



Calusa Waterkeeper Advocacy



Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS)

- **Filed 60 day NOI 12-19-18**
 - **ACOE, USFWS, NMFS**

WOTUS Rule Change

- **Major Waterkeeper Alliance initiative in opposition to WOTUS proposed change**
- **Major loss of wetland protection in Florida if revised as proposed**

Florida Basin Management Action Plans

- Load reduction allocations are based on outdated land use
- Inadequate flow monitoring to enable loading estimates
- Pollutant trends are largely up
- No clear compliance threshold

Watershed Acres under Active Basin Management (through November 2016)

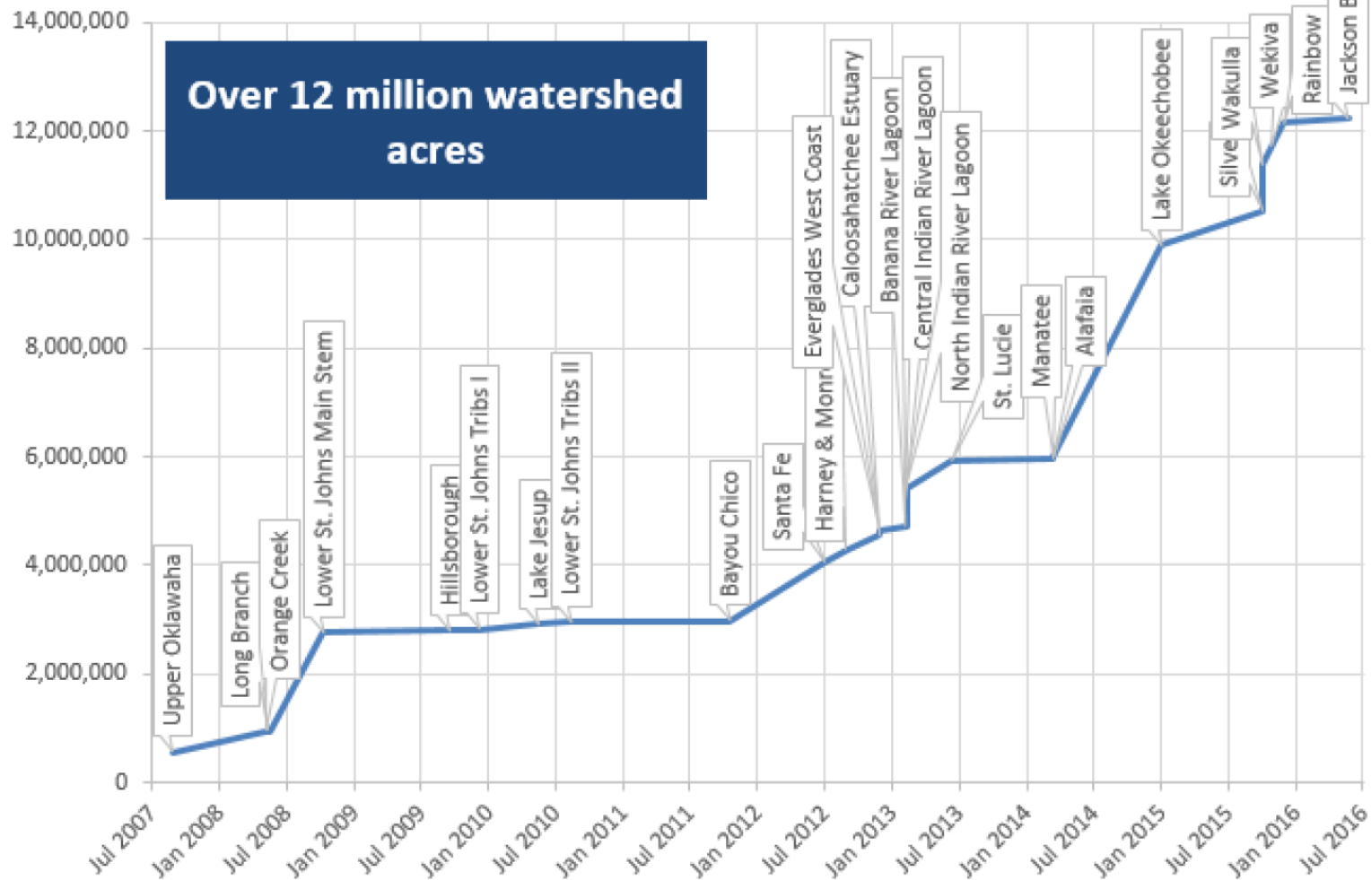


Figure 5.1. Number of acres covered by BMAPs

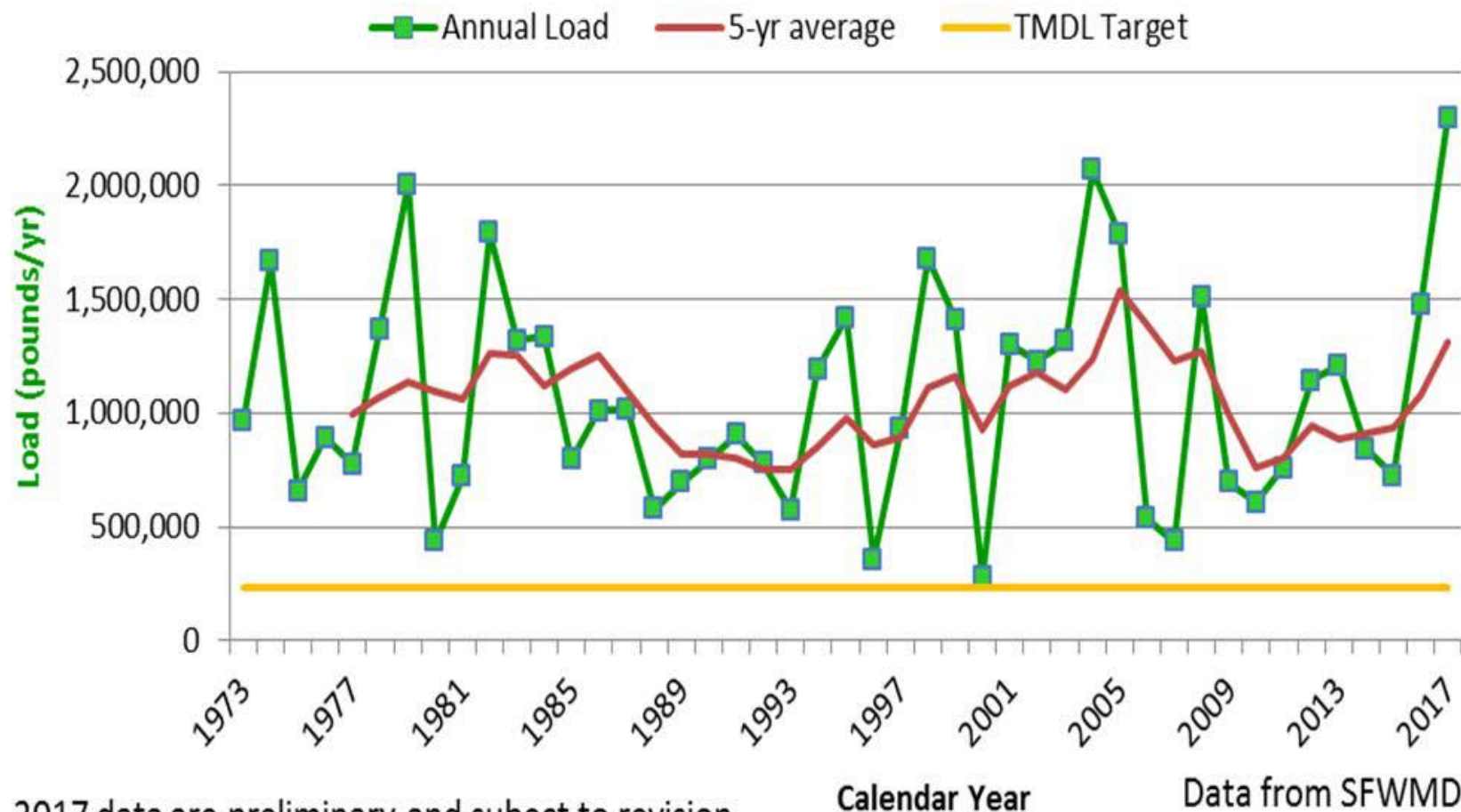
Lake Okeechobee BMAP

- No progress toward P load reduction
- 2016 legislation SB 552 extended compliance deadline
- Agriculture is largest contributor
- Agriculture BMPs are not working



Total Phosphorus Loads to Lake Okeechobee

(excludes atmospheric deposition)

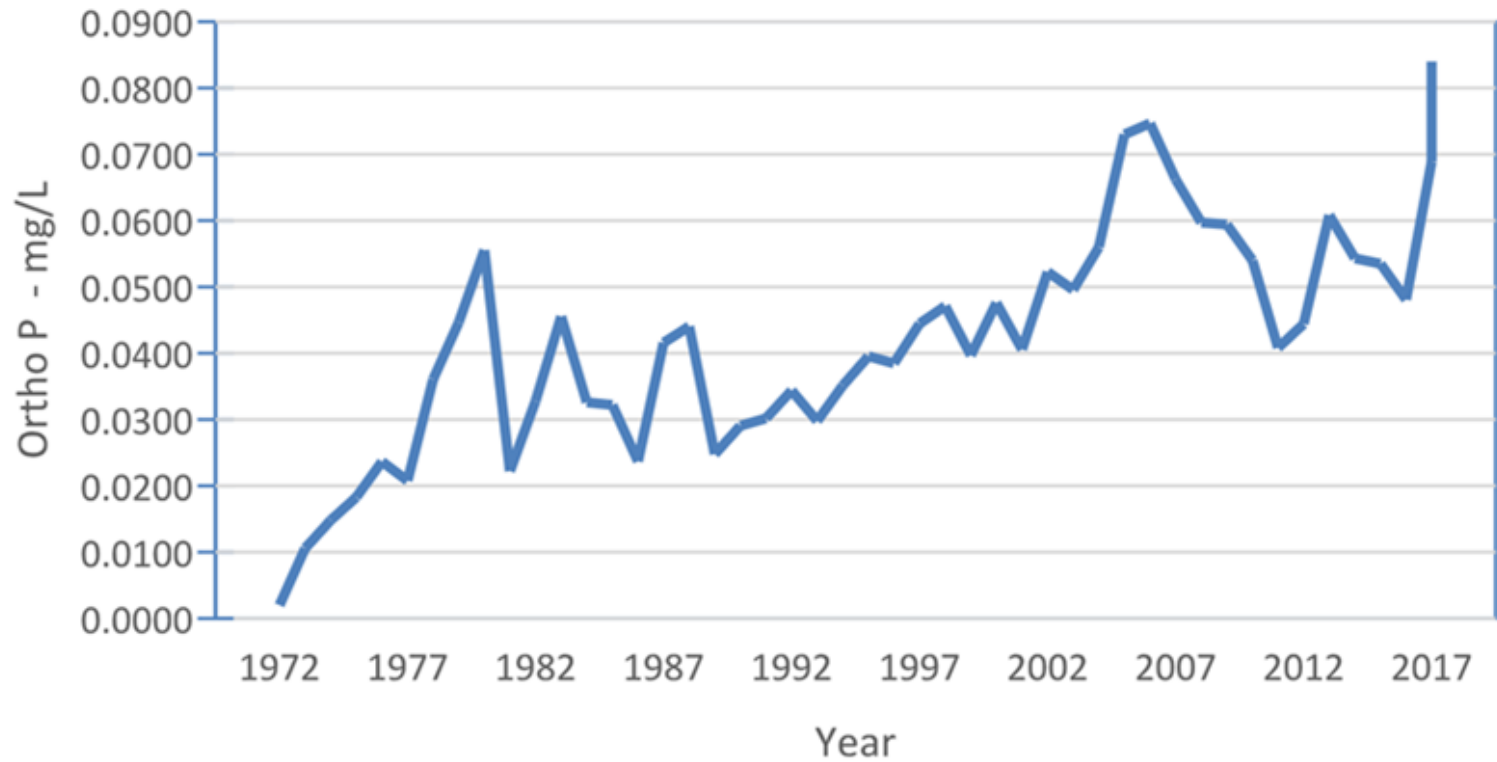


2017 data are preliminary and subject to revision

Calendar Year

Data from SFWMD

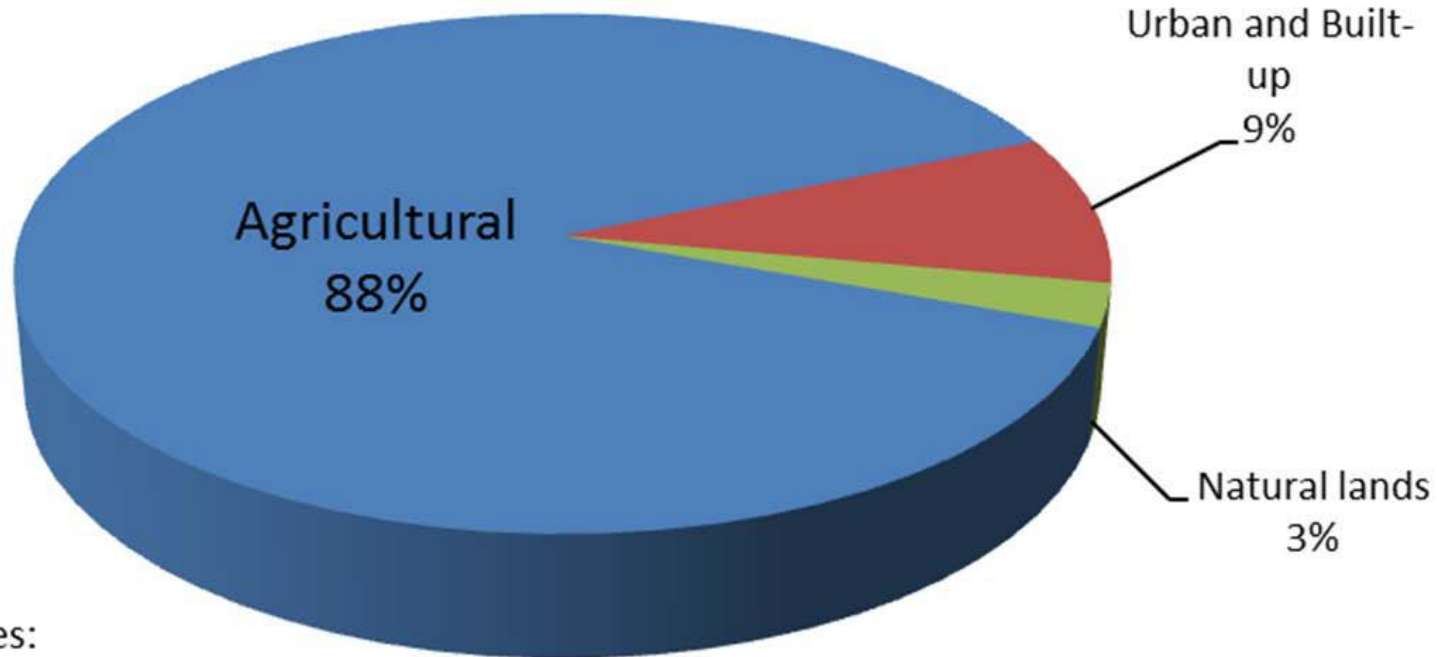
Lake Okeechobee Ortho Phosphorus Concentration at Station L006



Total Phosphorus Loading to Lake Okeechobee (2017)

Annual load = 2,298,875 lbs/yr

Draft



Notes:

Land use data from SFWMD (2018); unit area loads revised from Goforth et al. (2013).

"Agricultural" includes traditional agricultural activities.

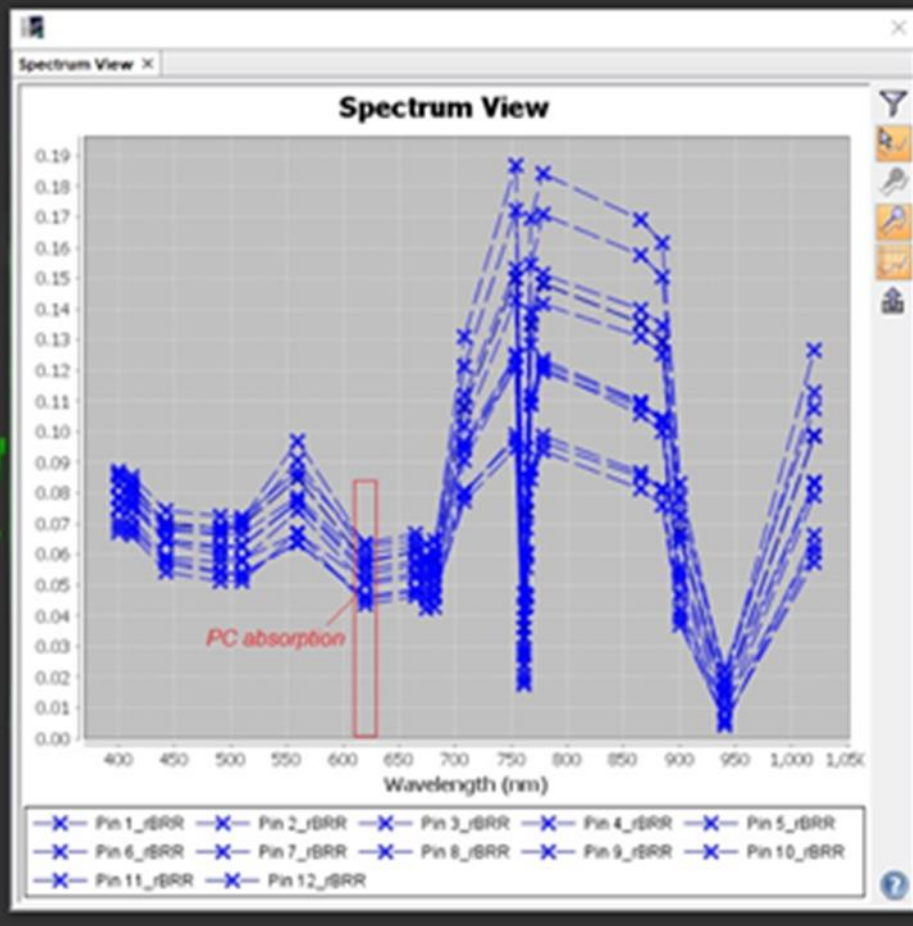
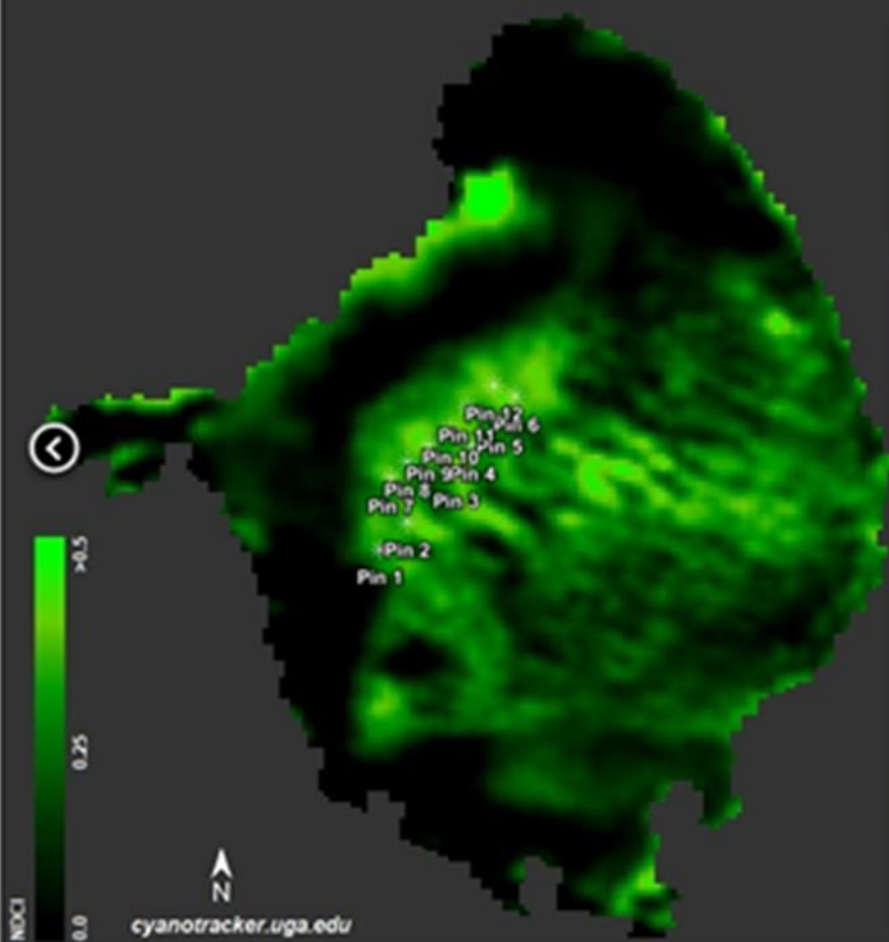
"Urban and built-up" includes residential, transportation, communication and utilities.

"Natural lands" includes wetlands, waterbodies, upland forests, rangeland and barren land.

This is only an estimate – since no parcel-specific water quality data are available; this estimate assumes each land use has responded uniformly to load reduction measures since the 2001-2012 Starting Period.

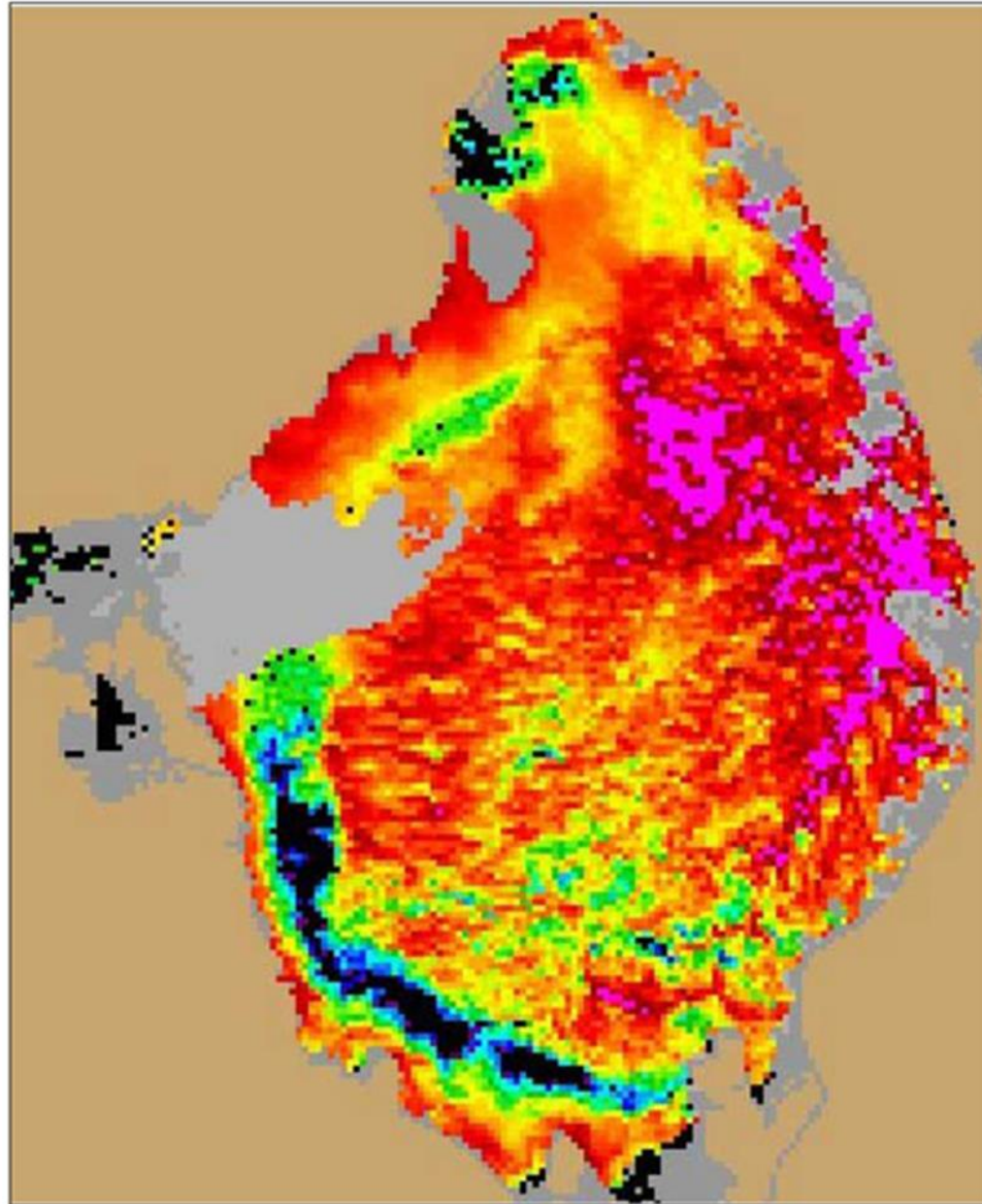
Experimental product for discussion only

Sentinel 3-OLCI
(June 29, 2018)



The recent Sentinel 3 scene captured Lake Okeechobee bloom, which revealed that ~70% of the lake is covered by on-going massive harmful algae bloom.

Figure 1. On July 2, 2018, 90 Percent of Lake Okeechobee Was Covered with blue-green algae Bloom (from NOAA)



6-22-18





Caloosahatchee Estuary Impacts Early July – September 2018



calusawaterkeeper.org

Risk From Recreational Exposure – Primary Contact









CAUTION



ALLIGATORS INHABIT FLORIDA WATERS
SWIM WITH CAUTION AND IN
DESIGNATED AREA
REPORT ALLIGATORS TO PARK STAFF

blue green algae?
dodge it!

Don't drink or eat anything from shallow water. Avoid algae blooms and algae toxins.

For more information, visit www.florida.gov

COMERCIAL P...
LIFE BUOY

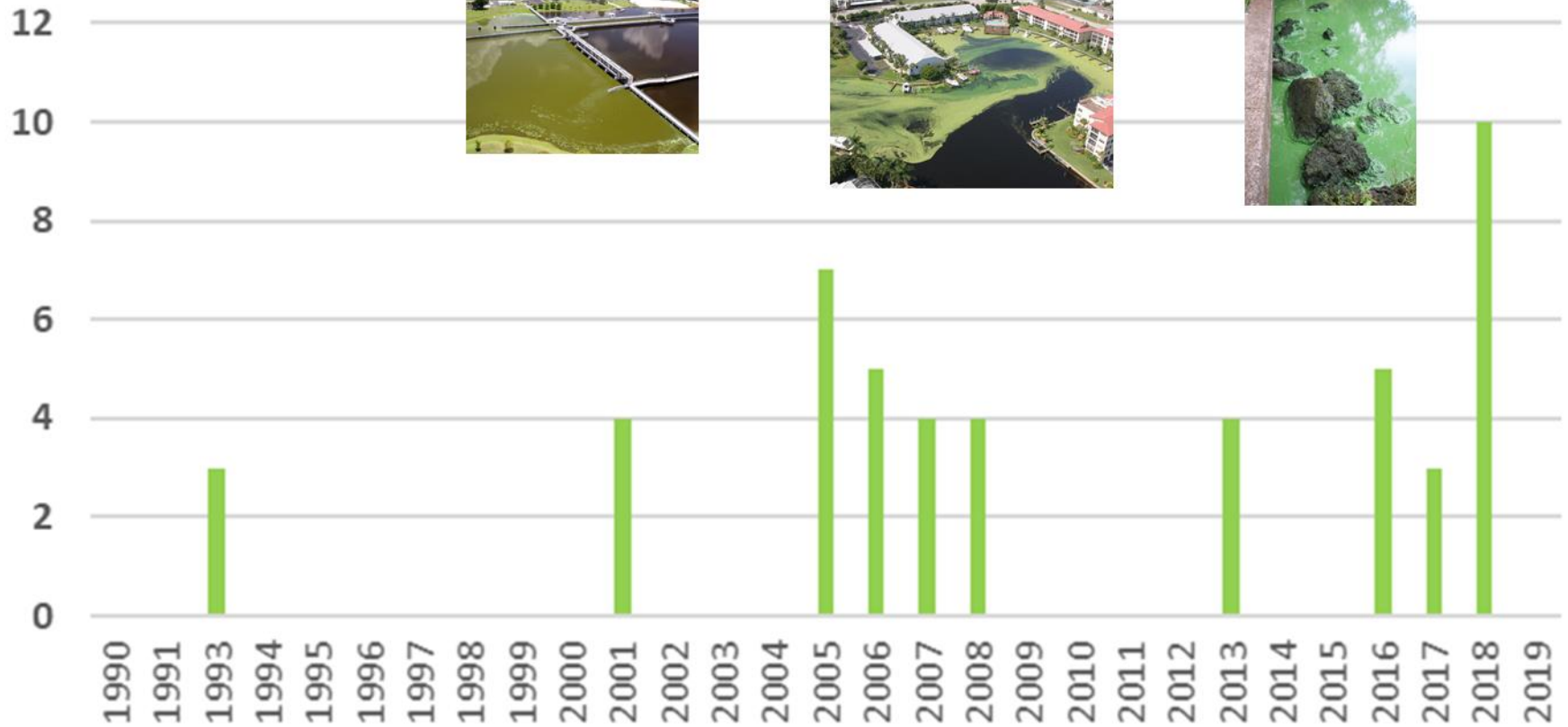


Health Risks to Animals

- Domestic animals and wildlife are also subject to poisoning by cyanotoxins
- Dogs are particularly vulnerable due to habit of swimming in or drinking contaminated water
- 58% of occurrences were fatal (Backer et al. 2013)
- Impacts of cyanotoxins on domestic and wild animals is significantly under-recognized.



Caloosahatchee cyanobacteria frequency and severity index



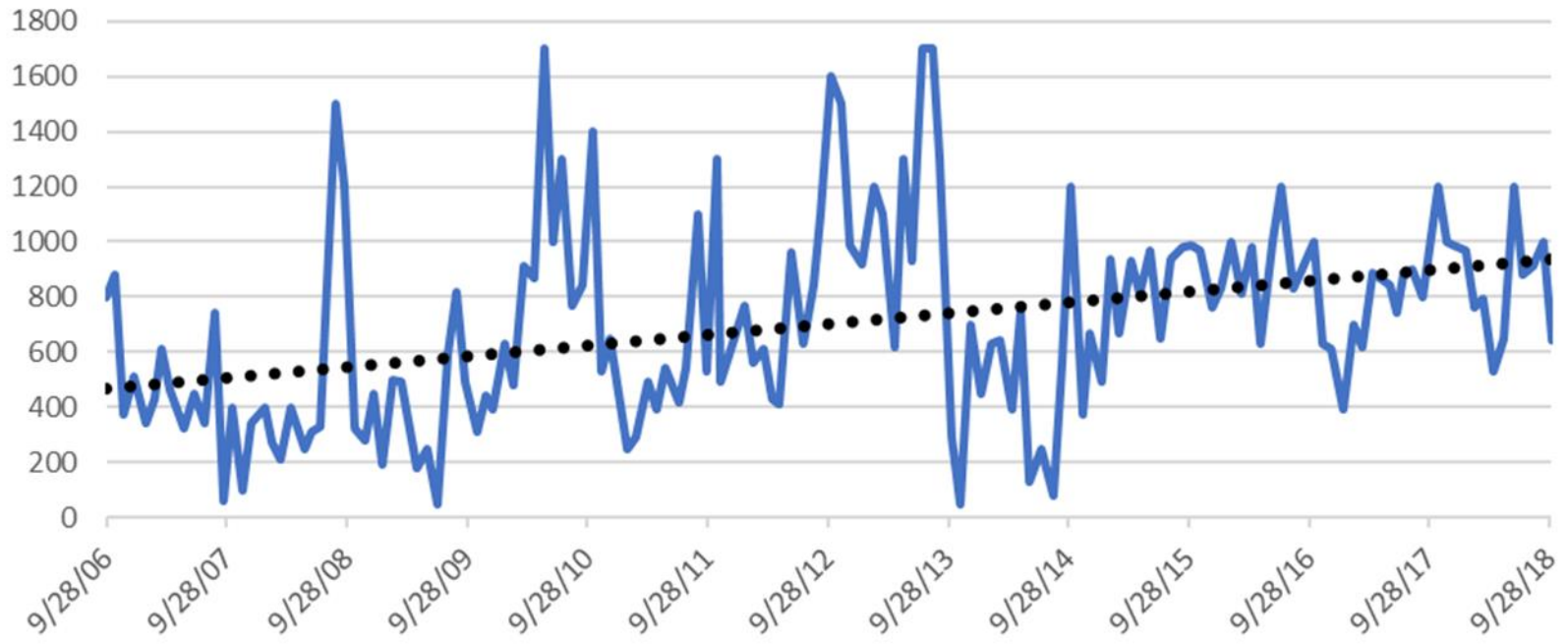
Cyanobacteria

- HAB Task Force
- Better monitoring and prediction
- Public Health Risk Notice
- Stormwater regulations need updating and retrofits may be necessary
- Costs implications are enormous, e.g. public health, property values, tourism

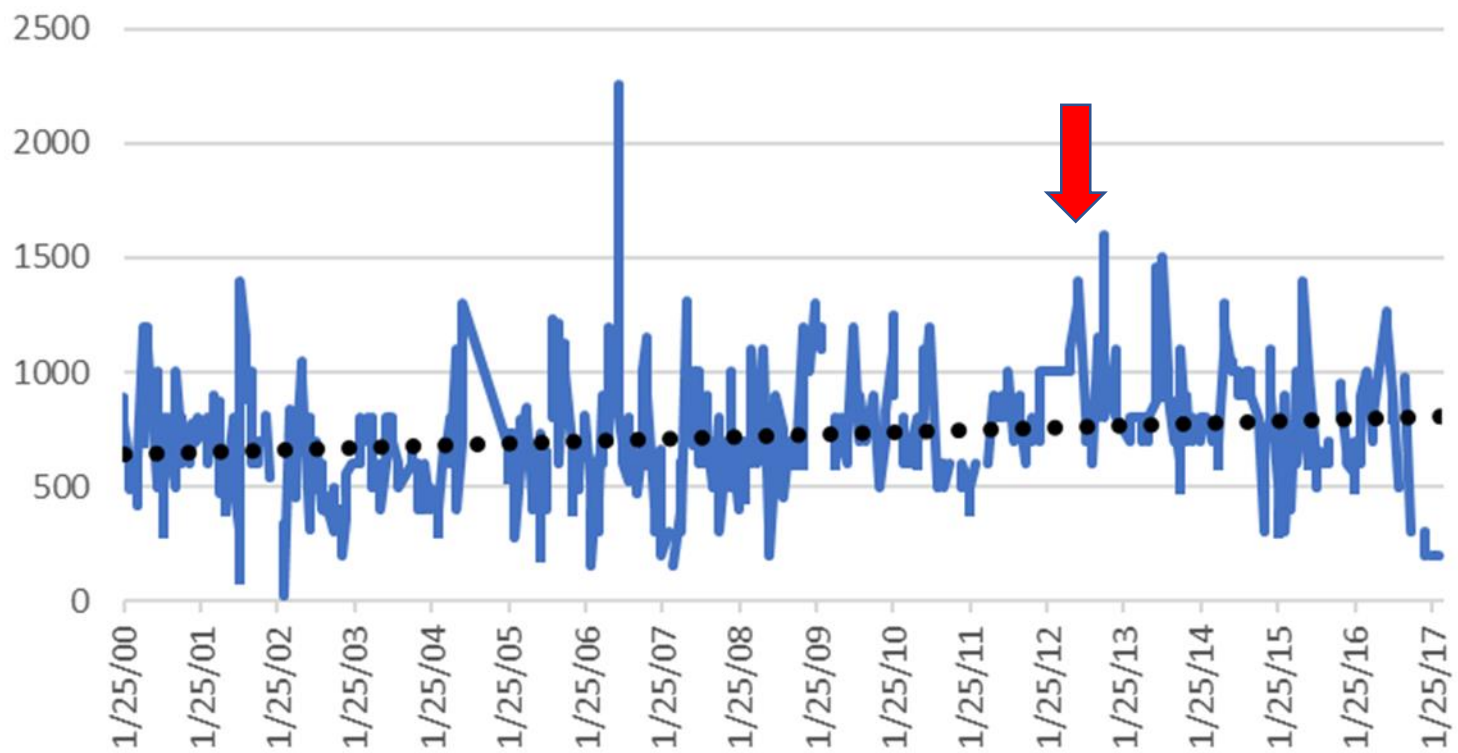
Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Action Plan

- Adopted in 2012
- Resource TMDL
- Flow measurements terminated in 2013
- No measured loading estimates
- Load allocations based on 2004/2005 land use
- No updated load allocations
- 2018 FDEP Integrated Water Quality Report (59% reduction in TN)

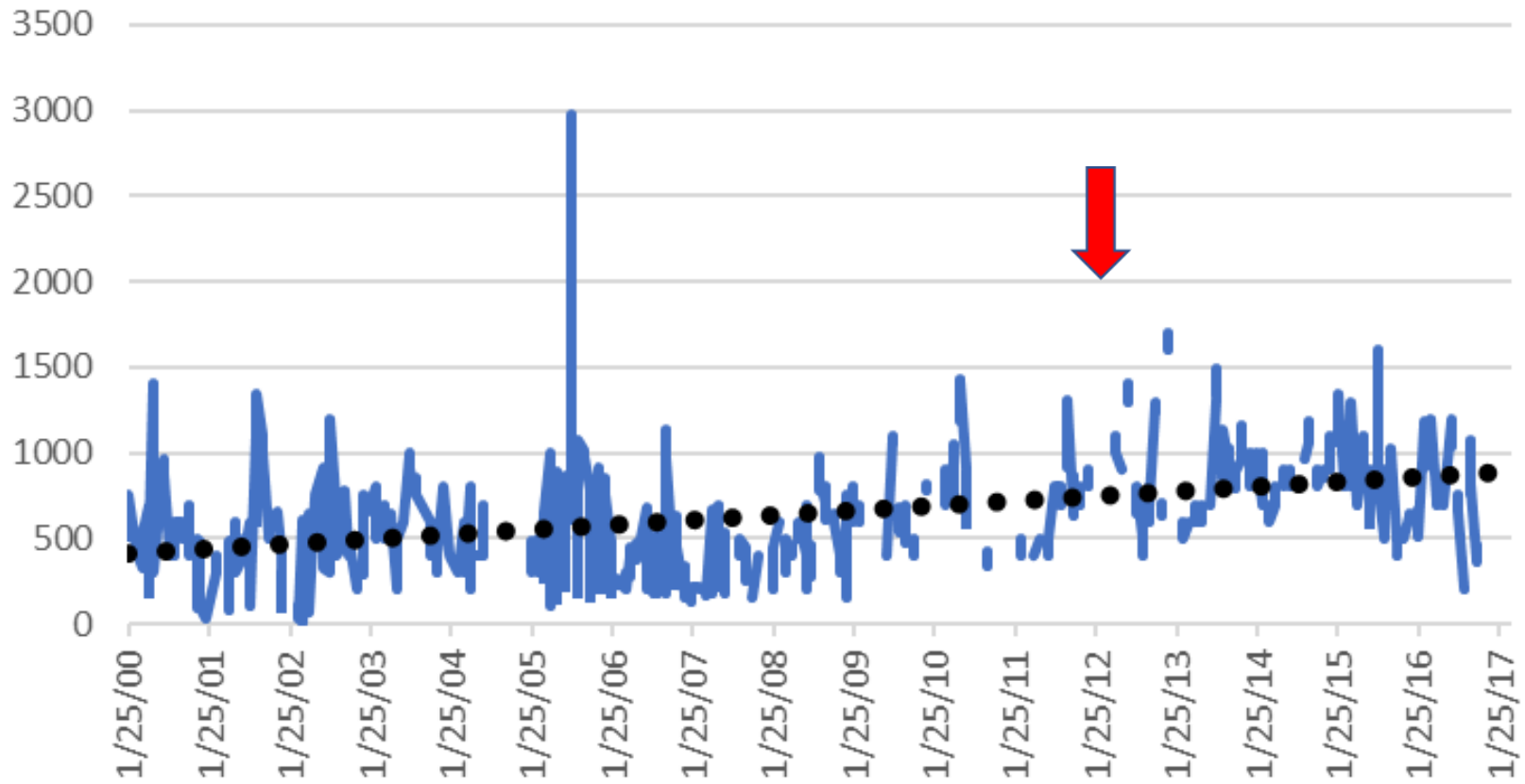
CES10 Caloosahatchee River at Shell Point, TN ug/l



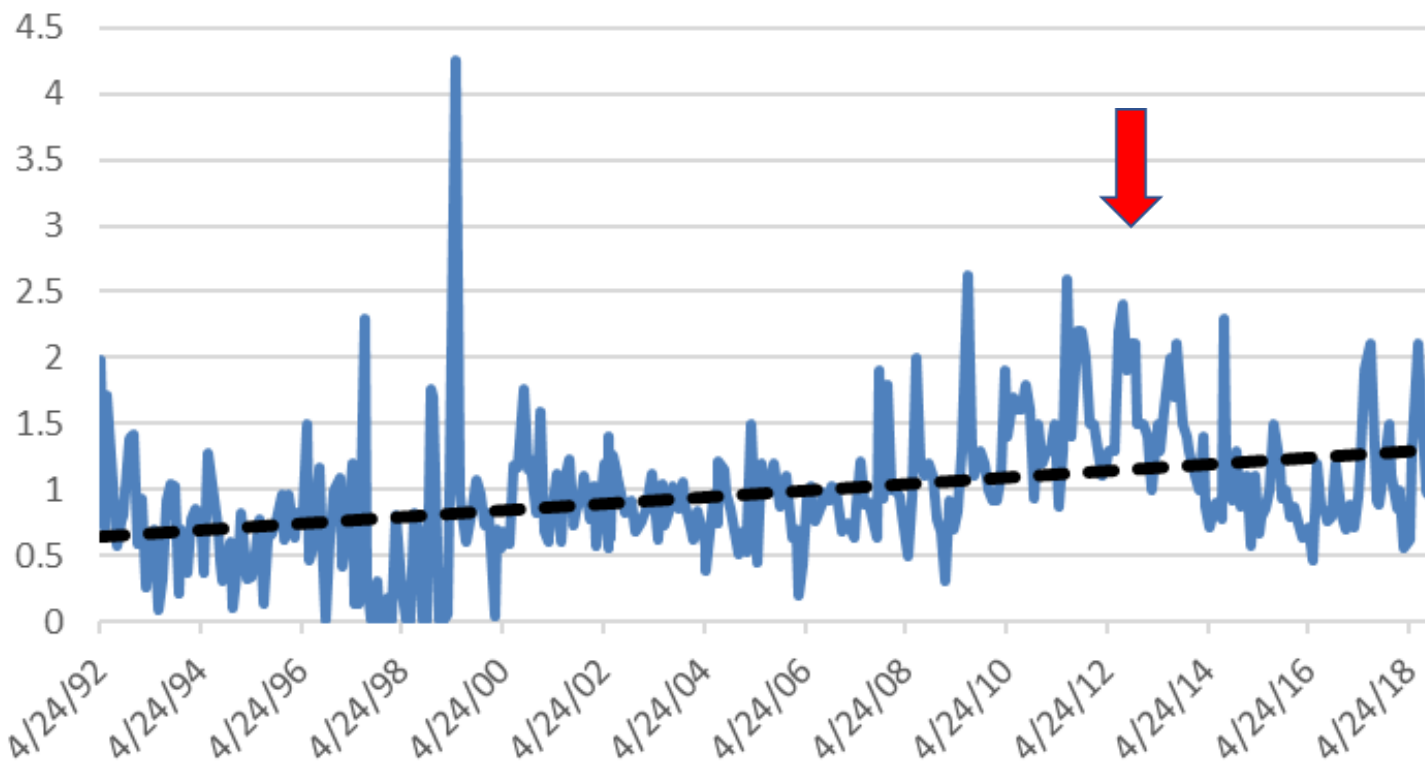
Total N, Cape CRD 590, ug/l



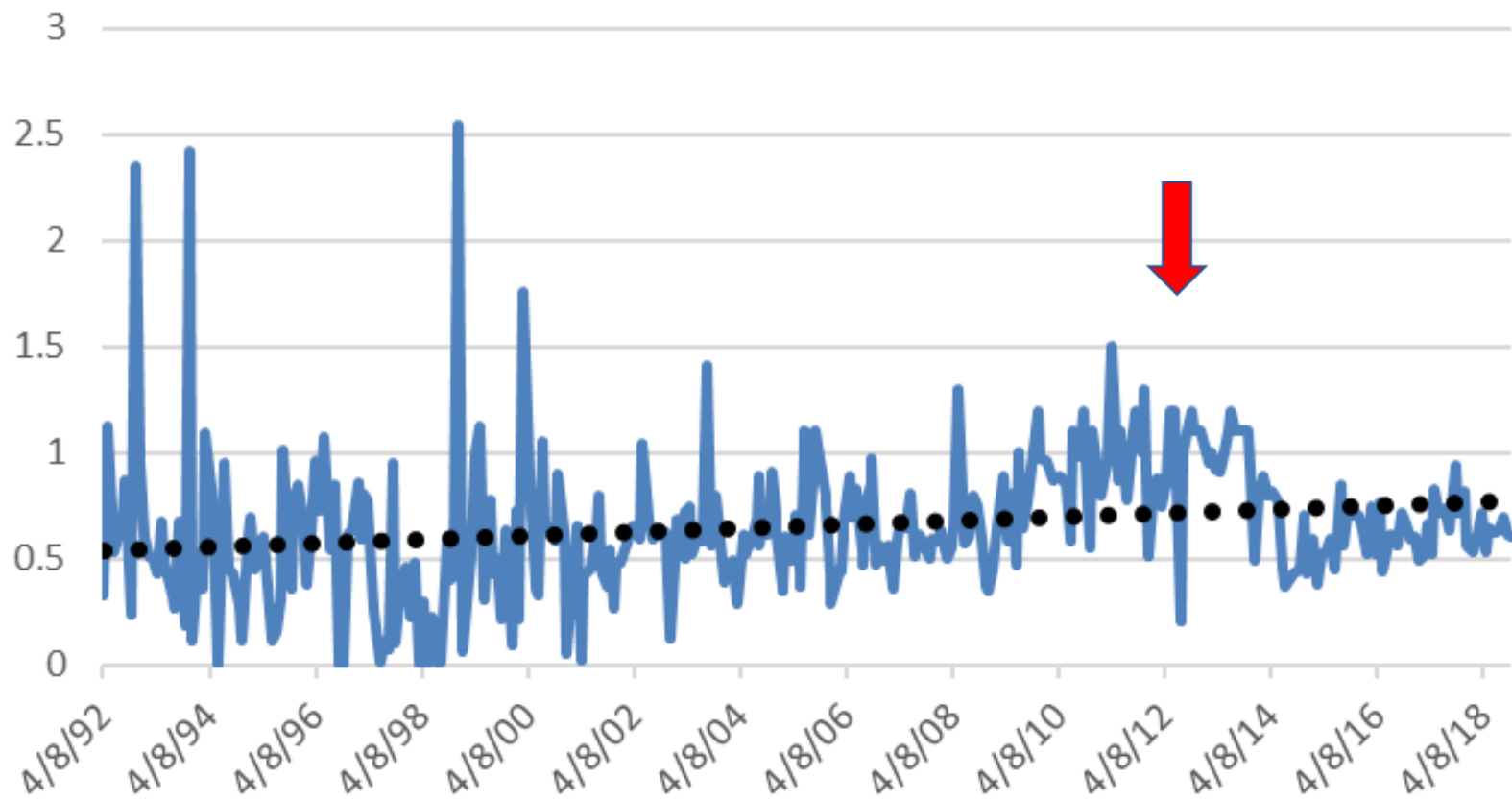
Cape Coral Casaba Canal TN ug/l



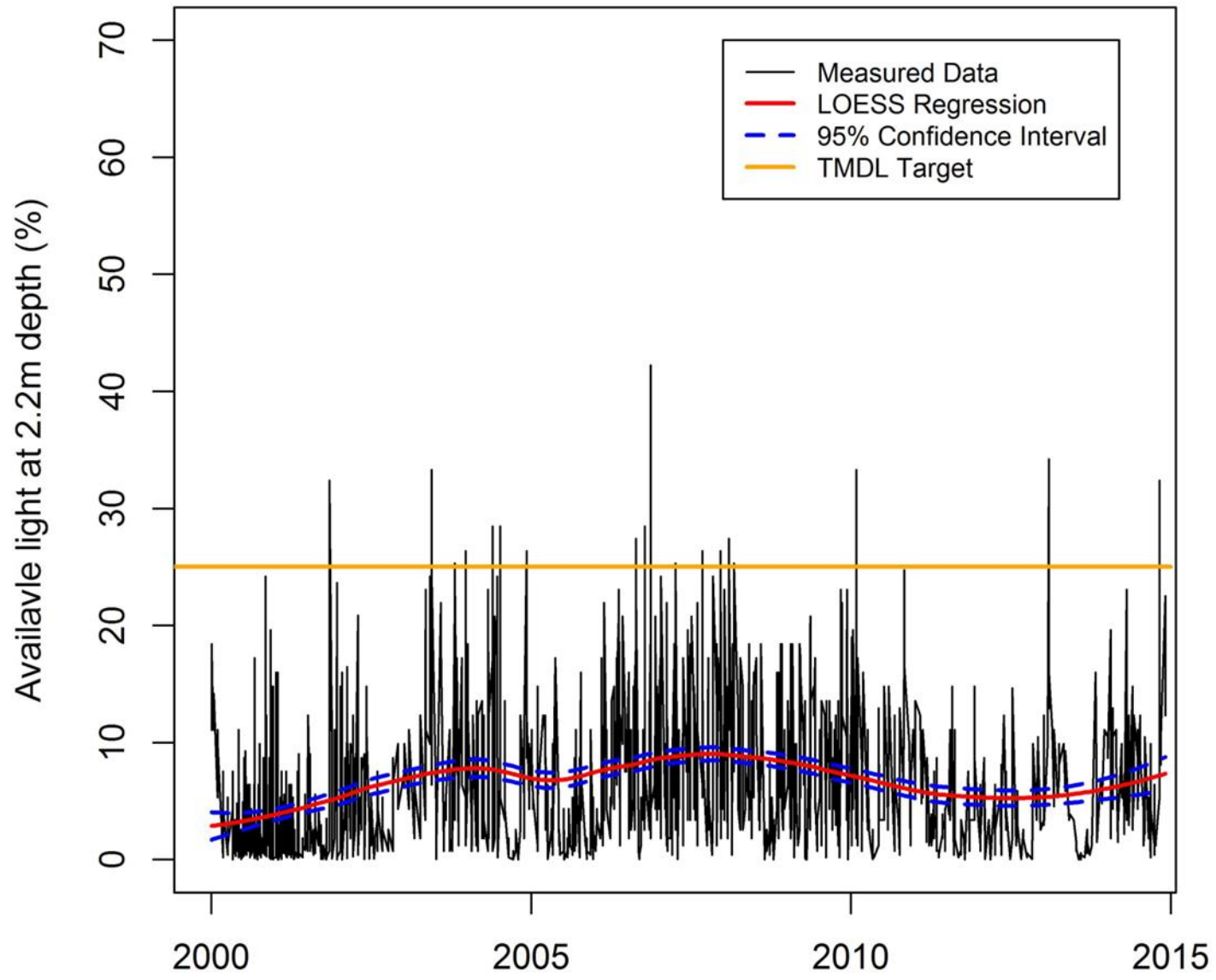
Telegraph Creek TN mg/l



Orange River TN mg/l



Available light at 2.2m depth in San Carlos Bay (WBID #2065H) from 2000 to 2014



CERP / C-43

- ACOE adopted PIR in 2010 and authorized by Congress in 2014
- State is funding, fed cost share credited
- Water quality treatment component needed for attainment of WQBEL
- Cyanobacteria became dominant in the test cell study
- Supplemental flows from Lake O. may not be available after completion
- Project online in 2024?
- Reservoir is estimated to meet the 400 cfs flow target 97% of time
- 400 cfs will not maintain the salinity envelope defining the MFL
- Restoration is uncertain

Enteric Bacteria Impairments are Widespread

- 46% of OFW WBIDs in 4700 square mile CHNEP project area are impaired for bacteria
- Latest 303d list adds additional WBIDs impaired including Estero Bay Tributaries (OFWs)

Enterococci bacteria cfu/MPN/100 ml, BILLGR60

