



SEA·BIRD
SCIENTIFIC



A year and a Hurricane Apart: Nutrient Loading in the St. Lucie Estuary in the Summers of 2016 and 2017

Ian Walsh

October 3, 2017 / SECOORA Webinar Series

This presentation could and would not happen without the expertise and hard work of Dr. Dennis Hanisak and Kristen Davis and their team.

They keep IRLON funded and running, and we all benefit.

Dennis and Dr. Brian Lapointe contributed their understanding of the estuary in multiple conversations.

Data are presented courtesy of Indian River Lagoon Observatory Network of Environmental Sensors
fau.loboviz.com

2016 Algal Blooms

SCIENCE

Got muck? Florida residents can report algae blooms with new hotline.

After declaring a state of emergency this week, Florida officials have turned to citizens to help control the outbreak.

By APNewsNow, Associated Press | JULY 5, 2016



Algae Bloom Prompts Florida State of Emergency
AP



1 of 2 < >

A video thumbnail showing a boat docked at a pier covered in green algae. The video title is "Algae Bloom Prompts Florida State of Emergency" and it is from AP. A play button is overlaid on the video frame.



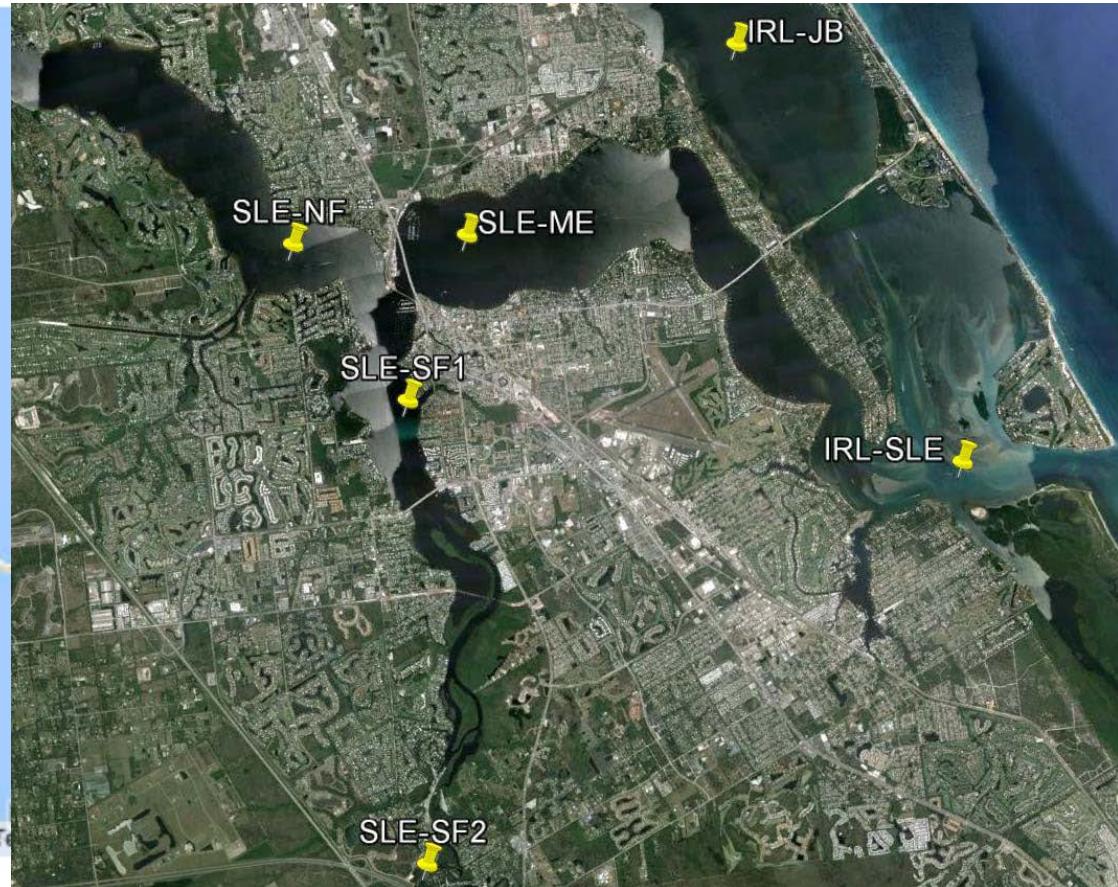
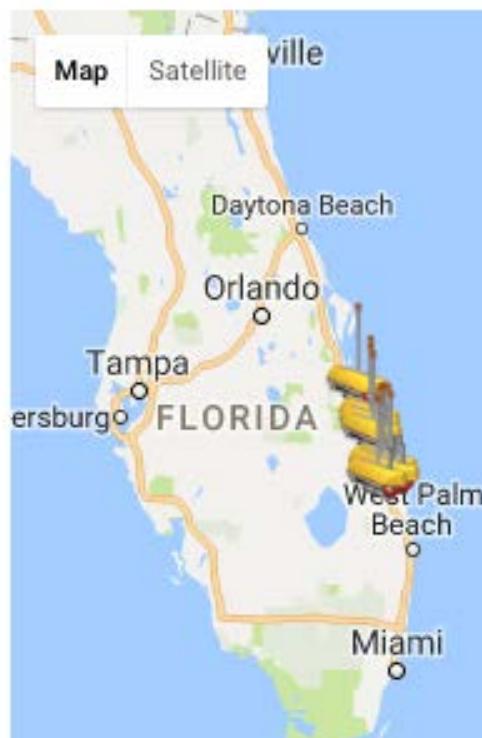
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The state has launched a hotline to help residents give updates on the massive algae bloom fouling some of Florida's southern rivers and beaches.

Residents can call a toll-free at 1-855-305-3903 or report information online at www.reportalgalbloom.com. The smelly muck comes just in time for the holiday weekend.

What We Will Cover Today

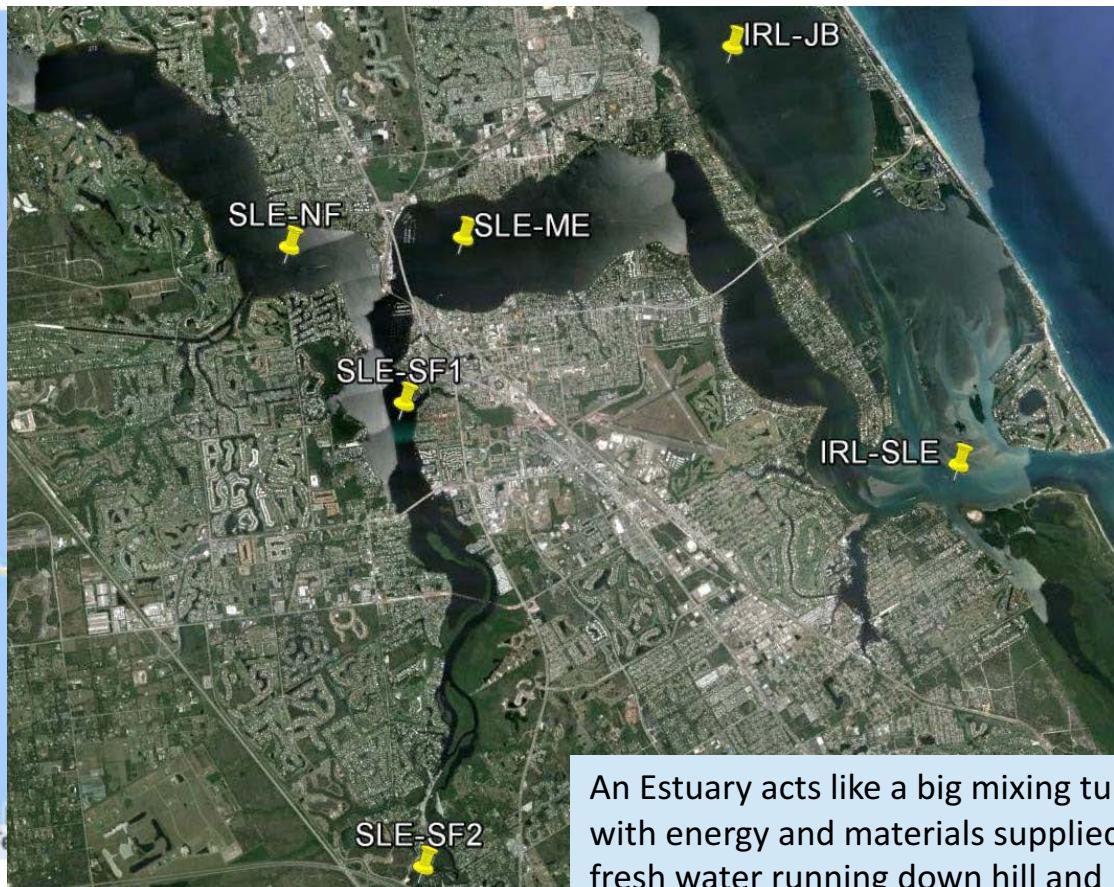
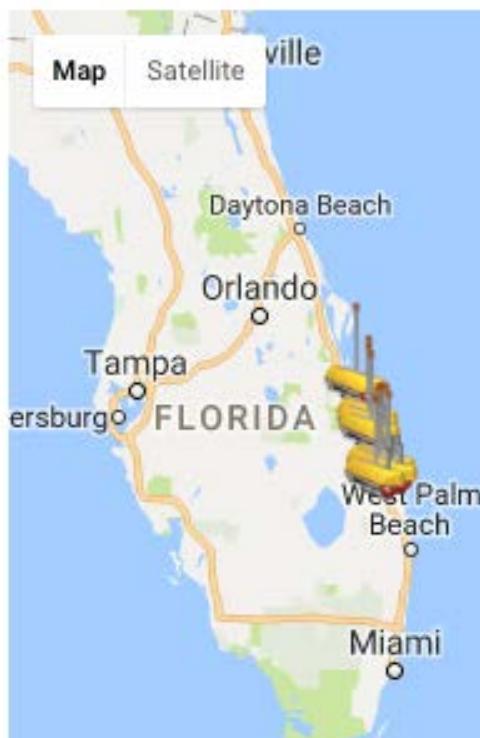
- Estuaries and Biogeochemical Processes
 - Sources
- IRLON sites in the St. Lucie Estuary
 - How I got the data
- Nutrients in the summer of 2016:
 - Blue green algae bloom
- Nutrients in the summer of 2017
- September 2017:
 - Irma

IRLON Locations



Google Map data ©2017 Google, INEGI To Place cursor over icon for station name.

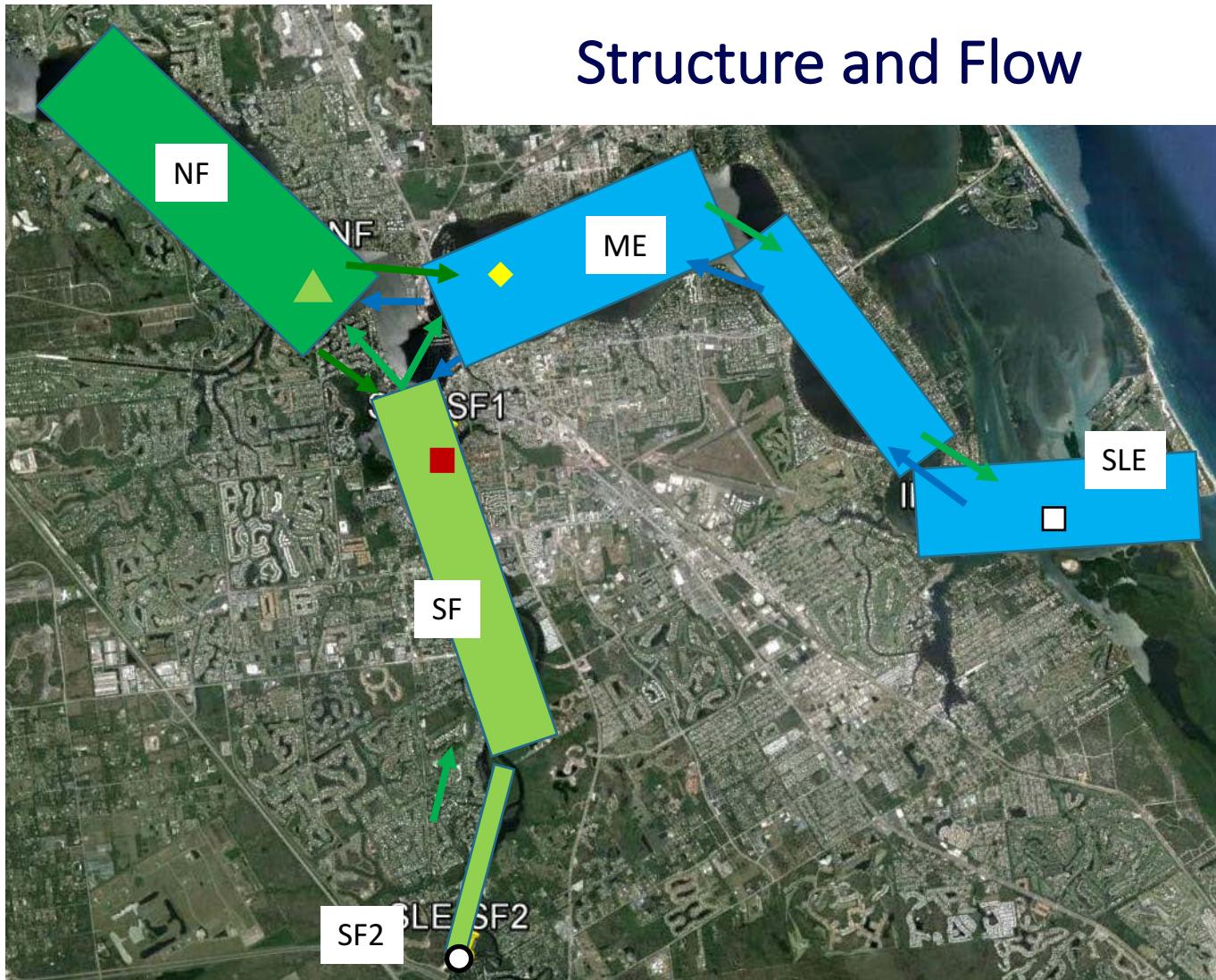
IRLON Locations



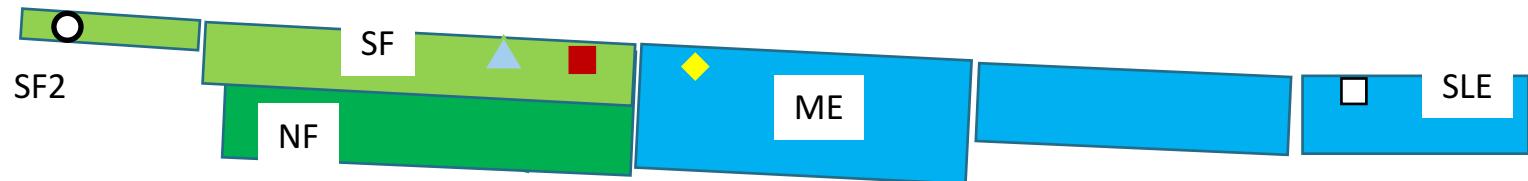
An Estuary acts like a big mixing tub, with energy and materials supplied by fresh water running down hill and seawater driven by the Moon

 Map data ©2017 Google, INEGI | To
Place cursor over icon for station name.

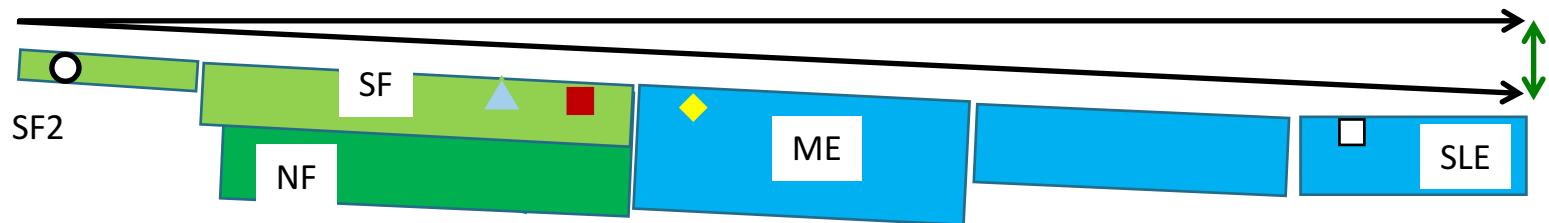
Structure and Flow



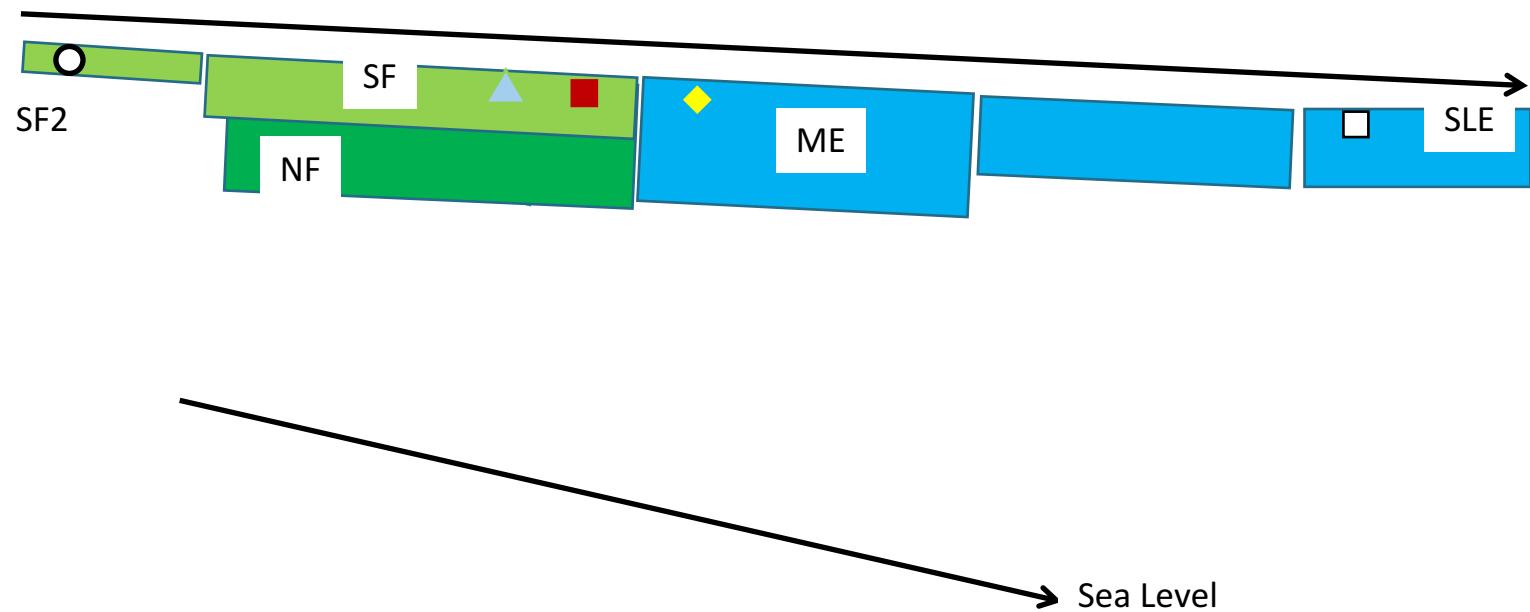
Water Flows Down Hill



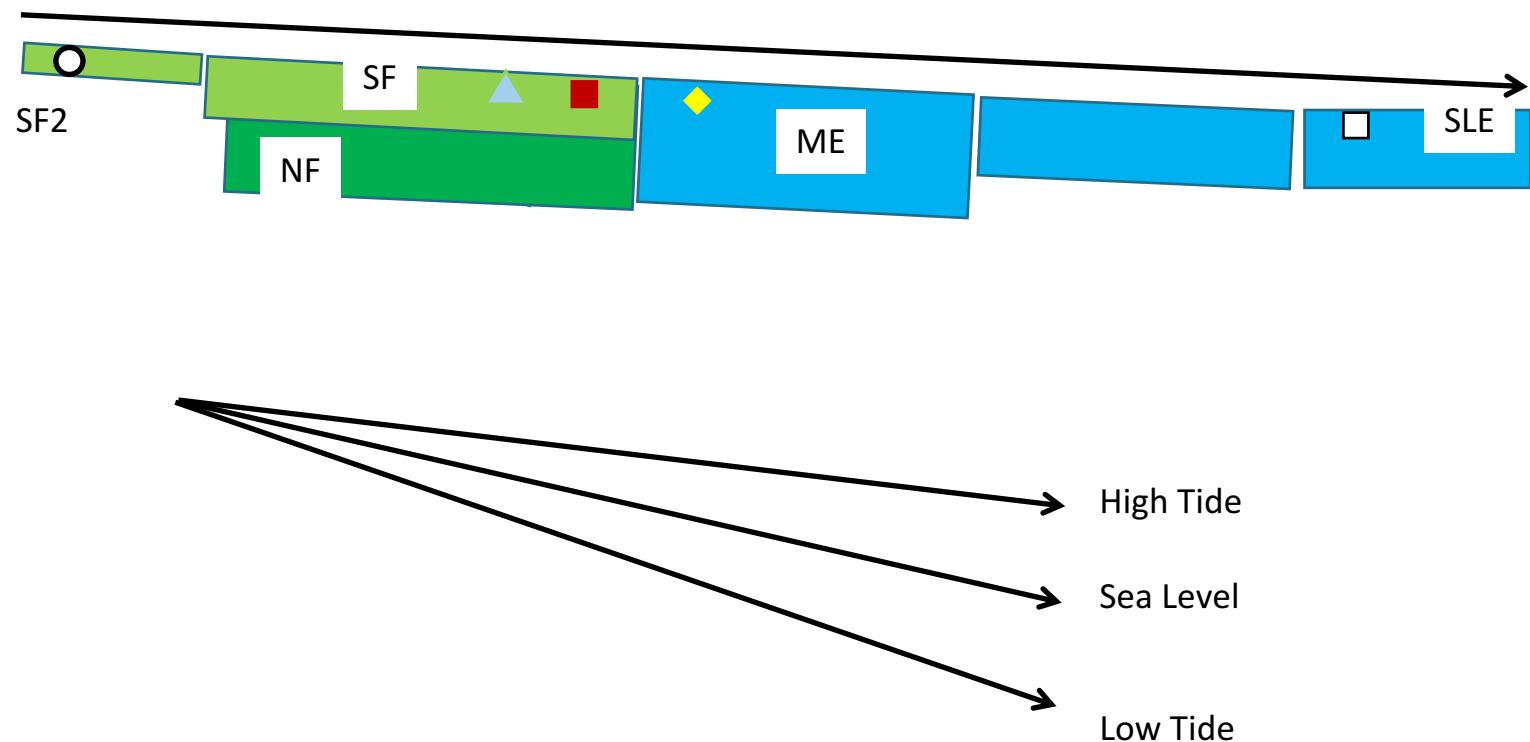
Water Flows Down Hill



Water Flows Down Hill



Water Flows Down Hill

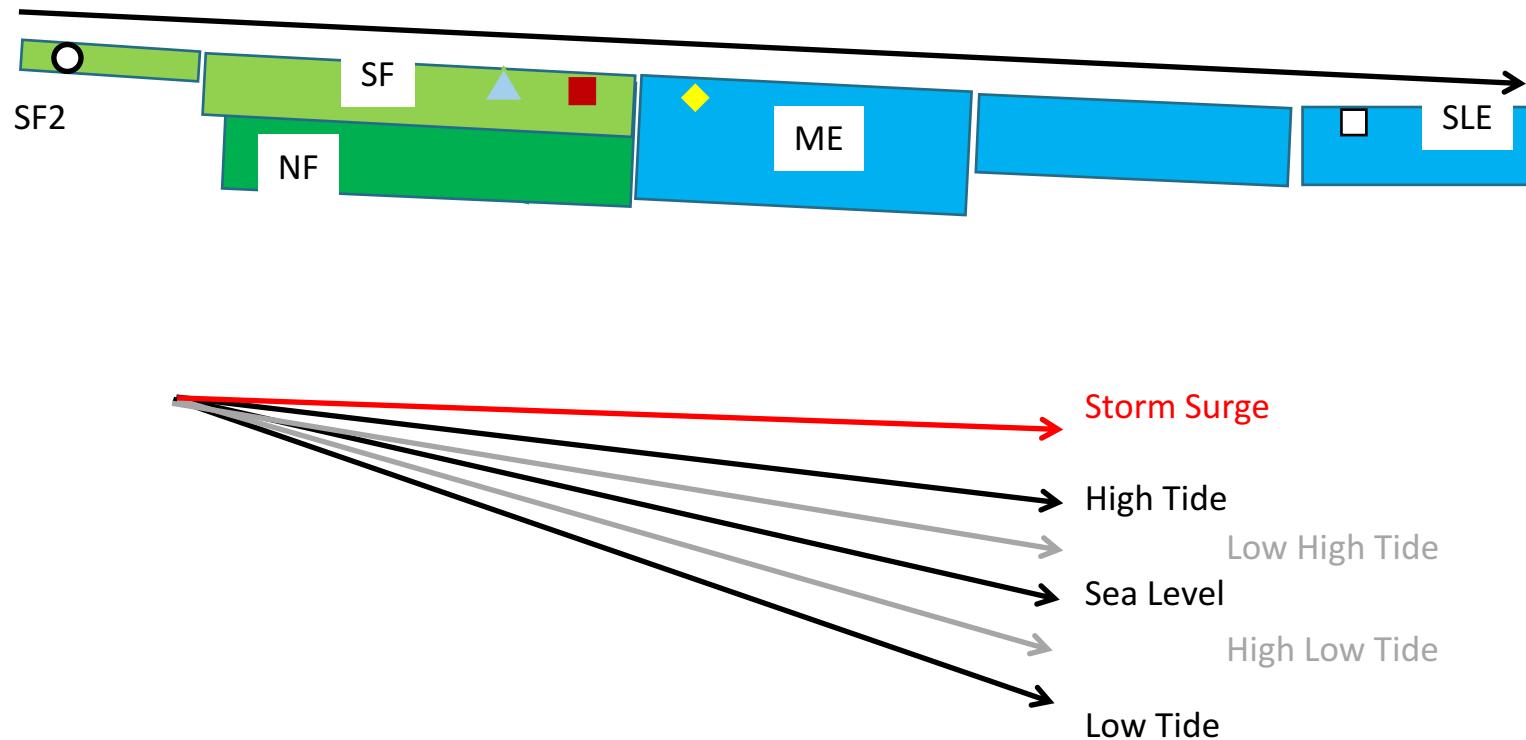




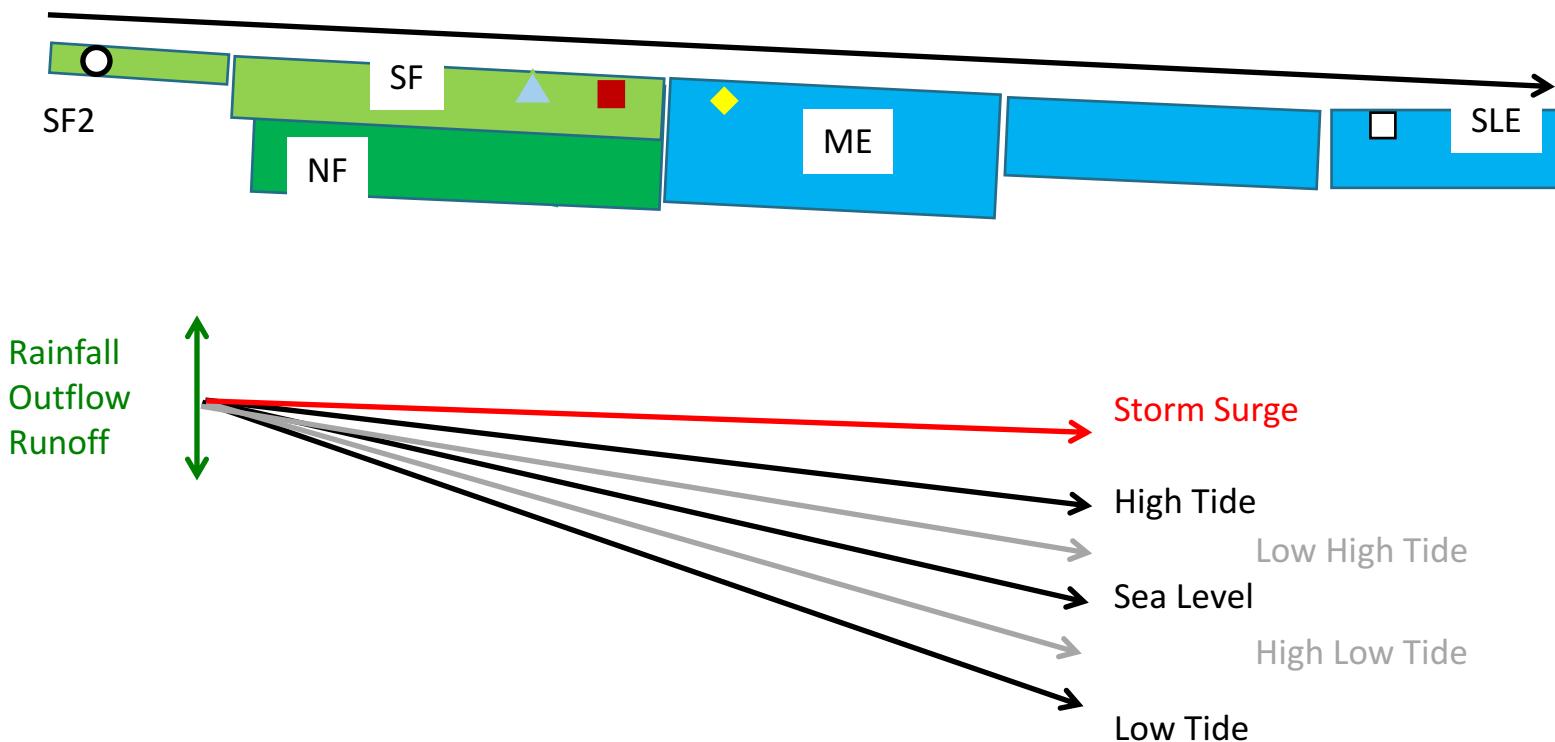
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Tides and Storms change the gradient

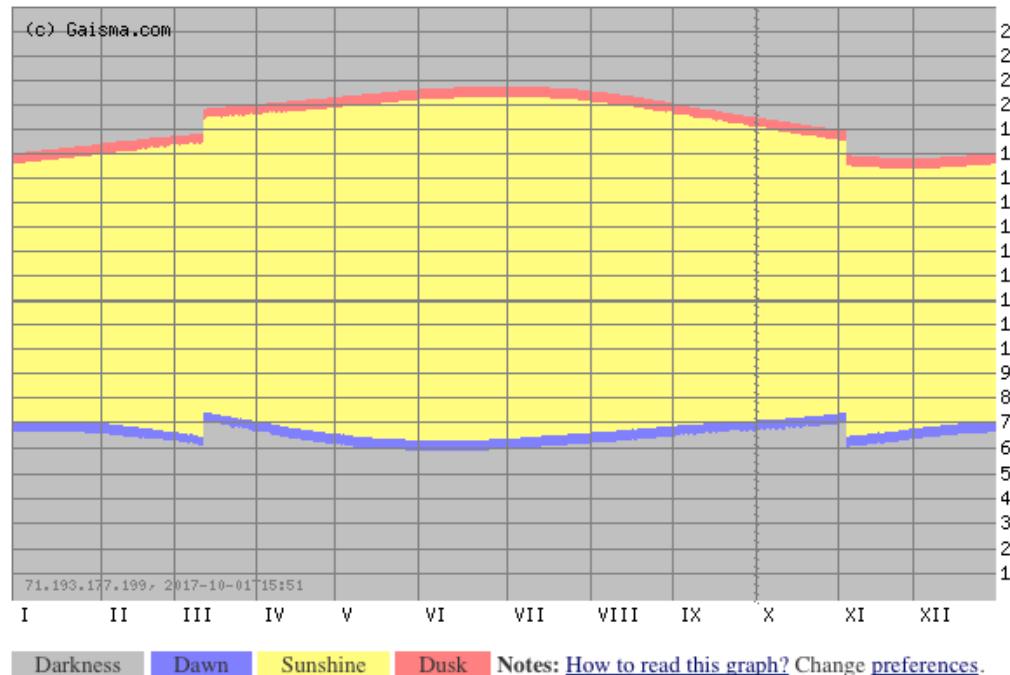


Tides and Storms change the gradient



Plants Growth: Light, Nutrients, Time

Fort Pierce, [Florida, United States](#) - Sunrise, sunset, dawn and dusk times, graph



<https://www.gaisma.com/en/location/corvallis-oregon.html>

Plenty of light in Florida

Warm Year Round, Wet Summers

Fort Pierce, **Florida, United States** - Solar energy and surface meteorology

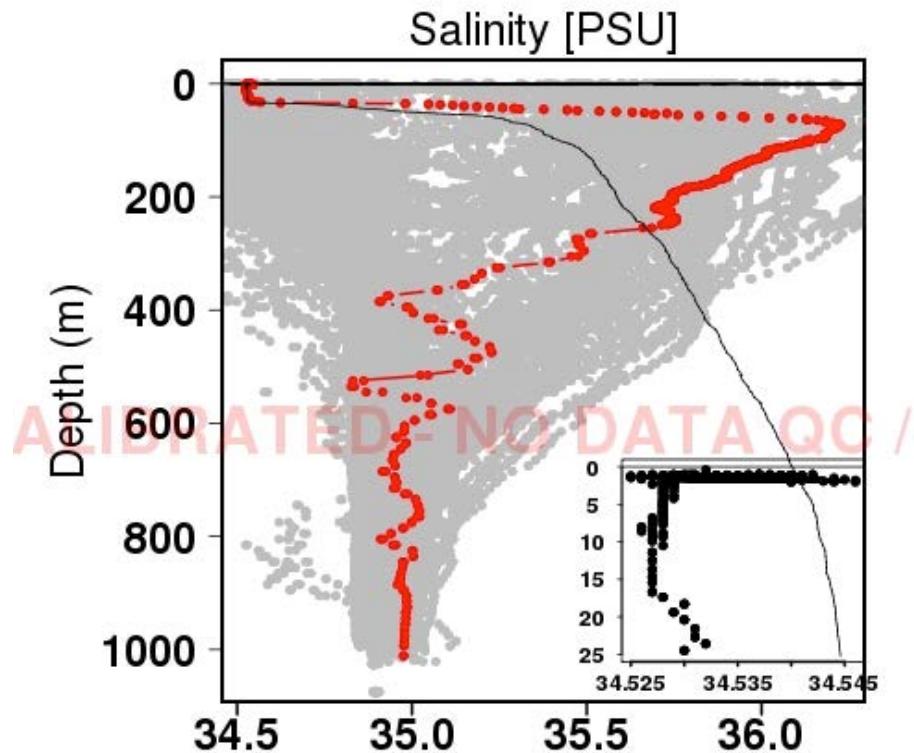
Variable	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Insolation, kWh/m²/day	3.43	4.34	5.30	6.42	7.05	6.57	6.82	6.32	5.38	4.56	3.71	3.18
Clearness, 0..1	0.54	0.58	0.59	0.62	0.64	0.58	0.61	0.60	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.54
Temperature, °C	20.84	21.09	21.75	22.50	24.42	26.03	26.85	27.01	26.81	25.73	23.98	21.92
Wind speed, m/s	6.22	6.22	6.24	5.47	4.76	4.03	3.84	3.53	4.44	5.54	6.17	5.71
Precipitation, in	2.23	2.83	3.19	2.12	4.66	5.87	5.76	5.61	7.56	5.90	3.09	2.22
Wet days, d	7.8	7.5	7.7	5.3	10.3	14.5	15.2	16.1	15.8	11.0	8.6	7.4

These data were obtained from the NASA Langley Research Center Atmospheric Science Data Center; New et al. 2002

Notes: [Help](#), Change [preferences](#).

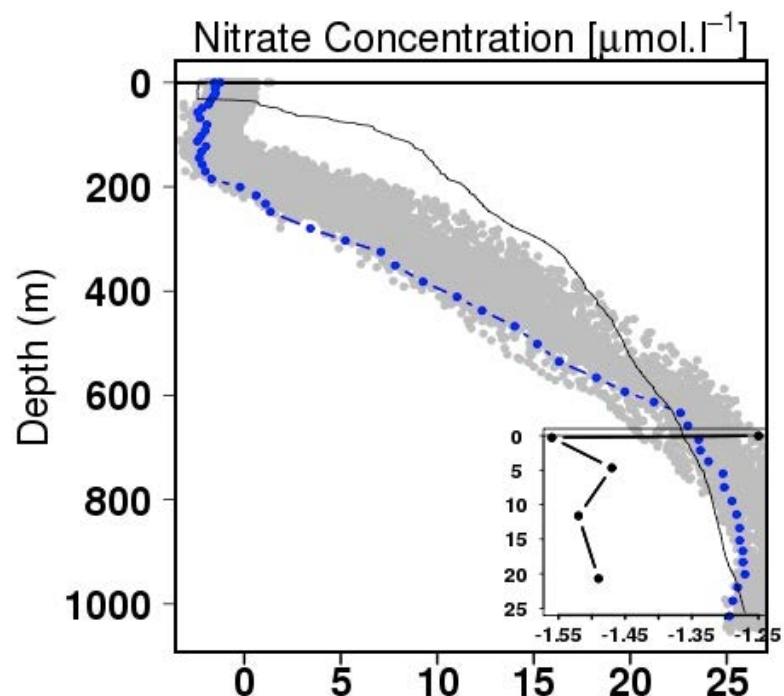
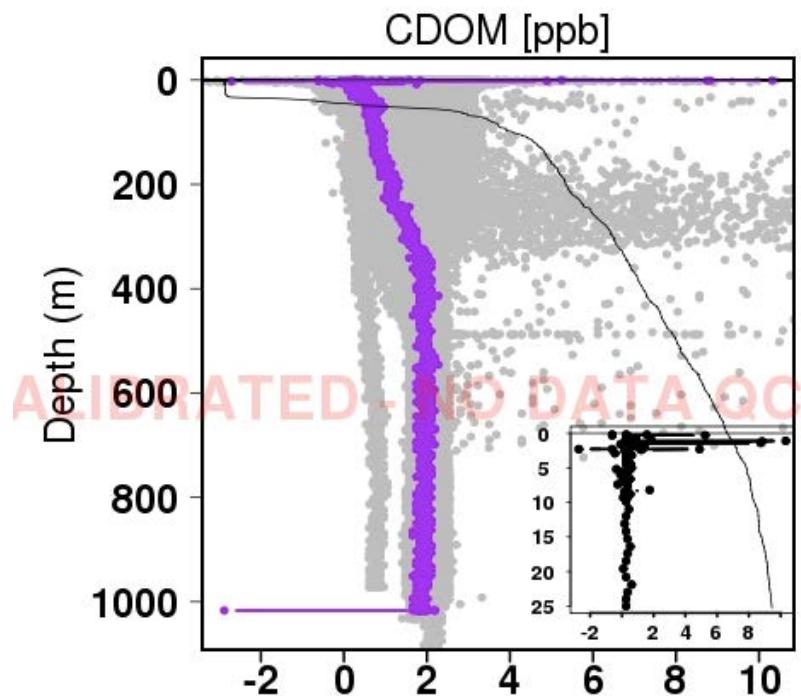
<https://www.gaisma.com/en/location>

The ocean is salty



<http://www.oao.obs-vlfr.fr/bioargo/PHP/lovbio006b/lovbio006b.html>

The surface ocean is very low in organics and nutrients

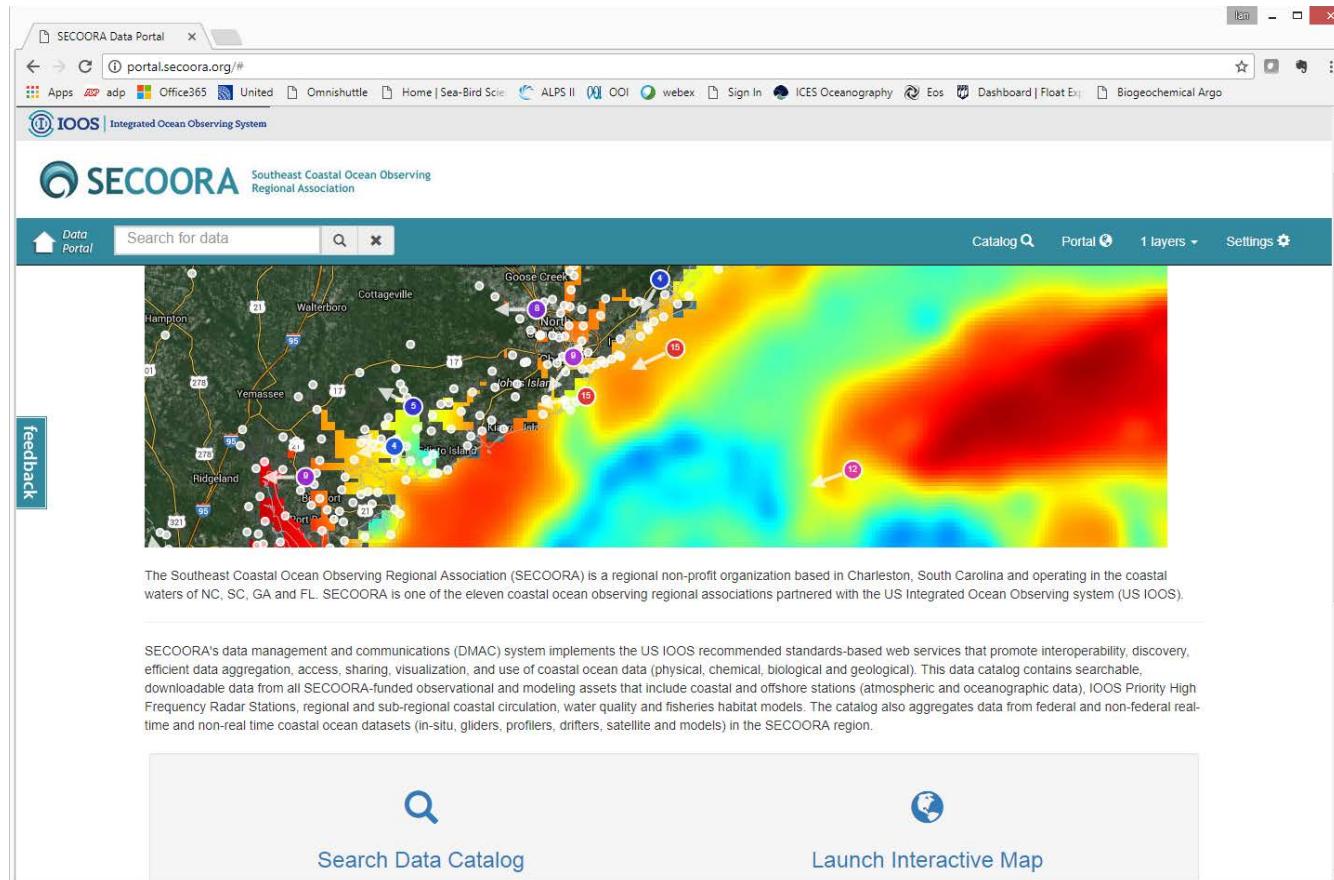


<http://www.oao.obs-vlfr.fr/bioargo/PHP/lovbio006b/lovbio006b.html>

Estuary Flow Tracers

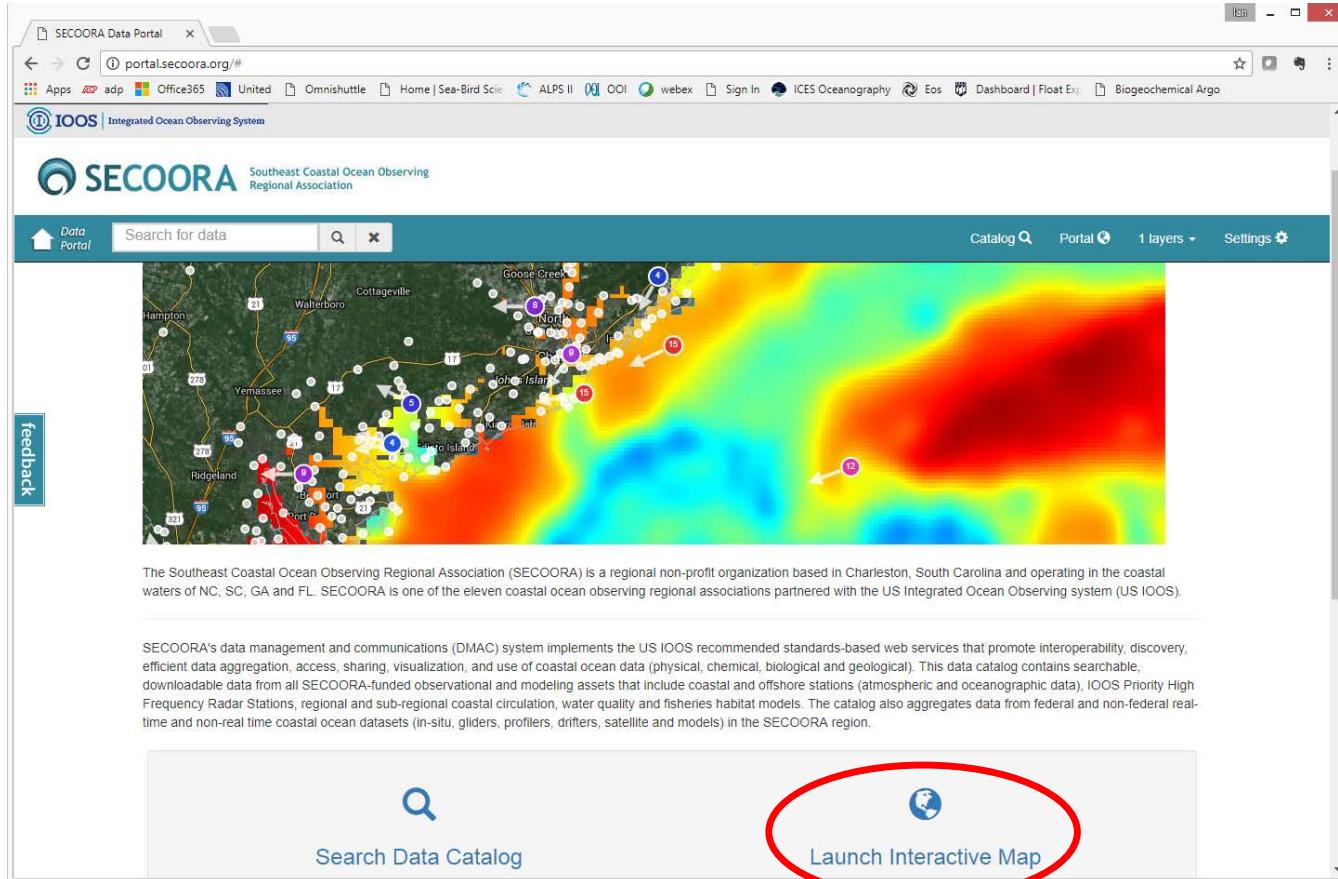
- Fresh Water: Colored Dissolved Organic Matter
 - Decayed organic matter
 - High nutrients
- Ocean Water
 - Salts: Salinity
 - Low nutrients

IRLON Data Access: SECOORA



portal.secoora.org

IRLON Data Access: SECOORA



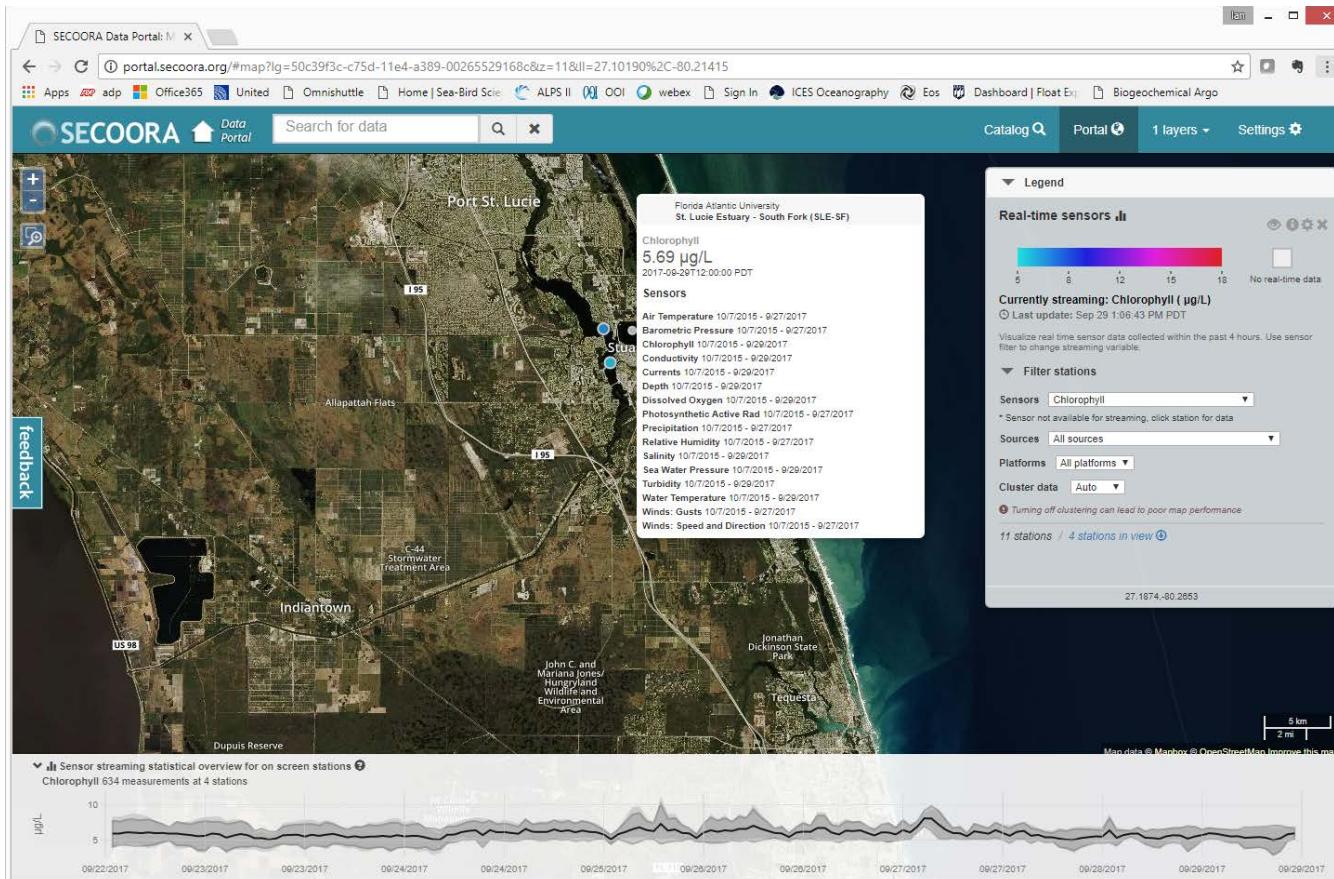
The Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) is a regional non-profit organization based in Charleston, South Carolina and operating in the coastal waters of NC, SC, GA and FL. SECOORA is one of the eleven coastal ocean observing regional associations partnered with the US Integrated Ocean Observing system (US IOOS).

SECOORA's data management and communications (DMAC) system implements the US IOOS recommended standards-based web services that promote interoperability, discovery, efficient data aggregation, access, sharing, visualization, and use of coastal ocean data (physical, chemical, biological and geological). This data catalog contains searchable, downloadable data from all SECOORA-funded observational and modeling assets that include coastal and offshore stations (atmospheric and oceanographic data), IOOS Priority High Frequency Radar Stations, regional and sub-regional coastal circulation, water quality and fisheries habitat models. The catalog also aggregates data from federal and non-federal real-time and non-real time coastal ocean datasets (in-situ, gliders, profilers, drifters, satellite and models) in the SECOORA region.

[Search Data Catalog](#)  [Launch Interactive Map](#) 

portal.secoora.org

IRLON Data Access: SECOORA



Interactive Map

IRLON Data Access

Microsoft Office Home > HB Lobo Data f - OneDrive > Mail - iwalsh@seabird.co > fau FAU-HBOI LOBO >

fau.loboviz.com

Apps ADP adp Office365 United Omnishuttle Home | Sea-Bird Scie ALPS II OOI webex Sign In ICES Oceanography Eos Dashboard | Float Ex Biogeochemical Argo

LOBO Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory

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Latest. Click site name for data.

Weather

- IRL-LP Indian River Lagoon - Link Port
2017-09-29 14:00:00 EST
- IRL-JB Indian River Lagoon-Jensen Beach
2017-09-29 14:00:00 EST
- IRL-SLE Indian River Lagoon-St. Lucie Estuary
2017-09-14 09:00:00 EST
- SLE-ME St. Lucie Estuary-Middle Estuary
2017-09-28 14:00:00 EST
- SLE-NF St. Lucie Estuary-North Fork
2017-09-29 14:00:00 EST
- SLE-SF St. Lucie Estuary-South Fork
2017-09-29 14:00:00 EST
- SLE-SF2 St. Lucie Estuary-South Fork 2
2017-09-29 14:00:00 EST

Water Quality

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FAU Harbor Branch Indian River Lagoon Observatory



The Indian River Lagoon Observatory Network of Environmental Sensors

The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is situated along 156 miles of Florida's east coast. Urbanization, excessive freshwater releases, degradation of water quality, contaminant loading, loss of habitat (e.g., seagrasses, mangroves), harmful algal blooms, decline of fisheries, and emerging diseases in marine mammals and other biota are increasingly important issues in the IRL, as they are throughout the world's estuaries and coastal waters. The Indian River Lagoon Observatory (IRLO), based at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, is conducting long-term, multi-disciplinary, ecosystem-based research on this nationally significant estuary.

IRLO research and education activities are being enhanced by the deployment of an estuarine observation network of land/ocean biogeochemical observatory (LOBO) units and weather sensors to provide real-time, high-accuracy and high-resolution water quality/weather data through this dedicated interactive website. The LOBO network enables researchers to follow environmental changes in the IRL, assist resource and planning managers to decisions, model and correlate environmental data chemical and physical phenomena, and contribute public outreach on the lagoon.

Currently LOBOs are deployed at nine sites in the Estuary (SLE). Four sites in Indian River County i

Map Satellite 19°>Cocoa Beach
Melbourne Palm Bay
Palm Bay
Juno Beach
Fort Pierce
Port St Lucie
Jupiter
Okeechobee
SR 98
SR 441
SR 192
Google Map data ©2017 Google, INEGI, Terms of Use
Place cursor over icon for station name.

Archived Data

Use LOBOviz to graph and download archived data from this LOBO node.

Configuration

Manufacturer	Instrument	Measurements
Satlantic	LOBO	Power distribution Sensor control Wireless communication Data management
Satlantic	SeaFET pH	pH

Fau.loboviz.com

IRLON Data Access

Microsoft Office Home > HB Lobo Data f - OneDrive > Mail - iwalsh@seabird.co > fau FAU-HBOI LOBO >

fau.loboviz.com

Apps ADP adp Office365 United Omnishuttle Home | Sea-Bird Sci ALPS II OOI webex Sign In ICES Oceanography Eos Dashboard | Float Ex Biogeochemical Argo

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Map Satellite 19°>Cocoa Beach
Melbourne Palm Bay
Punta Gorda Fort Pierce Port St Lucie Jupiter
Okeechobee 98
441 95
Google Map data ©2017 Google, INEGI, Terms of Use
Place cursor over icon for station name.

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Configuration

Manufacturer	Instrument	Measurements
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Satlantic	SeaFET pH	pH

LOBOviz: Downloading

FAU-HBOI LOBO

fau.loboviz.com/loboviz/

Apps adp Office365 United Omnishuttle Home | Sea-Bird Scie ALPS II OOI webex Sign In ICES Oceanography Eos Dashboard | Float Exp Biogeochemical Argo

LOBO Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory

HOME LOBOVIZ CGI QA/QC WIRELESS GOOGLE EARTH ABOUT CONTACT

Latest. Click site name for data.

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SLE-SF2 St. Lucie Estuary-South Fork 2
2017-09-29 14:00:00 EST 

Site(s)

- IRL-LP
- IRL-FP
- IRL-VB
- IRL-SB
- IRL-JB
- IRL-SLE
- SLE-ME
- SLE-NF
- SLE-SF
- SLE-SF2

X Variable

- date
- day number
- CDOM [QSDE]
- chlorophyll [$\mu\text{g/l}$]
- conductivity [S/m]
- current direction [$^\circ$]
- current speed [mm/s]
- current speed [ft/s]
- depth of instrument [m]
- depth of instrument [ft]
- dissolved O_2 [mg/l]
- nitrate [μM]
- nitrate [mg N/L]
- O_2 saturation [mg/l]
- O_2 % saturation [%]
- pH
- phosphate concentration [μM]
- phosphate concentration [mg P/L]
- pressure [dbar]
- salinity
- temperature [$^\circ\text{C}$]
- temperature [$^\circ\text{F}$]
- turbidity [NTU]
- [weather]

Y Variable(s)

- CDOM [QSDE]
- chlorophyll [$\mu\text{g/l}$]
- conductivity [S/m]
- current direction [$^\circ$]
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- salinity
- temperature [$^\circ\text{C}$]
- temperature [$^\circ\text{F}$]
- turbidity [NTU]
- [weather]

Date Range

- all dates
- day of End date
- 3 days ending on End date
- week ending on End date
- month ending on End date
- specify Start and End

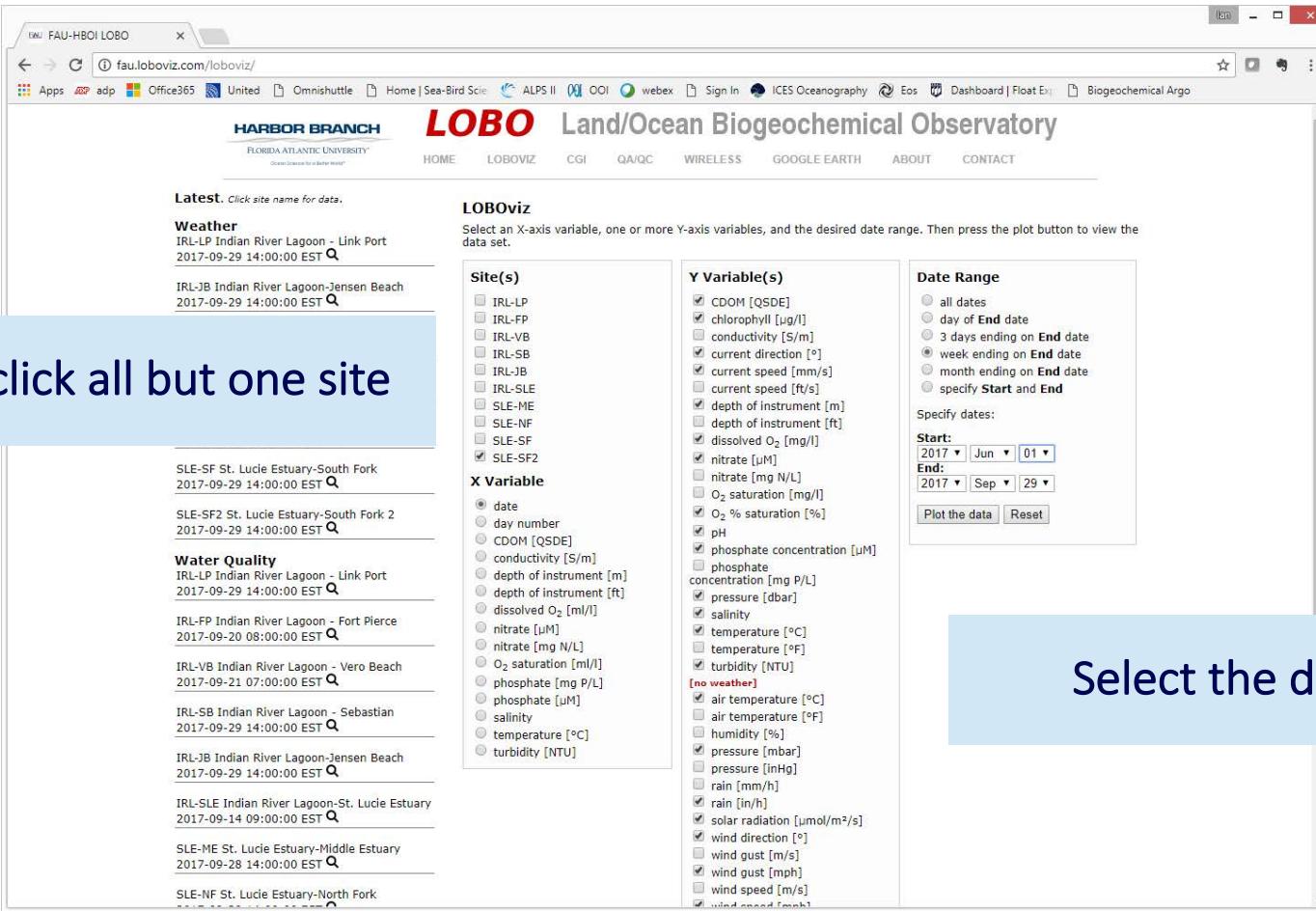
Specify dates:

Start: 2013 ▾ Jan ▾ 17 ▾
End: 2017 ▾ Sep ▾ 29 ▾

LOBOviz: Downloading

Unclick all but one site

Select the data



The screenshot shows the LOBOviz interface on a web browser. On the left, a sidebar lists recent data entries for various sites:

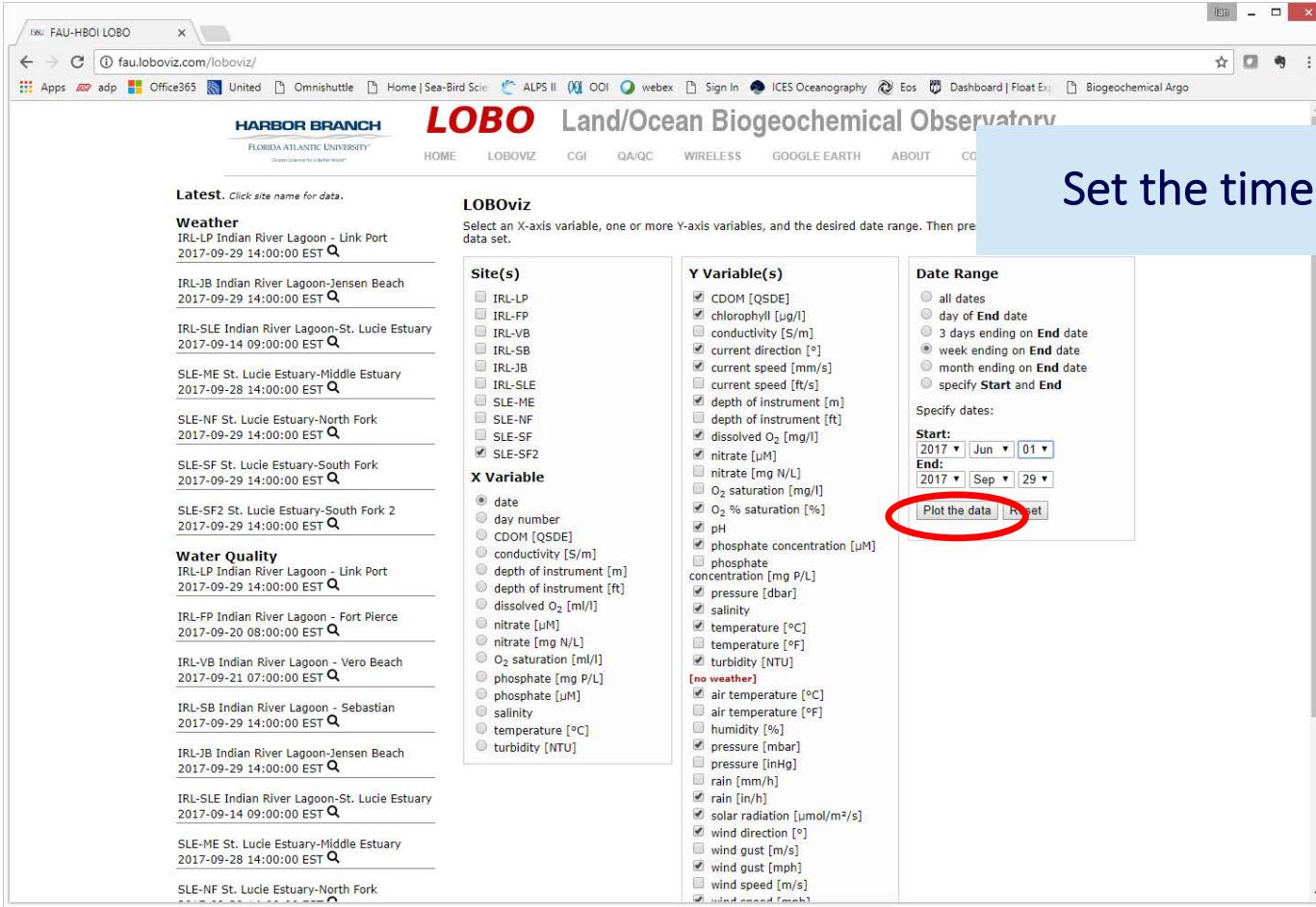
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The main area contains three main sections:

- Site(s)**: A list of available sites: IRL-LP, IRL-FP, IRL-VB, IRL-SB, IRL-JB, IRL-SLE, SLE-ME, SLE-NF, SLE-SF, SLE-SF2.
- X Variable**: A list of variables for the X-axis, with "date" selected as the radio button.
- Y Variable(s)**: A large list of variables for the Y-axis, many of which are checked (e.g., CDOM [QSDE], chlorophyll [µg/l], conductivity [S/m], current direction [°], current speed [mm/s], depth of instrument [m], dissolved O₂ [mg/l], nitrate [µM], phosphate concentration [µM], pH, salinity, temperature [°C], turbidity [NTU]).
- Date Range**: Options for specifying a date range, with "all dates" selected. It includes fields for "Start" (2017 Jun 01) and "End" (2017 Sep 29), and buttons for "Plot the data" and "Reset".

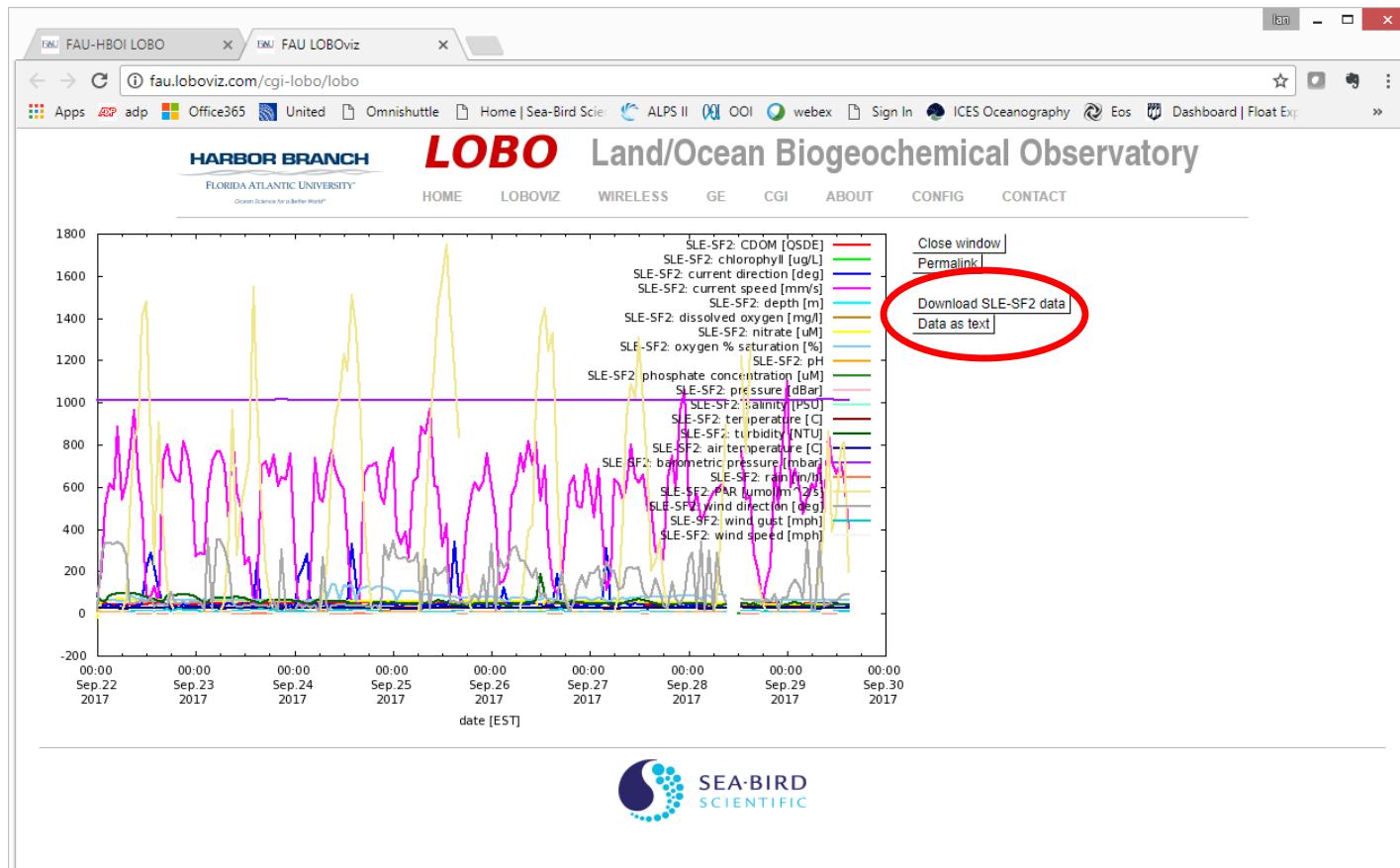
LOBOviz: Downloading

Set the time range



The screenshot shows the LOBOviz interface on a web browser. The main title is "LOBO Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory". On the left, there's a sidebar with "Latest" site data and a "Weather" section. The central area has three main panels: "Site(s)" (listing various sites like IRL-LP, IRL-FP, etc.), "Y Variable(s)" (listing variables like CDOM, chlorophyll, conductivity, current direction, etc.), and "Date Range" (allowing users to specify a date range from Start and End dates). A red circle highlights the "Plot the data" button at the bottom right of the Date Range panel.

LOBOviz: Downloading



2016 Algal Blooms

SCIENCE

Got muck? Florida residents can report algae blooms with new hotline.

After declaring a state of emergency this week, Florida officials have turned to citizens to help control the outbreak.

By APNewsNow, Associated Press | JULY 5, 2016



Algae Bloom Prompts Florida State of Emergency
AP



1 of 2 < >

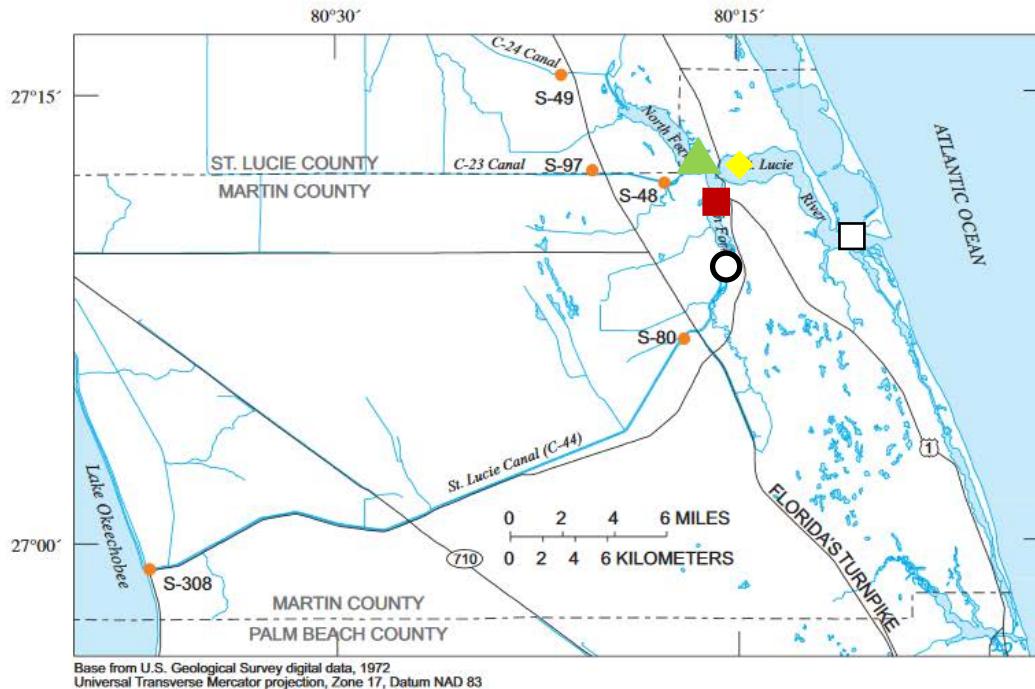
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Residents can call a toll-free at 1-855-305-3903 or report information online at www.reportalgalbloom.com. The smelly muck comes just in time for the holiday weekend.

Flow Sources



EXPLANATION

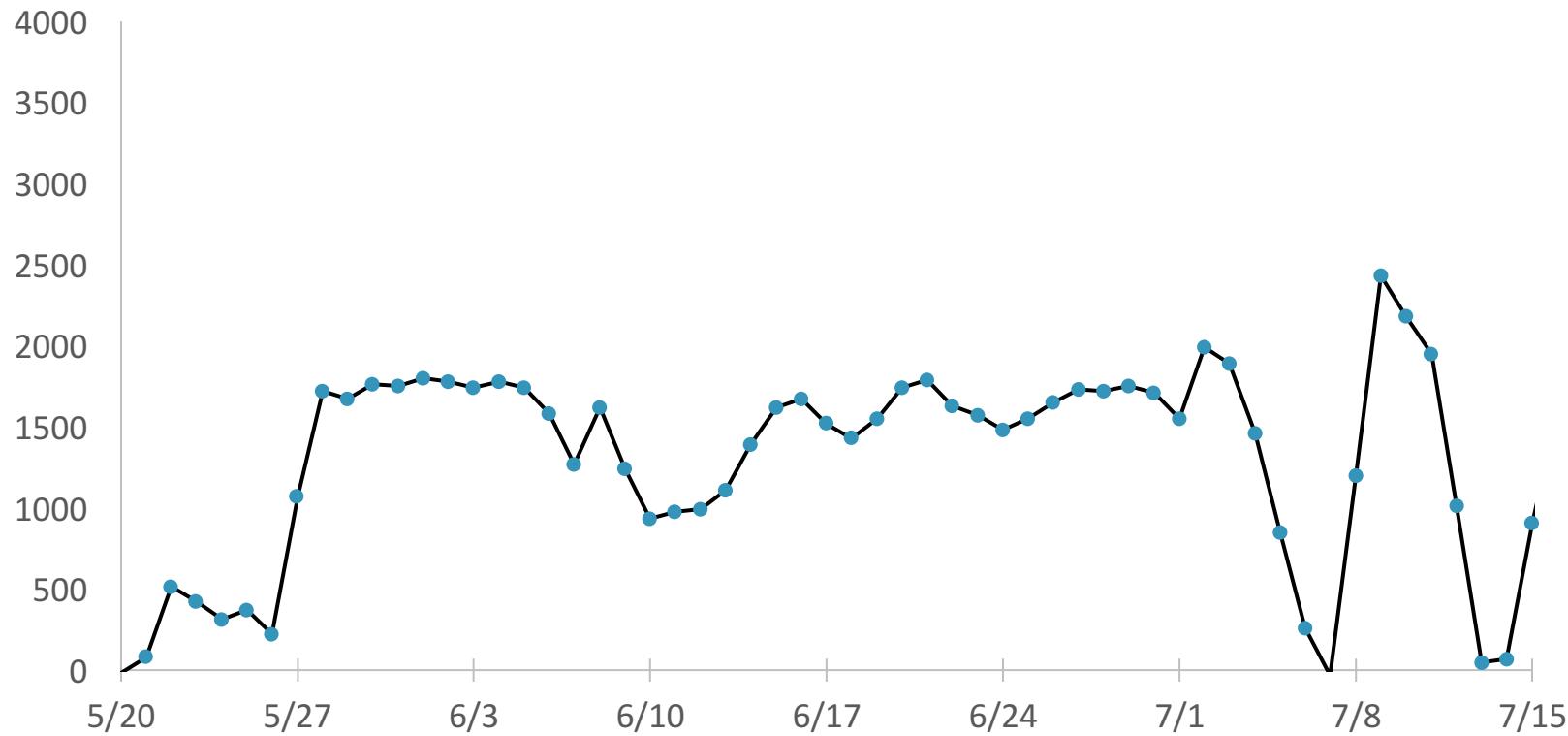
- CONTROL STRUCTURE AND NUMBER

Figure 2. South Florida Water Management District control structures providing flow to the St. Lucie River Estuary.

https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2004/1265/resources/ofr2004_1265_byrne.pdf

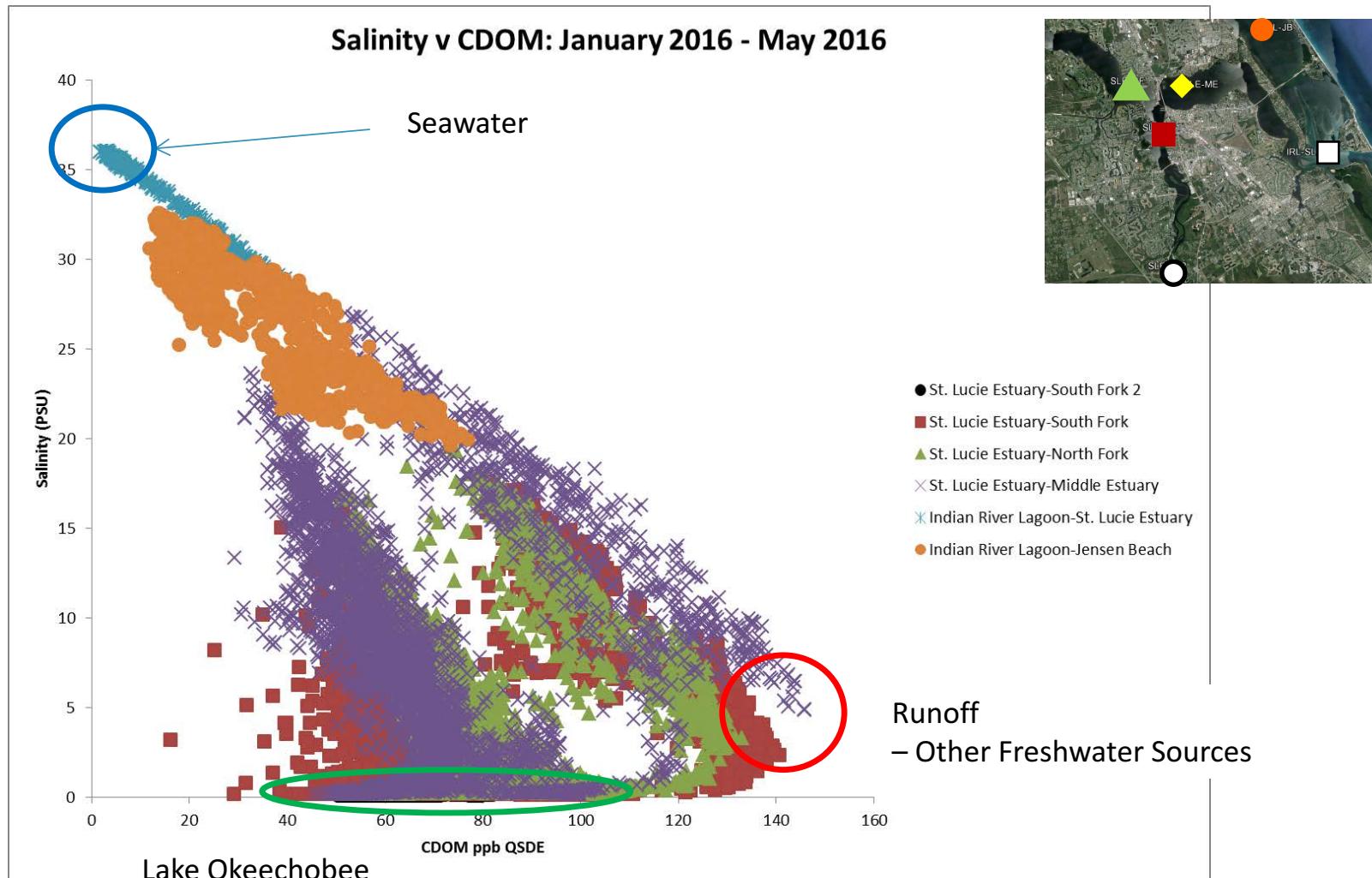
Flow From Lake

2016 S-308 Discharge (ft³/sec)



https://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/wys_rpt/?site_no=02276877&agency_cd=USGS

Three Water Sources



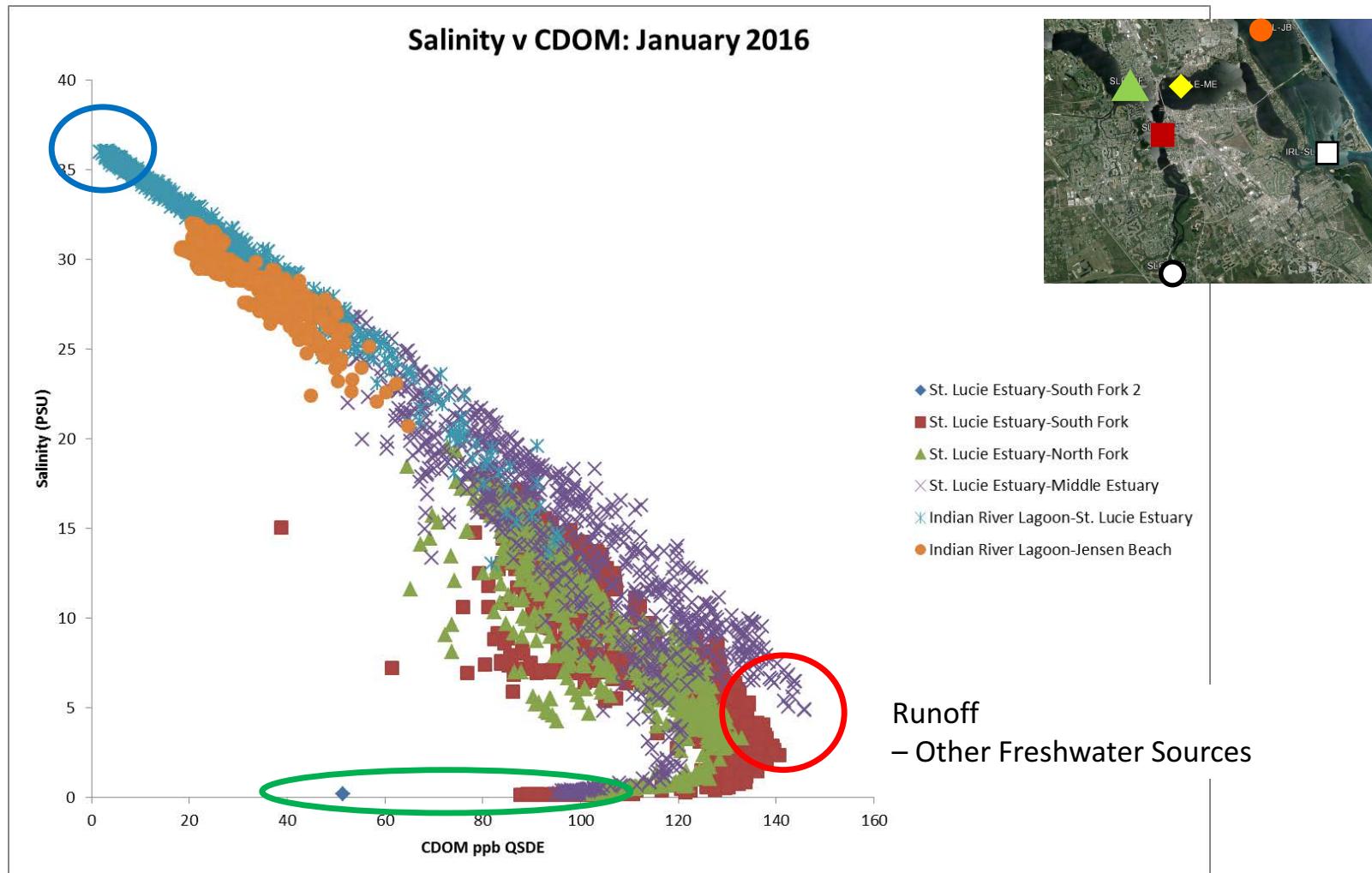


SEA·BIRD
SCIENTIFIC

Wet January: Runoff

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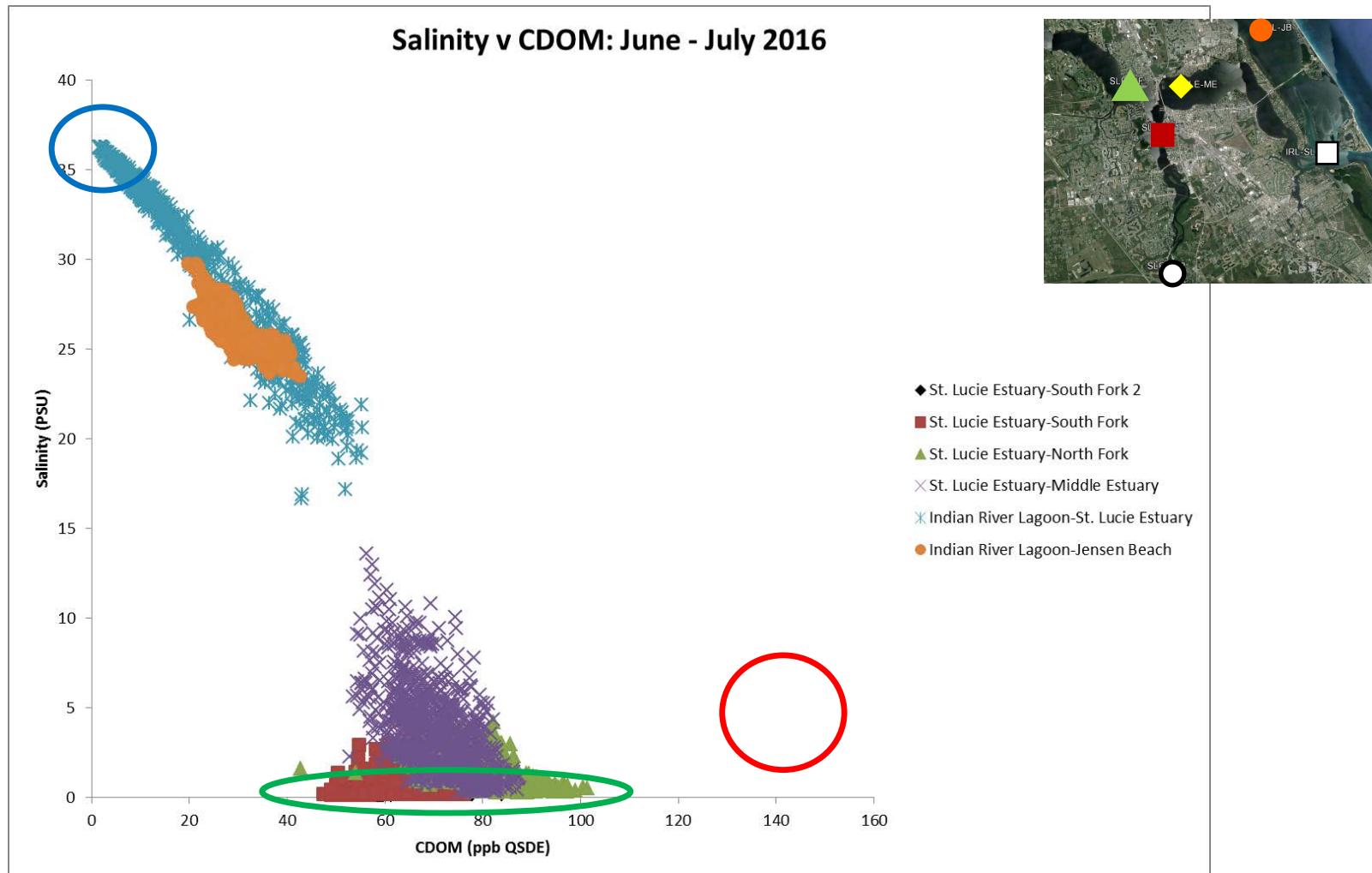


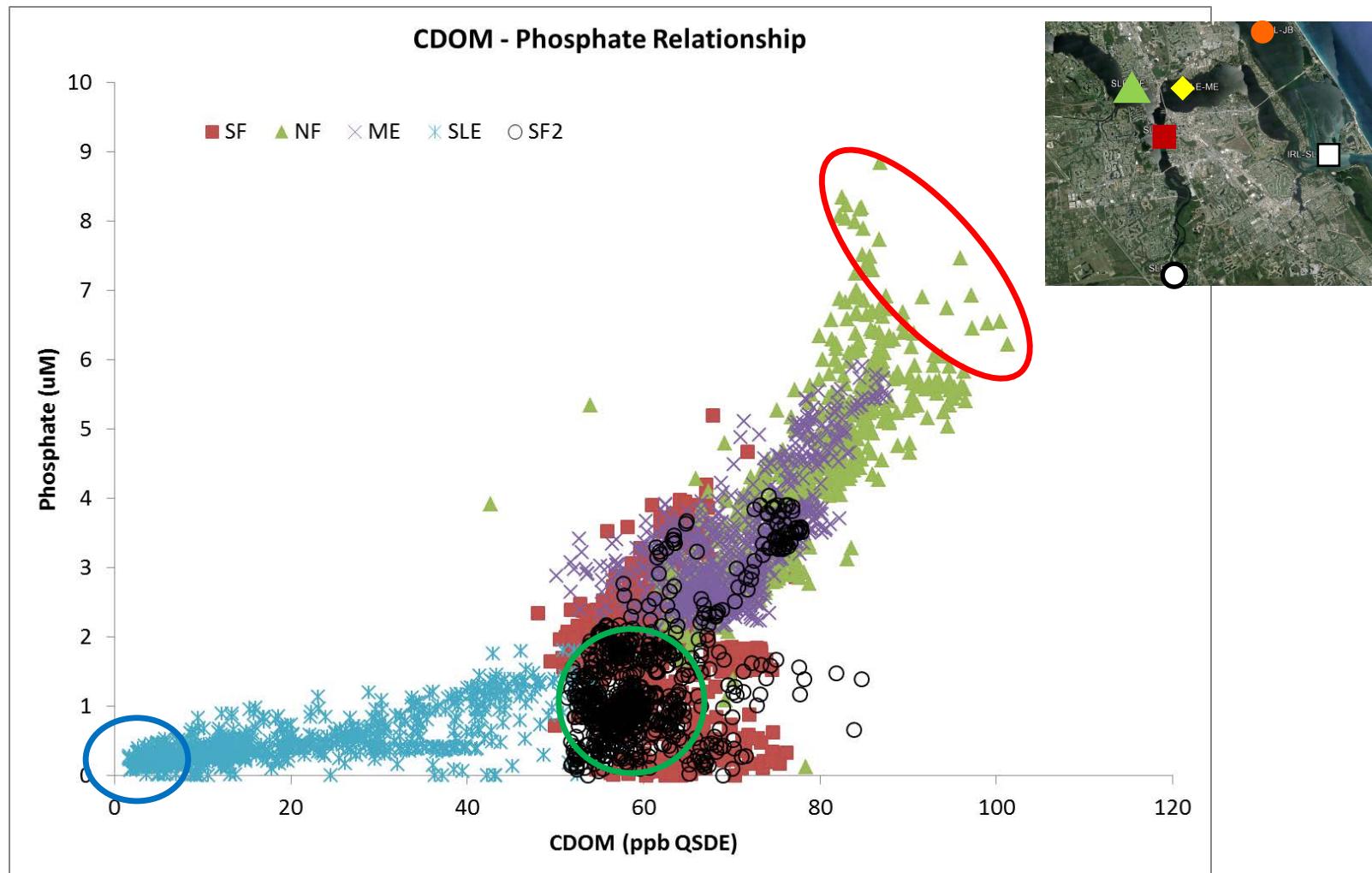
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Low Seawater Input

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Estuary Flow Tracers

- Fresh Water: Colored Dissolved Organic Matter
 - Decayed organic matter
 - High nutrients
- Ocean Water
 - Salts: Salinity
 - Low nutrients

Nutrient Concentration and Sources

- Ocean
 - Salinity 35 PSU
 - CDOM 10 ppb QSDE
 - Phosphate < 1 uM
- Lake Okeechobee
 - Salinity < 1 PSU
 - CDOM 60 ppb QSDE
 - Phosphate 1 uM
- Runoff
 - Salinity 10 PSU
 - CDOM 100 ppb QSDE
 - Phosphate > 6 uM
- IRLON data during this event confirms previous work

Journal of Coastal Research	28	6	1345–1361	Coconut Creek, Florida	November 2012
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Effects of Hurricanes, Land Use, and Water Management on Nutrient and Microbial Pollution: St. Lucie Estuary, Southeast Florida

Brian E. Lapointe, Laura W. Herren, and Bradley J. Bedford

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 Florida Atlantic University
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www.cerf-jcr.org

ABSTRACT



www.JCRonline.org

Lapointe, B.E.; Herren, L.W., and Bedford, B.J., 2012. Effects of hurricanes, land use, and water management on nutrient and microbial pollution: St. Lucie Estuary, southeast Florida. *Journal of Coastal Research*, 28(6), 1345–1361. Coconut Creek (Florida), ISSN 0749-0208.

Multiple hurricanes impacted southeast Florida during 2004 and 2005, producing record rainfall and large-scale stormwater runoff into the urbanized St. Lucie Estuary (SLE). To assess effects on water quality, field samples were taken in June and November 2005 and March 2006 along the SLE's three main segments: the South Fork, connected via the C-44 canal to Lake Okeechobee; the North Fork, which receives residential and agricultural runoff from the C-23 and C-24 canals; and the Middle Estuary, which flows into the Indian River Lagoon and Atlantic Ocean. Salinities were <1‰ throughout the normally brackish estuary during the 2005 samplings, but returned to near-normal levels by March 2006 in all but the South Fork. Low salinities in 2005 correlated with low dissolved oxygen, high turbidity, elevated nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations, and high fecal and total coliform counts. Highest turbidity (84.4 NTU), nitrate (37.9 µM), and total dissolved nitrogen (130.8 µM) concentrations occurred in the South Fork, whereas the highest ammonium (15.4 µM), soluble reactive phosphorus (10.5 µM), and total dissolved phosphorus (13.8 µM) concentrations occurred in the North Fork. High fecal and total coliform counts occurred in tidal creeks adjacent to dense residential areas that rely on septic tanks for on-site sewage disposal. The data suggest that increased stormwater retention, minimization of freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee, and enhanced treatment of both stormwater and sewage are needed to mitigate future stormwater-driven water quality perturbations in the SLE.

ADDITIONAL INDEX WORDS: Rainfall, stormwater, salinity, nitrogen, phosphorus, coliform, bacteria.

INTRODUCTION

The St. Lucie Estuary (SLE) comprises one of the largest estuaries on the east coast of Florida and is a primary tributary

SLE had a relatively small natural watershed. However, the network of locks and water control structures constructed during the past century to allow drainage for expanding urban growth and agriculture has artificially enlarged that

Previous Work



Evidence of sewage-driven eutrophication and harmful algal blooms in Florida's Indian River Lagoon



CrossMark

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Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, Harmful Algal Bloom Program, 5600 US 1 North, Fort Pierce, FL 34946, USA

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ABSTRACT

Nutrient pollution is a primary driver of eutrophication and harmful algal blooms (HABs) in estuaries and coastal waters worldwide. In 2011–2012, 20 sites evenly distributed throughout the 251-km long Indian River Lagoon (IRL) were assessed during three sampling events for dissolved nutrients (DIN, SRP, TDN, TDP) and chlorophyll *a*. Benthic macroalgae were also analyzed for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{15}\text{N}$, and C:N:P contents to identify potential nutrient sources and gauge the type and degree of N and P limitation. The mean DIN and SRP concentrations throughout the IRL were high, averaging 4.24 ± 0.45 and $0.68 \pm 0.06 \mu\text{M}$, respectively, explaining the widespread occurrence of HABs during the study. High TDN concentrations (up to $152 \mu\text{M}$) and TDN:TDP ratios ($>100:1$) in the poorly flushed northern IRL, Mosquito Lagoon and Banana River segments reflected the accumulation and cycling of N-rich groundwater inputs that produce P-limitation. These enriched nutrient conditions were associated with unprecedented chlorophyll *a* concentrations ($>100 \mu\text{g/L}$), dominated by *Resultor* sp. Ø. Moestrup in the Banana River in 2011 and *Aureoumbra lagunensis* D.A. Stockwell, DeYoe, Hargraves and P.W. Johnson in the Mosquito Lagoon and northern IRL in 2012. C:N, C:P, and N:P ratios in macroalgae averaged 15.9, 698.9, and 40.6, throughout the

Previous Work

**2015 MARTIN COUNTY
WATERSHED TO REEF SEPTIC STUDY**
FINAL REPORT



Prepared by:
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Fort Pierce, FL 34946

For:
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Martin County Utilities Department
2401 S.E. Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida 34996

March 4, 2016

Nutrient Loads At the IRLON Sites

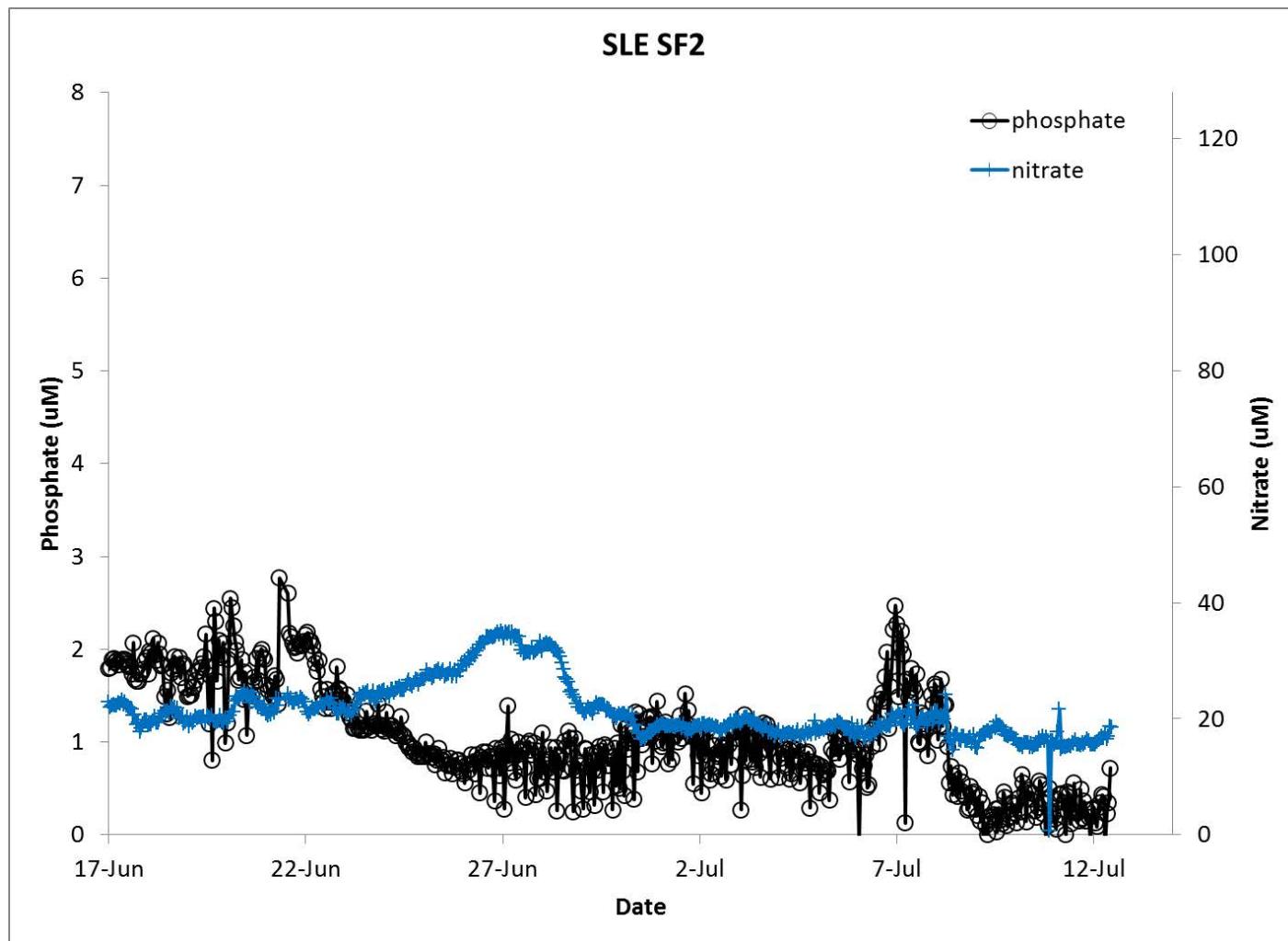
- Phosphate and Nitrate In Situ Data
- Redfield Ratios:
 - Molar Ratio of Phytoplankton: Single cell plants in water
 - 16 Atoms of Nitrogen (N, NO₃) for every atom of Phosphorus (P, PO₄)
- Blue Green Algae tend to out-compete when phosphate (PO₄) is abundant



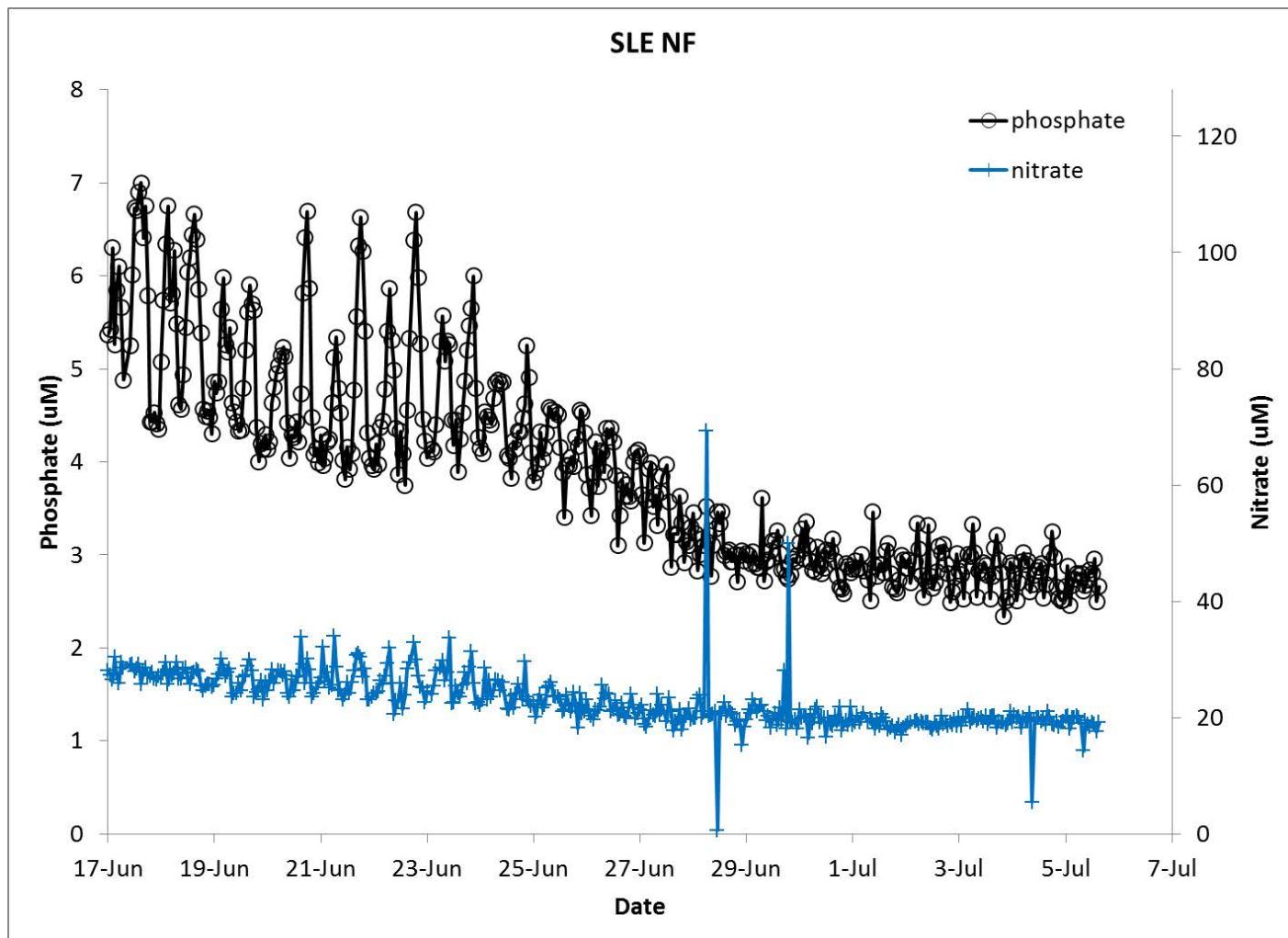
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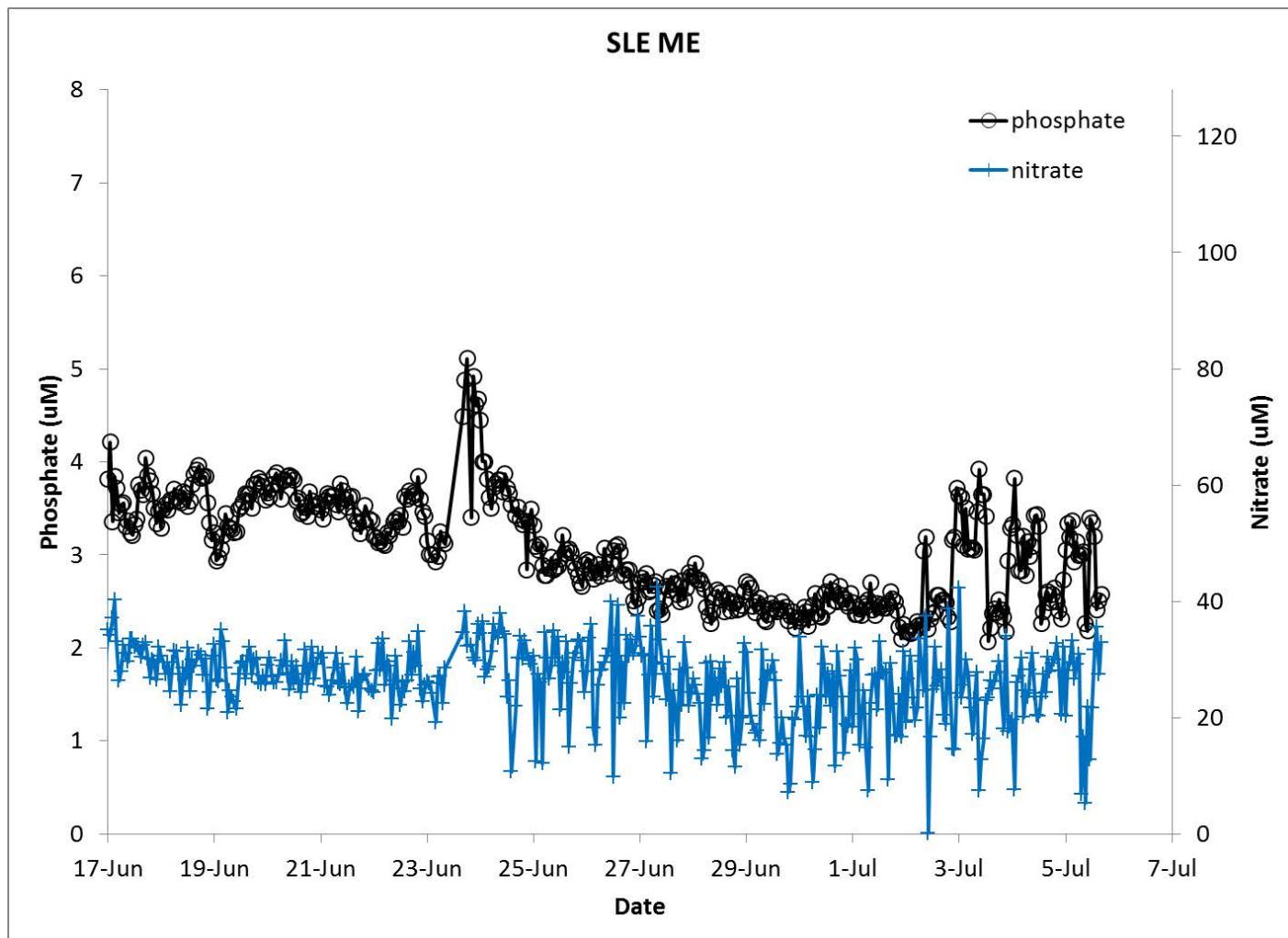
Nutrient Dynamics

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Nutrient Dynamics



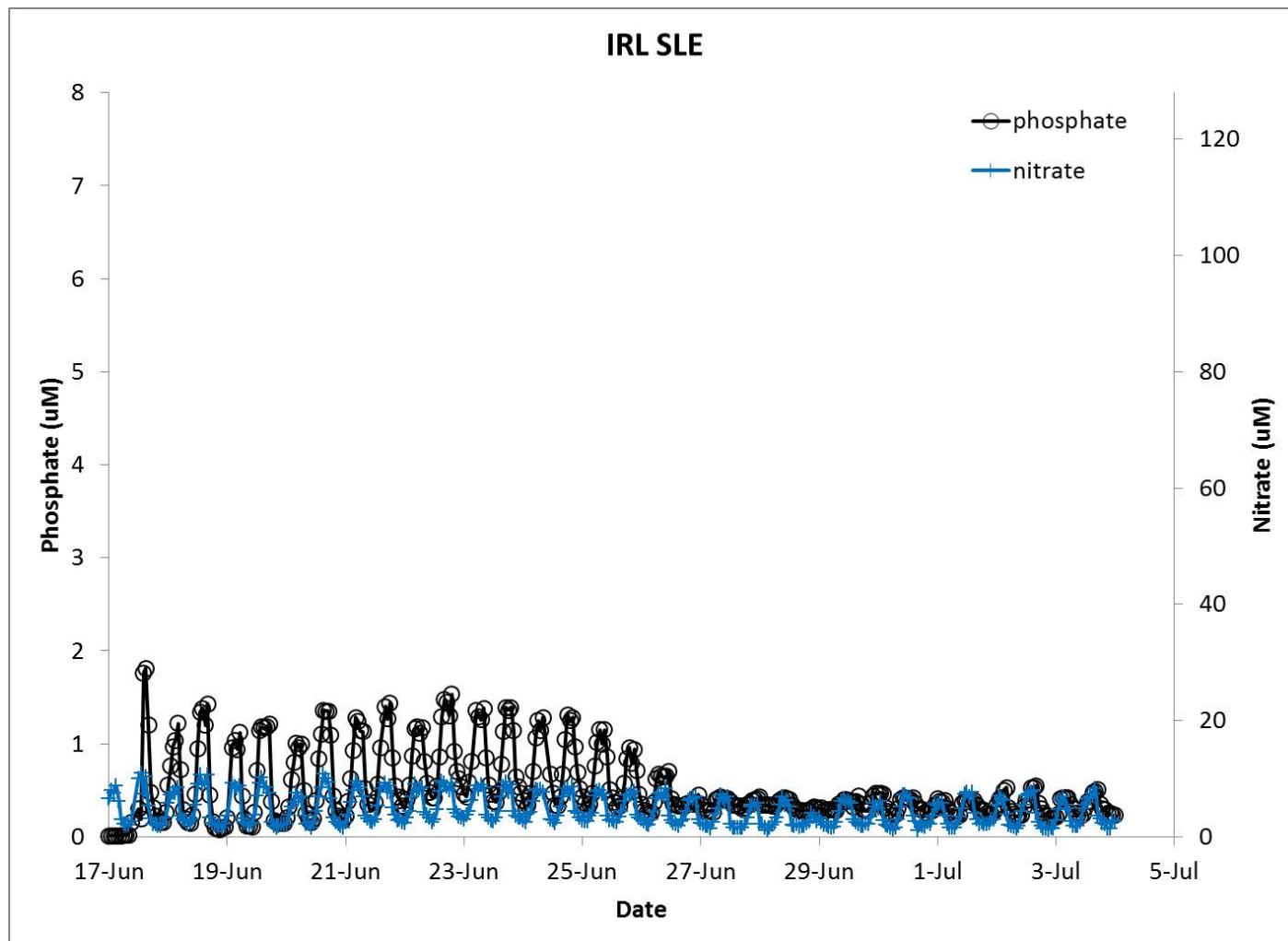




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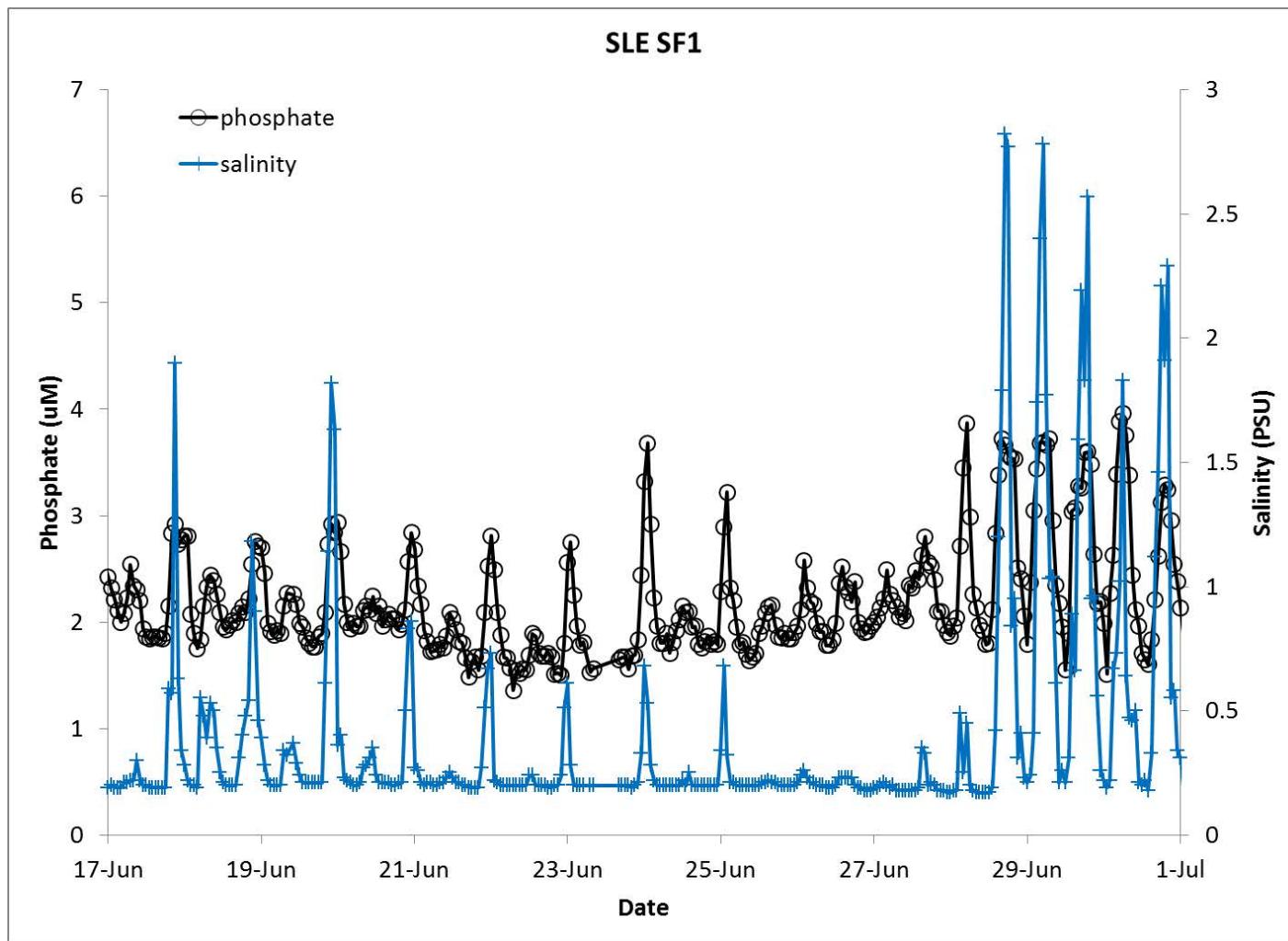
Nutrient Dynamics

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Curious Spikes at the South Fork LOBO

- Positive correlations between
 - Salinity
 - CDOM
 - Phosphate

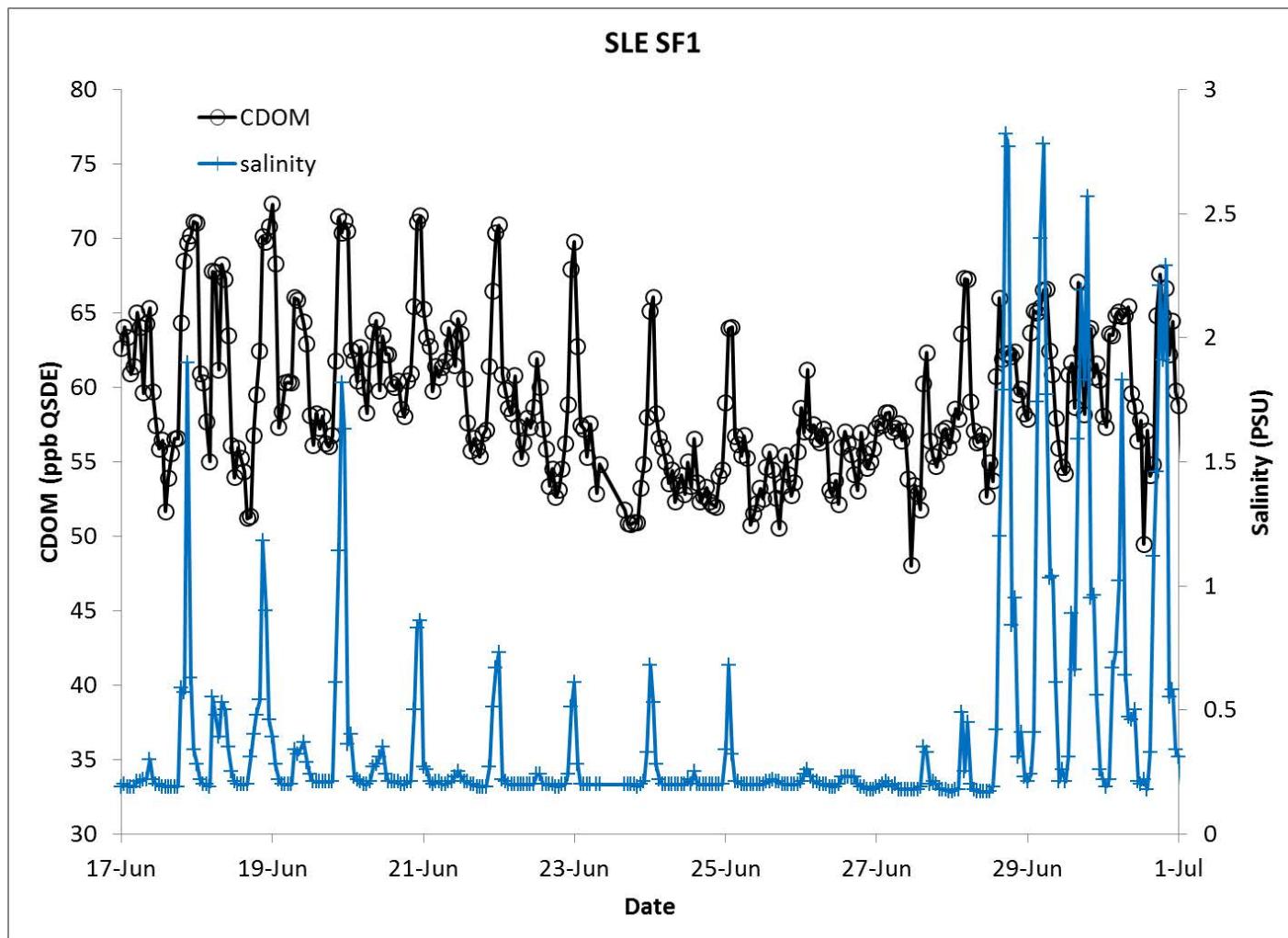




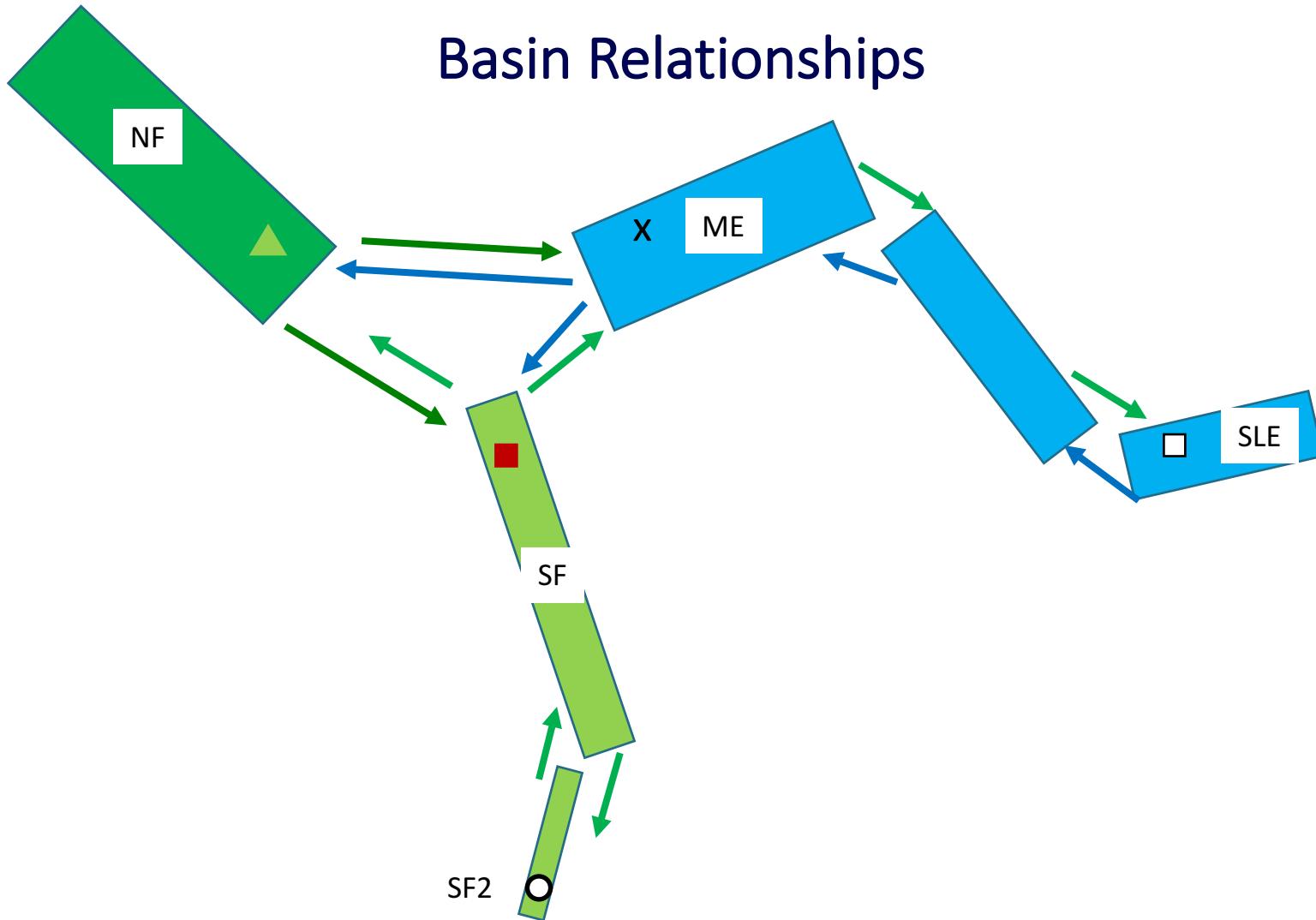
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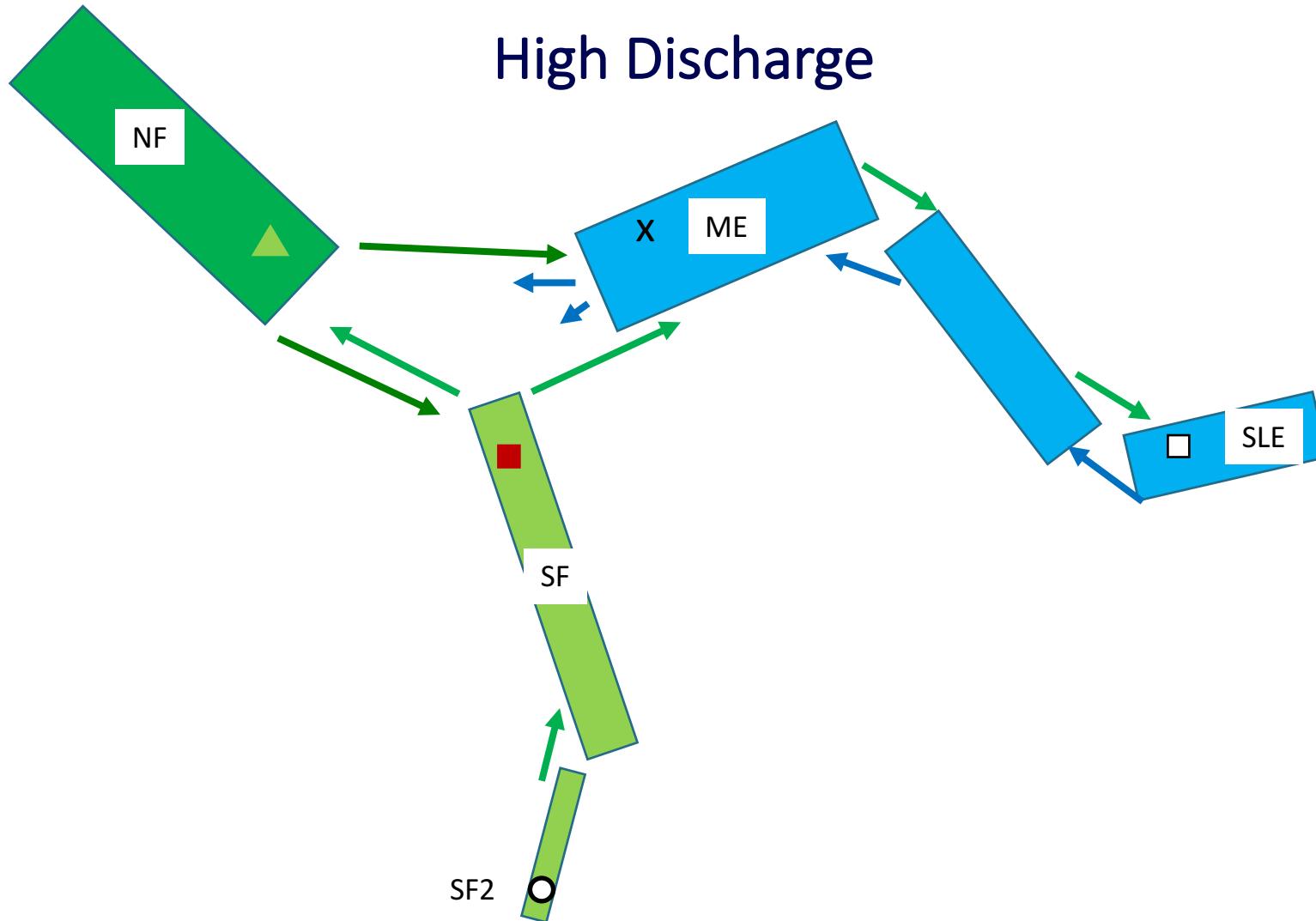
Nutrient Dynamics

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Basin Relationships





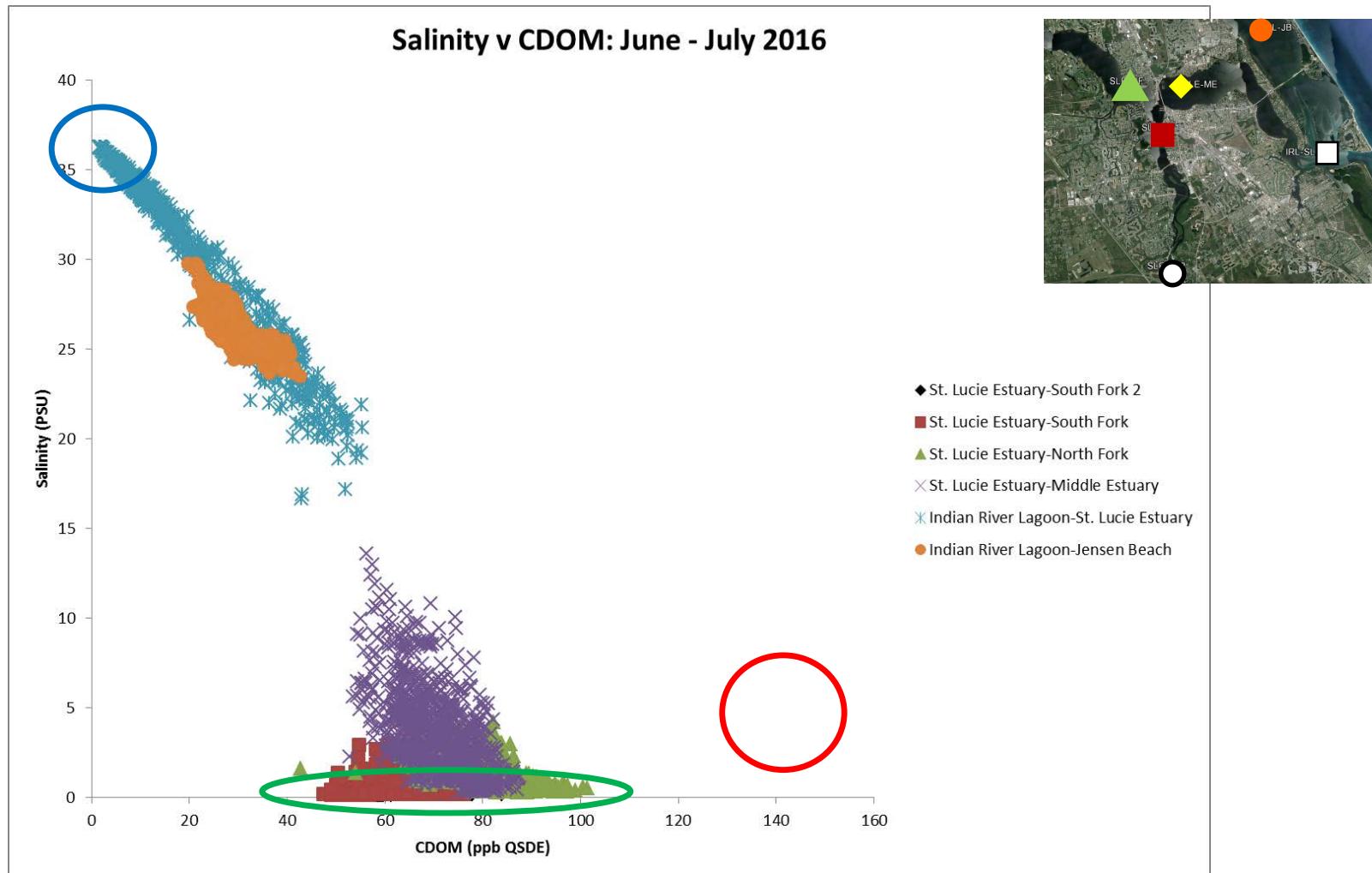


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2016 Algal Blooms

SCIENCE

Got muck? Florida residents can report algae blooms with new hotline.

After declaring a state of emergency this week, Florida officials have turned to citizens to help control the outbreak.

By APNewsNow, Associated Press | JULY 5, 2016



Algae Bloom Prompts Florida State of Emergency
AP



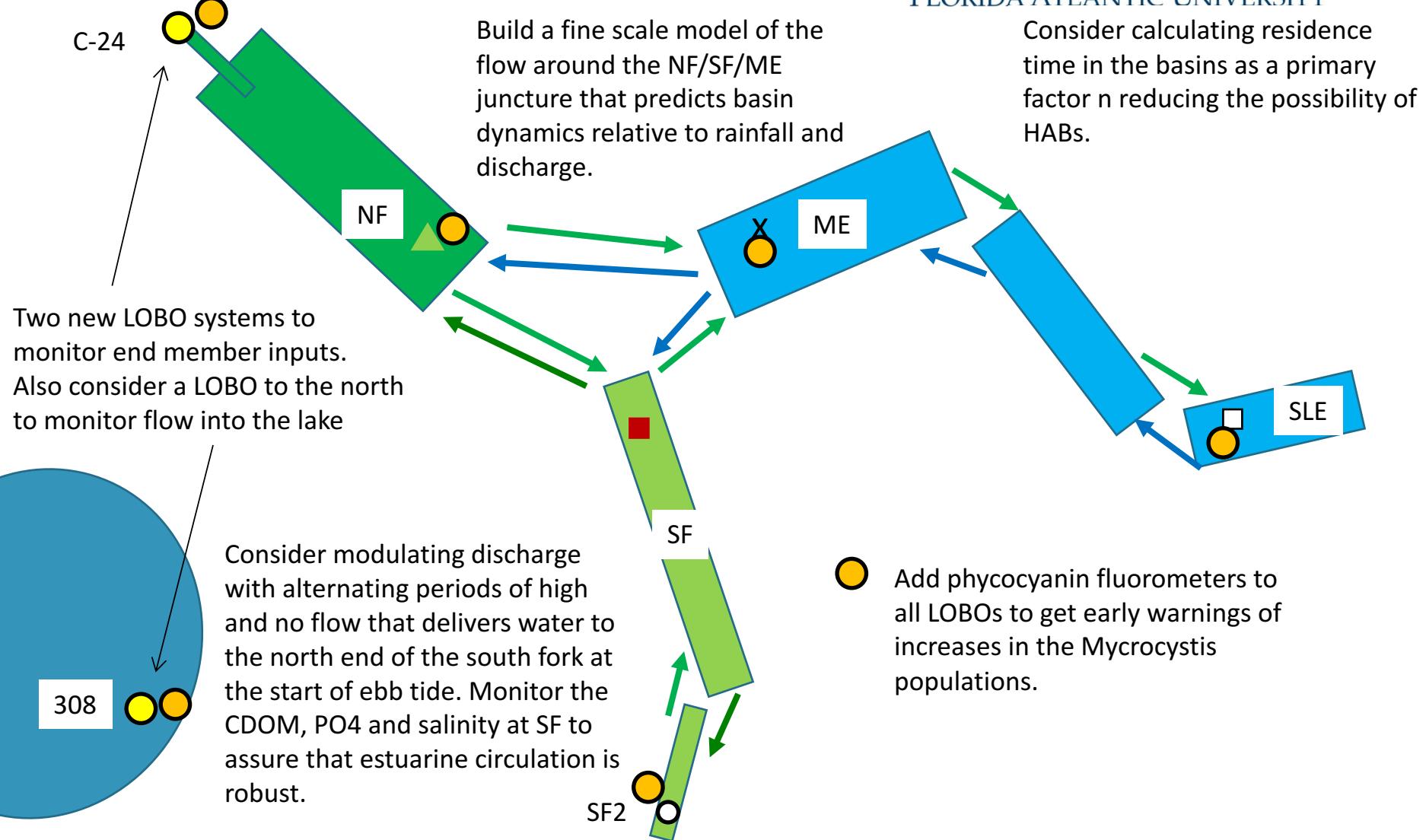
A video thumbnail showing a boat docked at a pier covered in green algae. The video title is "Algae Bloom Prompts Florida State of Emergency" and it is from AP. A play button icon is overlaid on the video frame. Below the video, there is a navigation bar with "1 of 2" and arrows.



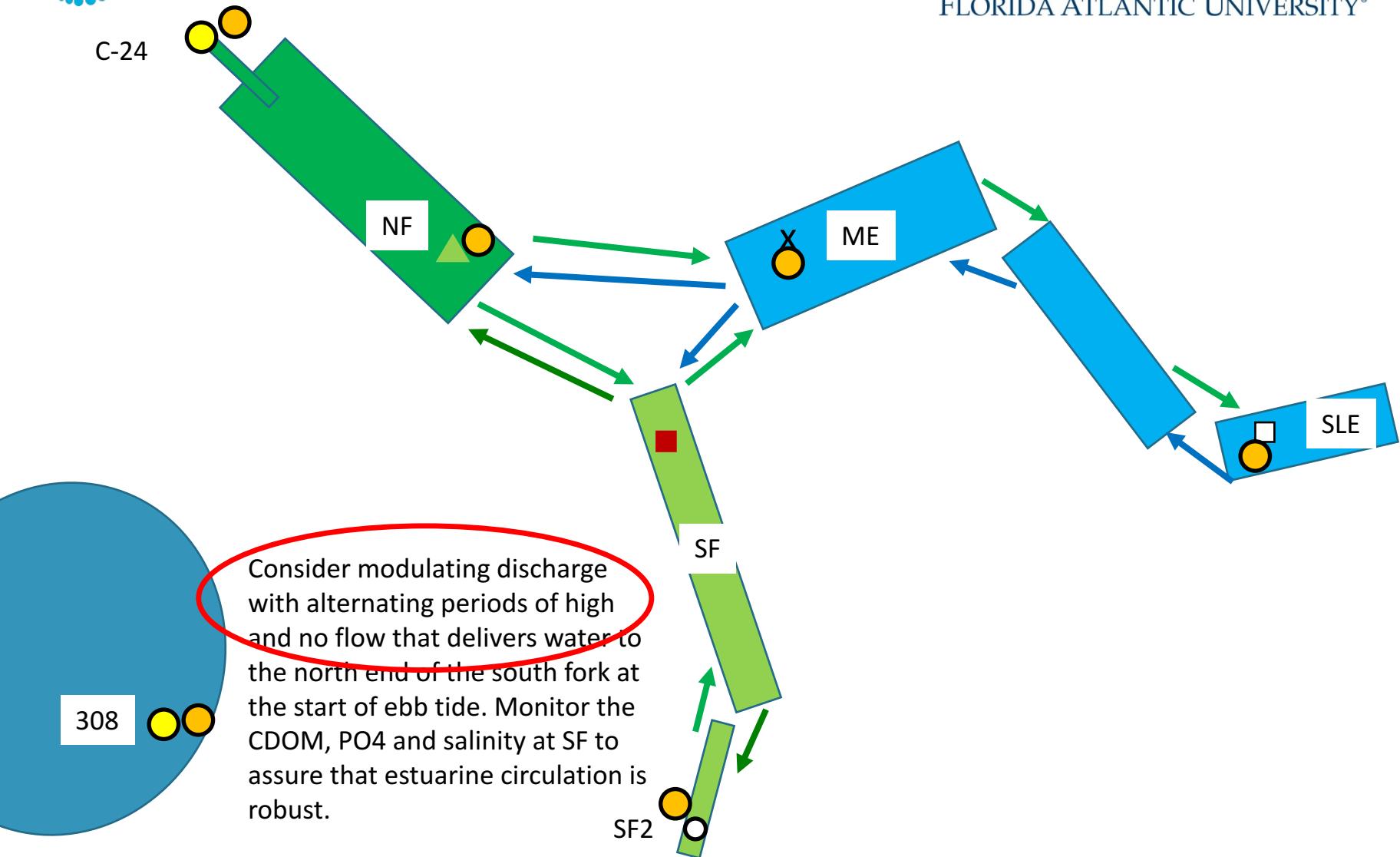
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The state has launched a hotline to help residents give updates on the massive algae bloom fouling some of Florida's southern rivers and beaches.

Residents can call a toll-free at 1-855-305-3903 or report information online at www.reportalgalbloom.com. The smelly muck comes just in time for the holiday weekend.

Recommendations

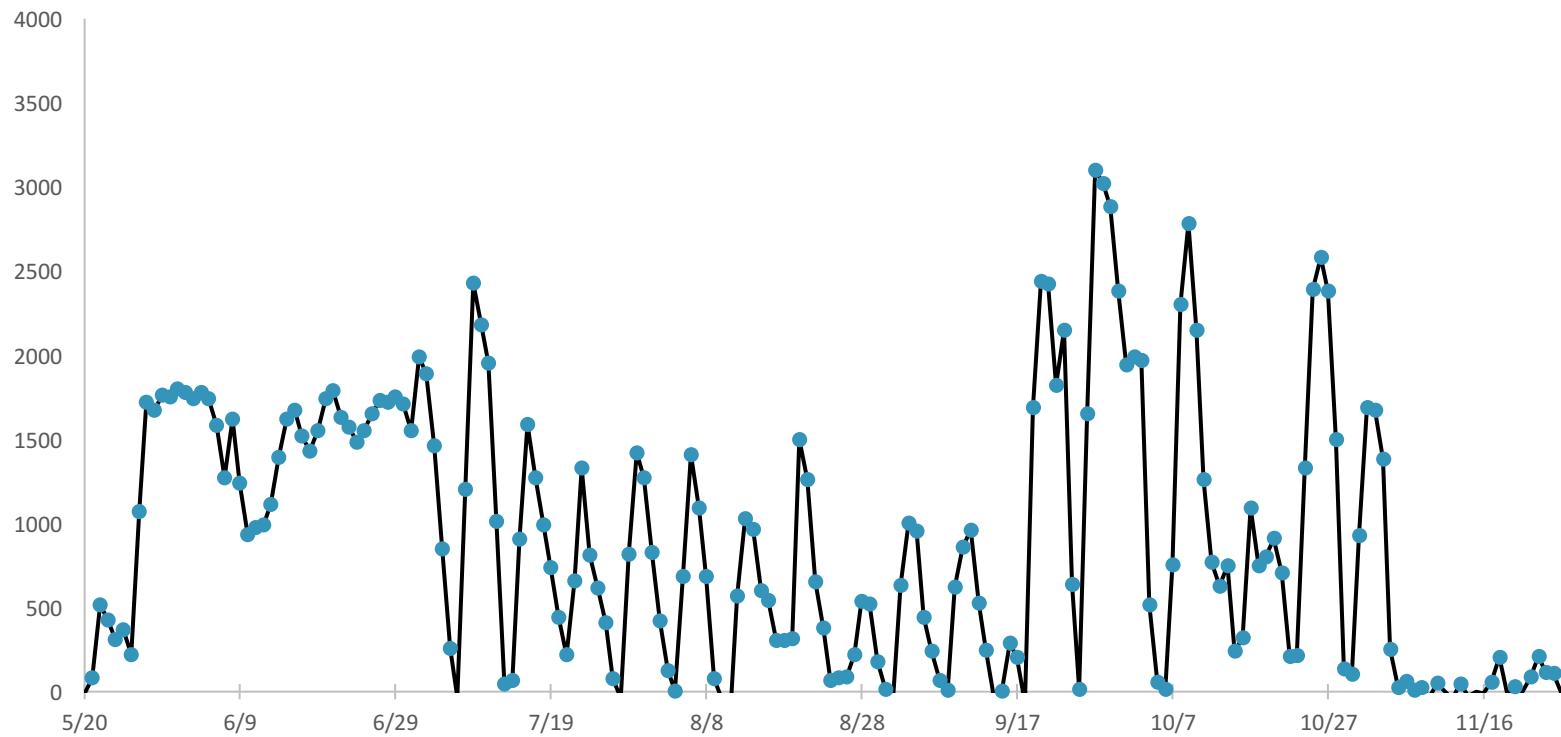


Recommendations



Flow From Lake

2016 S-308 Discharge (ft³/sec)

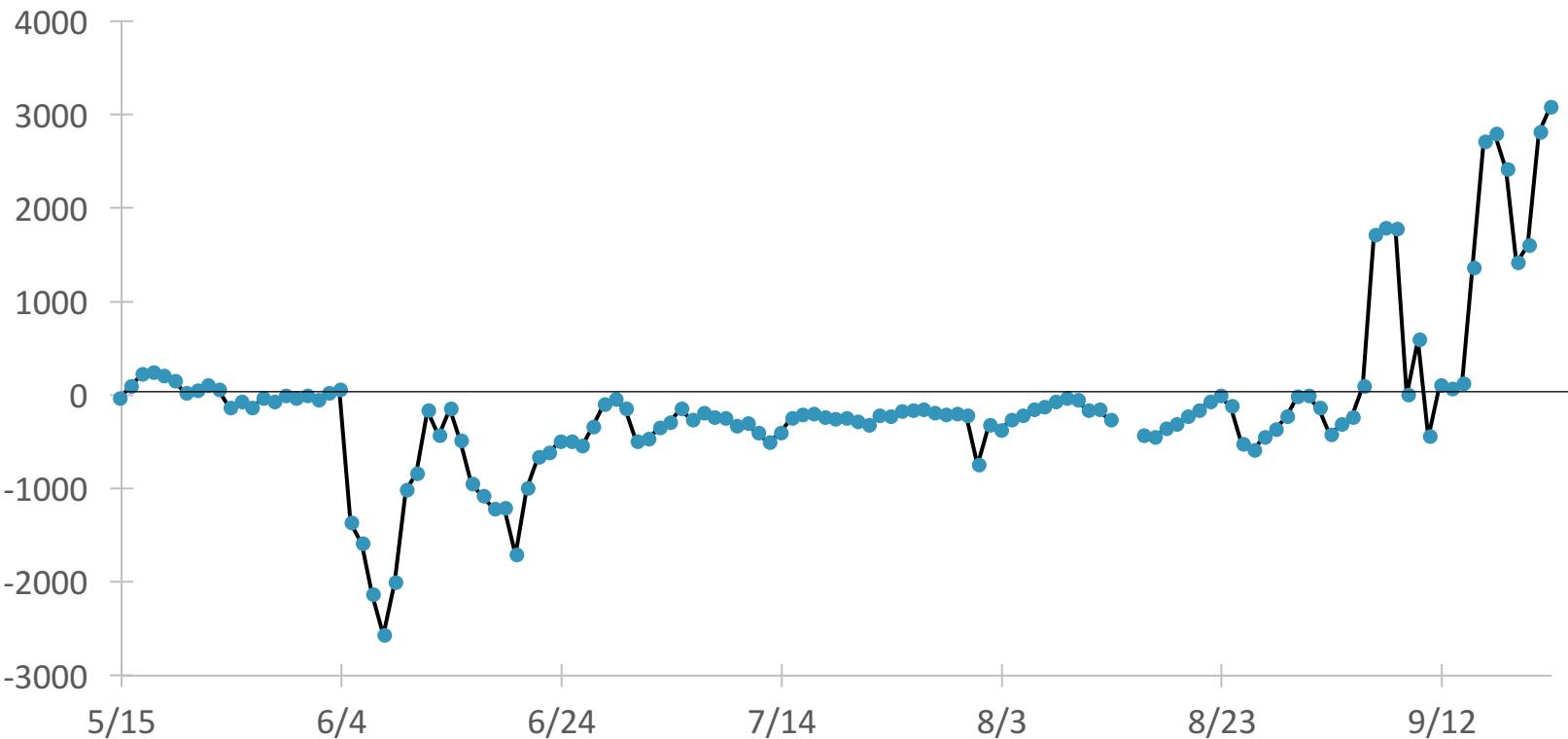


https://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/wys_rpt/?site_no=02276877&agency_cd=USGS

Summary

- Live data from IRLON drives understanding of the estuary
- Discharges from Lake Okeechobee alter estuarine circulation
- Higher freshwater residence time and excess phosphate leads to blooms

2017 S-308 Discharge (ft³/sec)



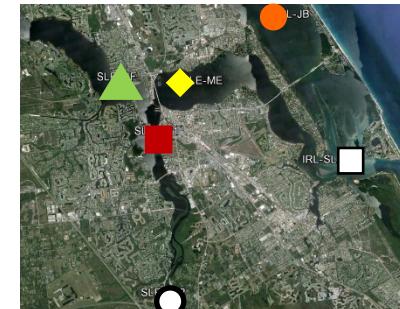
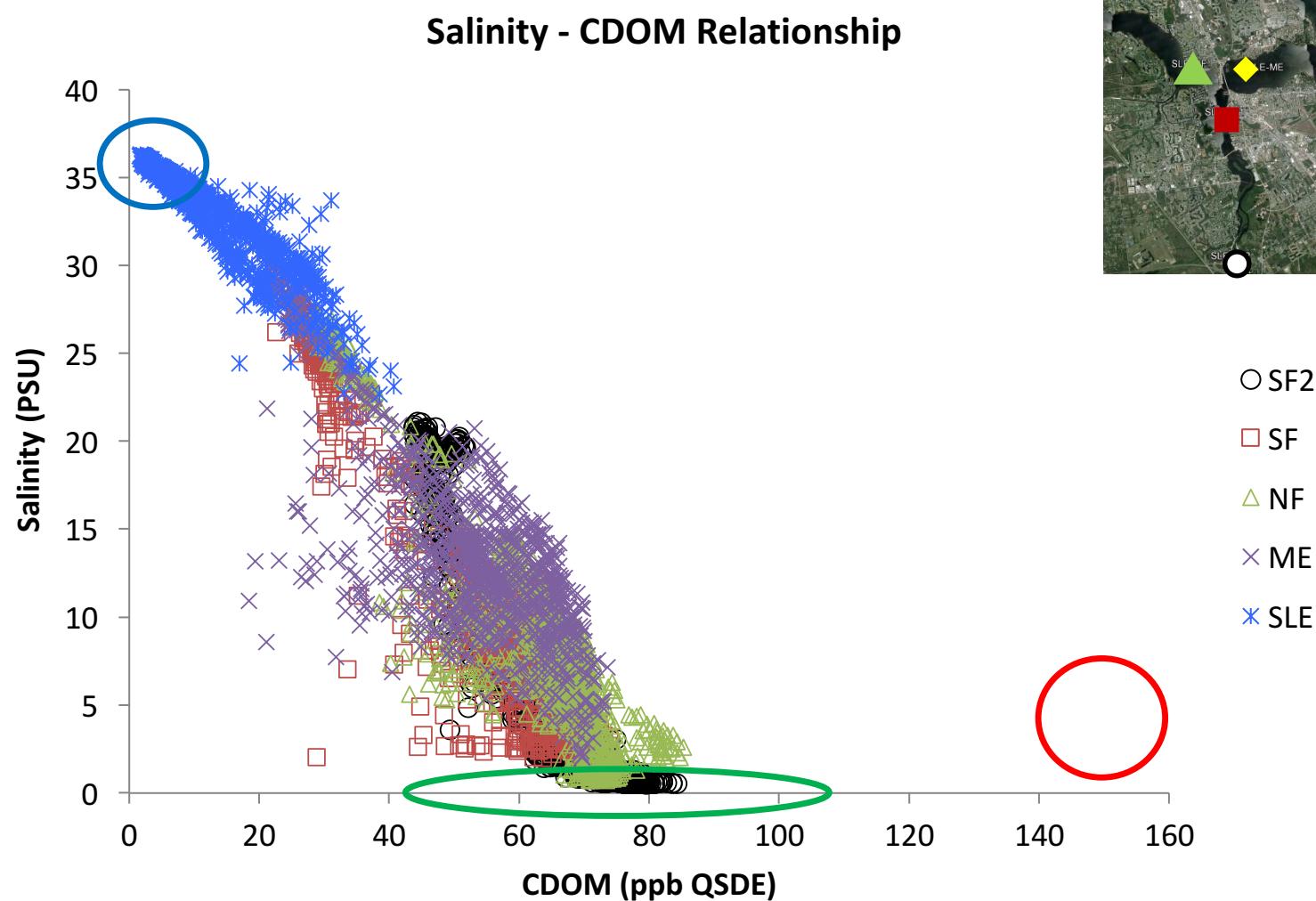
REMARKS - Flow regulated by control structure 308 gates and lock at Lake Okeechobee. Flow frequently reverses during and after periods of heavy rainfall by pumpage into the canal from agricultural lands in the Everglades (negative figures indicate reverse flow towards Lake Okeechobee).



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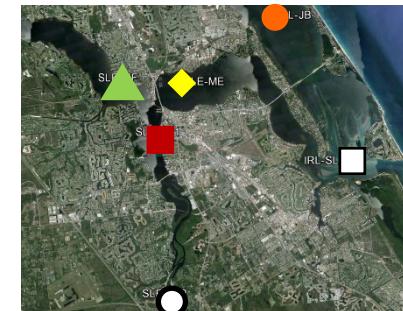
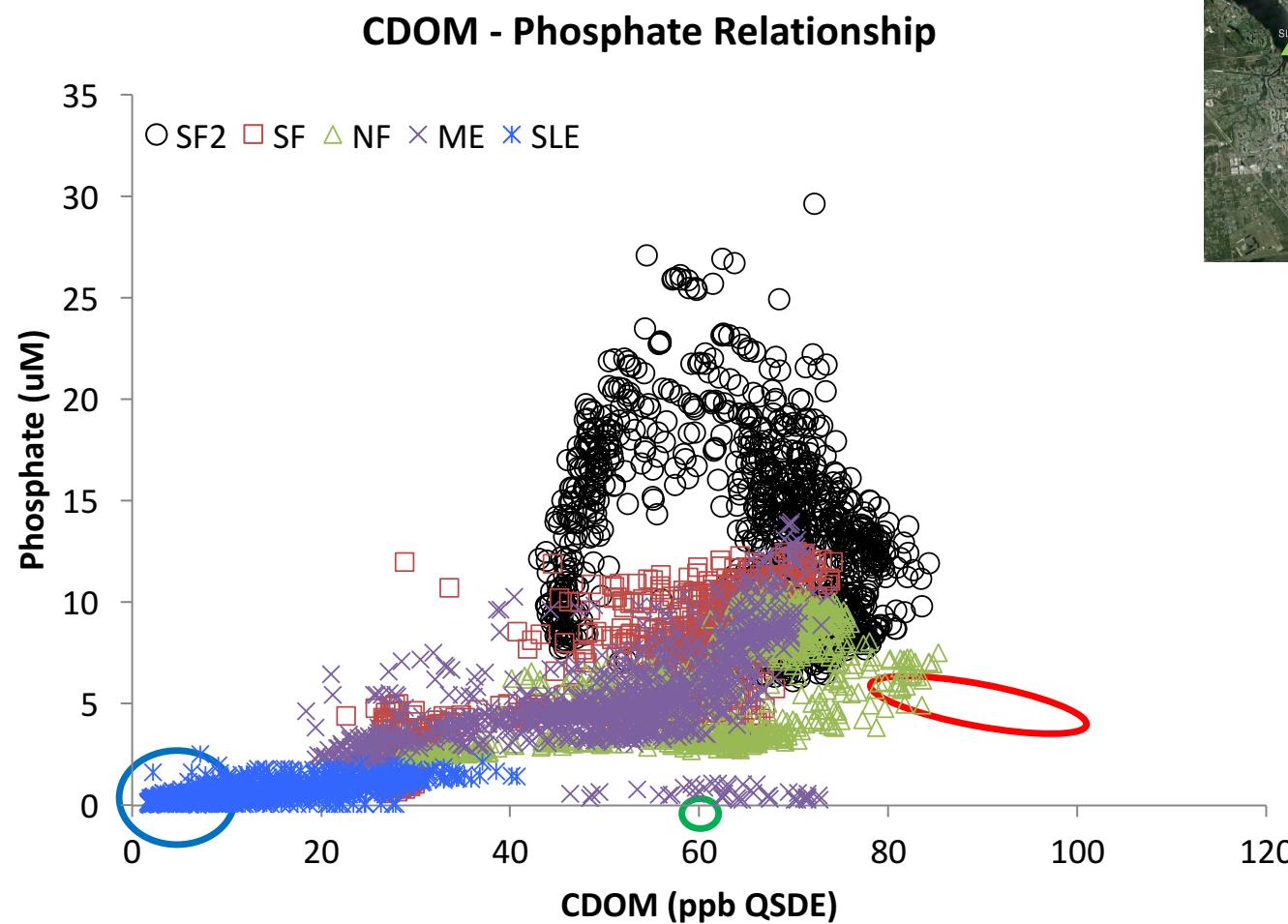
- SF2
- SF
- △ NF
- × ME
- * SLE

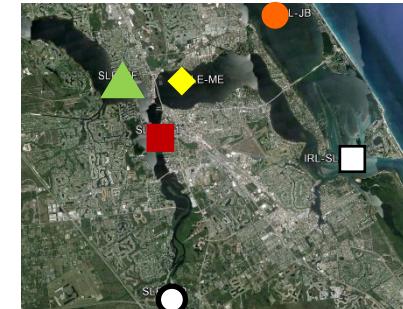
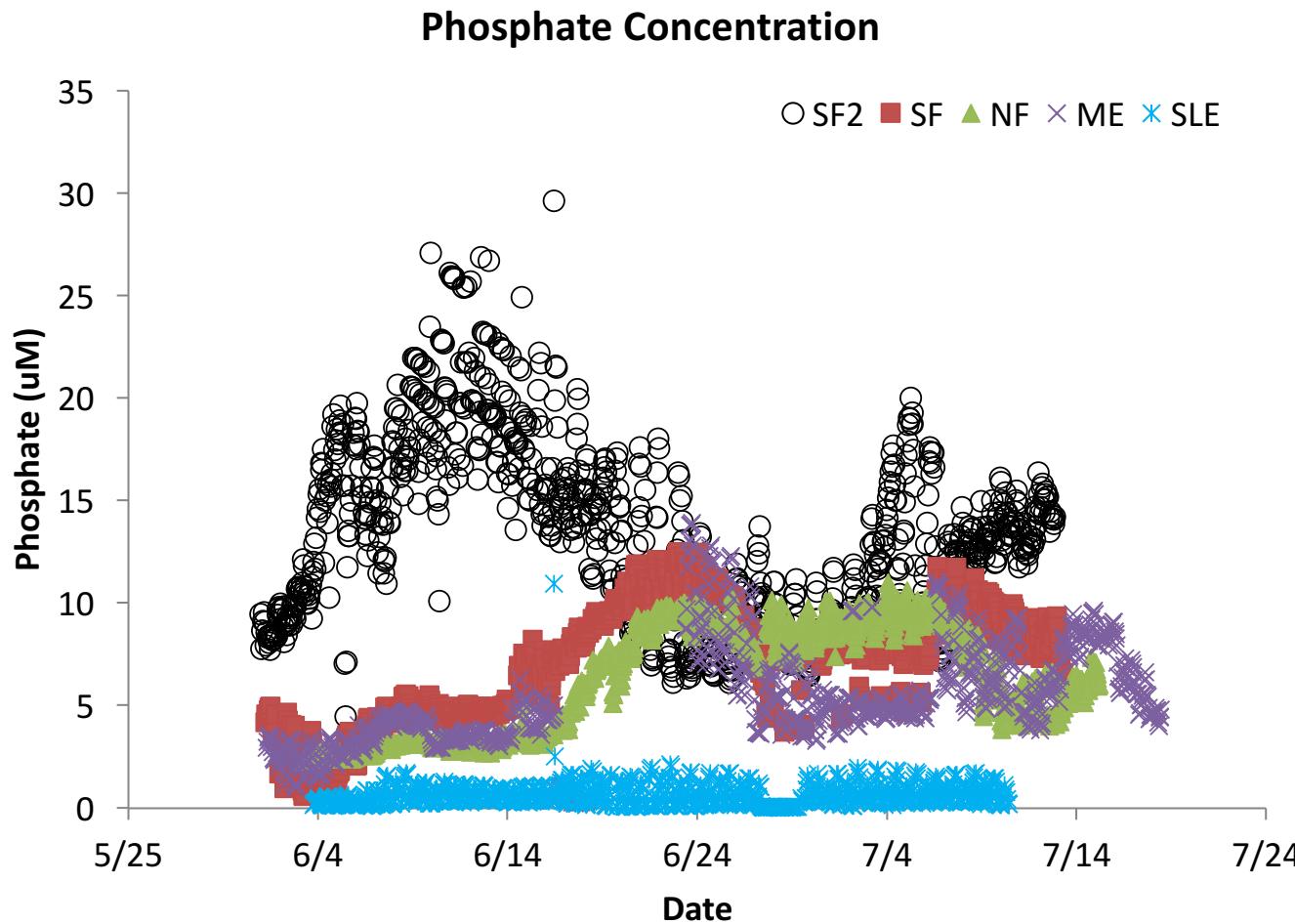


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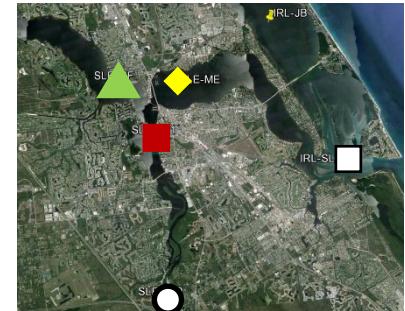
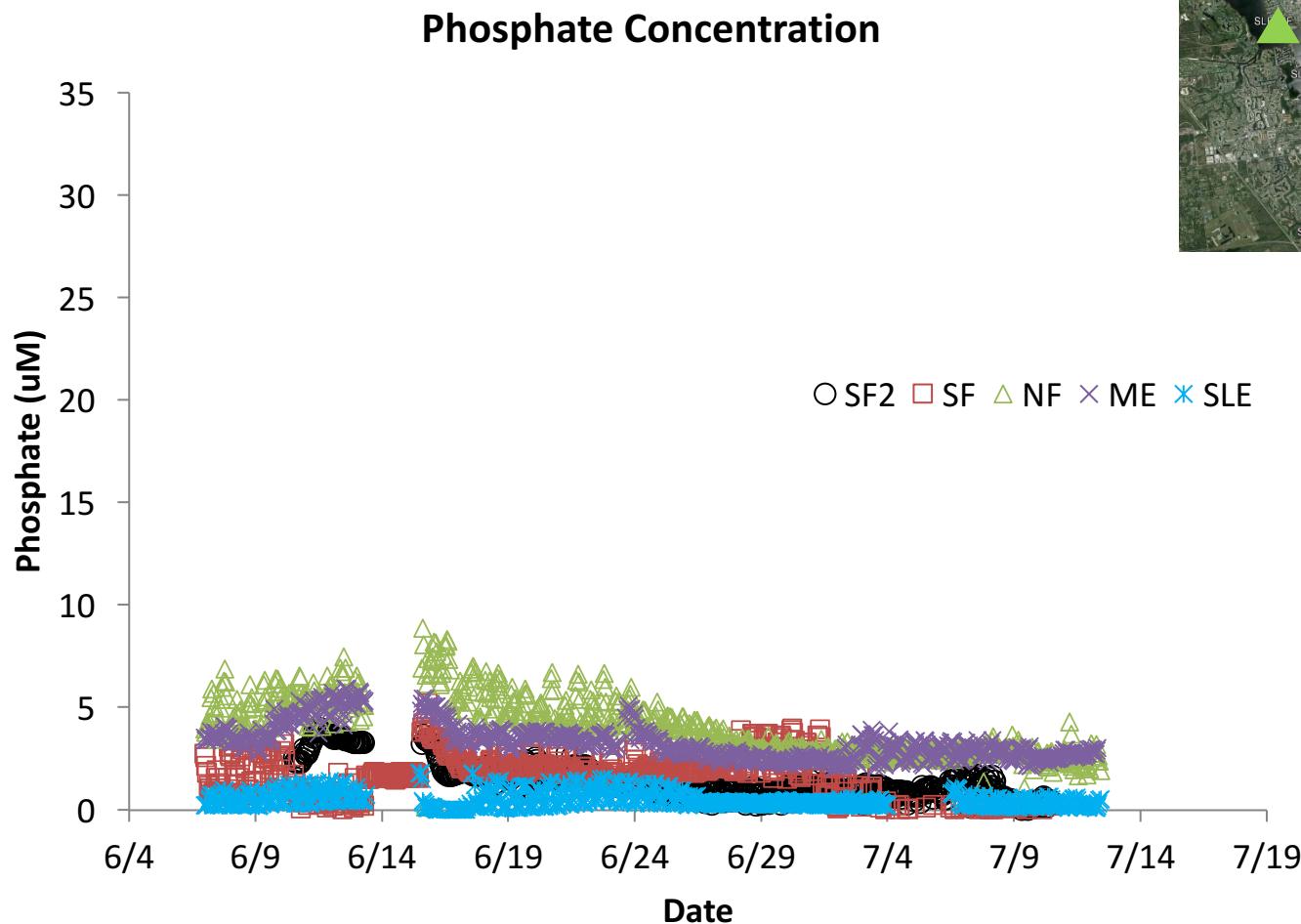
June-July 2017

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June-July 2016

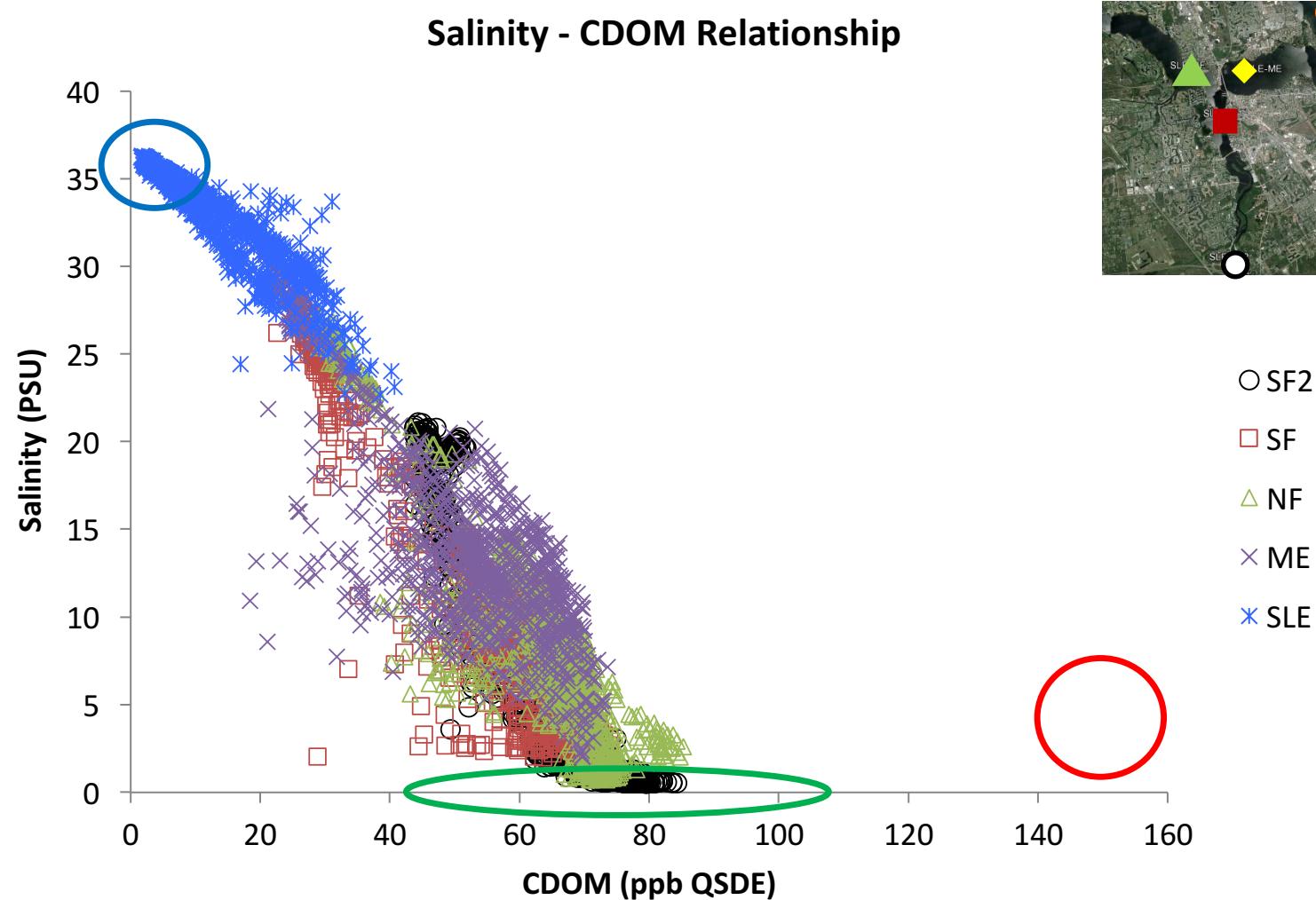




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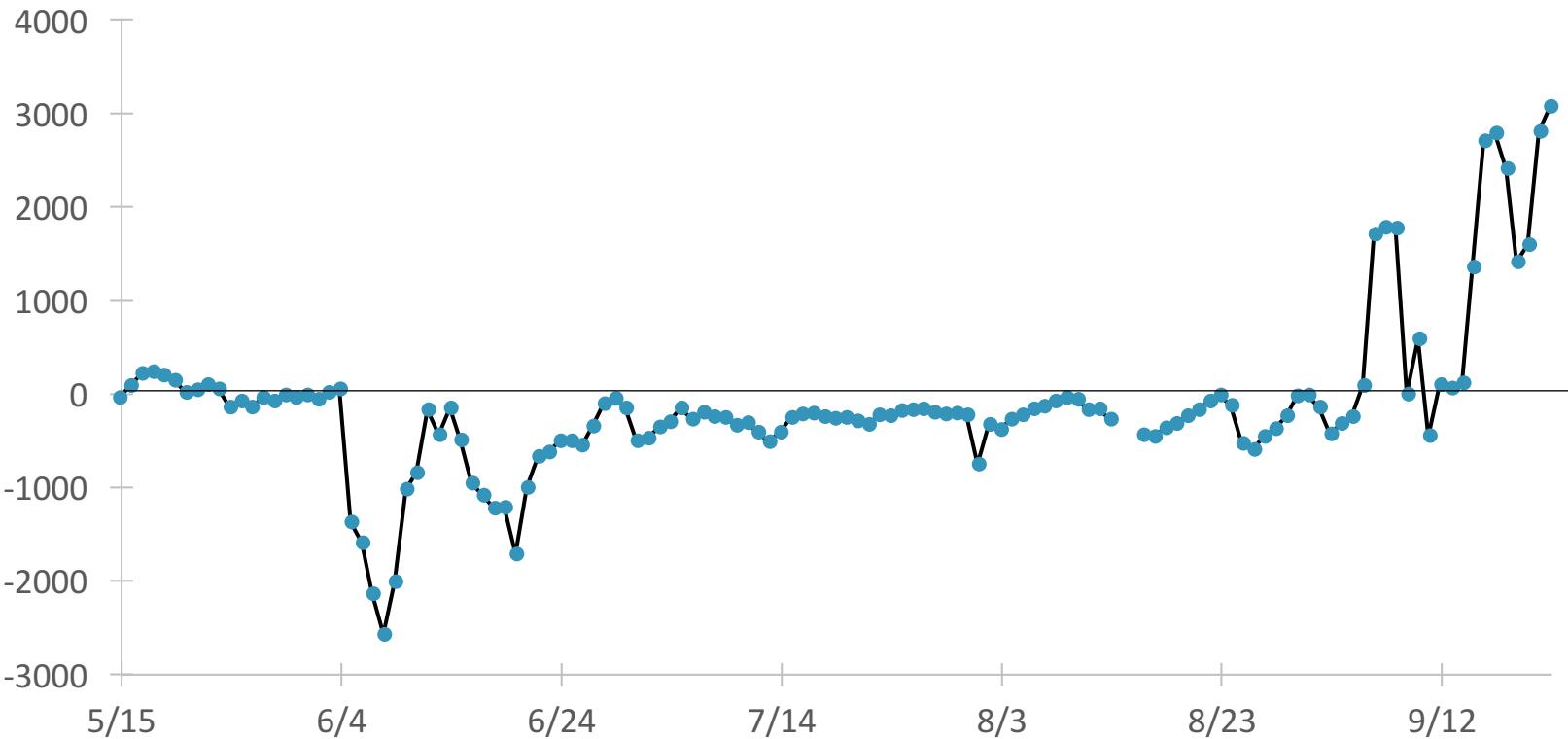


- SF2
- SF
- △ NF
- × ME
- * SLE

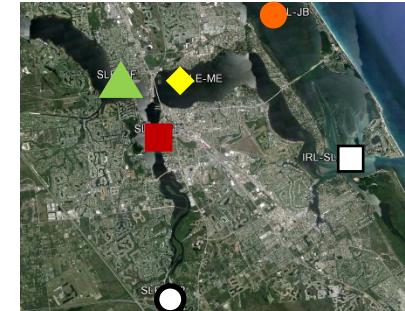
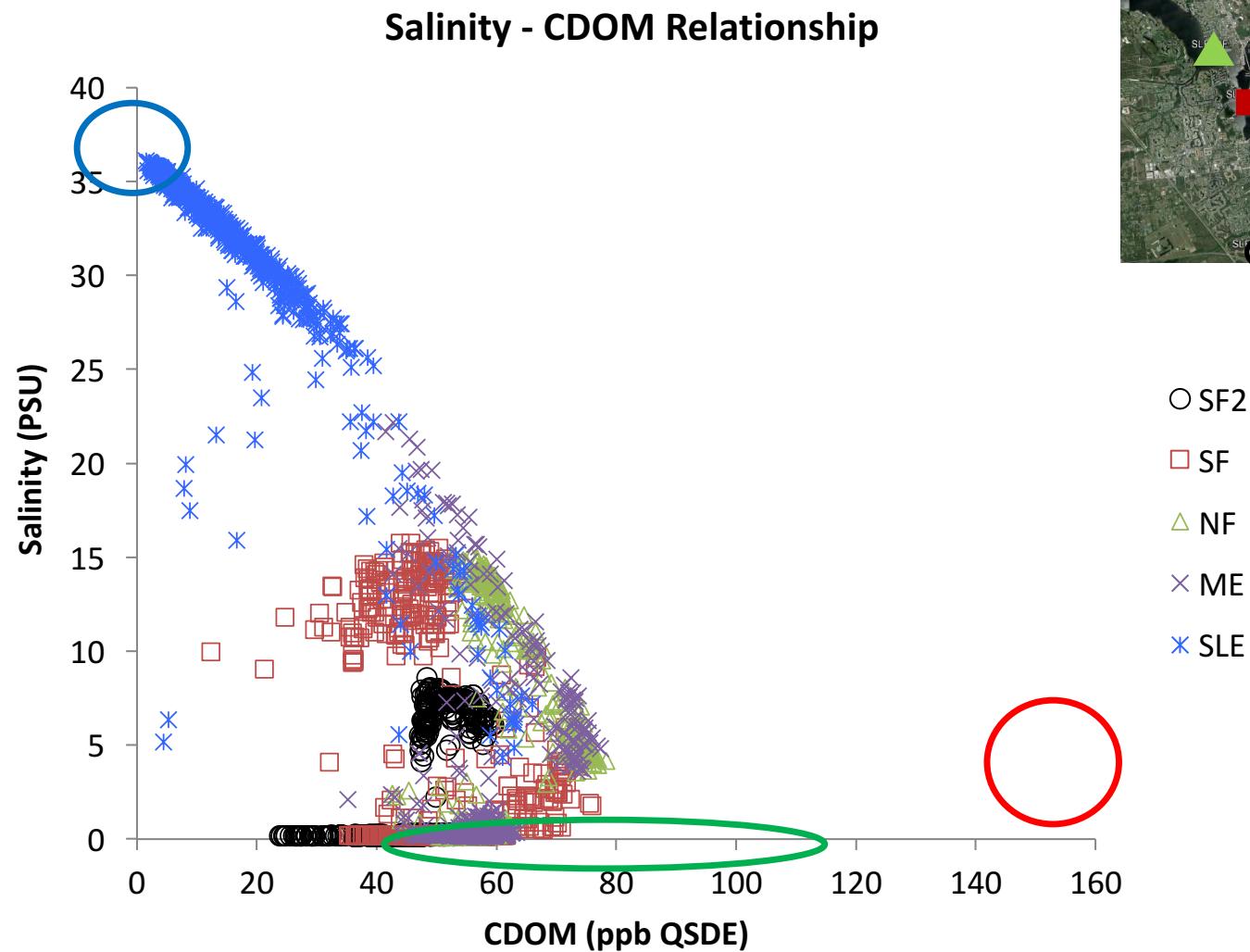
Summer 2017

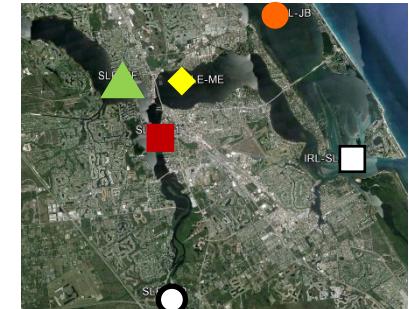
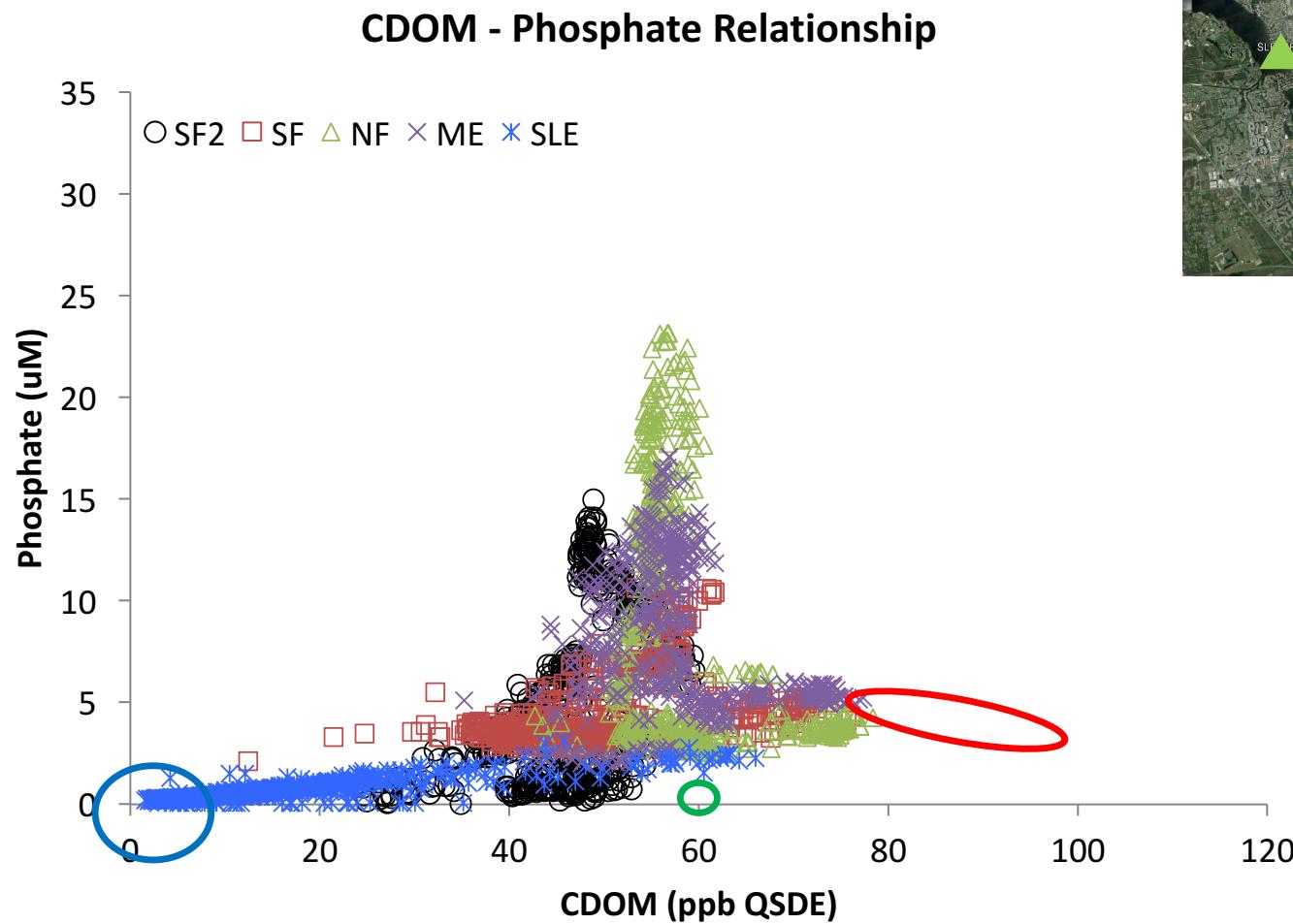
- Higher nutrient concentrations did not lead to HAB event
- Residence Time – Tidal flushing is more important than nutrient loading

2017 S-308 Discharge (ft³/sec)

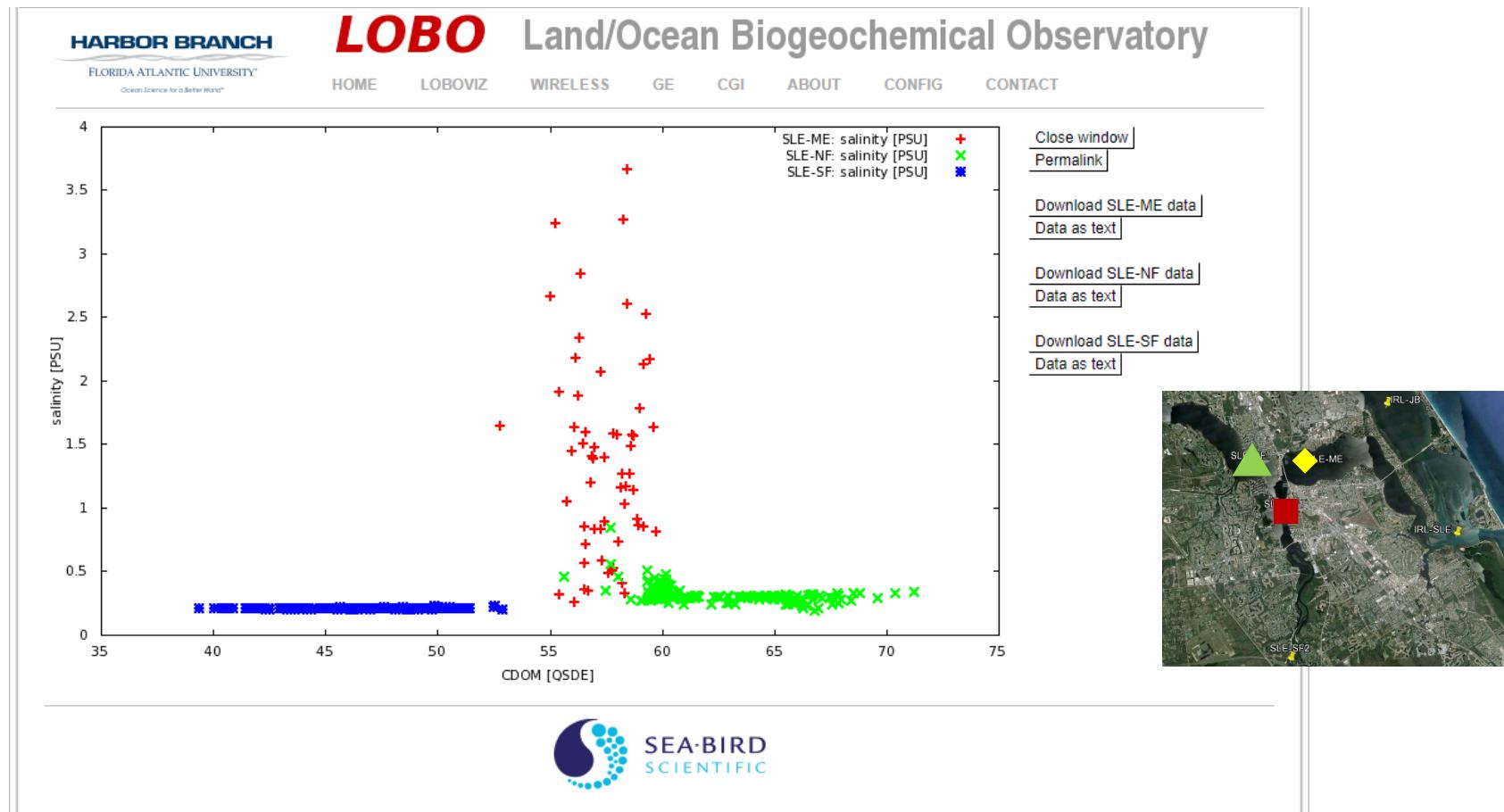


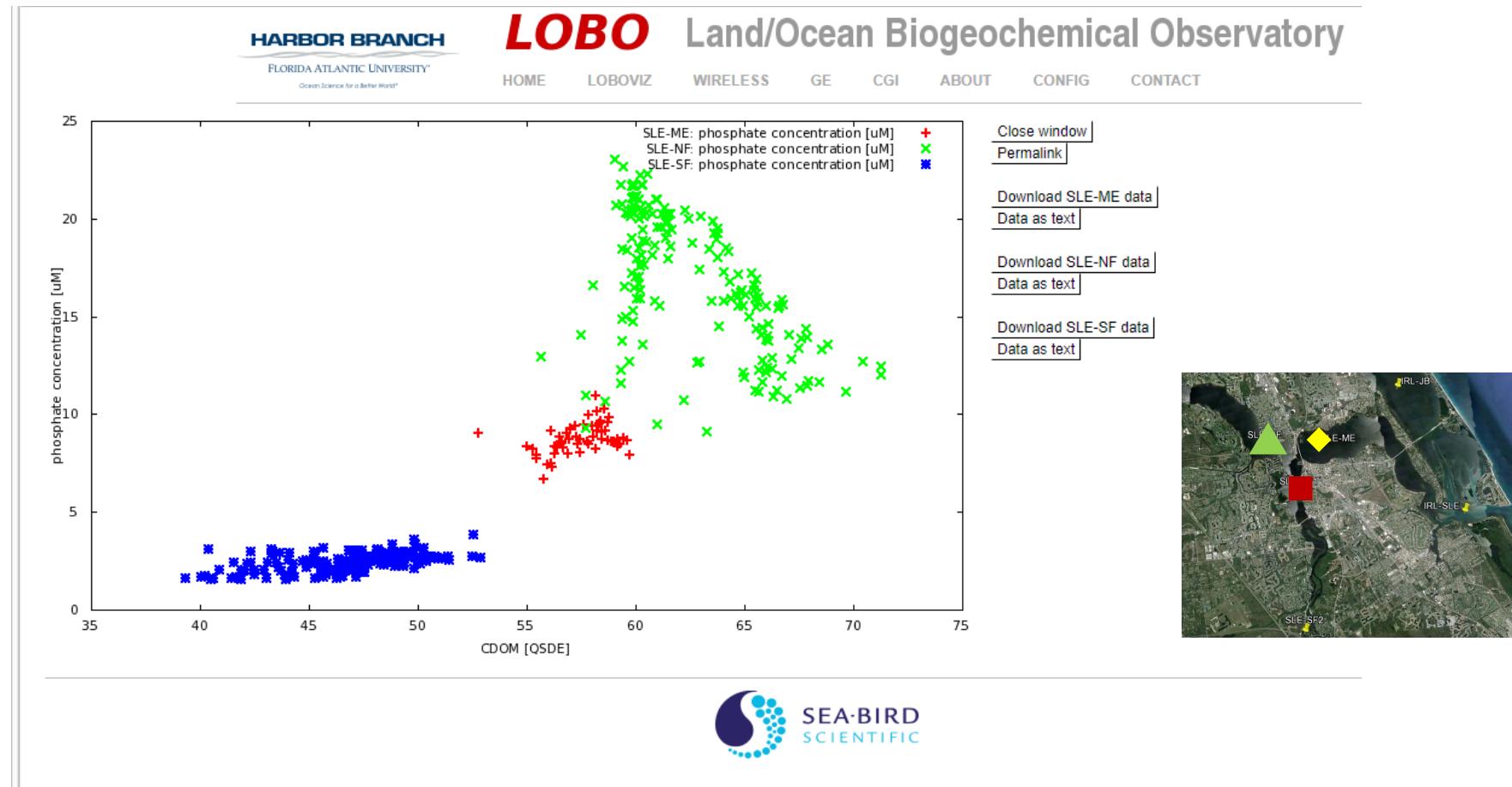
REMARKS - Flow regulated by control structure 308 gates and lock at Lake Okeechobee. Flow frequently reverses during and after periods of heavy rainfall by pumpage into the canal from agricultural lands in the Everglades (negative figures indicate reverse flow towards Lake Okeechobee).





Last Week







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Last Week

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