

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Stream Measurements

Figure A-1 Stage at the Suwannee River Gage Near Wilcox (#02323500)

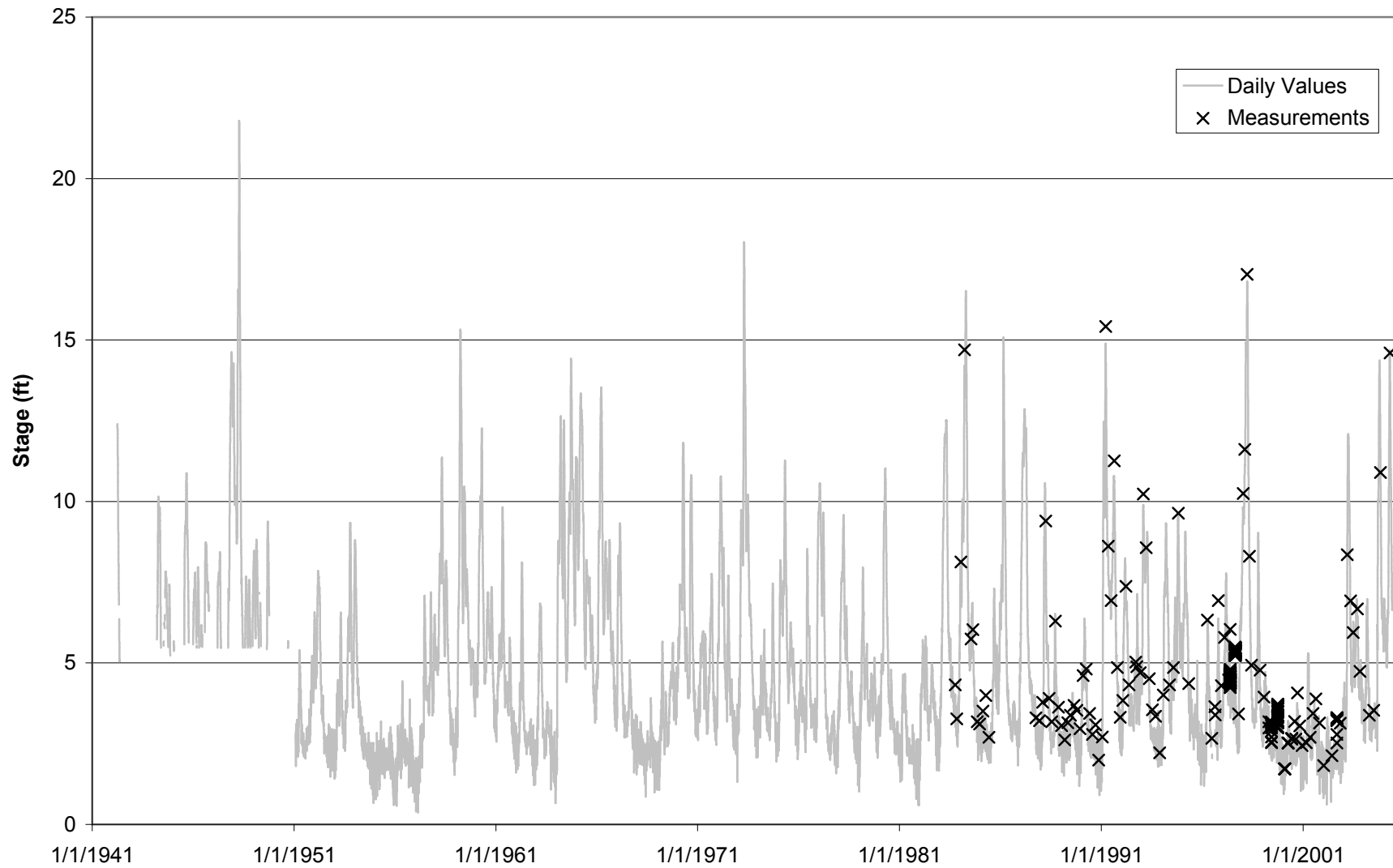


Figure A-2 Discharge at the Suwannee River Gage Near Wilcox (#02323500)

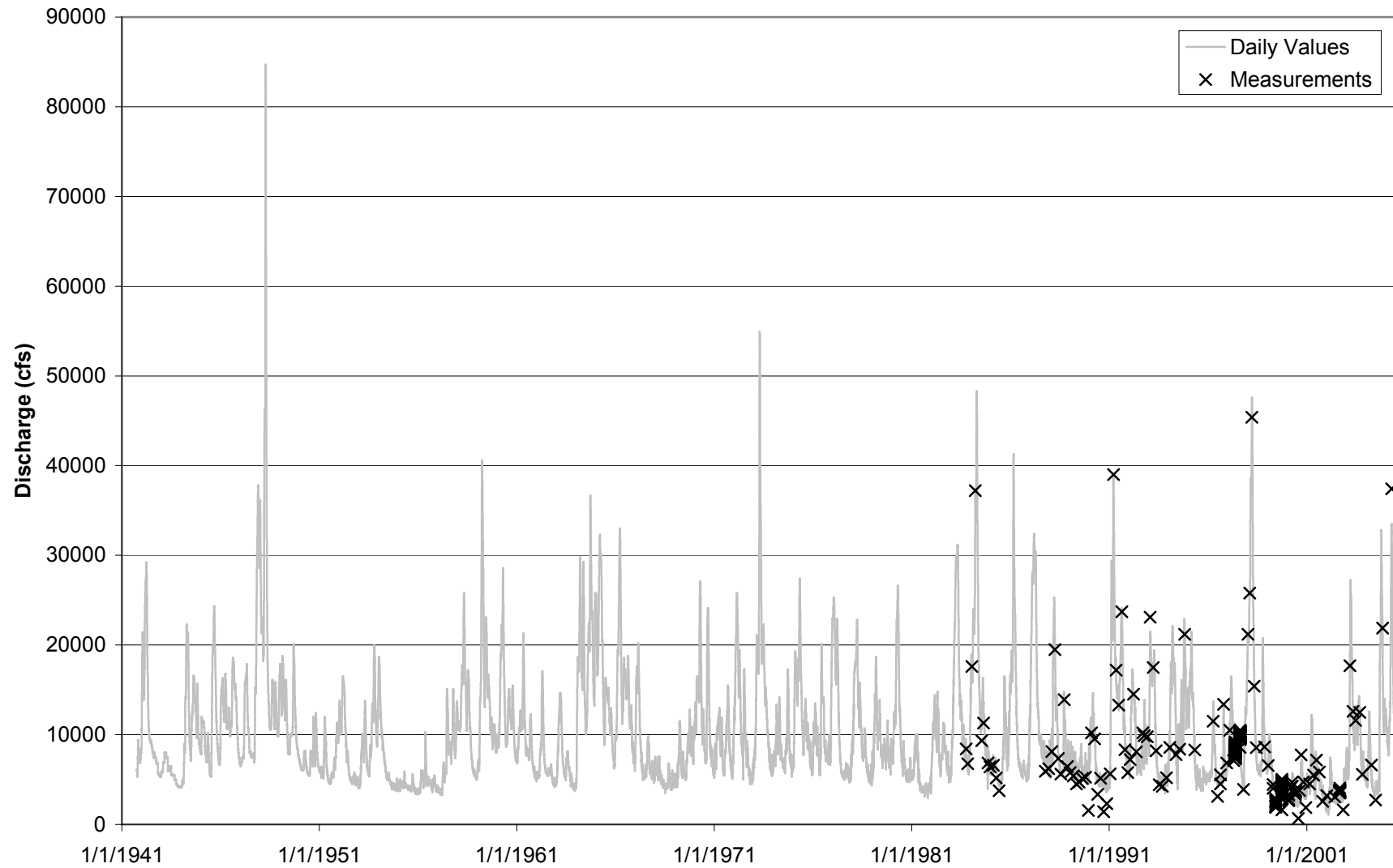


Figure A-3 Stage at the Fanning Spring gage (#02323502)

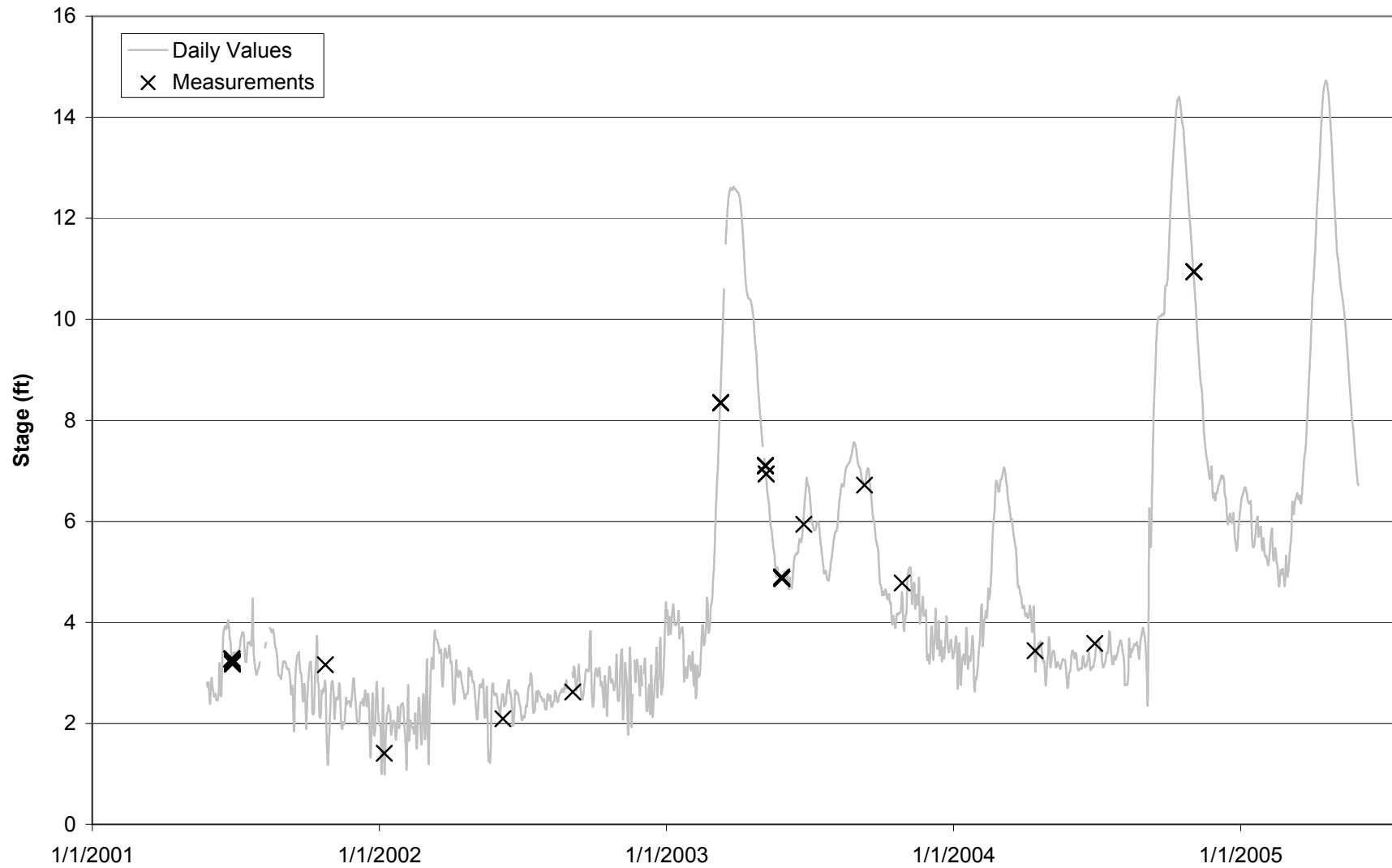


Figure A-4 Discharge at the Fanning Spring gage (#02323502)

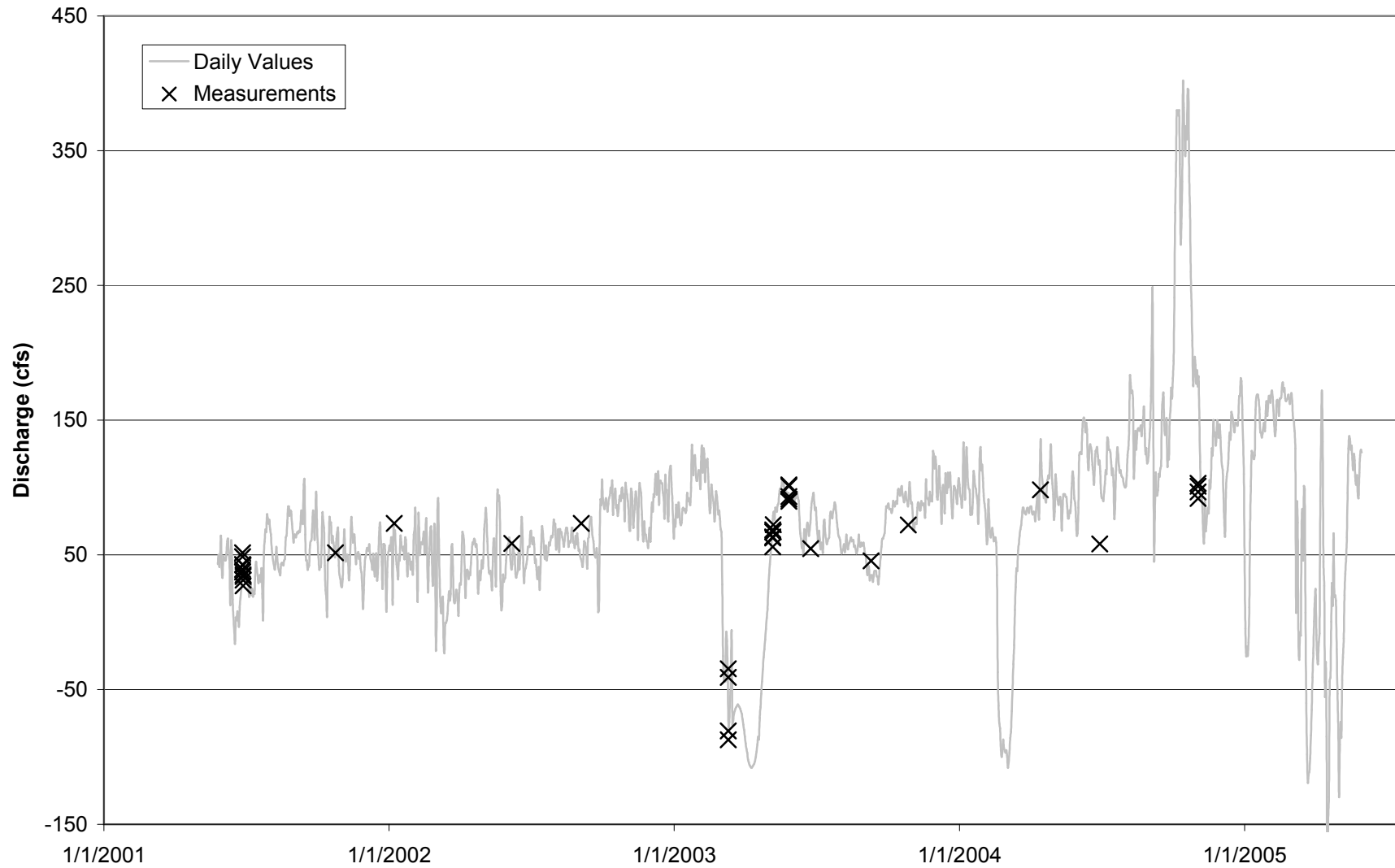


Figure A-5 Stage at the Manatee Springs Gage (#02323556)

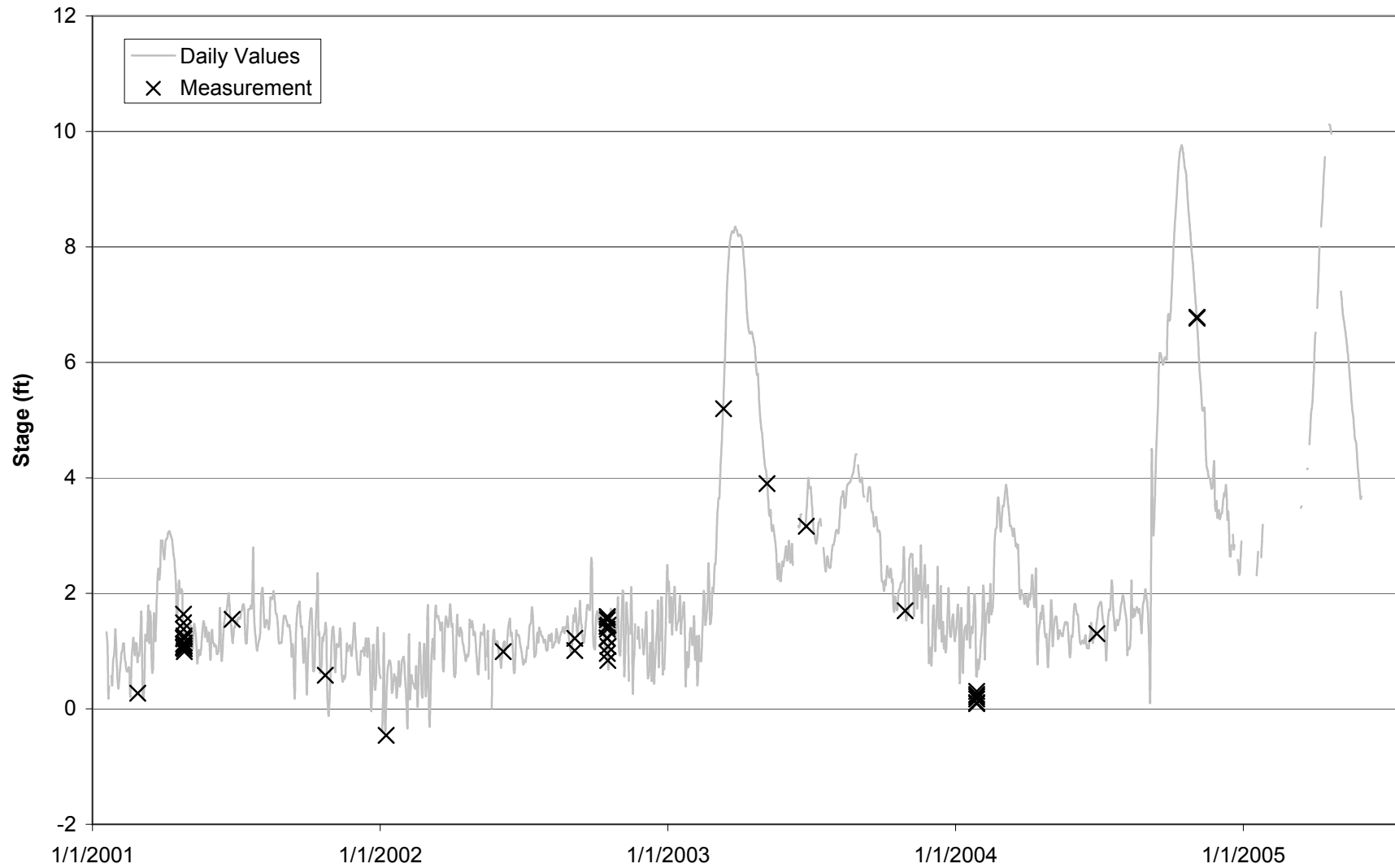
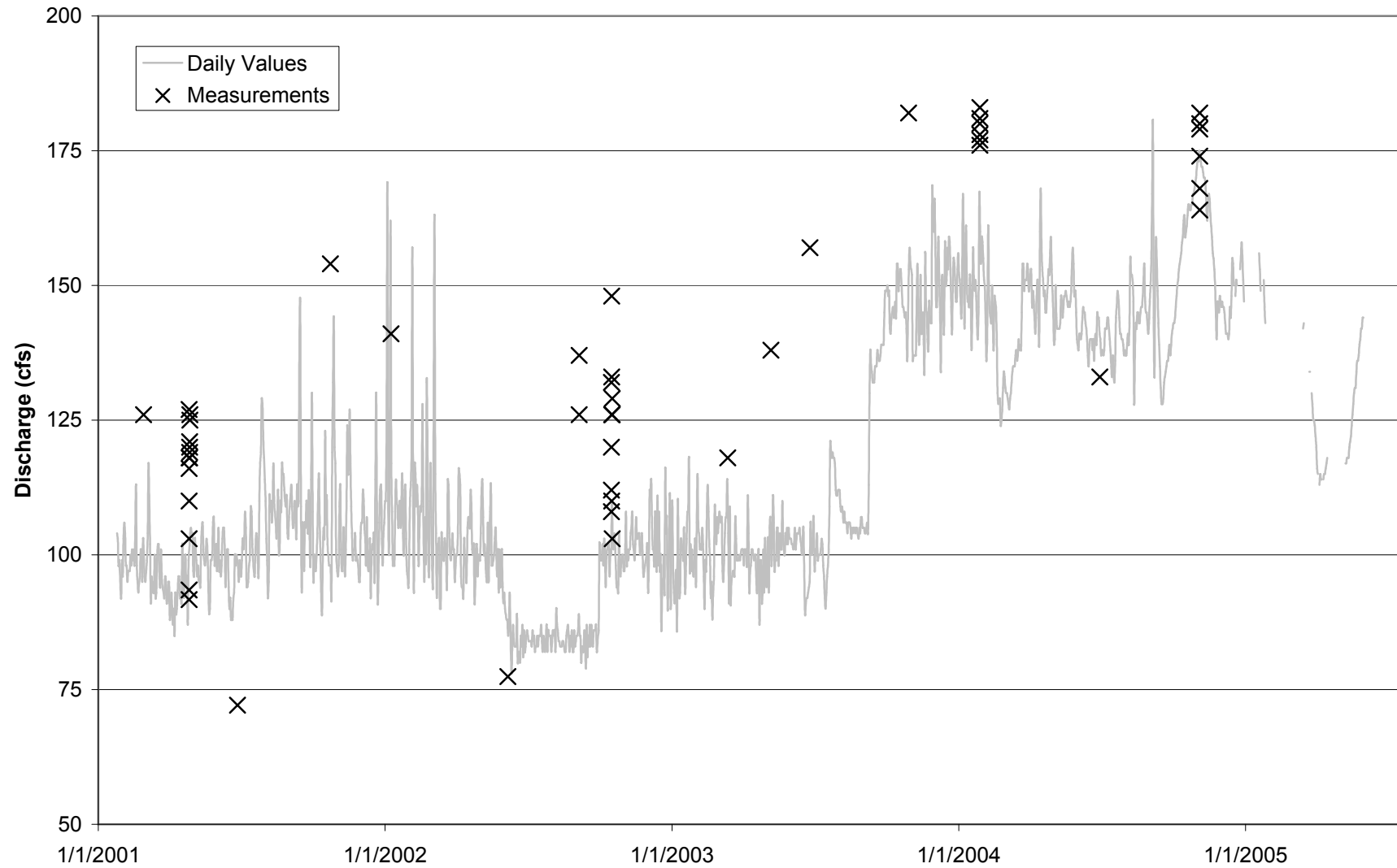
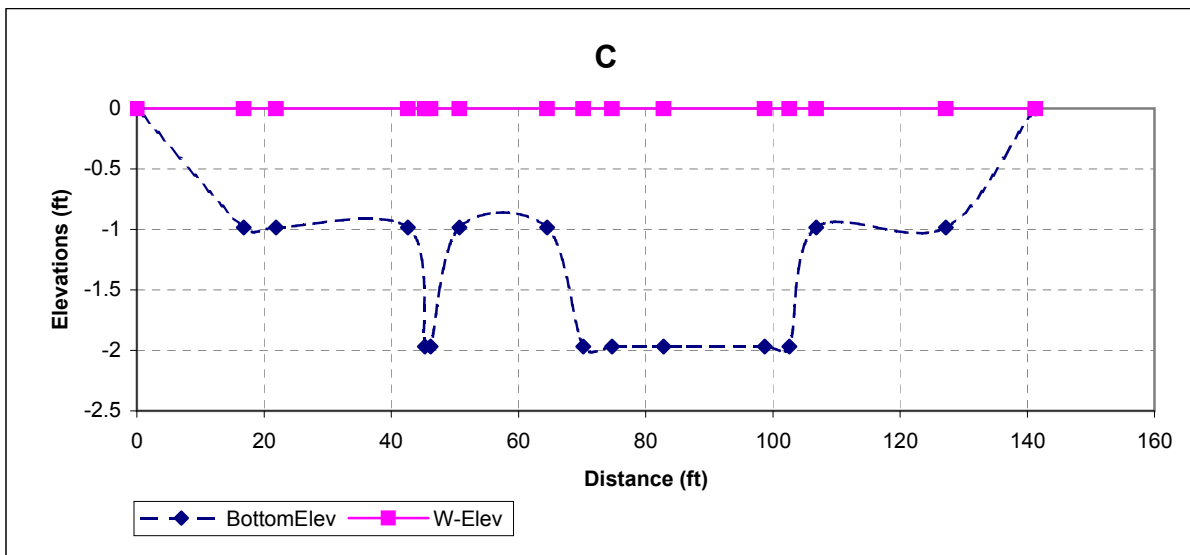
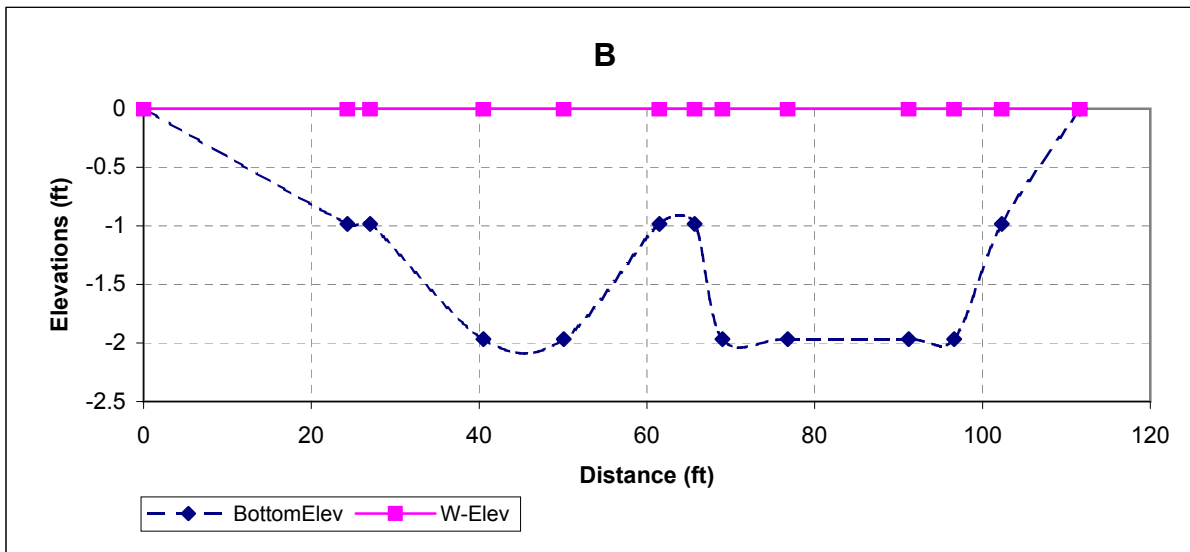
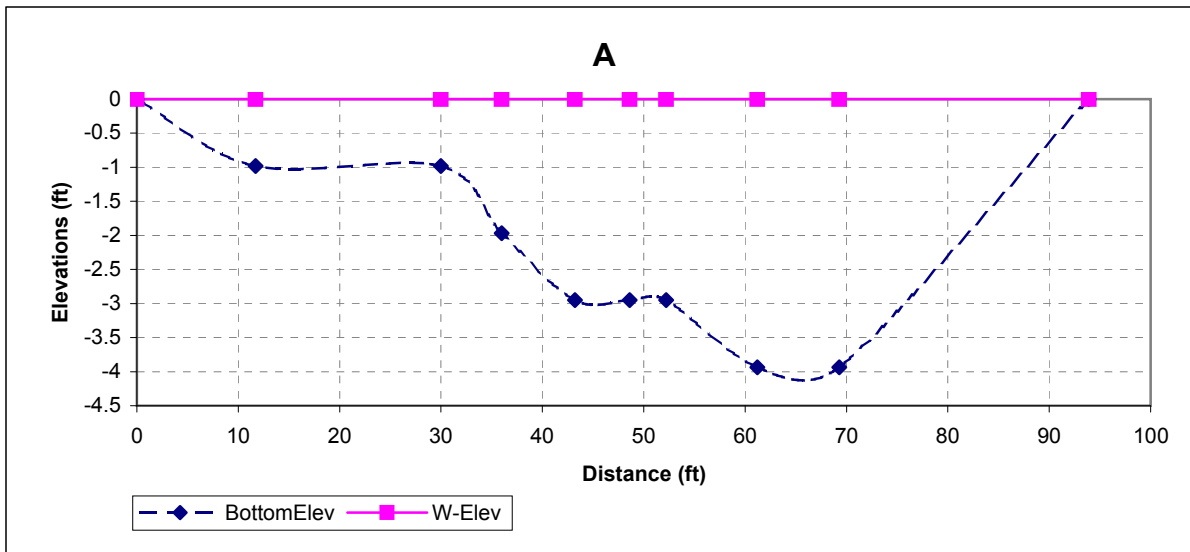
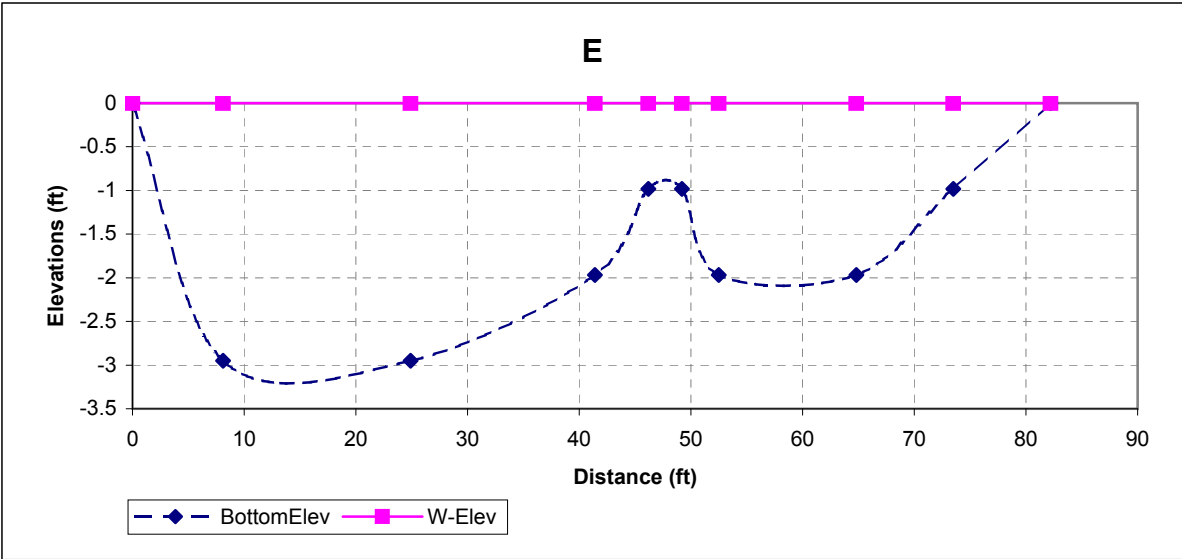
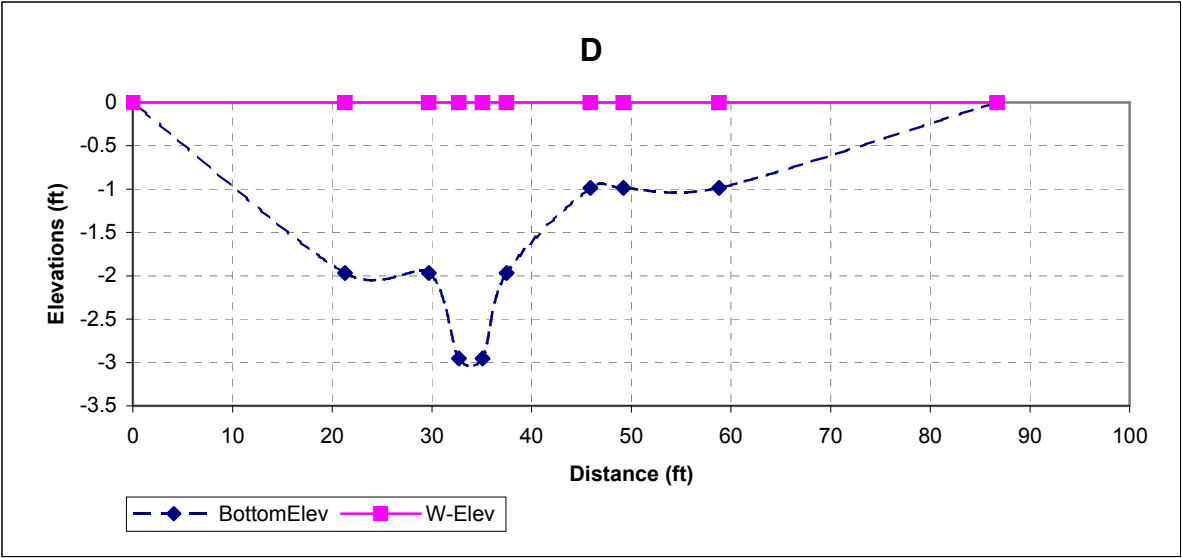


Figure A-6 Discharge at the Manatee Springs gage (#02323556)

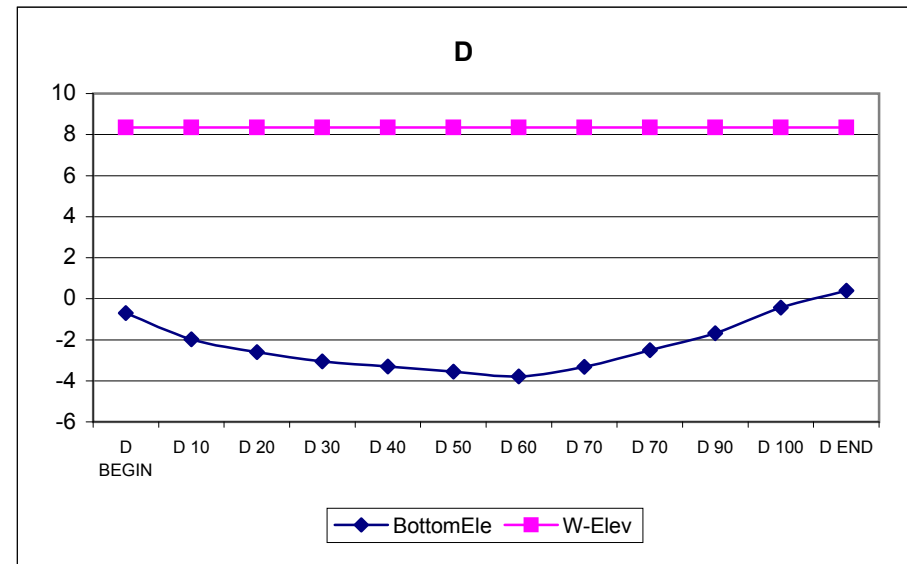
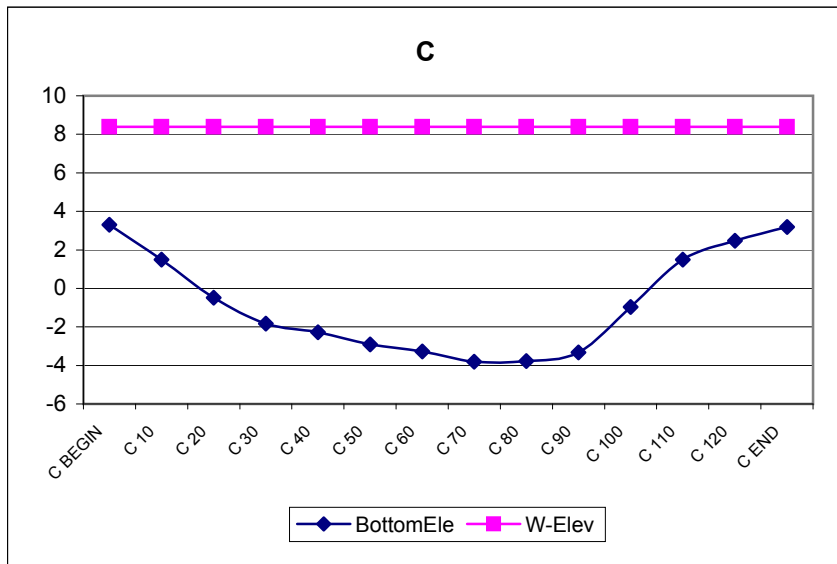
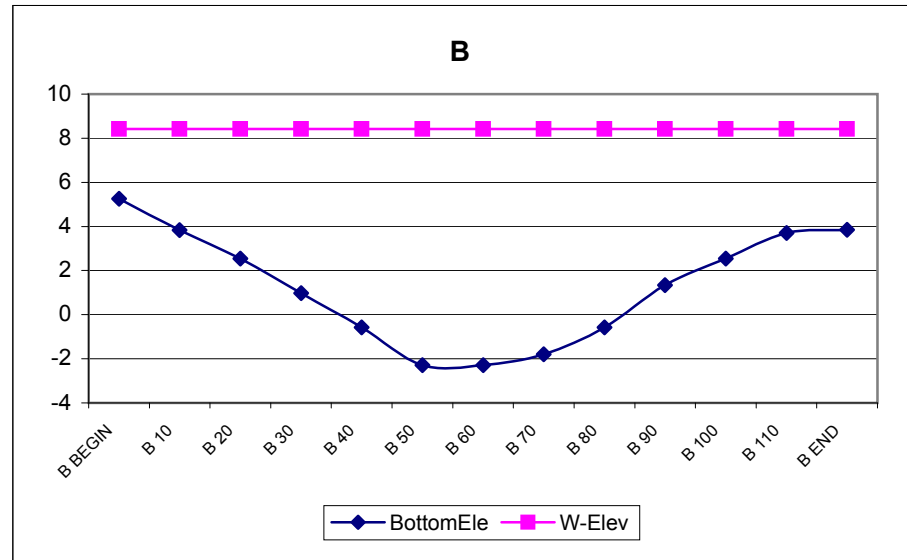
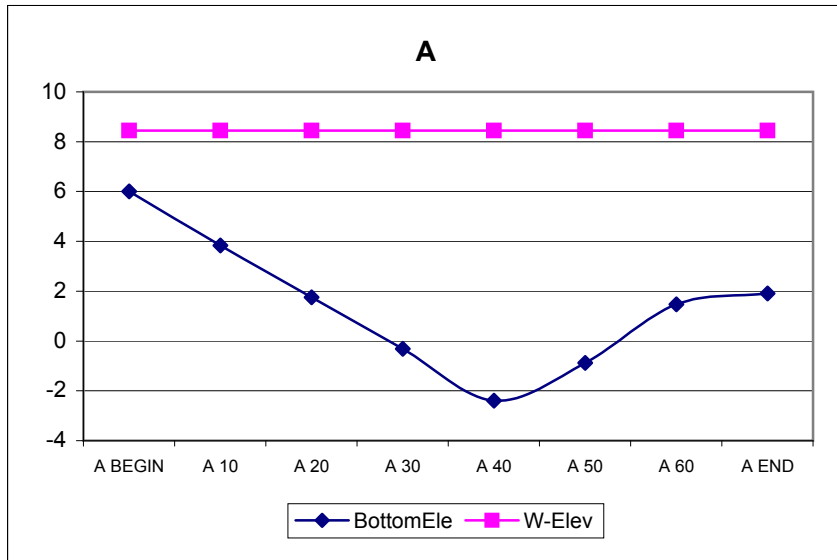


Appendix B - Manatee Spring Run Topographic Profiles

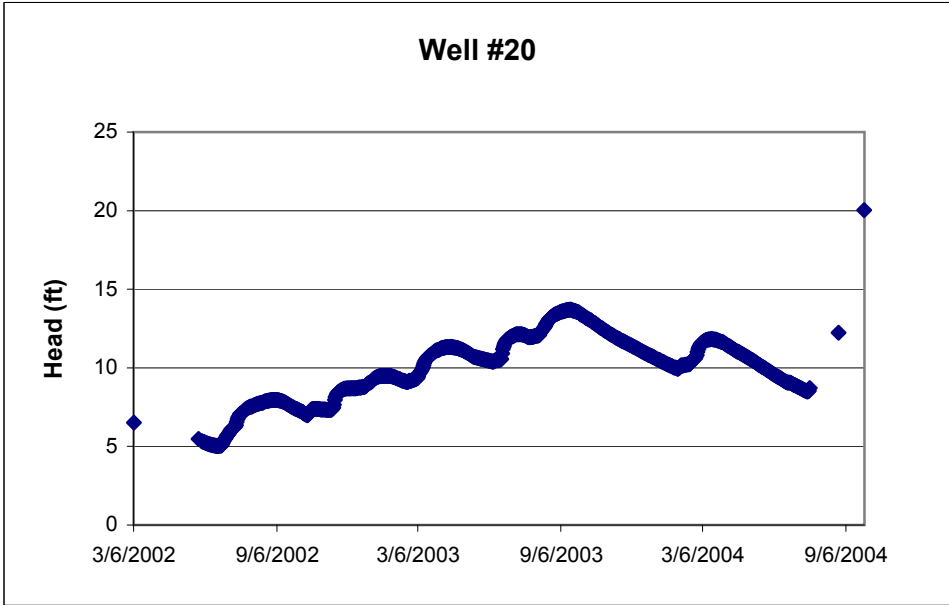
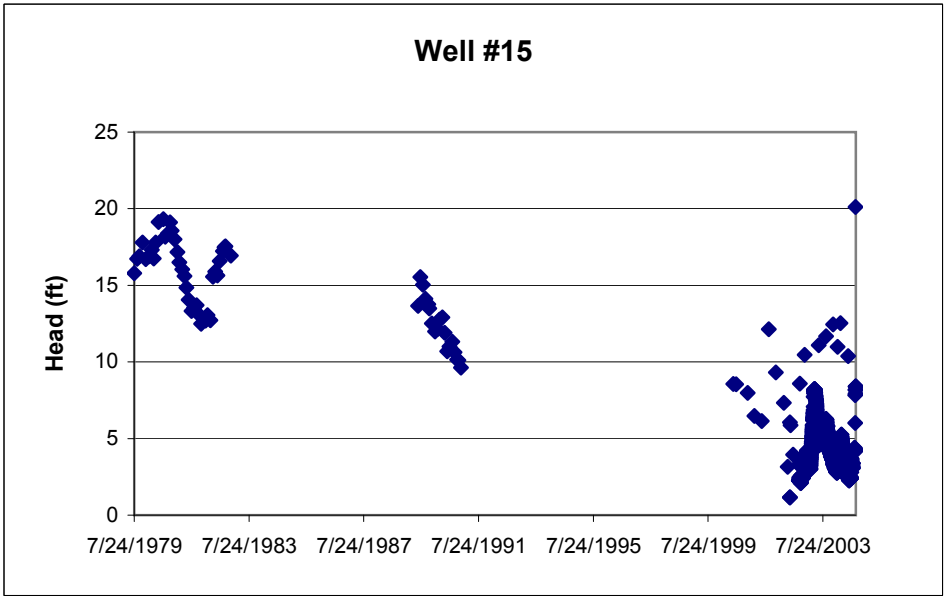
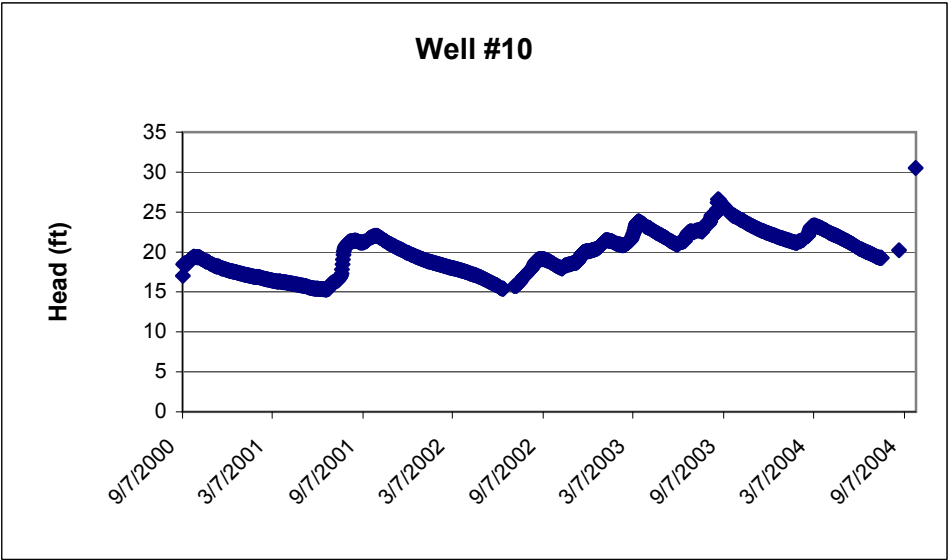


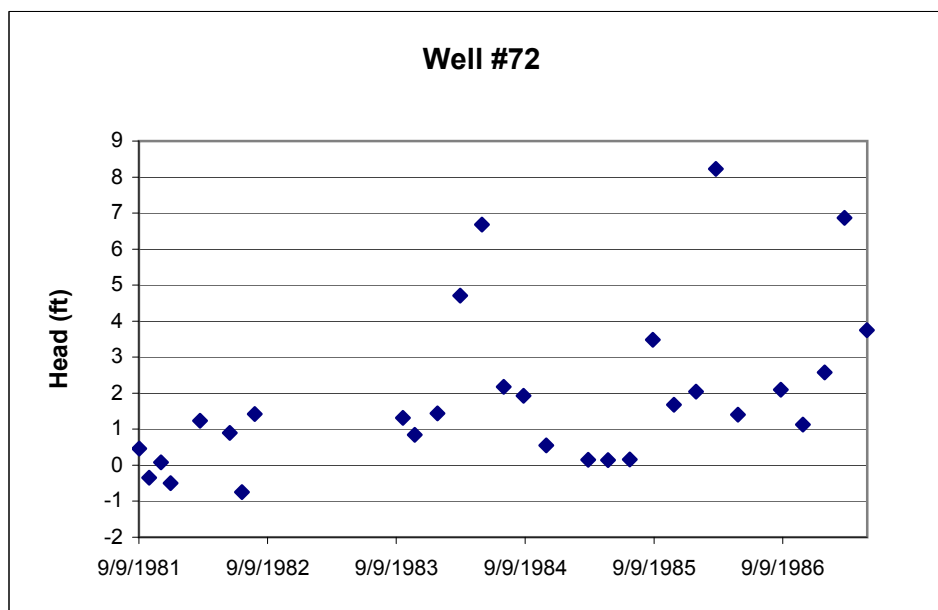
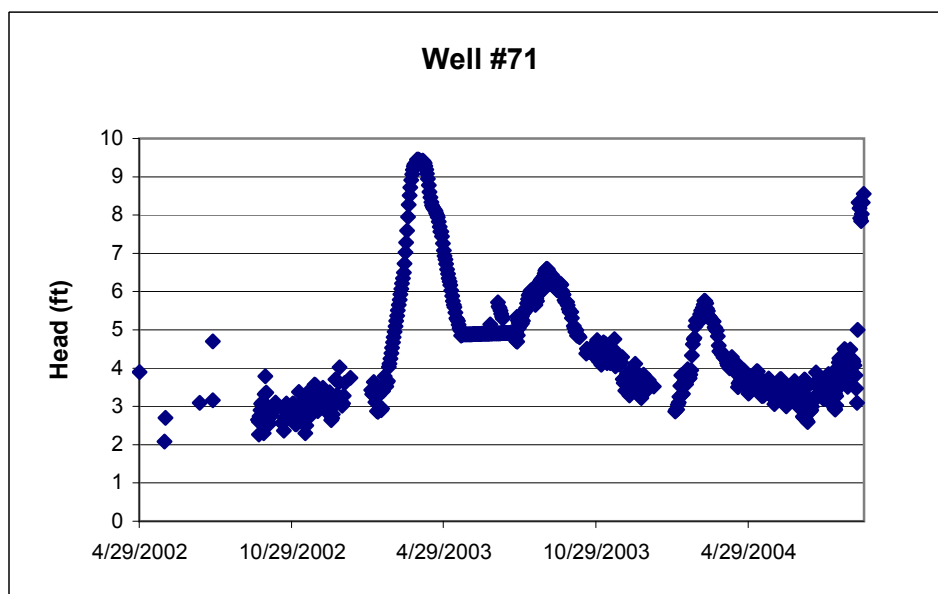
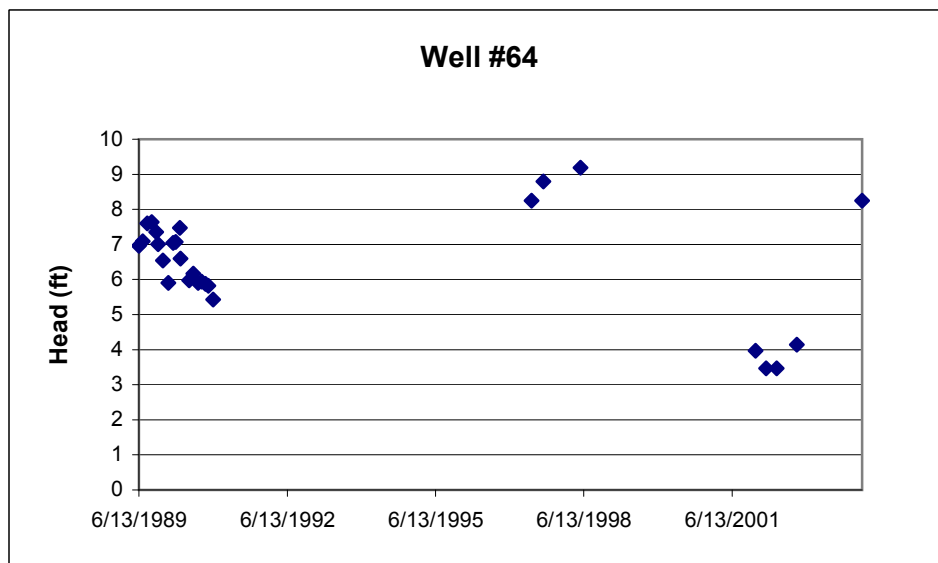


Appendix C - Fanning Spring Run Topographic Profiles

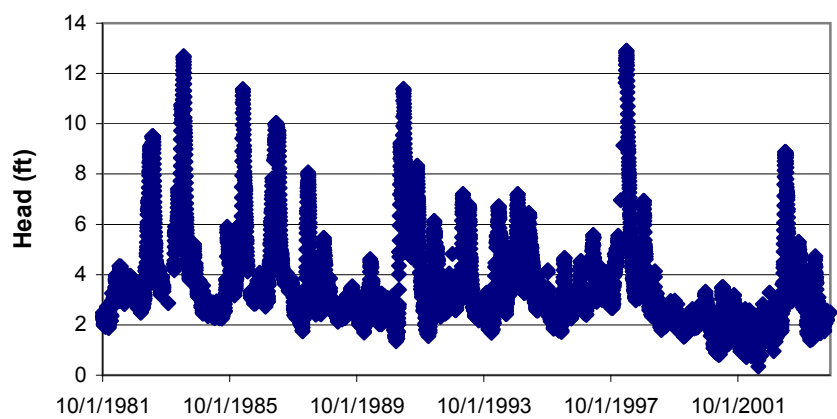


Appendix D - Ground Water Data

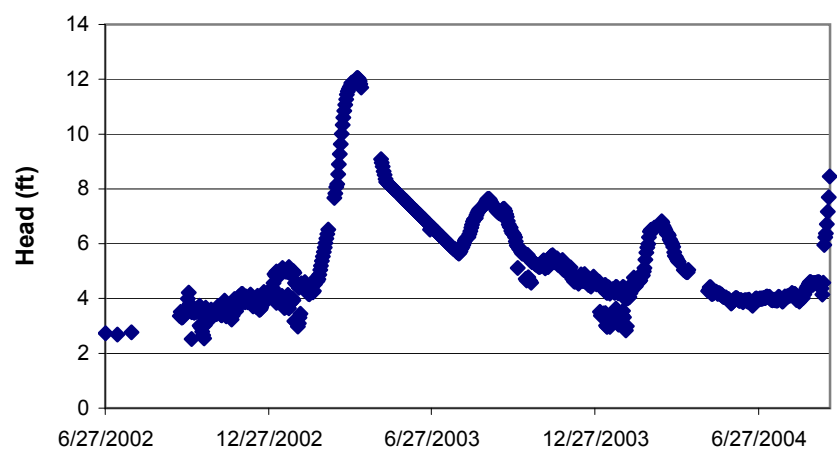




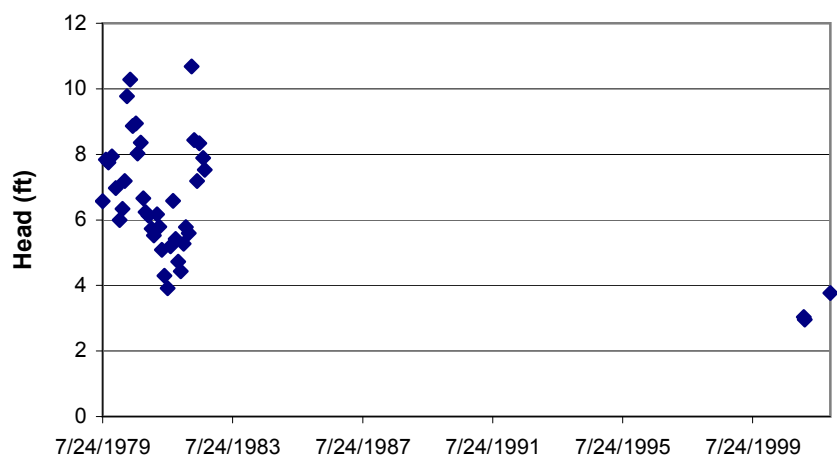
Well #74

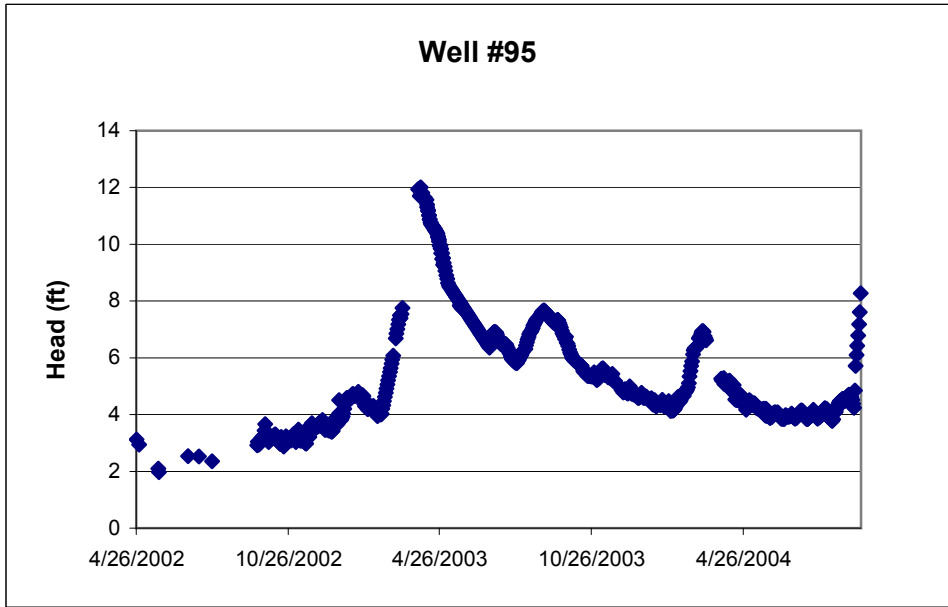
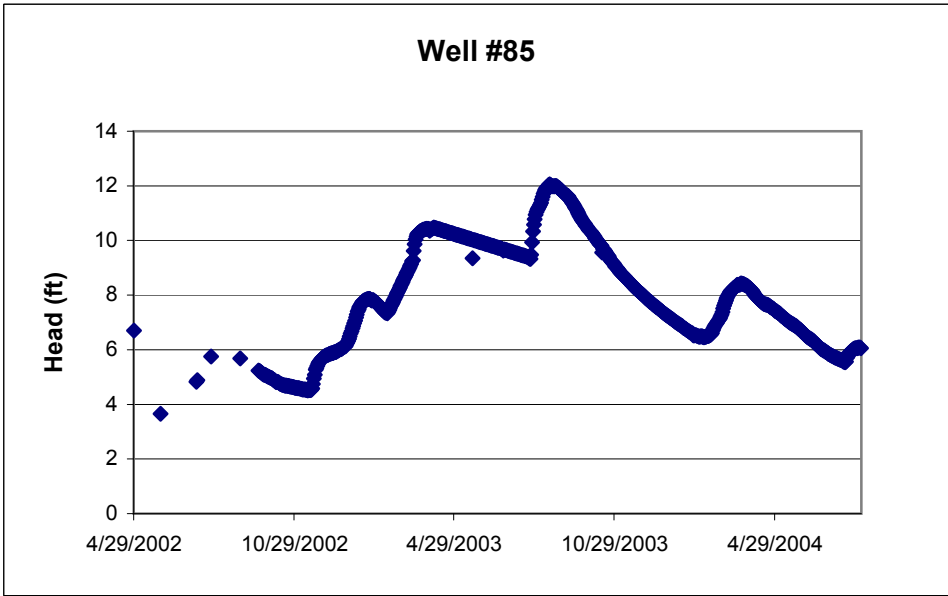
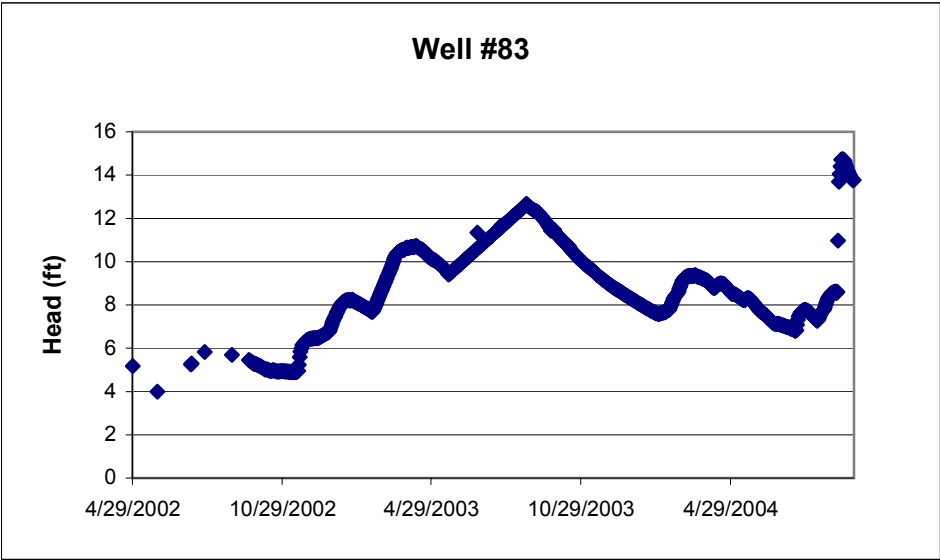


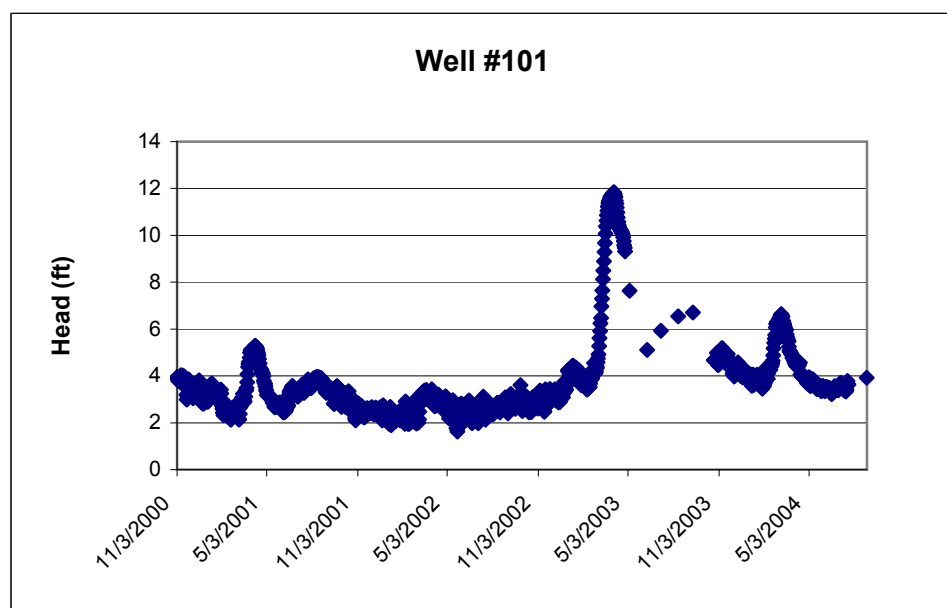
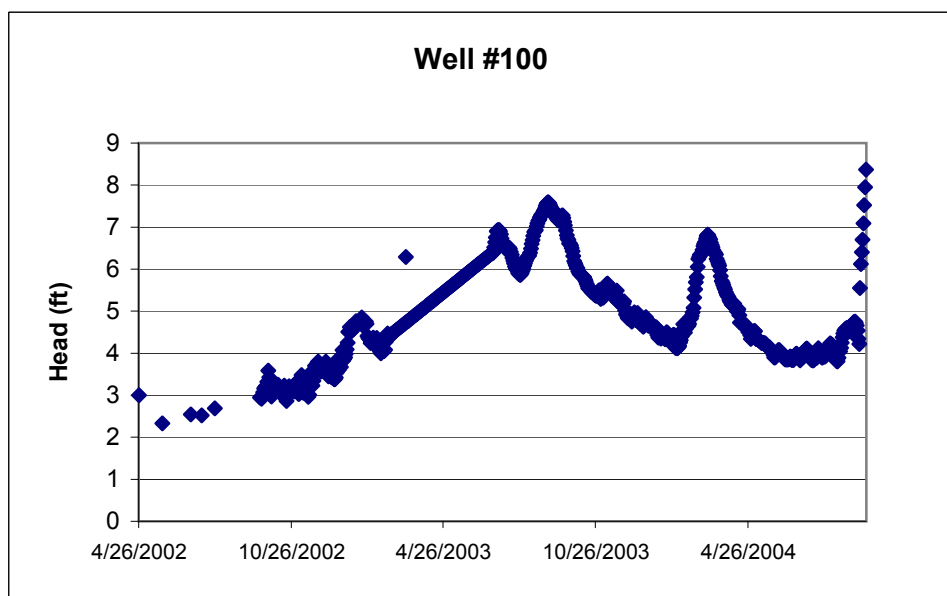
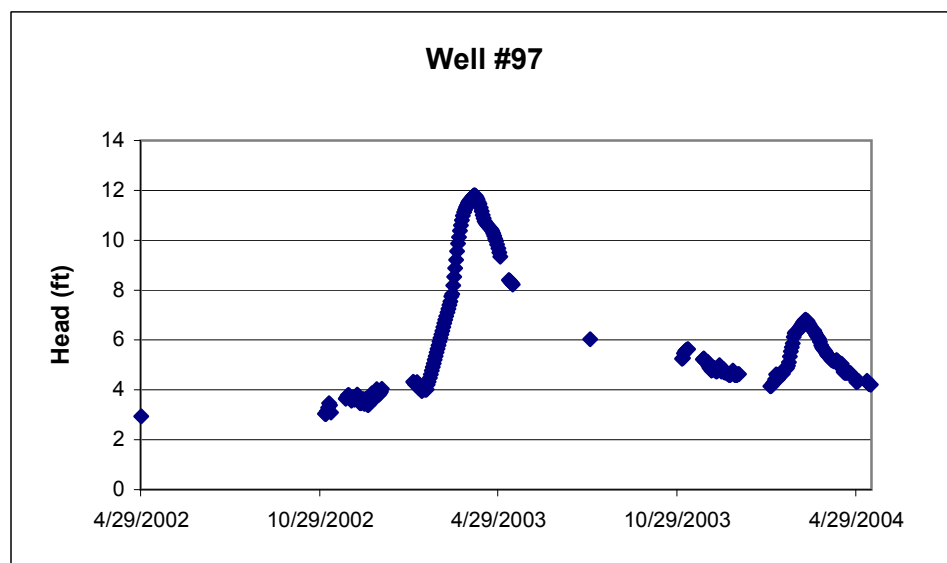
Well #76

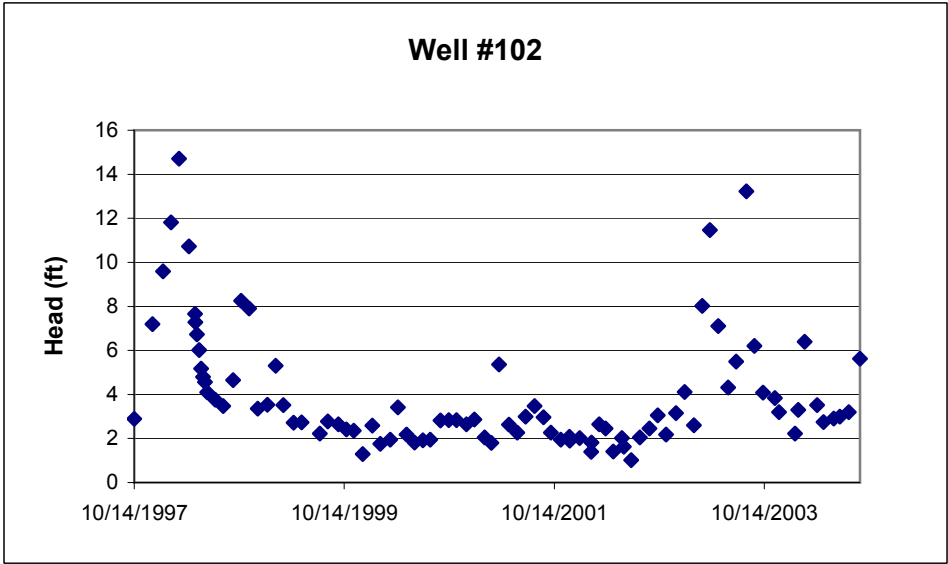


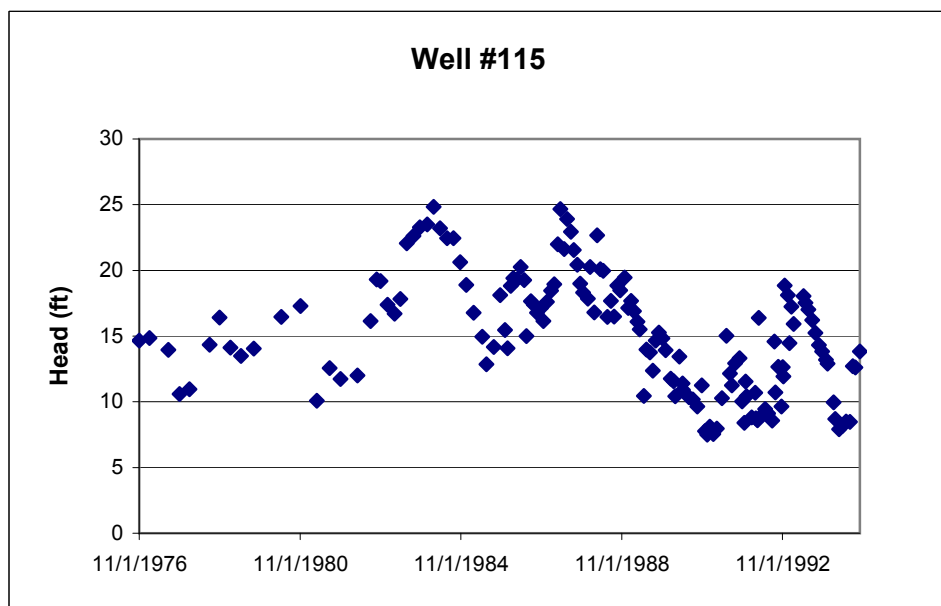
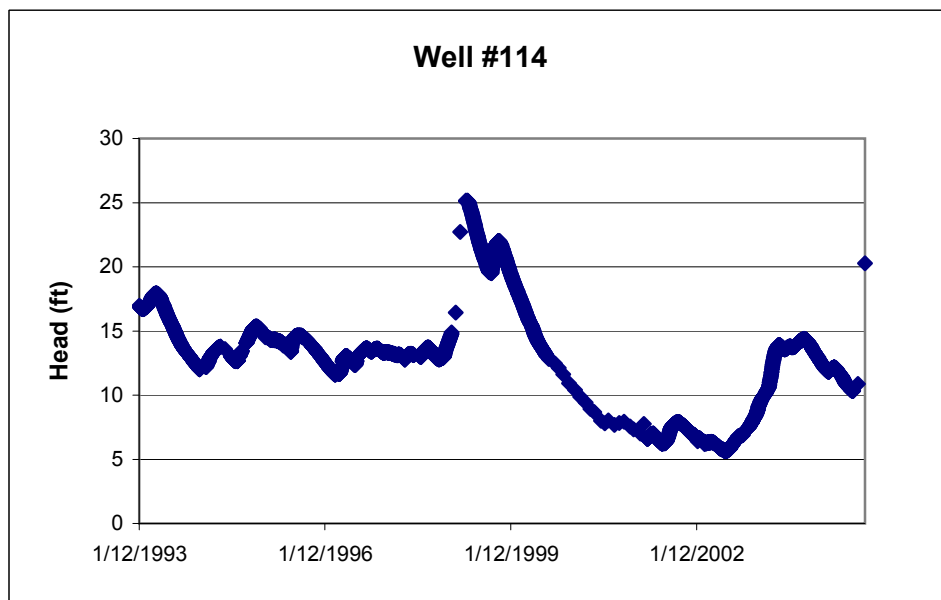
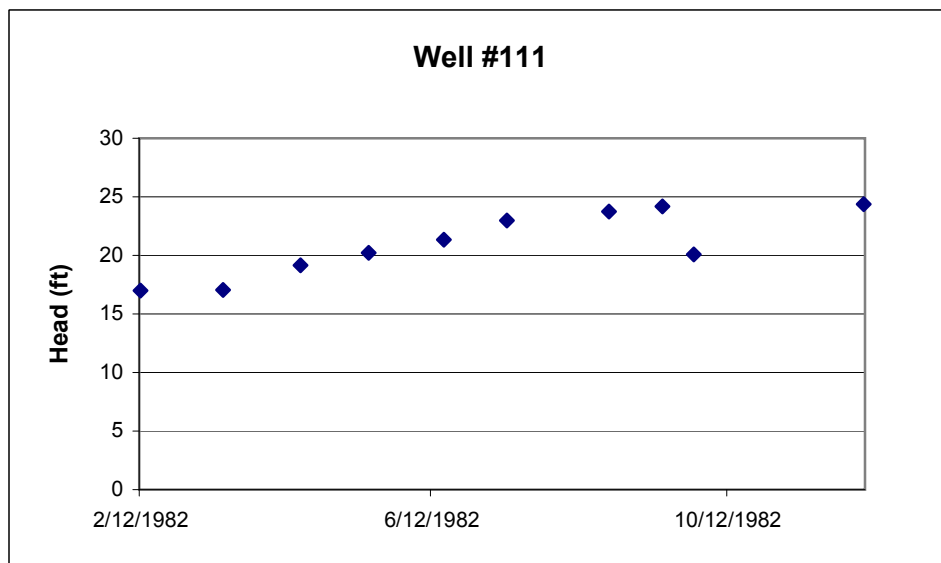
Well #79



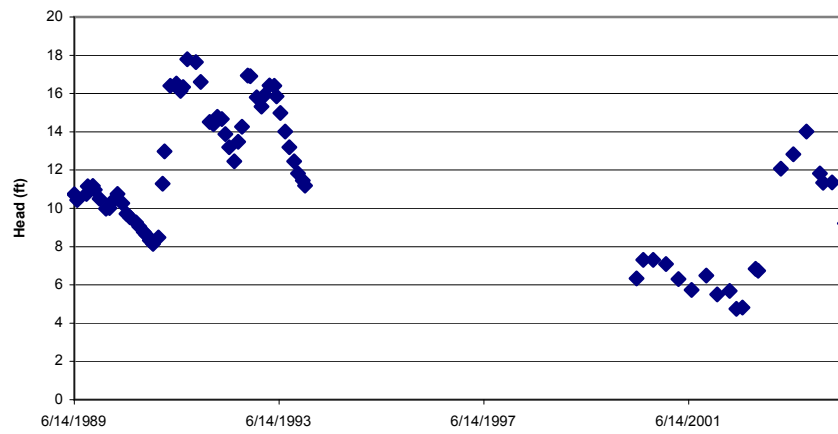




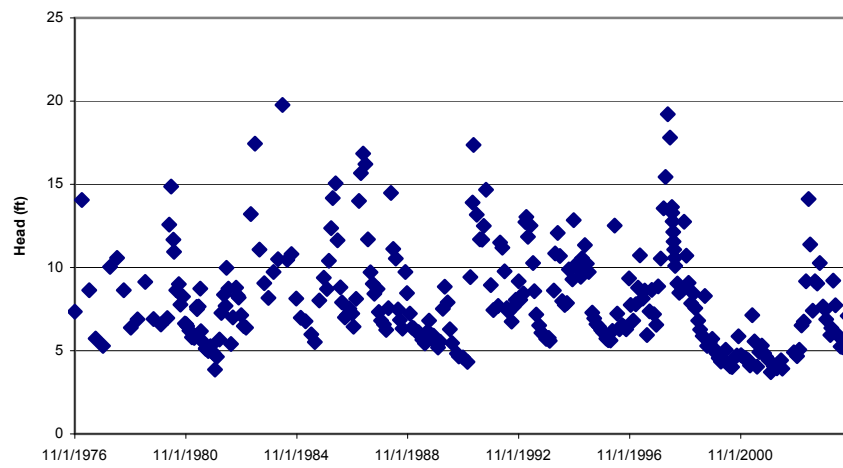




Well #140



Well #147



Appendix E - Ground \

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
9	-121519001	5/21/2002	8.4
		10/3/2002	9.93
		1/28/2004	12.94
12	-121506002	12/12/2001	12.23
		5/25/2002	8.66
		10/3/2002	10.95
		1/28/2004	15.28
14	-121436002	9/30/2003	13.65
		1/28/2004	9.94
16	-121428004	12/17/2003	12.34
		1/28/2004	11.25
17	-121424006	3/5/2002	6.28
		5/28/2002	5.23
		10/3/2002	7.15
		1/28/2004	9.89
18	-121423007	3/5/2002	5.55
		6/5/2002	4.3
		10/3/2002	6.35
		1/28/2004	9.17
19	-121422002	3/6/2002	5.34
		5/21/2002	4.5
		10/3/2002	6.29
		1/28/2004	8.8
22	-121418002	6/22/1982	11.77
		9/27/1982	12.23
		12/6/1982	9.89
23	-121415003	3/6/2002	6.95
		5/21/2002	5.72
		10/3/2002	7.51
		1/28/2004	10.56
24	-121410003	5/28/2002	5.17
		10/3/2002	6.66
		3/27/2003	11.09
		1/28/2004	9.64
25	-121410001	6/22/1982	13.47
		9/27/1982	13.35
		12/6/1982	11.82
		2/28/2002	5.94
		5/28/2002	4.88
		3/27/2003	10.96
26	-121402003	2/28/2002	7.27
		5/21/2002	6.32
		10/3/2002	7.75
		1/28/2004	11.45
29	-121324001	3/7/2002	9.08
		5/16/2002	7.85
		10/3/2002	11.26
		1/28/2004	12.01

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
31	-121302011	2/21/2003	3.49
		1/28/2004	4.47
		3/11/2004	6.23
32	-121302010	2/21/2003	5.52
		1/28/2004	4.49
		3/11/2004	6.23
39	-111506010	3/8/2002	5.87
		5/28/2002	5.2
		10/4/2002	6.56
		1/29/2004	11.44
40	-111506001	6/23/1981	10.83
		3/30/1982	9.45
		6/25/1982	13.55
		9/29/1982	14.22
		12/8/1982	14.49
41	-111503011	3/6/2002	11.93
		5/16/2002	10.9
		10/4/2002	12.45
		1/29/2004	18.23
44	-111435007	12/19/2001	9.02
		2/15/2002	8.09
		5/16/2002	7.03
		10/3/2002	8.61
		1/29/2004	12.59
45	-111434010	2/22/2002	8.03
		5/24/2002	6.9
		10/3/2002	8.48
		1/29/2004	12.67
46	-111431006	3/5/2002	3.59
		5/31/2002	2.89
		10/3/2002	4.08
47	-111430015	5/31/2002	1.56
		10/3/2002	2.77
		1/29/2004	4.72
48	-111430014	1/19/2001	3.29
		2/12/2002	2.75
		5/24/2002	2.2
		10/3/2002	3.63
		1/29/2004	4.29
49	-111429006	12/19/2001	3.88
		2/12/2002	3.3
		5/15/2002	2.94
		10/3/2002	4.09
		1/29/2004	5.21
50	-111429005	2/21/2002	4.76
		5/23/2002	3.81
		10/3/2002	5.52
		1/29/2004	7.71

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
51	-111428007	2/21/2002	6.11
		5/15/2002	5.37
		10/3/2002	6.81
		1/29/2004	10.13
52	-111426010	12/11/2001	9.4
		2/13/2002	8.31
		5/16/2002	7.37
		10/3/2002	8.6
		1/28/2004	12.8
54	-111425012	4/25/2001	15.69
		12/4/2001	9.78
		3/19/2002	8.26
		5/15/2002	7.48
		10/3/2002	9.07
		5/20/2003	13.3
		1/28/2004	13.41
56	-111423013	4/27/2001	5.51
		12/4/2001	9.23
		3/19/2002	5.84
		5/15/2002	7.14
		10/3/2002	7.78
		5/20/2003	14.04
		1/29/2004	12.82
57	-111421001	4/7/2004	12.87
		3/11/2002	5.88
		5/21/2002	5.05
		10/3/2002	6.64
58	-111417003	1/29/2004	9.93
		3/5/2002	5.54
		5/21/2002	4.91
		10/3/2002	6.36
59	-111415002	1/29/2004	9.62
		3/11/2002	6.01
		5/13/2002	5.6
		10/3/2002	6.7
60	-111414008	1/29/2004	10.27
		2/22/2002	6.6
		5/7/2002	5.65
		10/3/2002	7.34
61	-111413007	1/29/2004	11.32
		2/27/2002	7.56
		5/7/2002	5.76
		10/3/2002	8.38
62	-111410024	1/29/2004	12.84
		2/22/2002	5.43
		5/7/2002	3.17
		10/3/2002	5.76
		1/29/2004	9.49

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
63	-111408002	3/11/2002	5.08
		5/7/2002	4.77
		10/3/2002	5.65
		1/29/2004	8.56
65	-111403008	3/6/2002	5.29
		5/7/2002	5.08
		10/4/2002	5.94
		1/29/2004	9.34
66	-111336005	1/28/2004	2.32
		3/11/2004	4.76
67	-111336004	1/28/2004	2.35
		3/11/2004	4.81
		4/30/2004	2.53
68	-111336003	4/29/2002	3.09
		5/29/2002	1.71
		5/30/2002	1.75
		10/3/2002	2.45
		1/28/2004	2.53
69	-111336002	4/29/2002	2.16
		5/29/2002	1.95
		5/30/2002	2.01
		10/3/2002	2.76
		1/28/2004	2.17
70	-111335006	1/28/2004	1.73
73	-111326008	2/15/2000	1.23
		2/27/2002	1.46
		5/29/2002	1.33
		10/3/2002	1.85
75	-111325018	4/29/2002	3.57
		5/29/2002	2.5
		8/28/2002	4.52
		10/3/2002	3.91
		1/28/2004	4.49
77	-111325016	2/15/2001	3.04
		2/27/2001	2.86
		2/12/2002	3.29
		5/29/2002	2.61
78	-111325008	12/13/2000	3.67
		2/15/2001	2.96
		5/29/2002	2.52
		10/3/2002	3.84
		1/28/2004	4.48
80	-111324033	5/15/2002	1.91
81	-111324030	5/23/2002	3
		6/26/2002	2.74

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
82	-111324029	4/29/2002	5.61
		5/24/2002	5.65
		7/9/2002	3.94
		8/28/2002	5.03
		10/3/2002	4.54
		1/27/2004	5.78
		1/28/2004	6.7
84	-111324027	4/29/2002	5.73
		5/29/2002	3.87
		8/28/2002	5.95
		10/3/2002	5.17
		1/28/2004	6.09
		3/16/2004	8.98
86	-111312001	4/1/2003	10.25
		1/29/2004	6.93
		4/7/2004	6.7
89	-101528013	3/6/2002	6.44
		5/16/2002	6.04
		10/4/2002	7.17
		1/29/2004	12.11
91	-101435008	12/18/2001	5.87
		2/13/2002	5.33
		5/7/2002	5.02
		10/4/2002	5.77
		1/29/2004	9.54
92	-101435007	12/18/2001	5.83
		2/6/2002	5.41
		5/7/2002	5.6
		10/4/2002	5.94
		1/29/2004	9.9
93	-101433012	12/18/2001	3.32
		5/20/2002	2.77
		10/4/2002	3.68
		1/29/2004	5.35
94	-101432001	3/22/2002	3.88
		4/16/2002	3.7
		5/15/2002	3.13
		10/4/2002	3.83
		1/29/2004	6.53
		4/30/2004	5.99
96	-101429024	4/26/2002	3.04
		5/23/2002	2.46
		6/27/2002	2.58
		10/4/2002	3.27
		1/22/2004	4.5
		1/29/2004	4.32

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
98	-101429022	4/26/2002	3.21
		5/22/2002	2.15
		6/27/2002	2.83
		10/4/2002	3.4
		1/22/2004	4.43
		1/29/2004	4.15
99	-101429021	4/26/2002	2.95
		5/22/2002	2.01
		6/27/2002	2.57
		10/4/2002	3.21
		1/26/2004	4.48
		1/29/2004	4.17
104	-101427005	12/18/2001	3.52
		2/13/2002	3.14
		5/14/2002	3.13
		10/4/2002	3.94
		1/29/2004	5.94
105	-101426007	12/18/2001	4.4
		2/13/2002	4.04
		5/6/2002	3.87
		10/4/2002	4.76
106	-101425008	1/31/2001	5.98
		3/19/2002	4.06
		5/7/2002	3.35
		10/4/2002	6.13
		12/10/2002	6.37
		1/29/2004	10.63
		4/1/2004	10.63
107	-101420026	12/6/2001	3.57
		8/2/2002	3.96
		10/14/2002	4.08
		1/29/2004	4.19
110	-101522006	3/14/2002	7.94
		5/17/2002	7.67
		10/4/2002	8.31
		1/28/2004	14.43
112	-101520004	3/14/2002	7.37
		5/17/2002	7.09
		10/4/2002	8.01
		1/28/2004	13.15
117	-101508002	3/29/1982	16.21
		6/30/1982	16.8
		9/29/1982	24.56
		12/7/1982	20.89
		3/14/2002	6.87
		5/17/2002	6
		10/3/2002	7.23
		1/28/2004	14.52

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
121	-101421003	3/12/2002	4.26
		5/15/2002	3.21
		10/4/2002	2.83
		1/28/2004	4.35
122	-101416006	3/13/2002	3.99
		5/31/2002	3.28
		10/4/2002	4.55
		1/28/2004	7.04
123	-101414001	3/21/2002	4.47
		5/20/2002	3.76
		10/4/2002	4.93
		1/28/2004	7.84
124	-101413010	3/21/2002	5.34
		5/20/2002	4.78
		10/4/2002	6.02
		1/28/2004	10.07
126	-101410005	3/13/2002	4.28
		5/20/2002	3.61
		10/4/2002	4.93
		1/28/2004	7.68
127	-101408003	3/12/2002	3.73
		5/17/2002	2.89
		10/4/2002	3.73
		1/28/2004	5.21
128	-101406001	3/21/1982	6.06
		6/24/1982	4.57
		9/27/1982	5.22
		12/6/1982	4.33
		7/23/2002	3.58
		10/4/2002	5.08
		1/29/2004	4.14
129	-101401002	3/13/2002	4.76
		5/17/2002	4.31
		10/4/2002	5.55
		1/28/2004	9.19
141	-91520001	9/8/1981	17.69
		3/22/1982	16.42
		6/24/1982	21.15
		9/27/1982	22.66
		12/6/1982	22.99
		3/25/2002	12.85
		5/20/2002	11.96
		10/4/2002	14.14

Well #	Site ID	Date	Head (ft)
142	-91506002	9/21/1981	21.85
		3/22/1982	19.72
		3/21/2002	9.94
		5/28/2002	9.38
		10/4/2002	12.18
		1/28/2004	16.71
145	-91436008	3/25/2002	4.88
		5/20/2002	4.21
		10/4/2002	5.38
		1/28/2004	8.78
146	-91436002	3/22/1982	15.41
		6/30/1982	16.44
		9/27/1982	19.32
		12/6/1982	18.37
148	-91415002	10/1/1981	14.39
		3/22/1982	15.14
		6/24/1982	18.22
		9/27/1982	17.43
		12/6/1982	18.06
		3/21/2002	5.45
		6/5/2002	4.58
		10/4/2002	6.23

Appendix E - Rainfall Data

Figure E-1 Trenton Tower Monthly Rainfall Totals

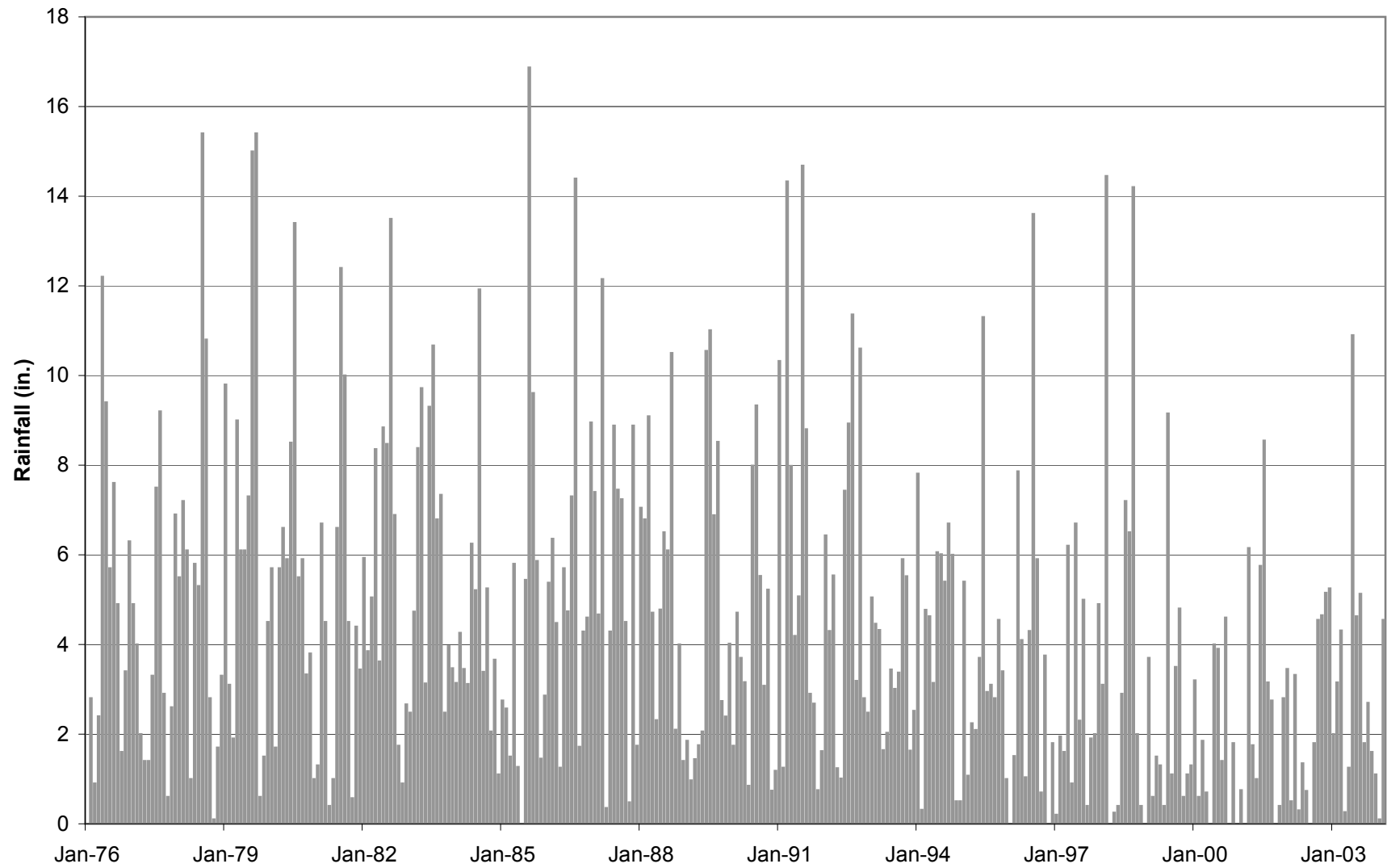


Figure E-2 Fanning Spring Monthly Rainfall Totals

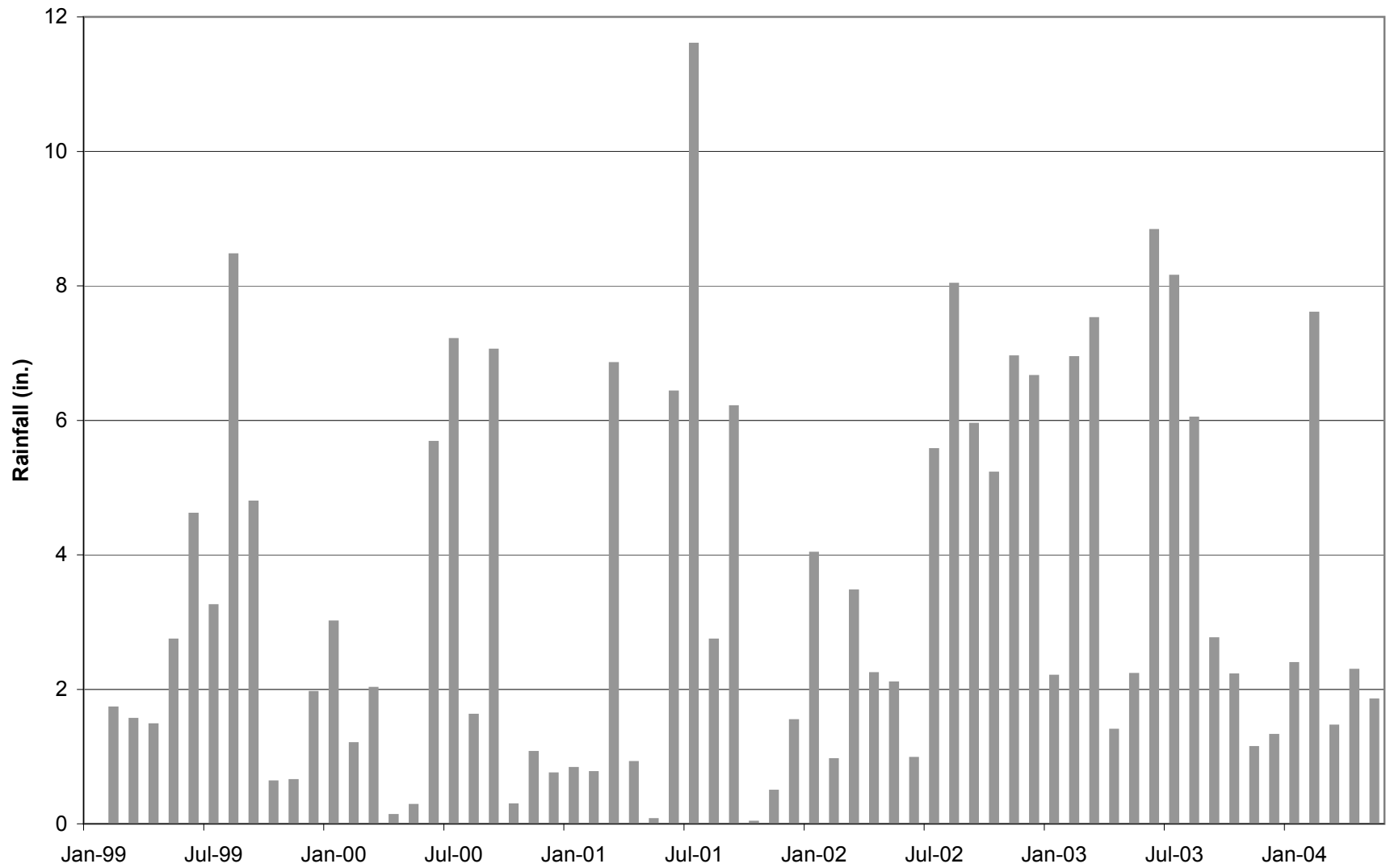
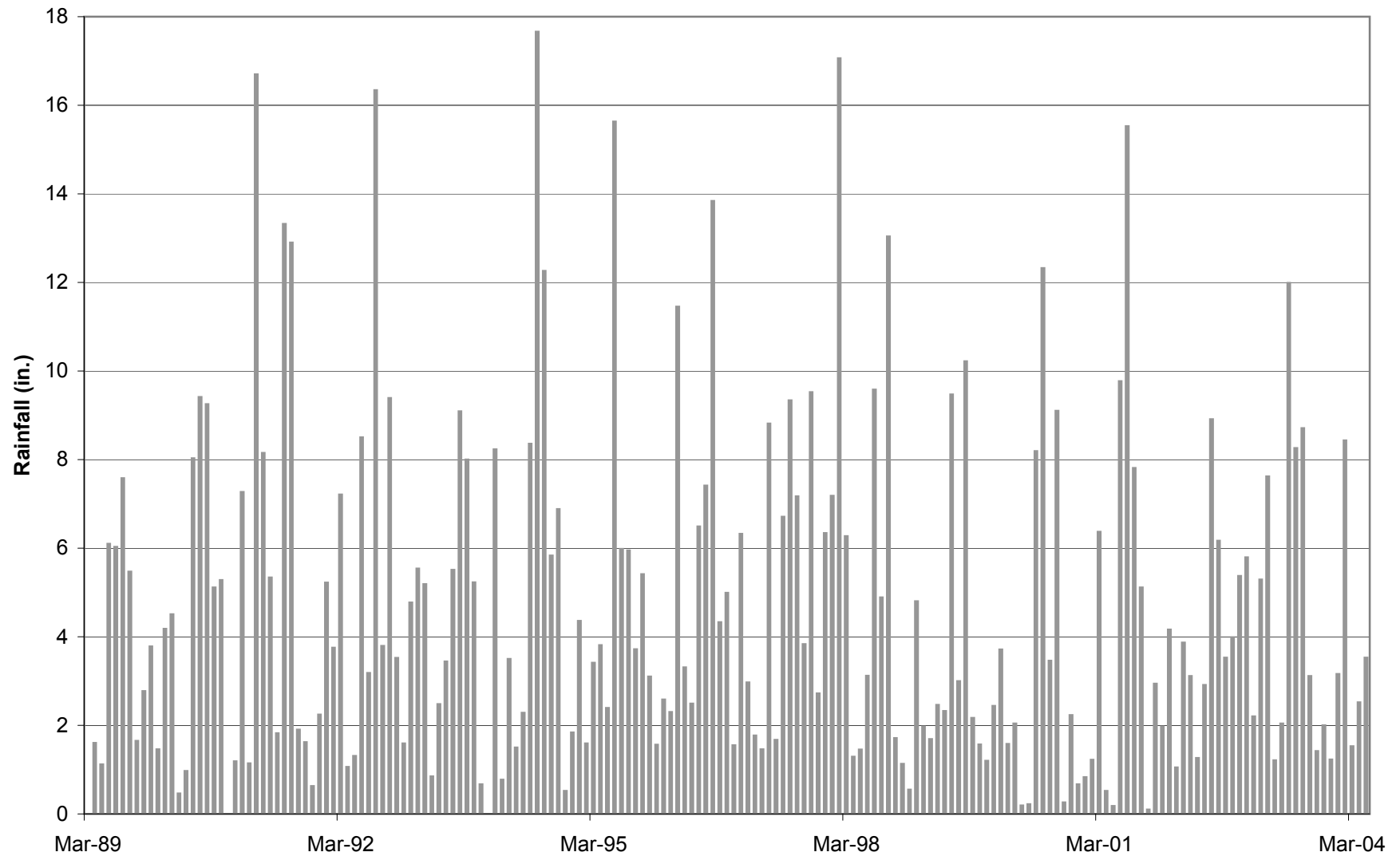


Figure E-3 Manatee Spring Monthly Rainfall Totals



Appendix F – Manatee Springs Thermal Plume Modeling Results

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
Buoy 1, 1m

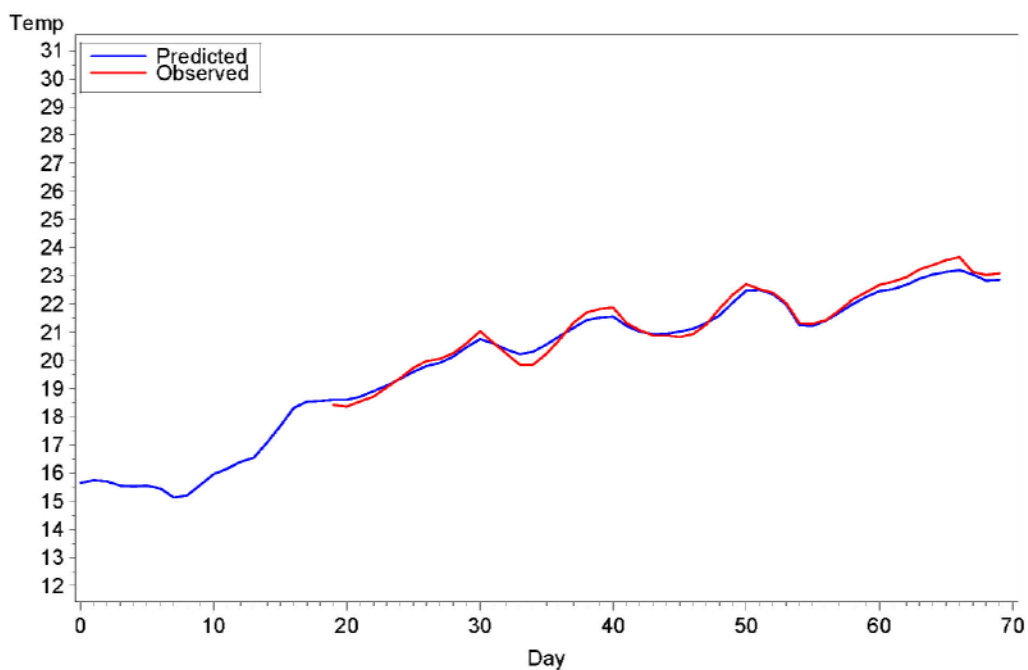


Figure F-1 Daily temperatures, predicted and observed, at Buoy 1, 1m, 2/20/04-4/30/04.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
Buoy 1, 2m

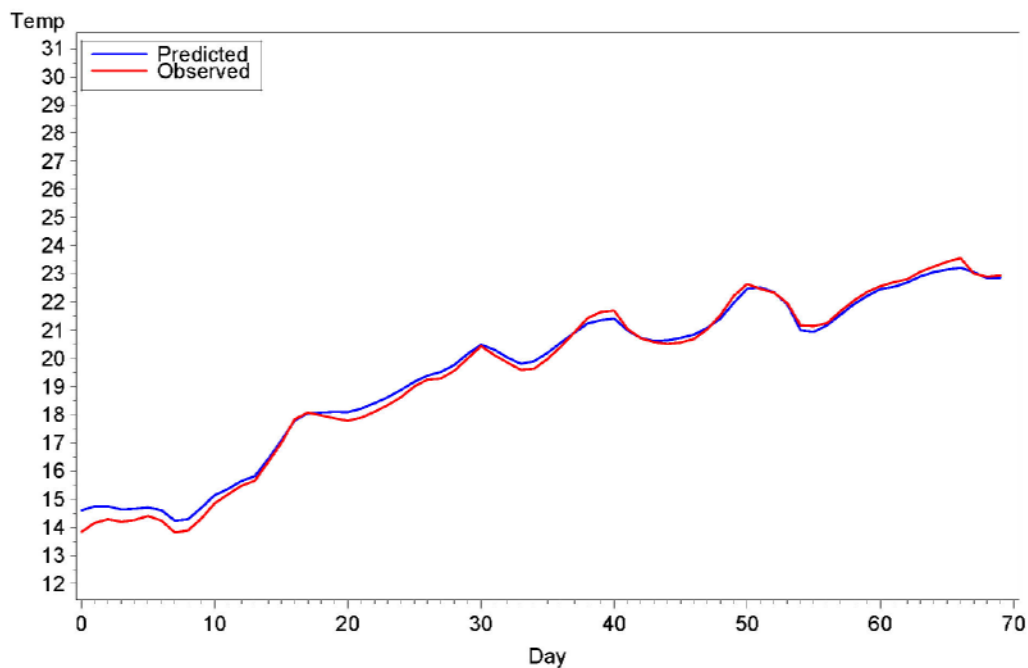


Figure F-2 Daily temperatures, predicted and observed, at Buoy 1, 2 m, 2/20/04-4/30/04.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
Buoy 2, 1m

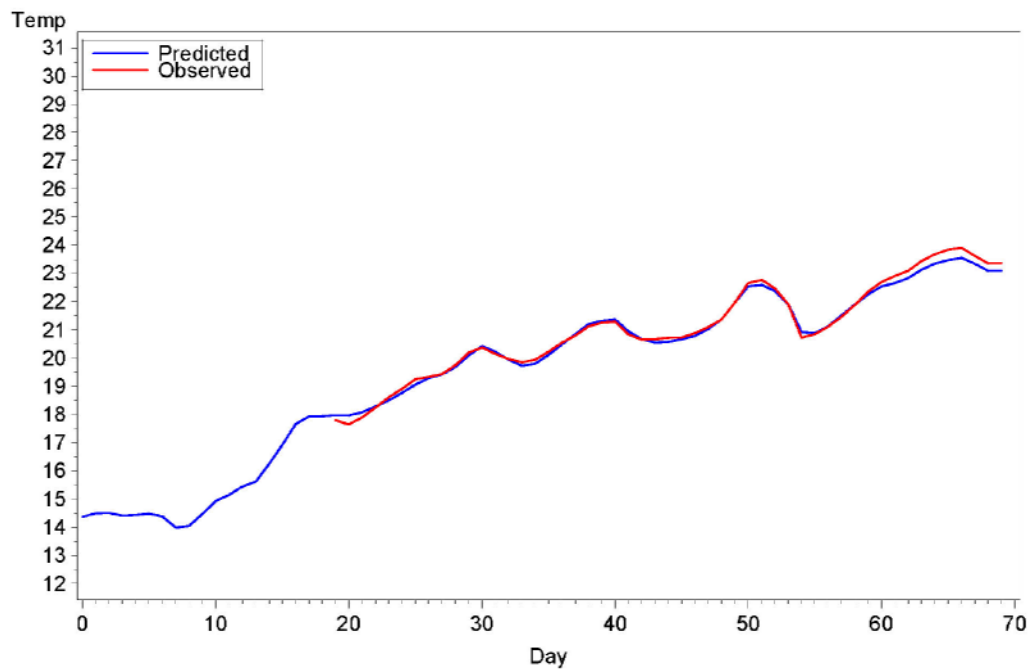


Figure F-3 Daily temperatures, predicted and observed, at Buoy 2, 1 m, 2/20/04-4/30/04.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
Buoy 2, 2m

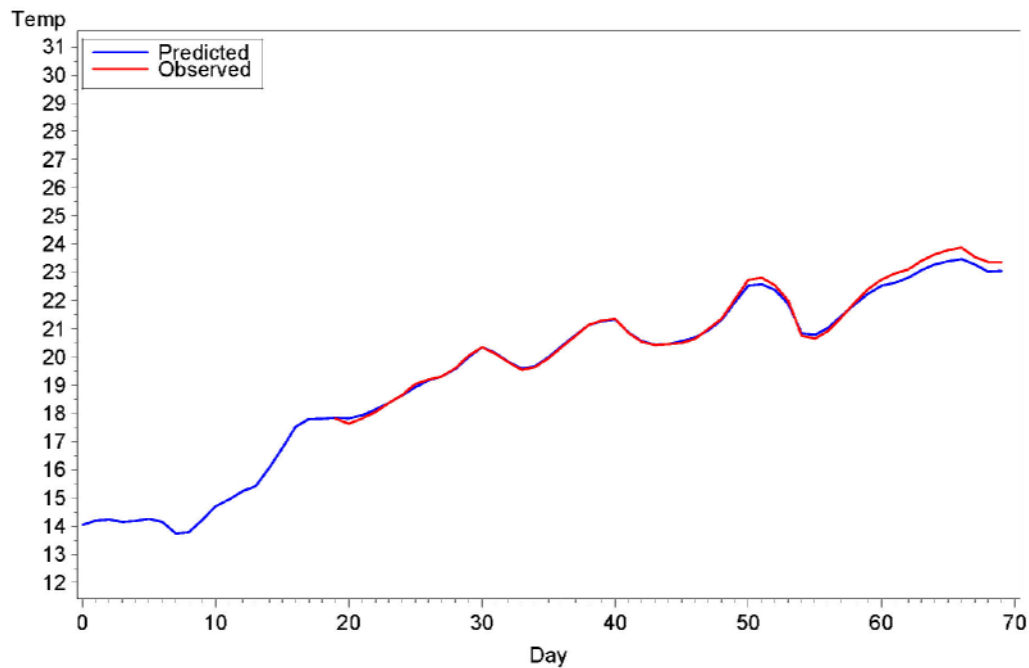


Figure F-4 Daily temperatures, predicted and observed, at Buoy 2, 2 m, 2/20/04-4/30/04.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
Buoy 3, 1m

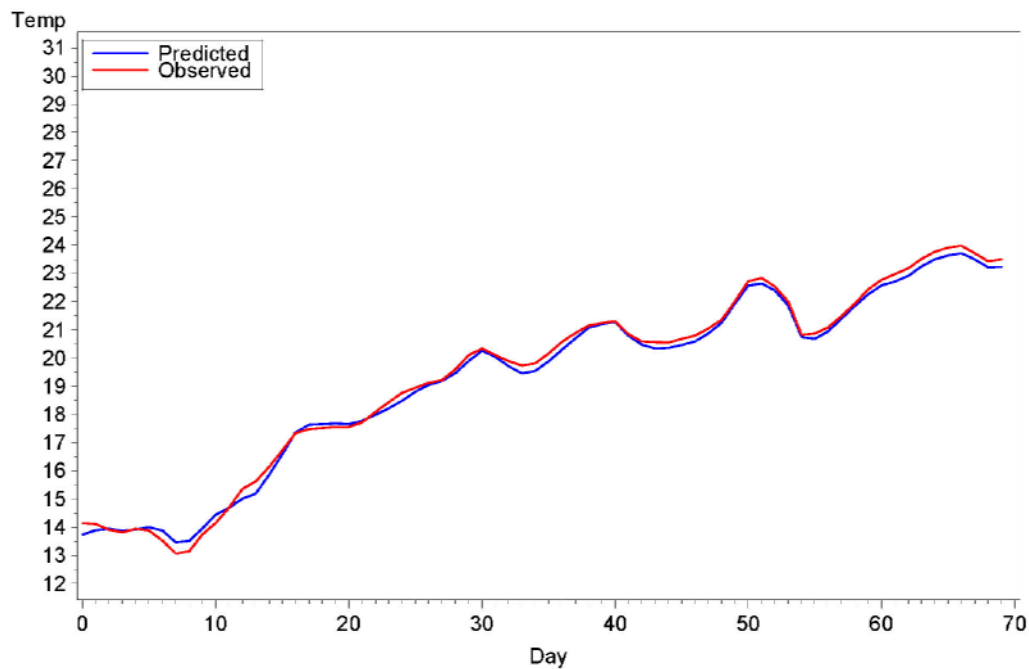


Figure F-5 Daily temperatures, predicted and observed, at Buoy 3, 1 m, 2/20/04-4/30/04.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
Buoy 3, 2m

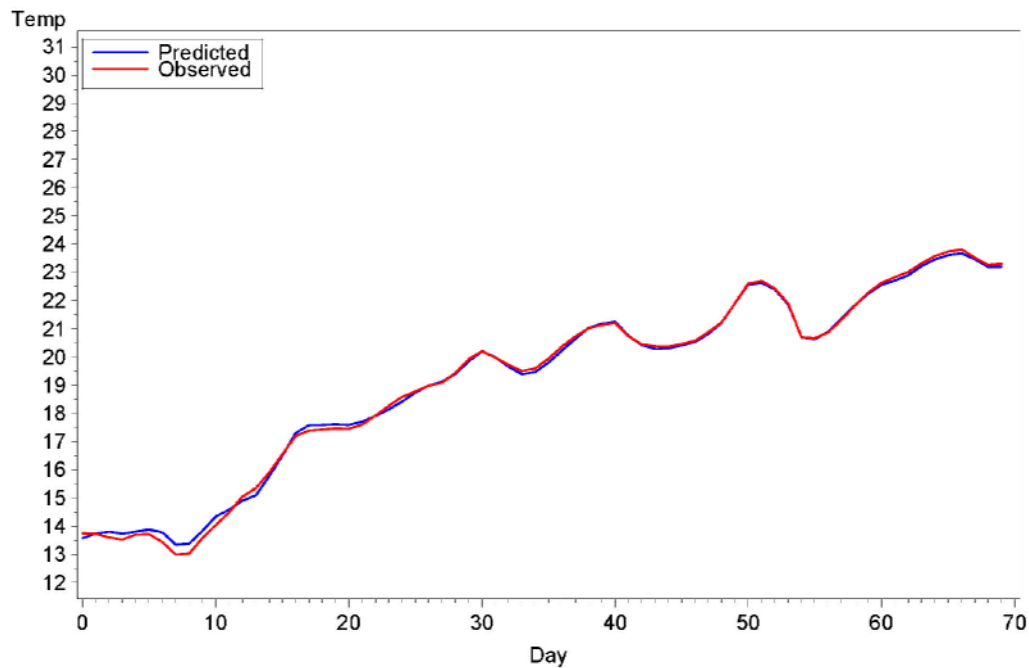


Figure F-6 Daily temperatures, predicted and observed, at Buoy 3, 2 m, 2/20/04-4/30/04.

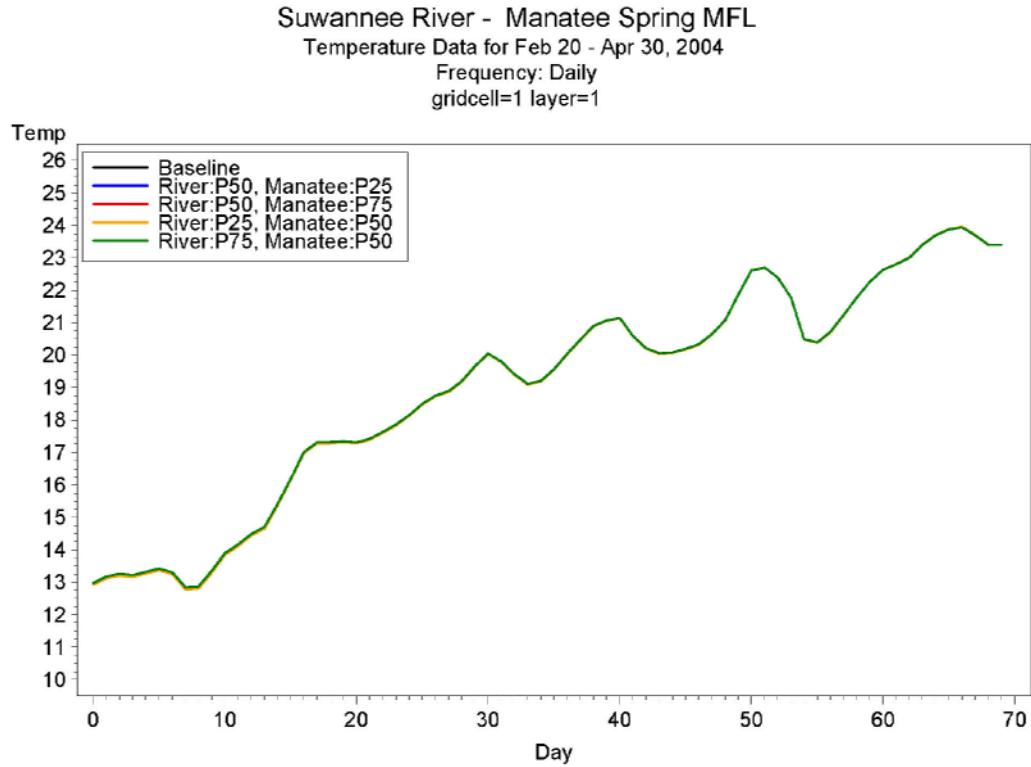


Figure F-7 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 1.

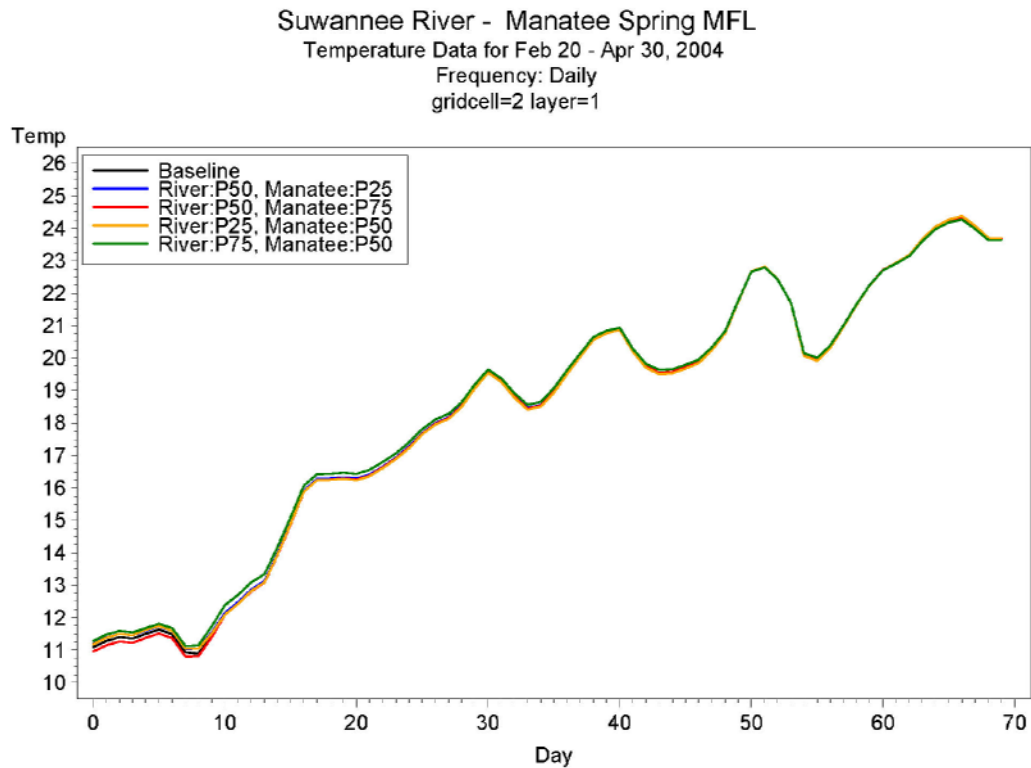


Figure F-8 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 2.

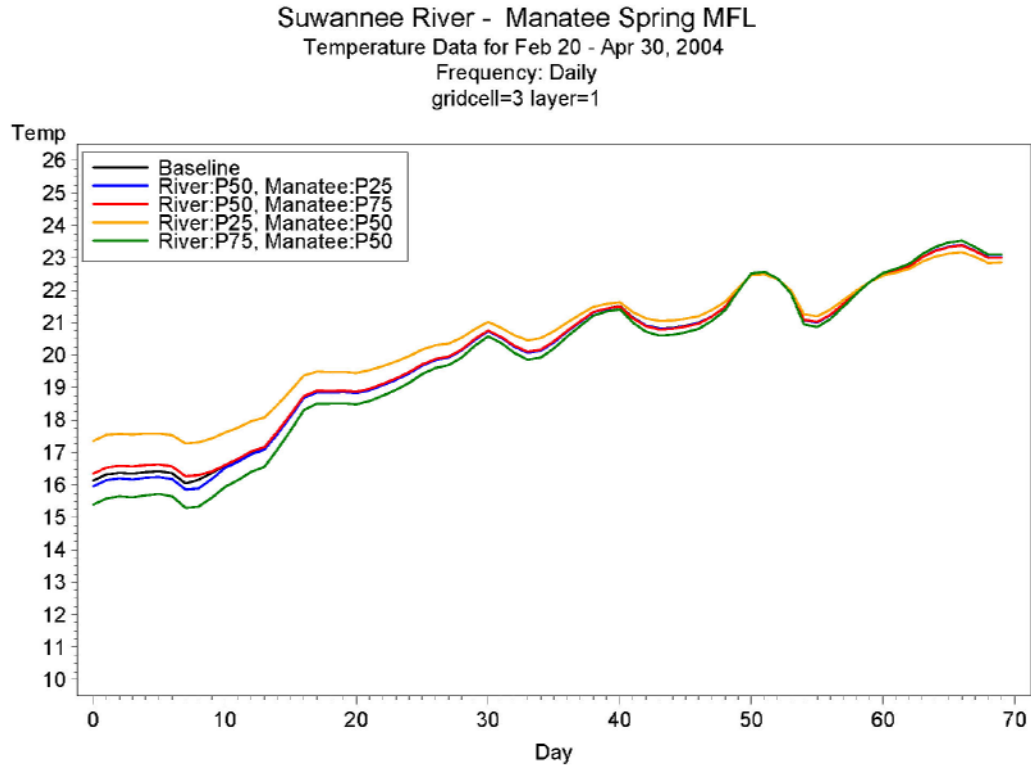


Figure F-9 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 3.

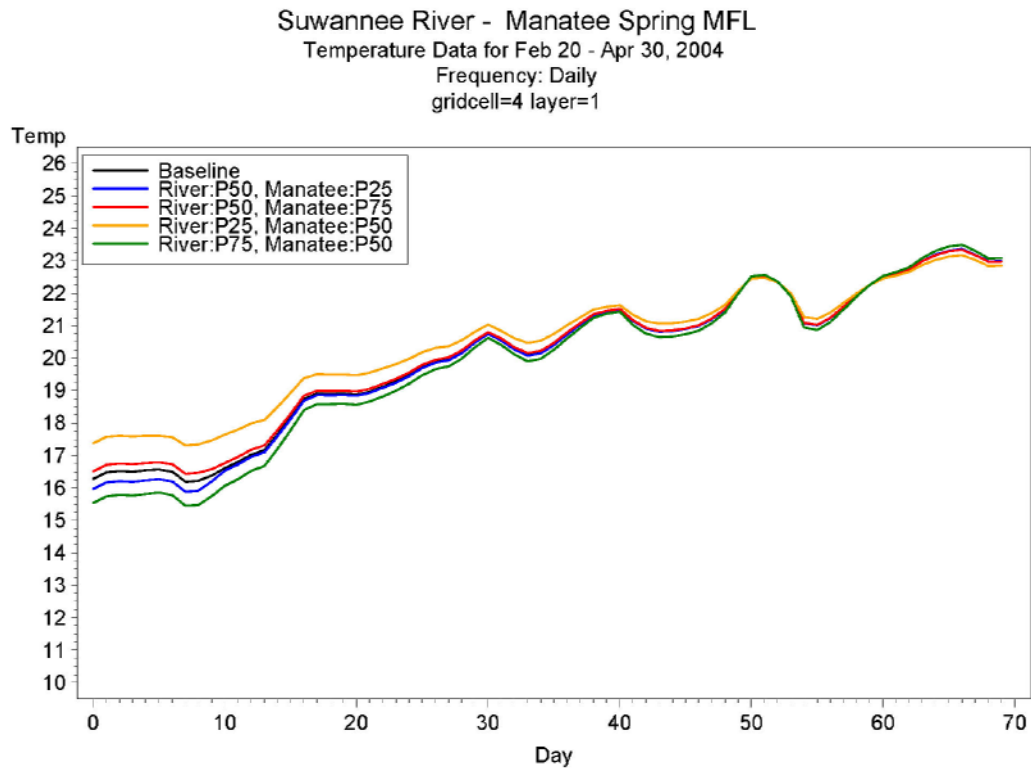


Figure F-10 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 4.

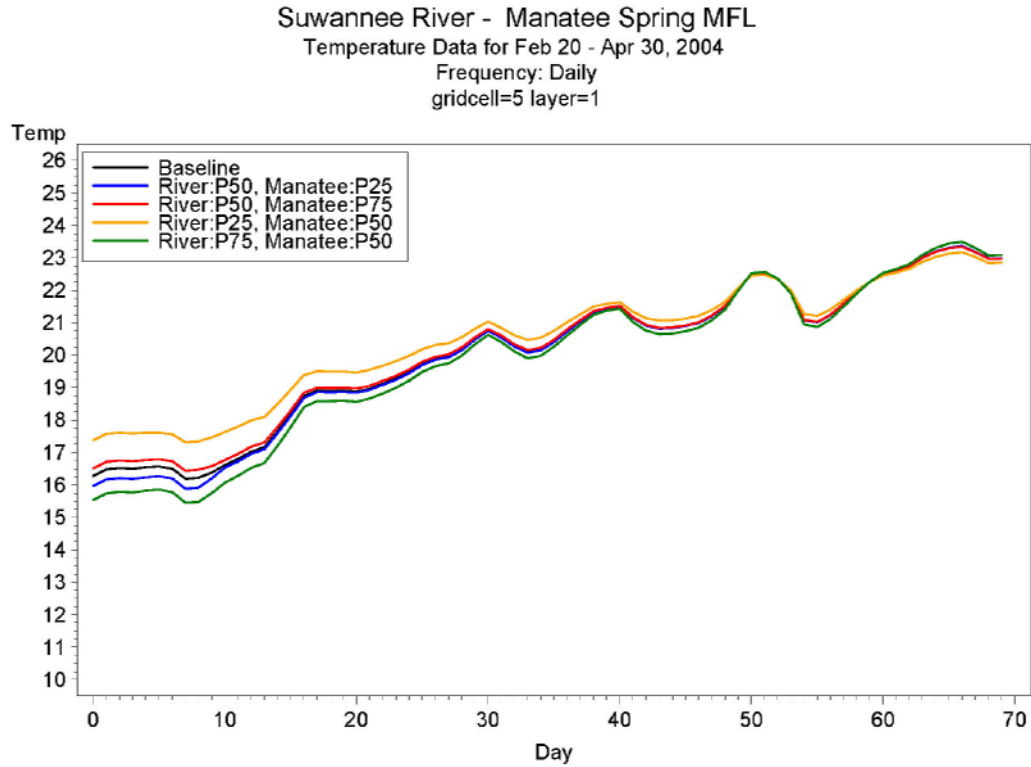


Figure F-11 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 5.

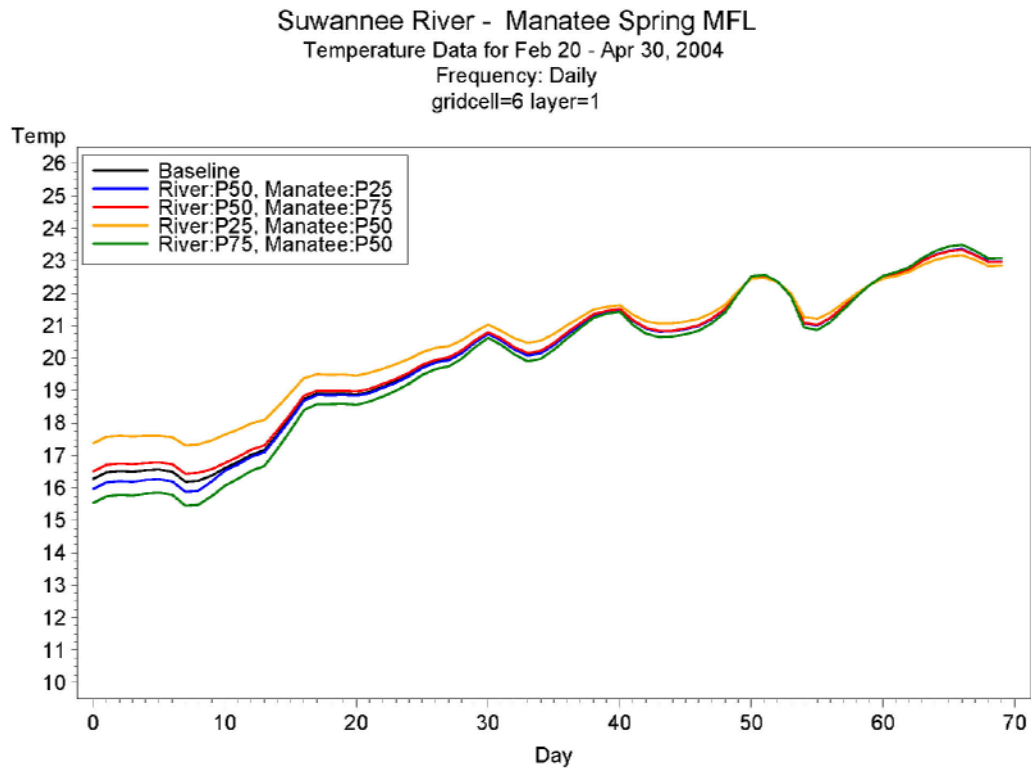


Figure F-12 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 6.

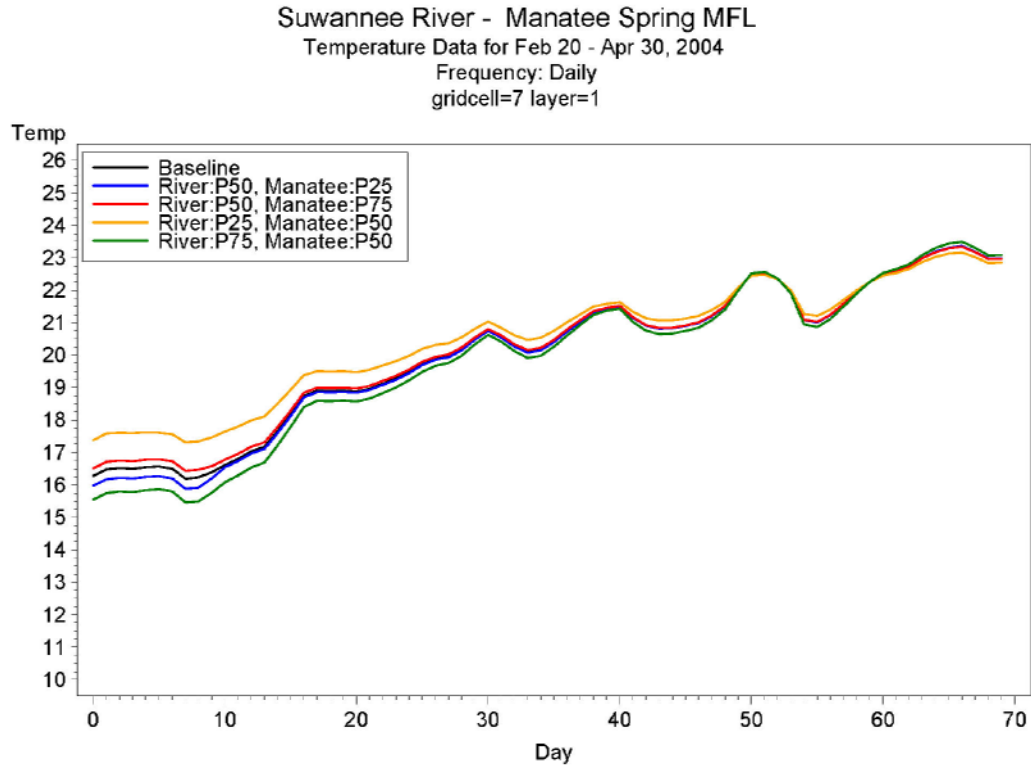


Figure F-13 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 7.

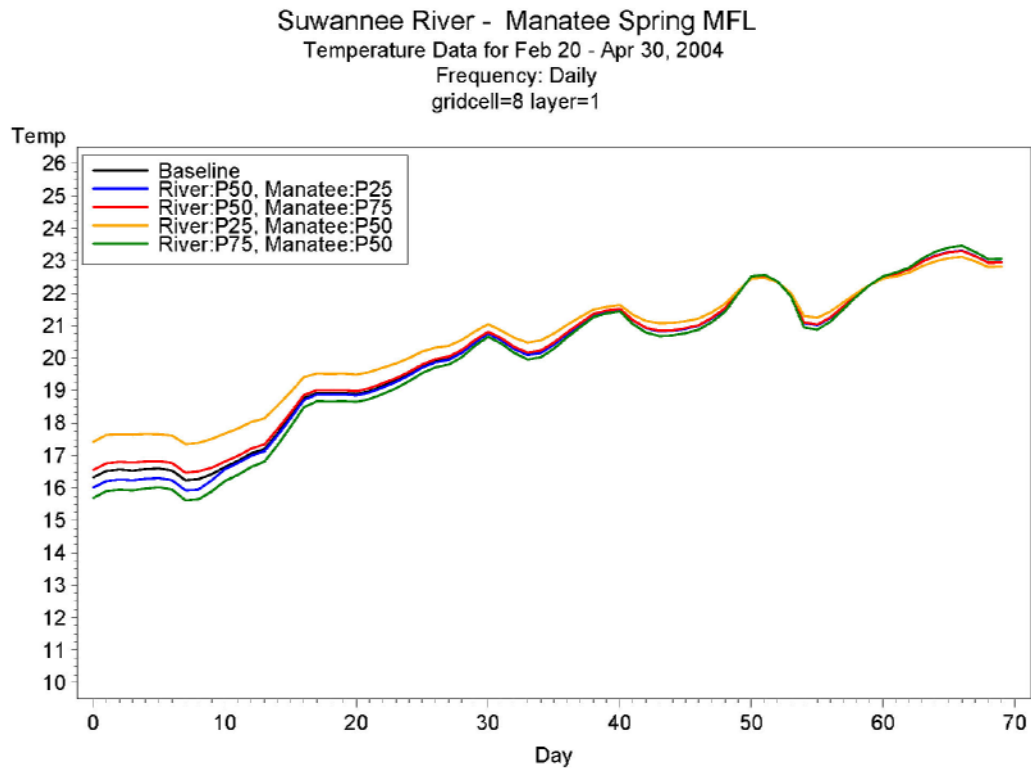


Figure F-14 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 8.

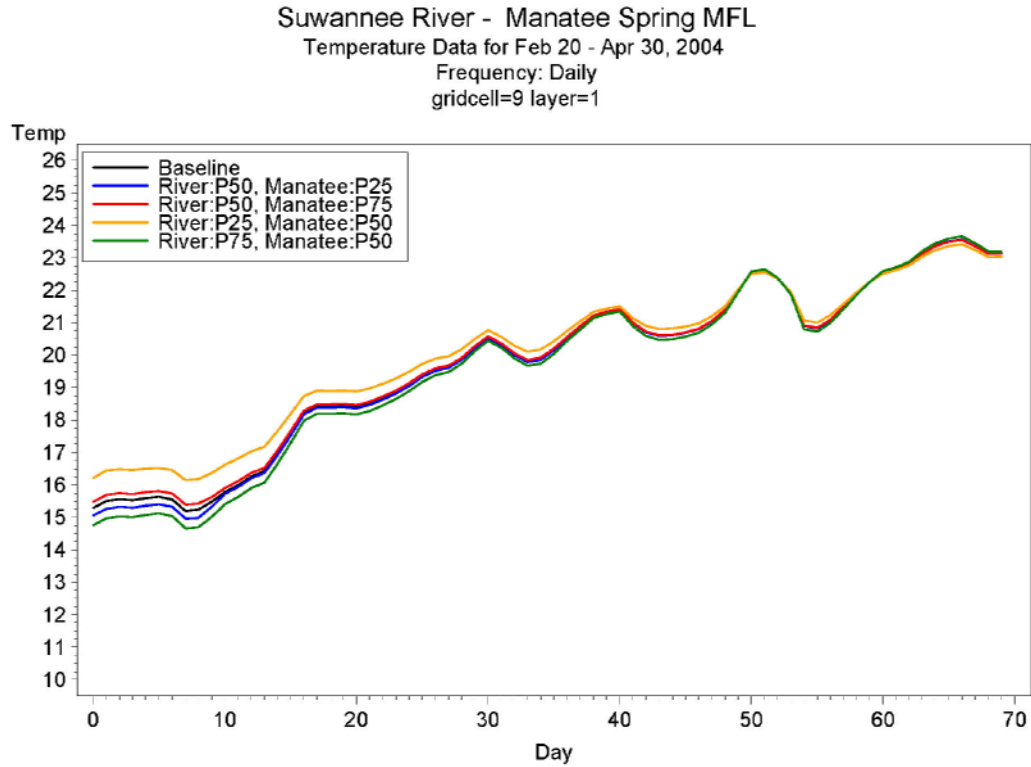


Figure F-15 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 9.

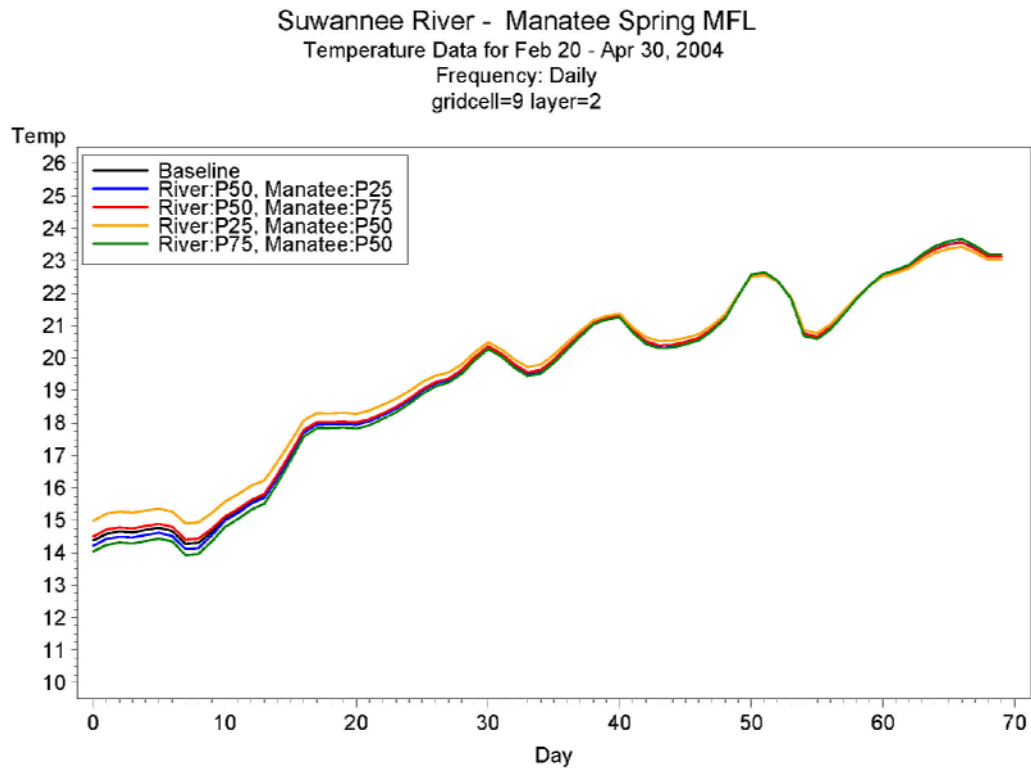


Figure F-16 Predicted daily temperatures, bottom grid 9.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
 Temperature Data for Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
 Frequency: Daily
 gridcell=10 layer=1

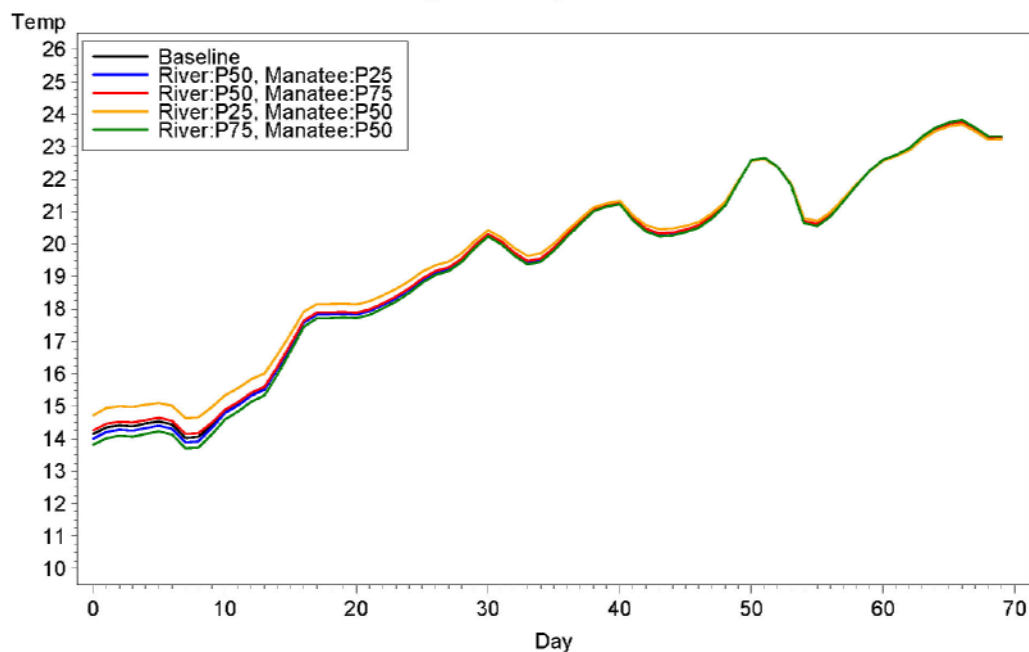


Figure F-17 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 10.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
 Temperature Data for Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
 Frequency: Daily
 gridcell=10 layer=2

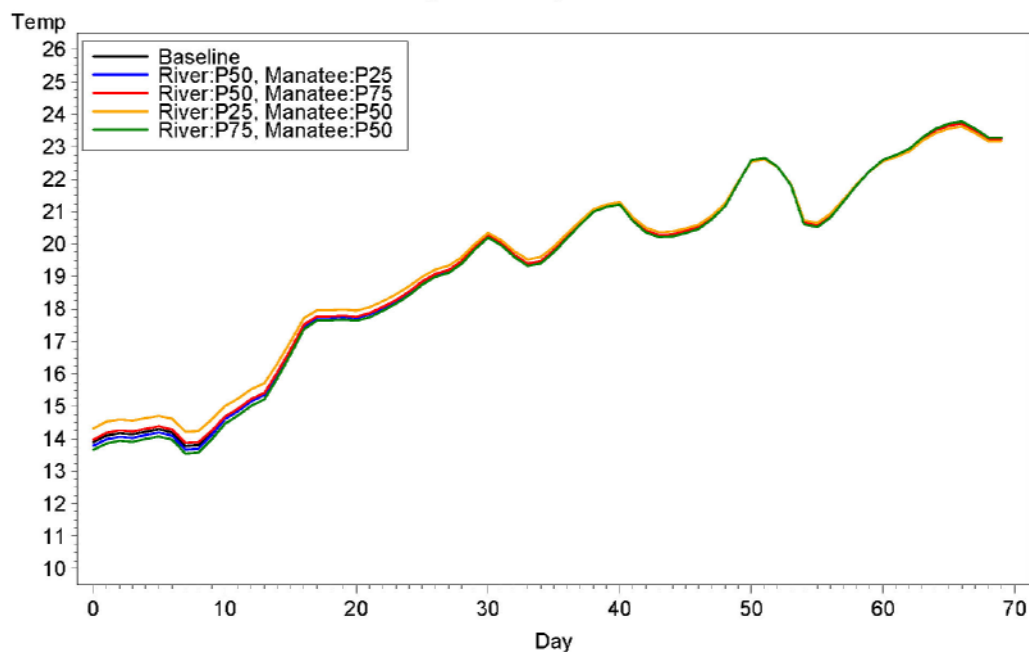


Figure F-18 Predicted daily temperatures, bottom grid 10.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
 Temperature Data for Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
 Frequency: Daily
 gridcell=11 layer=1

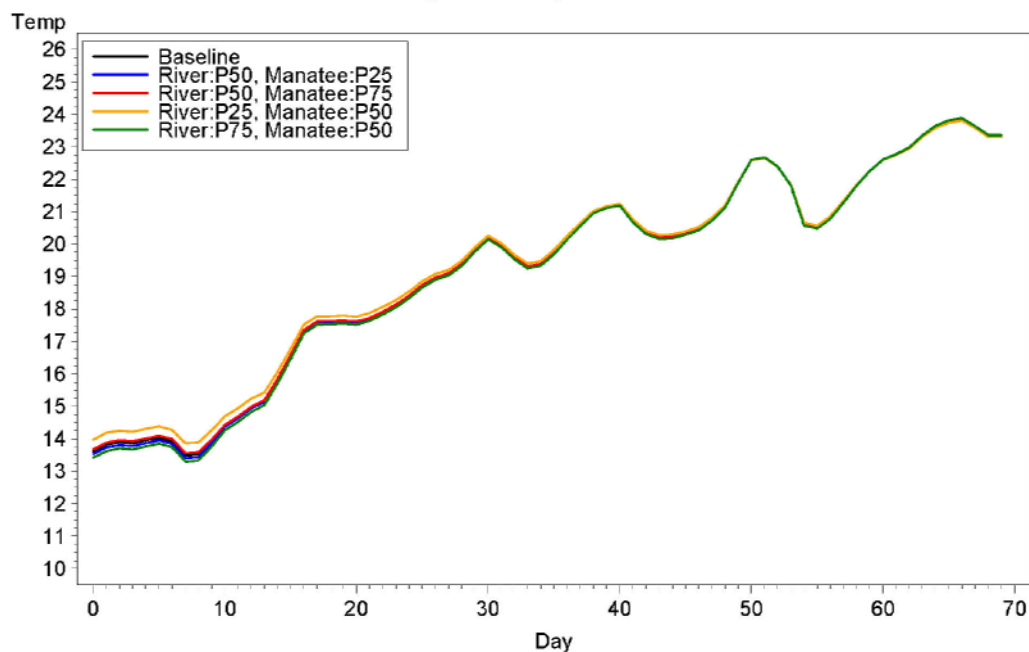


Figure F-19 Predicted daily temperatures, surface grid 11.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
 Temperature Data for Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
 Frequency: Daily
 gridcell=11 layer=2

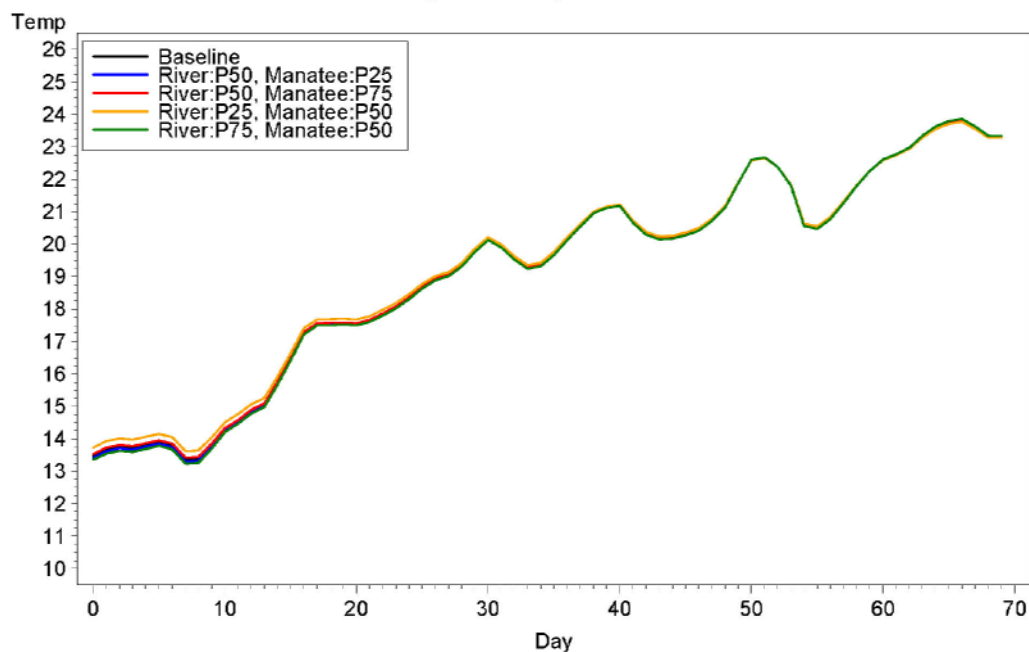


Figure F-20 Predicted daily temperatures, bottom grid 11.

Suwannee River - Manatee Spring MFL
Temperature Data for Feb 20 - Apr 30, 2004
Daily Proportion of Volume >20 C
Gridcells 3-8

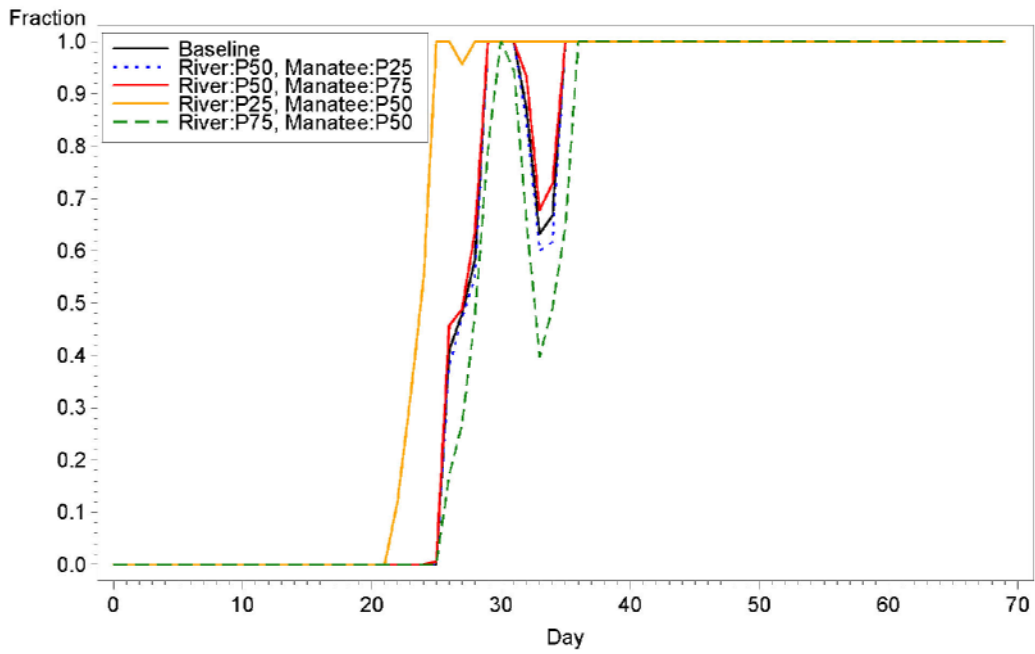
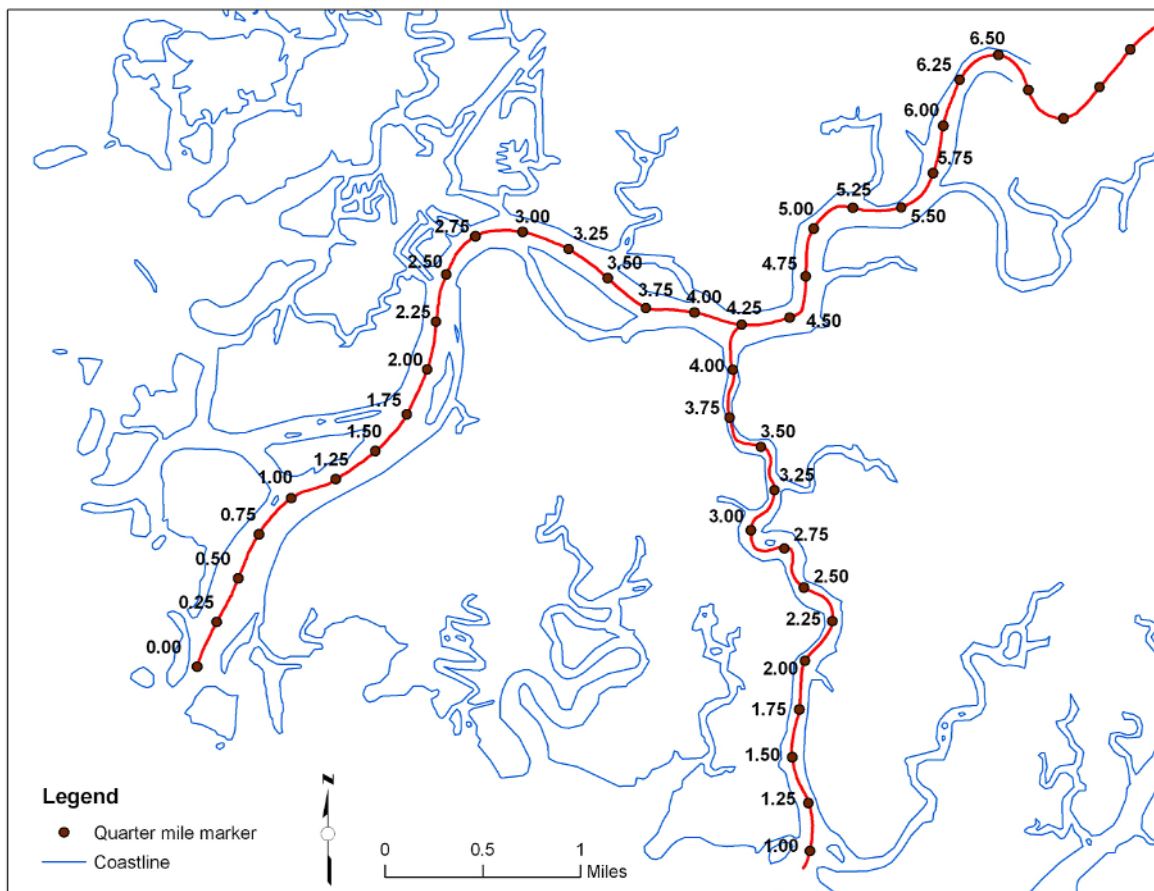


Figure F-21 Predicted daily fraction of volume greater than 20°C for cells 3-8.

Appendix G – Construction of the Lower Suwannee River Mile System



Background

- In studying flow-habitat and flow-salinity relationships, it is crucial to understand the spatial distribution of different riverine habitats. Such a study requires a common river distance system to link current habitat locations with isohaline locations.

Objectives

- To design a river mile system for analyzing the spatial distribution of the lower Suwannee River habitats.

Data Sources

- Centerline coverage as an ARC/INFO export (e00) file from John Good. The original source of this coverage is Jack Grubbs at the USGS and it was created by Augustine Alejandro Sepulveda (personal communication with John Good, 4/11/05).

Methods

- All GIS procedures were performed using ArcMap 9.0, ArcToolbox 9.0, and ArcCatalog 9.0 (packaged as ArcGIS).
- The ARC/INFO export files were converted to coverages using the ArcView Import from Interchange File function under Conversion Tools in ArcCatalog.
- The resulting ARC/INFO coverages were then converted to polyline shapefiles using the Data Export function in ArcMap.
- The splitPLine script was downloaded (<http://arcscripts.esri.com/>) and modified to split the polyline shapefiles into quarter mile segments. The modification involved setting the cutting distance to quarter mile sections (Figure G-1).
- The East Pass River mile section was constructed such that it had a common river mile marker at the connection point with West Pass (mile 4.25). As a result, the mouth of East Pass has a river mile marker around mile 1.
- Cross lines were constructed by digitizing line sections perpendicular to the centerline at the quarter mile locations (Figure G-2). These sections were used for analyzing the spatial distribution of the different habitats of concern.

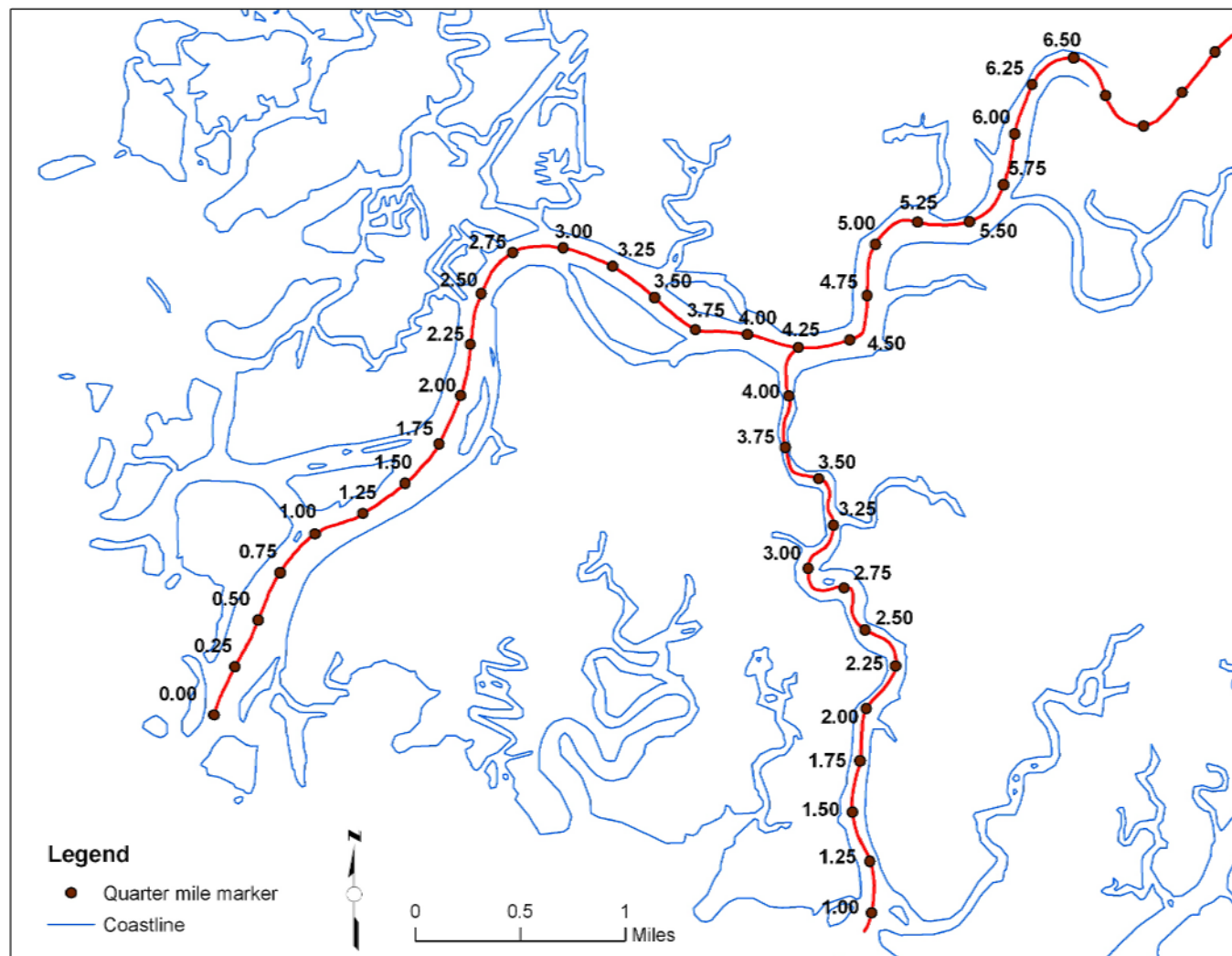


Figure G-1. Centerline and quartermile markers in West Pass, Suwannee River, and East Pass.

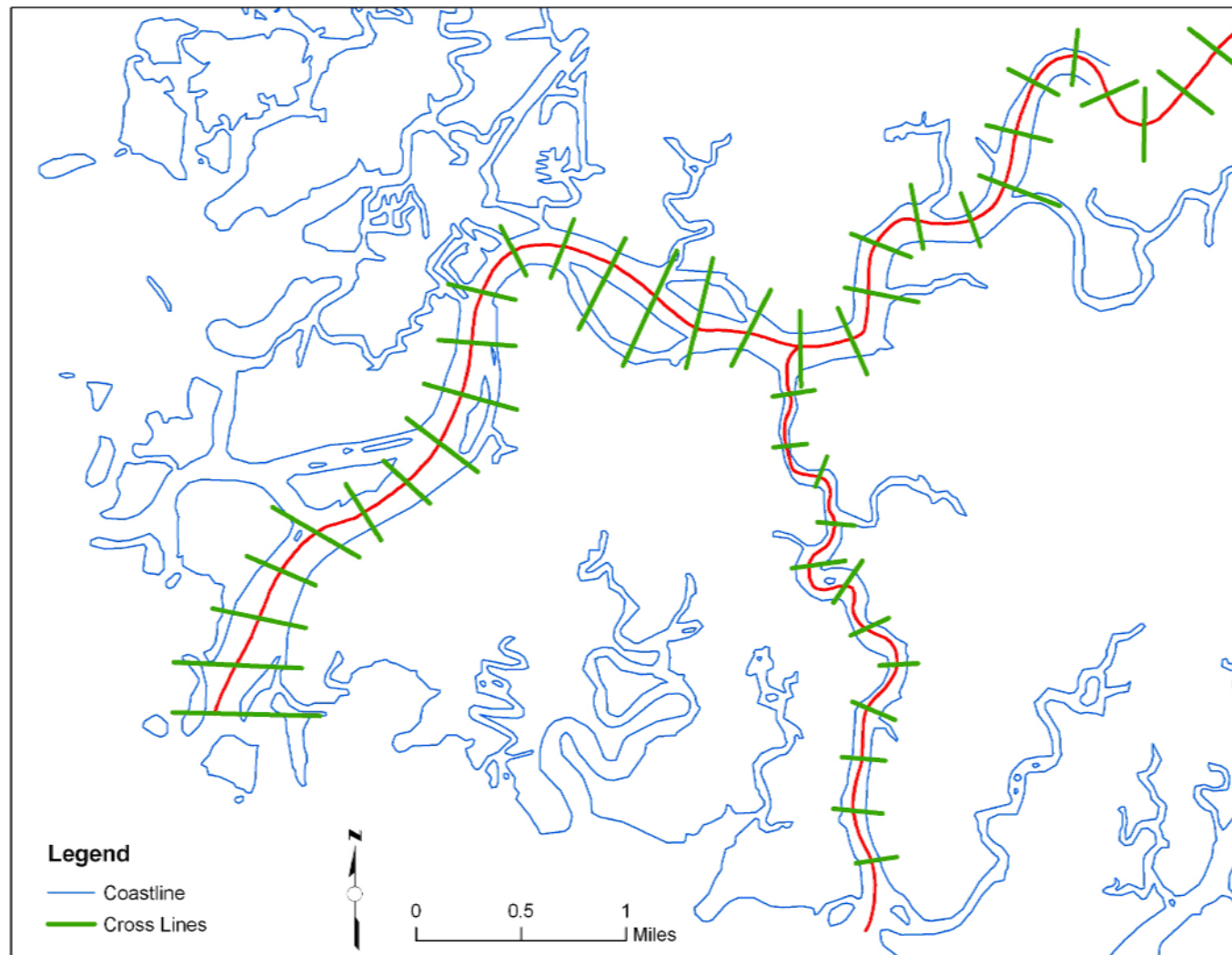


Figure G-2. Cross line sections at quarter mile markers in West Pass, Suwannee River, and East Pass.

Appendix H - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



Background

- One of the major aquatic habitats in the Lower Suwannee River is beds of low salinity or freshwater submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) (Figure H-1).
- SAV plays a critical role in terms of providing habitat for invertebrate and fish species, in addition to helping to stabilize sediments and contributing to the total primary productivity in the food web (Rozas and Odum, 1987a;1987b; Mattson and Krummrich, 1995;Thorp et al. 1997).
- The potential for significant harm to SAV habitat is related to changes in salinity, which is a function of flow. Changes in salinity could result in an unacceptable upstream movement of the downstream limit of SAV distribution in the estuary, or the potential for an overall loss of acreage of low salinity SAV habitat.

Objectives

- To evaluate how the relationship between flow and salinity affects the habitat suitability of SAV in the Lower Suwannee River.
- To estimate the risk to SAV habitat based on alterations to the flow regime (flow reductions).

Data Sources

- Daily average discharge data was obtained for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage number 02323500 (Suwannee near Wilcox) from 1984-2004.
- Daily lags were created to 15 days, lag averages to 90 days, cumulative flows to 8 days and transformations of flows (e.g. logarithmic, inverse, square root).
- Hydrologic data was also available from the USGS Continuous Recorder Gage WM (Figure H-1) located at river mile 1.82 (Figure H-2).
- Salinity data collected by the FWCC in 1993-1995 was used to develop regression models relating flow at Wilcox to the location of the 9 ppt isohaline.
- SAV habitat data were collected for the SRWMD by Mote Marine Laboratory (Estevez and Sprinkle, 1999; Estevez, 2000; 2002) and by Golder and Associates (2000).
 - The Mote Marine SAV study:
 - Sampling was conducted on a quarterly schedule (4 times) from March 1998 to January 1999. The 16 sites were re-visited in June 2000 and July 2002 during a severe drought.
 - Consisted of 16 sampling sites jointly selected by Mote and SRWMD during a pre-study reconnaissance. Placement of sites was systematic, extending from the downstream limit of SAV in East, Alligator, and Wadley Passes up to the confluence with the Gopher River, where salinity never penetrates under ordinary climatic and river flow conditions.
 - The overall goal of the Mote SAV study was to describe the characteristics of SAV where it occurred in the upper estuary and relate to salinity regimes, as opposed to making broader generalizations about SAV in the upper estuary, which would have required a more randomized station distribution.
 - At all 16 sites, SAV characteristics of frequency, cover and abundance by species were measured using 0.25 m² quadrats and the non-destructive Braun-Blanquet method. Quadrats were

deployed haphazardly about the grassbed at each site during sampling.

- Additional SAV data were collected at a subset of six of the 16 study sites. Six (6) quadrats of 0.0625 m² area were haphazardly deployed about the grassbed at each site, and all SAV within the quadrat was harvested for determination of dry weight standing crop. In the laboratory, collected plant material was separated by individual plant species and then divided into leaf (above ground) and root (below ground) components by species. This material was air-dried for 24 hours, then further dried at 75-80 degrees C in ovens to obtain dry weight standing crop.
- The Golder SAV study:
 - SAV was mapped by Golder Associates (2000) in late spring and summer of 2000.
 - Mapping was conducted using “in-the-field” technology. A Trimble® AgGPS 132 Global Positioning System unit was linked to a lap-top computer with software which linked the GPS system to ESRI® GIS software.
 - The edges of individual grass beds were delineated in the field by walking the perimeter of each bed with the GPS unit. The hardware and software recorded this polygon on the laptop computer. Various attributes of the grassbed (species composition, dominant species, salinity, etc.) could then be entered into the computer to build the GIS attribute database.
 - Because the mapping effort was conducted during an extreme drought, there were areas known to historically support SAV which were now unvegetated. SRWMD staff located these for Golder Associates field personnel, and areas of unvegetated substrate in depths <3 ft (0.9 m) were delineated during dead low tide to conservatively estimate the amount of “potential” or “historic” SAV habitat.
 - A river mile system was developed and used to help calculate the cumulative acreage of SAV in West Pass, moving from the downstream limit up to the confluence with East Pass.

Isohaline Selection

- Literature supports 9 parts per thousand (ppt) as the threshold value for suitable low salinity SAV habitat in Lower Suwannee River (LSR).
- Salinity data collected by the SRWMD/FWCC in 1993-1995 were used to develop a regression model relating flow at Wilcox to the location of the 9 ppt isohaline.
 - Analyses were restricted to Wadley and West Passes, since the majority of the SAV coverage in the upper estuary is found in West Pass. Salinities are uniformly lower in East Pass, compared to West Pass (Tillis, 2000; Mattson and Krummrich, 1995), so salinity criteria to protect SAV in West Pass should be equally protective in East Pass.
 - Wadley Pass is a historically more saline environment than Alligator Pass; a dynamic area of mixing is created at the confluence as tidally driven and saline water from Wadley Pass mixes with the Suwannee

discharge. Nine ppt is infrequently found in Alligator and East Passes.

Analytical Steps

- A prediction equation was developed for the location of the 9 ppt isohaline in the LSR as a function of flow using regression. The estimation of flow-isohaline location relationships were used to identify the upstream incursion of the 9 ppt isohaline under varying flow conditions (Figures H-3 through H-5).
- River locations associated with 0 to 15 % of the total SAV habitat were identified as risk points (Figure H-6).
- A regression equation was then applied to determine the flow required to keep the 9 ppt isohaline below each of the risk points (Figure H-6).
- Salinity-flow regressions were also developed for the WM continuous recorder in order to provide an independent assessment of the flow required to sustain suitable habitat for SAV.

Validation Using the WM Continuous Recorder

- The USGS Continuous Recorder Gage WM is located at river mile 1.82
- Surface isohaline regression results suggest that 5320 cfs would be required to keep the surface isohaline at the WM continuous recorder.
- To validate the isohaline regressions, the flow predicted to keep the 9 ppt isohaline at river mile 1.82 (the location of the WM continuous recorder) was compared using the isohaline regressions to the observed and predicted salinity at the WM continuous recorder (WM salinity /flow regressions).

Validation Analytical Steps

- Hurricane dates were removed from the WM dataset.
- Daily maximum salinity was calculated using the mid-water measurements, which were the most frequent and had the longest period of record (POR) (Figure H-7).
- The salinity-flow relationship was estimated using the WM continuous recorder salinity (Figure H-8).

Inferences Made from Continuous Recorder Regressions

- Daily maximum salinities at the WM continuous recorded gage were highly variable for a given flow. However, despite the large variability, the regression equation predicted the average salinity well with little bias (Figures H-9 through H-11).
- The observed flow for predicted mid-water salinities between 8.5 and 9.5 ppt was averaged, resulting in a flow at Wilcox of 5,353 cfs.
- For observed flows between 5000 cfs and 6000 cfs, the average observed mid-water salinity was 9.18 ppt.
- These values correspond well with isohaline regression estimates of the flow corresponding to a surface isohaline location at the WM on a full moon (5320 cfs).

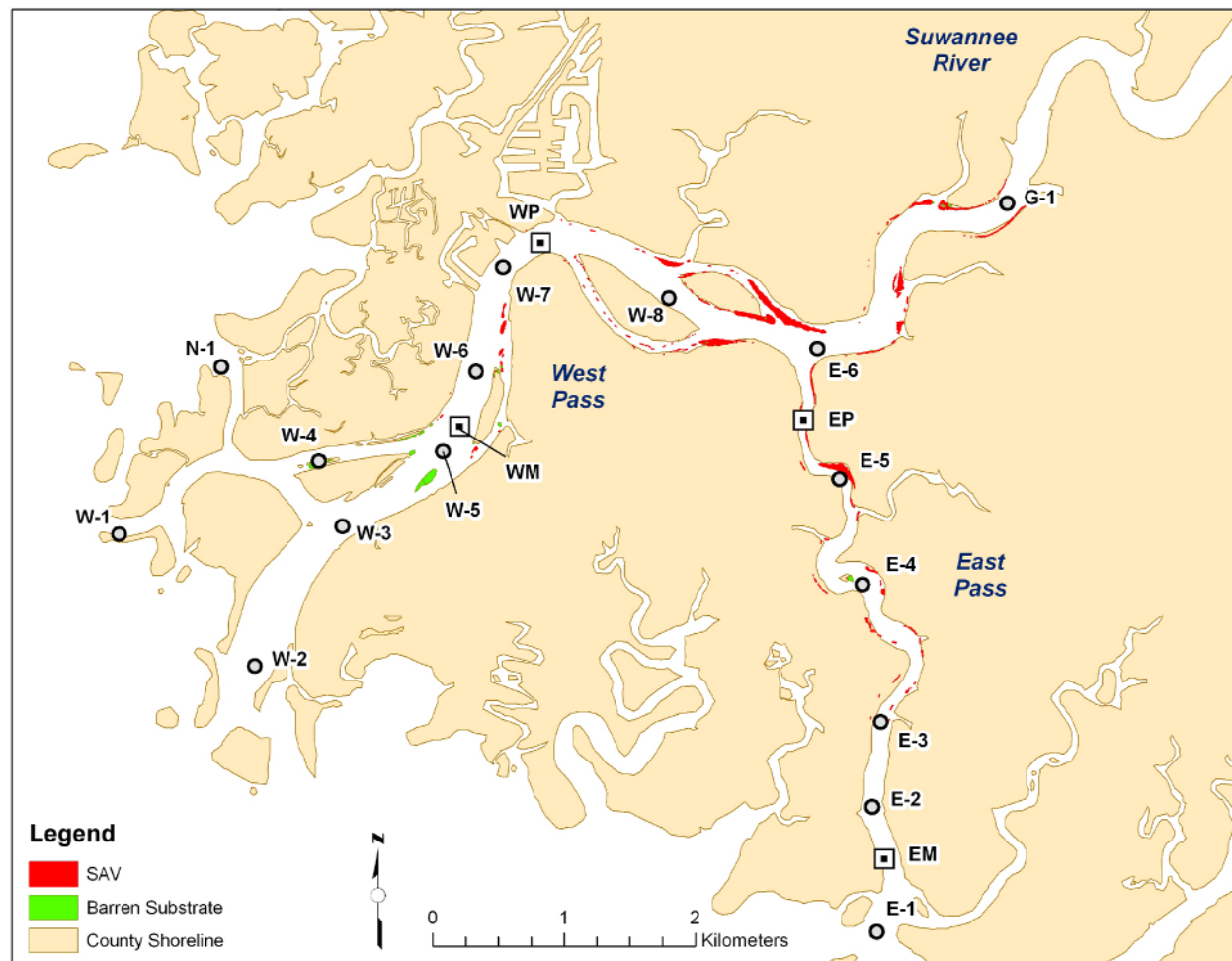


Figure H-1. Distribution of low salinity submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and location of continuous recorders in the Lower Suwannee River.

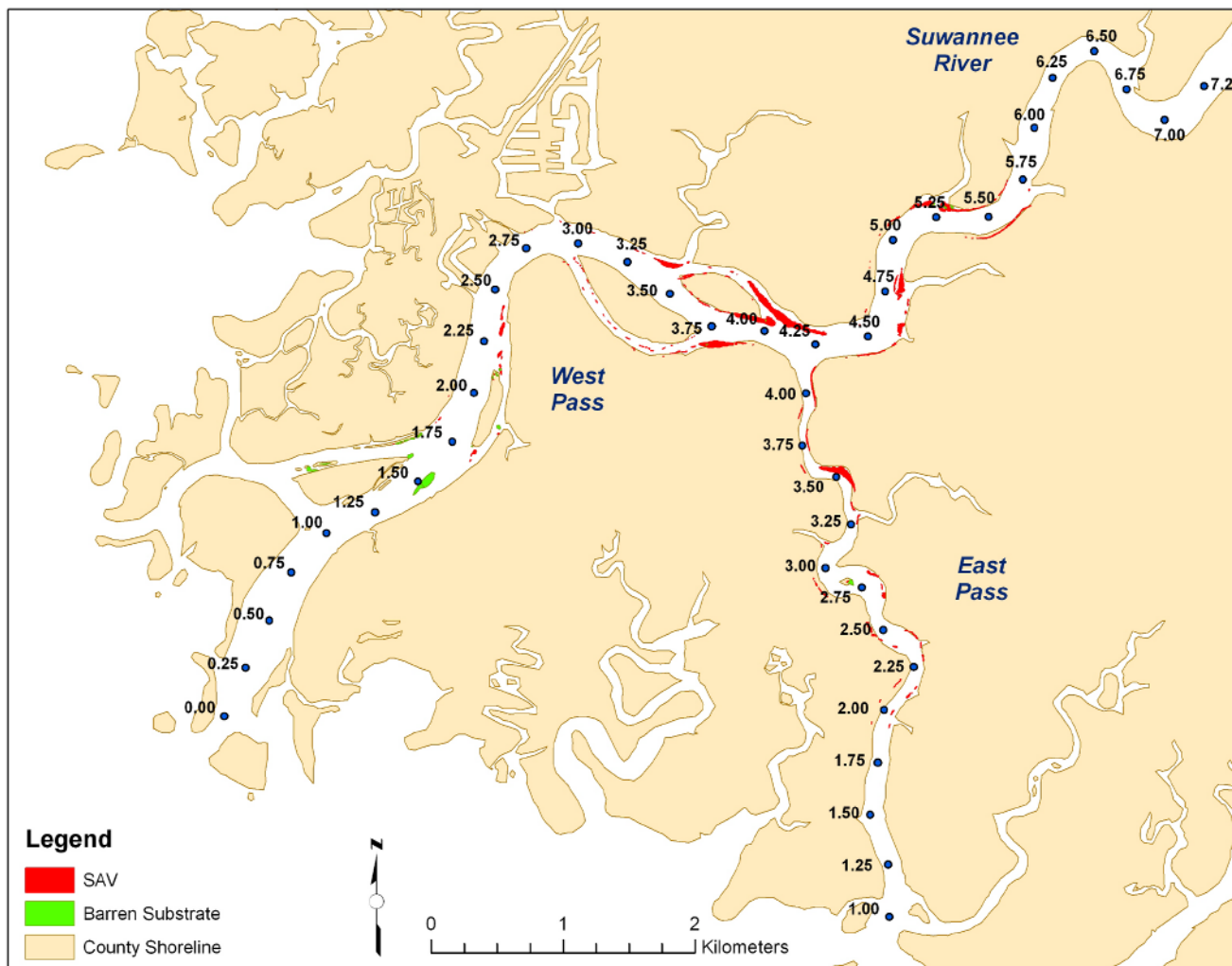


Figure H-2. River mile (rm) system overlaid on the distribution of SAV in the Lower Suwannee River.

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model	1	5.29858	5.29858	20.82	0.0008
Error	11	2.79973	0.25452		
Corrected Total	12	8.09831			

Root MSE	0.50450	R-Square	0.6543
Dependent Mean	1.50295	Adj R-Sq	0.6229
Coeff Var	33.56731		

Parameter Estimates

Variable	DF	Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr > t
Intercept	1	6.67722	1.14265	5.84	0.0001
Flow**0.4	1	- 0.15740	0.03450	-4.56	0.0008

Figure H-3. Regression details for the 9 ppt surface isohaline developed for Wadley Pass

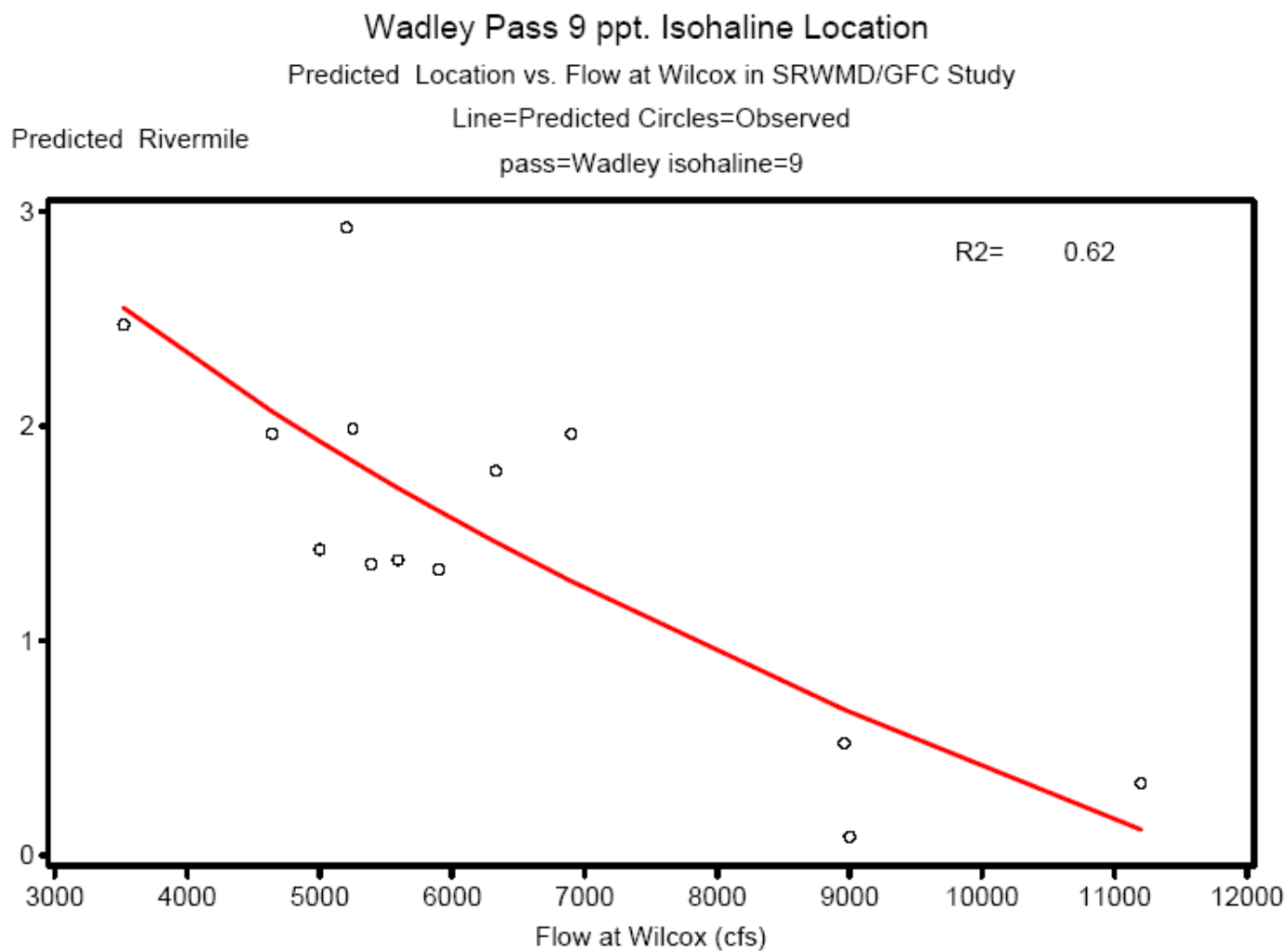


Figure H-4. Regression plots showing the location in river mile of the 9 ppt isohaline as a function of flow.

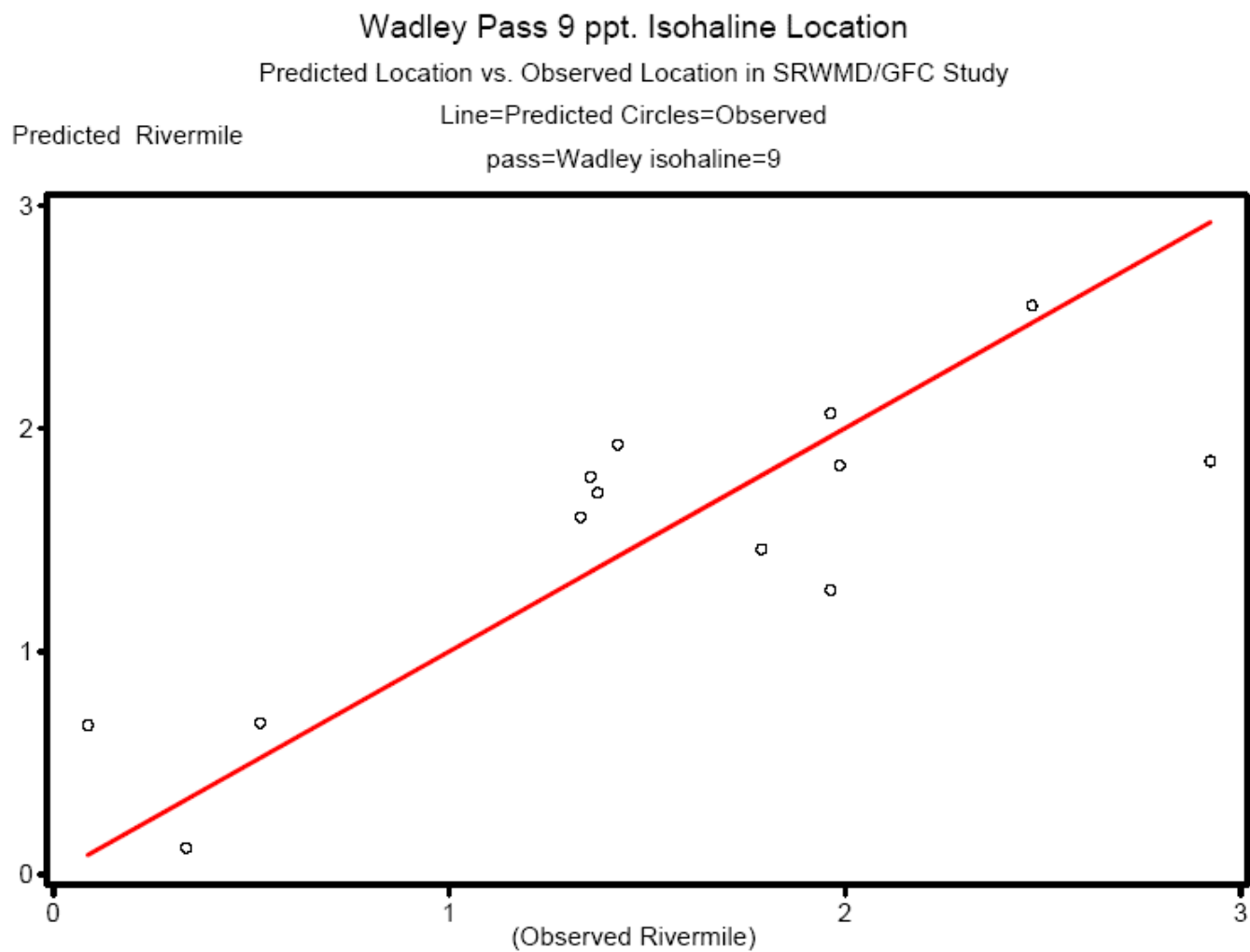


Figure H-5. Relationship between predicted and observed river mile for the 9 ppt isohaline location.

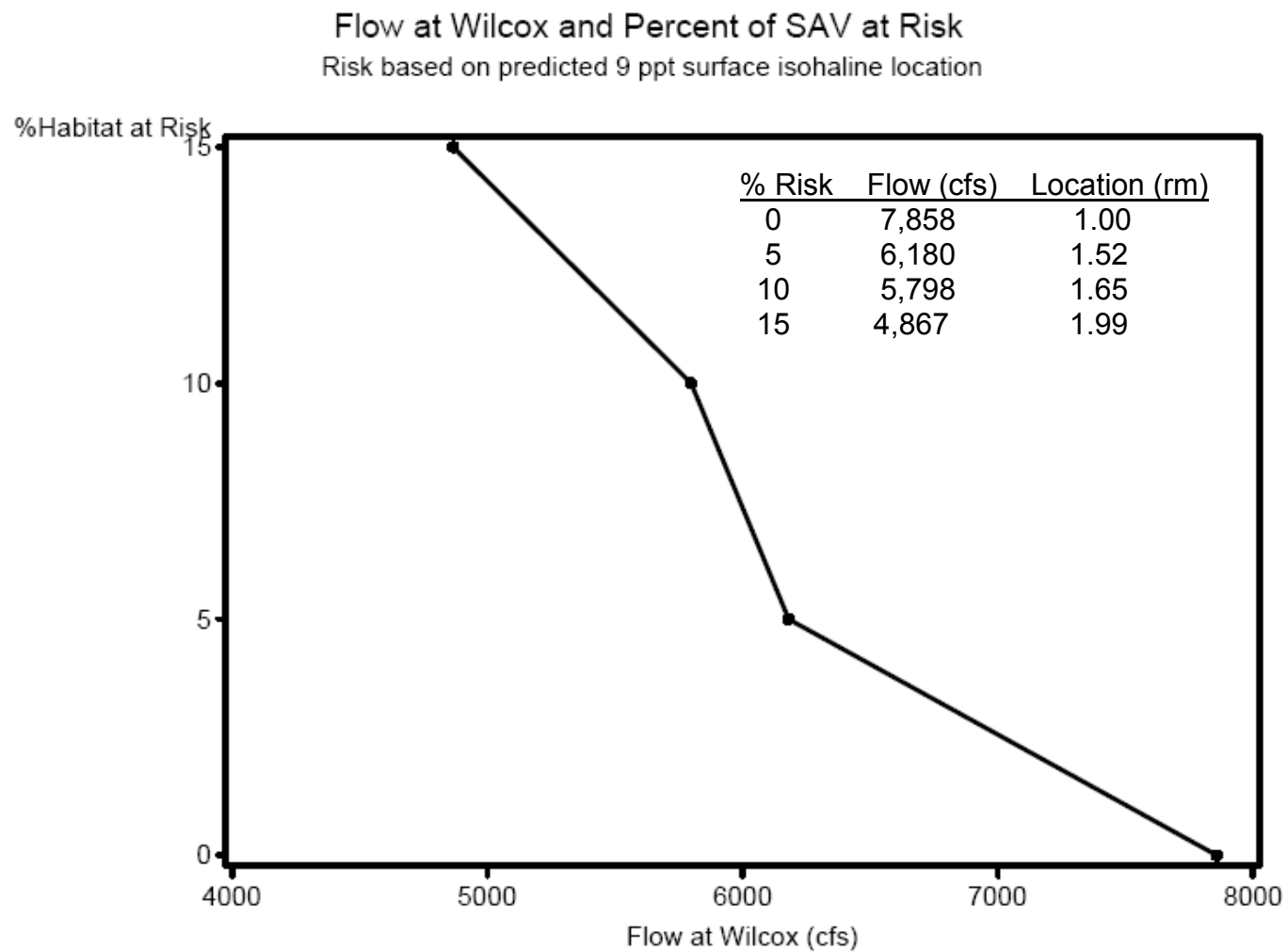


Figure H-6. Relationship between percent of habitat risk for SAV and flow, based on the predicted location of the 9 ppt isohaline.

Suwannee River Analysis

Observed Daily Maximum Salinity and Predicted Daily Maximum Salinity vs. Flow at Wilcox

Source: USGS Continuous Data

station=291842083085100 sample_level=Middle



Figure H-7. Predicted and observed daily maximum salinity as a function of flow, based on mid-water column samples.

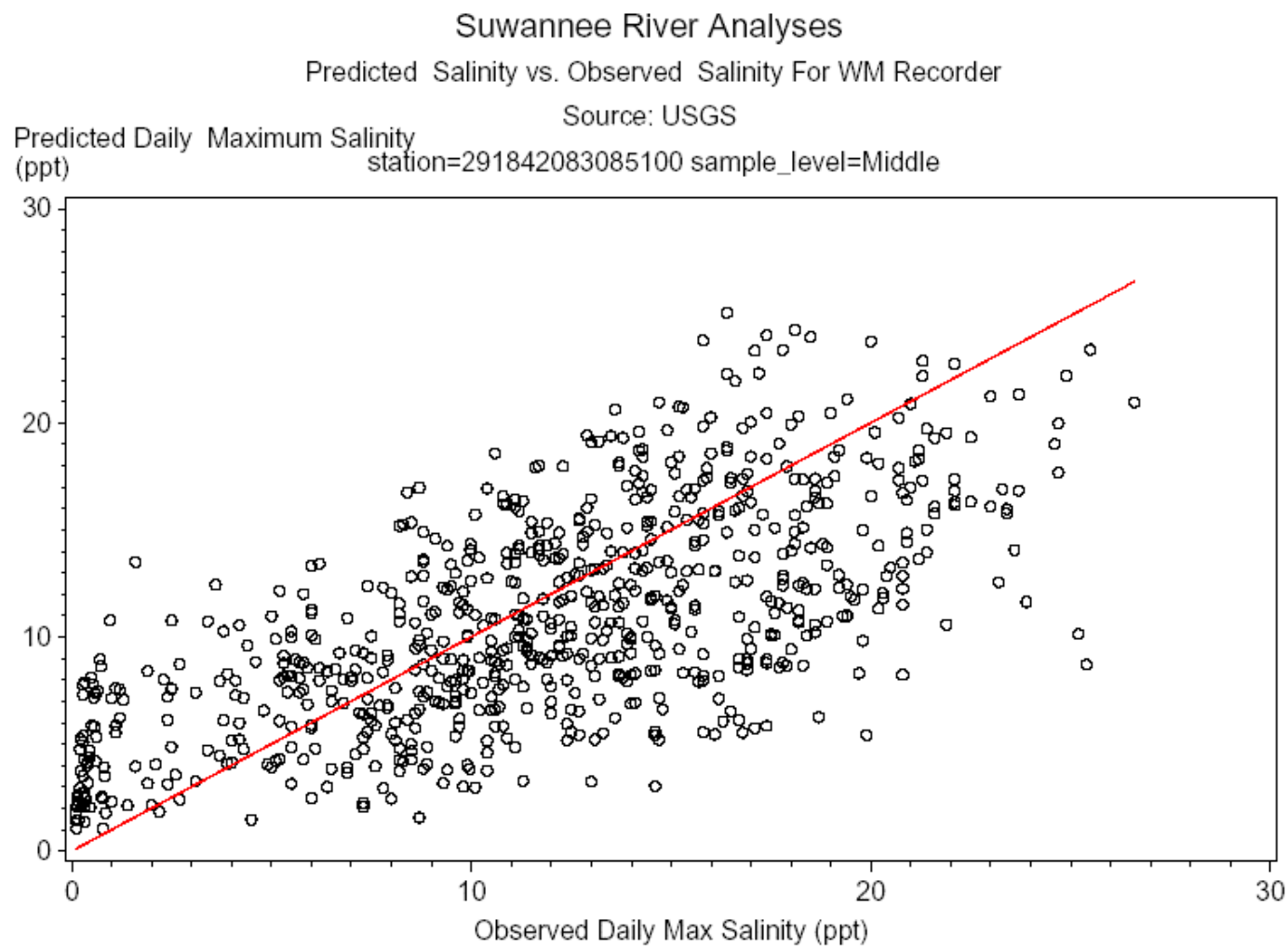


Figure H-8. Relationship between predicted and observed daily maximum salinity from continuous recorder data (WM recorder).

Predicted Salinity vs. Flow at Wilcox in SRWMD/GFC Study

Field Station=W-5

The figure is a scatter plot with a fitted curve. The x-axis is labeled 'Flow at Wilcox (cfs)' and ranges from 2000 to 24000. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 13. A red line represents a fitted curve, and a vertical line is drawn at approximately 6000 cfs. The data points are open circles.

Flow at Wilcox (cfs)	Y-value
3500	11.8
4800	12.5
5200	12.8
5500	12.5
5800	3.2
5800	4.6
5800	5.8
5800	7.5
6200	9.3
6800	11.8
9000	3.6
9000	3.8
9200	4.8
11200	3.4
12800	1.4
14200	0.0
15800	0.0
16500	0.1
18800	0.3
19800	0.1
22200	0.2

Figure H-9. Regression relationship between predicted salinity and flow for West Pass (fixed station W-5).

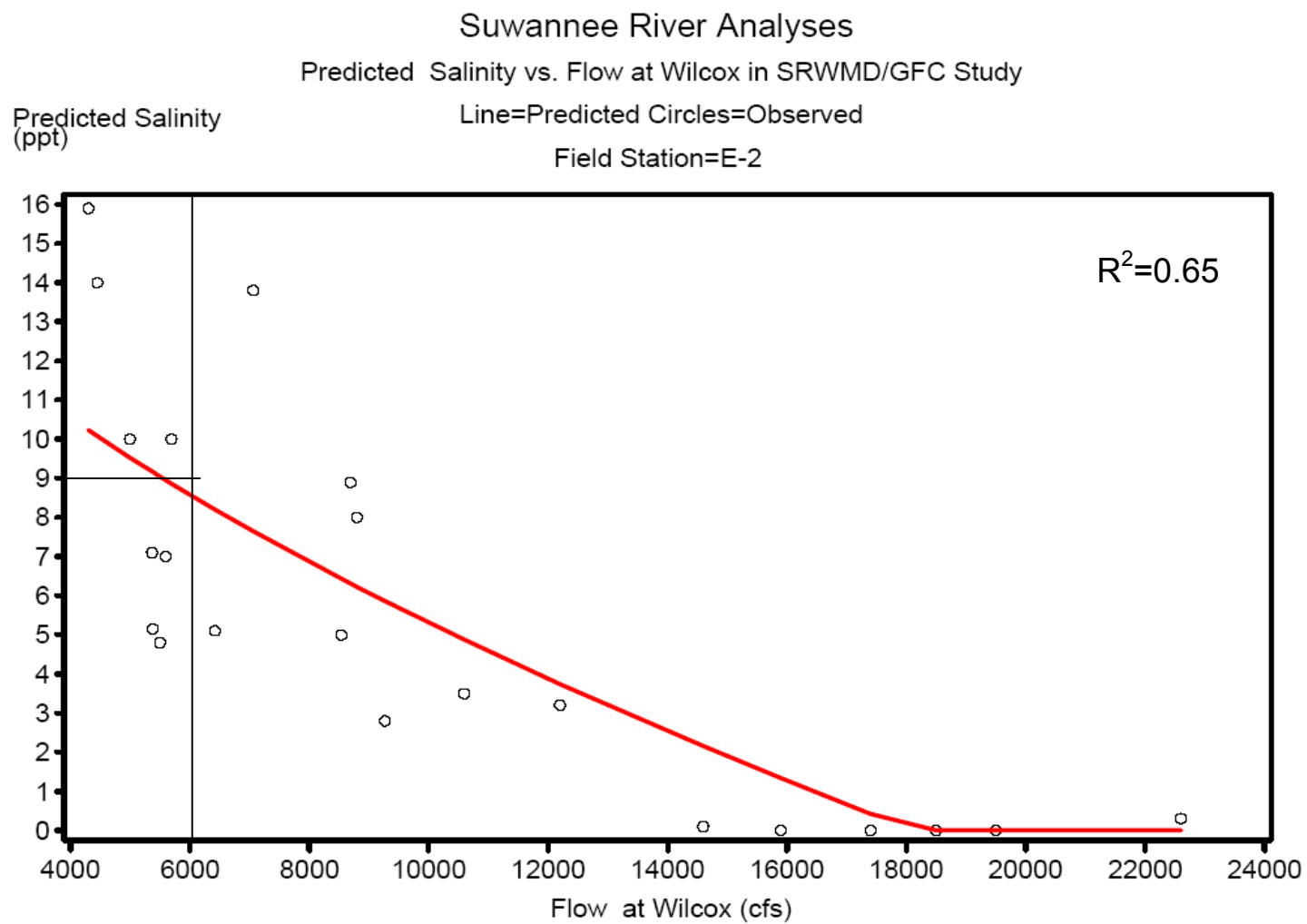


Figure H-10. Regression relationship between predicted salinity and flow for East Pass (fixed station E-2).

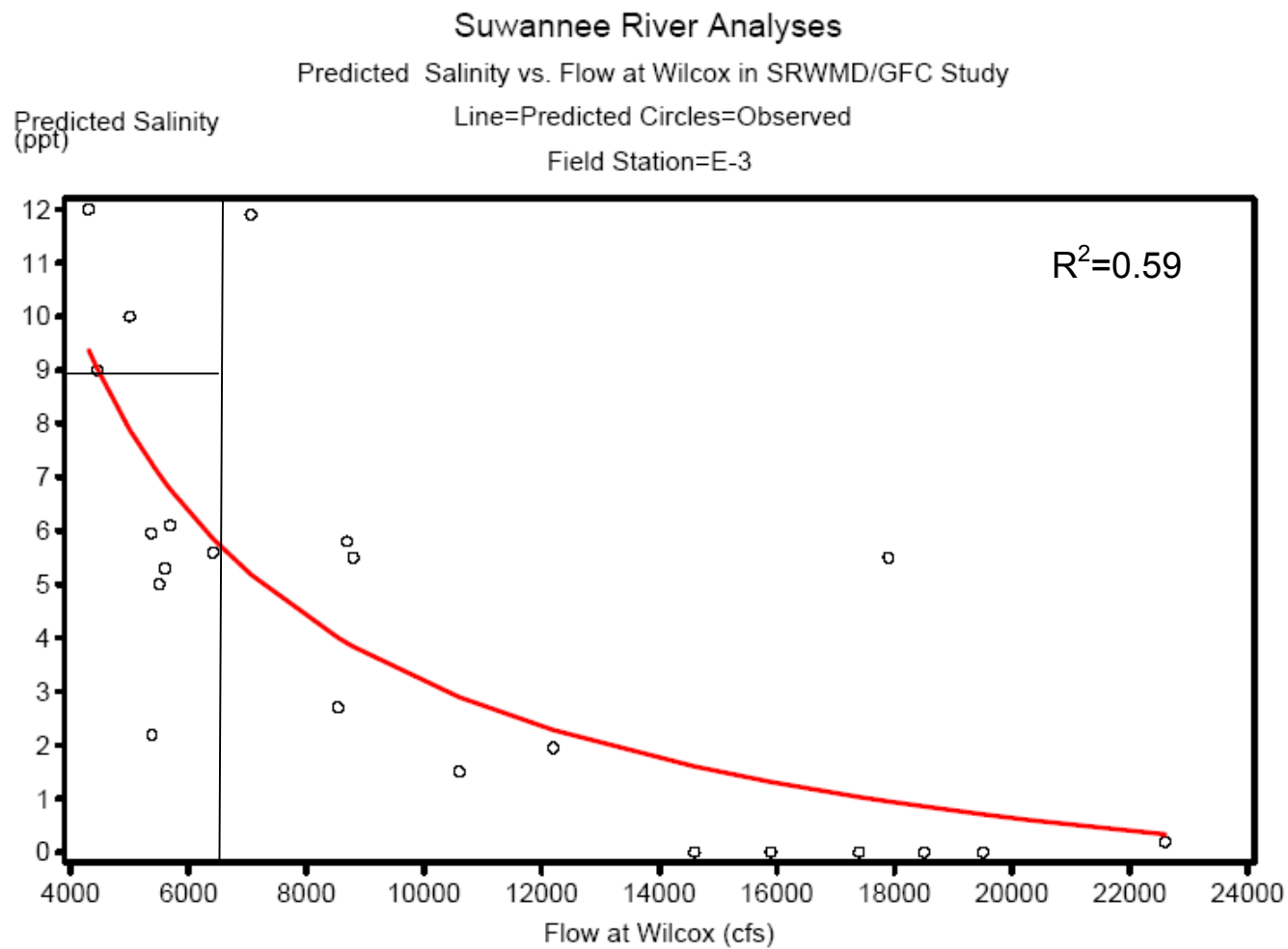


Figure H-11. Regression relationship between predicted salinity and flow for East Pass (fixed station E-3).

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- Thorp, A. G., R. C. Jones, and D. P. Kelso. 1997. A comparison of water-column macroinvertebrate communities in beds of differing submersed aquatic vegetation in the tidal freshwater Potomac River. *Estuaries* 20(1): 86-95.

Appendix I - Tidal Swamps



Background

- The intertidal areas of the uppermost Suwannee estuary are vegetated with tidal freshwater swamps (Wharton et al., 1982; Clewell et al., 1999; Light et al., 2002) (Figure I-1).
- Tidal freshwater swamps have been identified as the least understood (in terms of quantitative study) coastal wetland ecosystem in the southeastern U.S. (Tiner, 1993; Clewell et al., 1999). Because of this lack of study, these forested wetlands are rarely identified as a distinct wetland community type in Florida west coast rivers, so no data are available to compare the Suwannee to other river systems.
- However, it is probable that the lower Suwannee River supports the most extensive acreage of this wetland type on the Florida gulf coast. Likewise, the habitat values of these swamps have not been studied or quantified. It is known that they provide important nesting habitat for Swallow-tailed kites in the Lower Suwannee Refuge (Sykes et al., 1999). The abundance of fiddler and shore crabs in these swamps suggests they may provide important forage habitat for crab-feeding birds, such as Yellow-crowned night heron and Little green heron, and mammals such as raccoon and mink. The leaf detritus produced in these swamps is likely an important allochthonous food base for the downstream estuarine aquatic communities.
- Light et al. (2002) and Darst et al. (2003) mapped 6,652 acres (2,692 ha) of tidal freshwater swamps in the upper estuary, corresponding to their "Lower Tidal Swamp 1 and Swamp 2" forest types. Most of these are flooded daily by high tides. An additional 2,572 ac (1,041 ha) of Lower Tidal Mixed forest was also mapped. These are flooded during the higher spring tides each month. The "Lower Tidal" reach identified by Light et al. is regarded as the tidal freshwater portion of the Suwannee estuary (after Odum et al., 1984). Dominant trees include bald and/or pond cypress, pumpkin ash, swamp tupelo, cabbage palm, sweet and swamp bay, and red maple (Light et al., 2002; Clewell et al., 1999; Wharton et al., 1982).
- The potential for significant harm to tidal freshwater swamps should be assessed by considering changes in salinity which might cause undesirable shifts in species composition of canopy, sub-canopy, or groundcover plant communities to those of a more saline community type; loss of canopy species from the swamps; encroachment of plants or animals indicative of higher salinity conditions into upstream areas where they have not previously been observed or recorded; the potential for unacceptable upstream movement of the tree line denoting the demarcation between tidal marsh and tidal freshwater swamp; or loss of acreage of tidal swamps or changes in acreage of swamp forest types.

Objectives

- To evaluate how the relationship between flow and salinity affects the habitat suitability of tidal swamps in the Lower Suwannee River.
- To estimate risk to suitable tidal swamp habitat based on alterations to the flow regime (flow reductions).

Data Sources

- Daily average discharge data was obtained for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage number 02323500 (Suwannee near Wilcox) from 1984-2004. Daily lags were calculated to 15 days, lag averages to 90 days,

cumulative flows to 8 days and transformations of flows (e.g. logarithmic, inverse, square root). Salinities could then be related to various antecedent flows as well as the sample date flows at Wilcox.

- Salinity data collected by the FWCC in 1993-1994 were used to develop regression models relating flow at Wilcox to the location of the 2 ppt isohaline.
- Tidal swamp habitat data were collected by Light et al. (2002).
 - Light et al. (2002) identified a “Lower Tidal” reach of the lower Suwannee study area which for purposes of this report is considered to be the tidal freshwater zone of the upper Suwannee estuary. Six intensive study transects were established in forests of the Lower Tidal reach. The transects were belt transects, with a width of 16.5 feet (5 meters) if over 1,320 feet (400 meters) in length and a width of 33 to 42.9 feet (10 to 13 meters) if less than 1,320 feet long. These judgments were made by the investigators based on their experience in forested wetland sampling in order to obtain a large enough sample of trees to census. Detailed descriptive data on the locations of the transects is provided in Lewis et al. (2002). The locations of the intensive study transects were all on public land and were not made in a completely random fashion. Transects had to be located on public land for two main reasons: so that permanent transects could be established which could be visited reliably in the future (eliminating the possibility that a future landowner on private lands would bar access); public land typically had the best examples of reasonably intact, minimally impacted wetland forest, which would remain so in the future.
 - By distributing the transects at upstream, middle and downstream ends of the Lower Tidal Reach, and by extending transects across a wide range of topographic and soils conditions (from the river bank to upland), as much range of variability as possible was captured. The data from the intensive transects were supplemented with plant community and soils observations at 150 additional observation sites (some systematically selected, some randomly selected). The data from these supplemental sites verified the information derived from the transects, and thus the data from the transects is considered to reasonably describe the range of conditions and forest types found in the upper Suwannee estuary.
 - Land surface elevations along each transect were determined using a surveyor’s level and rod. Elevation measurements were made approximately every 16.5 feet (5 meters) and also at locations of topographic breaks, at the edge of standing water, and other “points of interest”. Elevations along each transect were tied to a temporary benchmark which was eventually referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) by a licensed professional surveyor. All elevation data were then referred to this datum. Horizontal locations were measured using a portable Precise Lightweight Global Positioning System Receiver with a typical accuracy under tree cover of 19.8 to 49.5 feet (6 to 15 meters) and fiberglass measuring tapes.
 - Hydrologic data in the study area were derived from seven continuous record USGS surface water gage sites as shown in Table 3 in Light et al. (2002). As indicated in Section 3.1.4, most of the flow data used in the floodplain wetland study came from the Branford and Fort White gages. The other five gages were primarily used to supply stage data for construction of rating curves on each transect. Additional water level

measurements were made by tape-down from reference points ("RP's") established at the river bank end of each transect and in selected surface water features (creeks, sloughs, floodplain ponds) on each transect. These were nails driven into trees and marked with a metal tag. Over the course of the study, about 400 separate water level measurements were made at the transects under a wide range of hydrologic conditions.

- Soils data were collected on all intensive study transects to generally characterize soil types associated with the different forest types. The number of borings per transect ranged from 8 to 13 on longer transects and 3 to 6 on shorter transects. Soil profiles were described to a depth of 5 to 6.6 feet (1.5 to 2 meters), typically using a 3 inch bucket auger. Soil profiles were also examined in a few cases with a 1 inch coring tube sampler or a 108 inch muck probe. Soil moisture was also evaluated at all transects and observation sites as dry, saturated, or inundated. Inundation meant the soil was covered with standing water. Saturation was evaluated by firmly squeezing a handful of soil. If free water was squeezed out, the soil was considered saturated. Approximately 600 soil moisture observations were made over a wide range of hydrologic conditions. 21 surface soil samples and 11 subsurface soil samples were collected for salinity analyses, which were conducted by the National Soil Survey Center in Nebraska.
- Vegetation sampling was divided into three strata; canopy, subcanopy, and shrub/groundcover. A canopy plant was defined as a woody plant with a stem diameter at breast height (dbh; 1.4 meters above ground surface) of ≥ 4 inches (10 cm) and a height of 10 feet (3 meters) or taller. Sub-canopy plants were those woody plants with a dbh of 0.8 to < 4 inches (2 to 9.9 cm) and a height ≥ 10 feet (3 meters). Woody plants smaller than this and all herbaceous plants were considered part of the shrub/groundcover layer. The dbh of all canopy and sub-canopy plants was measured on each belt transect using a pair of calipers. Trees with swollen bases or buttressing were measured above the swelling. Estimates of percent cover of groundcover were made as well. Tree species identifications were made in the field concurrent with each dbh measurement. Where necessary to confirm identification, leaves, seeds, branches, etc. were collected for subsequent examination in the laboratory.
- In addition to the field studies, forested wetland communities were mapped using NAPP digital ortho-photo quadrangles taken in 1994. These were false-color infrared images at a scale of 1:40,000. Initially, photo signatures were related to plant communities on the intensive study transects. A decision matrix was developed based on canopy composition to make a determination of a particular forest type (Table 6 in Light et al., 2002). Once the specific signatures of all the forest community types on the photos was confirmed, the remainder of the floodplain was mapped. Classification accuracy of the mapping was determined by visiting 111 randomly-selected verification sites, in conjunction with the decision matrix.
- *Results.* Rating curves were developed for each intensive study transect, relating river stage at the transect to flows at Branford-Fort White. These formed the basis for understanding the hydrology associated with each forest type and for evaluating the impacts of potential flow reductions.

First, rating curves were developed for selected long-term gages using continuous daily values of stage at the gage related to daily flow at Branford-Fort White. Appropriate time-lags were determined and a line fit to aggregated daily values of flow and stage (in increments from 1,000 to 90,000 cfs). Then, the transect ratings were developed by linear interpolation using river mile distances.

- Light et al. (2002) identified four different forest types in the upper estuary; Lower Tidal swamps 1 and 2 (LTsw1 and 2), Lower Tidal mixed forest (LTmix), and Lower Tidal hammock (LTham = hydric hammock). The swamps were flooded daily by high tides, with the mixed forests being flooded several times a month during the spring tides at the full and new moons. Hammocks were occasionally flooded by river flooding. Soils in all lower tidal forest types were primarily continuously saturated mucks, with some sand in the hammocks.
- Light et al. (2002) considered salinity the primary limiting factor influencing the community structure of the lower tidal forests and in setting the downstream limit of the “tree line”, where tidal forest grades into tidal marsh. Salinity came from several sources; intrusion of saline water via the river channel at low flows, marine aerosols, and deposition of salt water from storm surges during hurricanes and tropical storms. Maximum salinities in isolated standing water on the Barnett Creek transect ranged from approximately 2 to 5 ppt, but fell to zero during a flood event in 1998. Salinities of up to 2 ppt were measured in isolated standing water on the Sandhill Hammock transect. Subsurface soil conductivities were generally equivalent to or higher than surface soil conductivities (Light et al., 2002).

Isohaline Selection

- Important considerations for development of freshwater inflow criteria which provide for the protection of tidal freshwater swamps included maintaining the tree canopy composition in the Lower Tidal Swamp and Mixed forest types. Some information is available on the salinity tolerances of some of the dominant trees in these swamps.
 - Pezeshki et al. (1987) found that bald cypress seedlings exhibited reduced photosynthetic rates and stomatal conductance at salinities of 2 ppt and higher. Progressively greater reductions in these physiological responses were seen up to 7 ppt. Leaf yellowing (chlorosis) was observed in seedlings in all salinity treatments.
 - Williams et al. (1998) demonstrated that seedlings of elm, Florida maple, and sweetgum exhibited reduced survival at 2 ppt and little or no survival at 4 ppt and higher. Cabbage palm, red cedar, and live oak exhibited reduced survival at 4 ppt and higher (Williams et al., 1998). Based on their work evaluating the effects of sea level rise on coastal wetland forests, Williams et al. (1999) inferred that adult trees were more salt tolerant, based on the existence of “relict” stands in areas of higher salinity, and that dieback of the forests occurred first due to elimination of seedling recruitment.
 - Based on the above, average salinities of high tide waters flooding the swamps should be kept ≤ 2 ppt, with briefer periods of higher salinity tolerable.

- Based on available electroshocking data collected in East Pass by the FWCC, the fish communities in the river channel associated with the distribution of tidal freshwater swamp appear to be dominated by freshwater fish taxa.
- The tree line in East Pass is located near their Station E4. The proposed salinity target of 2 ppt appears to be adequate to maintain the structure and function of these freshwater fish communities in the upper estuary. The fish data indicate that the proposed salinity target would allow for the persistence of a fish community still dominated by freshwater taxa, suggesting that the fauna associated with the swamps should be sustained.

Analytical Steps

- A prediction equation was developed for the location of the 2 ppt isohaline in the LSR as a function of flow using regression. The prediction equation was used to estimate the isohaline location under various flow conditions.
- River locations associated with 0 to 15% of the total cumulative tidal swamp habitat were identified as risk points using GIS.
- The regression equation was applied to solve for the flow required to keep the 2 ppt isohaline at specified risk point locations.

Regression Results

- Regressions were developed by pass in the LSR and relationships tested for differences in intercept and slopes (Figures I-2 through I-4).
- The inverse of flow was the best predictor of isohaline location for the 2 ppt regression (Figures I-2 through I-4).
- No statistical differences were observed in the flow isohaline relationships by pass, allowing a model to be developed for the whole river, irrespective of the different passes of the river.
- The risk to tidal swamp habitat with exposure to salinities above 2 ppt was evaluated based on calculations of the cumulative amount of shoreline lined by tidal swamp. Shoreline length was used instead of total area of tidal swamp coverage due to the large area of swamp located up to 1 mile away from the shore (Figure I-5).
- The highest rate of change in tidal swamp habitat loss was observed for flows less than 6,500 cfs (Figure I-5).

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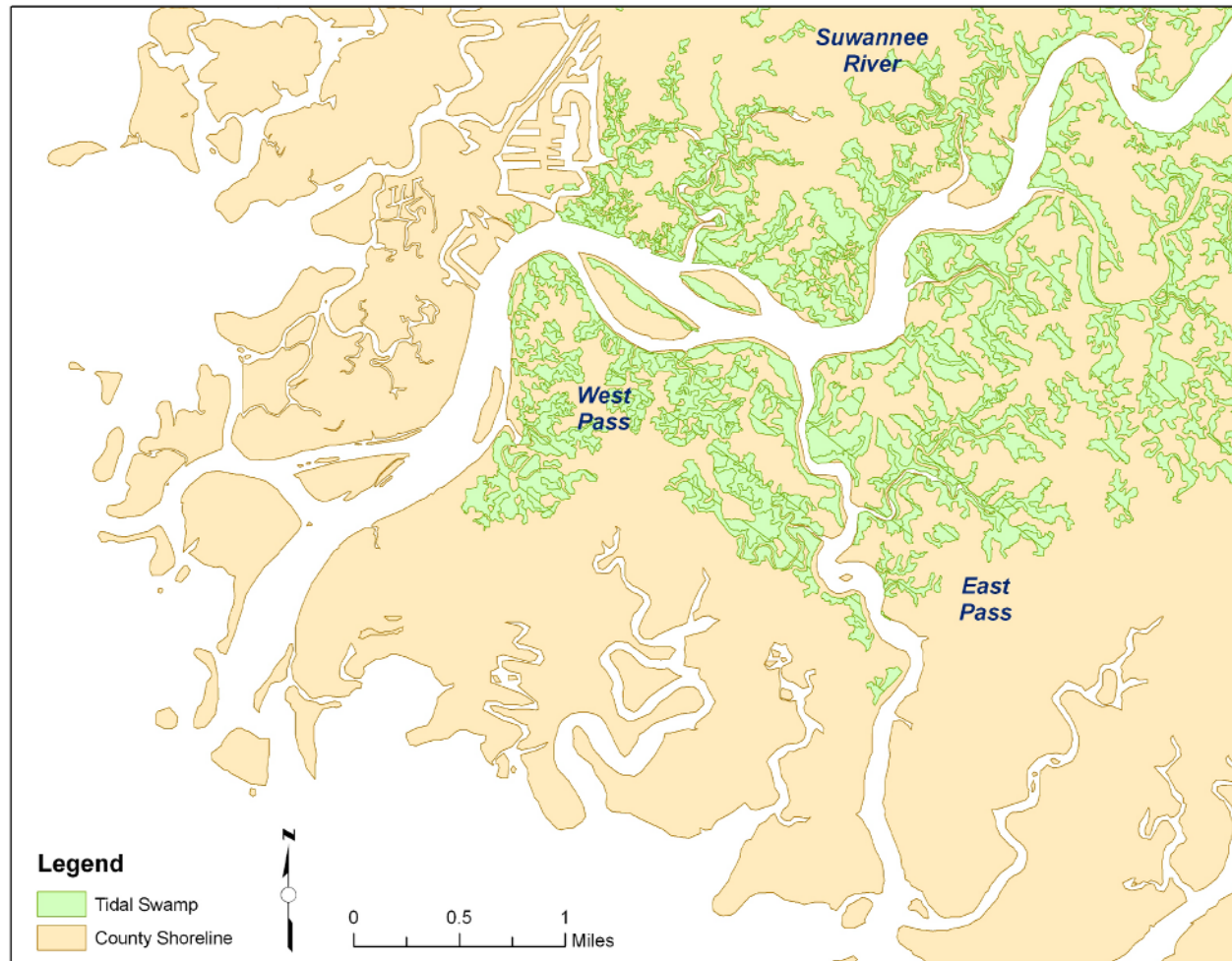


Figure I-1. Distribution of tidal swamp habitat in the Lower Suwannee River.

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model	1	23.24038629	23.24038629	44.43	<.0001
Error	29	15.16782692	0.52302851		
Corrected Total	30	38.40821321			
R-Square		Coeff Var	Root MSE	Mean isohaline_rmile	
0.605089		25.90111	0.723207	2.792185	
Source	DF	Type III SS	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
InvFlow	1	23.24038629	23.24038629	44.43	<.0001
Parameter		Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr > t
Intercept		0.39823	0.381903	1.04	0.3057
InvFlow		14911.54424	2236.987892	6.67	<.0001

Figure I-2. Regression results for the 2 ppt surface isohaline regression developed for the whole river.

Predicted Isohaline Location for Lower Suwannee
Predicted Location vs. Flow at Wilcox in SRWMD/GFC Study
Line=Predicted Circles=Observed

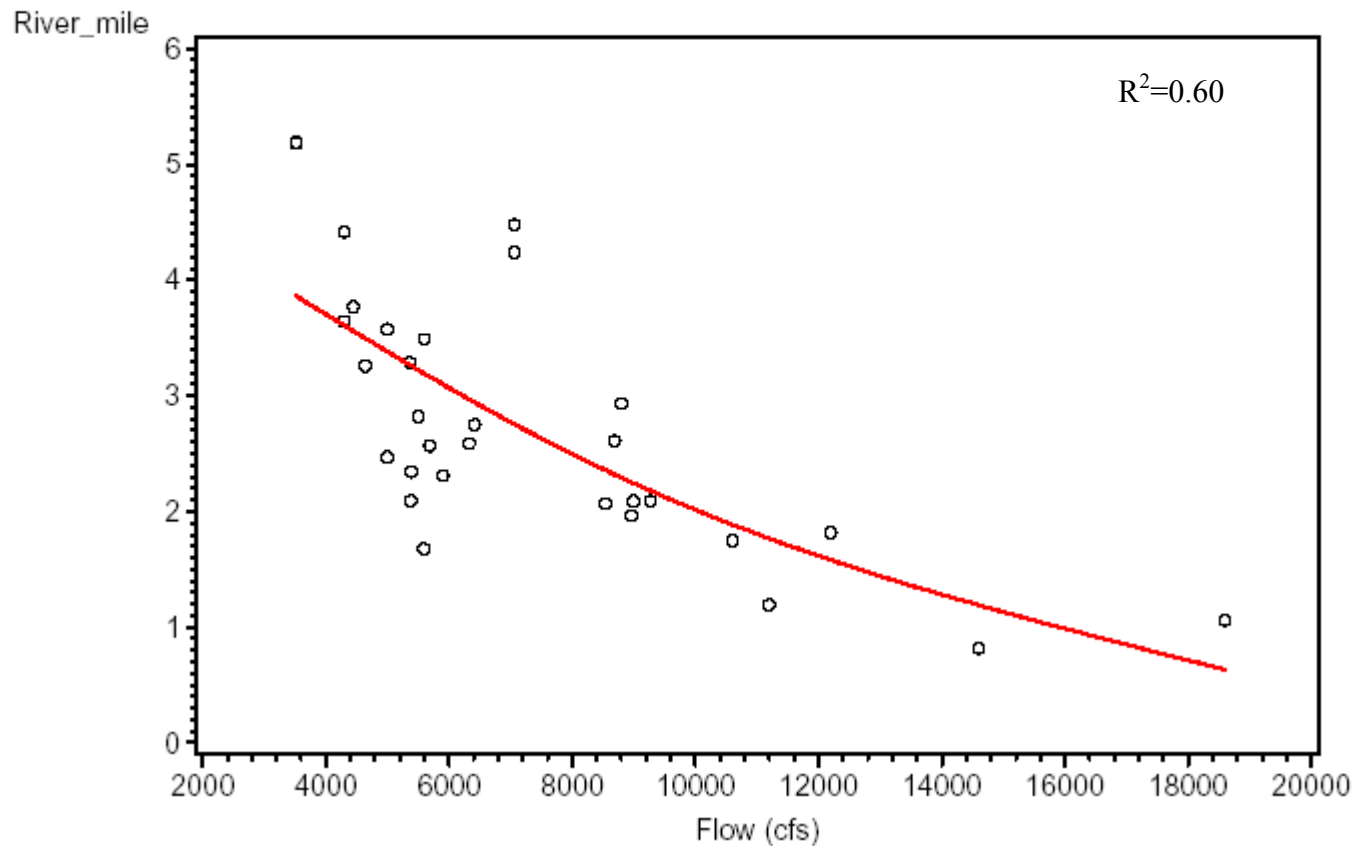


Figure I-3. Regression plot showing the location in river mile of the 2 ppt isohaline as a function of flow.

Tidal Swamp 2 ppt. Isohaline Location
Predicted Location vs. Observed Location in SRWMD/GFC Study
Line=Predicted Circles=Observed

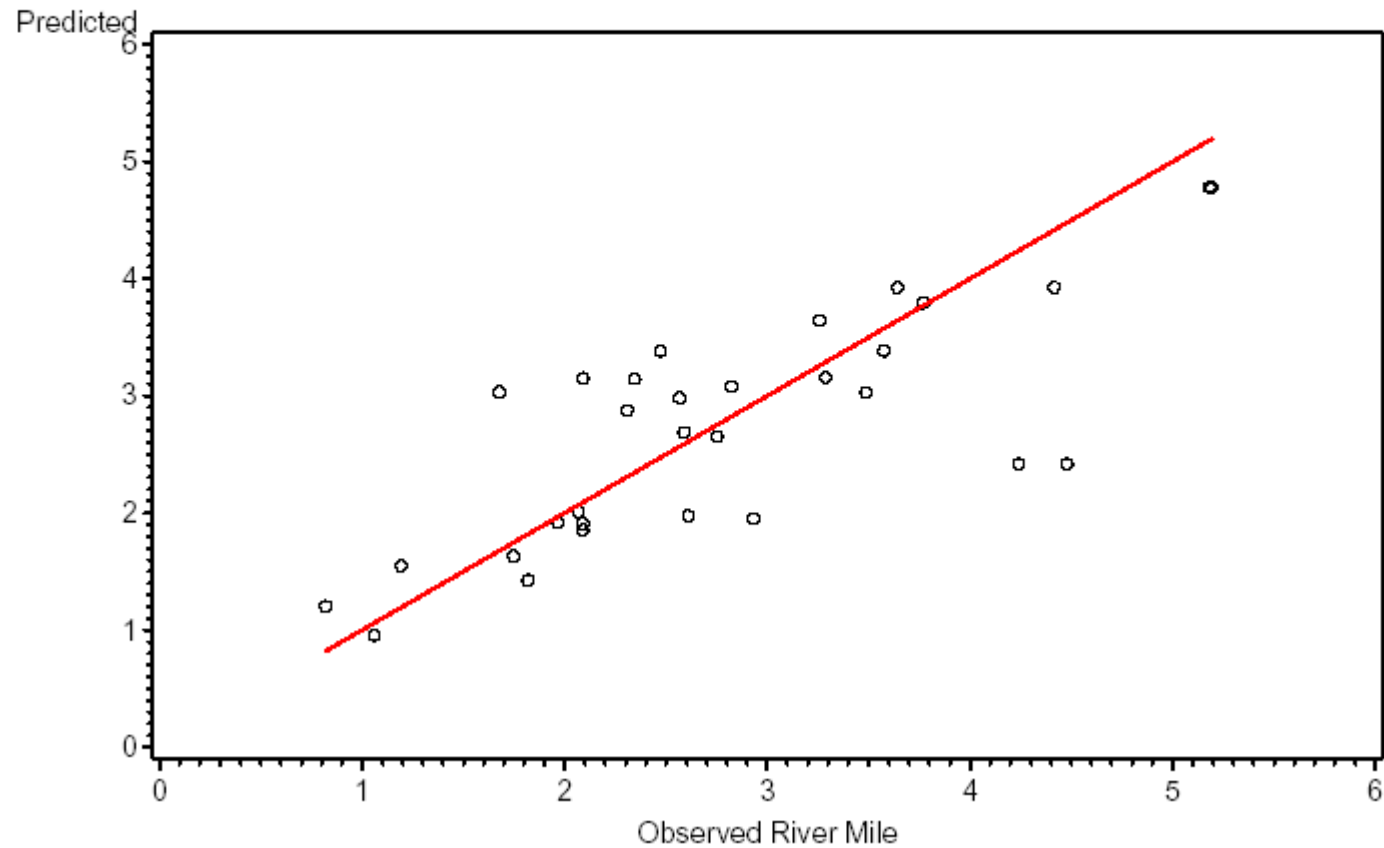


Figure I-4. Relationship between predicted and observed river mile for the 2 ppt isohaline regression

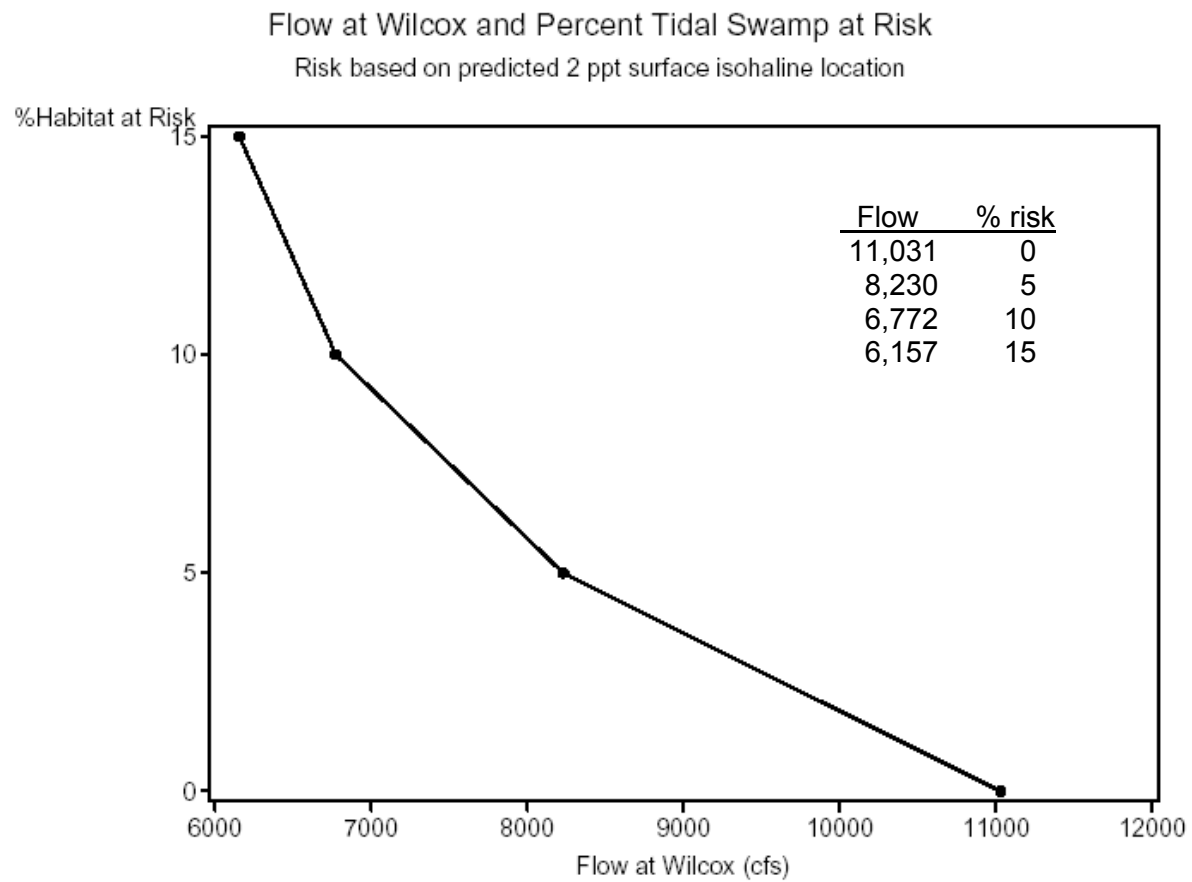


Figure I-5. Relationship between percent of habitat risk for tidal creeks and flow, based on the predicted location of the 2 ppt isohaline.

Appendix J - Tidal Creek



Background

- In addition to the main stem of the river, tidal creeks (Figure J-1) and adjacent marshes provide important habitat for estuarine organisms, including resident and estuarine-dependent fish and invertebrate species (i.e. shrimp, blue crab) (Tsou and Matheson, 2002). Additionally, tidal creeks and marshes provide feeding grounds for wading birds (Montague and Odum, 1997; Montague and Weigert, 1990).
- The potential for significant harm to tidal creek habitat is related to changes in salinity, which is based on the flow and resultant salinity in the river, as well as freshwater run off from the watershed. Changes in salinity could result in alterations to the natural populations of fauna or flora, including changes to diversity, species richness, abundance and productivity. Additionally, harm would occur if exposure occurred which would involved loss of habitat of previously submerged habitats (e.g., SAV or oyster beds).

Objectives

- To evaluate how the relationship between flow and salinity affects tidal creek habitat suitability in the Lower Suwannee River.
- To estimate risk to tidal creek habitat based on alterations to the flow regime (flow reductions).

Data Sources

- Daily average discharge data were obtained for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage number 02323500 (Suwannee near Wilcox) from 1984-2004. Daily lag flows were calculated to 15 days, lag averages to 90 days, cumulative flows to 8 days and transformations of flows (e.g., logarithmic, inverse, square root).
- Salinity data collected by the FWCC in 1993-1995 were used to develop regression models relating flow at Wilcox to the location of the 5 ppt isohaline.
- SRWMD created a detailed coverage of tidal creeks on the Hog Island delta and fringing East and West passes up to the Gopher River. The centerline of all tidal creeks on Hog Island and fringing East and West passes was delineated, using 1999 USGS digital ortho-photos. The shorelines of the passes were also delineated and this was overlain with another coverage, segmenting the passes into 0.25 mile increments.
- Juvenile fish data from the FWCC Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program, collected between 1997 and 2003, were used to evaluate and determine a critical salinity for subsequent analysis.

Biologically-Based Salinity Zone Classification

- Tidal creeks are abundant in the Lower Suwannee River (Figure J-1) and many estuarine and estuarine-dependent species (e.g., red drum, mullet, pinfish) are known to recruit to low salinity tidal creek habitats as juveniles.
- Different groups of fish have different salinity tolerances and/or preferences. Within an individual fish species, size classes representing different life history stages may have different salinity requirements.
- Biologically-based salinity zones were established for the Lower Suwannee River using catch data from the Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program and PCA analysis (Figure J-2). Emphasis was placed on identifying the lower salinity

ranges and fish that may have preferences for low salinity habitat (Bulger et al. 1993) .

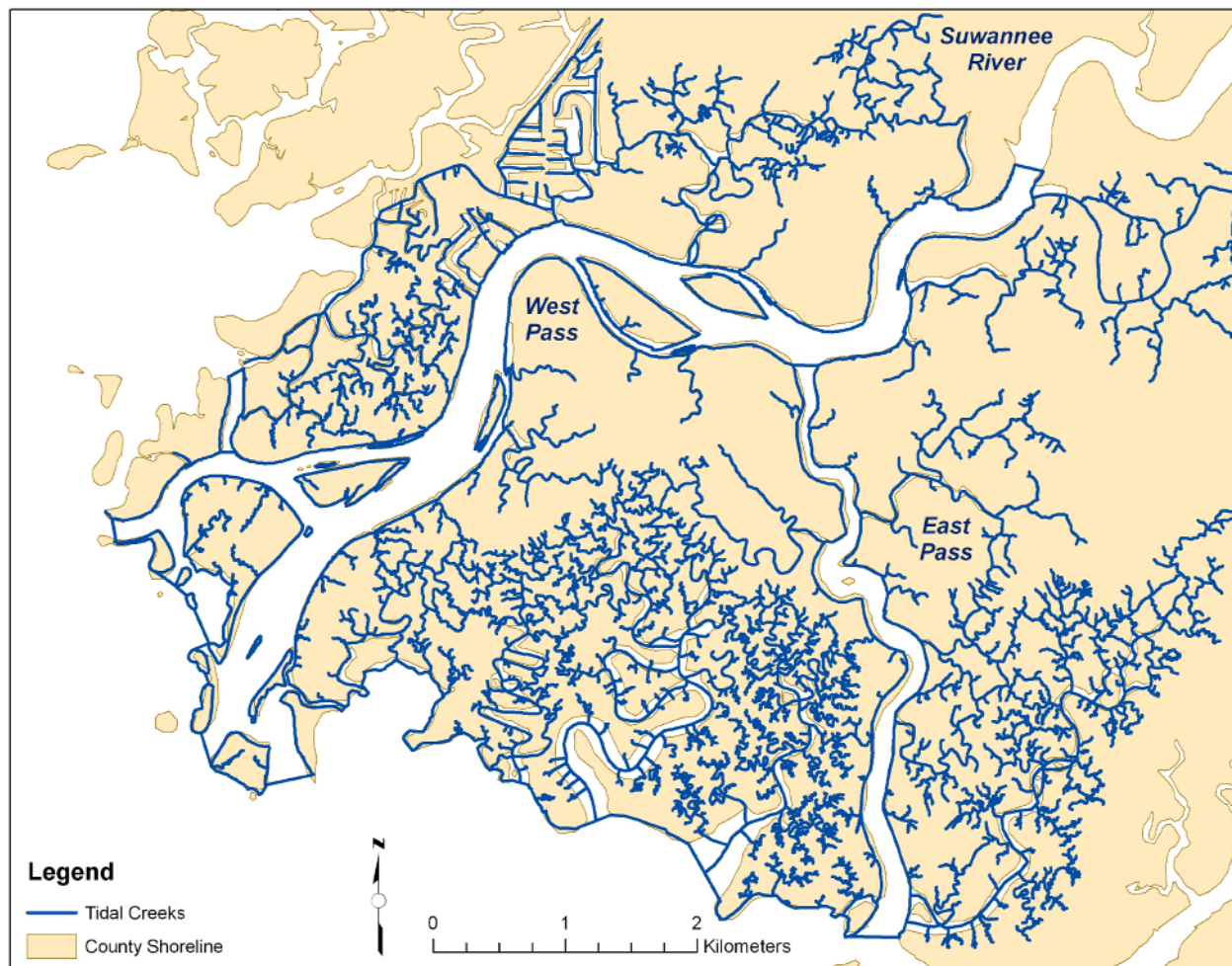
- A zone consisting of species only captured in fresh water was identified.
- A second zone with salinities from 1 to 5 ppt was also identified. This zone represents an oligohaline group of species that is of special interest with regard to MFL establishment.
- The other groups are representative of more euryhaline and marine species that would likely be highly adaptable to salinity changes in the tidal creeks.
- Analysis of similarity was used to identify fish species contributing to the dissimilarity between the fresh and oligohaline groups.
- These species represented important recreational and commercial species as well as key forage fishes for the top level piscivores; species include spotted seatrout, mullet, blue crab, red drum, flounder, spot, pinfish, largemouth bass, redear sunfish ,and bluegill among others.

Analytical Steps

- A prediction equation was developed for the 5 ppt isohaline regression to represent the tolerance threshold for the oligohaline group of fish (Figures J-3 through J-5)..
- Cumulative tidal creek connections were calculated, based on SRWMD mapping, and converted from a kilometer to a river mile system.
- The river mile associated with various percentages of habitat risk, ranging from 0 to 15 by 5% increments, were applied to the inverted regression equation (Figure J-6). This was done to determine the flows required to keep the 5 ppt surface isohaline at the river mile associated with each increment of habitat risk.

Regression Results

- The 5 ppt surface isohaline regression can be used to predict isohaline location in LSR and can relate the location of the spring tide intrusion of the isohaline to flow in the Suwannee River (Figures J-3 through J-5).
- Establishing the relationship between the 5 ppt isohaline as a function of flow was complicated by the dynamics of the estuarine system near the mouth of each pass. Limited sample size and large variability in location of the isohaline for a given flow condition also played a role in the limitations of the regressions.
- Antecedent flows, specifically the average flow of the week prior to the sample collection date, was incorporated into the analysis to capture some of the variation associated with the effects of previous days flow



• **Figure J-1. Network of tidal creek habitat located in the Lower Suwannee River.**

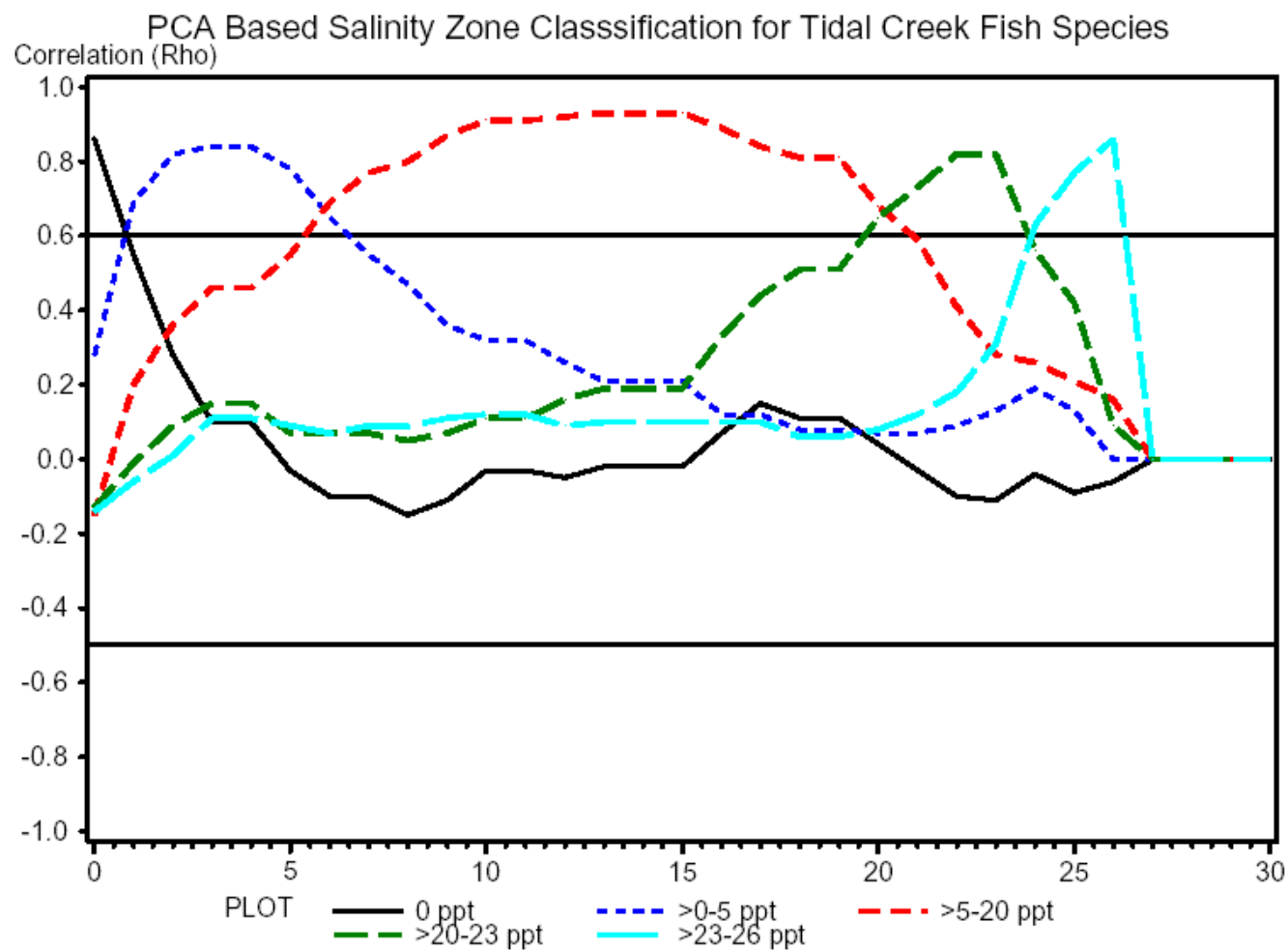


Figure J-2. Salinity zone classification for tidal creek fish species based on results of Principal Components Analysis (PCA).

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model	2	10.74516429	5.37258215	20.63	<.0001
Error	23	5.98850982	0.26036999		
Corrected Total	25	16.73367411			
R-Square		Coeff Var	Root MSE	isohaline_rmile Mean	
0.642128		24.37049	0.510265	2.093781	
Source	DF	Type III SS	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
InvFlow	1	8.72666554	8.72666554	33.52	<.0001
Average 8 days flow	1	3.57460303	3.57460303	13.73	0.0012
Parameter		Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr > t
Intercept		-3.08548	1.027787	-3.00	0.0064
InvFlow		20910.06801	3611.825374	5.79	<.0001
Average 8 days flow		0.00023	0.000062	3.71	0.0012

Figure J-3. Regression results for the 5 ppt surface isohaline regression developed for the whole river.

Predicted Isohaline Location Using Whole River Model

Predicted Location vs. Flow at Wilcox in SRWMD/GFC Study

Line=Predicted Circles=Observed

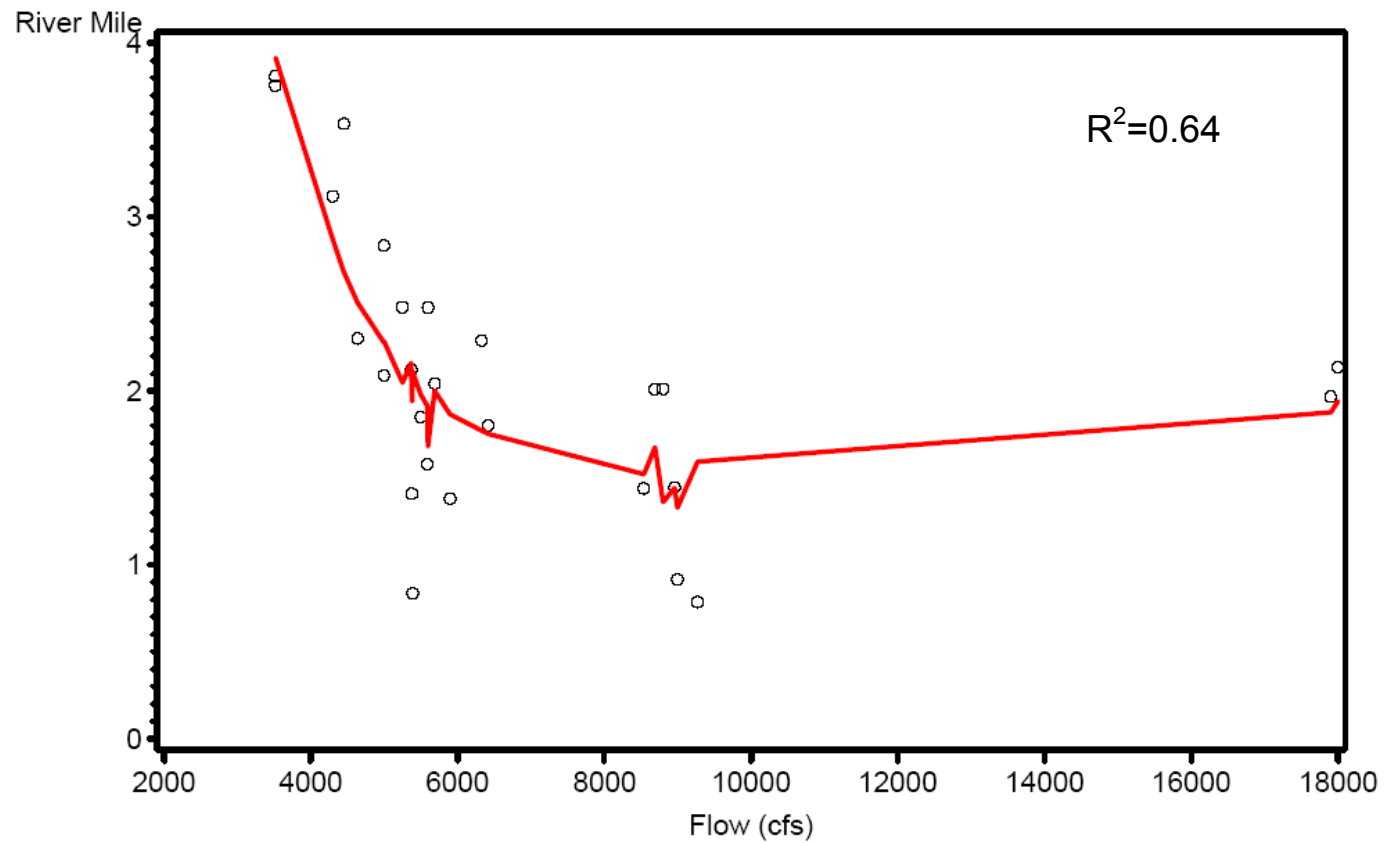


Figure J-4. Regression plot showing the location in river mile of the 5 ppt isohaline as a function of flow.

Predicted 5 ppt Surface Isohaline Location Using Whole River Model

Predicted Location vs. Observed Location Wilcox in SRWMD/GFC Study

Line=Predicted Circles=Observed

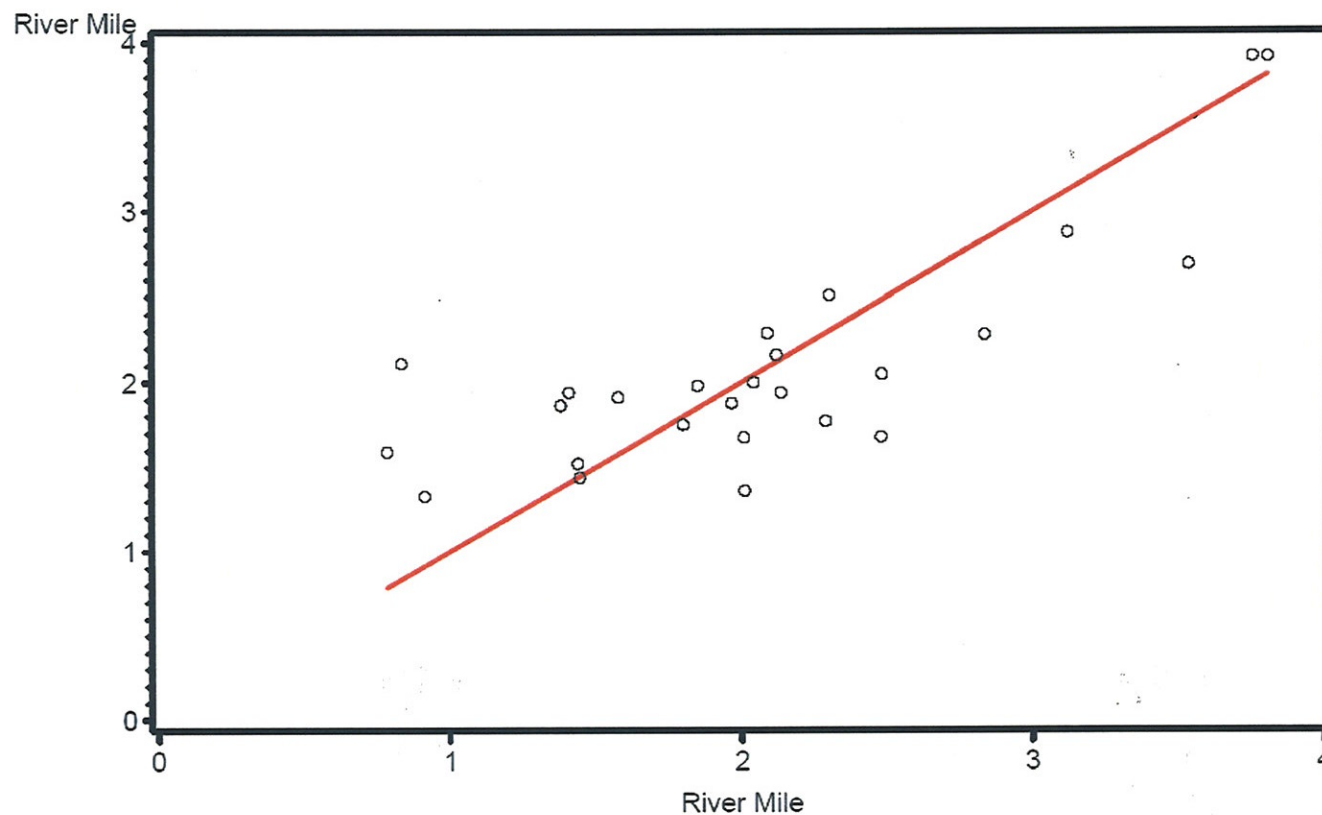


Figure J-5. Relationship between predicted and observed river mile for the 5 ppt isohaline regression.

Flow at Wilcox and Percent of Tidal Creek Connections at Risk

Risk based on exposure to predicted surface salinity of 5 ppt

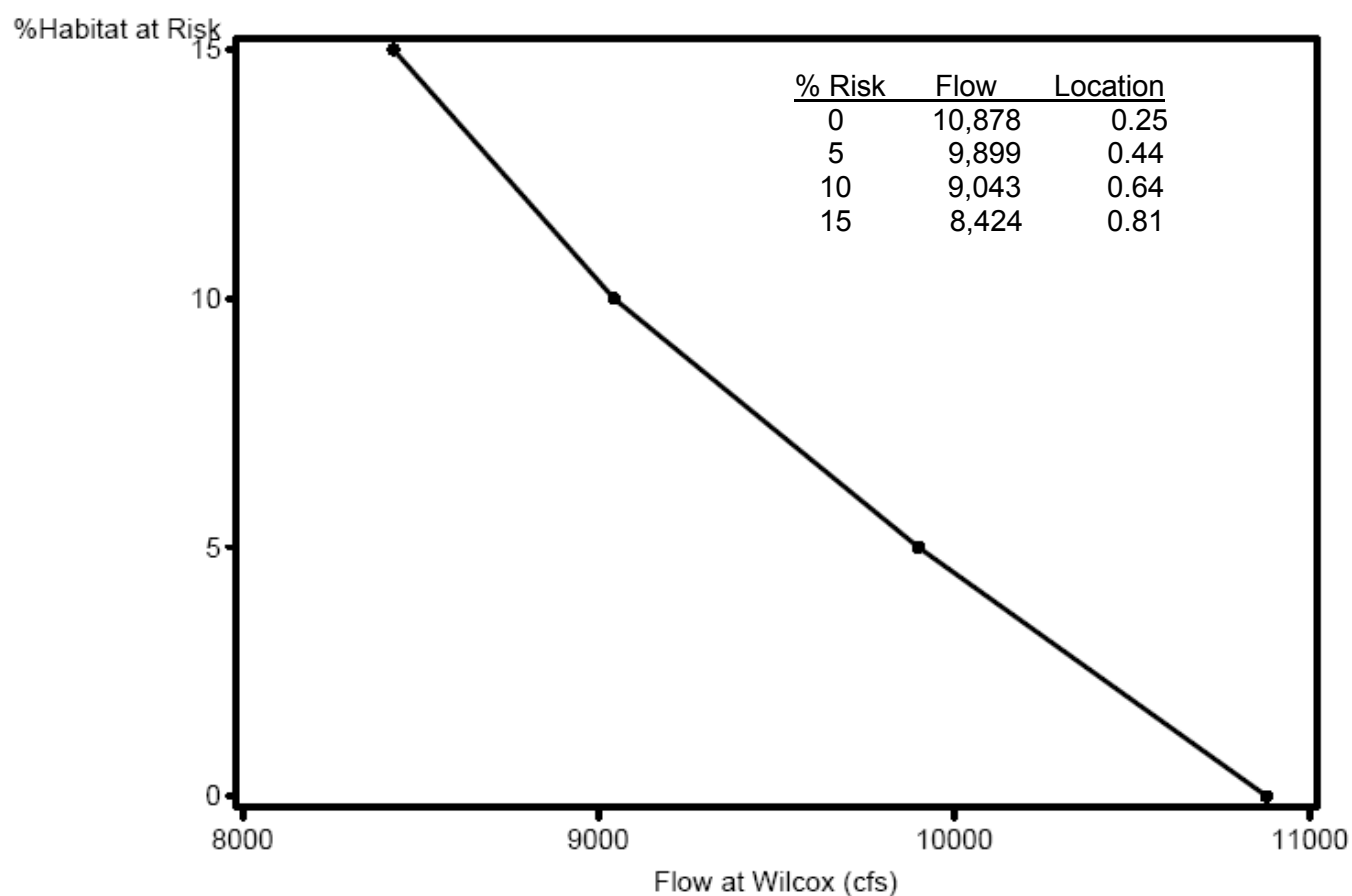


Figure J-6. Relationship between percent of habitat risk for tidal creeks and flow, based on the predicted location of the 5 ppt surface isohaline.

Appendix K - Oysters



Background

- In the Suwannee Sound and in tidal creek areas in the lower river, the principal habitat which provides structure is oyster bars and reefs. These are composed primarily of the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), with two species of mussels (*Brachidontes sp.* and/or *Ischadium recurvum*) as secondary member of the reefs.
- Oysters are a harvestable economic resource and based on statistics reported for 2001, the Suwannee River estuary was the second largest oyster producing area in Florida, with Apalachicola Bay being the first most productive (FWC website www.floridaconservation.org).
- In addition to, and perhaps exceeding the economic importance of oysters, is the value of oyster habitat for estuarine invertebrates and fishes (Bahr and Lanier, 1981). Biomass and diversity of crustaceans has been reported to be higher in oyster reef habitat (Glancy 2000) and oyster reefs provide an important food base for recreationally important fish species (Pattillo et al. 1997).
- The potential for significant harm to oyster habitat is related to flow induced changes in salinity which would cause alterations to the natural populations of invertebrates associated with oyster habitat (i.e. species richness, diversity, abundance, productivity, etc.) alterations in oyster reef characteristics (juvenile, subadult, or adult oyster density or cover) due to exposure to high salinities, or the potential loss of acreage of oyster habitat.

Objectives

- To evaluate how the relationship between flow and salinity affects oyster habitat in the Lower Suwannee River.
- To estimate risk to suitable oyster habitat based on alterations to the flow regime (flow reductions).

Data Sources

- Daily average discharge data was obtained for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gage number 02323500 (Suwannee near Wilcox) from 1984-2004. Daily lags were calculated to 15 days, lag averages to 90 days, cumulative flows to 8 days and transformations of flows (e.g. logarithmic, inverse, square root).
- Salinity data to evaluate oyster habitat characteristics were provided by the FDACS Shellfish Environmental Assessment Section (SEAS).
 - SEAS data consisted of 137 fixed sites (not all sites were used in analysis) throughout the Suwannee Sound that were established in 1989 and data collection efforts are still ongoing (Figure K-1).
 - Salinity data were collected in conjunction with bacteriological monitoring in shellfish harvesting areas.
- Oyster data in the Suwannee River estuary were collected by Baker et al. (2003) with the objective to evaluate characteristics of oyster habitat where it occurred and relate it to salinity.
 - Consideration in sample site selection included distributing sites across a range of salinity regimes, from those near the river mouth exposed to freshwater part of the time to those located far from the freshwater discharge from the river. The 36 sample sites were also distributed across three reef 'strata': inshore bars at tidal creeks, middle reefs (Lone Cabbage and Half Moon), and outer reefs (Suwannee Reef).
 - Study sites were sampled during low tides. Several types of sampling were conducted at each study site. First, the site was divided into high intertidal and

low intertidal strata. This was determined based by inspection in the field at each sampling site; the “break” typically occurring at the reef crest. Locations of sampling quadrats at each site were determined randomly by proceeding in a random direction (right or left) along the tidal stratum for a randomly determined distance from 1-10 meters. Live oyster cover was determined using a minimum of six replicate samples (more if cover was very sparse). Cover was determined using a 1 m² grid divided into 100 subsections 10 by 10 cm each in area. Cover was measured by counting the number of subsections lying over live oyster and expressing as a proportion of 100. Oyster density was measured using a 0.25 m² quadrat (1 m² where live cover/density was very sparse), from which all live oyster was harvested down to dead shell. Live oysters were counted as adult ($\geq$ 76 mm shell length), sub-adult (50 to <76 mm shell length), and juvenile ($\geq$ 25 to <50 mm shell length). Counts of four major oyster reef associate animals were also made in the oyster density quadrats: the mussels *Brachiodontes* spp. and *Ischadium recurvum*, and the crabs *Eurypanopeus depressus* and *Petrolisthes armatus*.

- Oyster community parameters were related to salinity using data from the SEAS monitoring program collected 2000-2002 and data from Philips and Bledsoe (2002) collected in the estuary in 1999-2001. Monthly surface salinity measurements from these studies were incorporated into a GIS coverage of the salinity sampling sites. Surface salinity was used since depths in much of Suwannee Sound are quite shallow and these data reflected the salinities that the oyster reefs were most exposed to (Baker et al., 2003). ArcGrid[®] was used to generate salinity contours using the field data, and salinity characteristics at each individual oyster study site were estimated from this coverage by interpolation using the inverse distance-weighted method. Mean salinity for the periods 12 months and 24 months prior to the oyster survey was determined for comparison with oyster reef community characteristics.

Isohaline Selection

- Based on the oyster field data from the Suwannee estuary, it will be important to maintain an adequate area of habitat with mean annual salinities of $\leq$ 20 ppt in order to maintain the existing coverage and health of oyster reefs in the estuary.
- Additionally, literature values support 20 ppt as a threshold value for salinity.
 - Baker et al. (2003) evaluated oyster habitat characteristics in the Suwannee estuary in relation to salinity and relative tidal elevation. They found highest oyster habitat characteristics (% cover, juvenile, sub-adult, and adult density) occurred at mean salinities <20 ppt, for periods 1 year and 2 years prior to their survey (Baker et al., 2003).
 - Burrell (1986) recommended that “moderate salinities (those less than 15 ppt)” be maintained for “a significant period during the year” to exclude most oyster predators and diseases and maintain oyster reef community structure.
 - Stanley and Sellers (1986) indicated that highest oyster abundance in Gulf of Mexico oyster populations occurred between 10-20 ppt.
 - Oyster reefs with highest densities in Apalachicola Bay were found where mean salinities were 20-23 ppt (Livingston et al., 2000). This appeared largely due to exclusion of dominant oyster predators (Livingston et al., 2000).

Analytical steps

- Salinity zones for Suwannee sound were identified by analyzing covariance patterns for stations using Principal Components Analysis (PCA).
- Principal Components Analysis led to the establishment of three salinity zones; River, Inshore Reef and Offshore.
- Salinity-flow regressions were developed to predict the median surface salinities for each of the three regions (offshore, reef, river groups) identified by PCA as a function of flow at Wilcox (Figures K-2 through K-5). To account for tidal influence on the salinity-flow relationship, only samples collected after 1996 were used for the regression analysis.
- Once salinity-flow relationships were established for each of the groups, the long term flow record was used to estimate the change in the probability of an annual average surface salinity of 20 ppt. The long term average flow (10,166 cfs) was used as the baseline probability.
- Risk was estimated as a change between 0 and 15 percent in the exceedance threshold of the 20 ppt criterion for surface salinity (Figures K-6 and K-7). Only the Inshore reef and Offshore zones were evaluated since the River zone median salinities were over 20 ppt less than 10% of the time (Figures K-8 through K-10). The distribution percentiles (e.g., 10%, 50%, 90%) of surface and bottom salinities within each PCA group were identified (Figure K-11, K-12).

Results

- The Inshore Reef group displayed an inflection point in the risk estimates for flow less than 6800 cfs coinciding with a 5% increase in the number of years the average annual salinity would exceed 20 ppt.
- The results of estimating risk for the Offshore group suggested that Offshore salinities were at the 20 ppt threshold approximately 50% of the time based on the study period of record (1997-2003). A 15% change in the probability of annual average exceedance was associated with flows that were still above the long term median flow for Wilcox. Therefore, the use of the 20 ppt threshold for the assessment of risk for the Offshore group appears to be unrealistic.

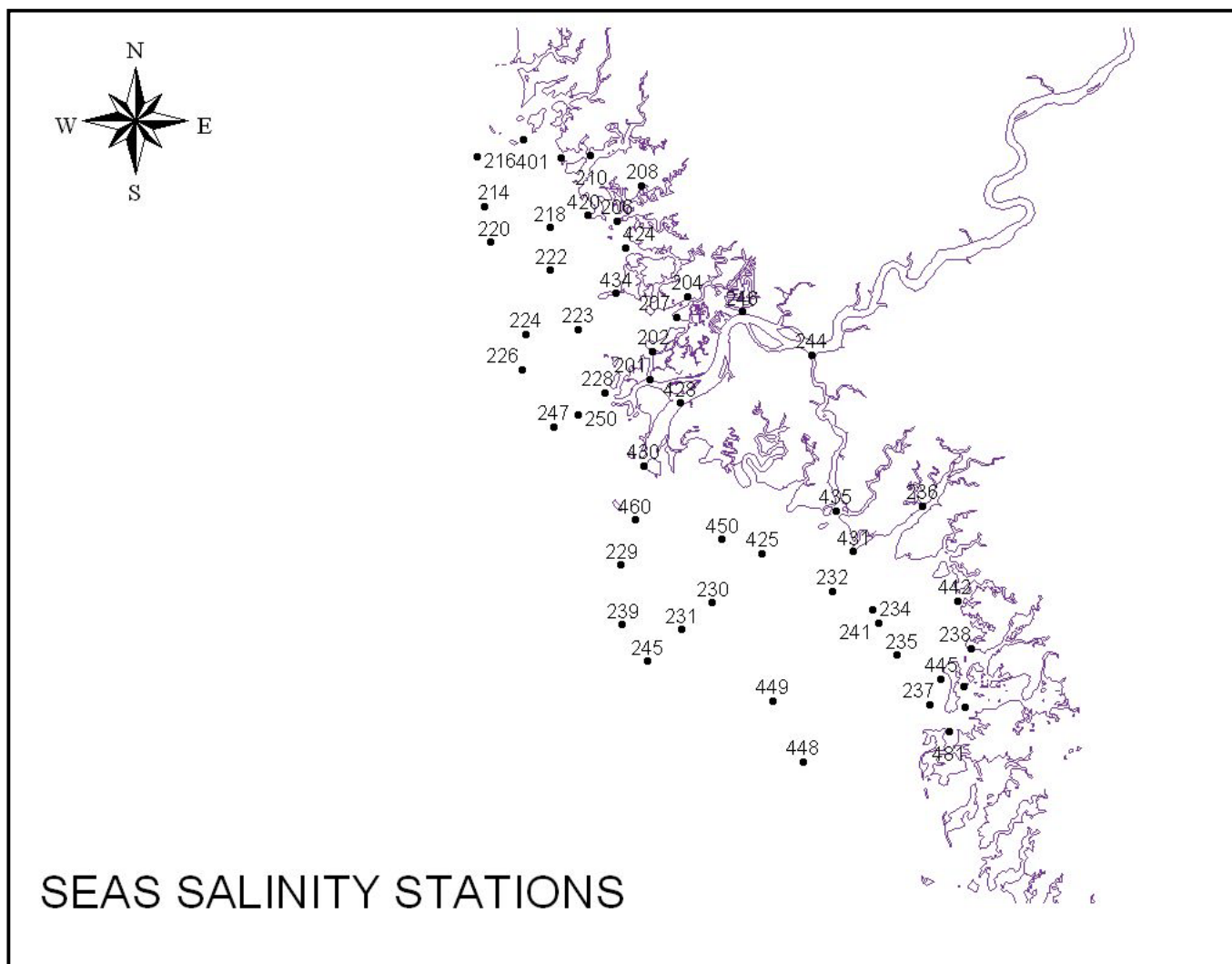


Figure K-1. Distribution of SEAS water quality stations in the Suwannee River Estuary.

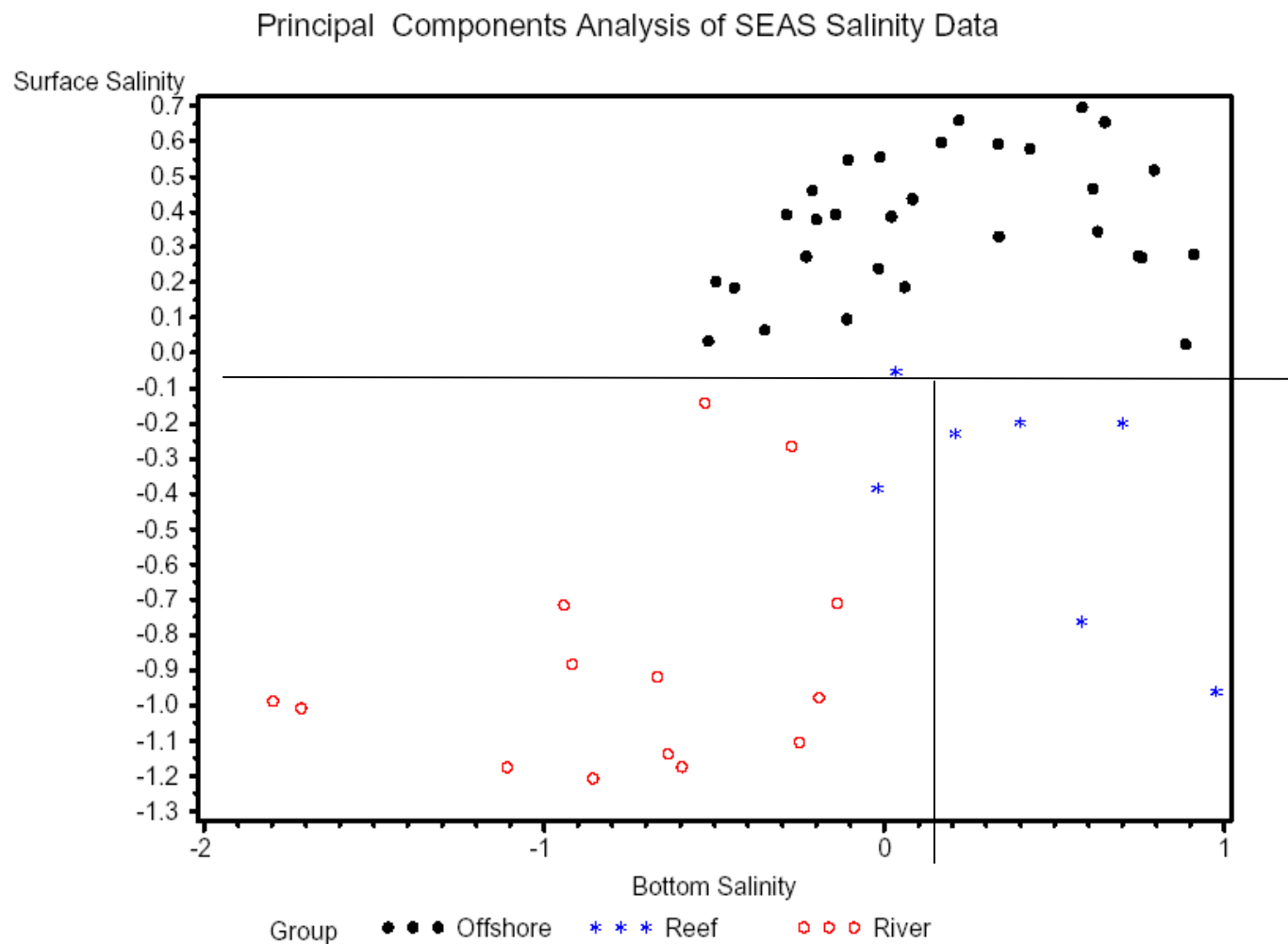


Figure K-2. Results of Principal Components Analysis, showing the separation of offshore, reef and river salinities.

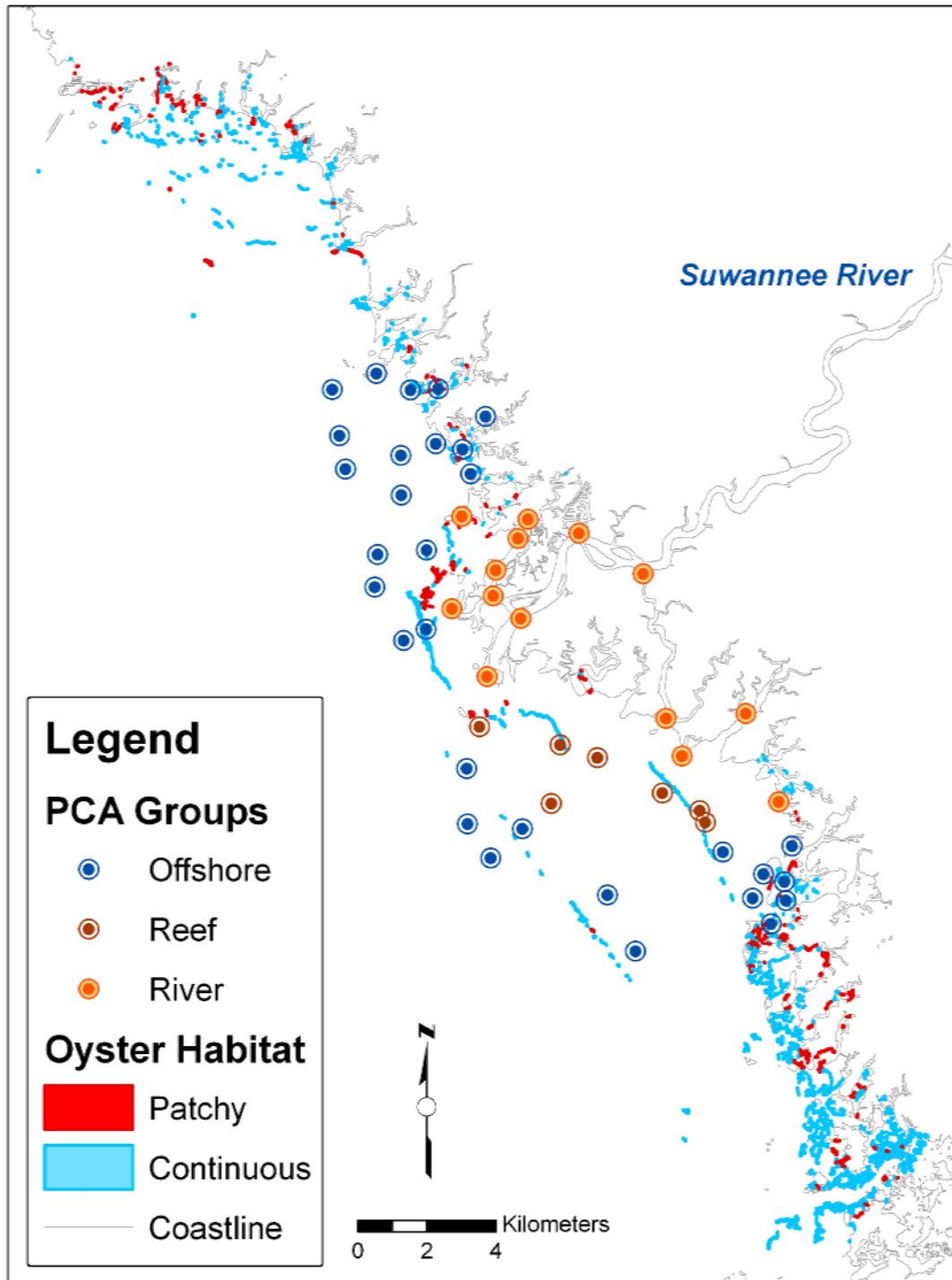
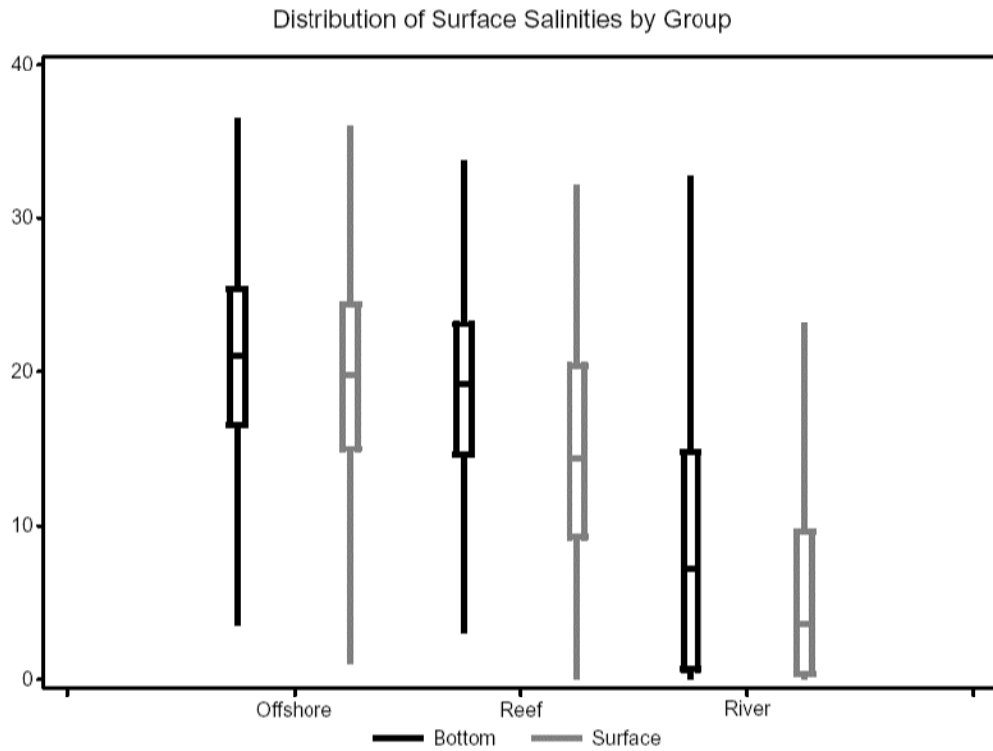


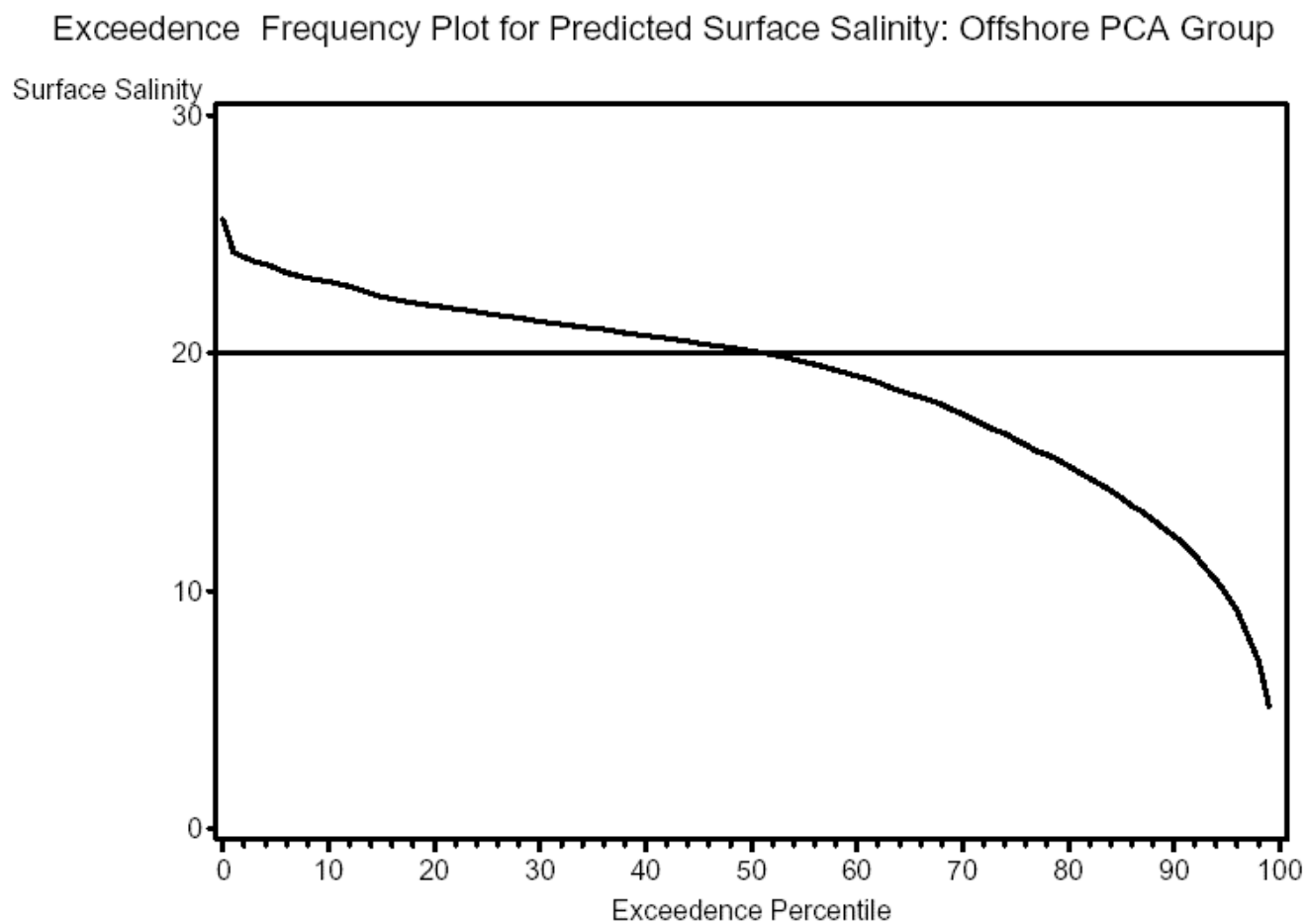
Figure K-3. Distribution of SEAS Water Quality stations, partitioned into offshore, reef and river groups and the distribution of oyster habitat, classified as patchy and continuous.



Distribution statistics for variables used in salinity flow regressions

	Offshore			Reef			River		
Distribution Percentile	<u>Min</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Max</u>
Surface Salinity	0	19.8	36.0	0	14.3	32.2	0	3.6	32.8
Bottom Salinity	0	21	36.5	0	19.2	33.8	0	7.25	32.8
Flow at Wilcox	1,970	6,070	43,200	1,970	6,040	43,200	1,970	6,510	43,200
Sample Hour	7	11	16	7	12	15	7	11	15
Tidal Stage (wl/feet mllw)	-1.02	2.32	4.73	-1.02	2.32	4.73	-1.29	2.30	4.52

Figure K-4. Distribution of surface salinities by group.



NOTE: Reference line indicates critical oyster salinity threshold

Figure K-5. Exceedance frequency plot for predicted salinity of the offshore group. The reference line at 20 ppt represents the critical salinity threshold for oysters.

Flow at Wilcox and Percent of Time Offshore Oyster Habitat at Risk

Risk based on change from baseline probability of exceeding average annual salinity of 20 ppt

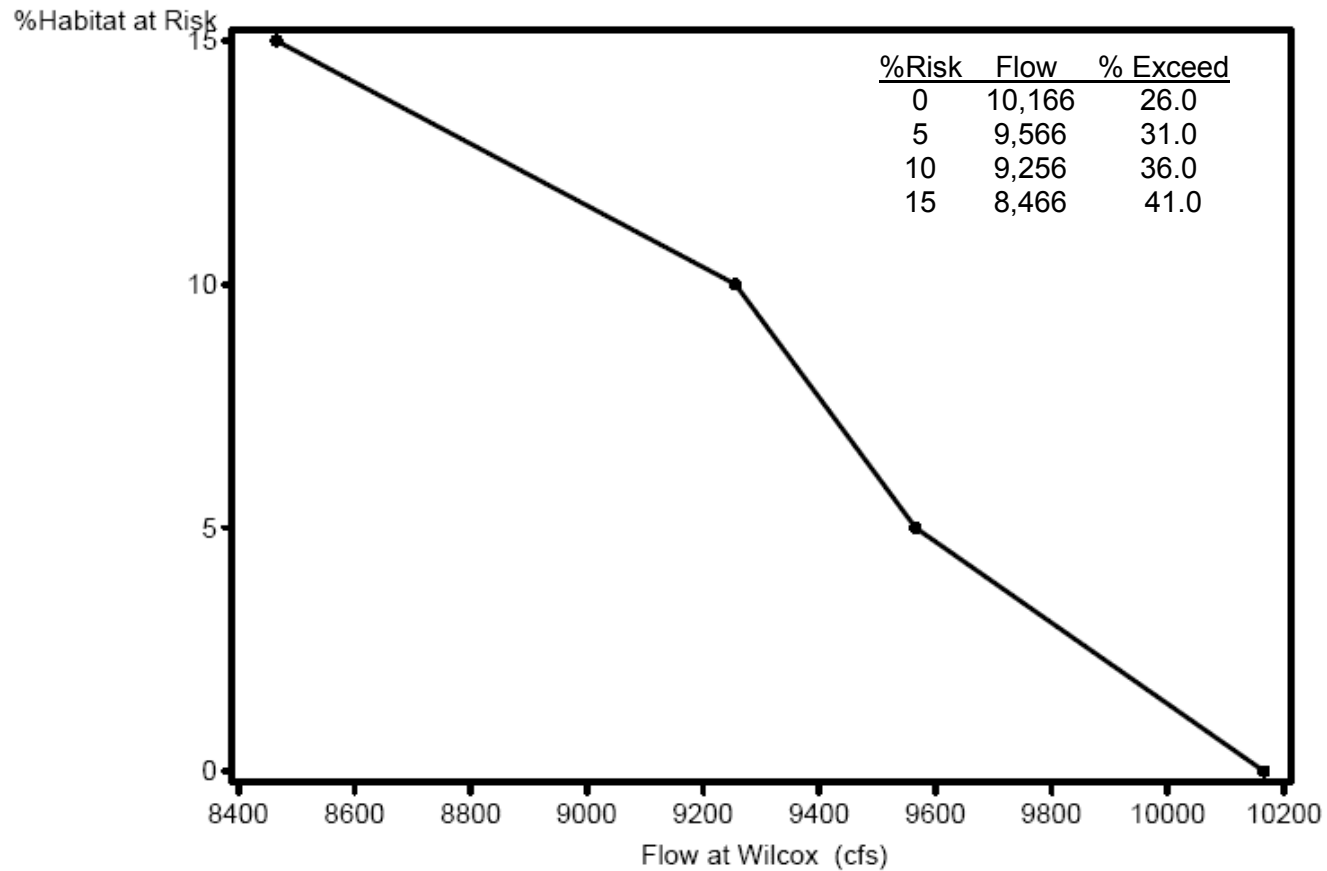


Figure K-6. Relationship between percent of habitat risk for oyster habitat and flow, based on the probability of exceeding the average annual salinity of 20 ppt.

Flow at Wilcox and Percent of Time Oyster Reef Habitat at Risk

Risk based on change from baseline probability of exceeding average annual salinity of 20 ppt

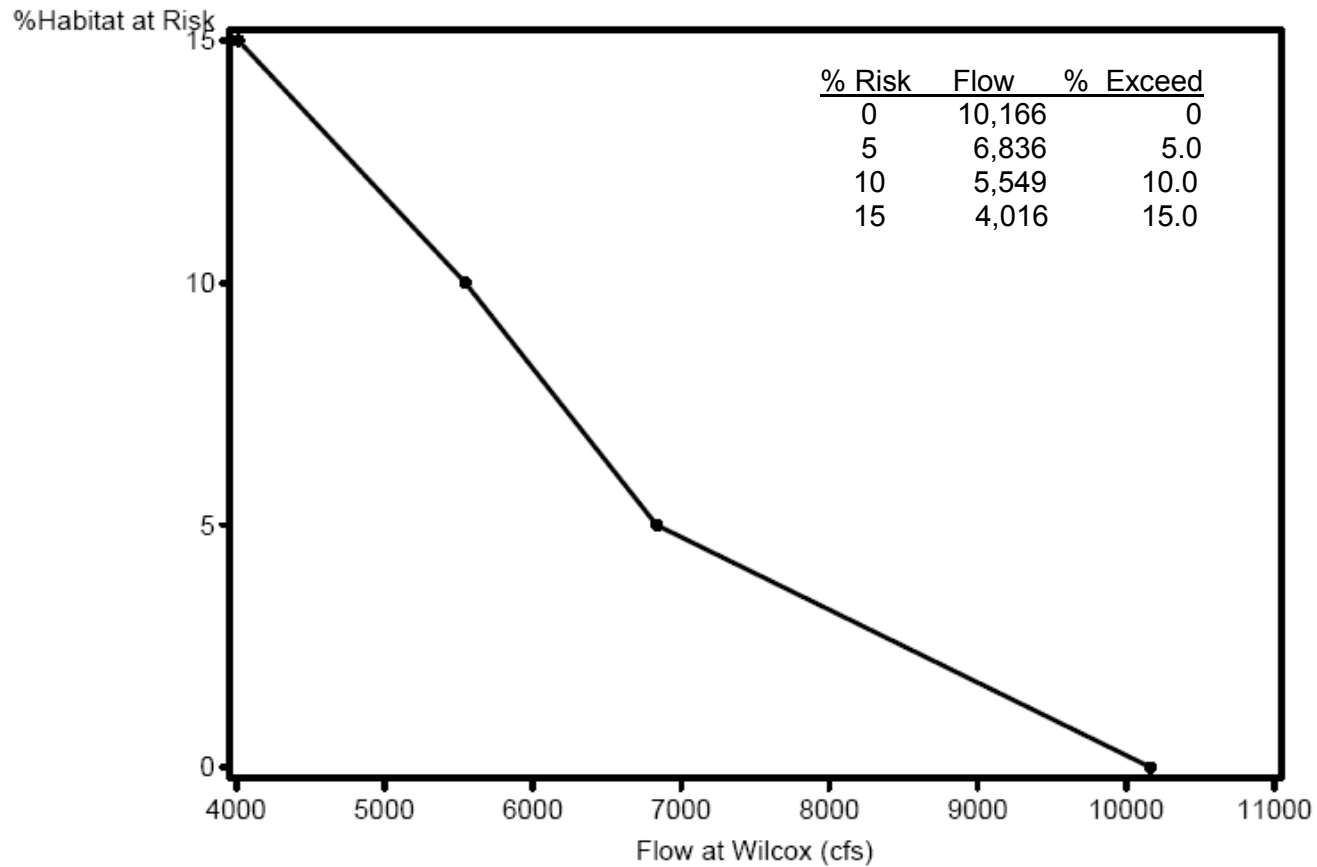


Figure K-7. Relationship between percent of habitat risk for oyster habitat and flow, based on the probability of exceeding the average annual salinity of 20 ppt.

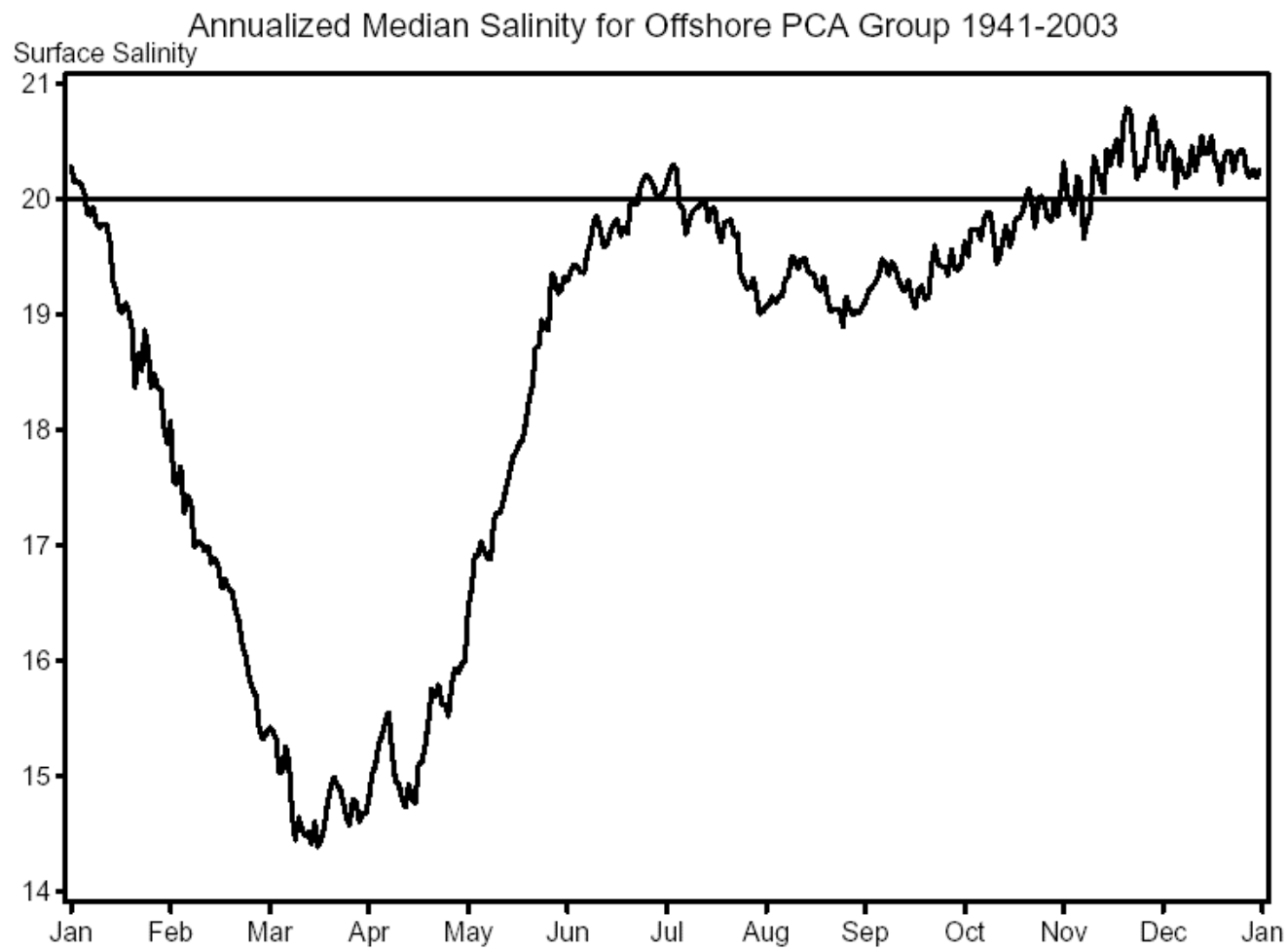
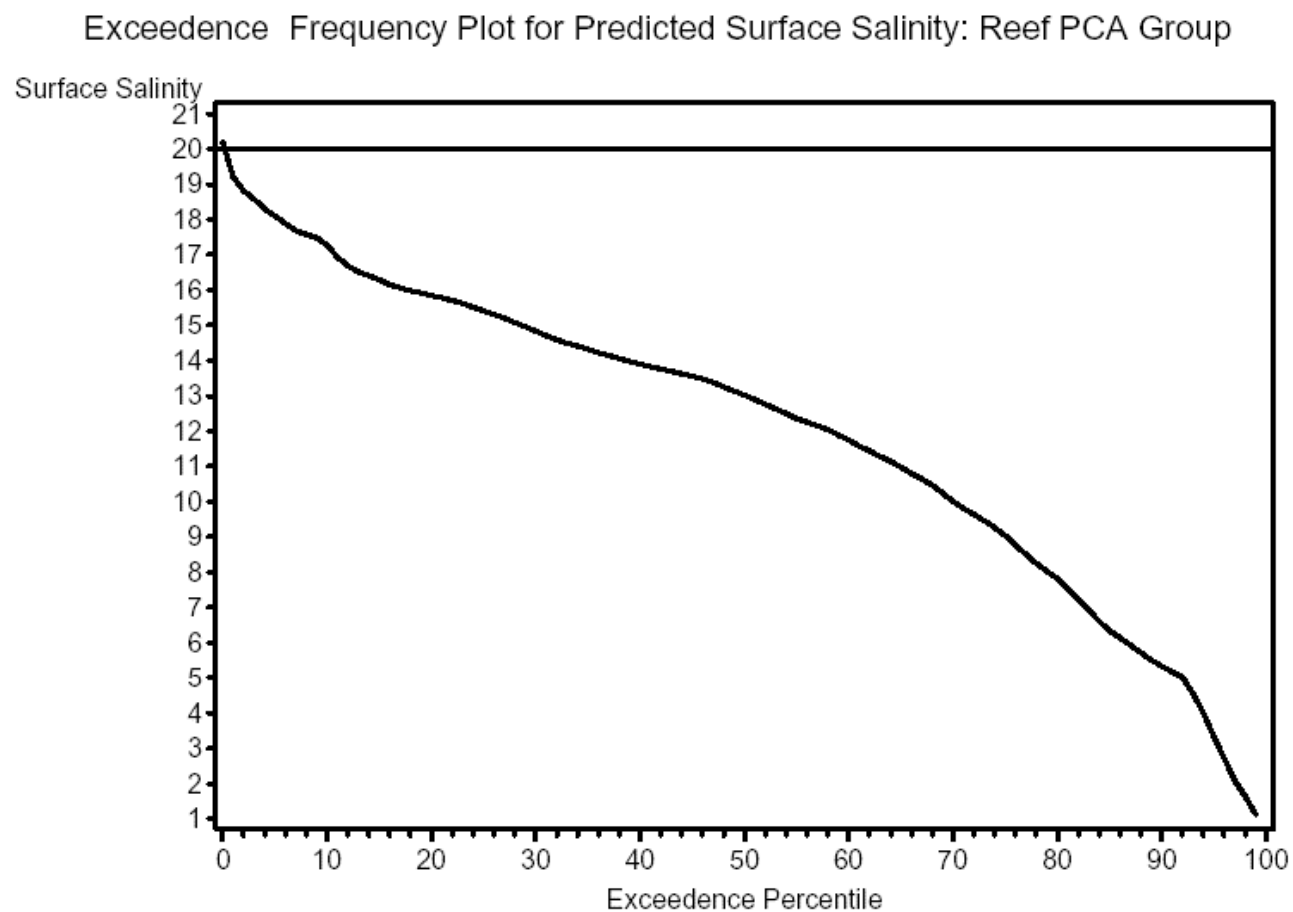


Figure K-8. Annualized median surface salinity for the offshore group.



NOTE: Reference line indicates critical oyster salinity threshold

Figure K-9. Exceedance frequency plot for predicted salinity of the Inshore Reef group. The reference line at 20 ppt represents the critical salinity threshold for oysters.

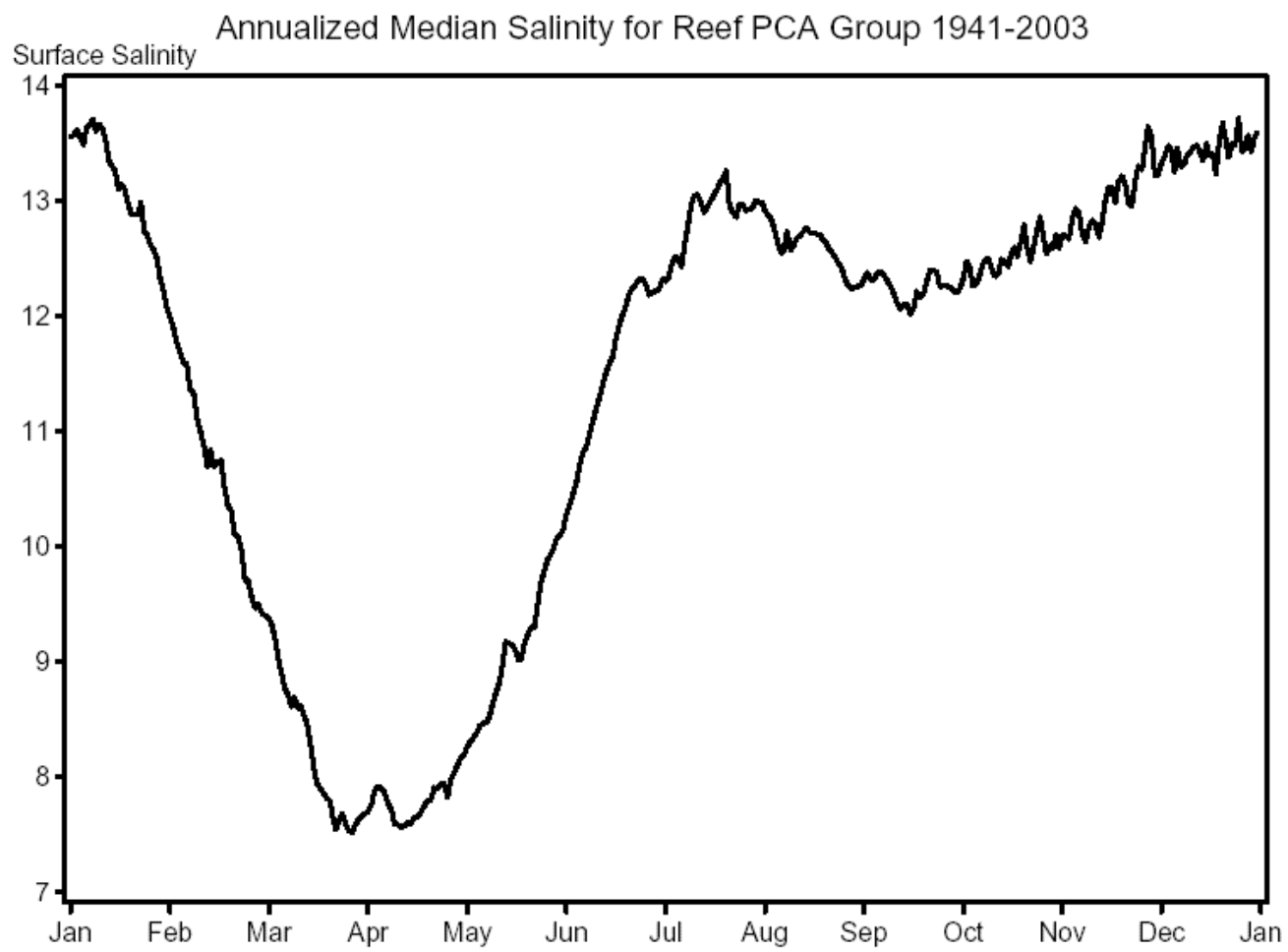


Figure K-10. Annualized median surface salinity for the reef group

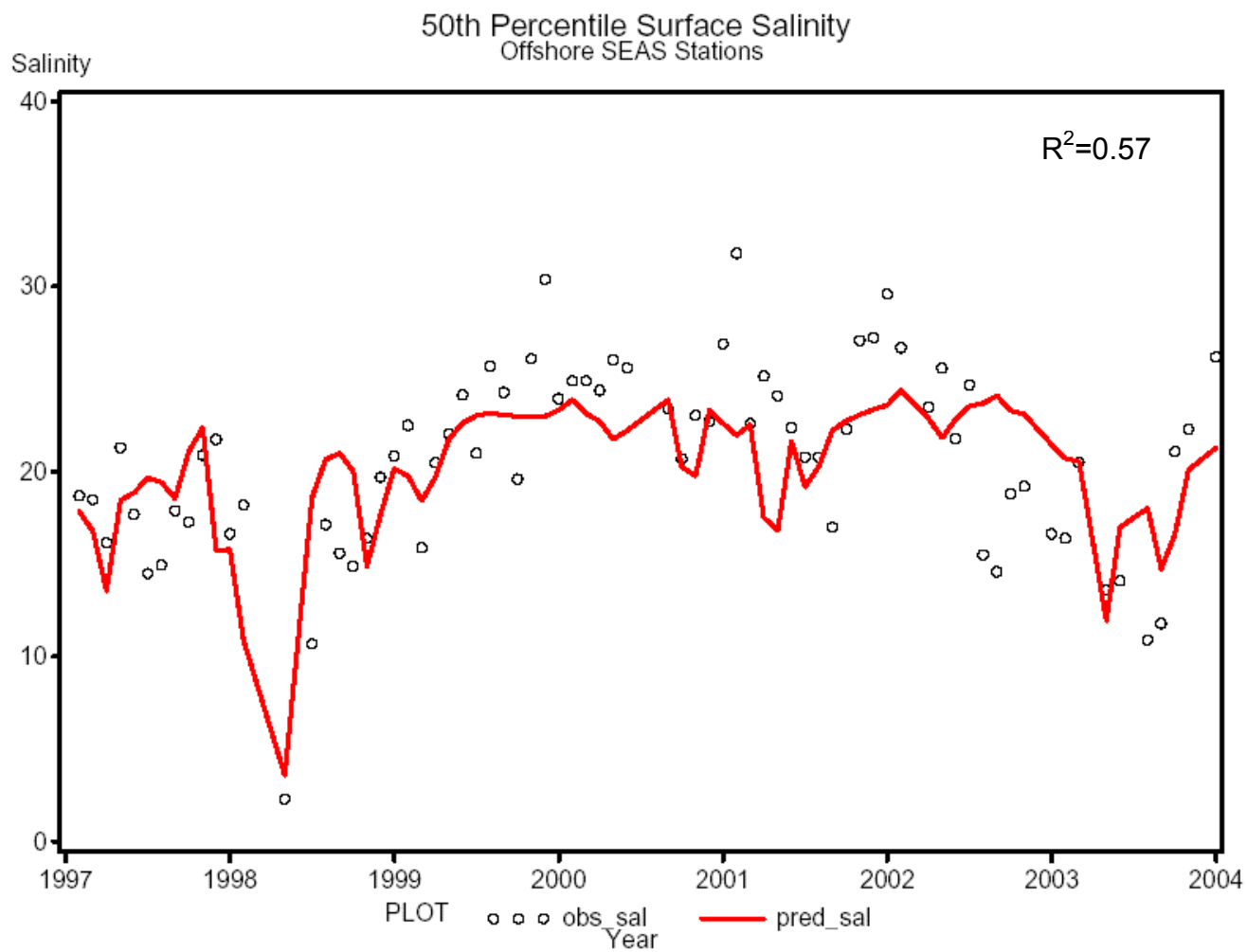


Figure K-11.. Plot showing the 50th percentile of surface salinity in the offshore SEAS stations. Predicted and observed salinity is shown.

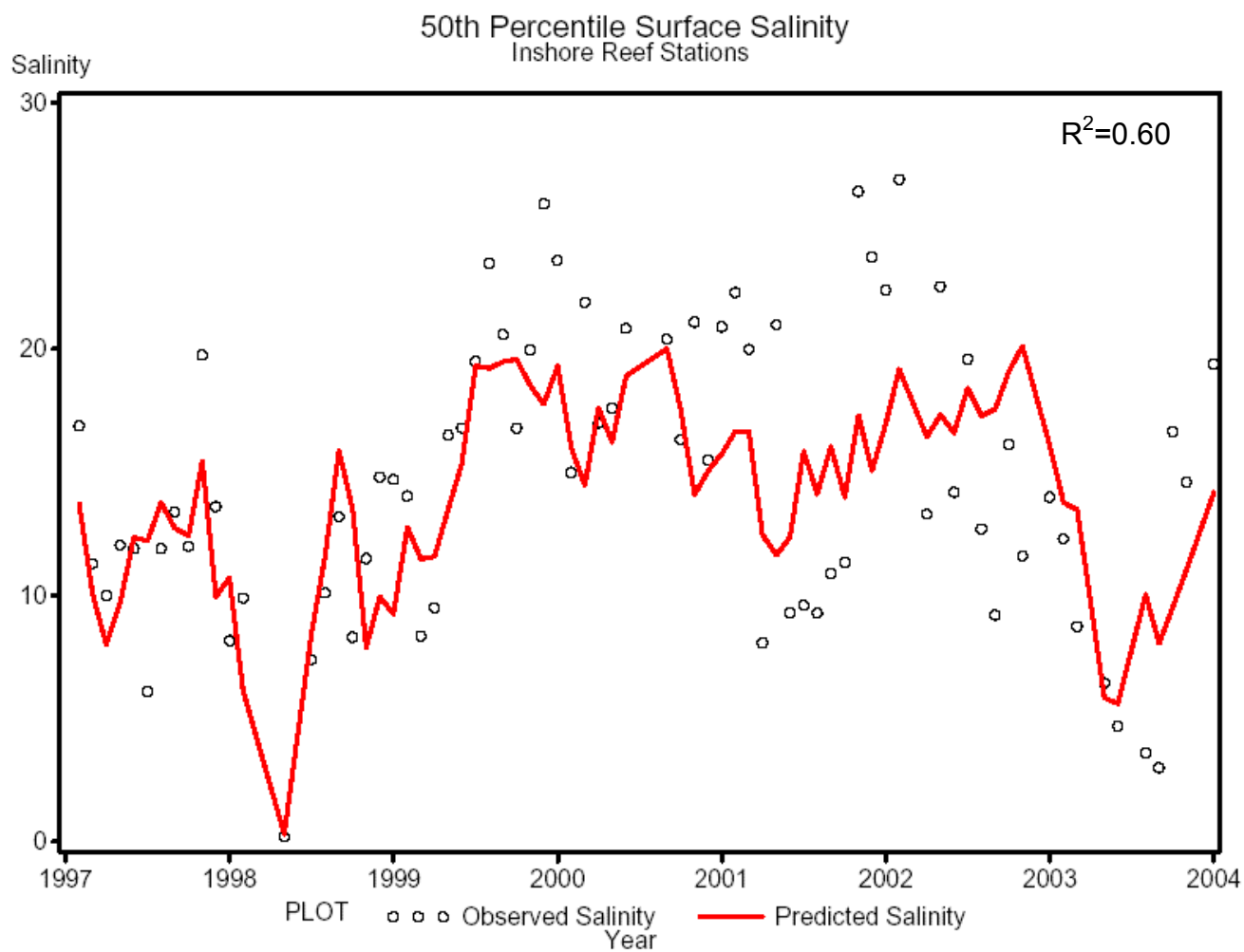


Figure K-12. Plot showing the 50th percentile of surface salinity in the inshore SEAS stations. Predicted and observed salinity is shown

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