

Derivation of Numeric Nutrient Criteria for South Florida estuaries and coastal waters

Team



Henry O. Briceño
Joseph N. Boyer
Peter Harlem



Joffre Castro

September 20, 2010. Homestead, Florida



Content

- **Methodology**

- Monitoring programs and data selection
 - Period of Record (POR)
- Segmentation of SoFlo Basins
- Threshold analysis
 - Period of Calculation

- **Derivation of Numeric Nutrient Criteria**



Data sources

- NOAA/UM/RSMAS
(<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/sfp/data.shtml>)
- DERM
(<http://www.gcrc.uga.edu/wqmeta/app/organizations.asp>)
 - Mr. Steve Blair
- USGS (<http://sofia.usgs.gov/exchange/index.php>)
- EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/storet/>)
- FIU/SERC (<http://serc.fiu.edu/wqmnetwork/>)
- FCE-LTER (<http://fcelter.fiu.edu/data/>)
- NPS
 - Mrs. Sarah Bellmund.



Dataset selection criteria

EPA's Guidance for the Data Quality Objectives Process
(EPA 2004; <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/g4-final.pdf>)

- Long-term and sustained monitoring
- Regularity in sampling frequency
- Monitoring at fixed stations over the POR
- Spatial coverage to render representative and reproducible data
- Uniformity in field and laboratory protocols
- High quality results
- Include causal variables (i.e. nutrients), supporting variables (salinity, turbidity, DO, etc.) and ecosystem response variables (i.e. CHL-a)



FIU

Southeast
Environmental
Research Center



Water Quality Monitoring Network

Southeast Environmental Research Center

Florida International University

Funded by SFWMD, NOAA, and EPA

Pine Island
Sound

Marco Island

Ten Thousand
Islands

Miami

Everglades

Biscayne
Bay

SW Florida Shelf

Whitewater
Bay

Florida Bay

Gulf of Mexico

Quicksands

Marquesas

Dry Tortugas

Florida Straits

83°0'W

82°30'W

82°0'W

81°30'W

81°0'W

80°30'W

80°0'W

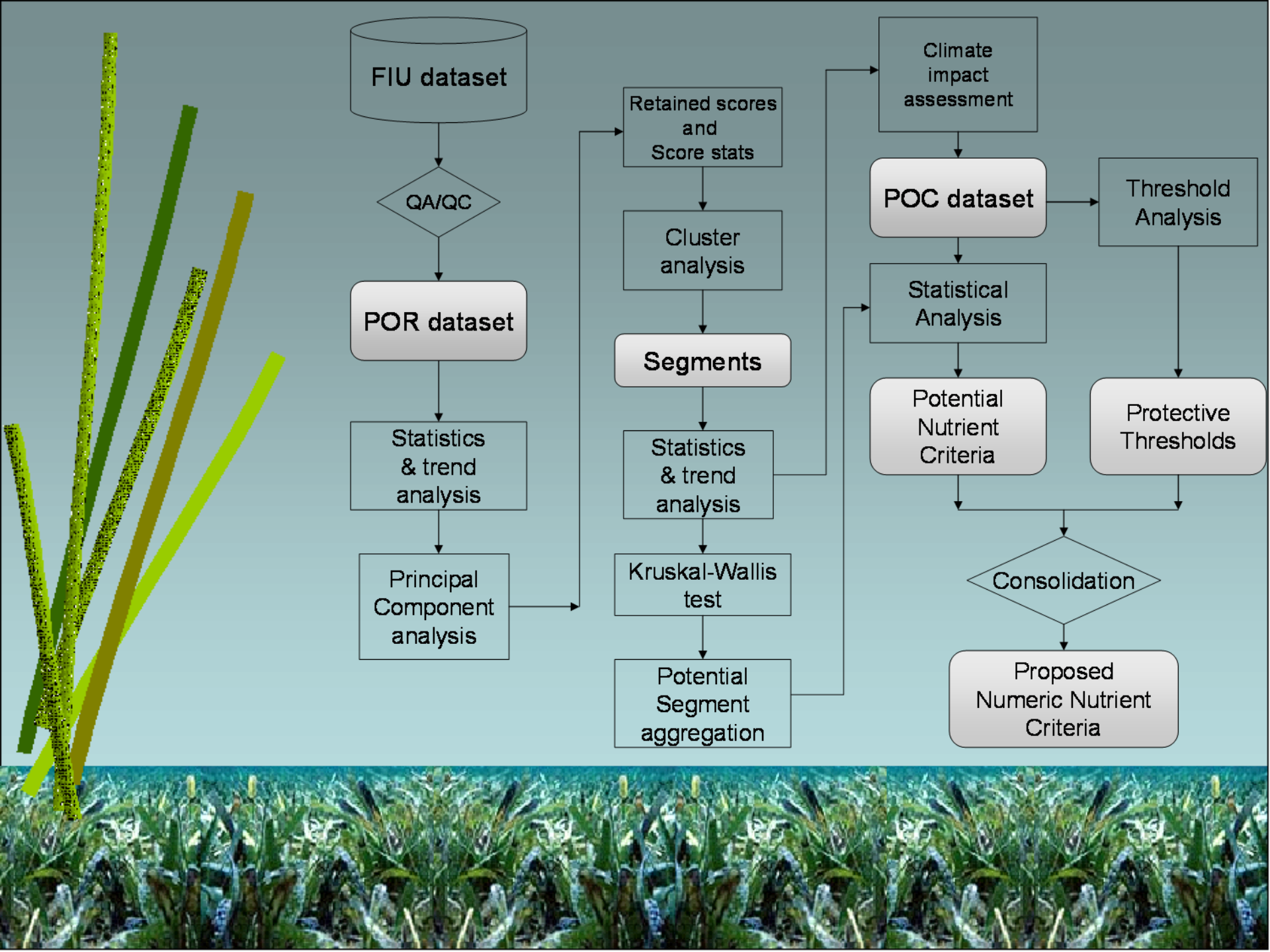
26°30'N

26°0'N

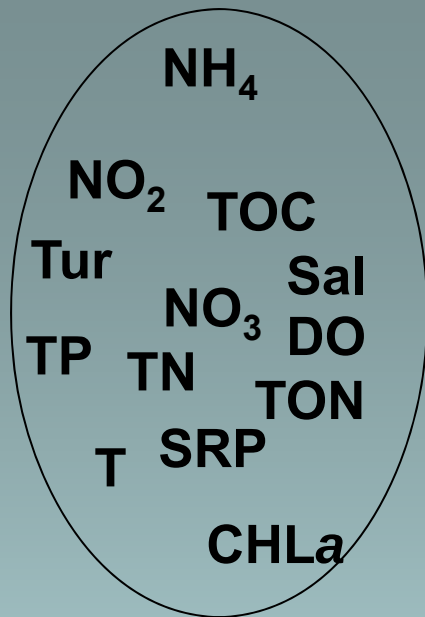
25°30'N

25°0'N

24°30'N



SEGMENTATION



Factor Analysis

Principal
Components

Score statistics
(mean, SD,
median, MAD)

Hierarchical
Cluster

Geomorphology

Circulation

Bottom type

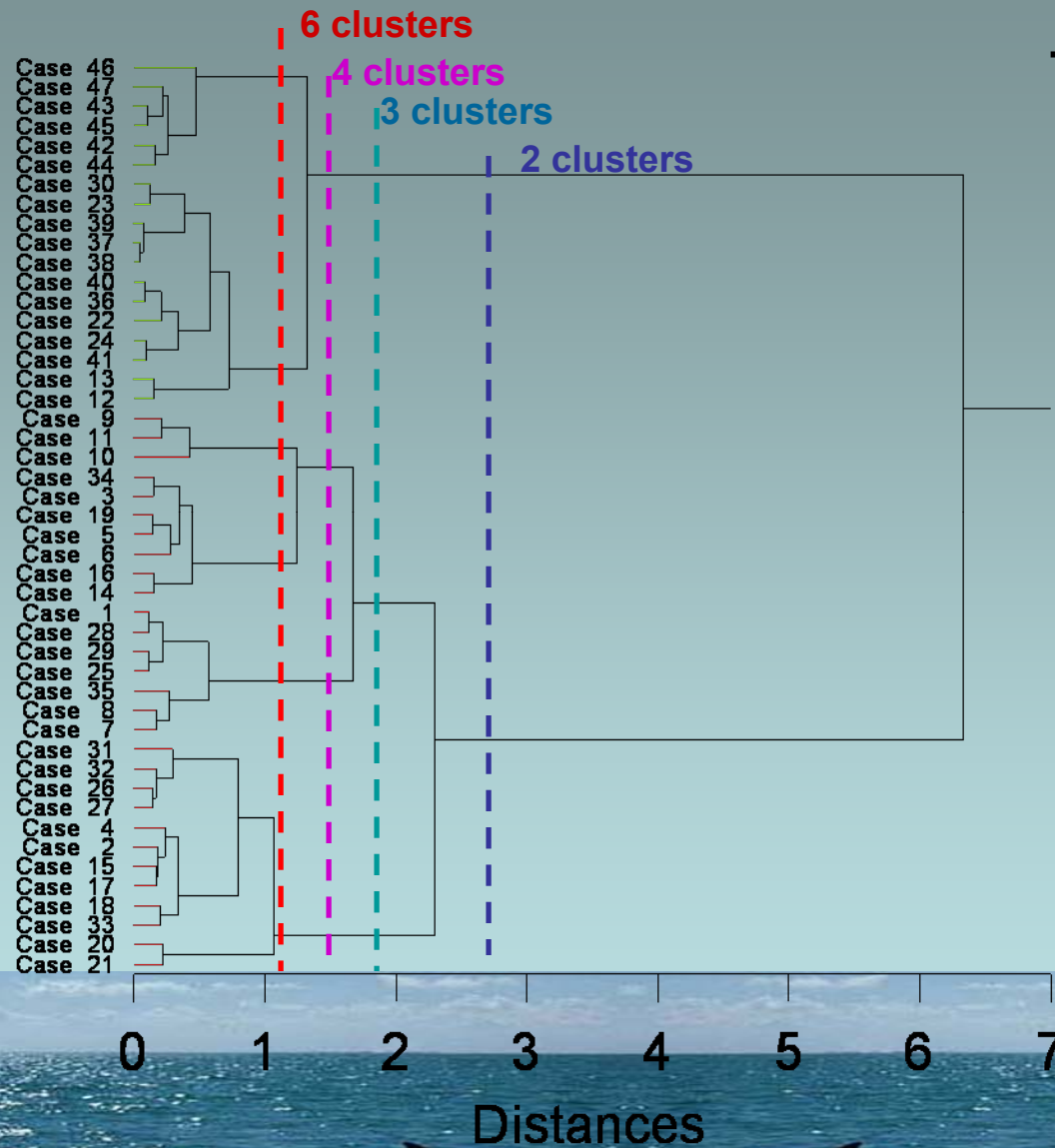
Benthic communities

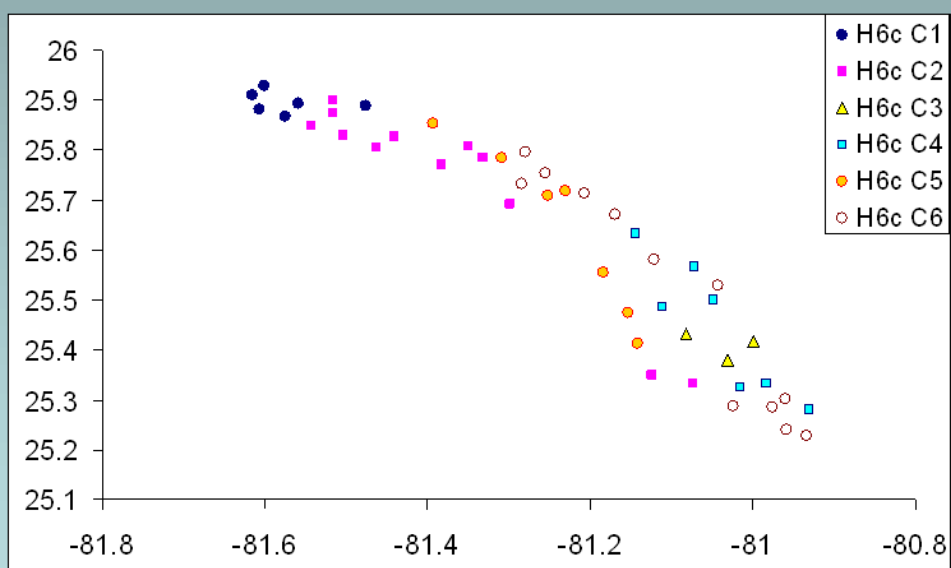
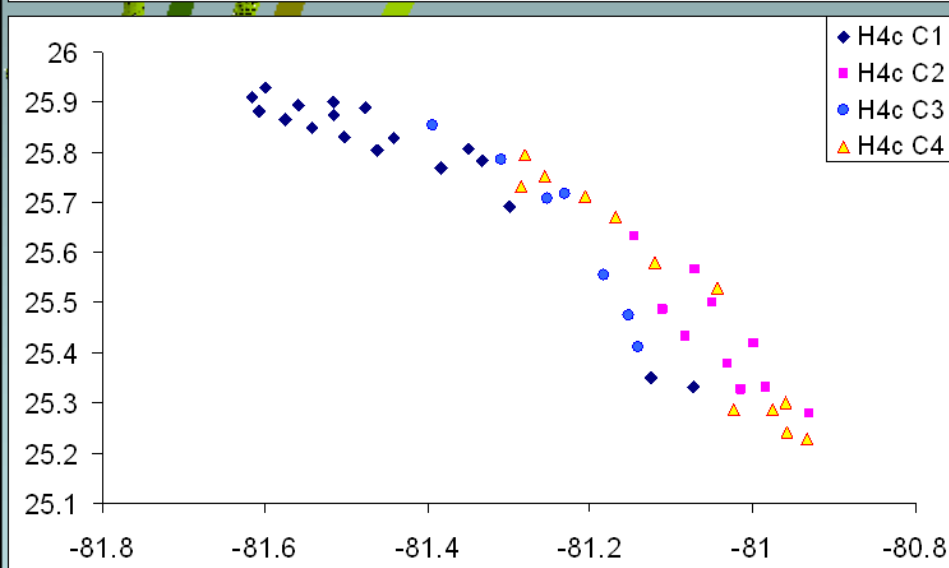
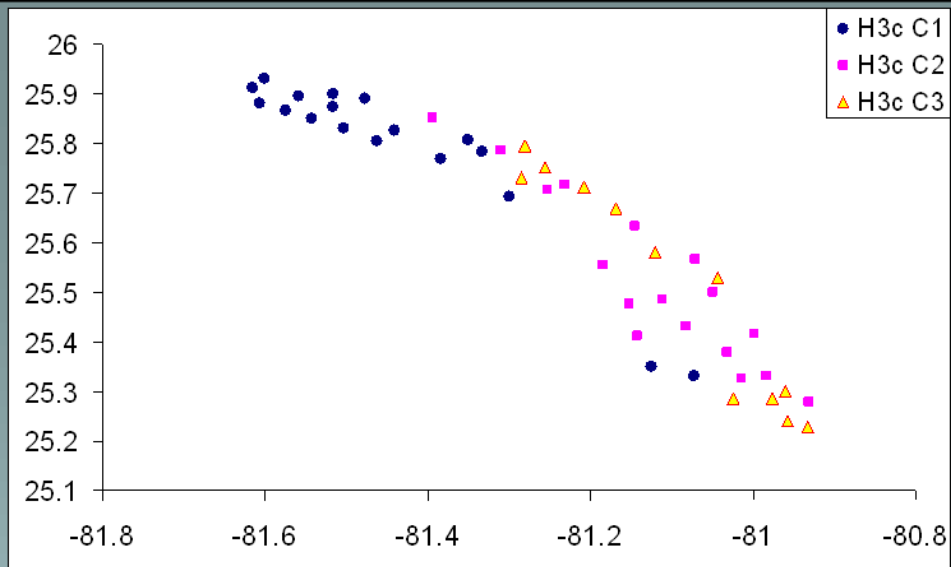
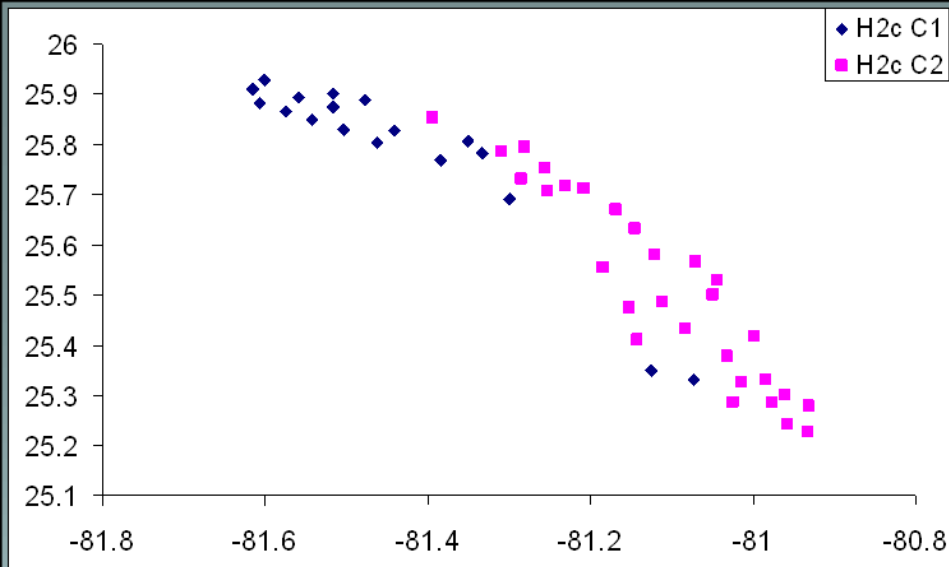
Segments



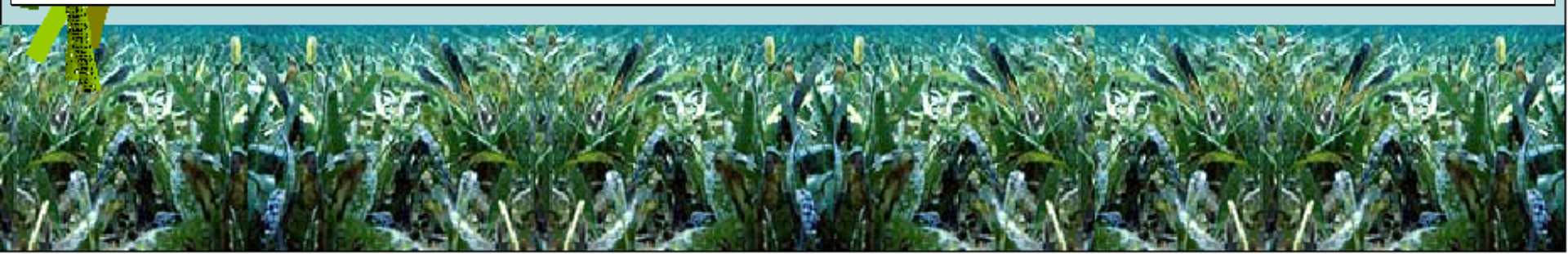
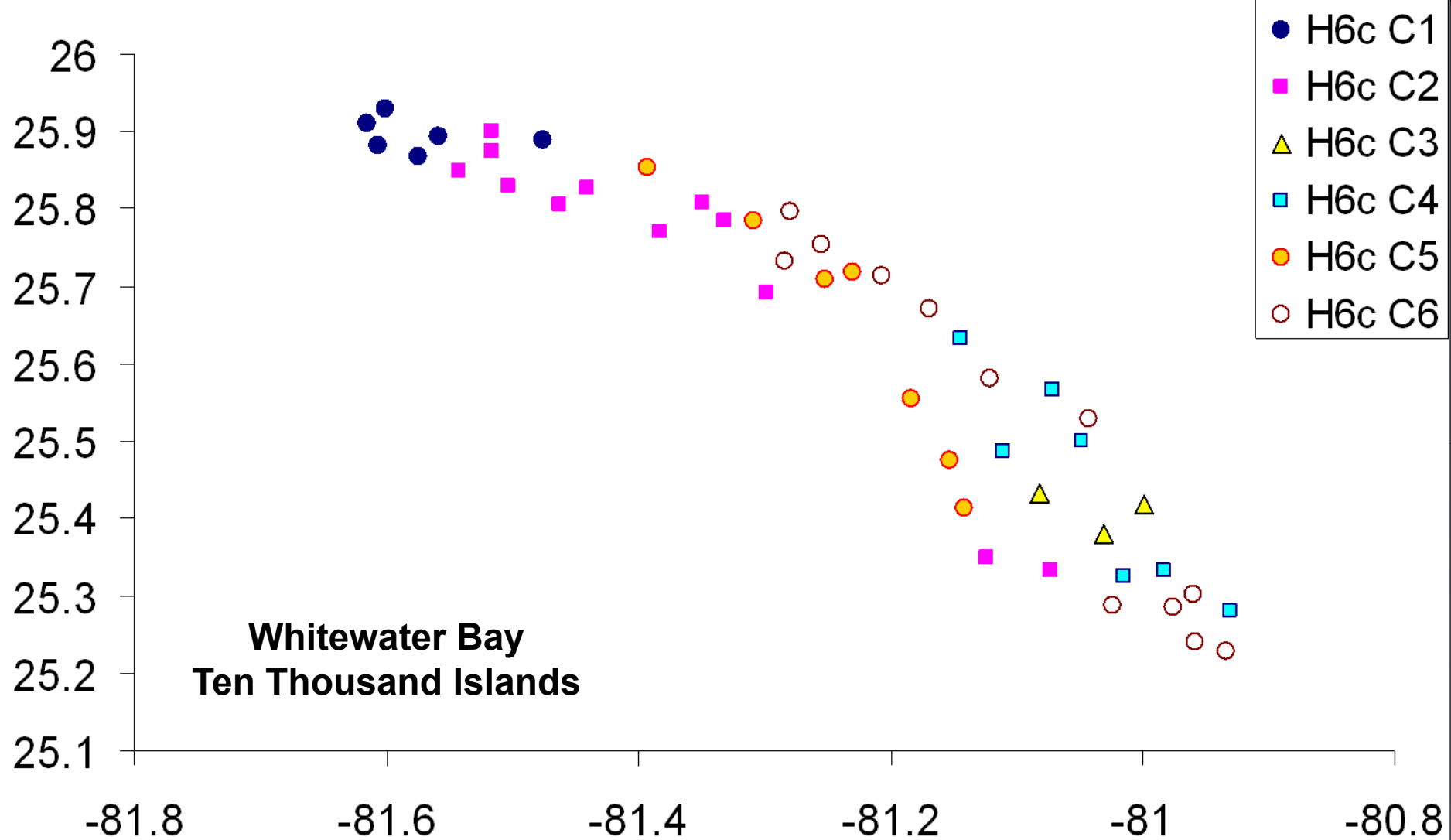
Cluster Tree

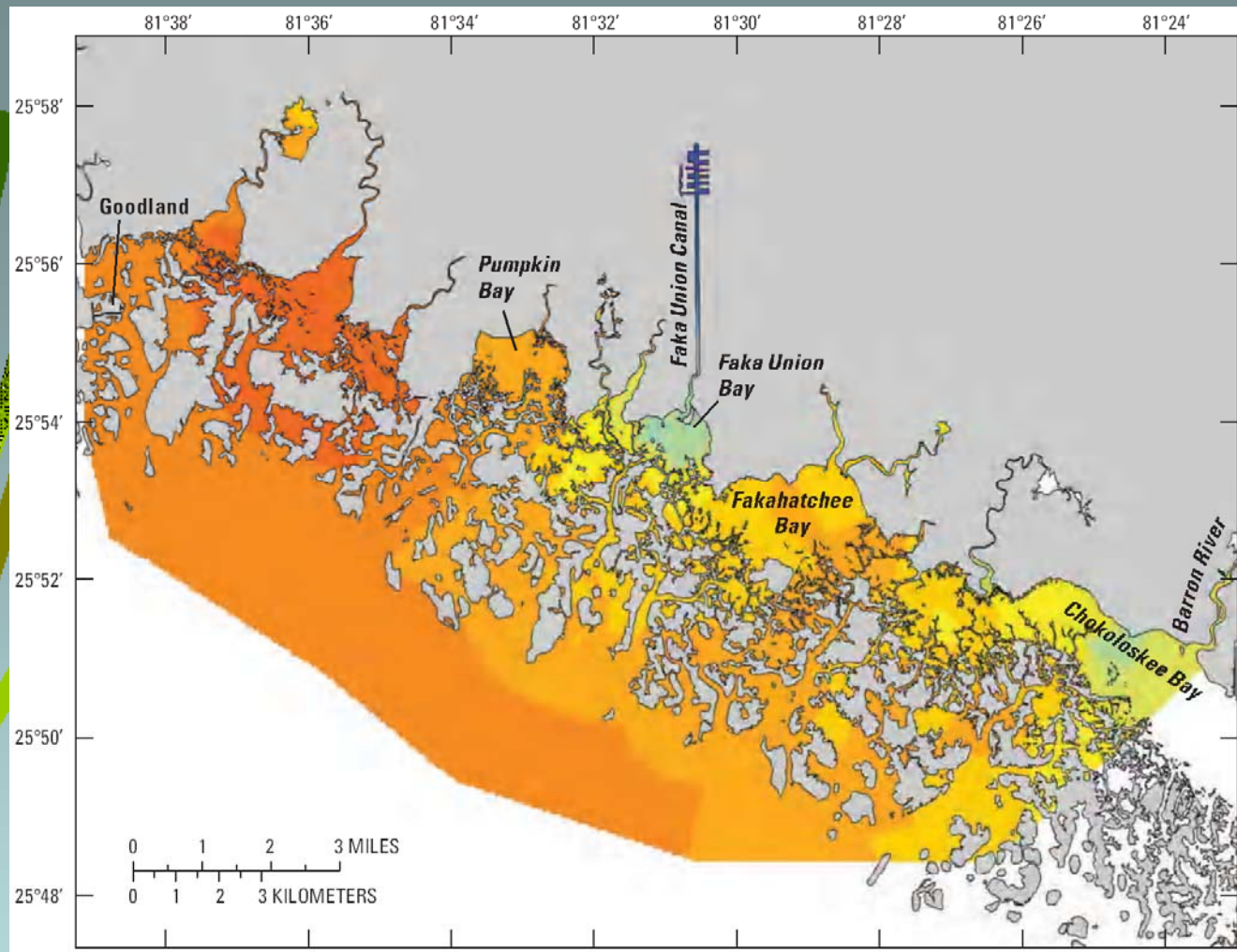
Whitewater Bay
Ten Thousand Islands

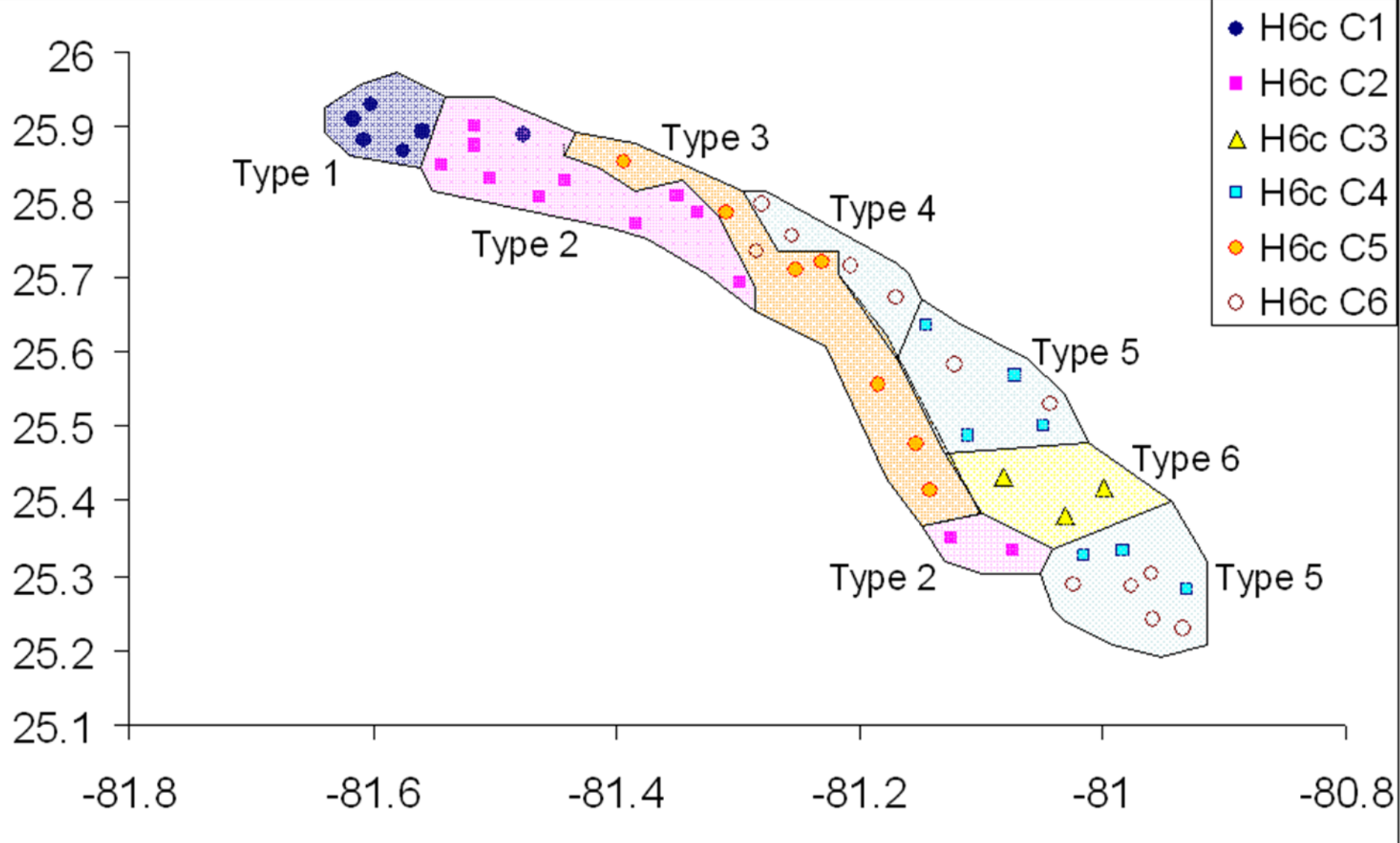




**Whitewater Bay
Ten Thousand Islands**



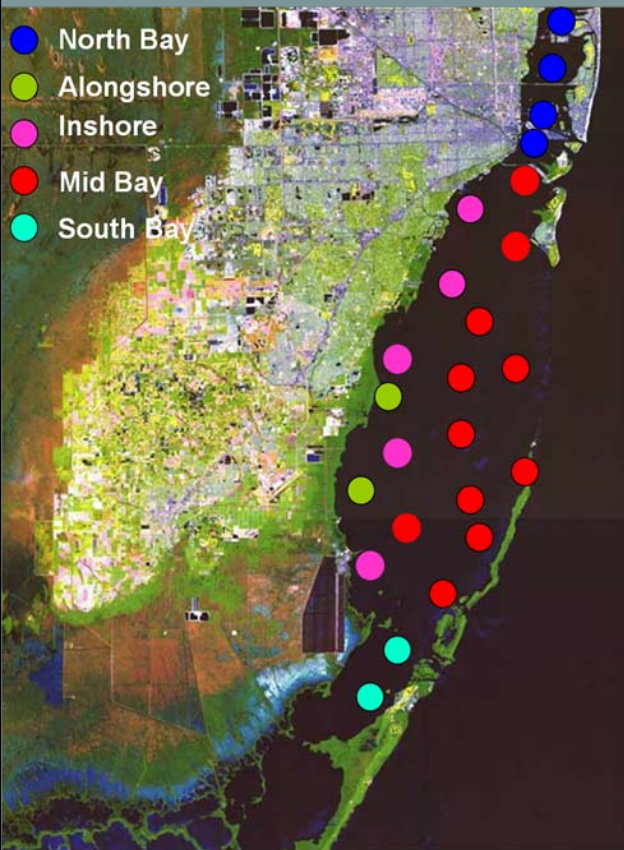




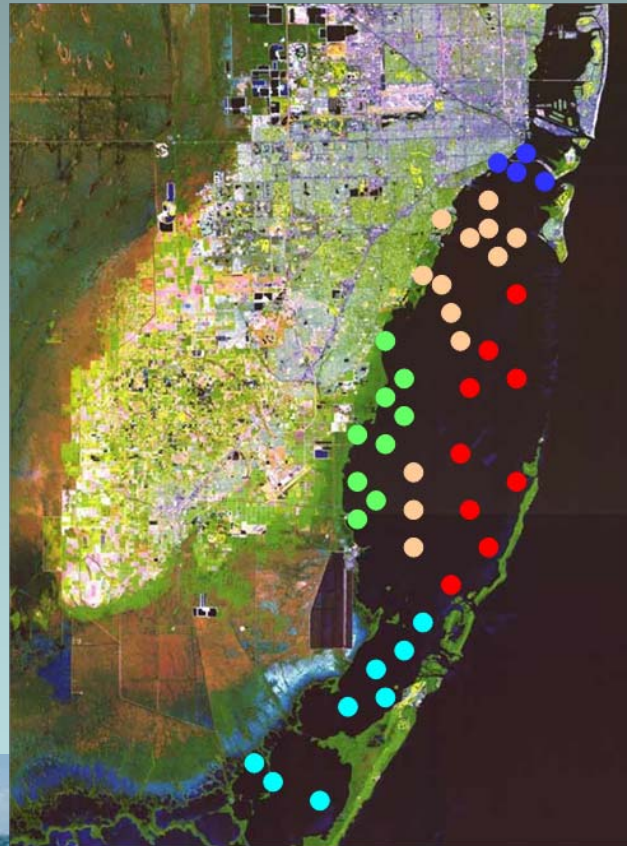
Final segmentation Whitewater bay-Ten Thousand Islands

Subdivision of Biscayne Bay waters

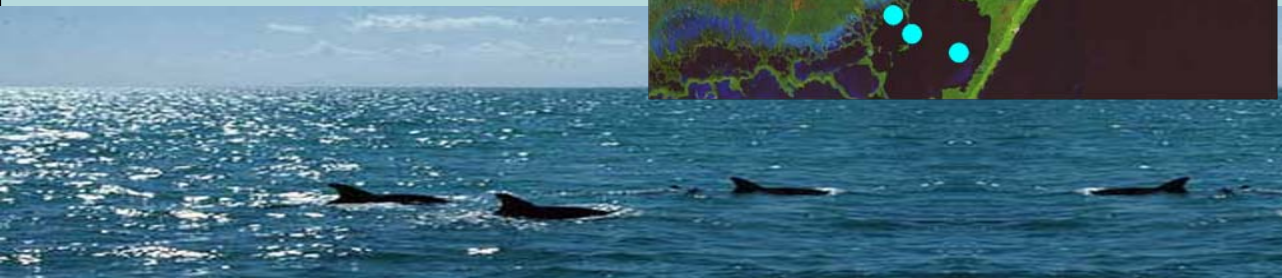
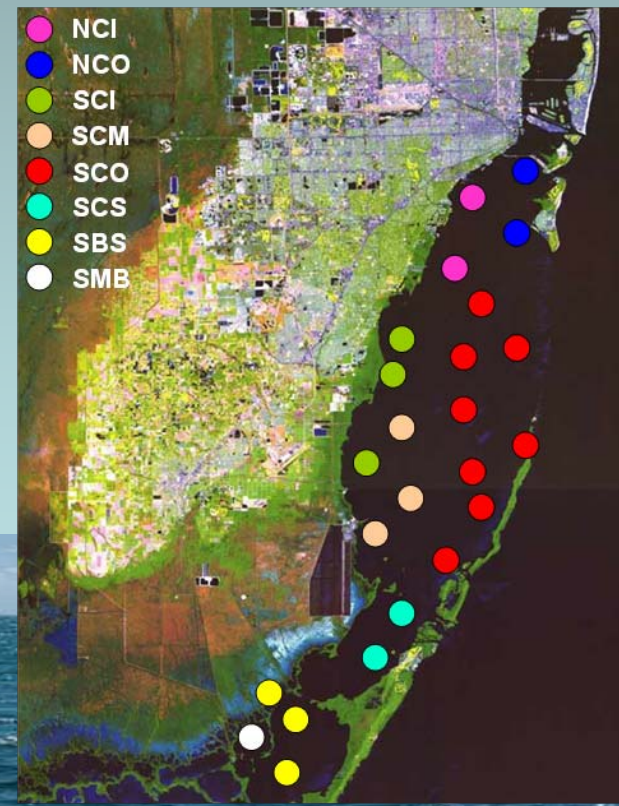
Caccia and Boyer (2005)



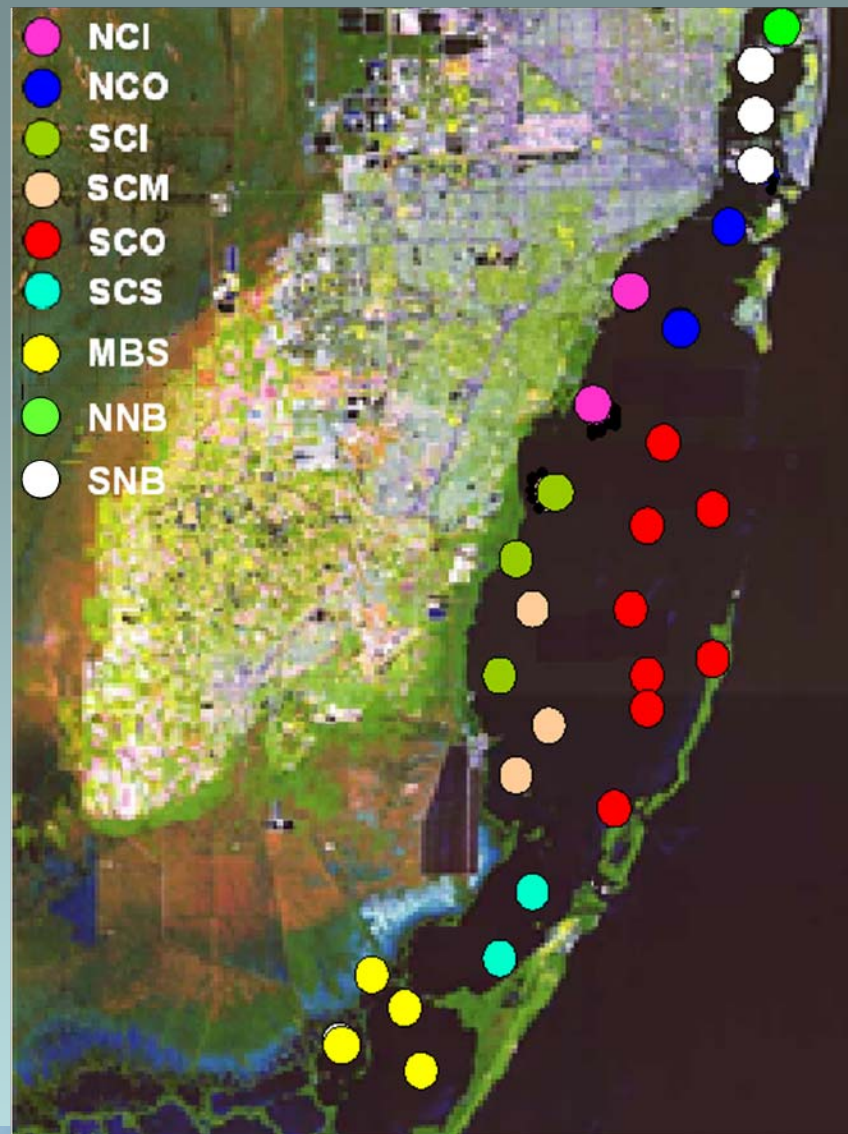
Hunt and Todt (2006)



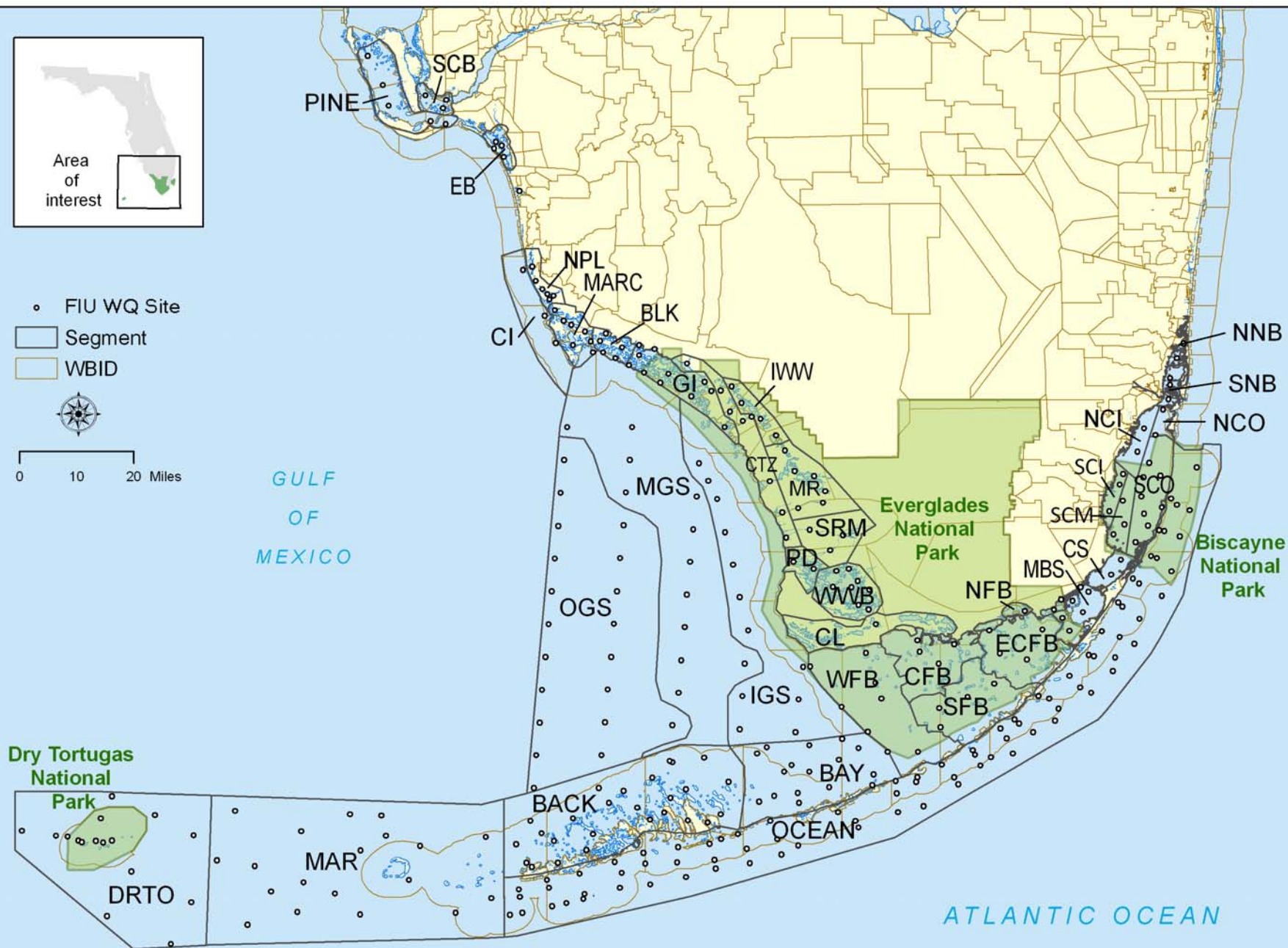
Briceño et al (in prep, 2010)

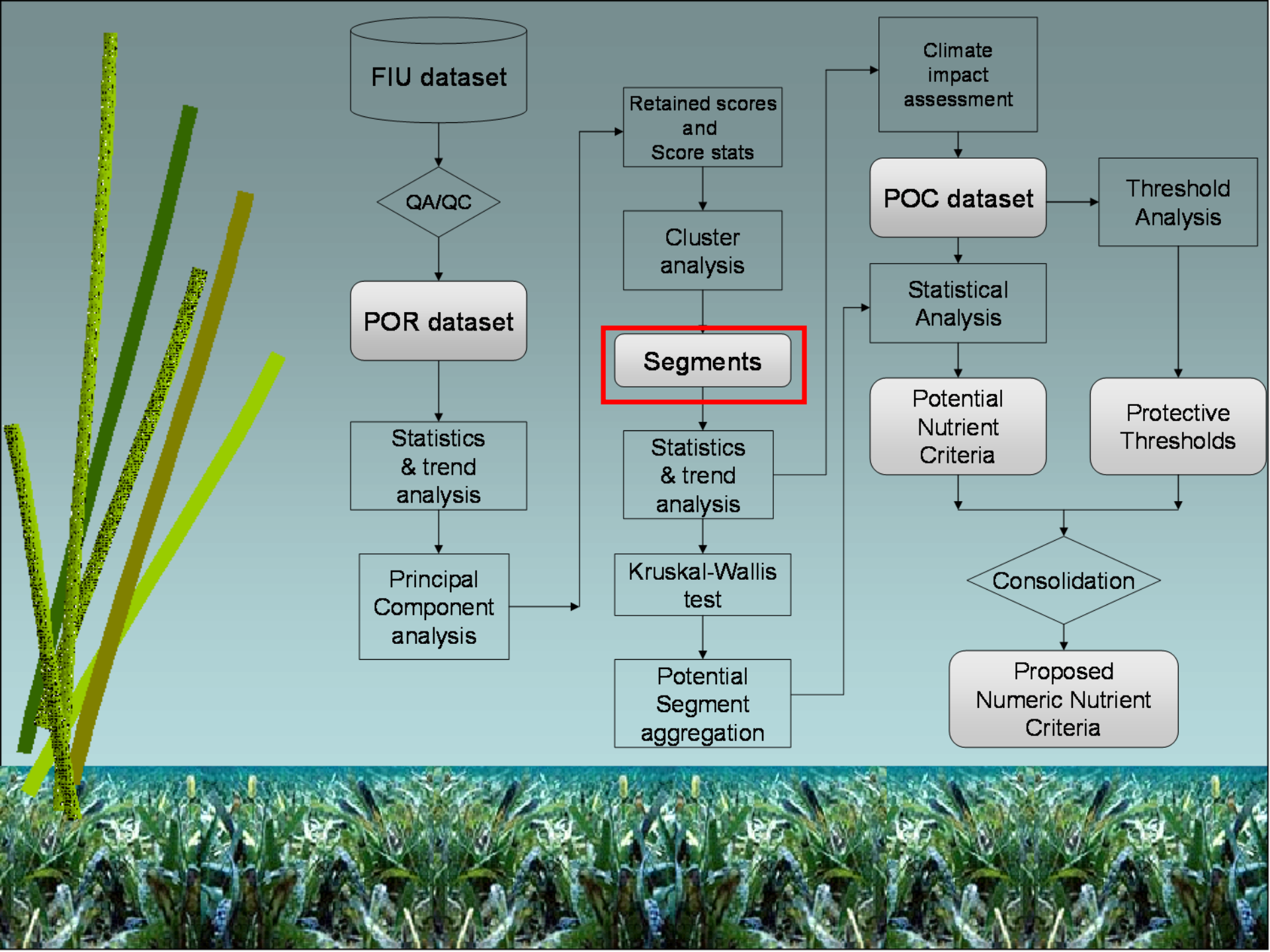


Biscayne Bay Segmentation



Region	FB	PIRB	BB1	BB2	SHELF	WWB-TTI	FK
POR	Mar 91- Dec 07	Jan 99- Sep 09	Sep 93- Sep 08	Jun 96- Sep 08	May 95- Sep 07	Sep 92- Sep 08	Mar 95- Oct 09
Input Variables for Factor Analysis	TN	TN	TN	TN	TN	TN	TN
	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP	TP
	CHLA	CHLA	CHLA	CHLA	CHLA	CHLA	CHLA
	TOC	TOC	TOC	TOC	TOC	TOC	TOC
	SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL	SAL
	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO	DO
	TURB	TURB	TURB	TURB	TURB	TURB	TURB
	NH4	NH4	NH4	NH4	NH4	NH4	TEMP
	NO3	NO3	NOx	NOx	NOx		
	NO2	NO2	NO2	NO2			
	SRP	SRP	SRP	SRP			
	TEMP						
	TON						
Stations	28	29	21	30	49	47	155
PC	6	5	5	5	4	4	4
Accounted Variance	79%	81%	76%	73%	63%	75%	66%
Segments	4 (+2)	6	6 (+1)	9	3	8	5





Modulation of WQ by multidecadal Climate Variability

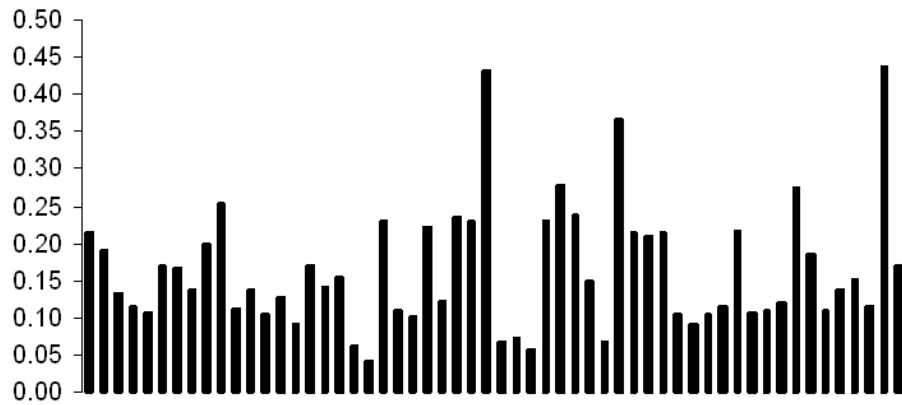


Z-Cusum 101

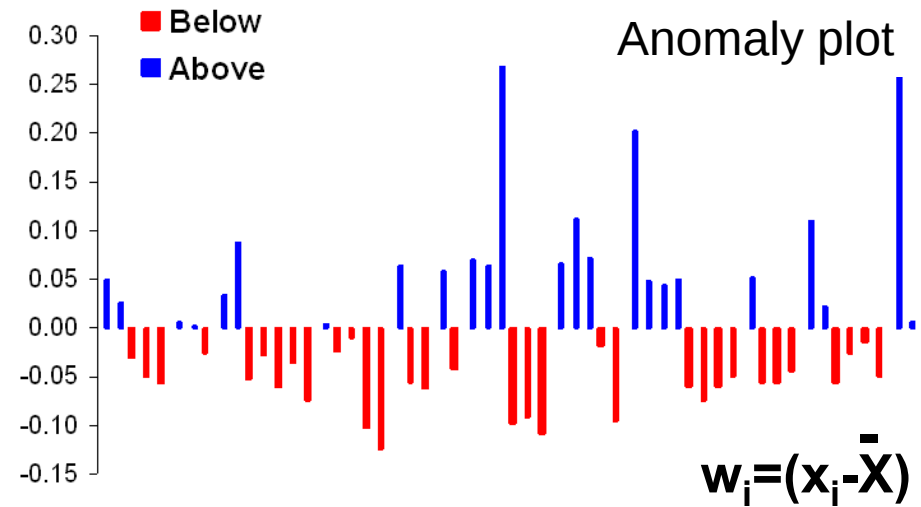
Lecture 1



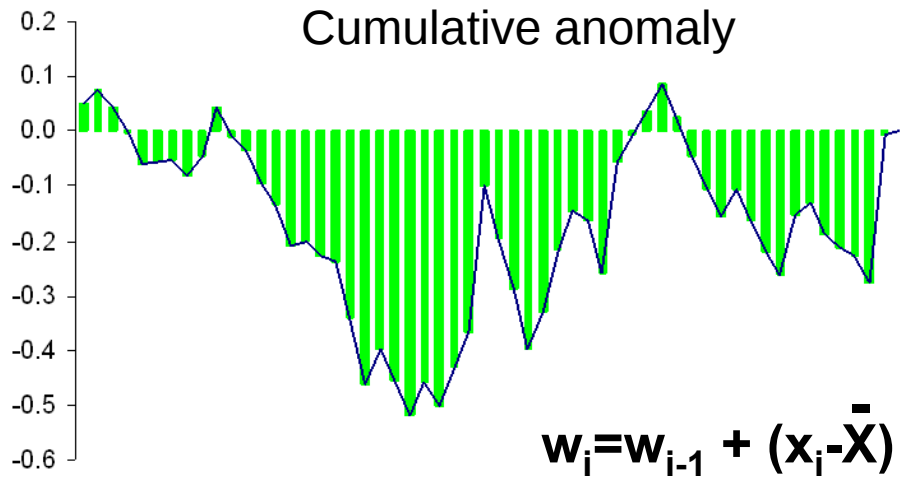
Raw data



Anomaly plot

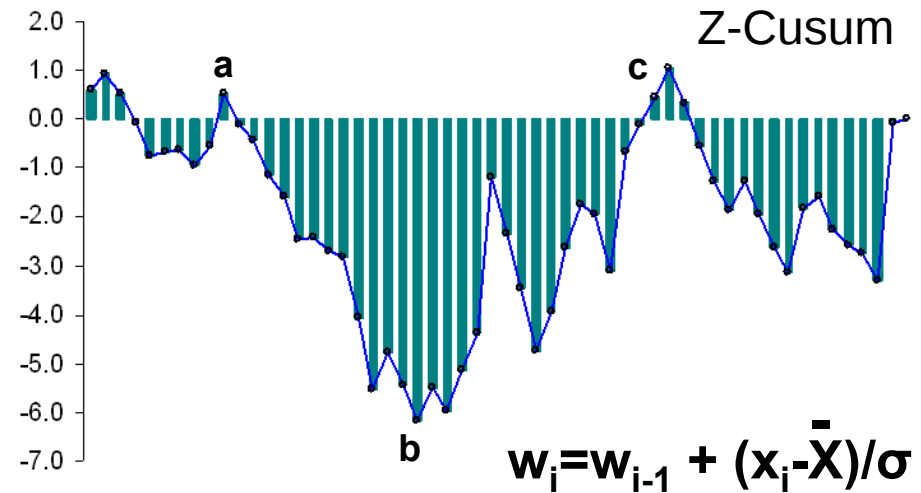


Cumulative anomaly

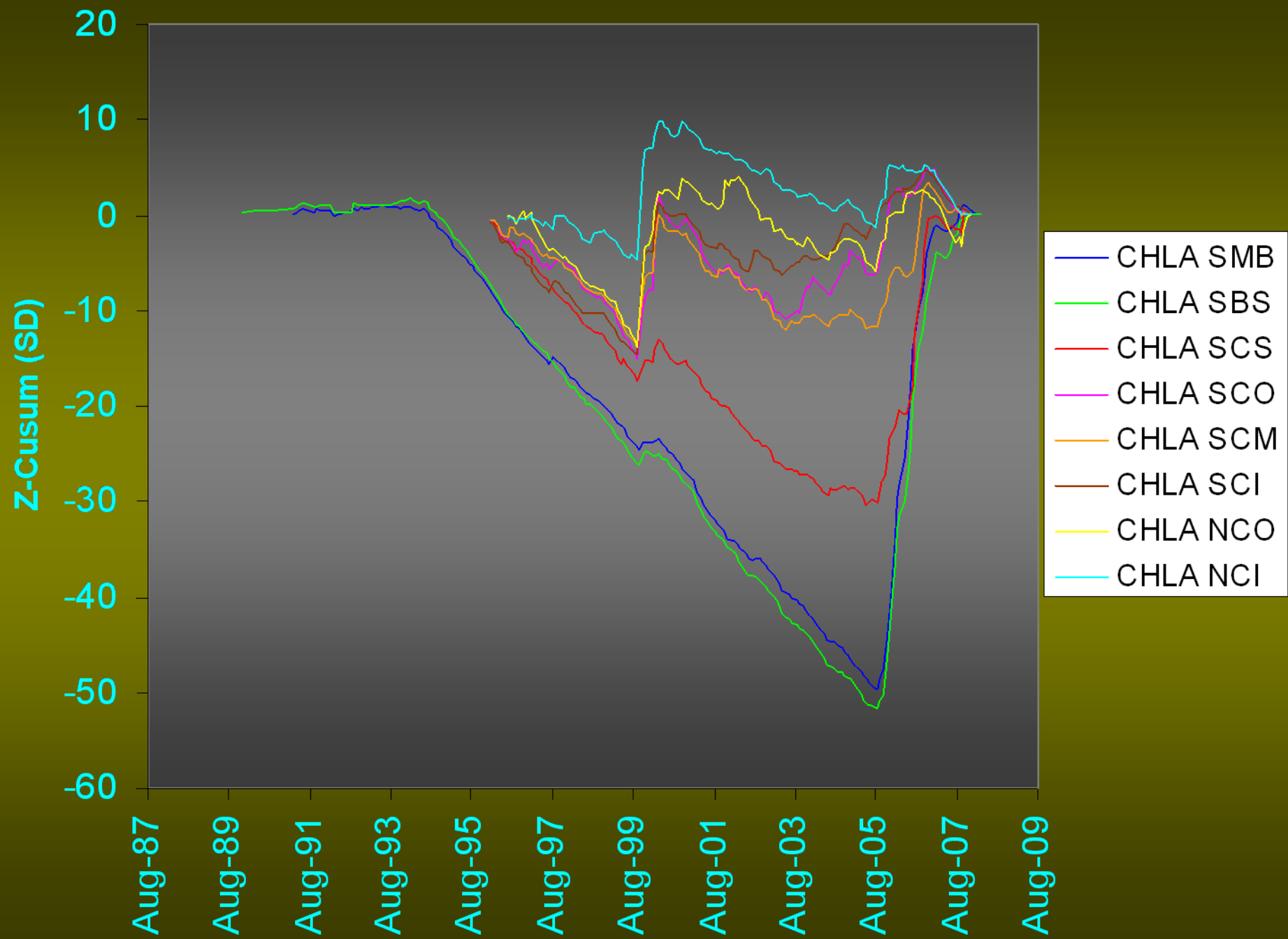


Running sum of anomaly data
(deviation expressed in original units)

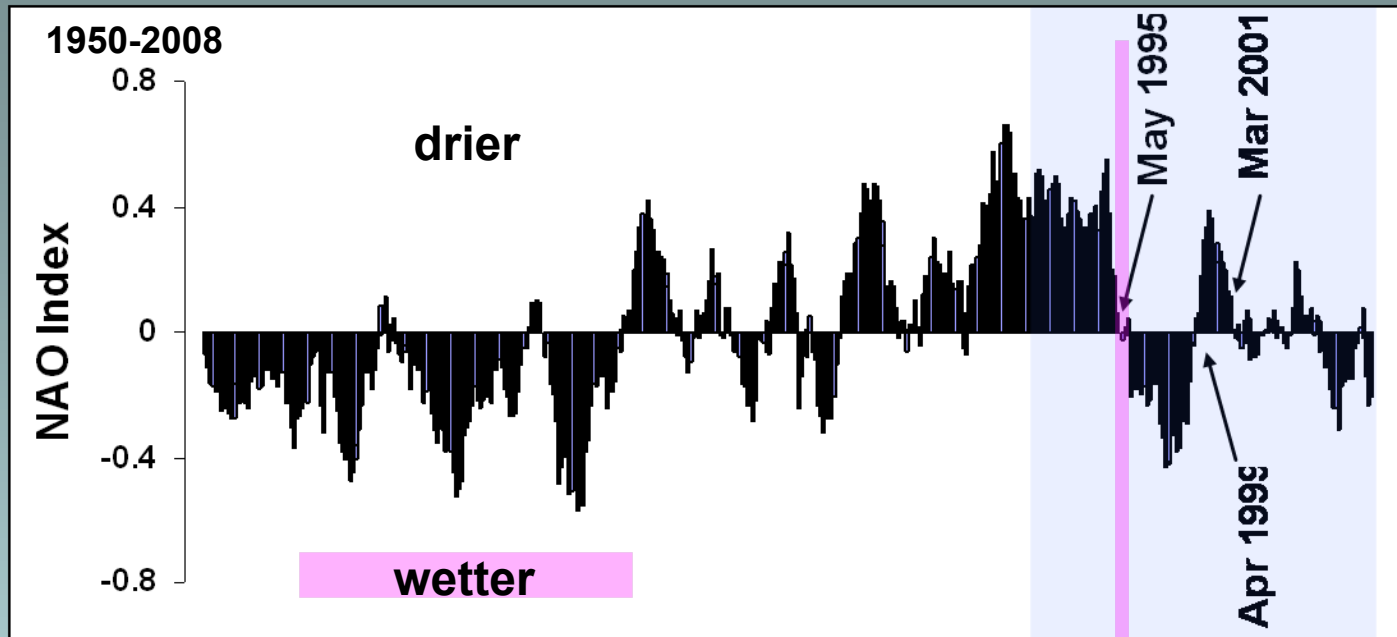
Z-Cusum



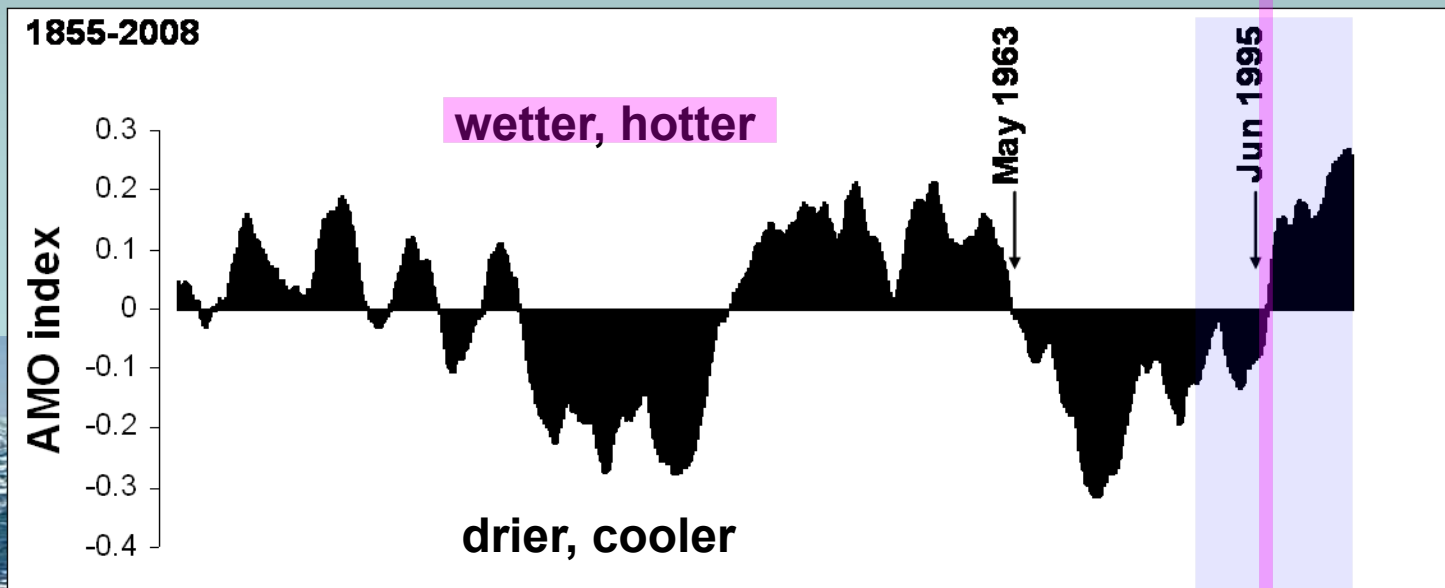
Running sum of z-scored data
(deviation expressed as multiples of σ)



Coupled Global Atmospheric-Oceanographic forcing



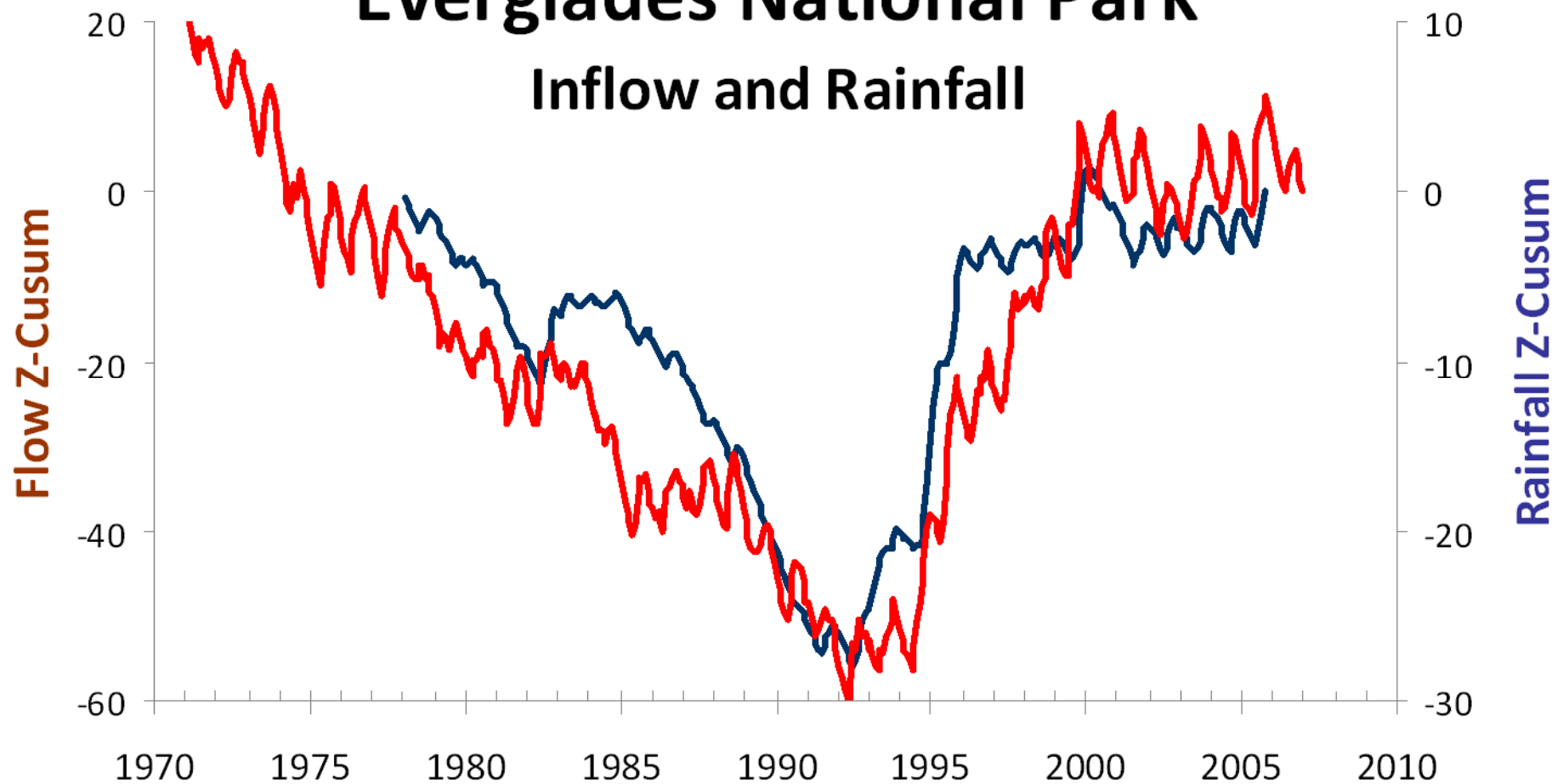
**North
Atlantic
Oscillation**



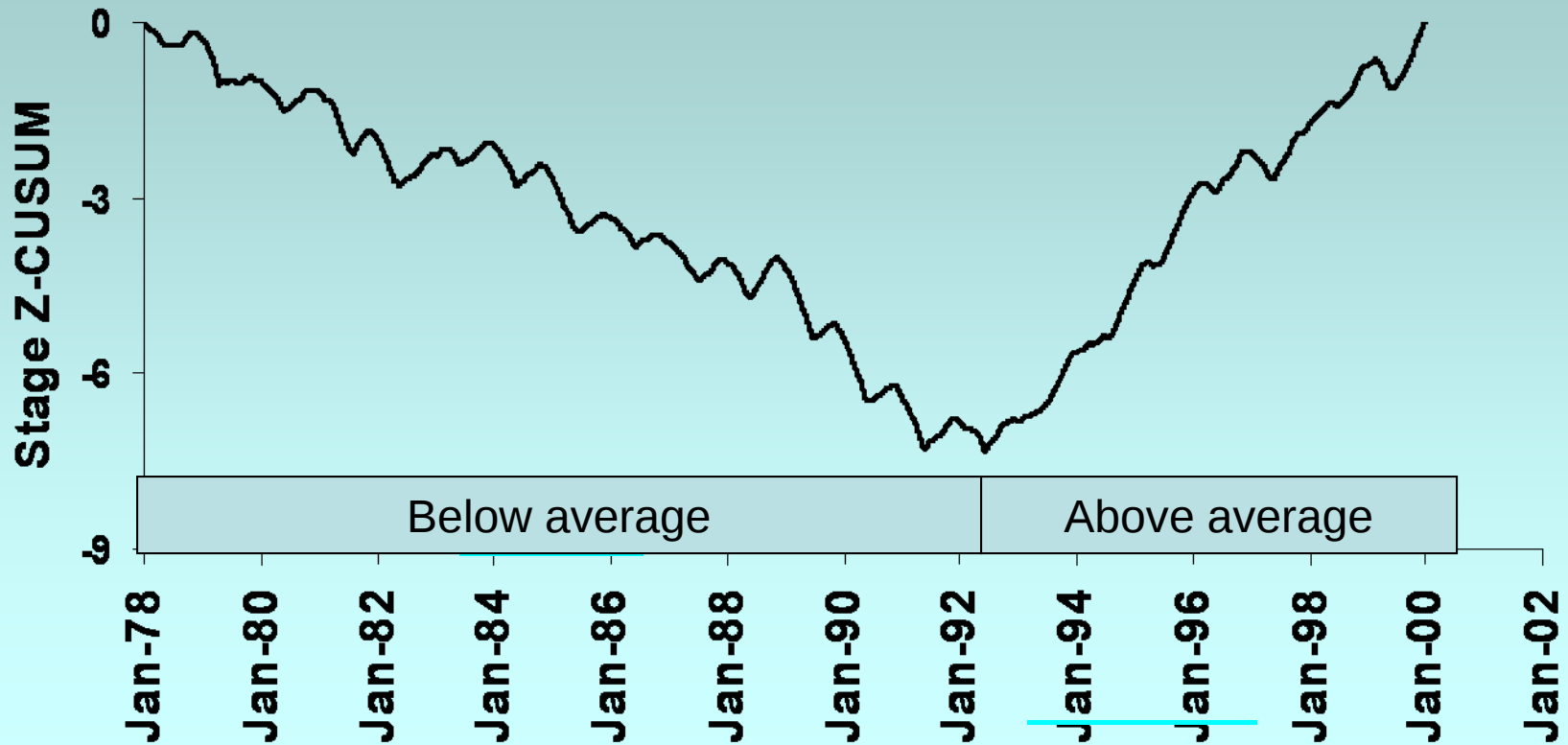
**Atlantic
Multidecadal
Oscillation**

Everglades National Park

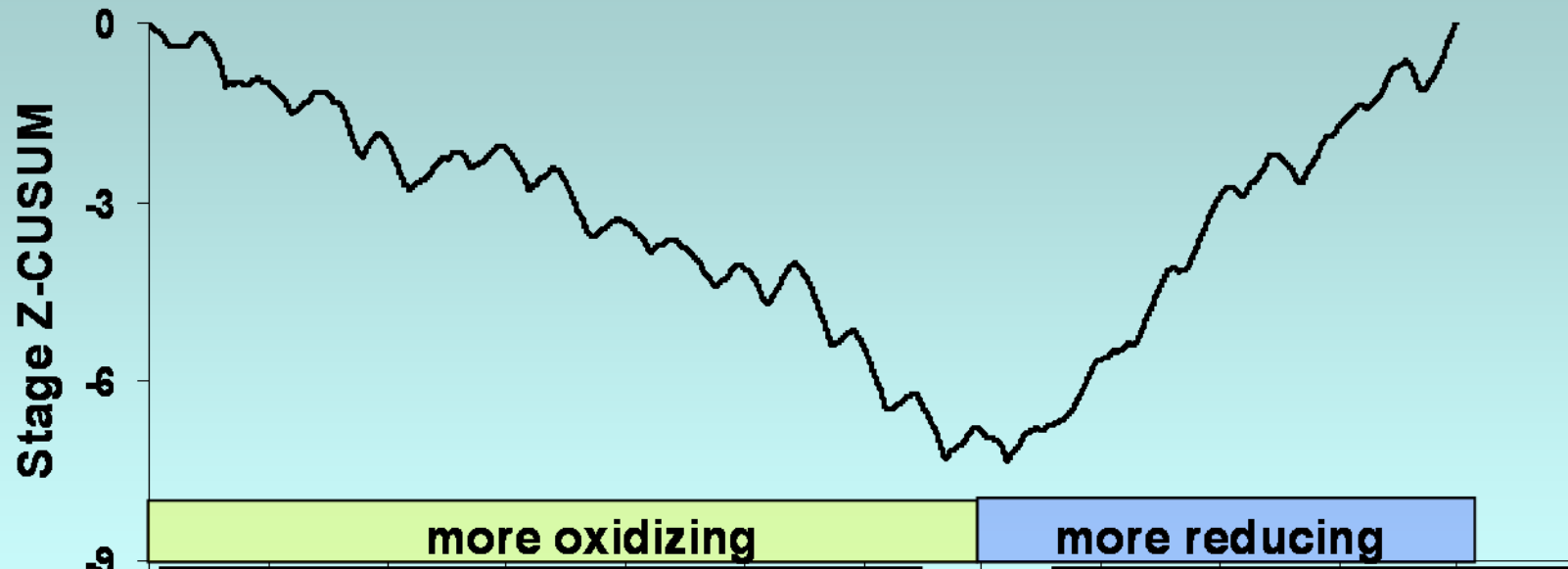
Inflow and Rainfall



Stage at Taylor slough



Stage at Taylor slough



Jan-78

Jan-92



**High nutrient
contribution**



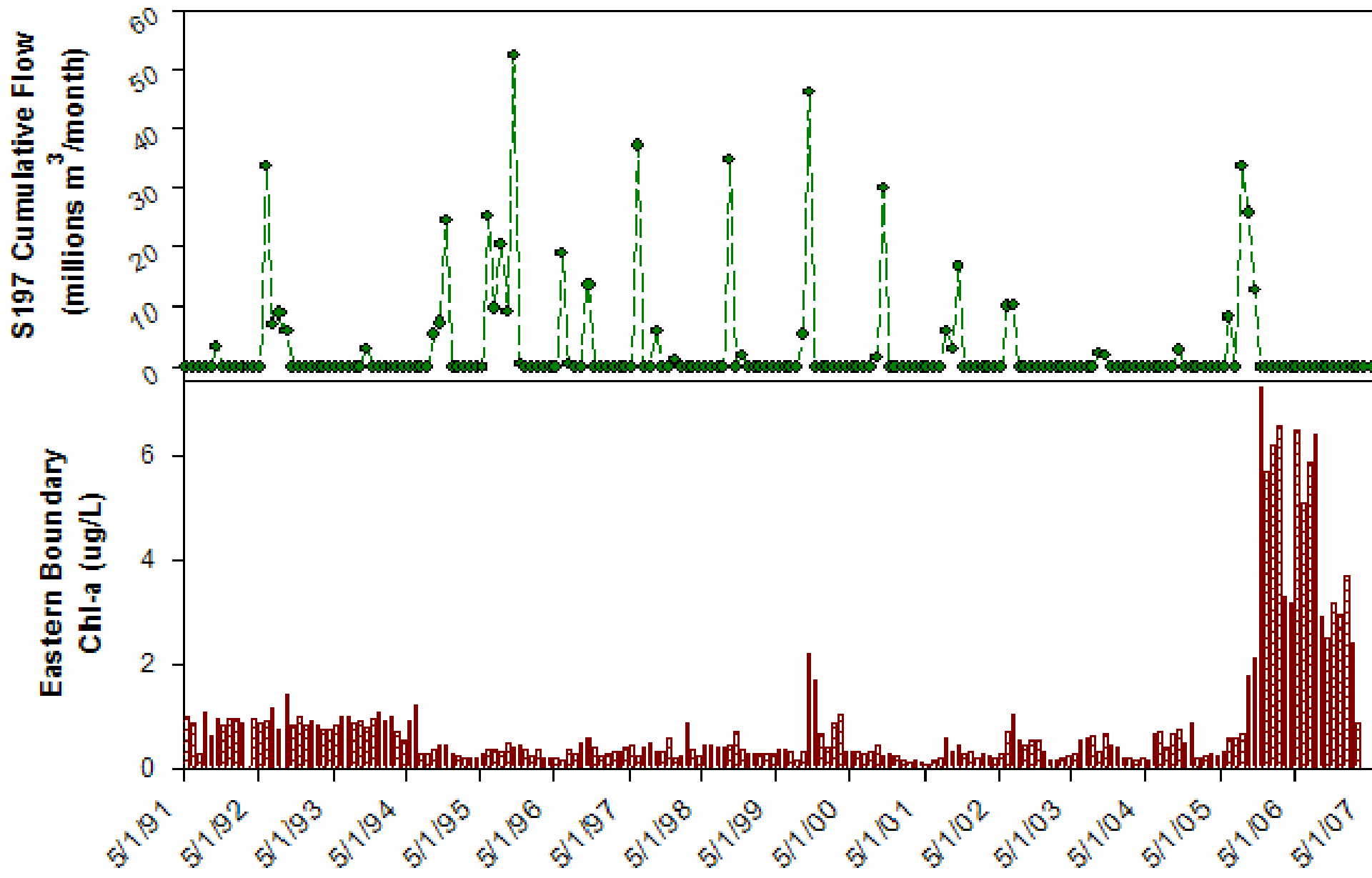
**Low nutrient
contribution**

Atmospheric deposition pH



Hurricane Impact on Water Quality





2005 Disturbances and Barnes Sound chlorophyll-a

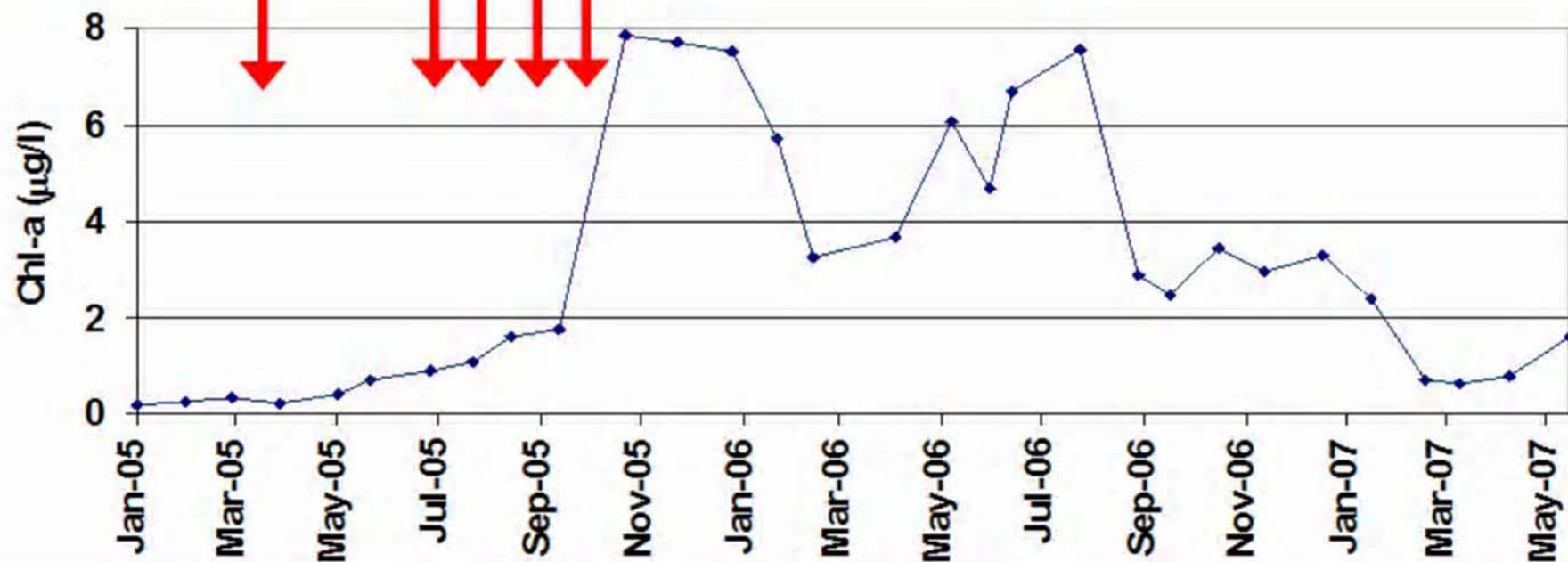
Mangrove clearing begins (Apr)

Soil mixing begins (Jul)

Hurricane Katrina with canal P loading (Aug)

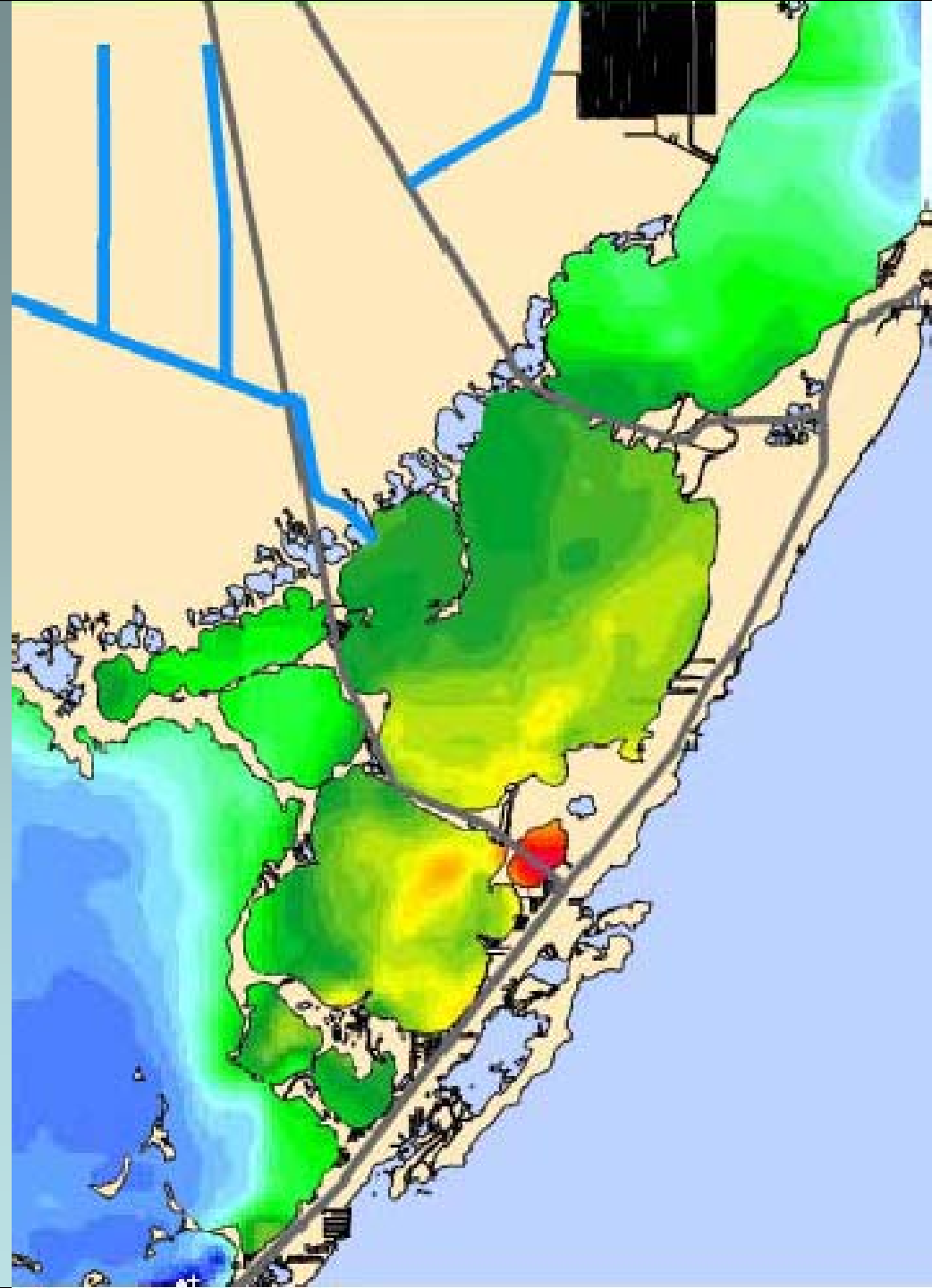
Hurricane Rita (Sept)

Hurricane Wilma (Oct)

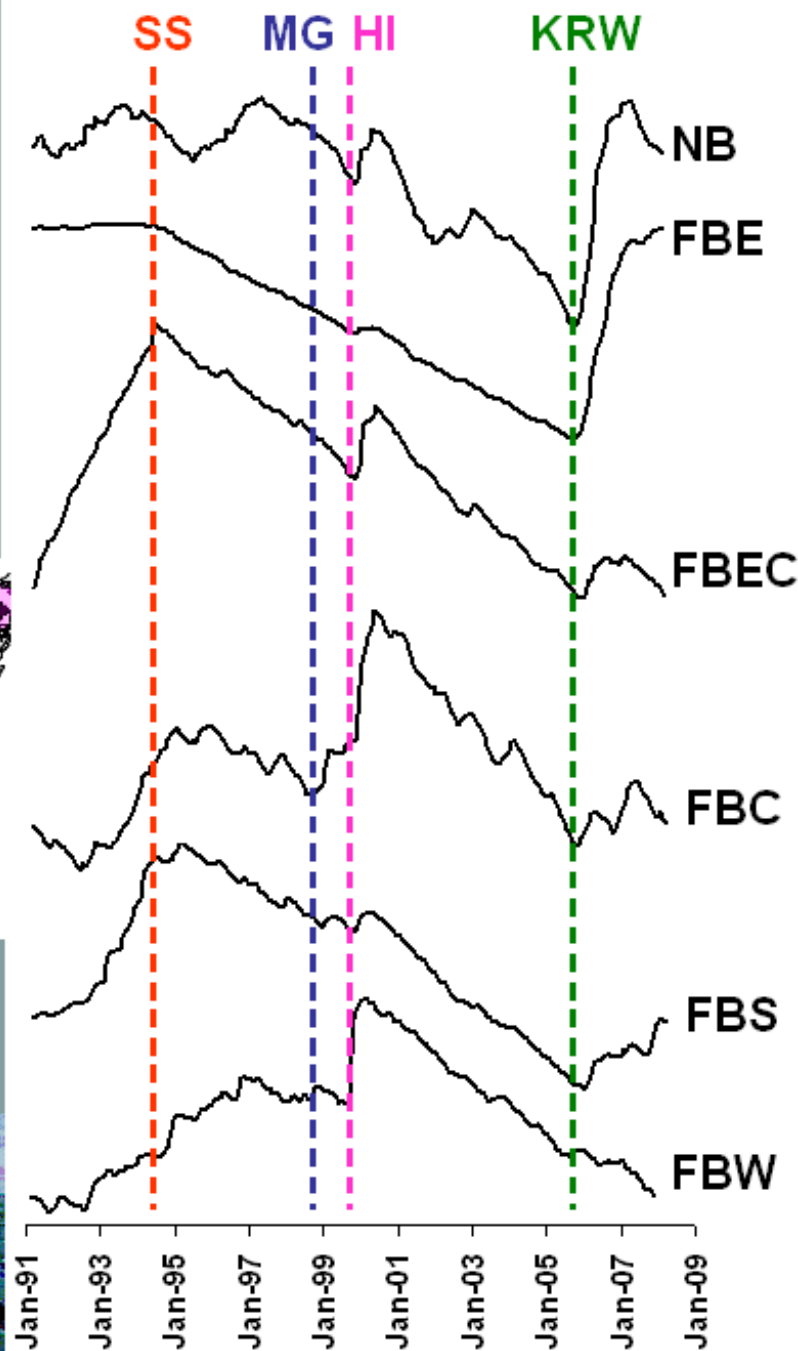
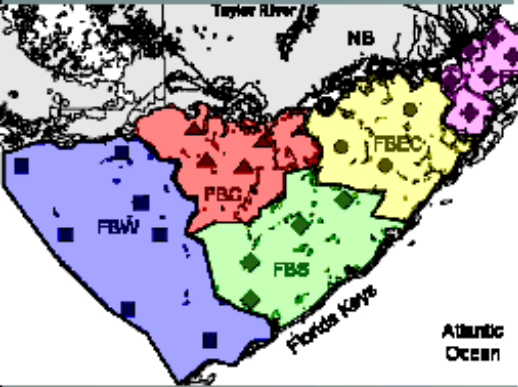




COMBINE:
Hurricane impact
+
Large vol. water delivery
+
Disturbance due to Road
construction
=
Algal bloom



Climate signals in Chlorophyll Time-series



GLOBAL+LOCAL
DRIVERS

SS System Shift

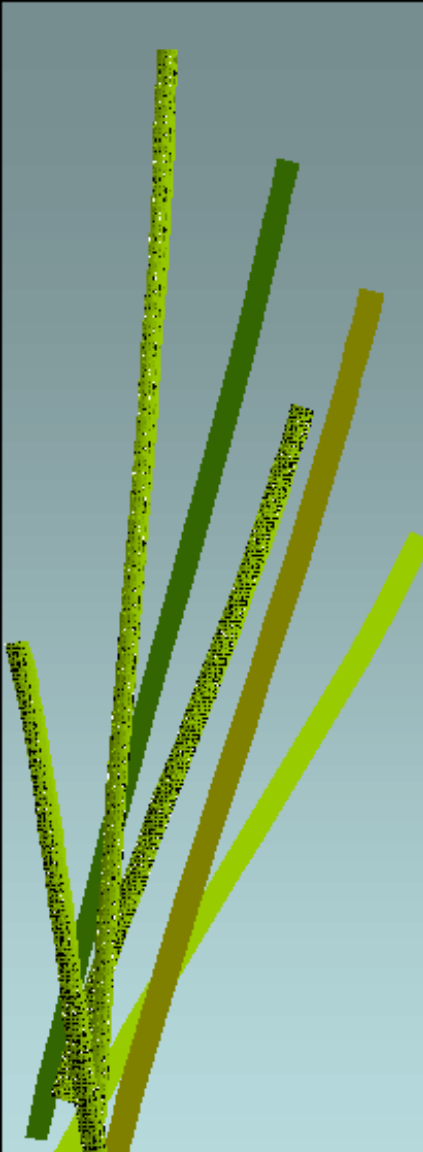
HURRICANE DRIVEN

MG Mitch-Georges

HI Harvey-Irene

KRW Katrina-Rita-
Wilma

Briceño & Boyer 2010



-Summary:

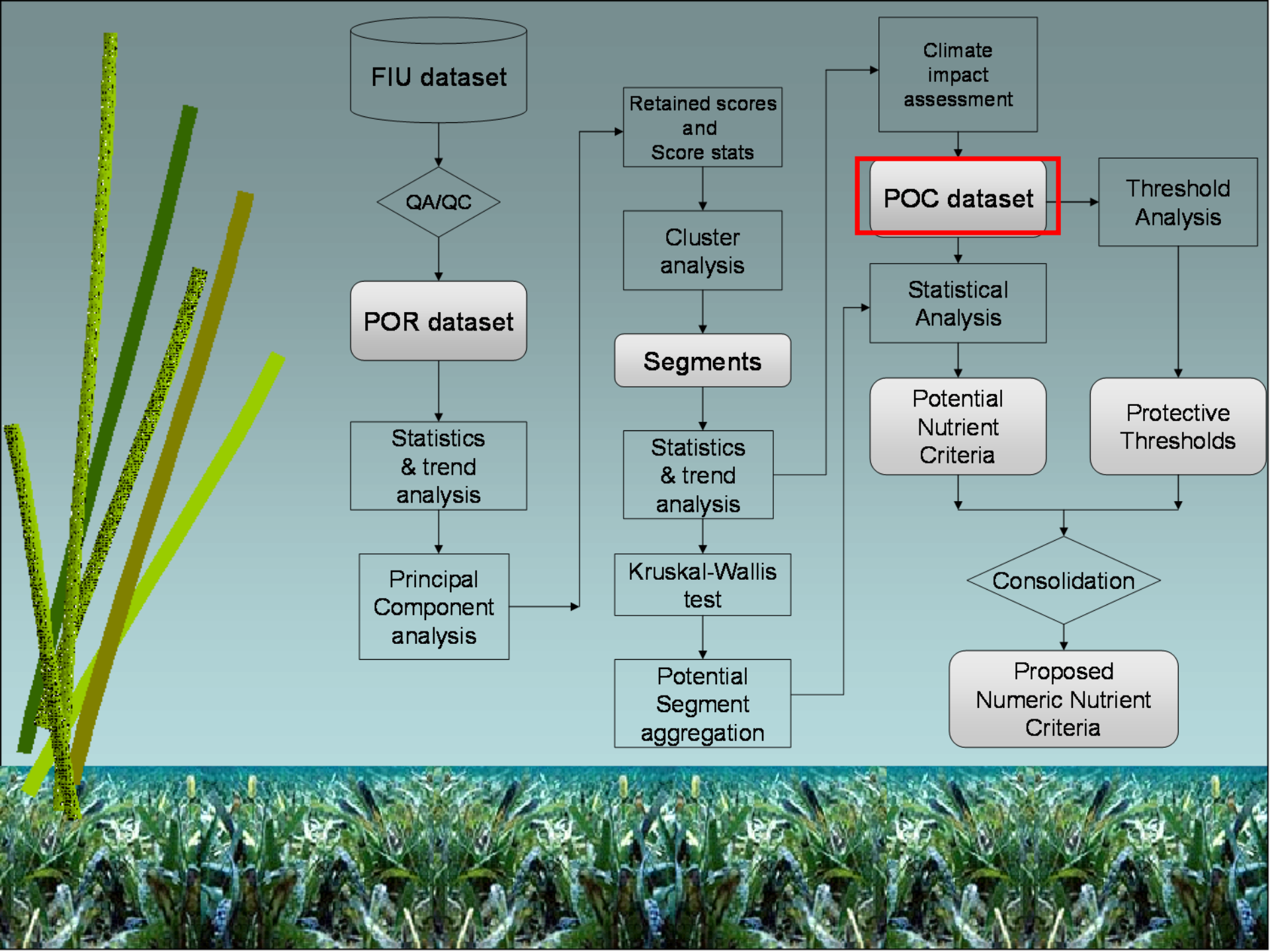
Period of Calculation should exclude pre-climate shift data and hurricane impacted data to better approach “normal” environmental conditions, supportive of its designated use.

Discarded impacted records corresponded in all instances to

1) pre-June 1995 data; and 2) sampling dates following extreme climatic events, especially after Hurricane Irene in 1999 and hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma (KRW) in 2005

NOTE: Statistical outliers were not removed





Derivation of protective nutrient threshold

- 1- Selection of Biogeochemical Indicator
- 2- Calculation of indicator threshold for each segment



INDICATOR

Chlorophyll-a

SUMMARY FINDING: Re-suspension of nutrients from the 2005 hurricane season resulted in algal blooms in many regions of the southern estuaries and may cause continued algal blooms in the bay for some time. However, this is expected to subside within a few additional years in lieu of further significant hurricane activity and if water flows to the southern estuaries is improved should return to predominantly green for all regions with the possible exception of BMB. If water flows do not improve the areas will probably remain yellow.

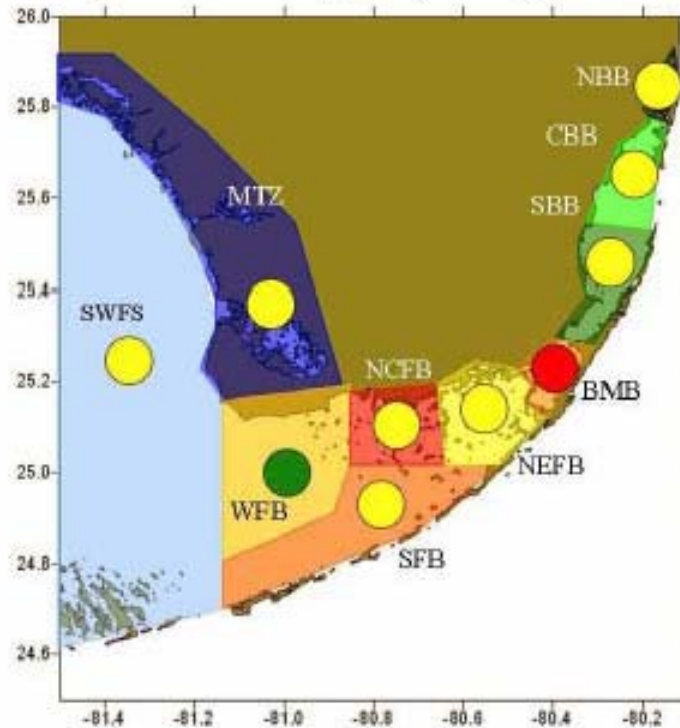
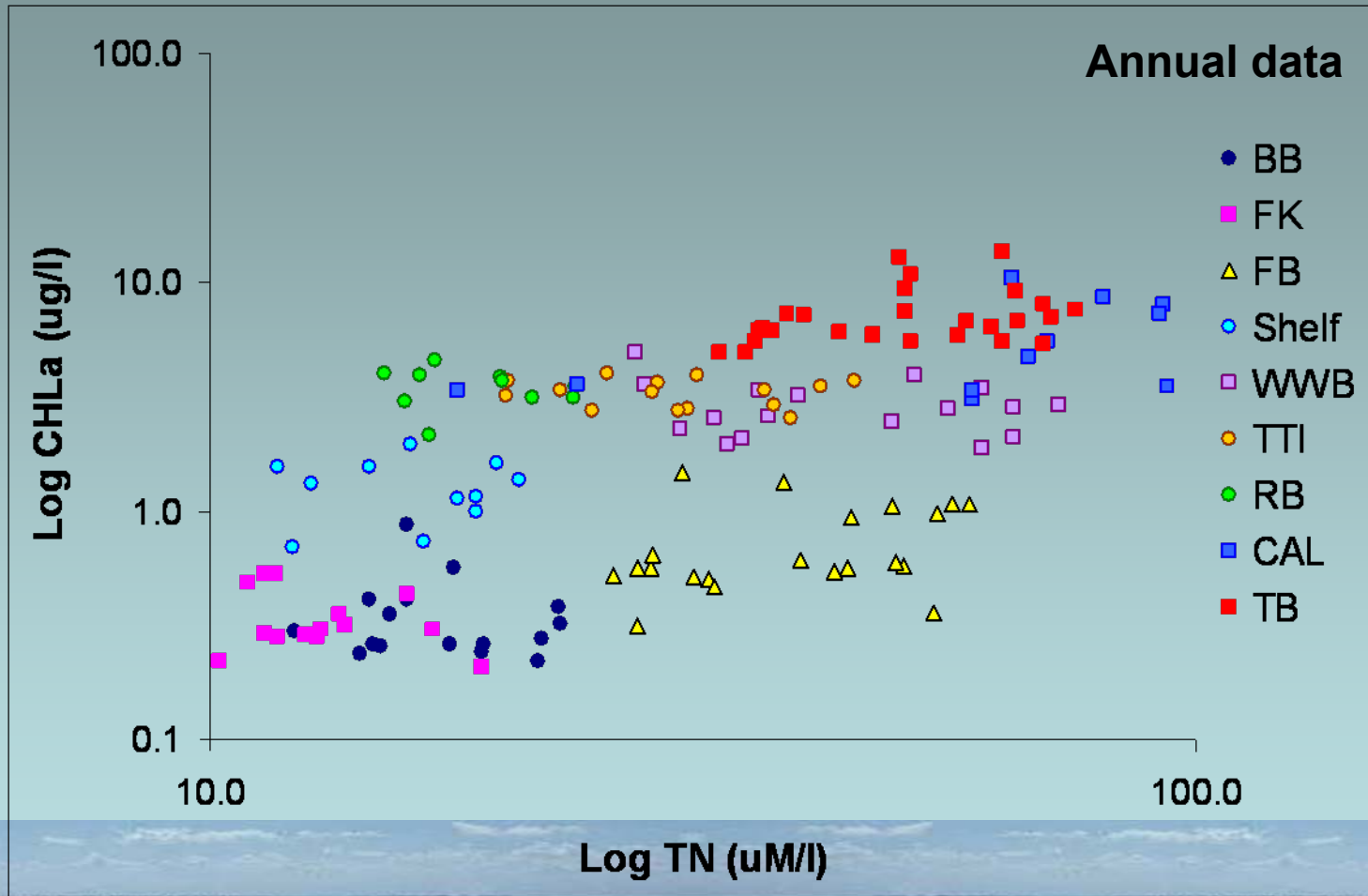


Figure 1. Map of Florida Bay regions with stoplight ratings by region

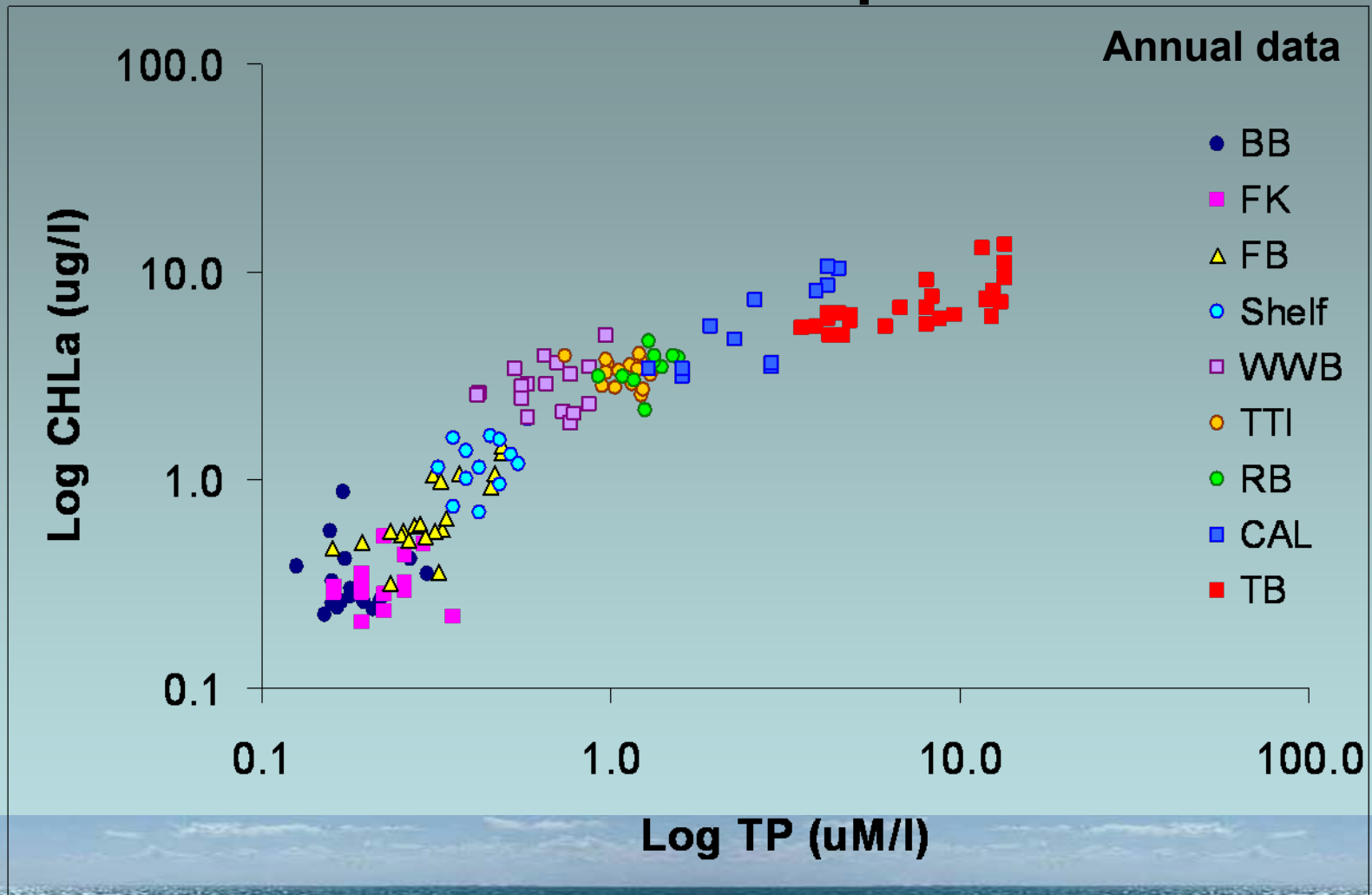
KEY FINDINGS:

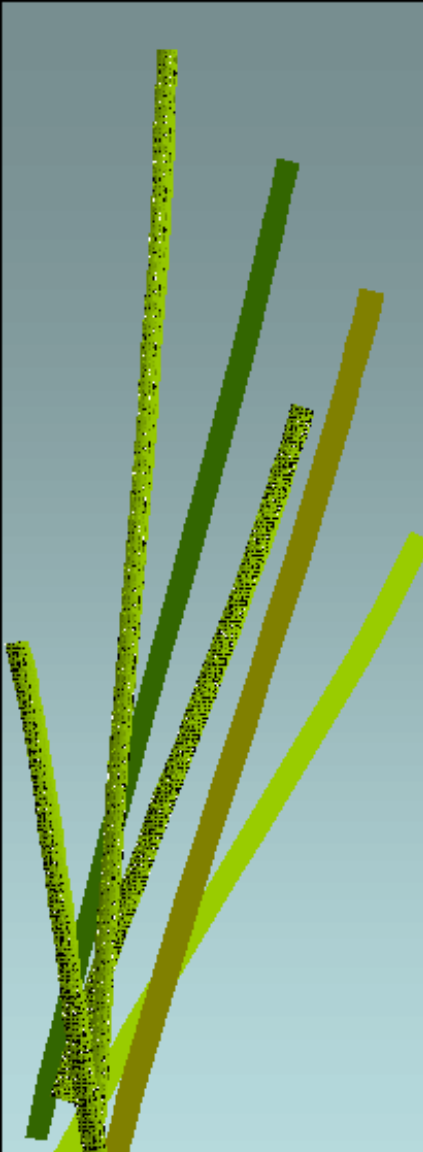
1. The majority of regions assessed had significant algal bloom activity that appears to have been predominantly influenced by the heavy 2005 hurricane season aggravated for the eastern bay by road construction on US 1.
2. The majority of regions assessed had chlorophyll-a and algal blooms rated as moderate (yellow).
3. The majority of regions assessed where the chlorophyll-a was higher than the median do not appear to be indicative of long-term negative trends.
4. The most commonly occurring condition was large spatial coverage of algal blooms and elevated chlorophyll-a concentrations.
5. Overall eutrophic symptom expressions were geographically variable and appear to be explainable from existing phenomenological conditions of hurricane activity overall exacerbated by road construction along US 1 in the eastern areas of the bay.

Total Nitrogen : Chlorophyll-a Relationships



Total Phosphorous : Chlorophyll-a Relationships





Threshold

Nutrient level that if surpassed would trigger “anomalous” above average phytoplankton biomass responses, as measured by CHLa concentration

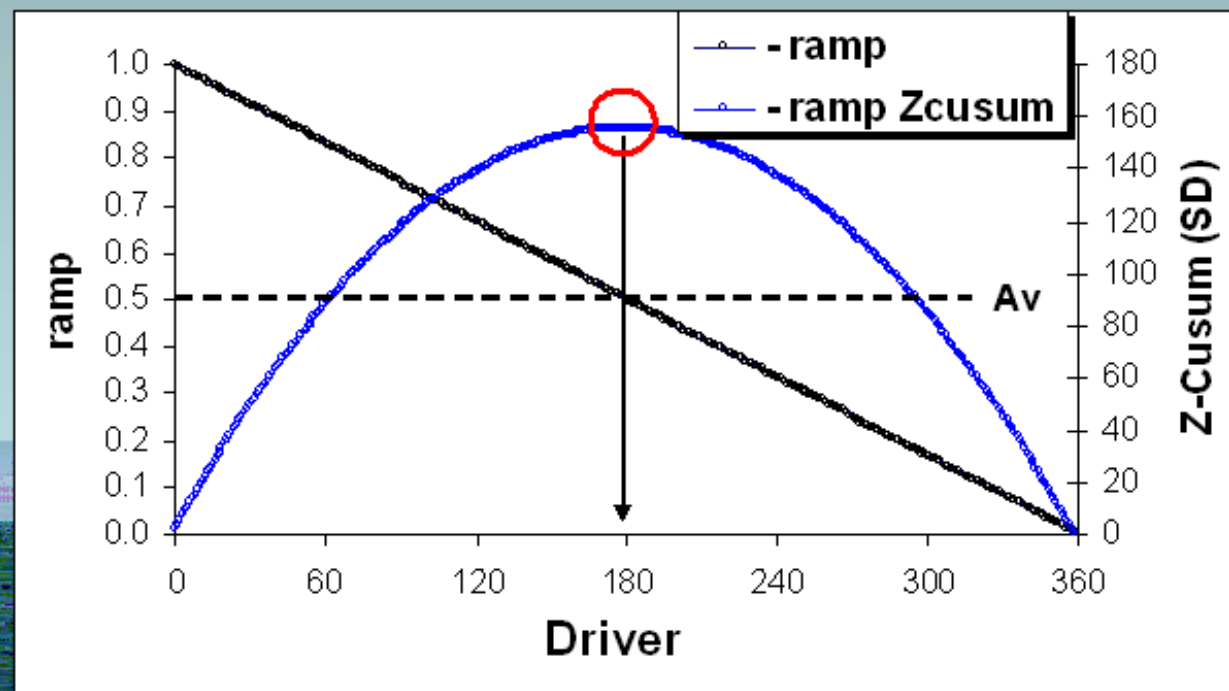
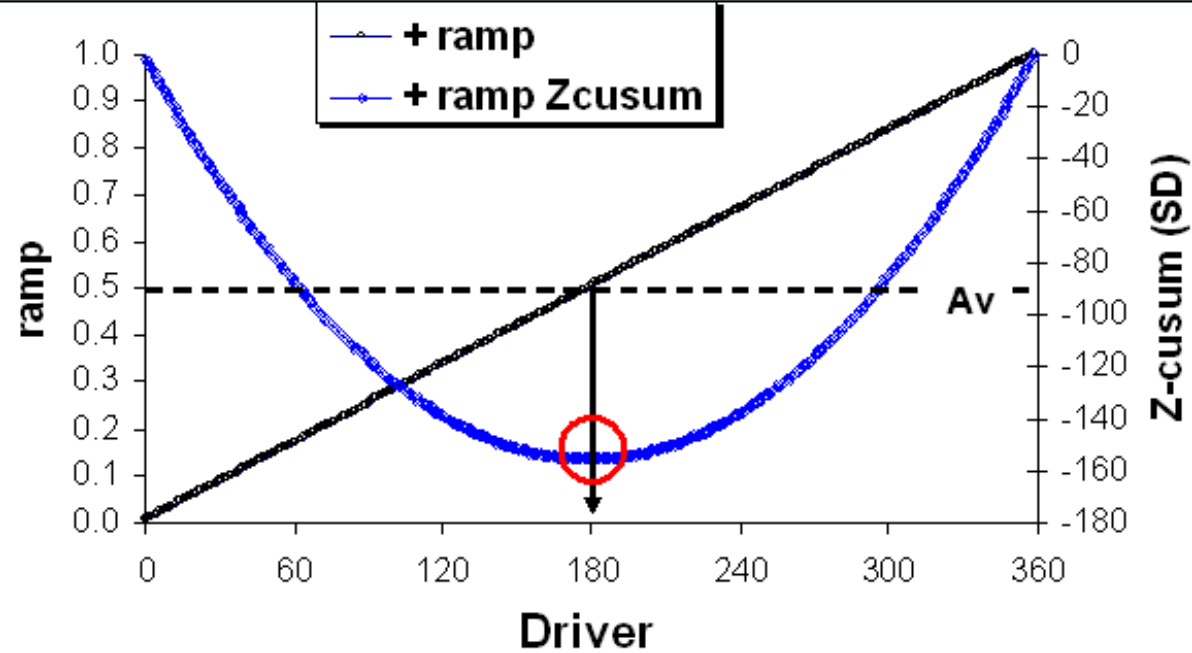


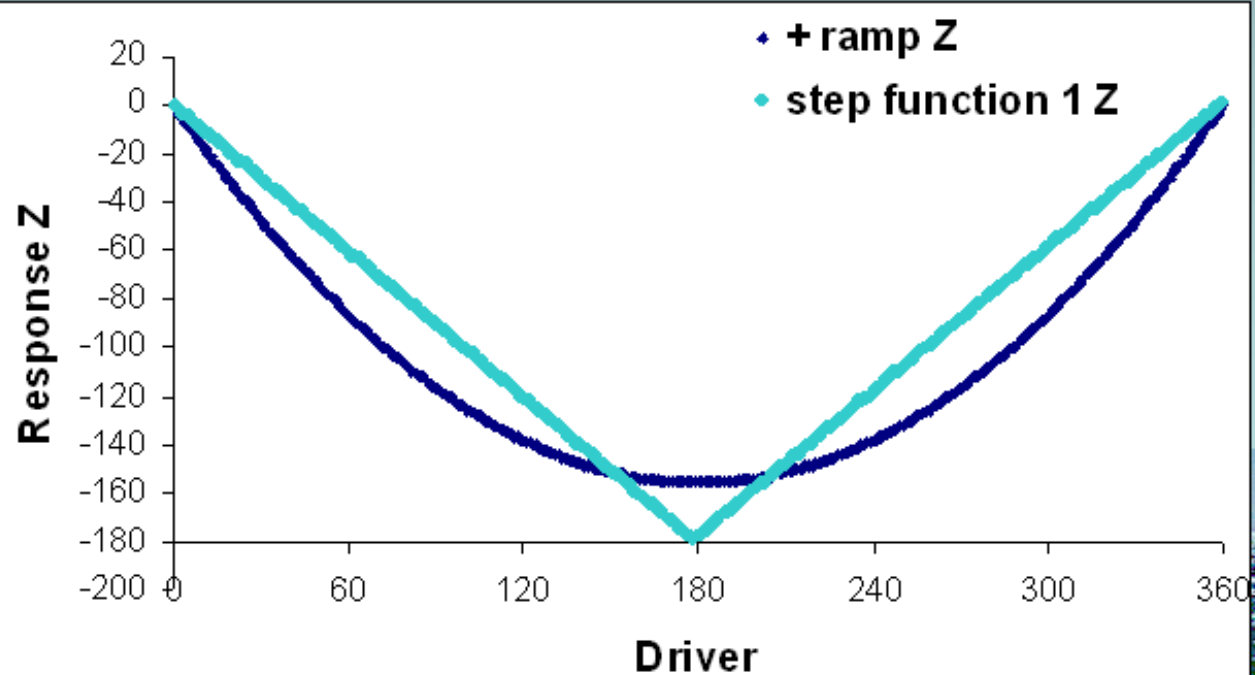
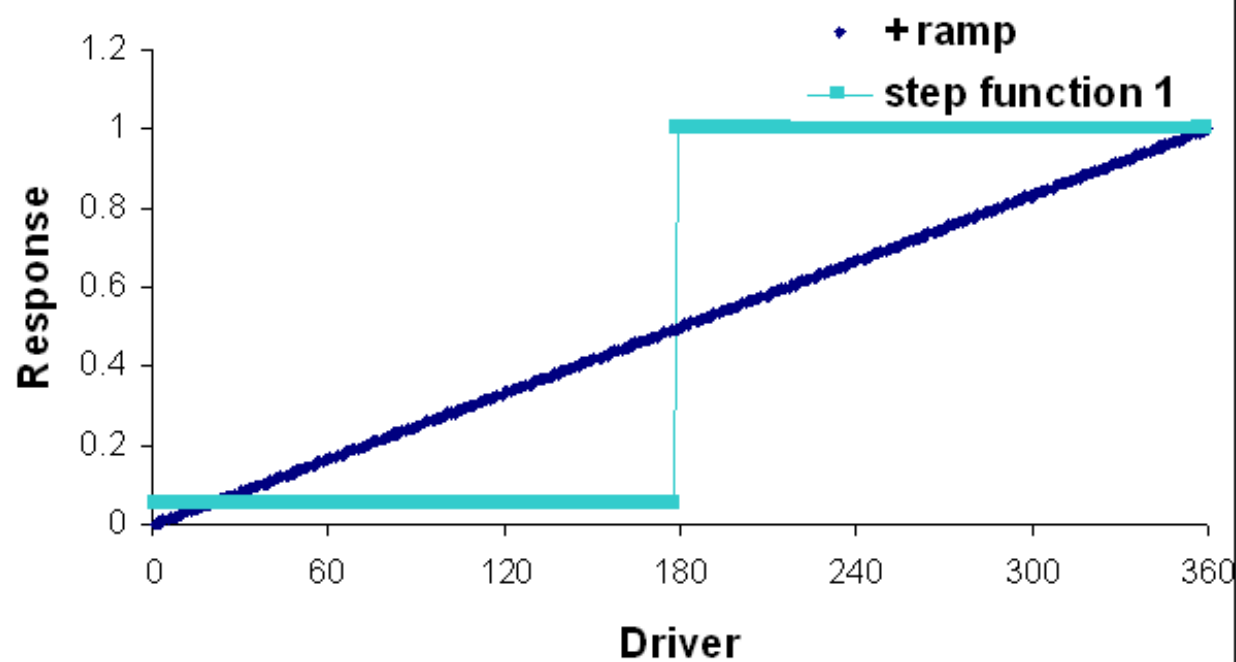
Z-Cusum 101

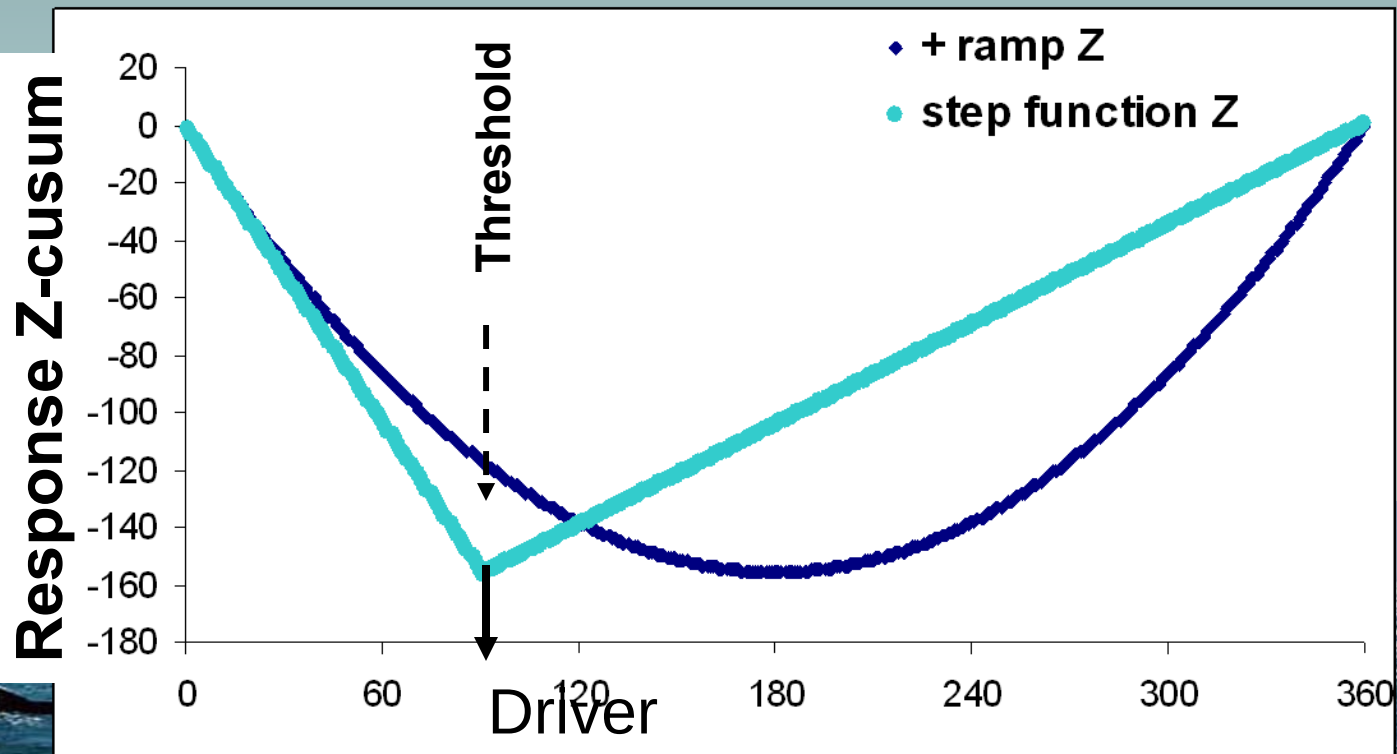
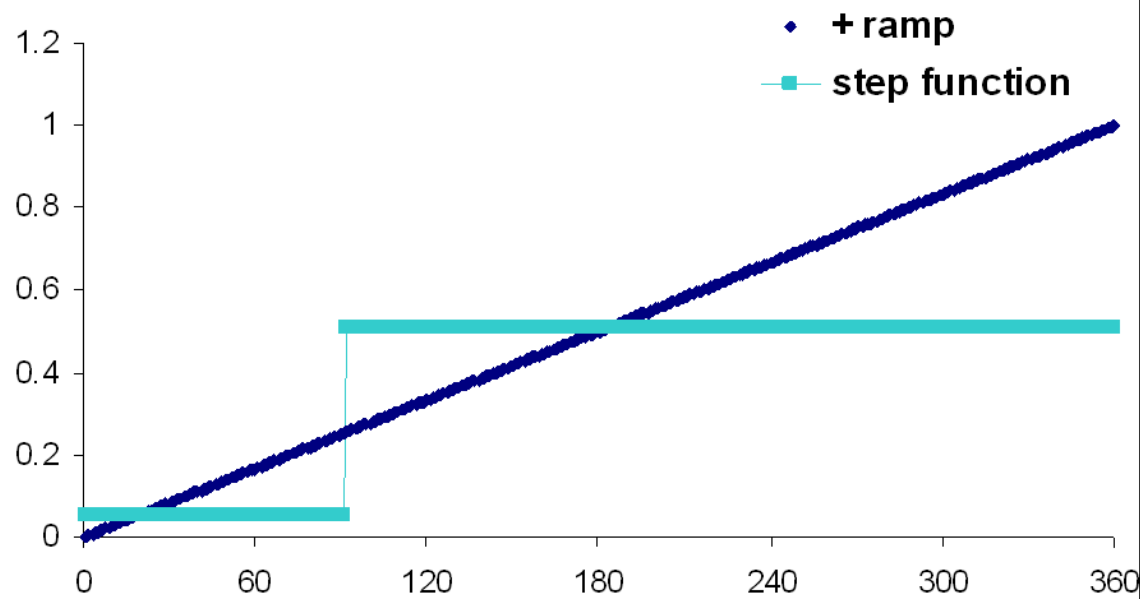
Lecture 2

Z-Cusum data is a measure of cumulative deviation from a target value, in our case, the mean...

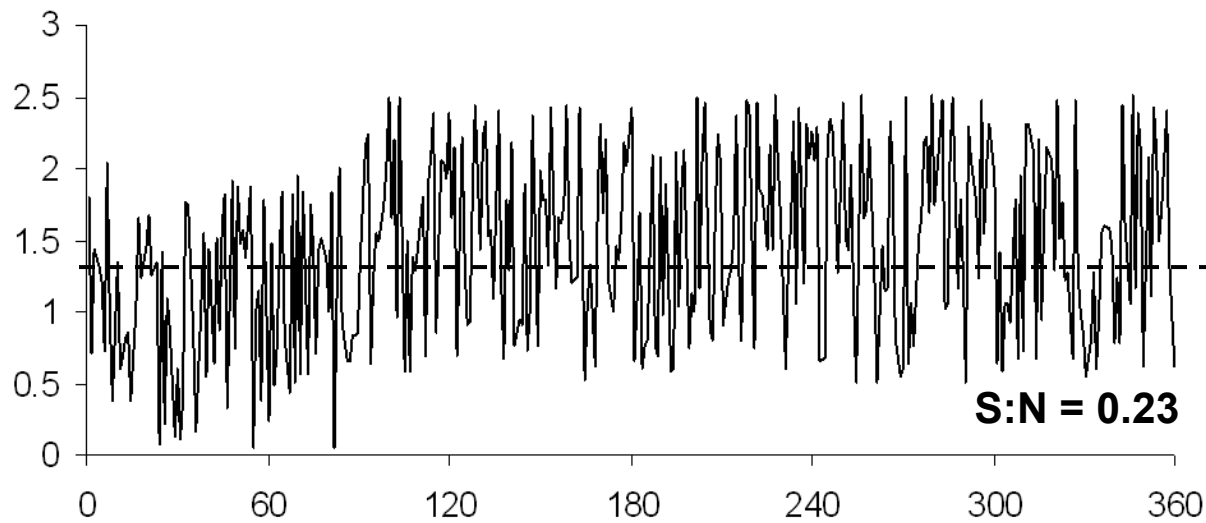




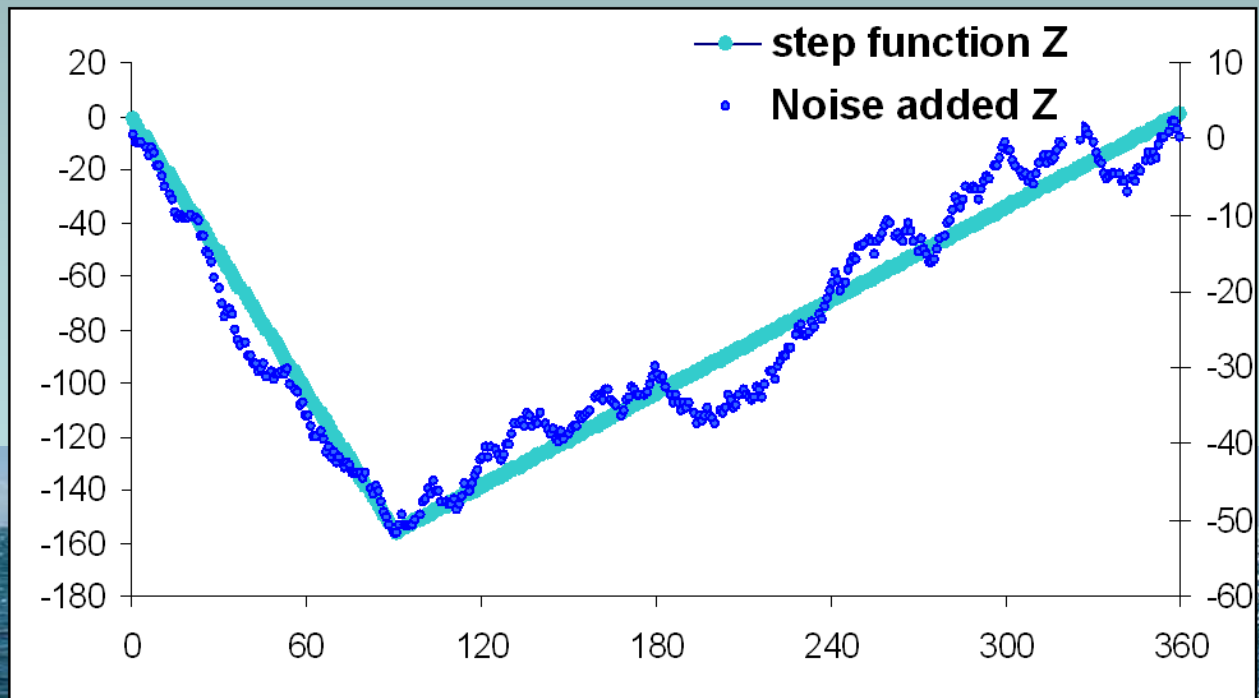




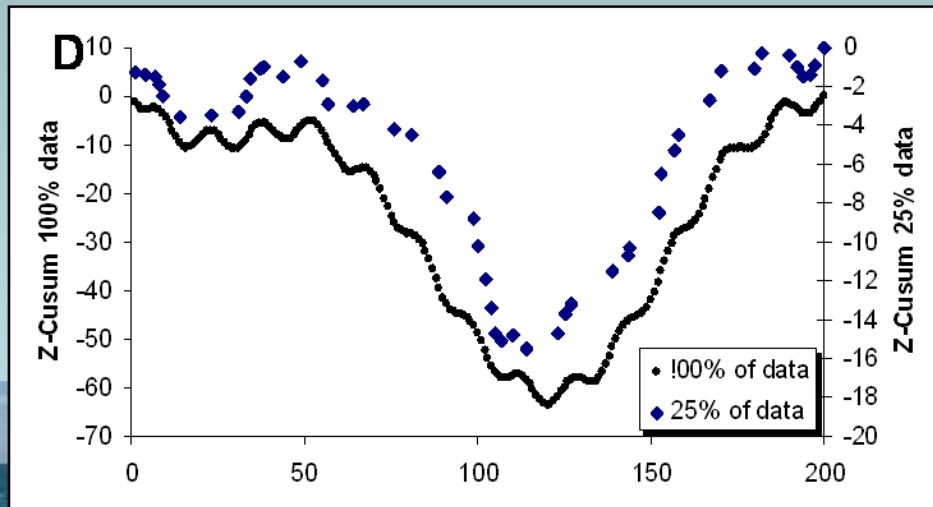
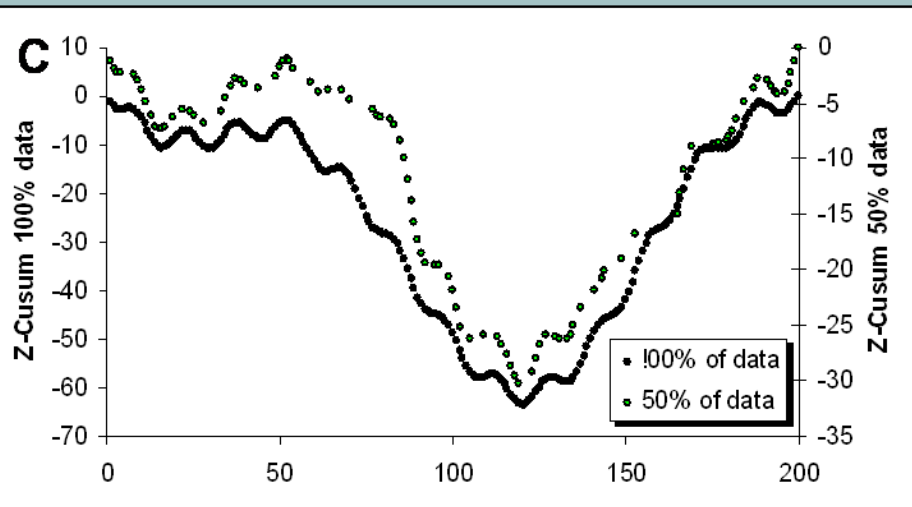
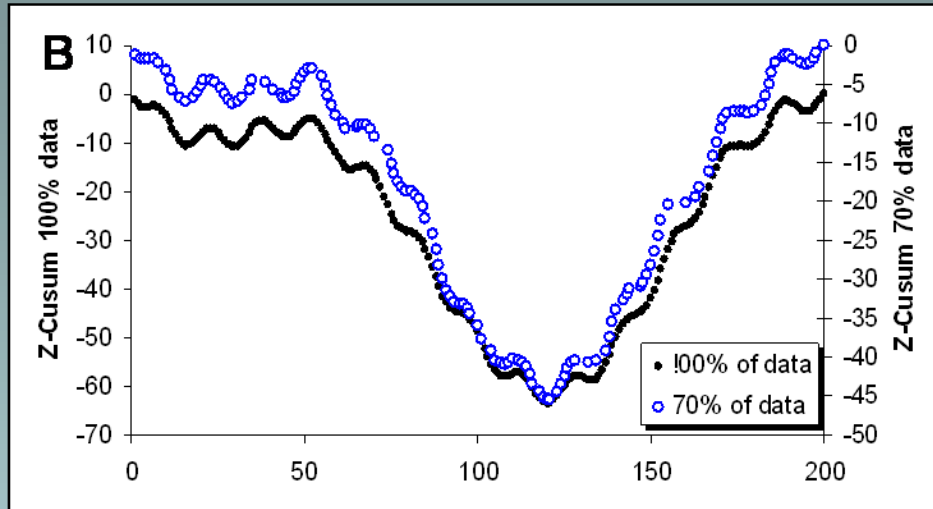
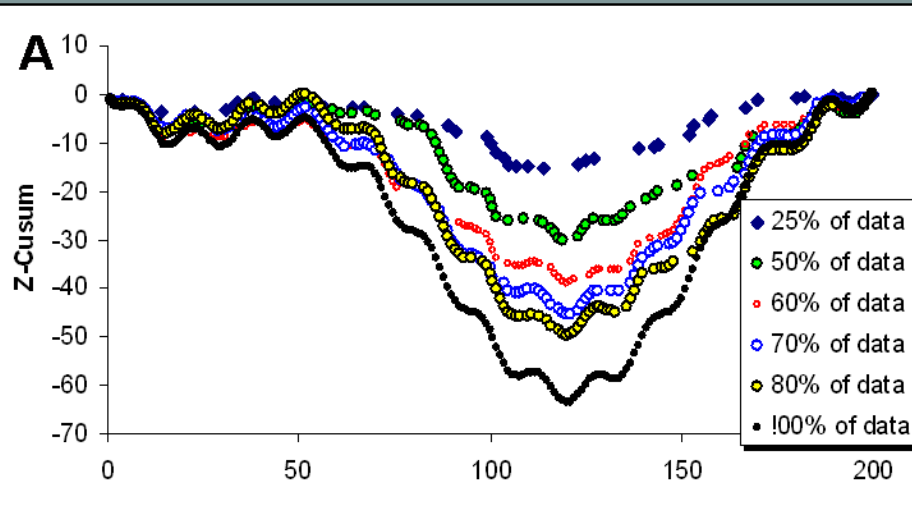
Noise added

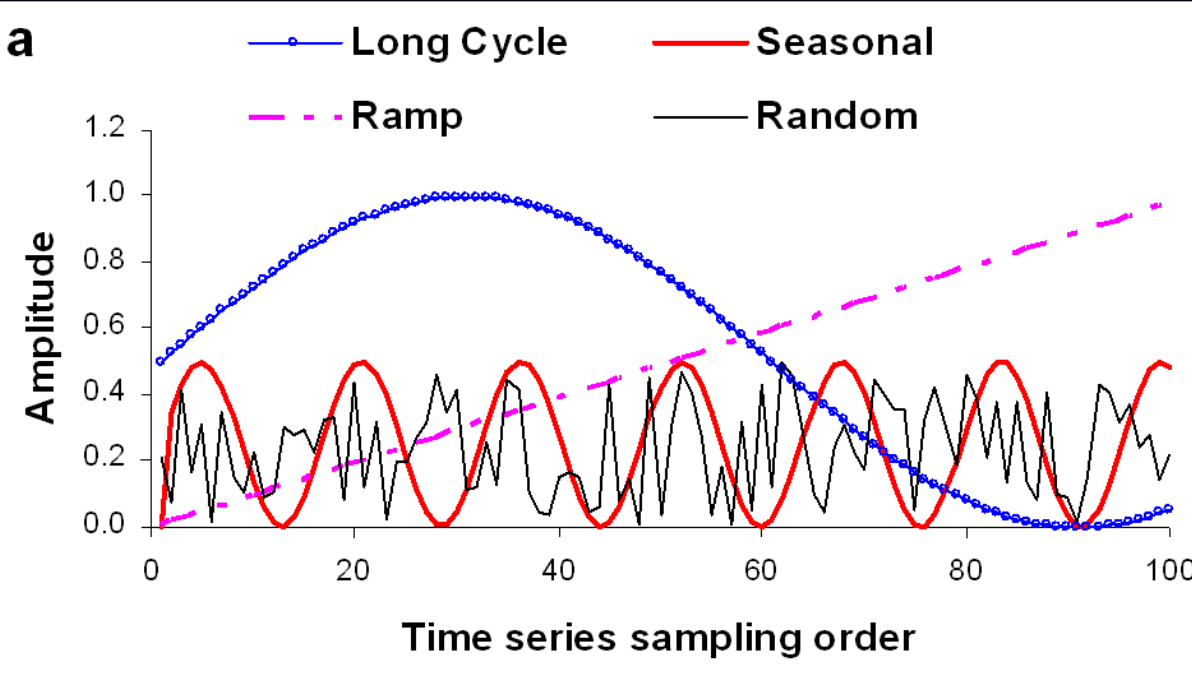


**Z-Cusum
transformation
is a low-pass
filter**



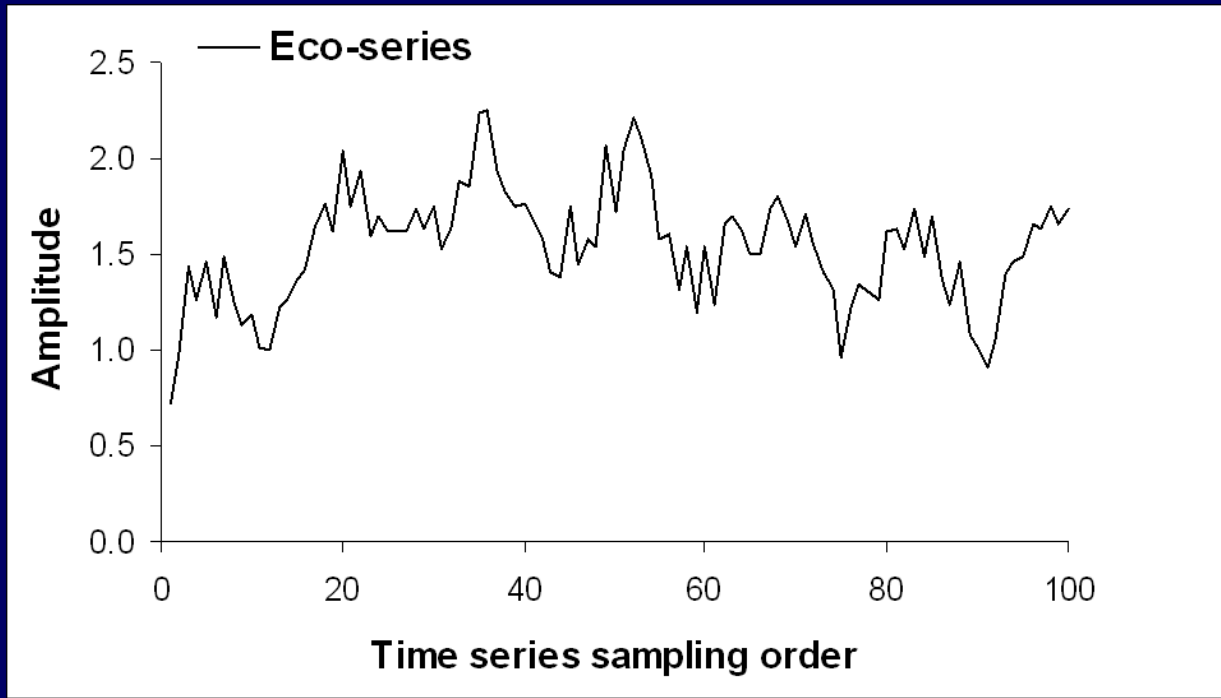
Resilience to data gaps (hole-punching experiment)



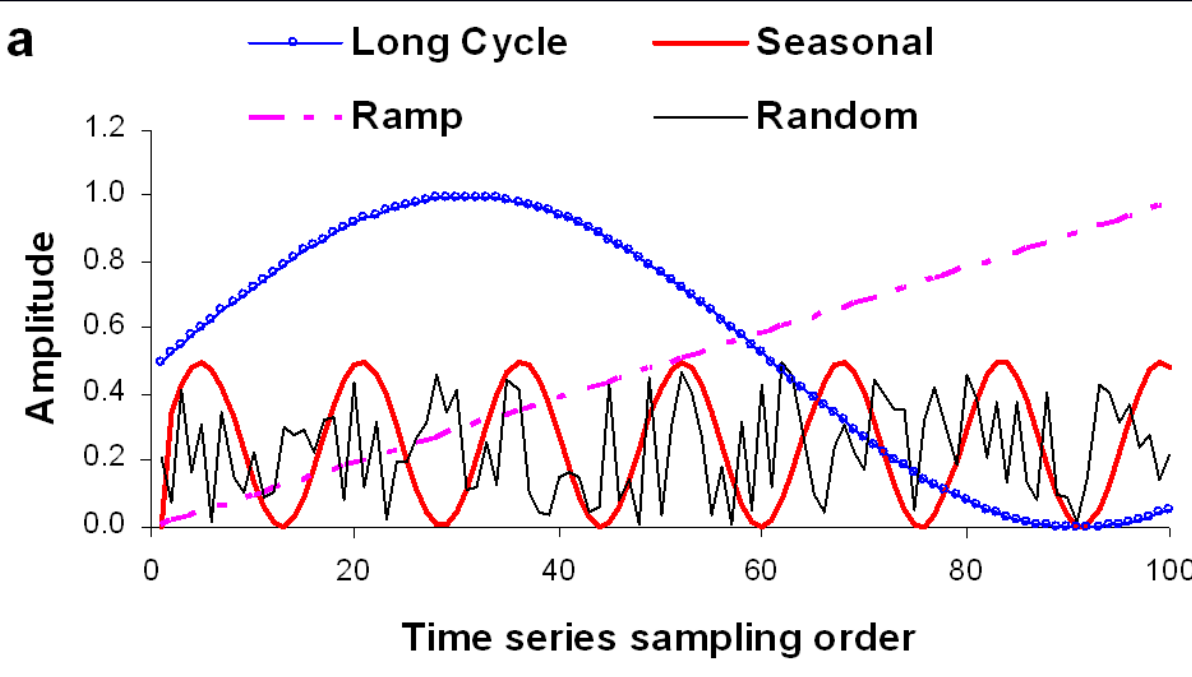


Time-series
components

Resulting time-series

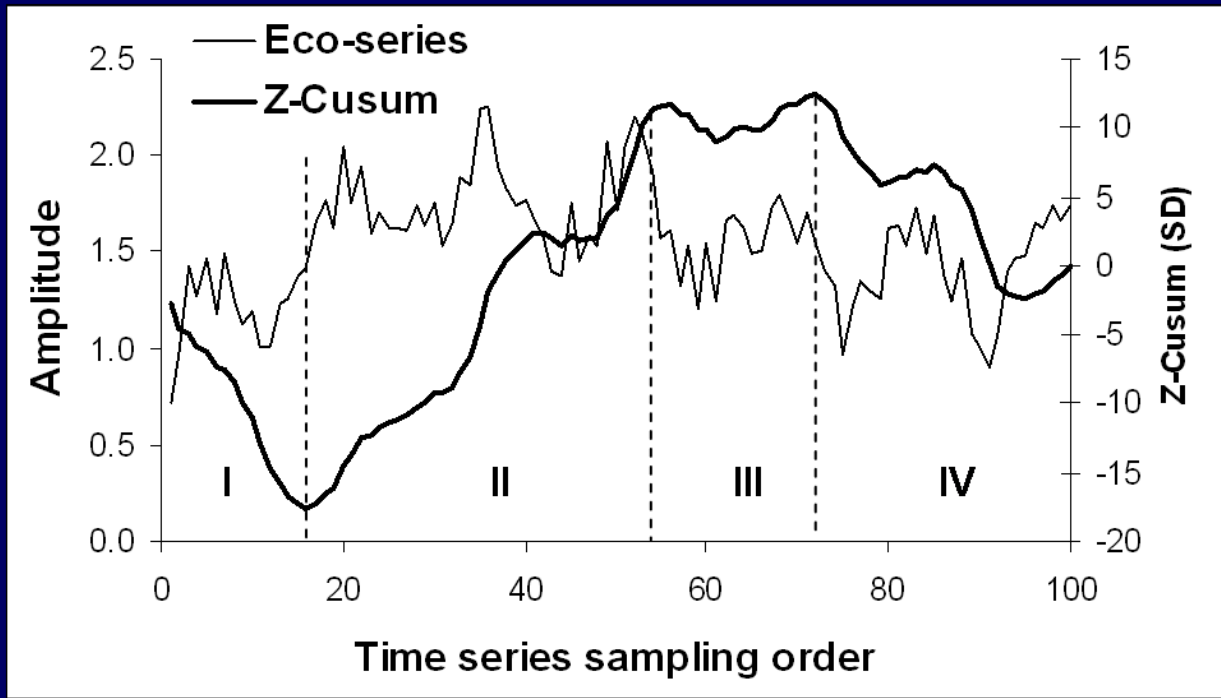


a



Time-series components

Resulting time-series and its Z-Cusum chart



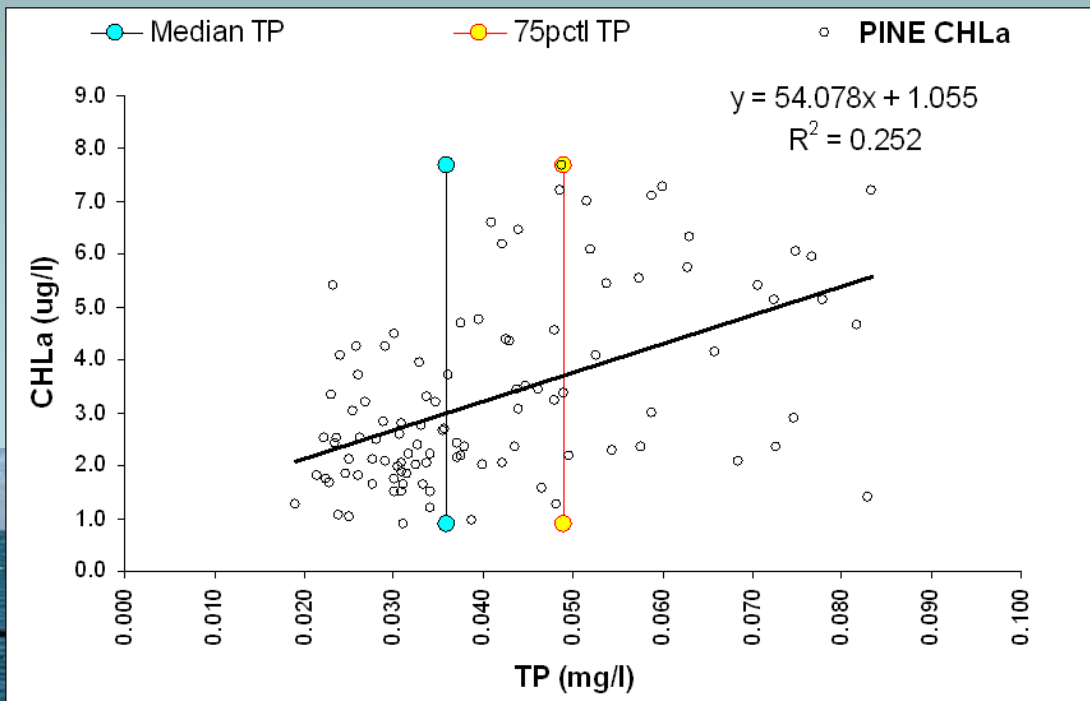
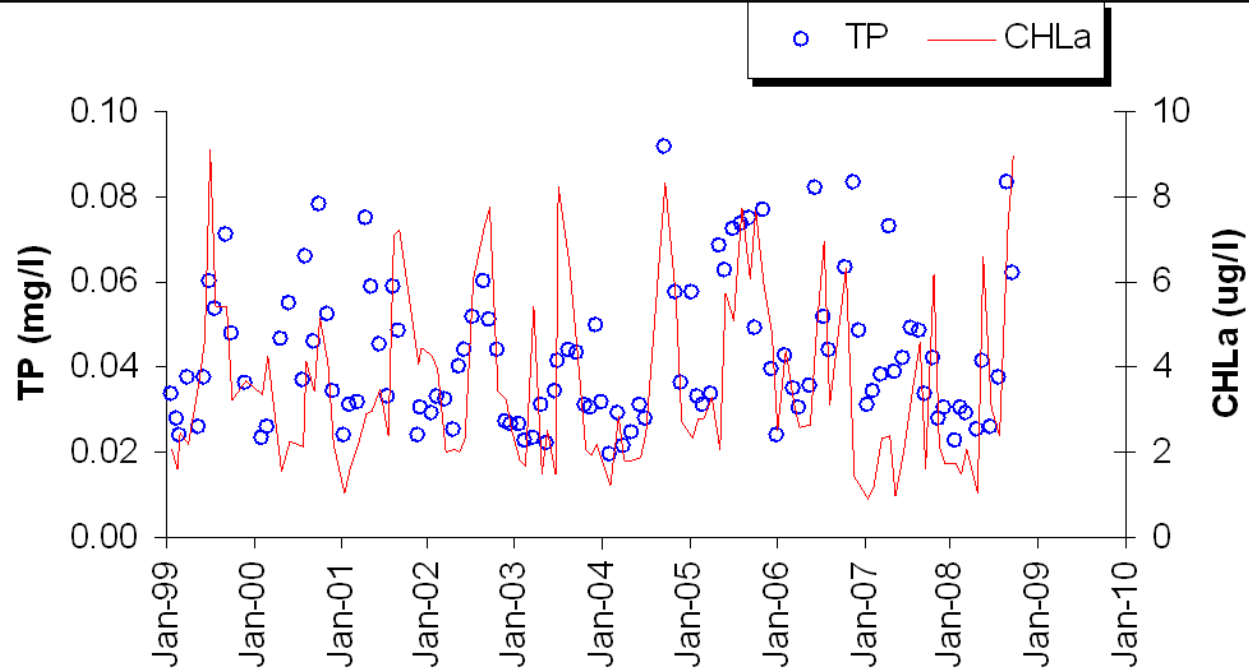
End of Lecture 2
....and back to:
Threshold analysis

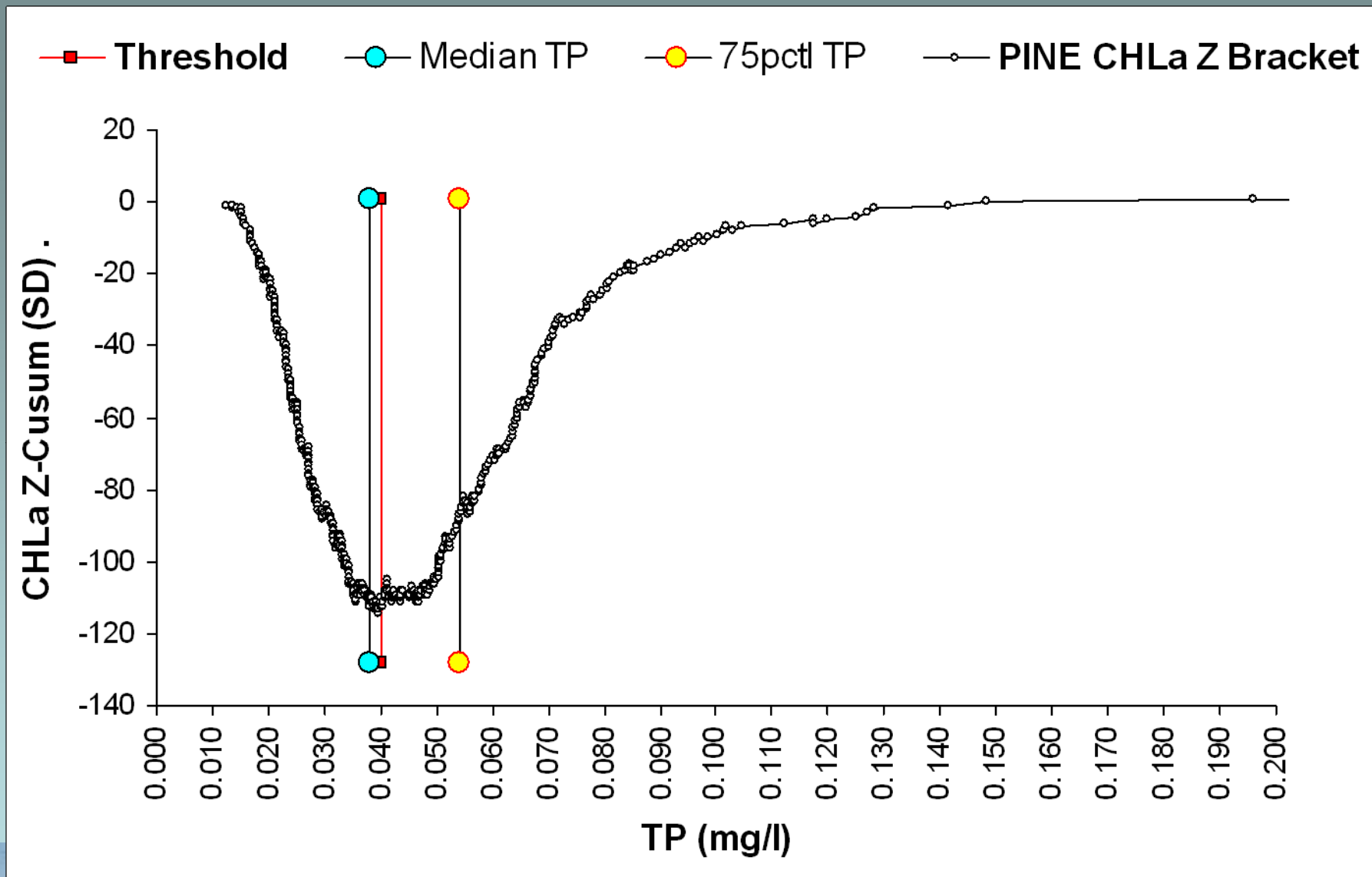
Our Objective:

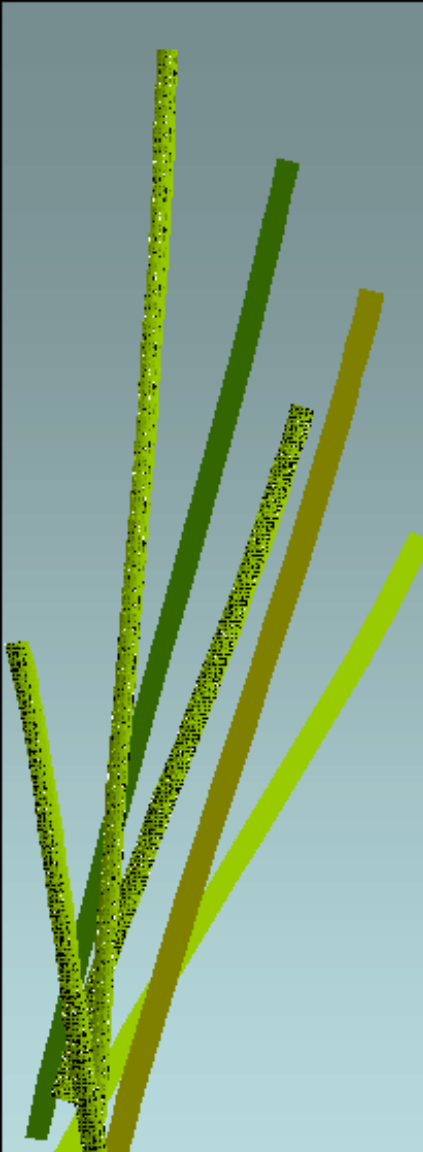
To establish the **nutrient level** (threshold) corresponding to an inflexion in the CHLa Z-Cusum chart, which is preceded by a sustained below average portion of the CHLa time-series (negative slope in Z-Cusum chart) and is followed by sustained above average CHLa values (positive slope in Z-Cusum chart).



Pine Island Segment







Threshold

Nutrient level that if surpassed would trigger “anomalous” above average phytoplankton biomass responses, as measured by CHLa concentration



