0.0573	0

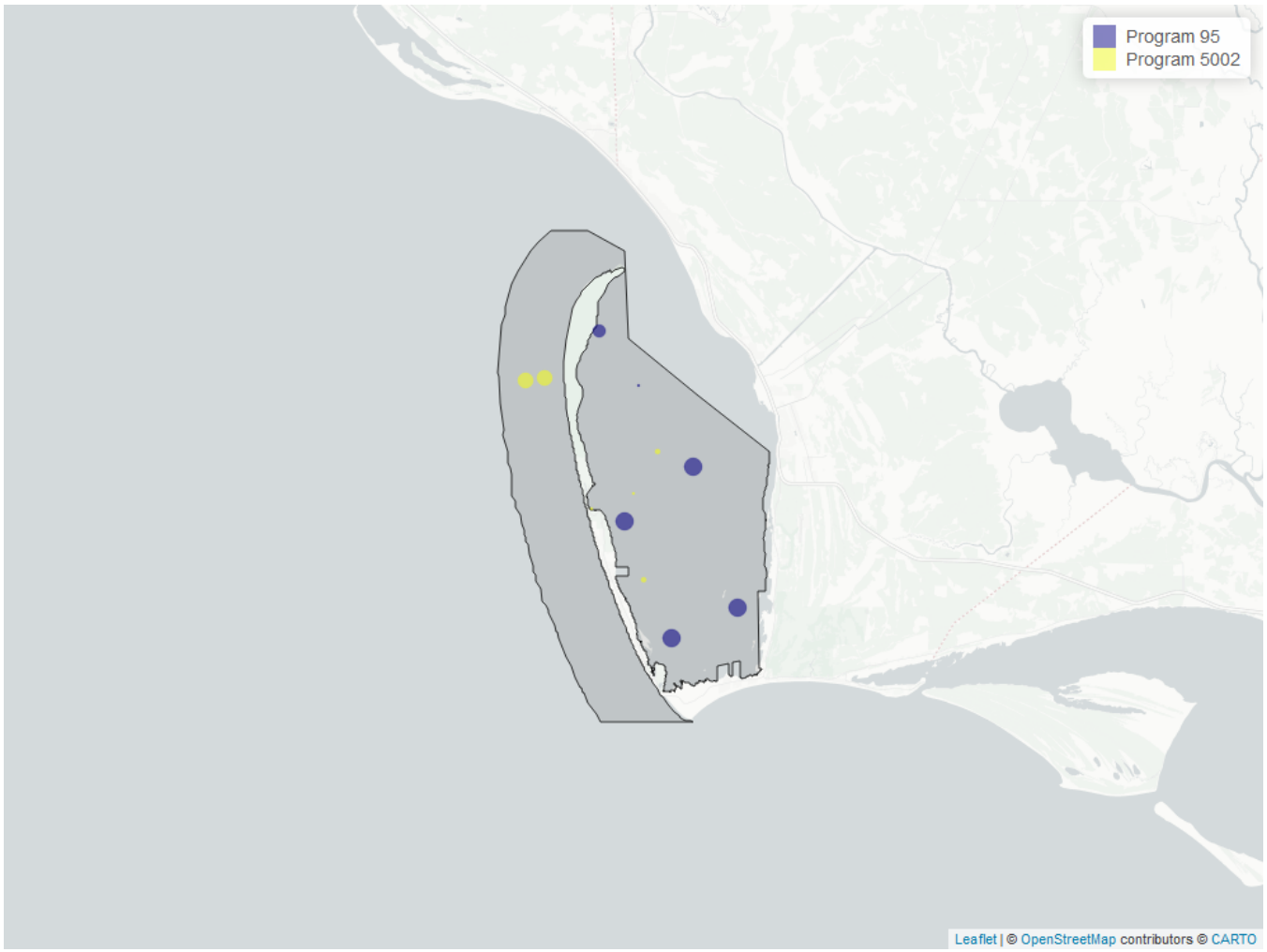

Figure 10: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen Saturation

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
95	202	2006	2018
5002	76	2005	2016

Program names:

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[10]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

pH - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

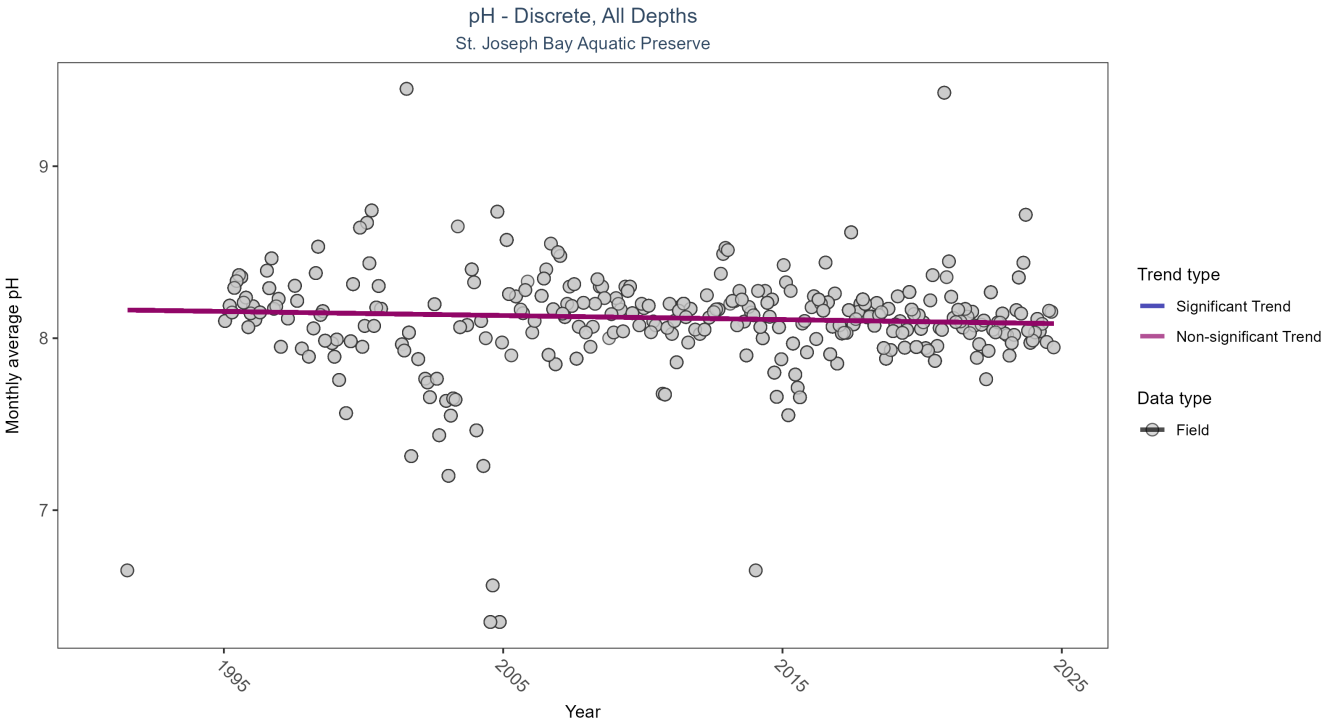

Figure 11: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for pH - Discrete

Table 16: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for pH

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	4477	31	8.1	TRUE	-0.0768	0.0633	-0.0024	8.1652	3.5946	0.9803	0

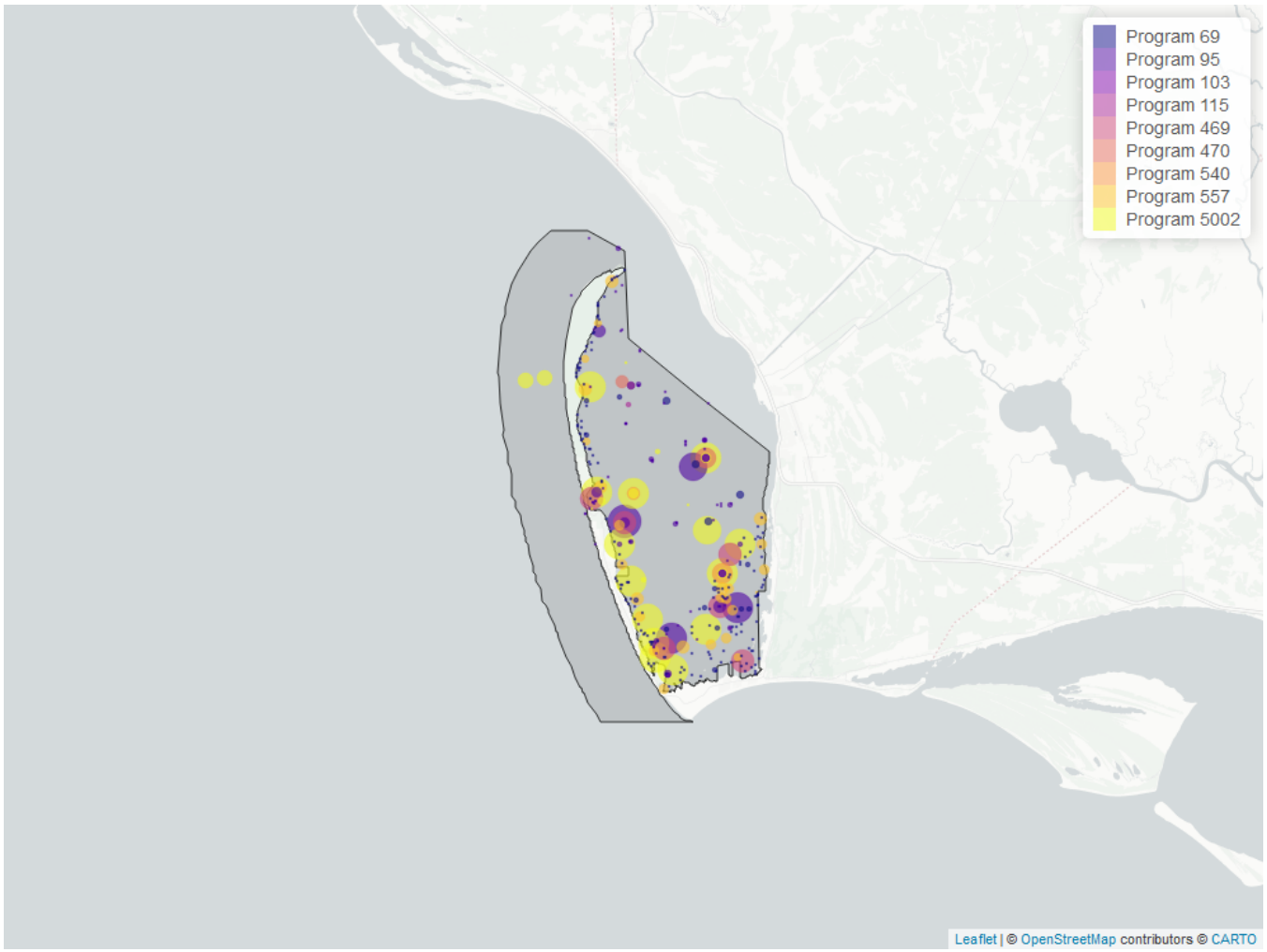

Figure 12: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for pH. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for pH

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
5002	2041	1995	2024
95	867	2003	2018
469	540	2016	2024
69	409	2001	2019
557	399	2003	2023
470	153	2019	2024
540	39	2015	2019
103	20	2021	2021
115	16	1991	2002

Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[9]
95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[10]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[6]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]

469 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve WQ Monitoring[11]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[12]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Salinity - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

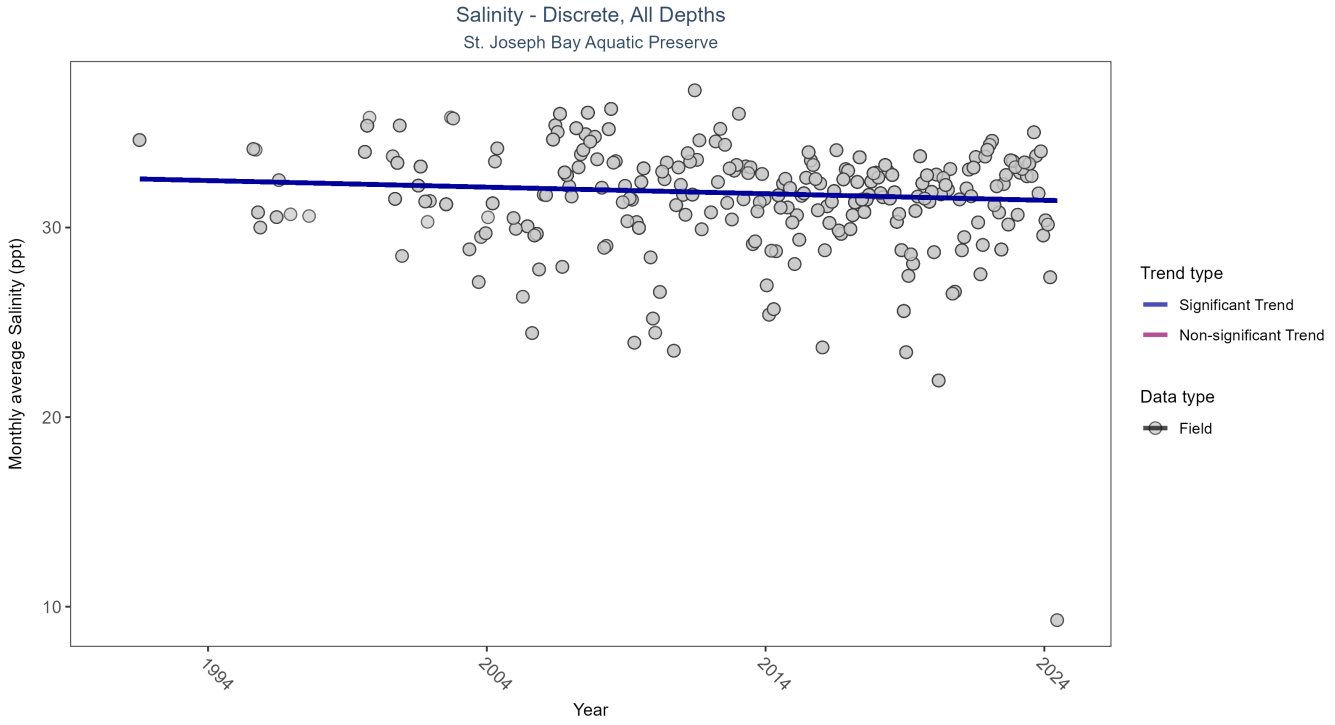

Figure 13: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Salinity - Discrete

Table 18: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Salinity

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	6811	31	32.2	TRUE	-0.0899	0.0283	-0.0347	32.5813	8.5252	0.6656	-1

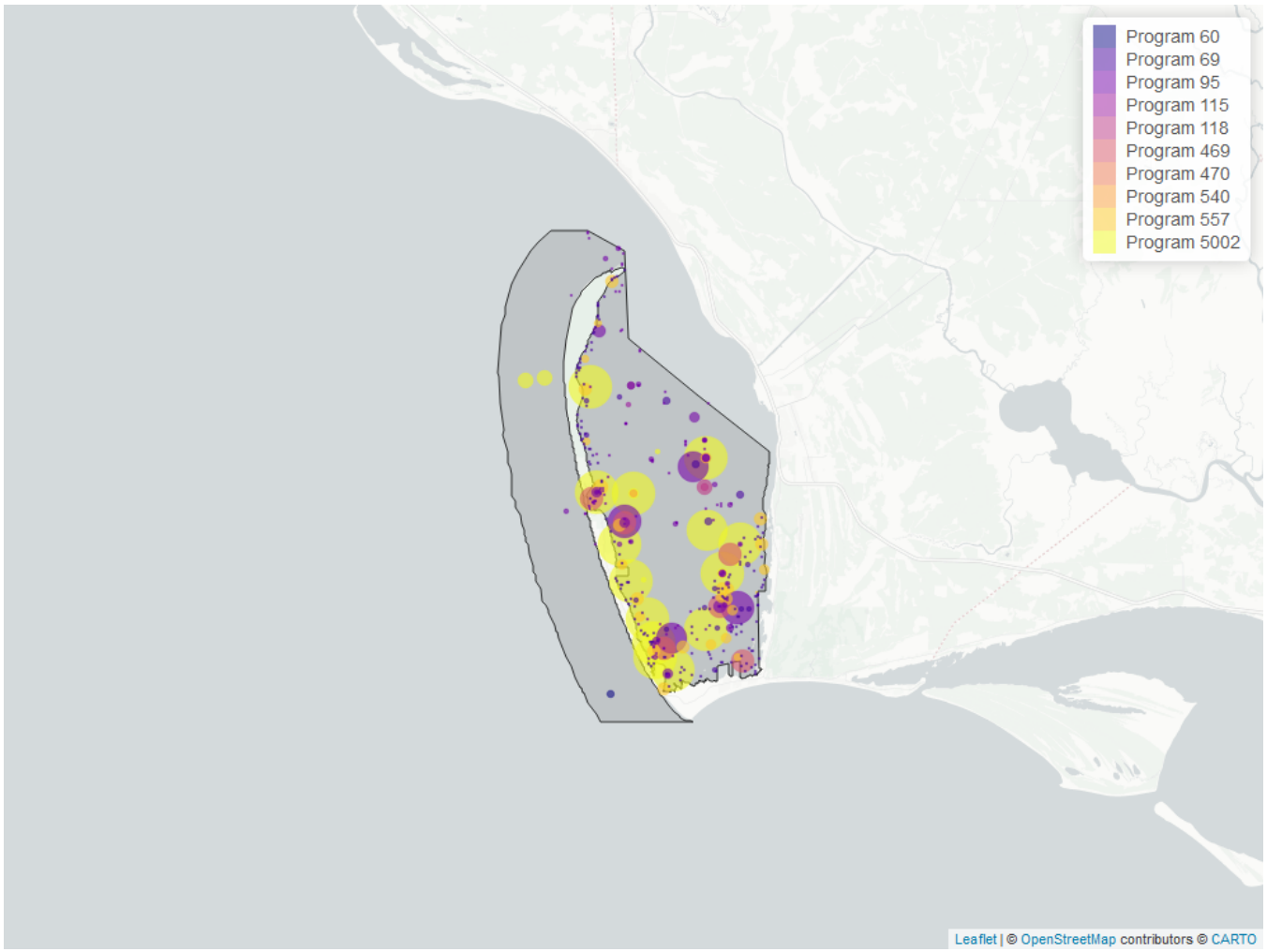

Figure 14: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Salinity. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Salinity

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
5002	4276	1995	2024
95	1011	1995	2018
469	539	2016	2024
557	473	2003	2023
69	410	2001	2019
118	39	2015	2021
540	36	2015	2019
115	16	1991	2002
60	11	2014	2014
470	1	2023	2023

Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey[5]
69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[9]

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[10]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]
118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment[8]
469 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve WQ Monitoring[11]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[12]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Secchi Depth - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

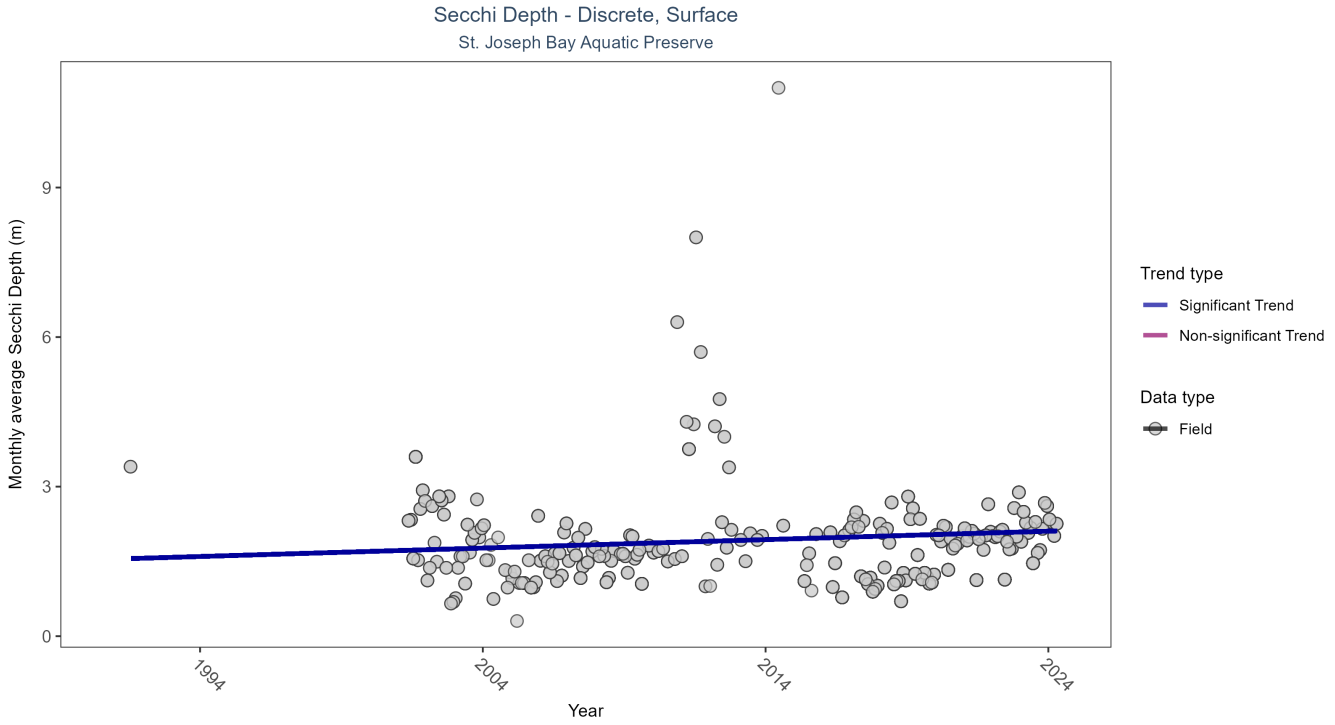

Figure 15: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Secchi Depth - Discrete

Table 20: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Secchi Depth

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
Surface	1736	25	1.3	TRUE	0.1341	0.0095	0.0169	1.5475	21.9499	0.0248	1

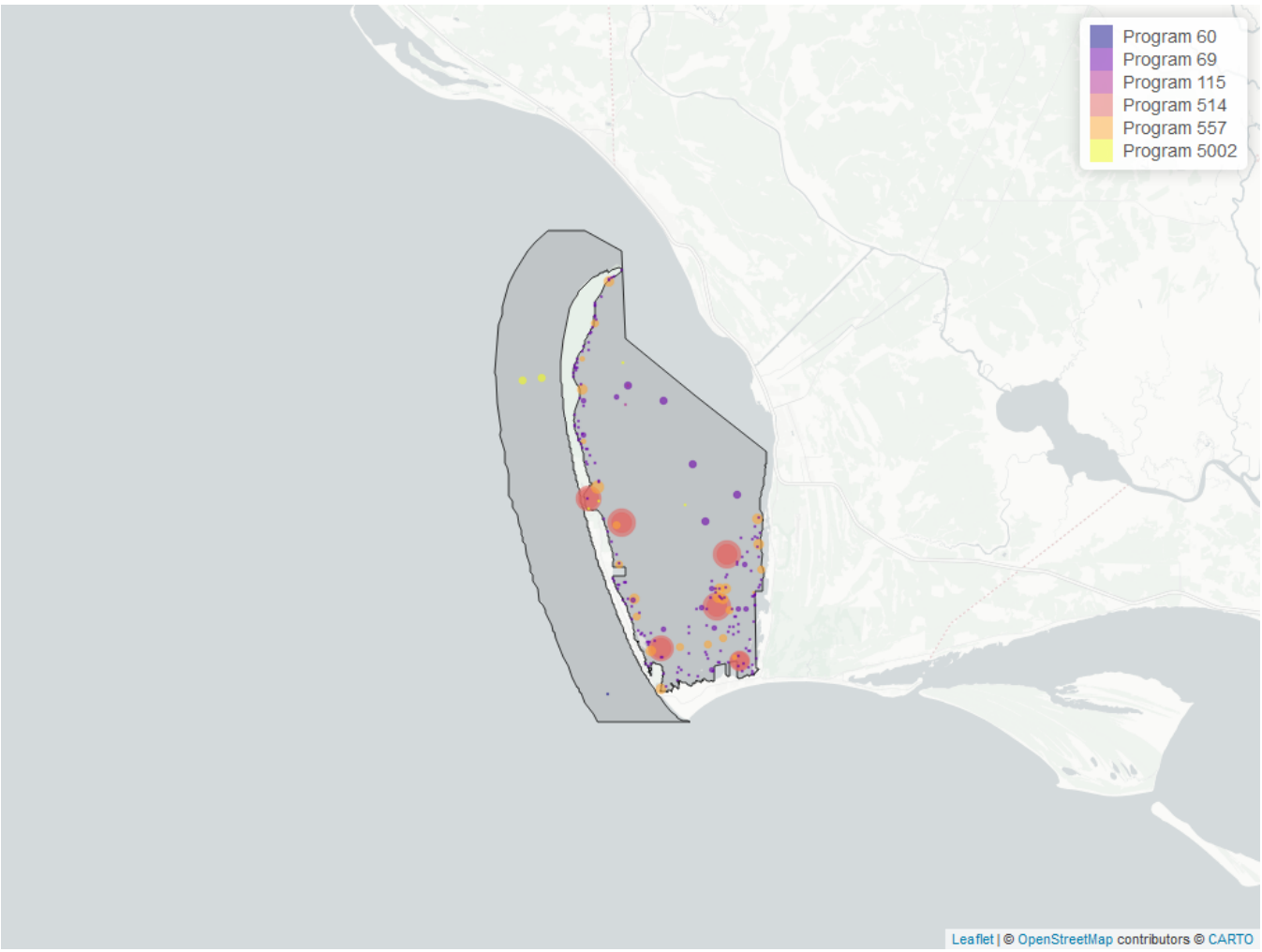

Figure 16: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Secchi Depth. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	987	2001	2024
69	410	2001	2019
557	309	2003	2023
5002	26	2005	2012
115	3	1991	2002
60	1	2014	2014

Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey[5]
69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[9]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[12]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

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"

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

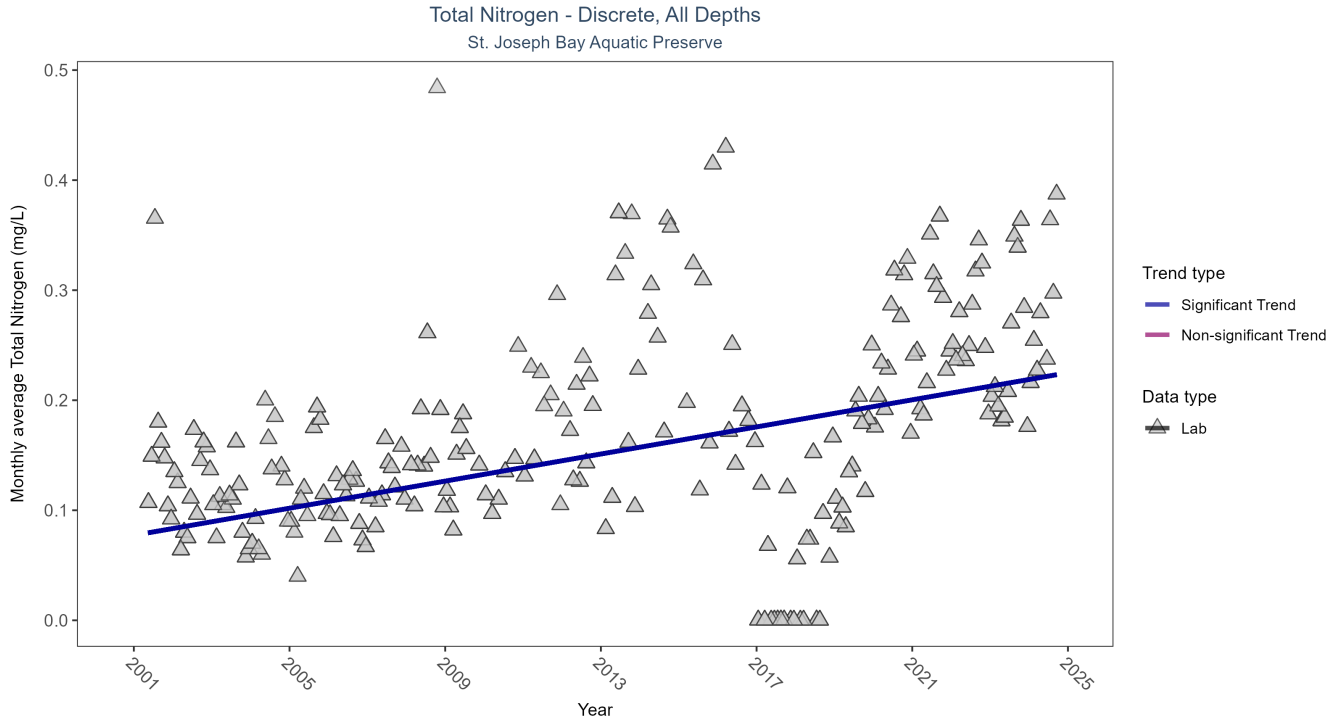

Figure 17: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Total Nitrogen - Discrete

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

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	1766	24	0.18	TRUE	0.3715	0	0.0062	0.0773	2.3659	0.9967	1

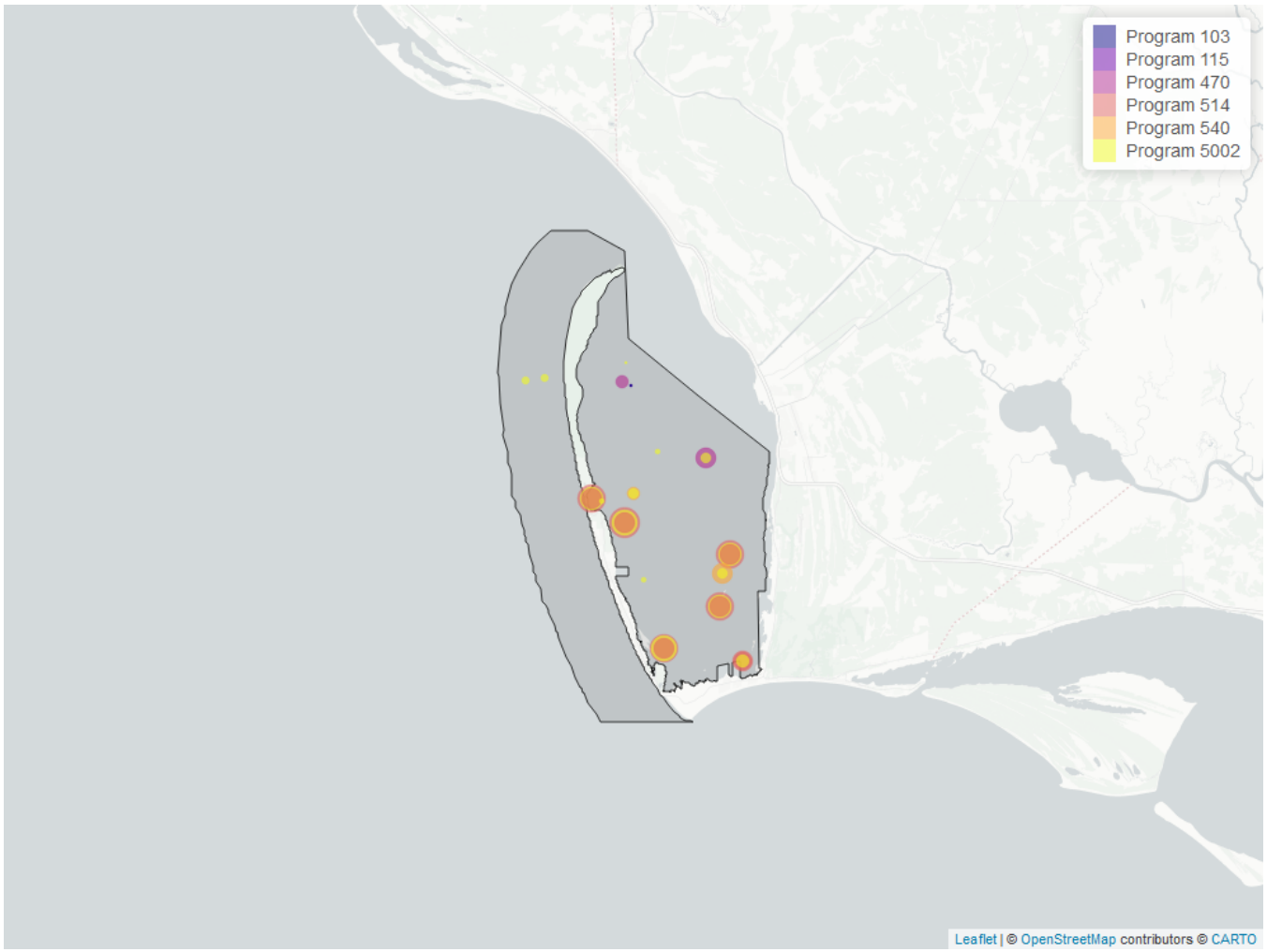

Figure 18: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Total Nitrogen. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 23: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	1045	2001	2024
5002	552	2001	2017
470	151	2019	2024
540	38	2015	2019
103	2	2002	2002
115	1	2002	2002

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[6]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Total Phosphorus - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

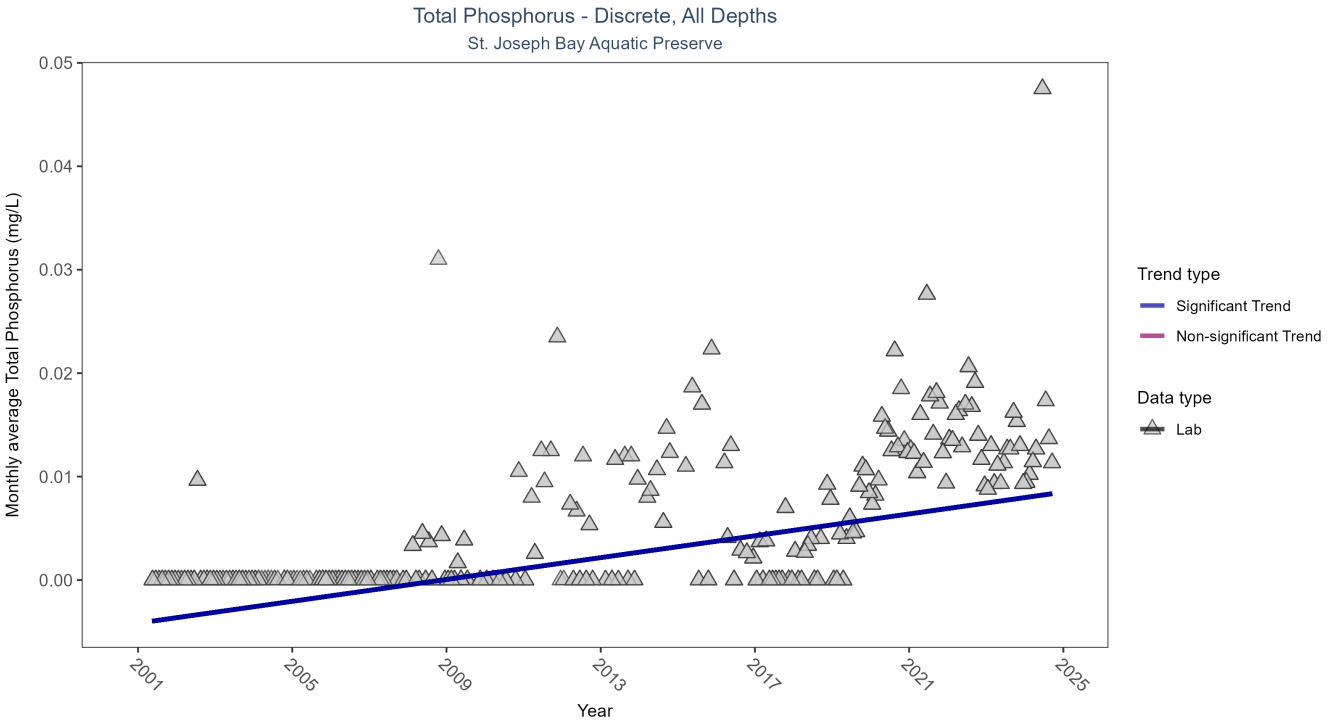

Figure 19: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Total Phosphorus - Discrete

Table 24: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Phosphorus

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	1302	24	0	TRUE	0.5454	0	0.0005	-0.0042	2.2996	0.9971	2

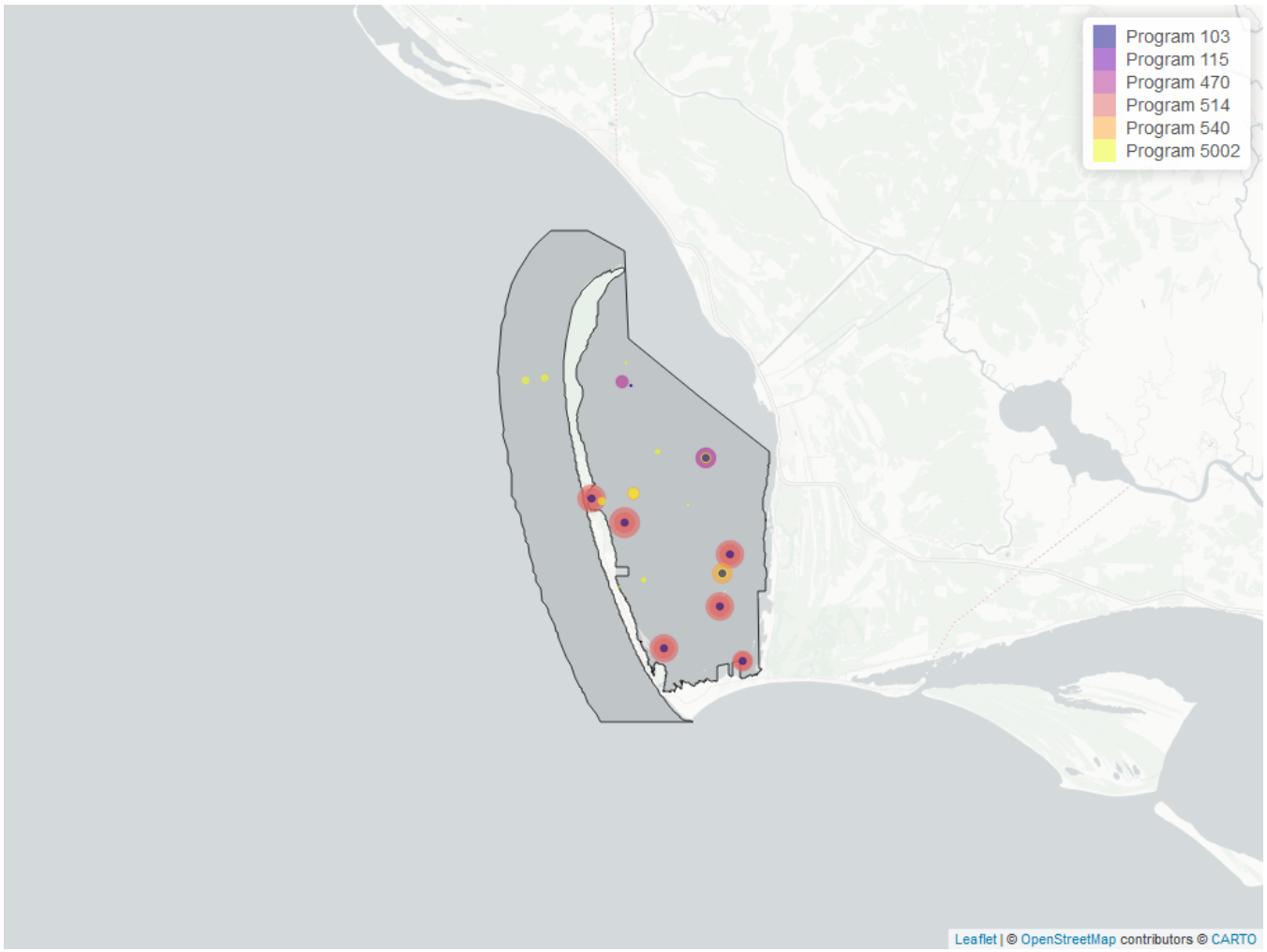

Figure 20: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Total Phosphorus. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 25: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
514	1030	2001	2024
470	153	2019	2024
5002	90	2008	2024
103	69	2002	2021
540	39	2015	2019
115	1	2002	2002

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[6]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
514 - Florida LAKEWATCH Program[2]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Turbidity - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

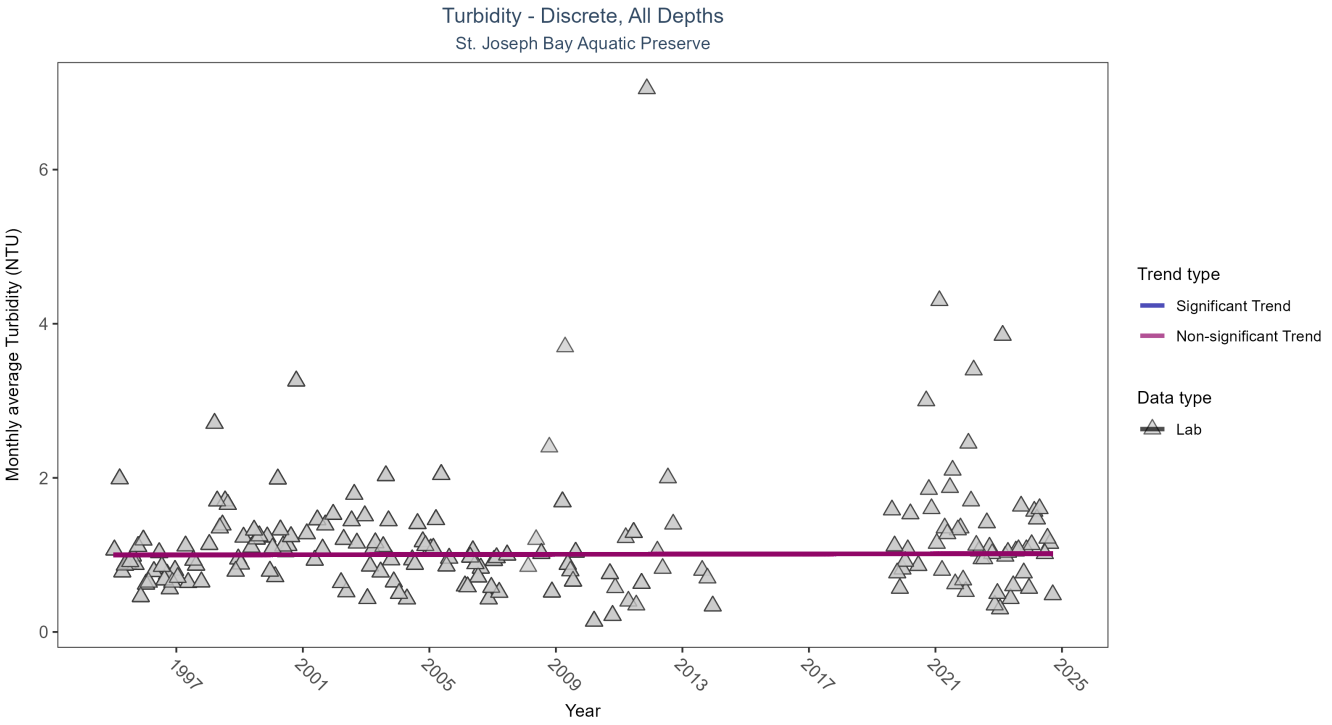

Figure 21: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Turbidity - Discrete

Table 26: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Turbidity

RelativeDepth	N-Data	N-Years	Median	Independent	tau	p	SennSlope	SennIntercept	ChiSquared	pChiSquared	Trend
All	2629	25	0.9	TRUE	0.0105	0.8628	0.0006	0.9987	11.1355	0.432	0

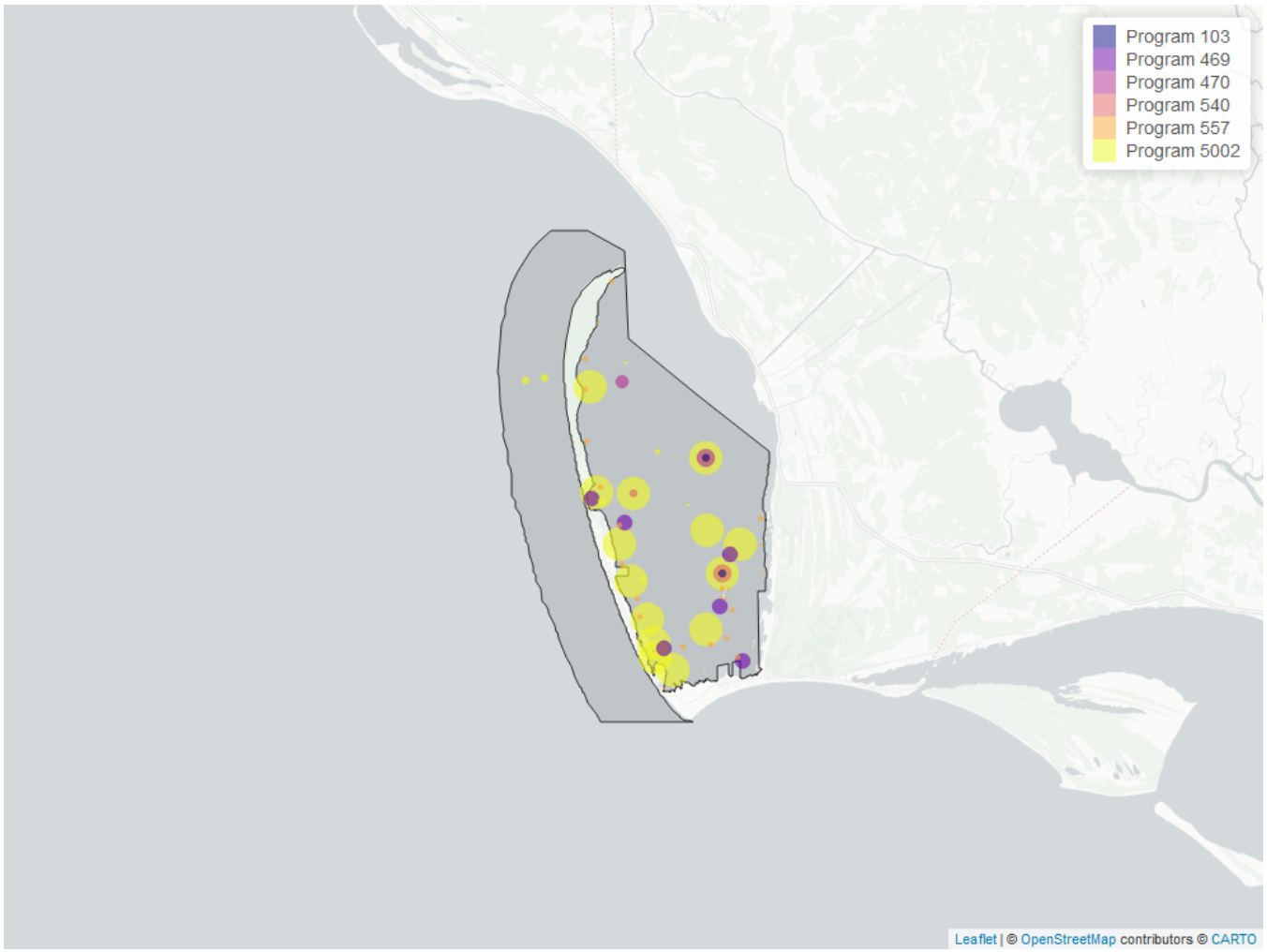

Figure 22: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Turbidity. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 27: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
5002	2485	1995	2024
469	222	2021	2024
470	147	2019	2024
557	64	2022	2023
103	20	2021	2021

Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[6]
469 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve WQ Monitoring[11]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[12]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Water Temperature - Discrete Water Quality

Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

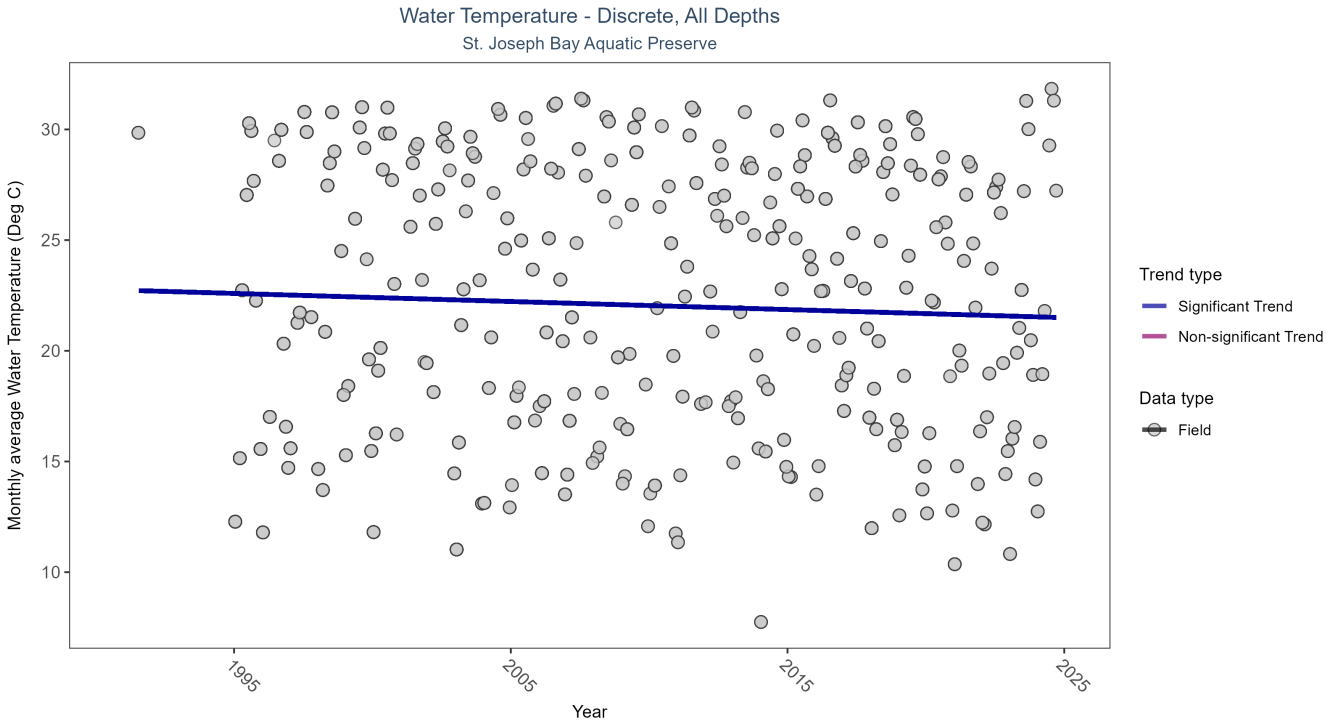

Figure 23: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Water Temperature - Discrete

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	7104	31	25.5	TRUE	-0.1033	0.0094	-0.0365	22.7379	10.2592	0.5072	-1

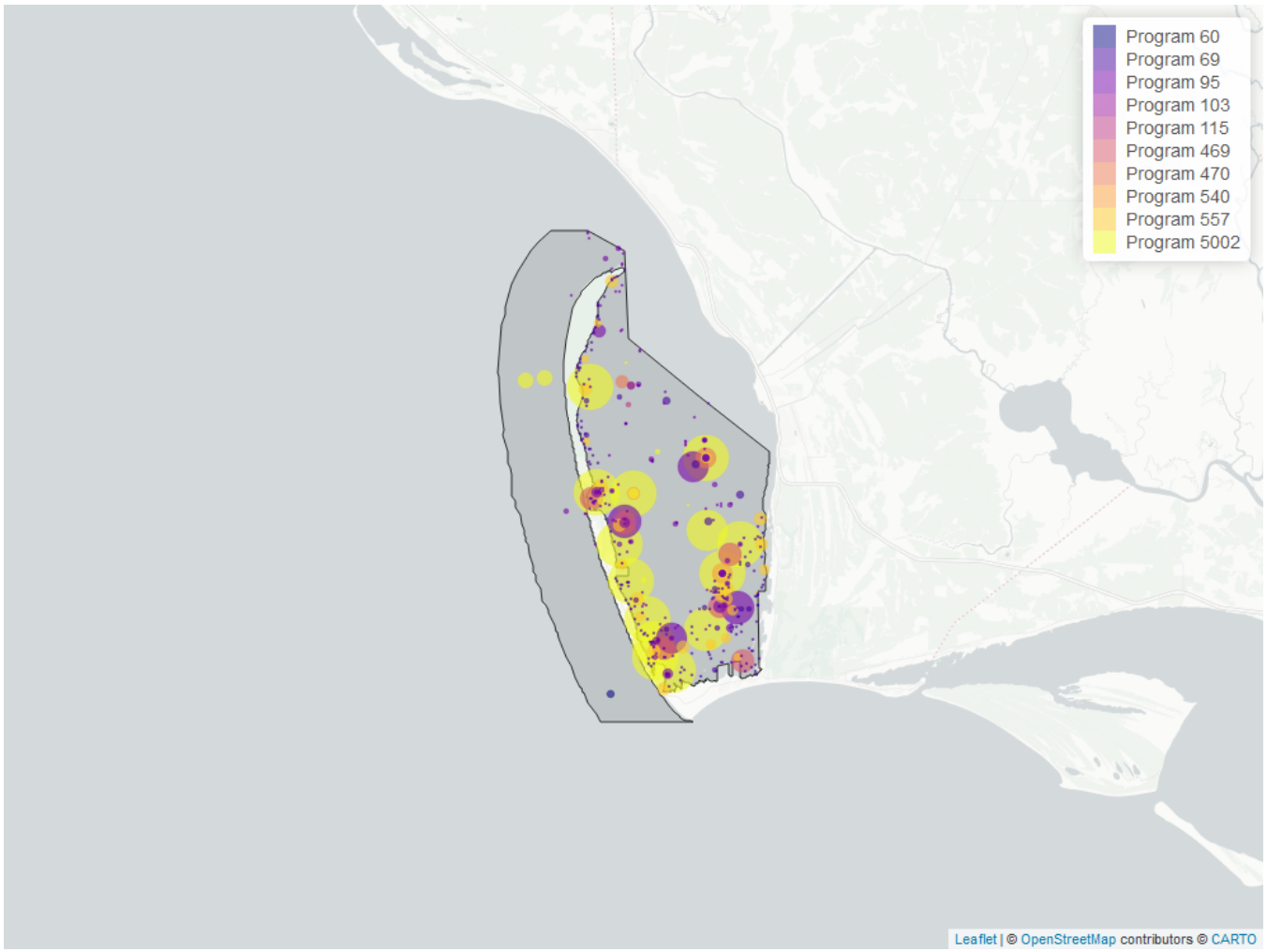

Figure 24: Map showing location of Discrete sampling sites for Water Temperature. The bubble size on the maps below reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 29: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

ProgramID	*N_Data*	*YearMin*	*YearMax*
5002	4407	1995	2024
95	1037	1996	2018
469	540	2016	2024
557	474	2003	2023
69	410	2001	2019
470	153	2019	2024
540	39	2015	2019
103	20	2021	2021
115	16	1991	2002
60	11	2014	2014

Program names:

60 - Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey[5]
69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program[9]

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network[10]
103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX[6]
115 - Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program[7]
469 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve WQ Monitoring[11]
470 - St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring[1]
540 - Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program[3]
557 - Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring[12]
5002 - Florida STORET / WIN[4]

Water Quality - Continuous

The following files were used in the continuous analysis:

- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Dissolved_Oxygen_NW-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Dissolved_Oxygen_Saturation_NW-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_pH_NW-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Salinity_NW-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Turbidity_NW-2024-Dec-08.txt*
- *Combined_WQ_WC_NUT_cont_Water_Temperature_NW-2024-Dec-08.txt*

Continuous monitoring locations in St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve

Table 30: Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Continuous Water Quality Monitoring (468)

ProgramLocationID	*Years of Data*	*Use in Analysis*	*Parameters*
CPRH	6	TRUE	DO
CPRH	7	TRUE	DOS , pH , Sal , Turb , TempW

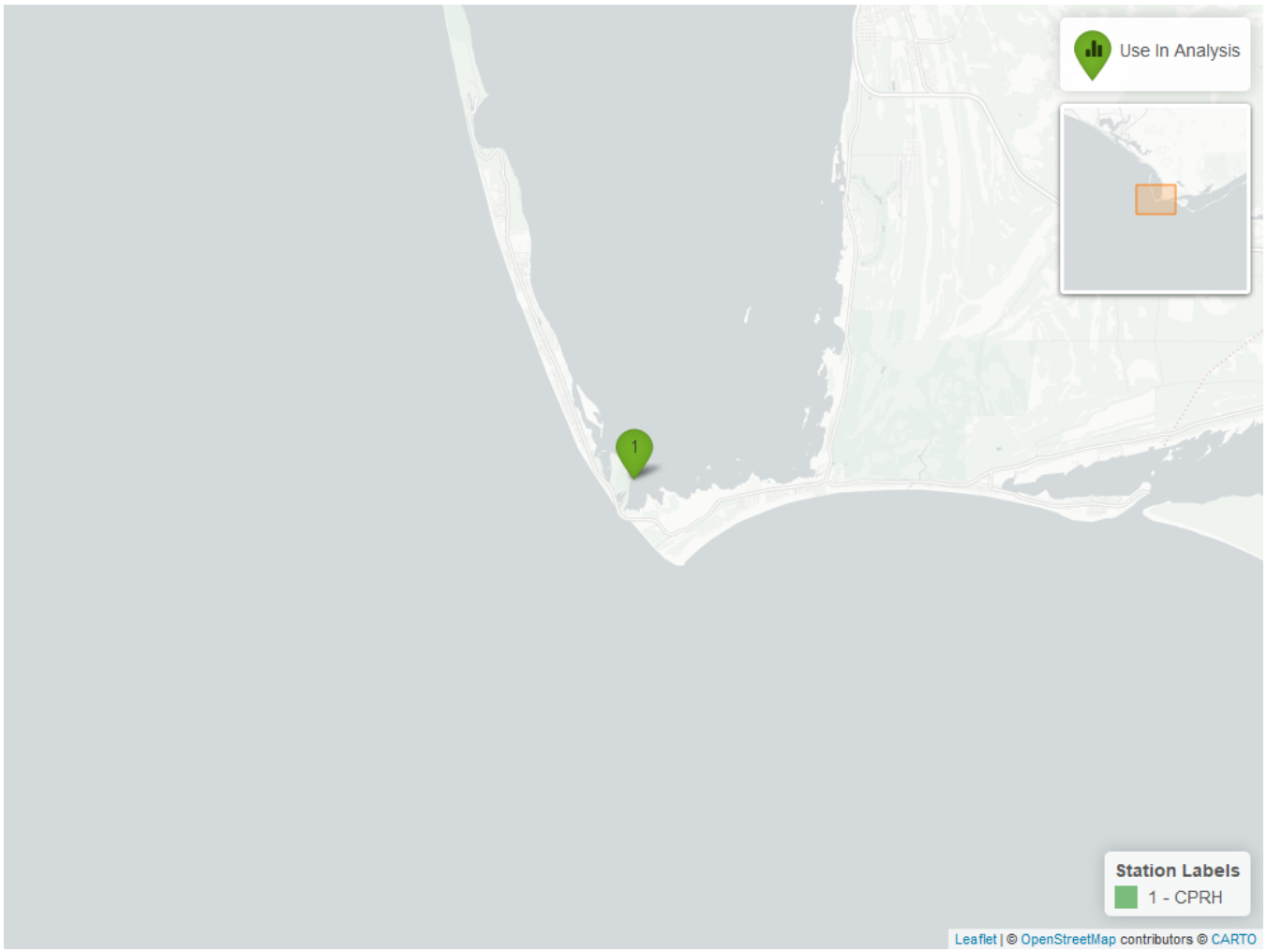

Figure 25: Map showing Continuous Water Quality Monitoring sampling locations within the boundaries of St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve. Sites marked as *Use In Analysis* are featured in this report.

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

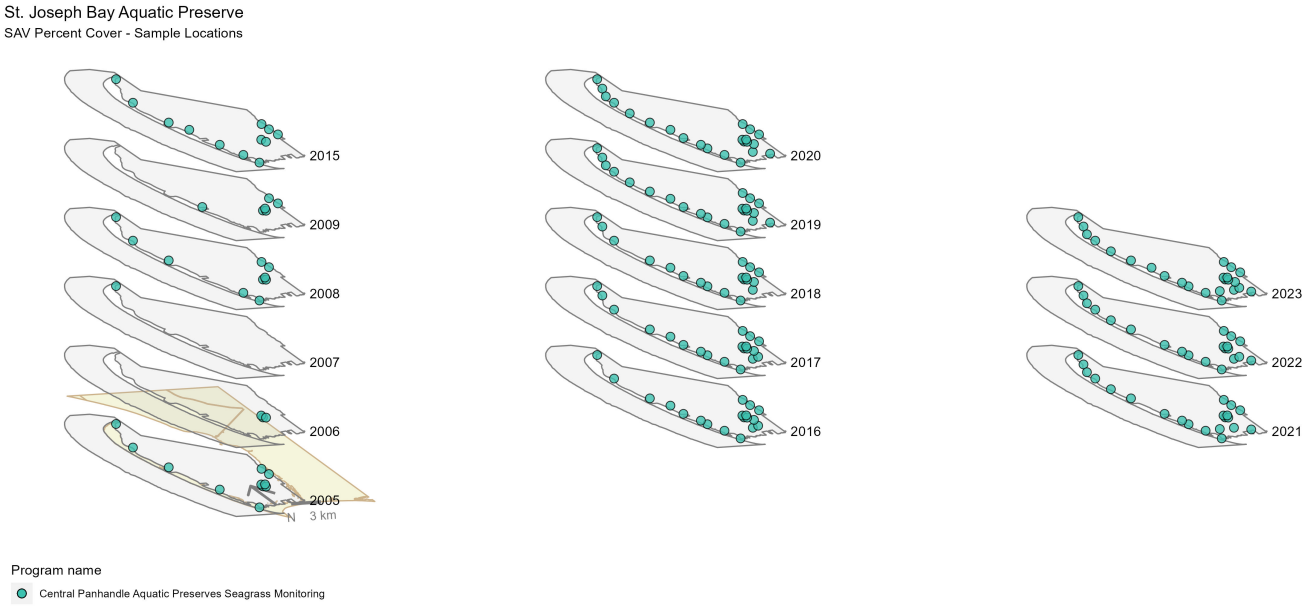

Figure 26: Maps showing the temporal scope of SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve* by Program name.

Sampling locations by Program:

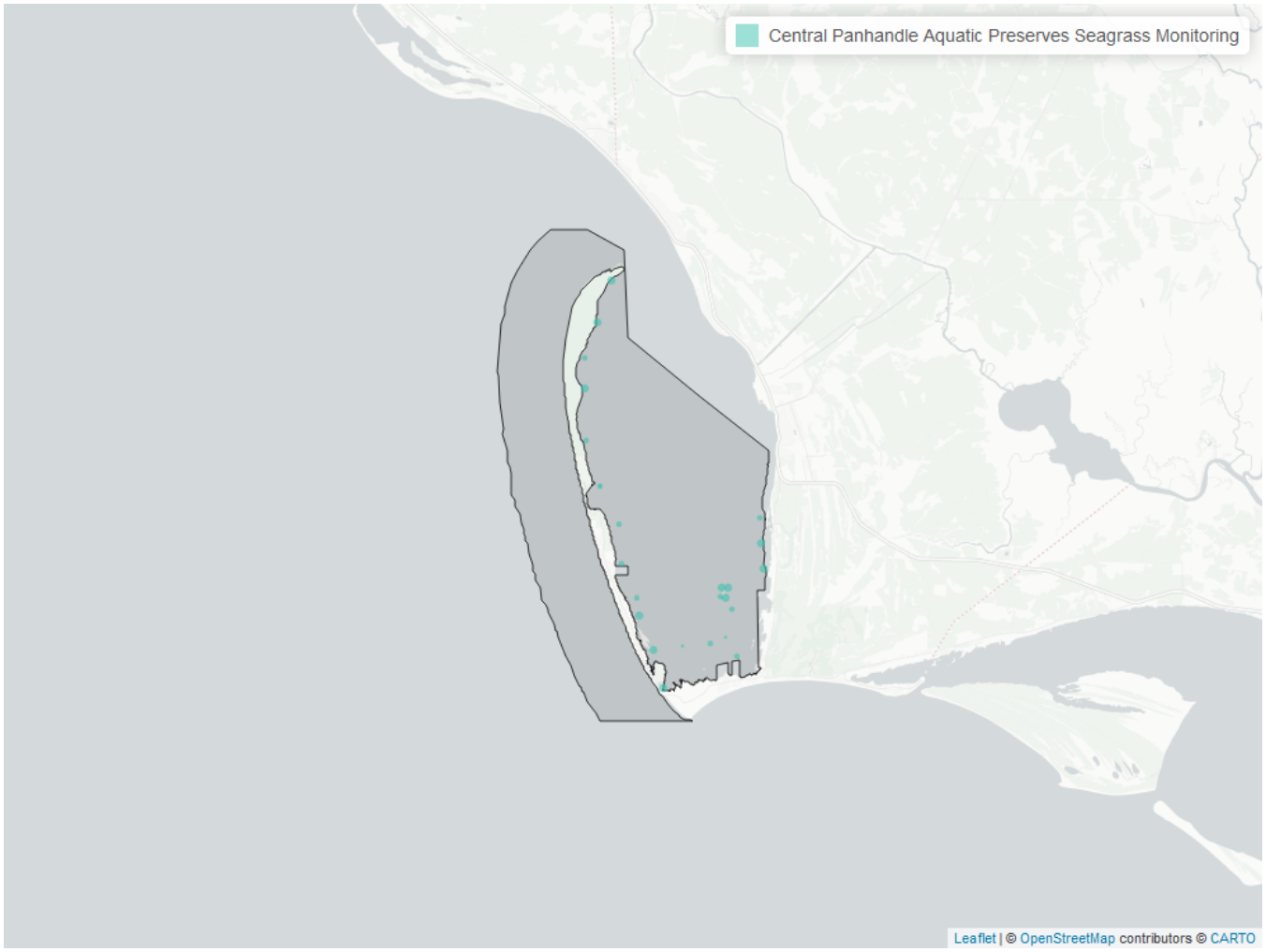

Figure 27: Map showing SAV sampling sites within the boundaries of *St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve*. The point size reflects the number of samples at a given sampling site.

Table 31: Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring - Program 557

N-Data	*YearMin*	*YearMax*	*method*	*Sample Locations*
1272	2005	2023	Braun Blanquet	25

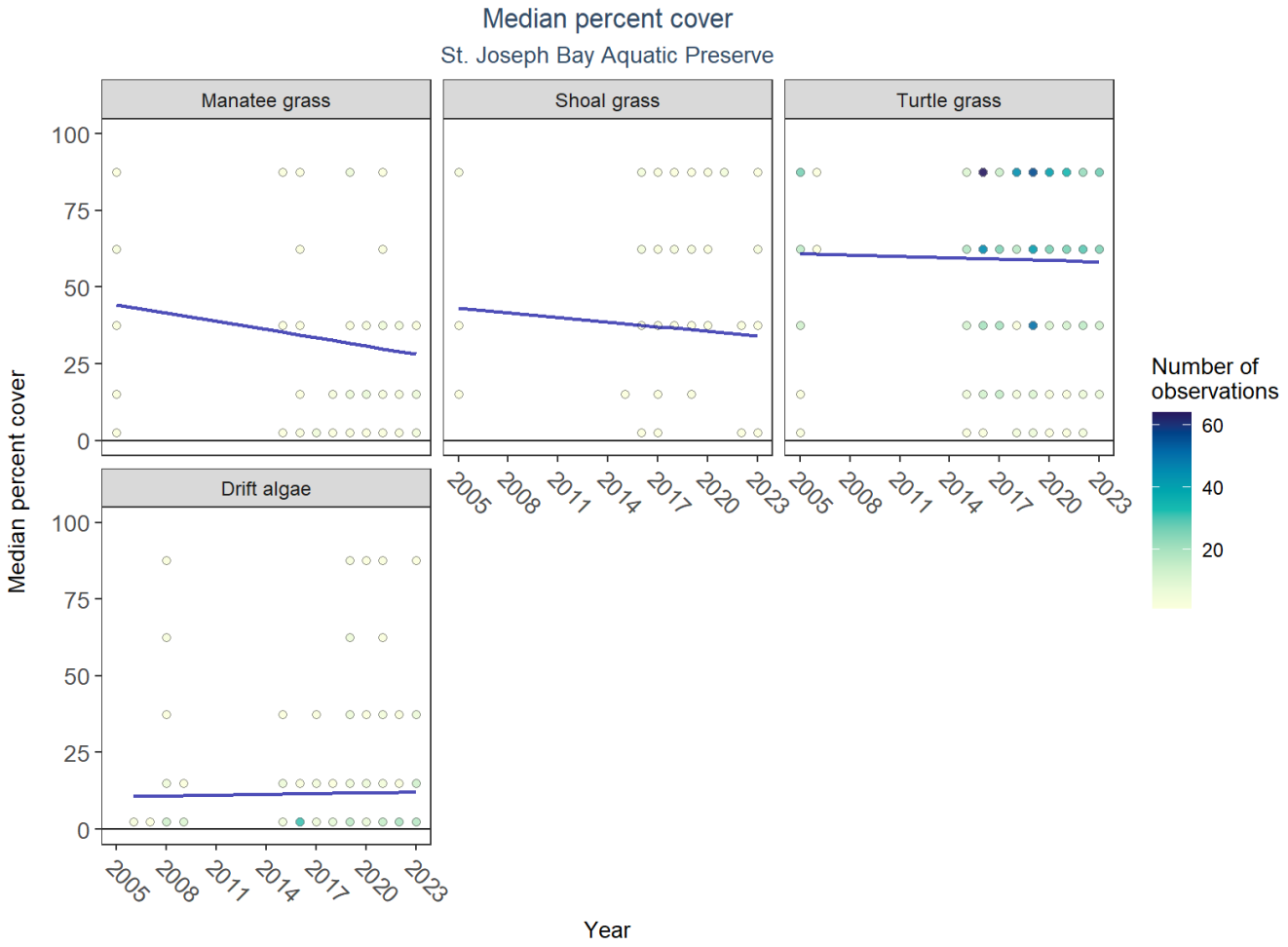

Figure 28: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve

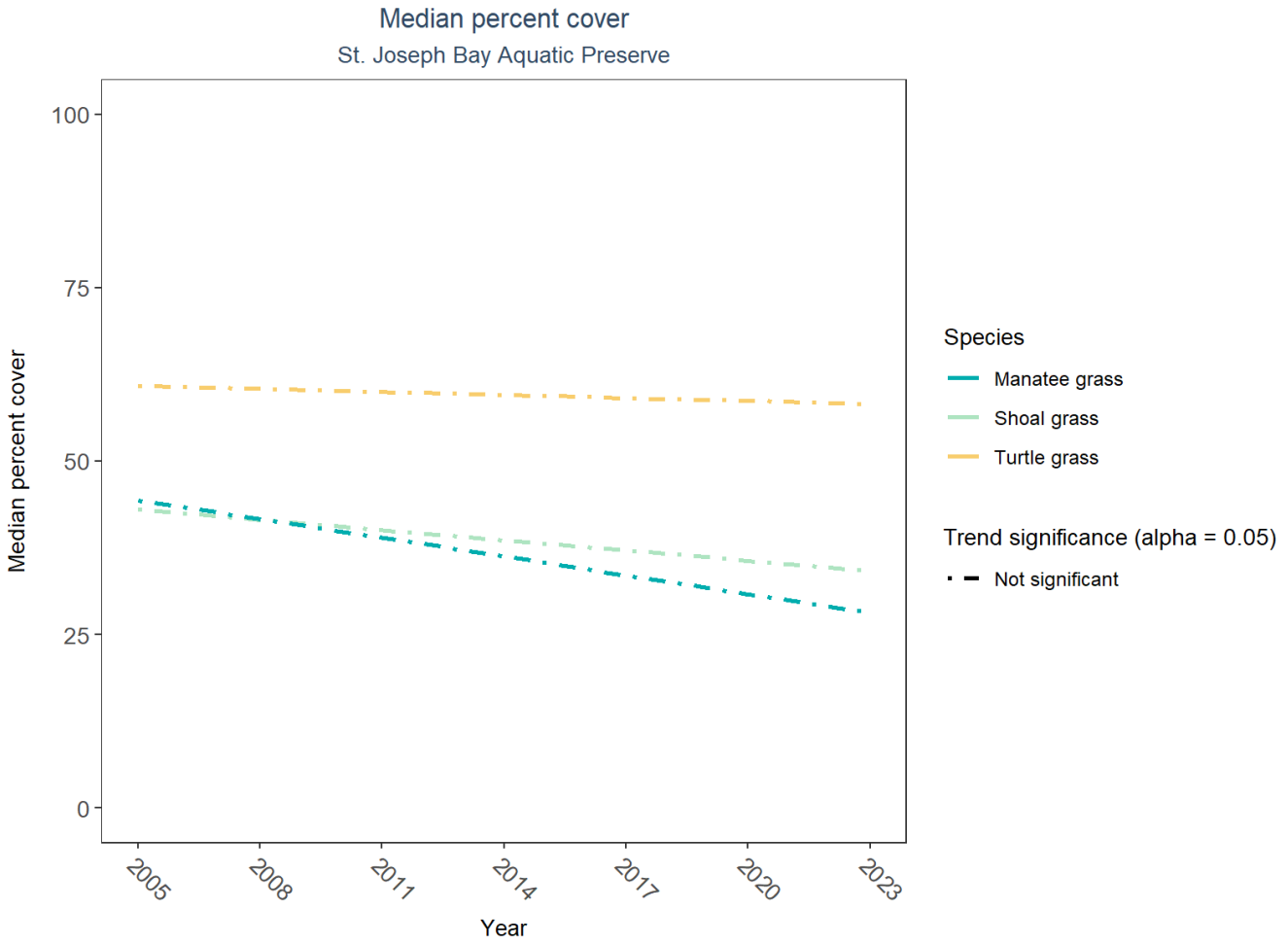

Figure 29: Trends in median percent cover for various seagrass species in St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve - simplified

Table 32: Percent Cover Trend Analysis for St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve

CommonName	*Trend Significance (0.05)*	*Period of Record*	*LME-Intercept*	*LME-Slope*	*p*
Drift algae	No significant trend	2006 - 2023	9.612038	0.0838012	0.8313898
Shoal grass	No significant trend	2005 - 2023	48.448323	-0.4914521	0.5032213
No grass in quadrat	Insufficient data to calculate trend	-	-	-	-
Manatee grass	No significant trend	2005 - 2023	54.196320	-0.8985632	0.2566811
Turtle grass	No significant trend	2005 - 2023	62.380370	-0.1420932	0.6874763

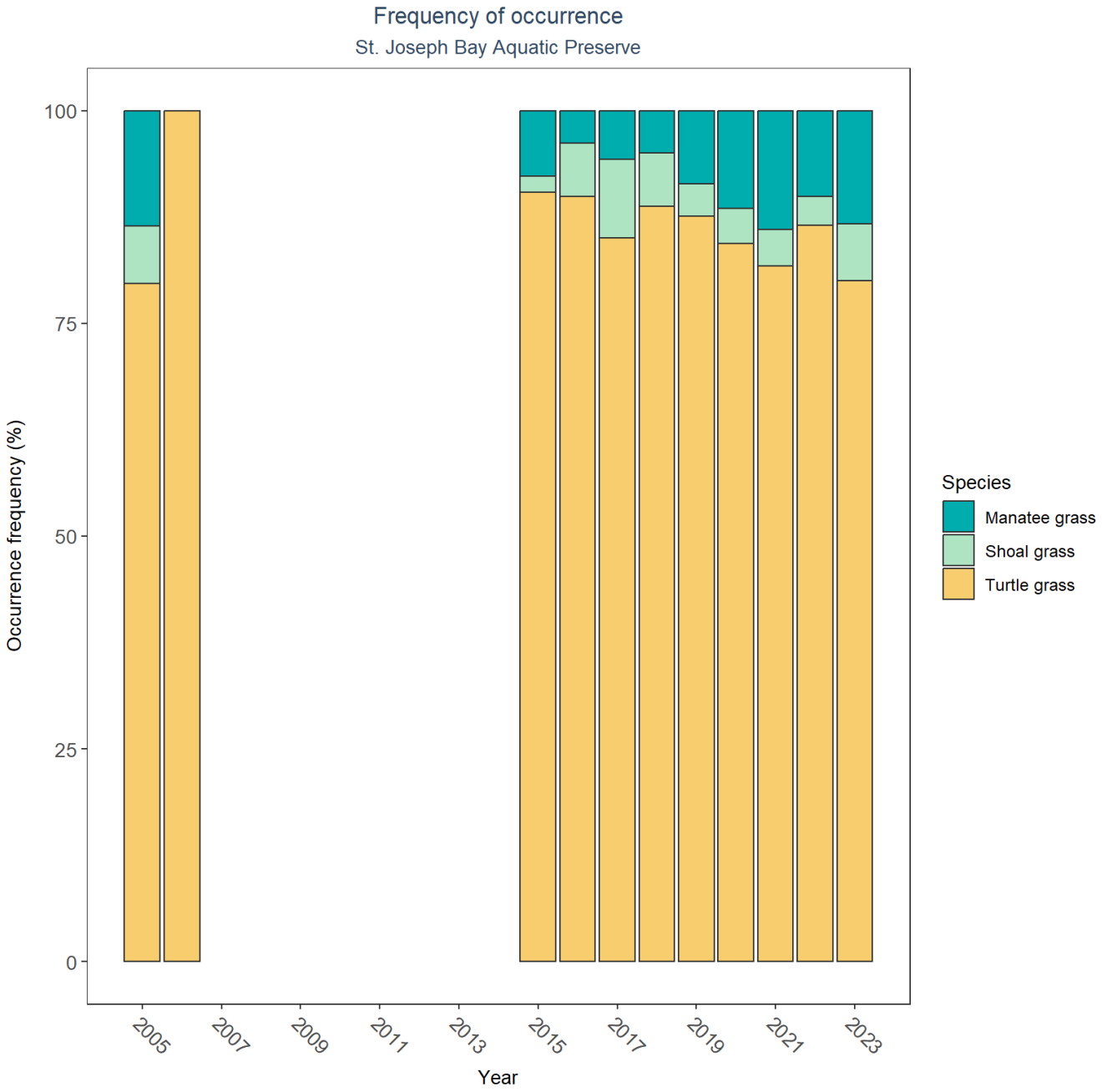

Figure 30: Frequency of occurrence for various seagrass species in St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve

References

1. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP); Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves. St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve Water Quality Monitoring. (2024).
2. University of Florida (UF); Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Florida LAKEWATCH Program. (2024).
3. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) - Division of Aquaculture. Shellfish Harvest Area Classification Program. (2022).
4. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Florida STORET / WIN. (2024).
5. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) - Gulf of Mexico Fall & Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey. (2016).
6. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX. (2023).
7. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Office of Research and Development. Environmental Monitoring Assessment Program. (2004).
8. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Office of Water; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); National Estuary Program (NEP); coastal states. National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment. (2021).
9. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program. (2022).
10. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network. (2018).
11. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP); Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves. Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserve WQ Monitoring . (2024).
12. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP); Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves. Central Panhandle Aquatic Preserves Seagrass Monitoring. (2023).