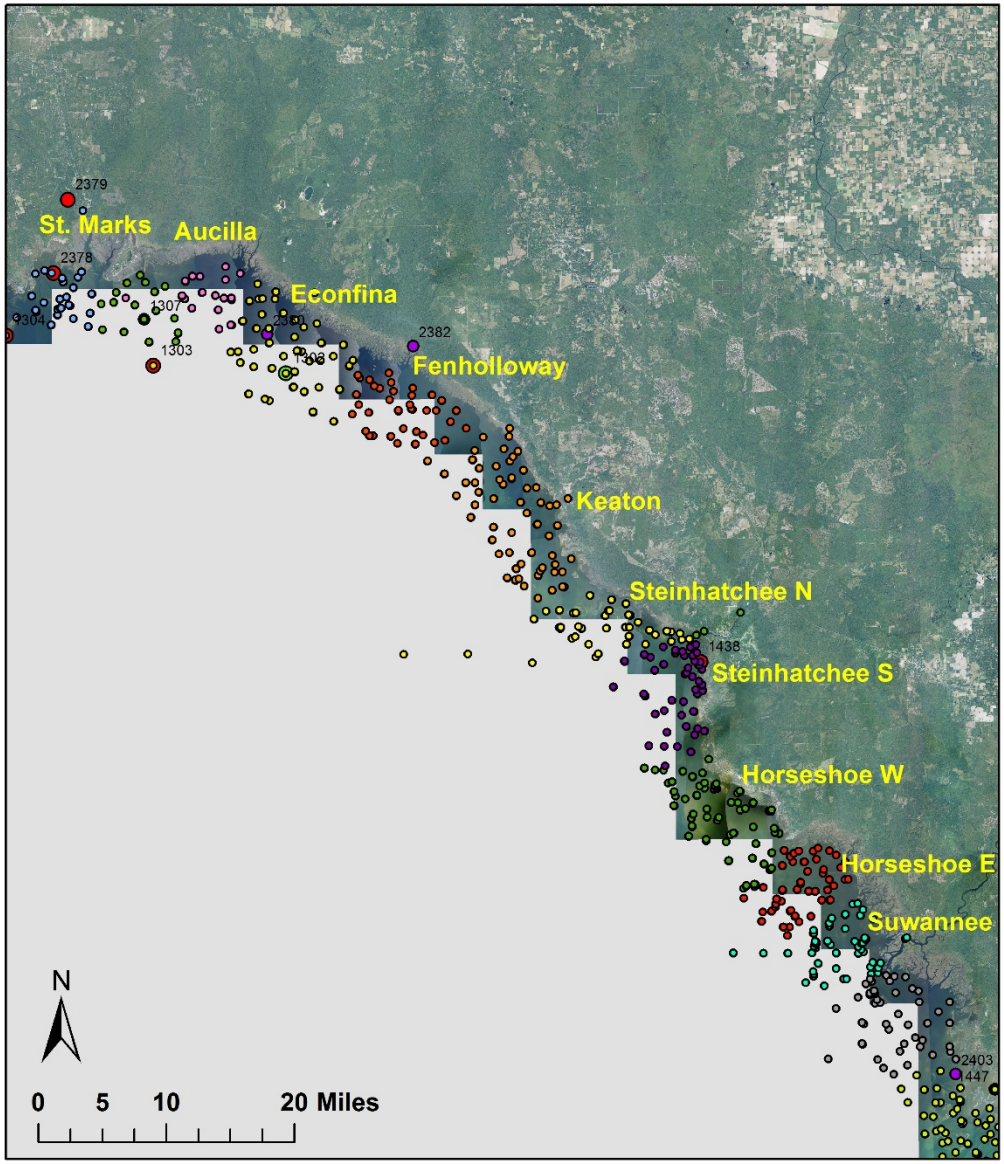
Northern Big Bend:

- St. Marks
- Aucilla
- Econfina
- Fenholloway
- Keaton
- Steinhatchee North

Southern Big Bend:

- Steinhatchee South
- Horseshoe West
- Horseshoe East
- Suwannee

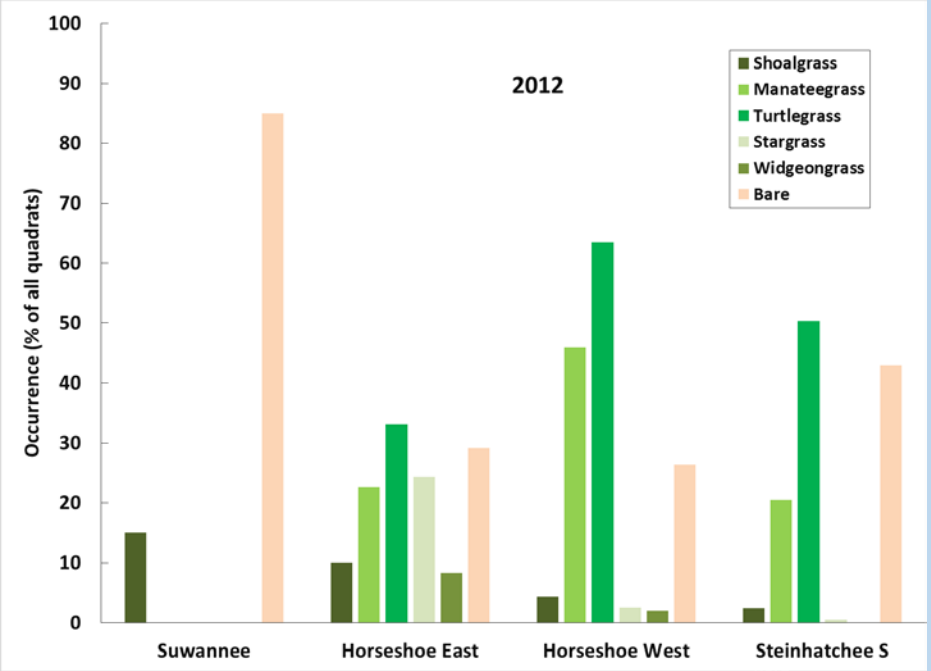
Big Bend Region of Florida

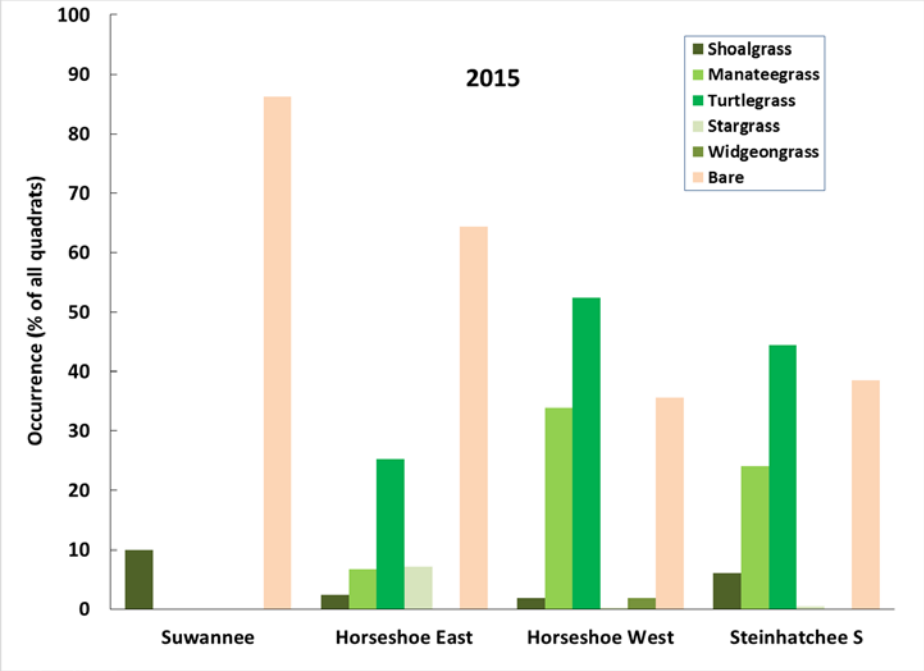


A one – two punch for Florida's Big Bend region:

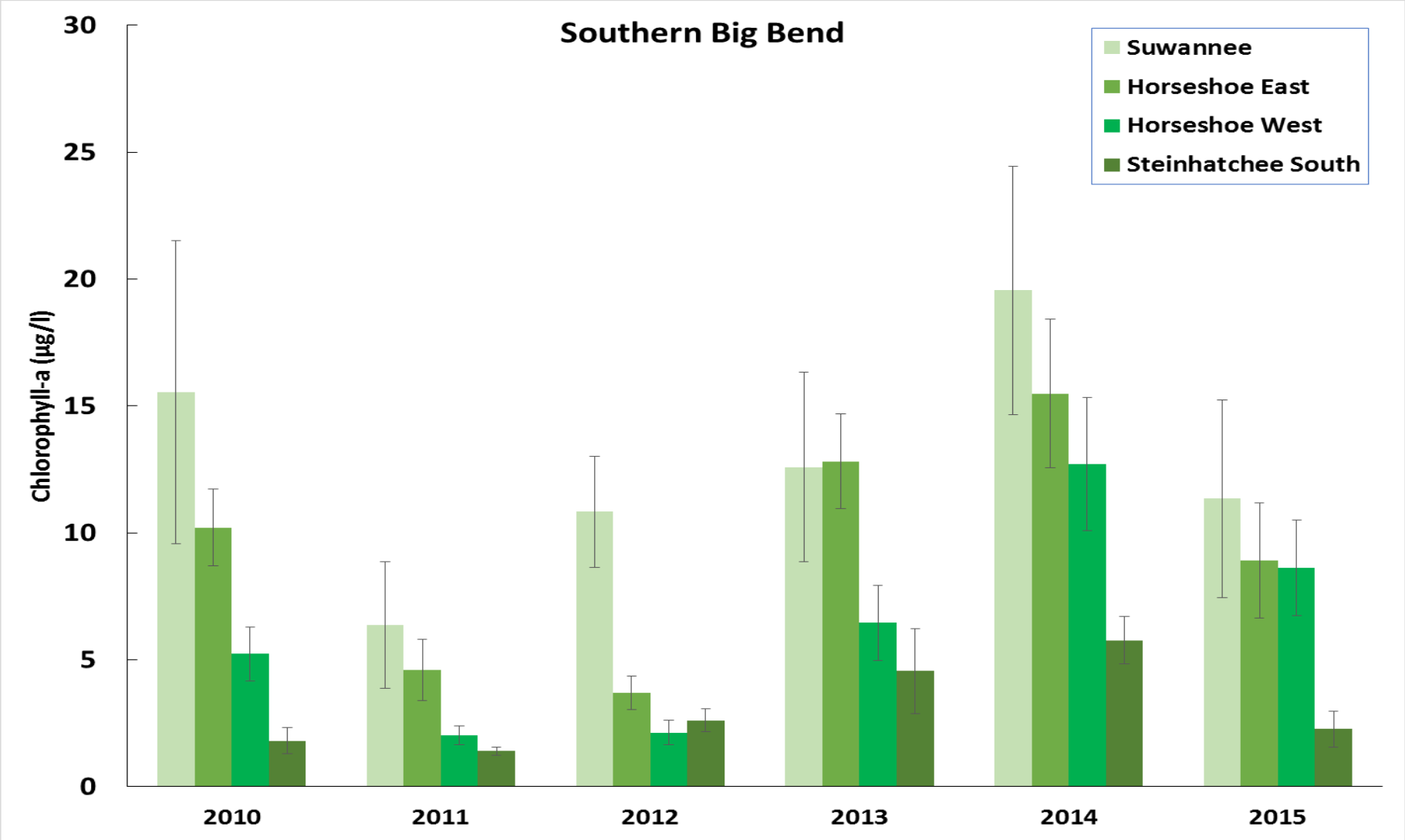
- location of the second largest contiguous seagrass bed in Florida;
- source population for Gulf scallops, and popular scallop harvesting area.

Seagrass occurrence in southern Big Bend, 2012 and 2015

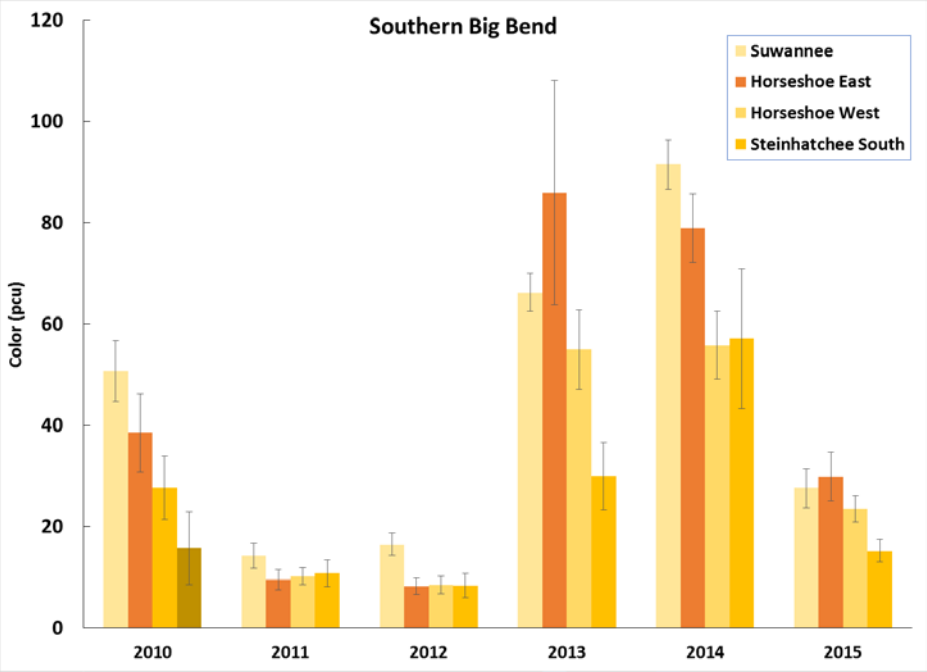


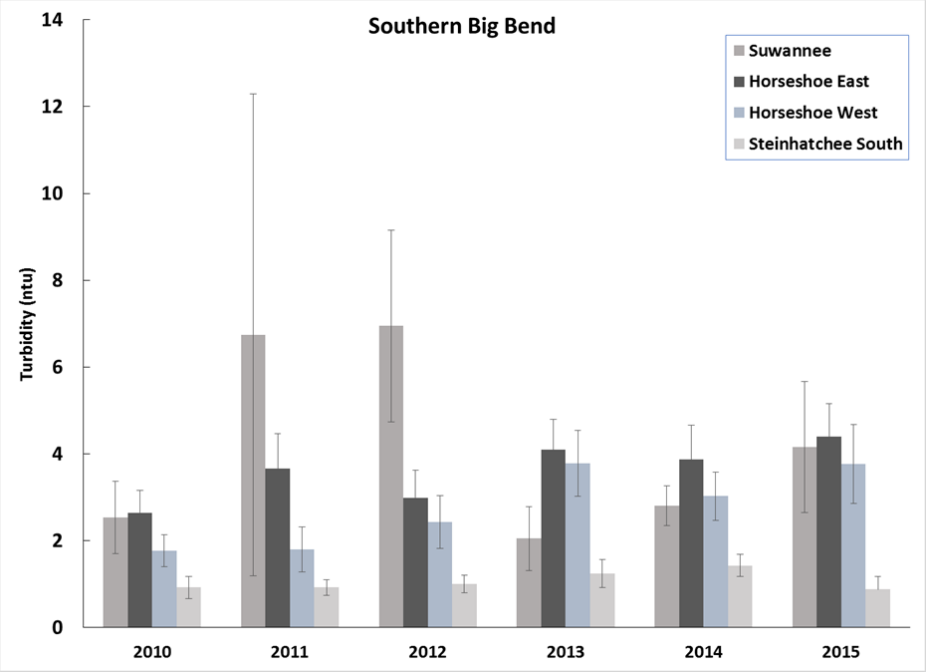


Average (±2 standard error) chlorophyll-a concentrations in sub-regions of southern Big Bend, 2010—2015.



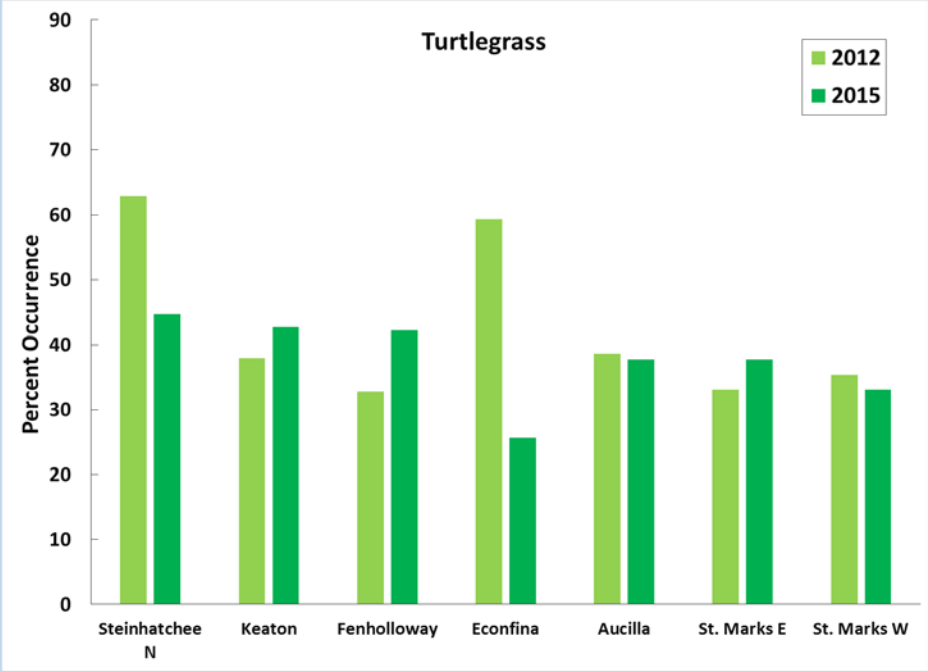
Levels of color and turbidity in the southern Big Bend, 2010 -- 2015

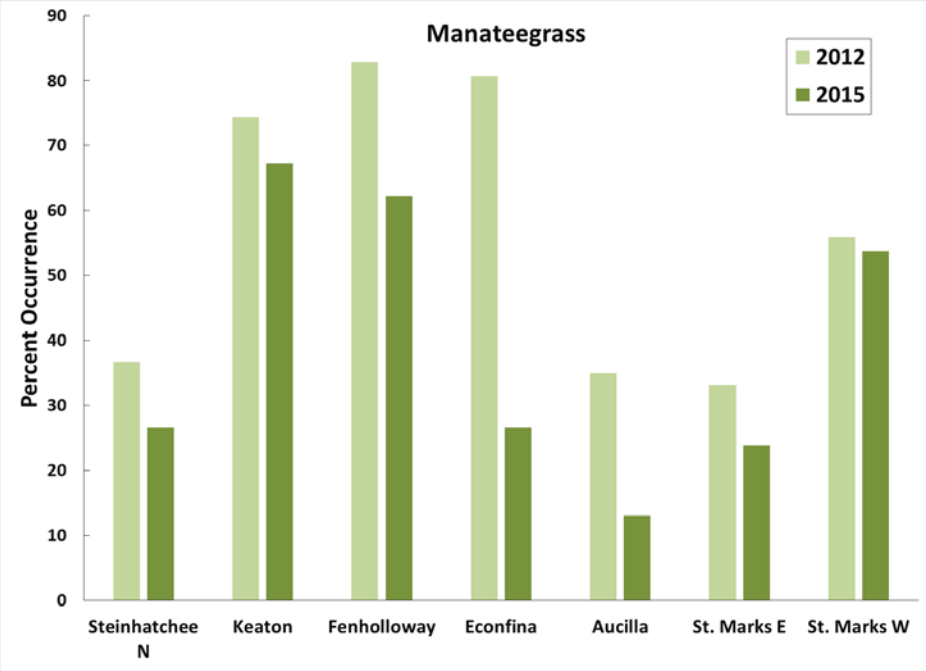




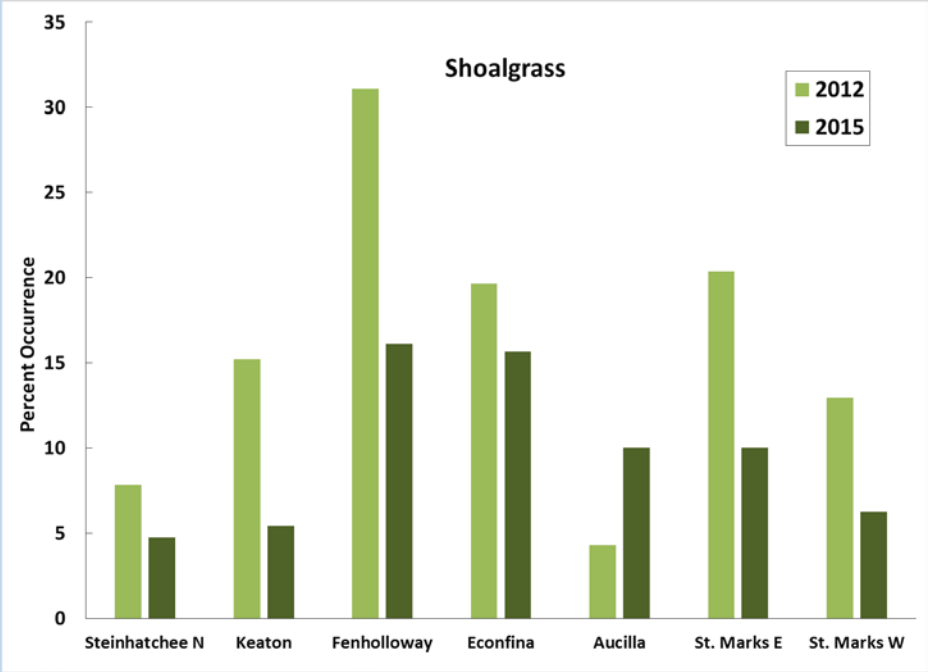
Prior to late June 2012, the northern Big Bend region was known for its pristine seagrass beds.

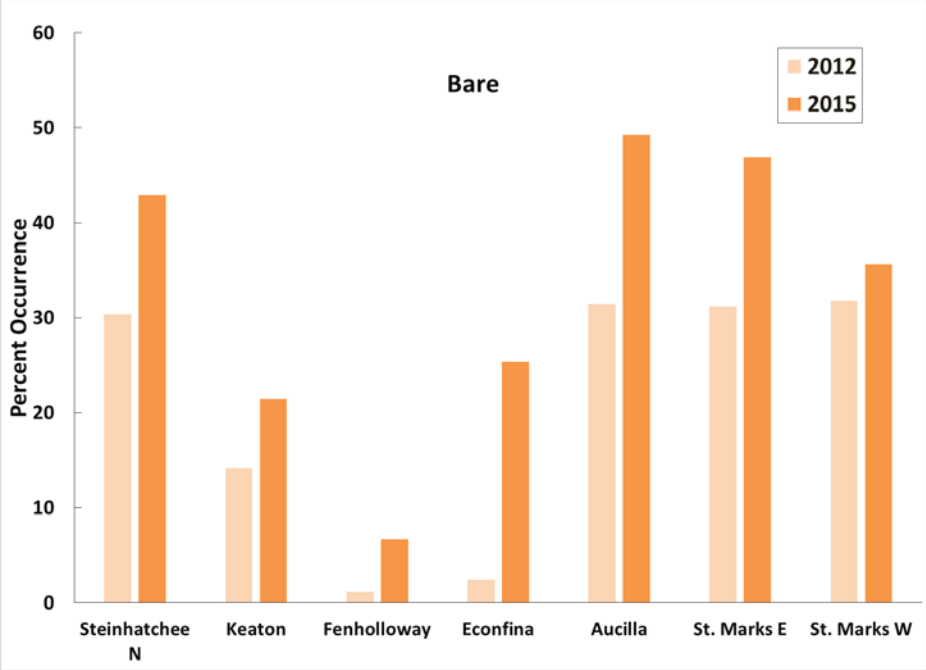
Occurrence of turtlegrass and manateegrass in northern Big Bend, 2012 and 2015

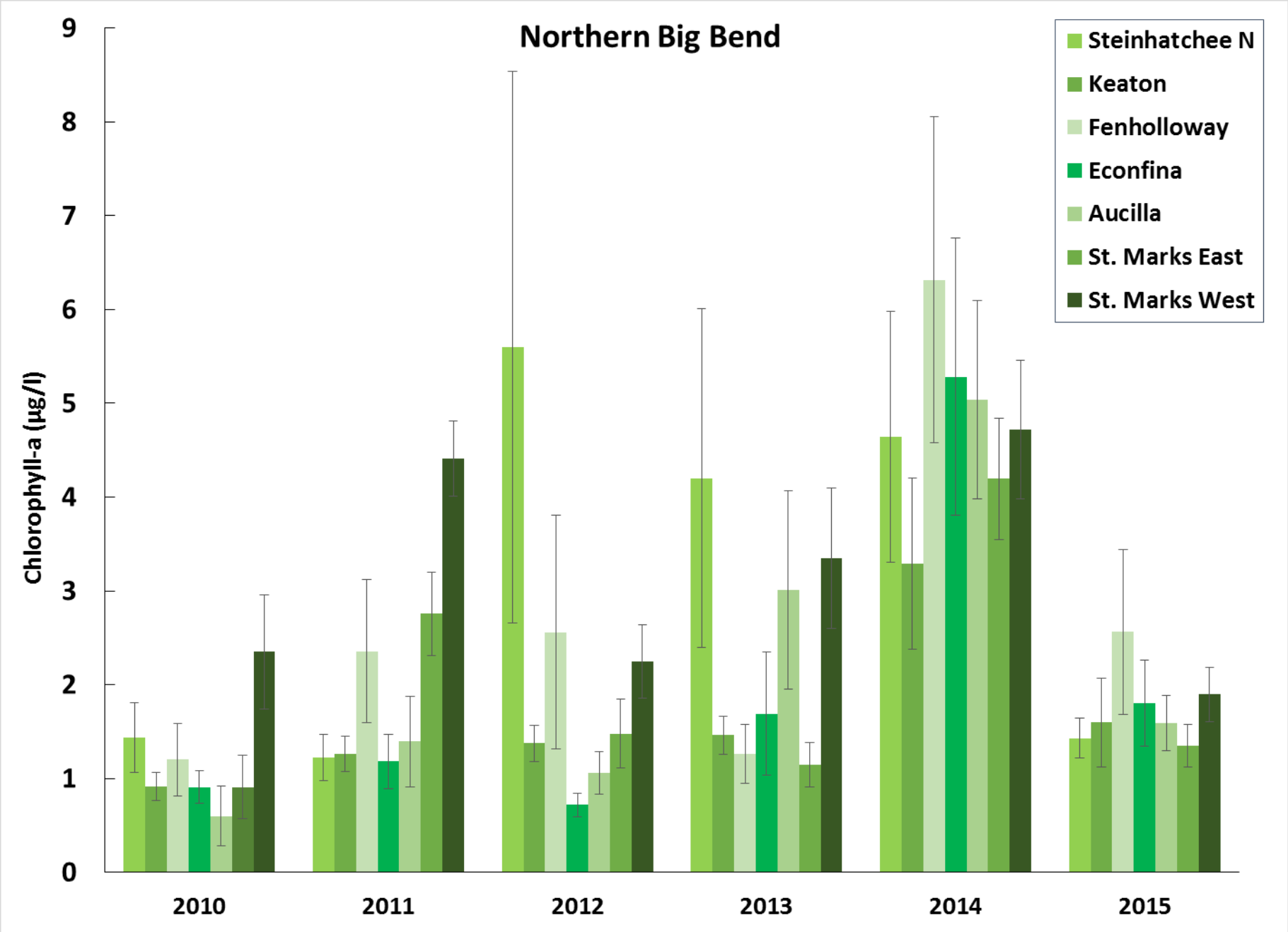




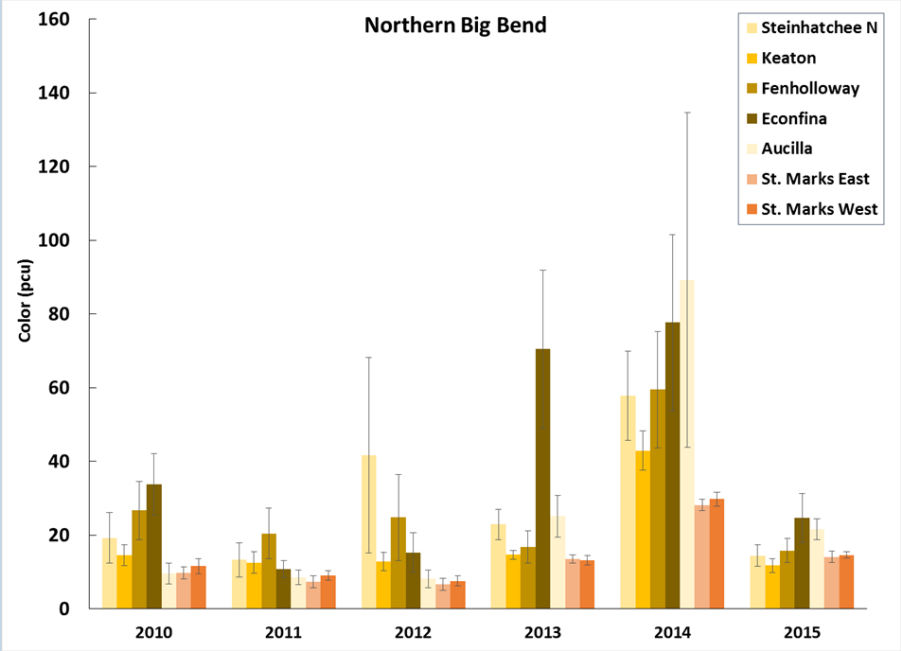
Occurrence of shoalgrass and bare quadrats in northern Big Bend, 2012 and 2015

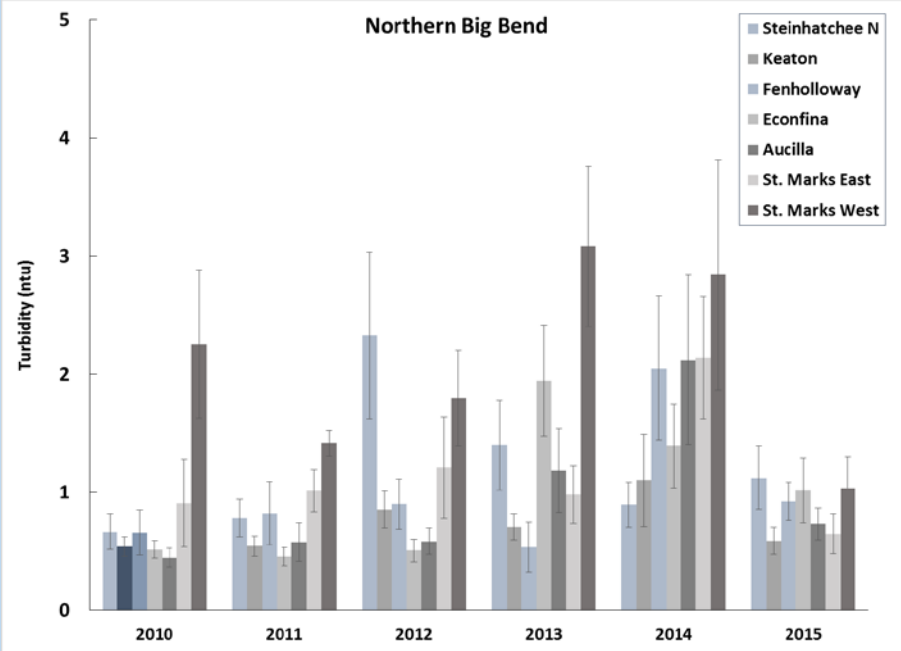





Northern Big Bend
Chlorophyll-a (µg/l)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
Steinhatchee N
Keaton
Fenholloway
Econfina
Aucilla
St. Marks East
St. Marks West

Note the elevated color levels in 2014 and especially the high colors observed in the Econfina subregion.





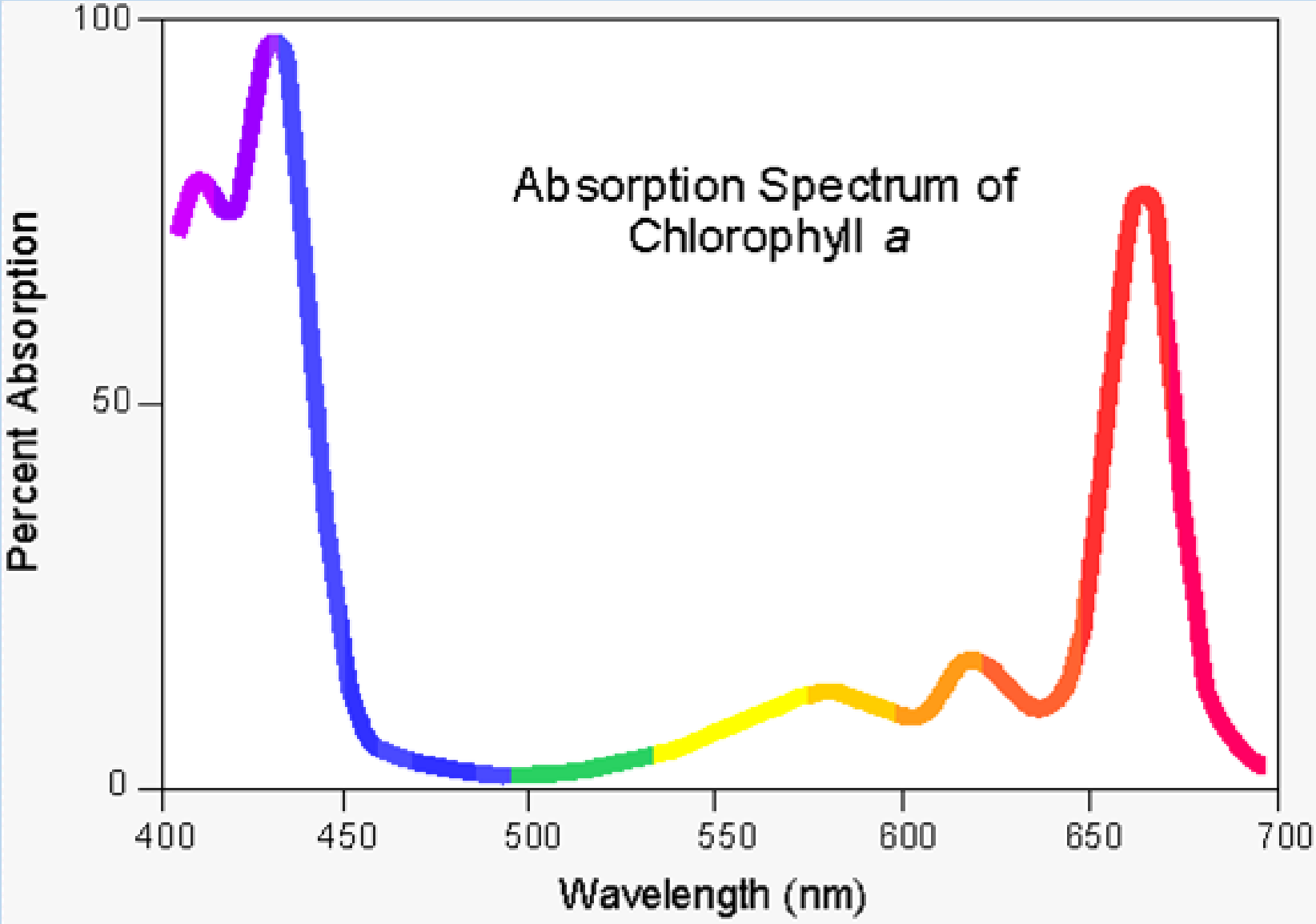
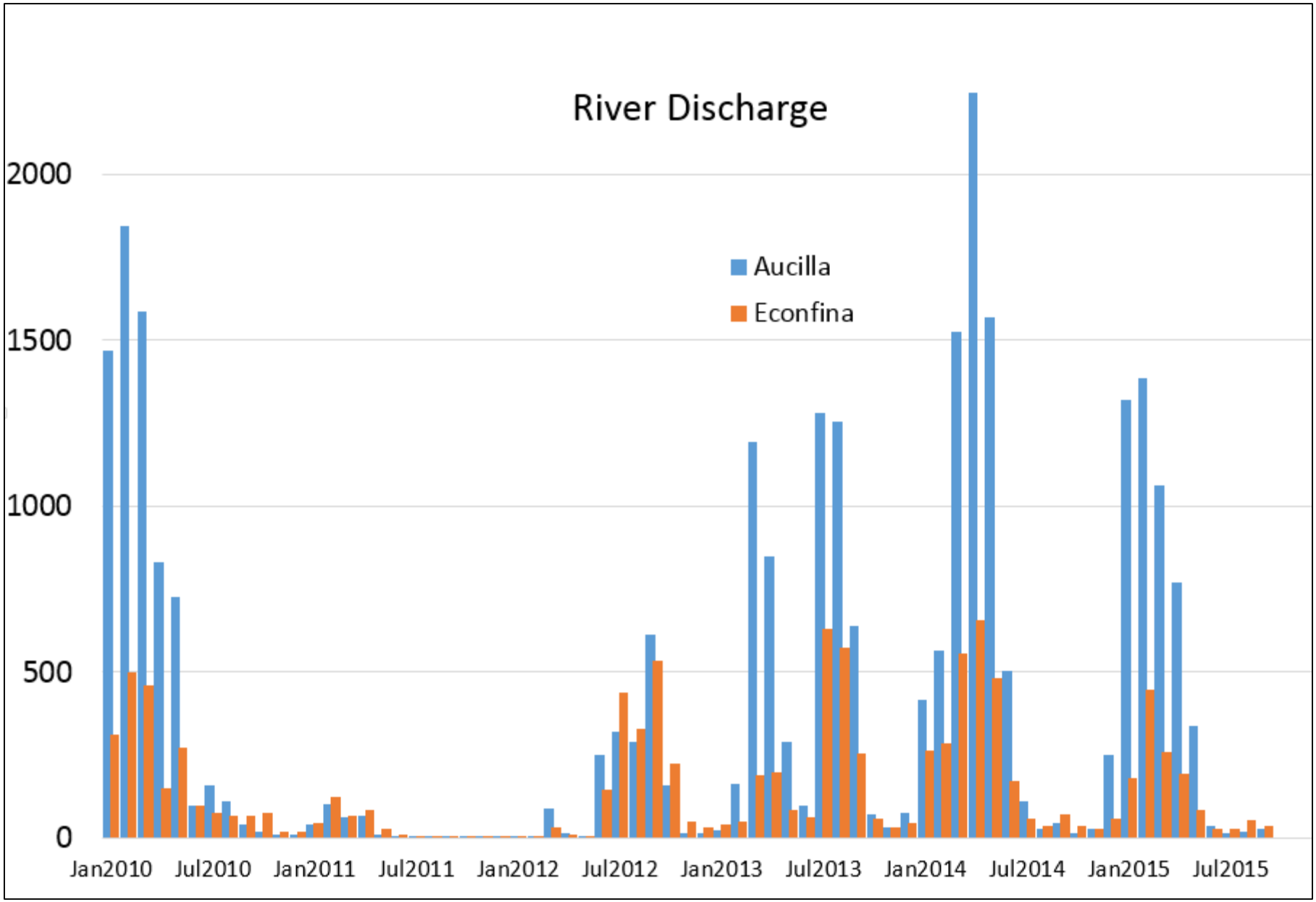

Absorption Spectrum of
Chlorophyll a
Percent Absorption
100
50
0
400
450
500
550
600
650
700
Wavelength (nm)

Photo Credit: Steve Geiger


River Discharge
2000
1500
1000
500
0
Aucilla
Econfina
Jan2010
Jul2010
Jan2011
Jul2011
Jan2012
Jul2012
Jan2013
Jul2013
Jan2014
Jul2014
Jan2015
Jul2015