

NUTRIENT SAMPLING IN PETRONILA CREEK

Final Report

CBBEP Project No. 2333

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Executive Summary

Petronila Creek Above Tidal is a 44-mile-long creek in coastal South Texas that flows from its headwaters in western Nueces County to the confluence of Tunas Creek in eastern Kleberg County. The tidal portion of the creek drains to Baffin Bay through Cayo Del Mazón and Alazan Bay, located on the northern portion of Baffin Bay. Petronila Creek Above Tidal is listed in the 2020 Texas Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality as having elevated levels of chloride, sulfate, total dissolved solids, bacteria (*E. coli*), and chlorophyll-*a* concentrations. The integrated report also lists the tidal portion of the creek as having excessive concentrations of bacteria (*enterococcus*) and chlorophyll-*a*. The receiving waterbody, Baffin Bay, is listed for excessive concentrations of chlorophyll-*a*. To determine the nutrient contributions of surface water entering Baffin Bay from Petronila Creek and its tributaries, three previous studies titled “Nutrient Sampling in Petronila Creek” were conducted prior to this study. CBBEP Project #2003 was conducted from January through December 2020 and CBBEP Project #2133 was conducted from February 2021 through July 2021. CBBEP #2233 was conducted from September 2021 through August 2022. CBBEP Project #2333 runs from September 2022 through August 2023. Water quality data for Project #2333 were collected monthly from September 2022 through August 2023 at 13 stations that are located throughout the southeastern portion of the watershed, east of US 77. Four surface water quality monitoring stations are located on the main stem of the creek and nine stations are located on the tributaries of the creek. All water monitoring occurred during low flow conditions. Flow rates at the main stem creek sites ranged between 0.5 ft³/s and 3.0 ft³/s and tributary stations ranged from <0.1 ft³/s to 0.2 ft³/s. Nutrient parameters analyzed for the study include ammonia, nitrate-nitrogen, nitrite-nitrogen, total phosphorus (TP), total kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), dissolved kjeldahl nitrogen (DTKN), chlorophyll-*a*, and pheophytin. For this report (#2333), streamflow totals and nutrient concentrations from Projects #2003, #2133, #2233 and #2333 have been included in the data results graphs to show temporal variability from January 2020 through August 2023. Nutrient concentrations were highly variable throughout the study period. A seasonal bias for higher concentrations for ammonia, DTKN, TKN, and TP occurred in spring months. Nitrate-nitrogen showed a seasonal bias in spring and fall months. Chlorophyll-*a*, and pheophytin showed a seasonal bias toward higher concentrations in winter months.



Figure 1. Station 21598 along Petronila Creek.

Introduction

Petronila Creek is a tributary to Baffin Bay. Petronila creek feeds into the subsidiary Alazan Bay that extends northeast of Baffin Bay. The health of Baffin Bay has been of great concern to scientists and concerned citizens due to fish kills, water quality problems, and food web changes in the bay. The Baffin Bay Stakeholder Group, formed in 2012, is composed of scientists from Harte Research Institute (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP), USDA-NRCS, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, Texas Water Resources Institute, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Sea Grant, Texas General Land Office, NRA, and a host of concerned citizens, including commercial and recreational fishermen, ranchers, and business owners. The scientists at HRI have determined that the primary causes of the water quality concerns are due to excessive nutrients in the bay. The Petronila and San Fernando Creeks Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) was approved by EPA in December 2022, providing voluntary management measures to address bacteria impairments on both creeks. Many management measures identified in the WPP will also help reduce nutrient loading to the system.

The surface water quality monitoring in Texas is routinely conducted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and its Clean Rivers Program (CRP). The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards have established specific criteria designed to protect designated uses of bodies of water including aquatic life, water supply, and recreation. The criteria that TCEQ has used to evaluate the designated uses include temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, dissolved minerals, bacteria, and toxic substances. However, TCEQ does not have numerical criteria for nutrients in their surface water quality standards. In Texas, nutrient controls have taken the form of narrative criteria, watershed rules, and anti-degradation considerations in permitting actions. TCEQ screens ammonia, nitrate nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll (Chl) monitoring data as a preliminary indication of areas of possible concern (TCEQ). The following chart explains the potential causes and impacts when water quality screening levels for certain water quality parameters are not met.

Parameter	Nutrient Screening Levels for Petronila Creek Above Tidal	Calculation Used for Concern
Ammonia-Nitrogen	0.33 mg/l	20% of samples are above the criteria
Nitrate	1.95 mg/l	
Total phosphorus	0.69 mg/l	
Chlorophyll- <i>a</i>	14.1 µg/l	

Figure 2. TCEQ screening levels for nutrient parameters

Parameter	Cause	Impact
Ammonia	Ammonia is excreted by animals and is produced during the decomposition of plants and animals. It is an ingredient in many fertilizers and is also present in sewage, storm water runoff, certain industrial wastewaters, and runoff from animal feedlots.	Elevated levels of ammonia in the environment can adversely affect fish and invertebrate reproductive capacity and reduced growth of the young.
Nitrates & Total phosphorus	Nutrients are found in effluent released from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)s, fertilizers, and agricultural runoff carrying animal waste from farms and ranches. Soil erosion and runoff from farms, lawns, and gardens can add nutrients to the water.	These nutrients increase plant and algae growth. When plants and algae die, the bacteria that decompose them consume dissolved oxygen leaving less available for fish and other living aquatic life. High levels of nitrate and nitrites can produce Nitrite Toxicity, or “brown blood disease,” in fish. This disease reduces the ability of blood to transport oxygen throughout the body.
Chlorophyll- <i>a</i>	Modifications to the riparian zone, human activity that causes increases in organic matter, nutrients, bacteria, and over abundant algae in water.	Chlorophyll- <i>a</i> is the photosynthetic pigment found in all green plants, algae, and cyanobacteria. Elevated levels indicate abundant plant growth which could lead to reduced DO levels.

Figure 3. Cause and impacts of excess nutrient parameters.

Petronila Creek Tidal (TCEQ Segment 2203) is listed in the 2020 Texas Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality as being impaired for bacteria (enterococcus) and having a screening level concern for chlorophyll-a.

The designated uses for Petronila Creek Above Tidal (TCEQ Segment 2204) include primary contact recreation and intermediate aquatic life use. Segment 2204 is listed in TCEQs 2020 Texas Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality as being impaired for chloride, sulfate, total dissolved solids, and bacteria (*E. coli*). In response to the dissolved mineral impairments, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project for TDS, sulfate, and chloride has been developed that includes increased water quality monitoring of the main stem and select tributary stations. The bacteria impairment will likely be analyzed through a standards-review process called a Recreation Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) in the future. Segment 2204 also has screening level concerns for chlorophyll-*a* which indicates a possible degradation of water quality due to excessive nutrient loadings.

For the receiving water body, Baffin Bay (TCEQ Segment 2492), surface water quality monitoring by TCEQ has identified an exceedance to the screening level for chlorophyll-a (14.1 µg/l) since 2002. In the last decade, water quality issues resulting in the disruptions of food webs, low dissolved oxygen events, fish kills, and excessive growth of phytoplankton indicators including chlorophyll-a have led to an increase in concern and awareness from the public, academia, and governmental agencies. Scientists at the Harte Research Institute (HRI) at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) have determined that the primary causes of the water quality concern are due to excessive nutrients in the bay. Efforts to determine the source of nutrient enrichment have centered on the contributions of surface waters from three main tributaries: Petronila, San Fernando, and Los Olmos creeks, all of which have current quarterly water quality monitoring stations funded by TCEQ's Clean Rivers Program.

To provide further clarity regarding nutrient inputs into the Baffin Bay system, this study presents twelve months of water quality data from thirteen stations. Four stations are located on the main stem and nine are located on the tributaries of the creek. Nutrients analyzed include ammonia, total kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), dissolved total kjeldahl nitrogen (DTKN), total phosphate (TP), nitrate-nitrogen, nitrite-nitrogen, chlorophyll-a, and pheophytin.

Watershed Characteristics

Description - Petronila Creek Above Tidal (TCEQ Segment 2204) is a shallow creek (< 2.0 m depth) that flows 44 miles from the confluence of Aqua Dulce and Banquete creeks in Nueces County Laureles Ranch in Northern Kleberg County. The watershed area is 675 square miles. The receiving water bodies for Segment 2204 include Petronila Creek Tidal Segment (TCEQ Segment 2203), Cayo Del Mazón, Alazan Bay, and Baffin Bay (TCEQ Segment 2492). The study area is located east of US 77 in the southeastern portion of the watershed. Land use is dominated by cultivated cropland with cotton, corn and sorghum being the most common crops observed. The northwestern end of the watershed is a mixture of cultivated cropland, hay or pasture, shrub or scrub and mixed forest. There are nine regulated dischargers of effluent to Petronila Creek and/or the tributaries of the creek (See Appendix B).

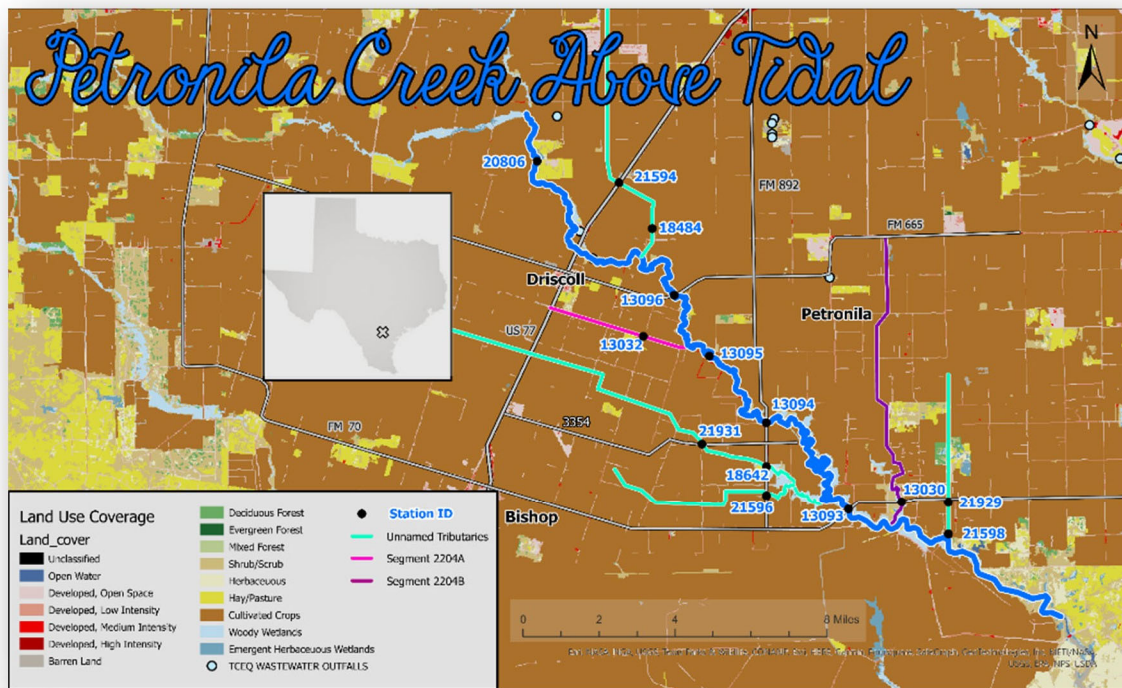


Figure 4. Petronila Creek Watershed

Climate – The climate in the Petronila Creek Watershed is characterized as subtropical, humid, with hard winter freezes that are uncommon but sufficiently frequent to exclude tropical plant species. Rainfall is sparse throughout the year with an average precipitation of 28.98 inches per year.

Locations – Sampling site locations were identified based on the current sampling locations used in the Petronila Creek Above Tidal TMDL sampling project funded by TCEQ for chloride,

sulfate, and total dissolved salts (TDS). There are six tributaries sampled for the project. Three of the tributaries have two sampling stations each including 21594 & 18484, 21931 & 18642, and 21929 & 21598. The other three tributaries (13030, 21596, and 13032) are monitored by a single sampling site. Four stations (13093, 13094, 13095, and 13096) are located on the main stem of the creek.

Hydrological - Streamflow is typically very low in the segment, often measuring between 0.5 and 3.0 ft³/s during dry weather on the main stem of the creek. Streamflow is measured by a USGS stream gauge located on FM 665. This location also serves Station 13096, the uppermost sampling location on the main stem of the creek. Station 13096 is also closest in proximity to the Driscoll WWTP (WQ0011541-001 – City of Driscoll: <100,000 gpd treated domestic wastewater via Petronila Creek). Streamflow at the tributary locations is estimated due to low flow conditions that are of insufficient depth (< 0.05 m) for the operation of a flow meter. A map of sampling stations is provided.

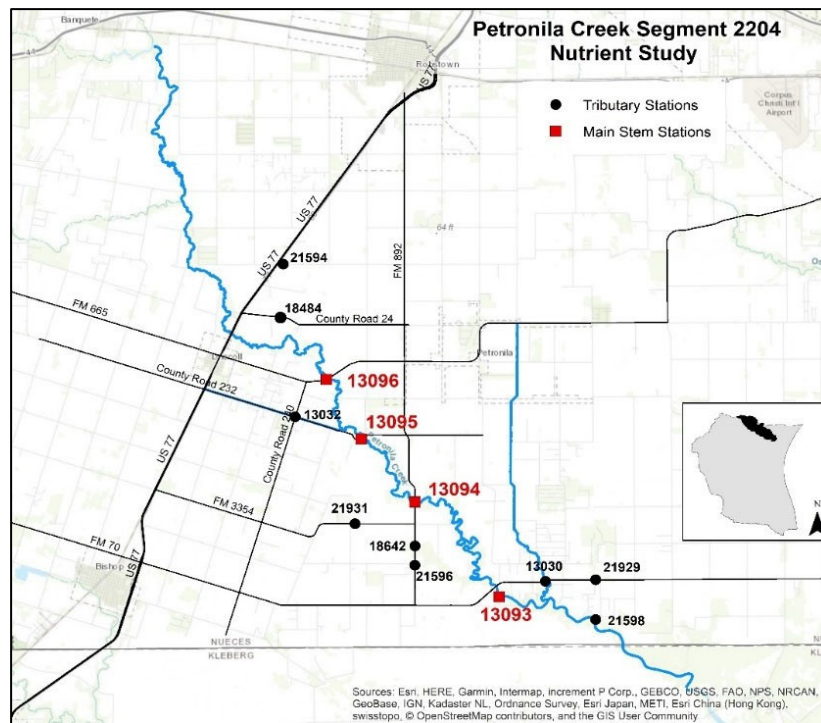


Figure 5. Map of sampling stations in Petronila Creek Above Tidal Segment 2204

Meteorological data – During monthly site visits at each station, NRA field staff recorded meteorological information including air temperature, wind direction, wind velocity and precipitation data including days since last precipitation, amount of precipitation in the past day and past seven days. Monthly precipitation data was provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) using the link provided: <https://www.weather.gov/crp/monthlyrainfall>

Sample collection – Surface water quality data including field and laboratory data were collected monthly from September 2021 through August 2022 at four sampling stations on the main stem of the creek and at nine sampling stations on the tributaries. At each sampling location, field data including water appearance/odor, water depth, water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and specific conductance were obtained using a Hydrolab MS5 datasonde following sampling guidelines found in TCEQs Surface Water Quality Manual Procedures (SWQM) Procedures, Volume 2 (RG-416). The datasonde was calibrated before each sampling event and post calibrated immediately after returning from the field. Water samples were taken from the centroid of flow (point of maximum flow) at each station using a sample dipper that was pre-rinsed with site sample water. Many of the stations had accessibility issues which required sampling from the bridge top by lowering a 1-gallon bucket into the stream. During high flow, samples were taken from the bridge-top at all but one station (21958) where there was no bridge. During low flow conditions, all stations but one, had sampling depths less than 0.3 m which required a sampling depth of half the total depth. Station 13093 had water deep enough (1.6 m) to require a profile of datasonde readings at 0.3 m below the water surface, at mid depth, and at 0.3 m above the bottom of the water column. Surface water quality samples were collected, preserved with acid when applicable and stored on ice and delivered to the laboratories that afternoon for analysis.

Sample Analysis – Surface water samples were collected and analyzed for nutrient components by two laboratories. Nutrient samples including ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, TKN, dissolved TKN and total phosphorus were analyzed by the City of Corpus Christi Water Utilities Lab (WUL). All analytes were analyzed by the WUL using National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) accredited methods. Chlorophyll-a and pheophytin samples were analyzed at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Department of Physical and Environmental Science (PENS). NELAP accreditation for chlorophyll-a and pheophytin parameters are not required.

Results

Precipitation- Precipitation totals from January 2020 through July 2023 totaled approximately 100.06 inches according to NOAA estimates. For 2020, June had the highest rainfall total at approximately 6.55 inches. Then in 2021, the highest rainfall total was reported in May at approximately 12.46 inches. In 2022, August reported the highest rainfall at approximately 8.00 inches. Lastly 2023, April has the most rainfall with that month at approximately 6.88 inches. Precipitation amounts in August 2023 were not used in this report due to the final sample collection date of August 1st, 2023.

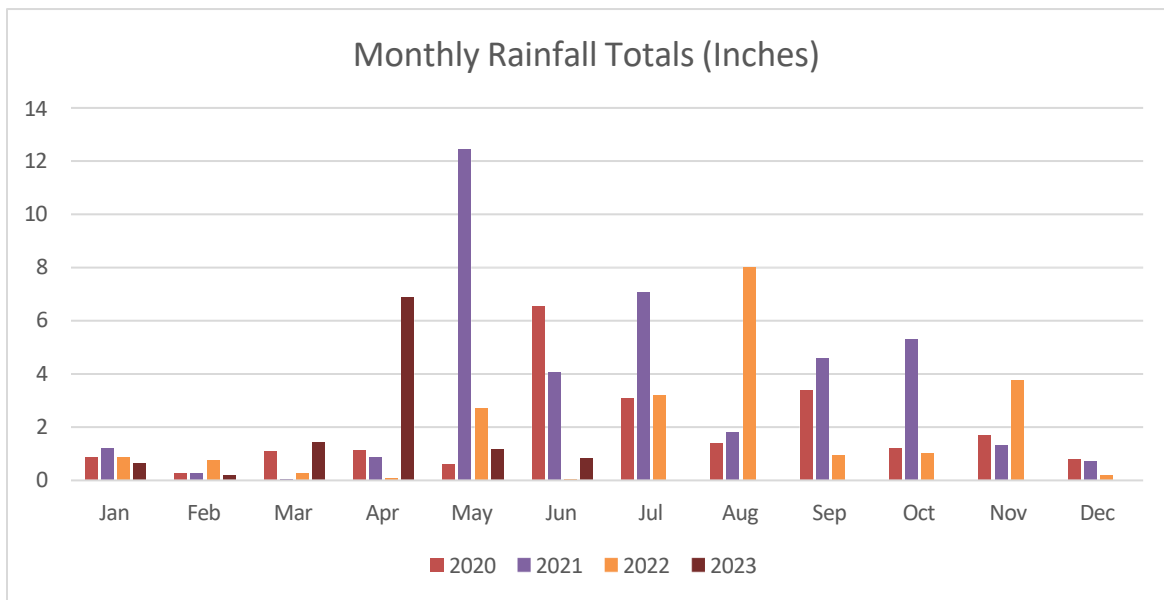


Figure 6. Monthly rainfall totals for January 2020 through July 2023.

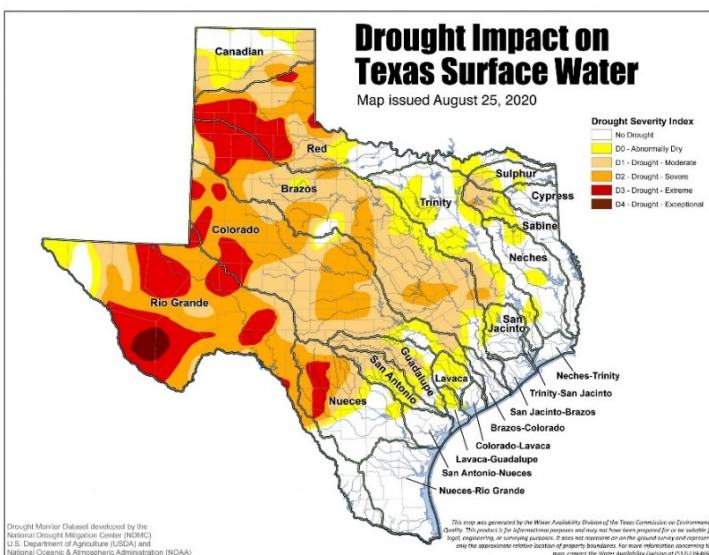


Figure 7. Drought status in August 2020

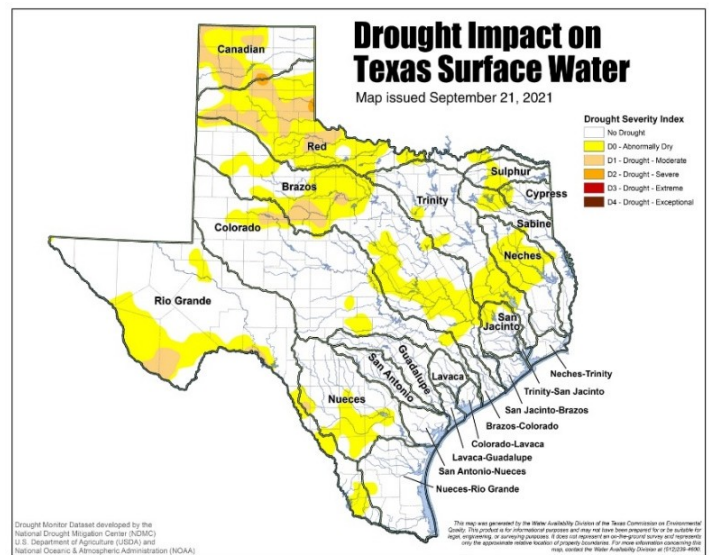


Figure 8. Drought status in September 2021

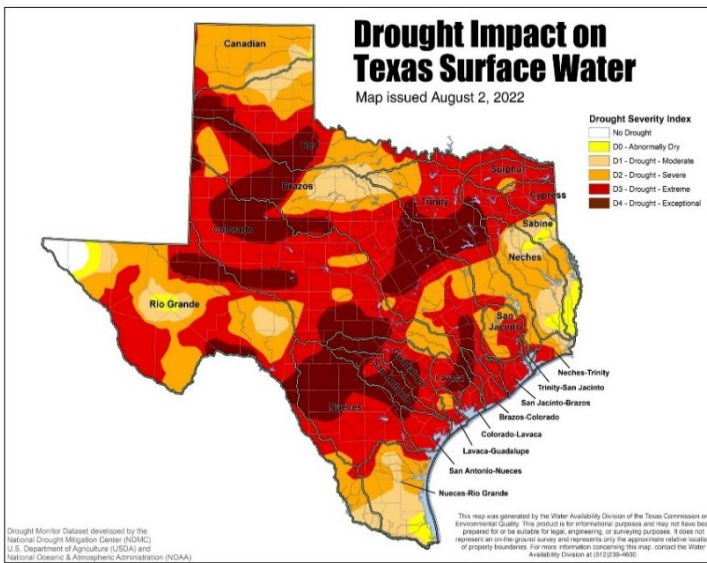


Figure 9. Drought status in August 2022

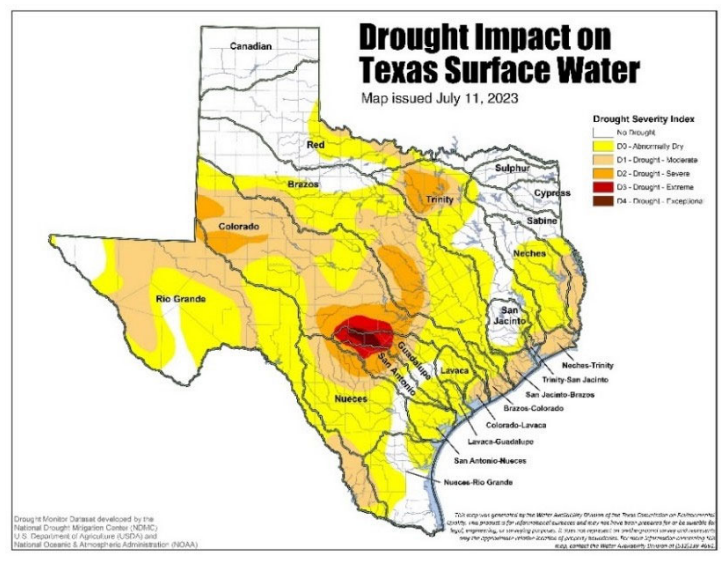


Figure 10. Drought status in July 2023

Streamflow – The Petronila Creek watershed experienced multiple precipitation events throughout the study period. In 2020, the highest precipitation event resulting in streamflow rates spiking to approximately 316 ft³/sec in late June. During 2021, there were quite a few heavy precipitation events occurring between late May and early July. The highest stream flow for 2021 occurred during early July resulting in stream flow rate spiking to approximately 1,980 ft³/sec. For 2022, the highest precipitation event occurred during Early November resulting in streamflow spiking to approximately 858 ft³/sec. In 2023, so far there have been three precipitations events that have occurred between Jan 2023 and July 2023. The first resulted in a spike to approximately 480 ft³/sec and then the second one had a rate of approximately 1450 ft³/sec. Then lastly the third precipitation event had a discharge rate of approximately 260 ft³/sec.

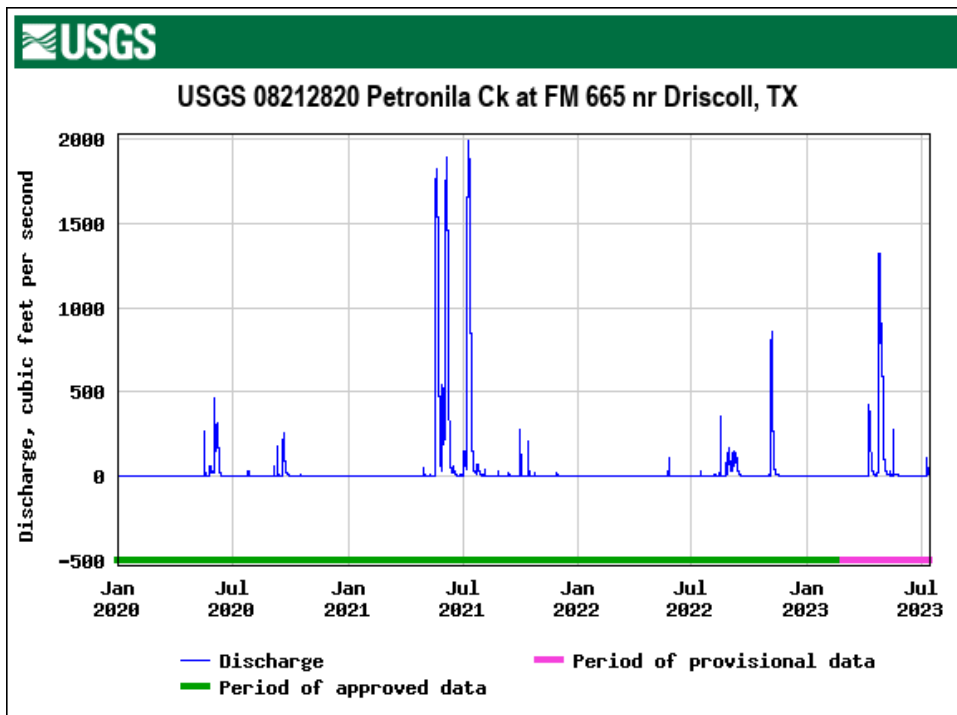
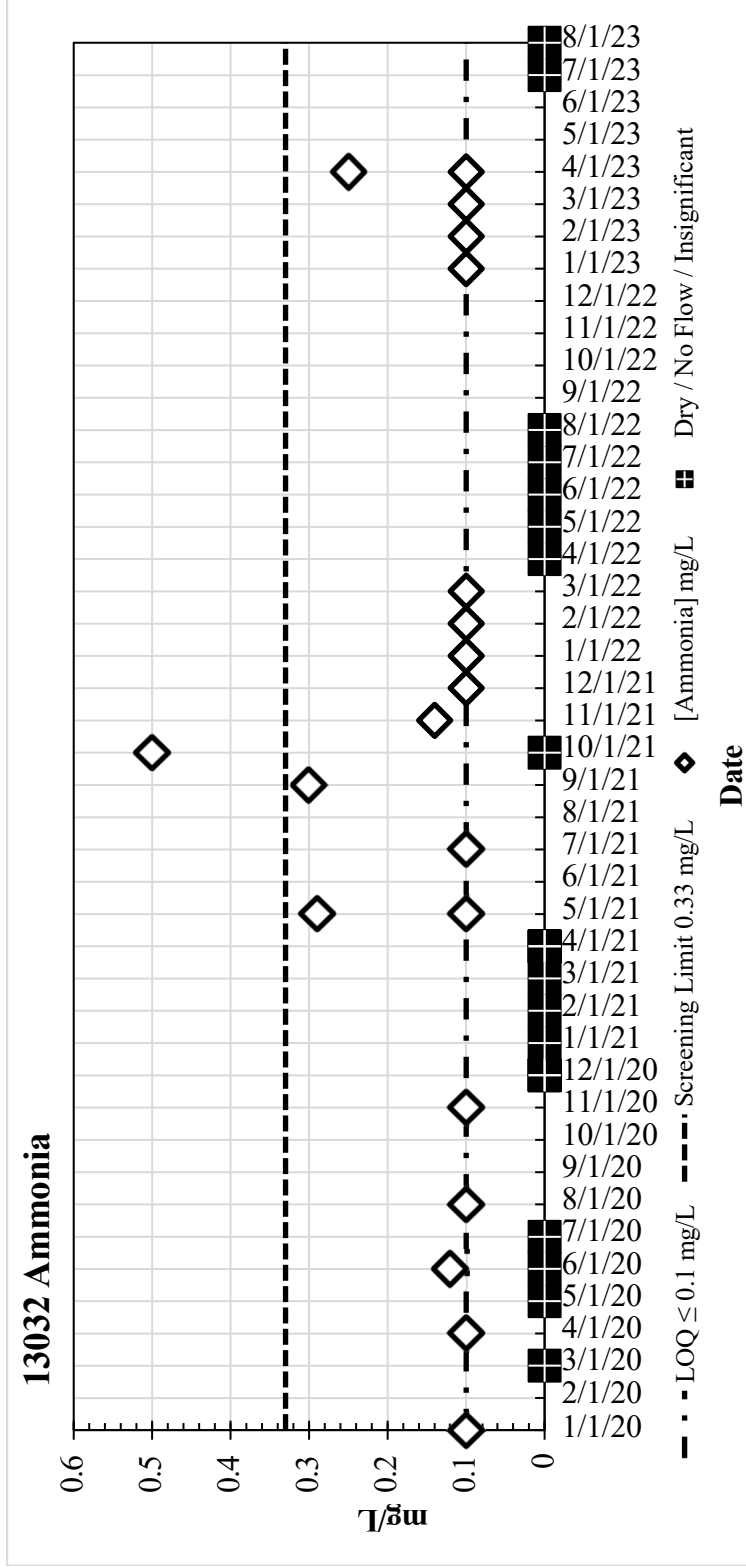
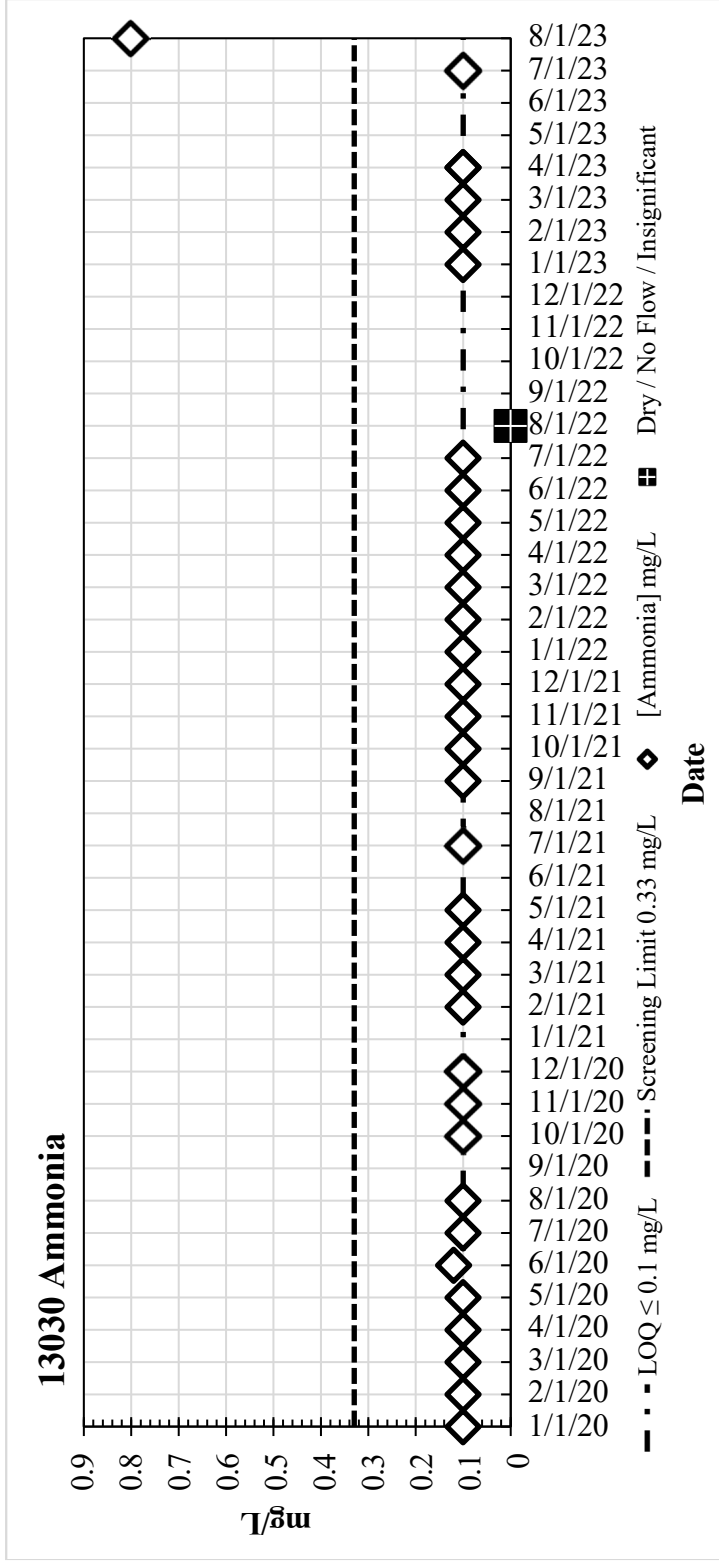


Figure 9. Streamflow at Petronila Creek Above Tidal

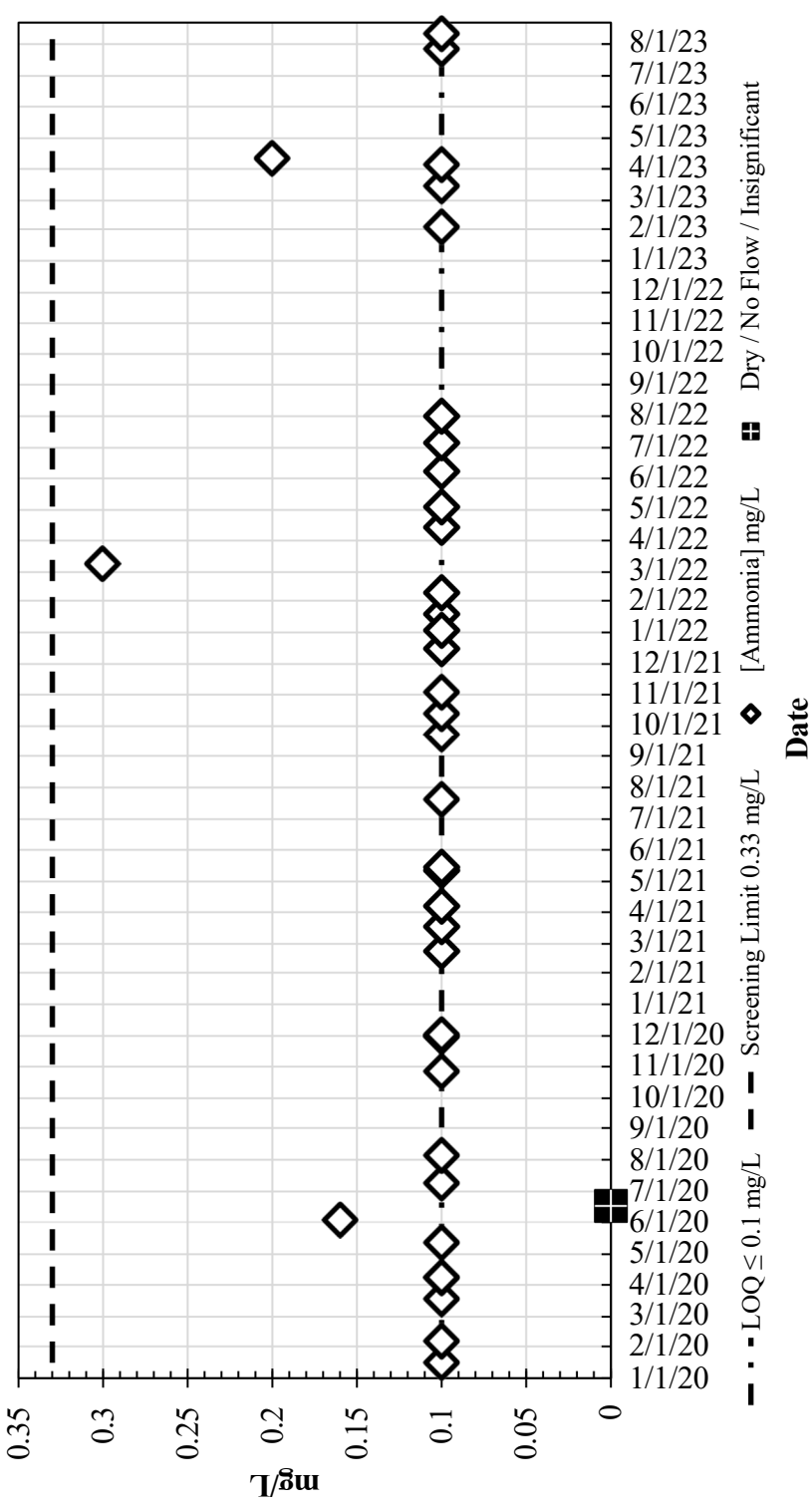
Water Quality Monitoring – Monitoring data for Project #2333 occurred from September 2022 and ended on August 1, 2023. Precipitation and streamflow data from August 2023 are not used in this report. All sampling occurred under base flow conditions with none being conducted during high flow events up until April 2023. Three sites recorded a high flow rate during that month being stations 103093, 13095, and 13094. These high flow stations are located on the Petronila Creek while the other sites that recorded low flow are located on the tributaries to Petronila. Over the duration of sampling station 21931 has been consistently dry during this study only having discharge during high flow events. Throughout the sampling study seven sampling stations would go between dry/non flowing and flowing events. Those stations are 21929, 13030, 21956, 18642, 21931, 13032, and 21594.

During the time August 2022 through December 2023 no sampling events occurred due to changes at the lab conducting chlorophyll-a and pheophytin analysis, which required an amendment to the QAPP. This has caused the gap in the data; however, sampling did resume in the month of January 2023. Then due to personnel changes at the Nueces River Authority (Sam Sugarek, Principal Investigator (PI) no longer working with Nueces River Authority (NRA)), an amendment to the QAPP was required and work was halted until new NRA project personnel were identified and the amendment to the QAPP was approved by TCEQ and EPA. The Amendment to the QAPP was submitted to TCEQ on May 16, 2023 for signature. TCEQ then sent the partially signed QAPP to EPA for approval on May 18, 2023. Email confirmation was received from the EPA on June 23rd stating that the amendment was approved, and work could be resumed.

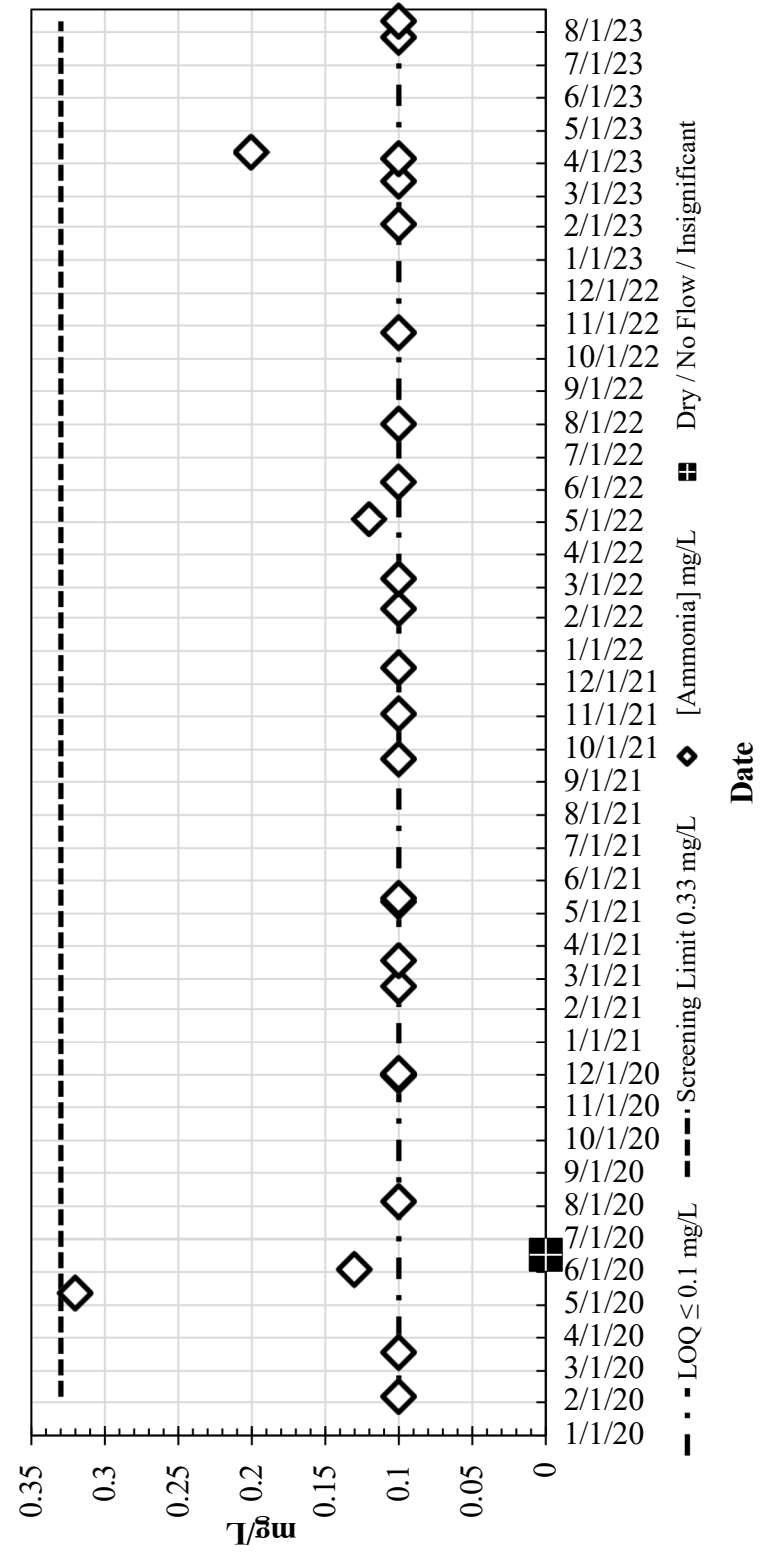
Data Results for Nutrients

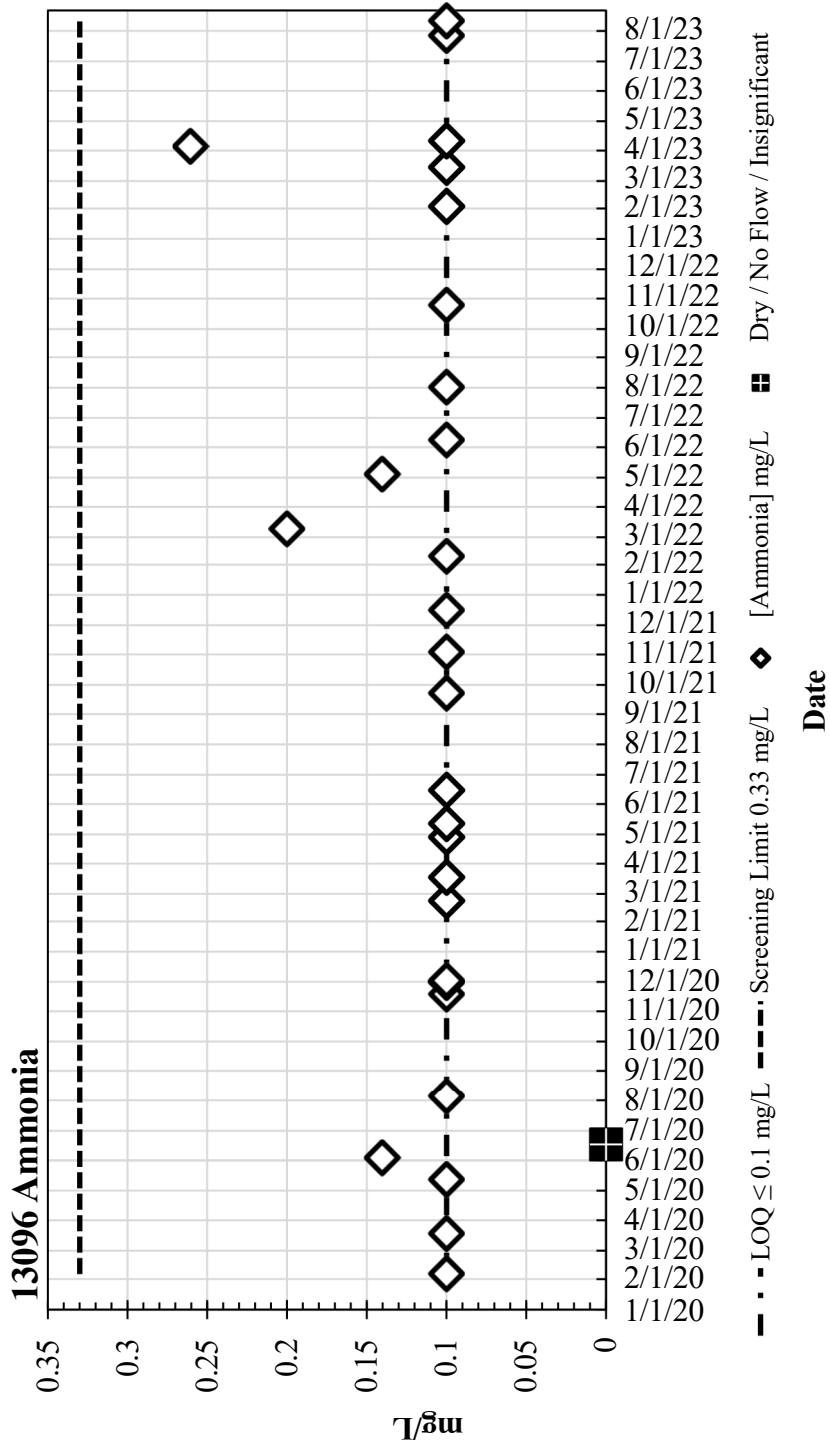
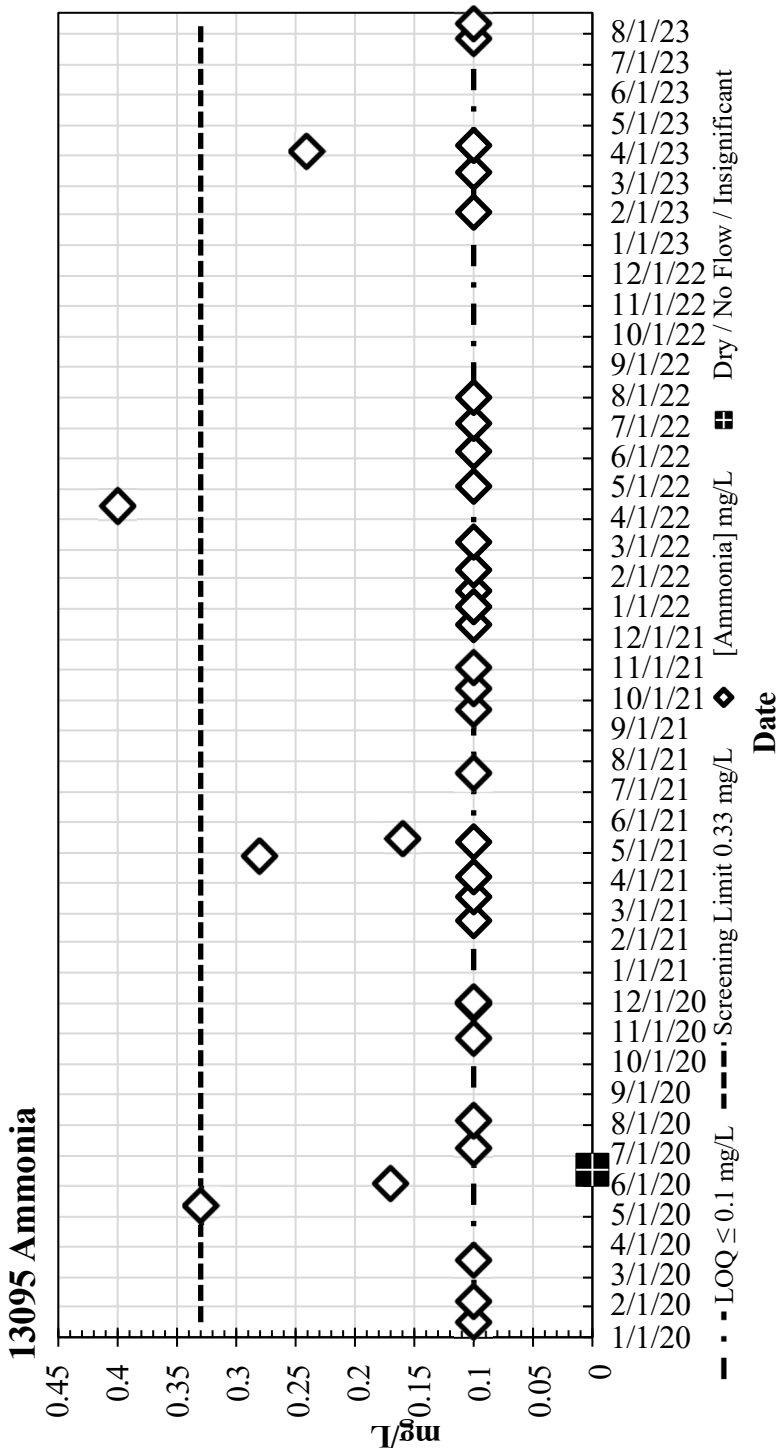


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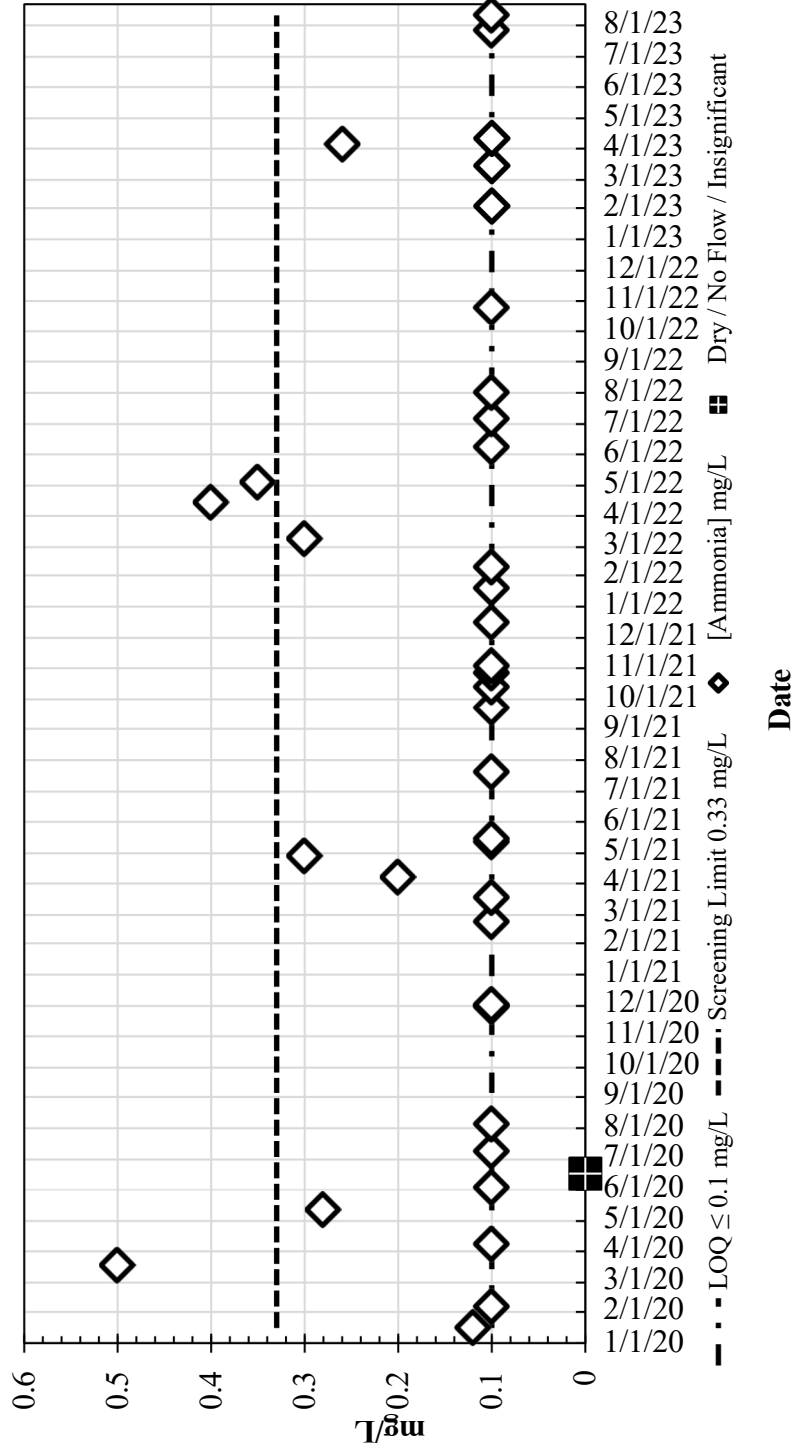


13094 Ammonia

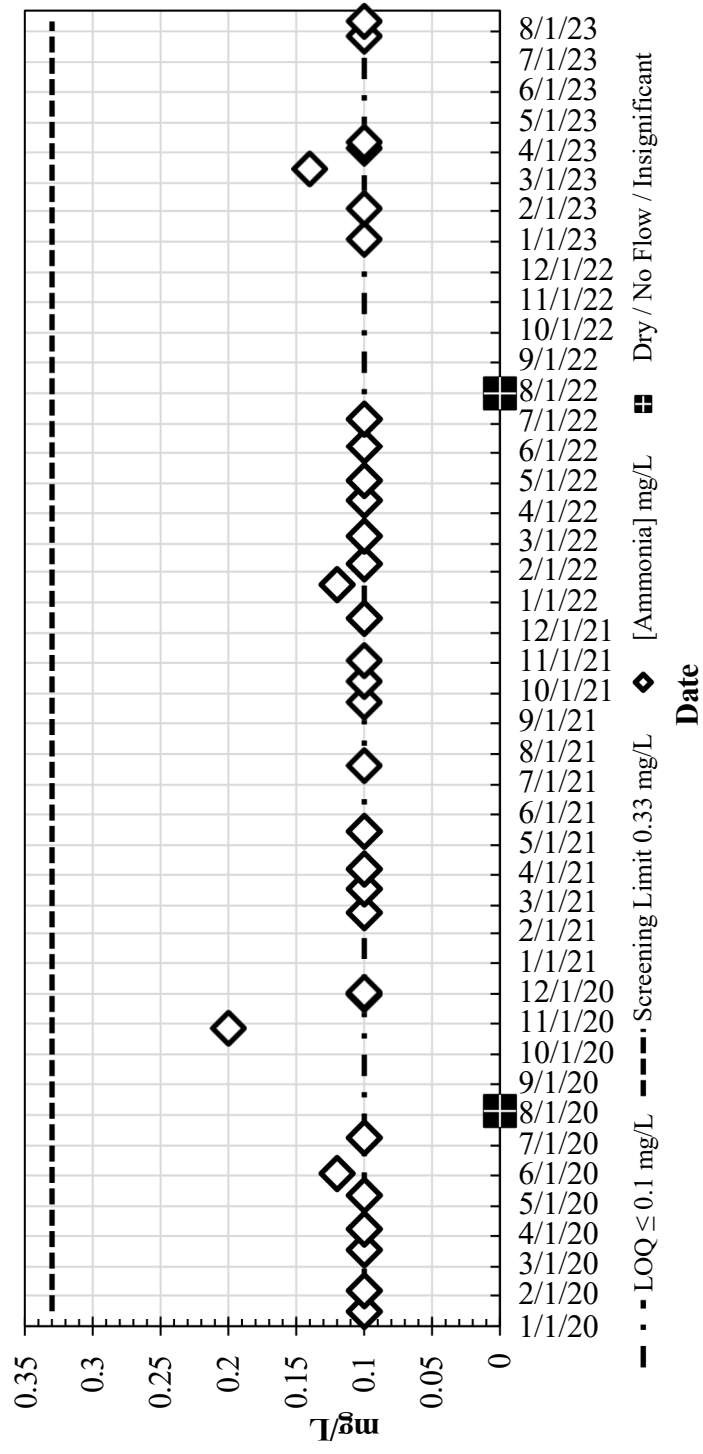




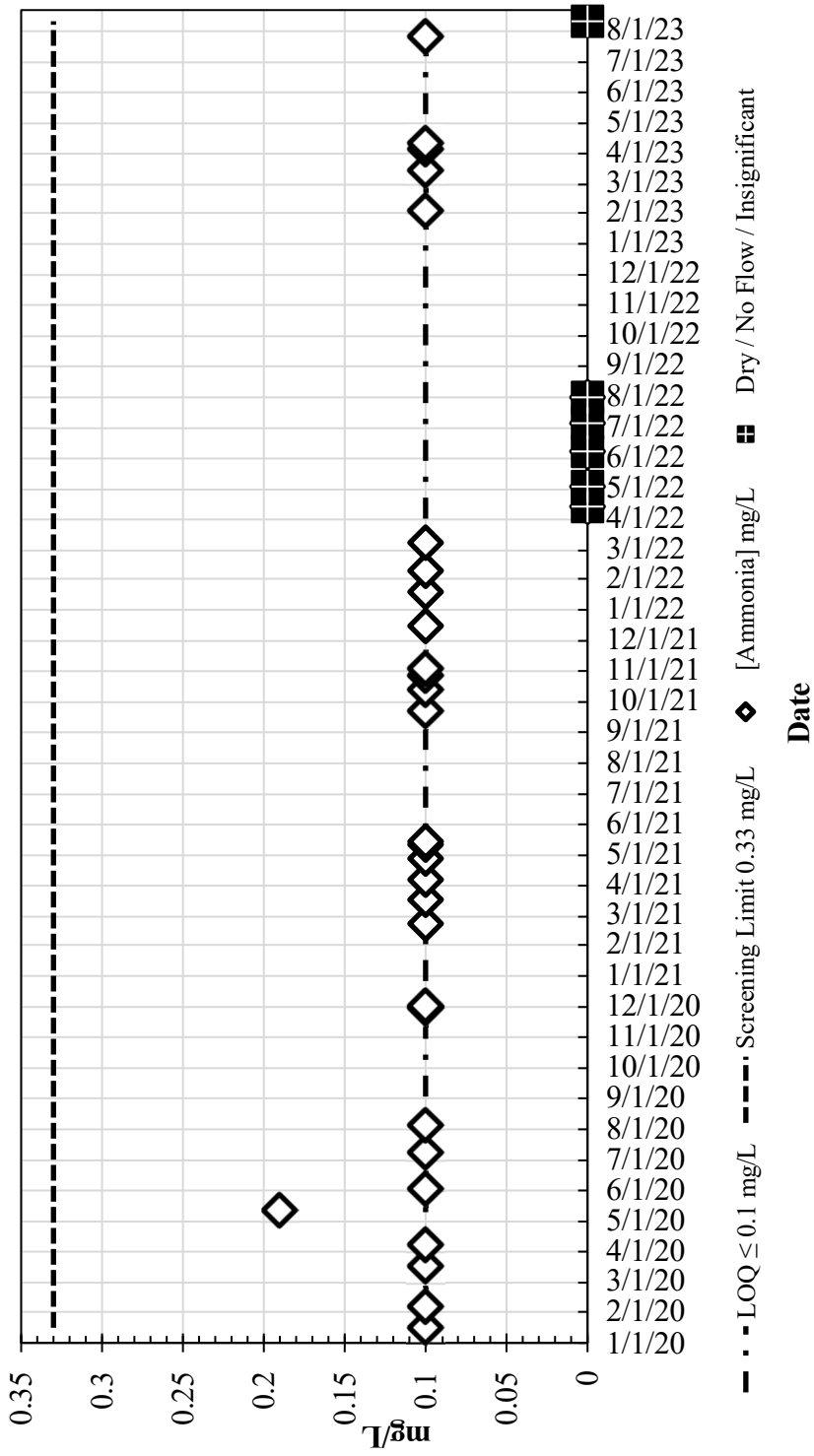
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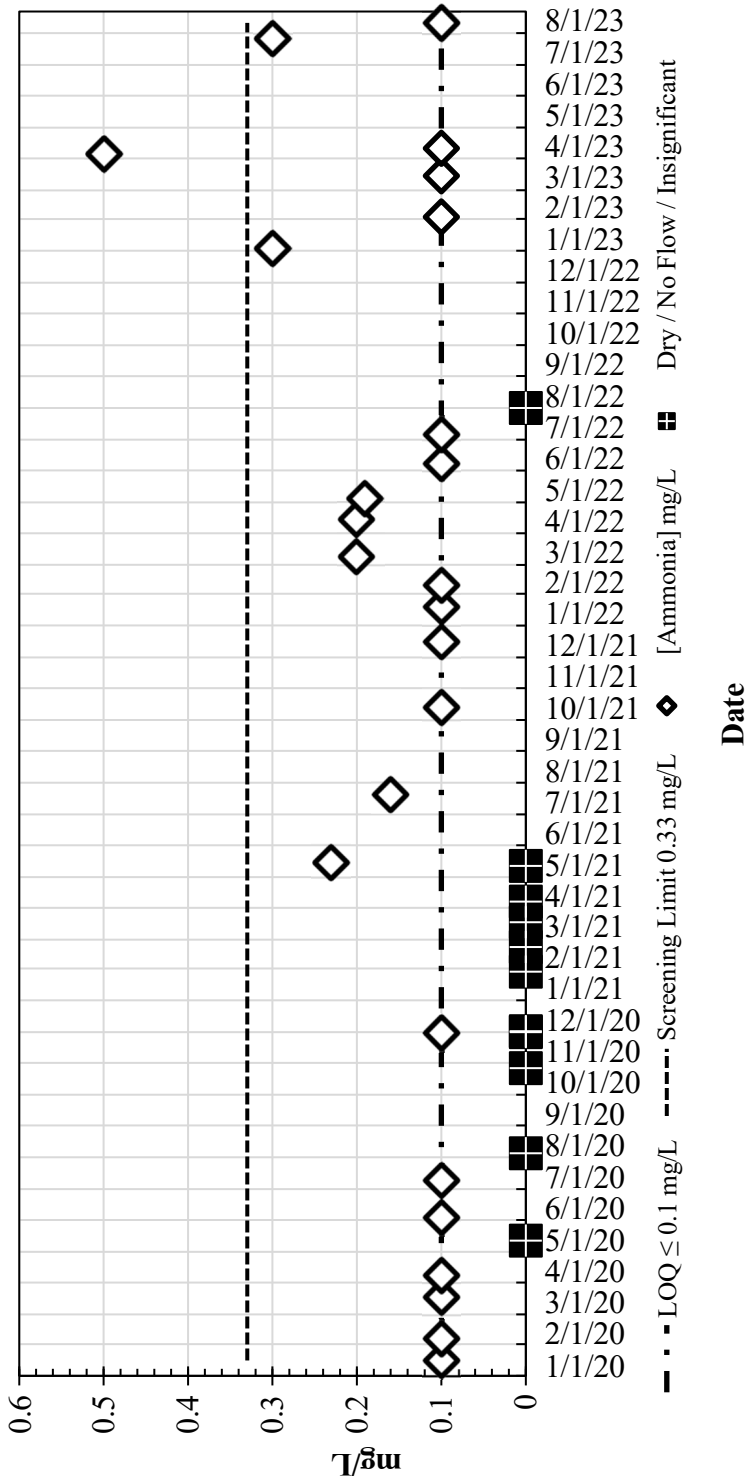
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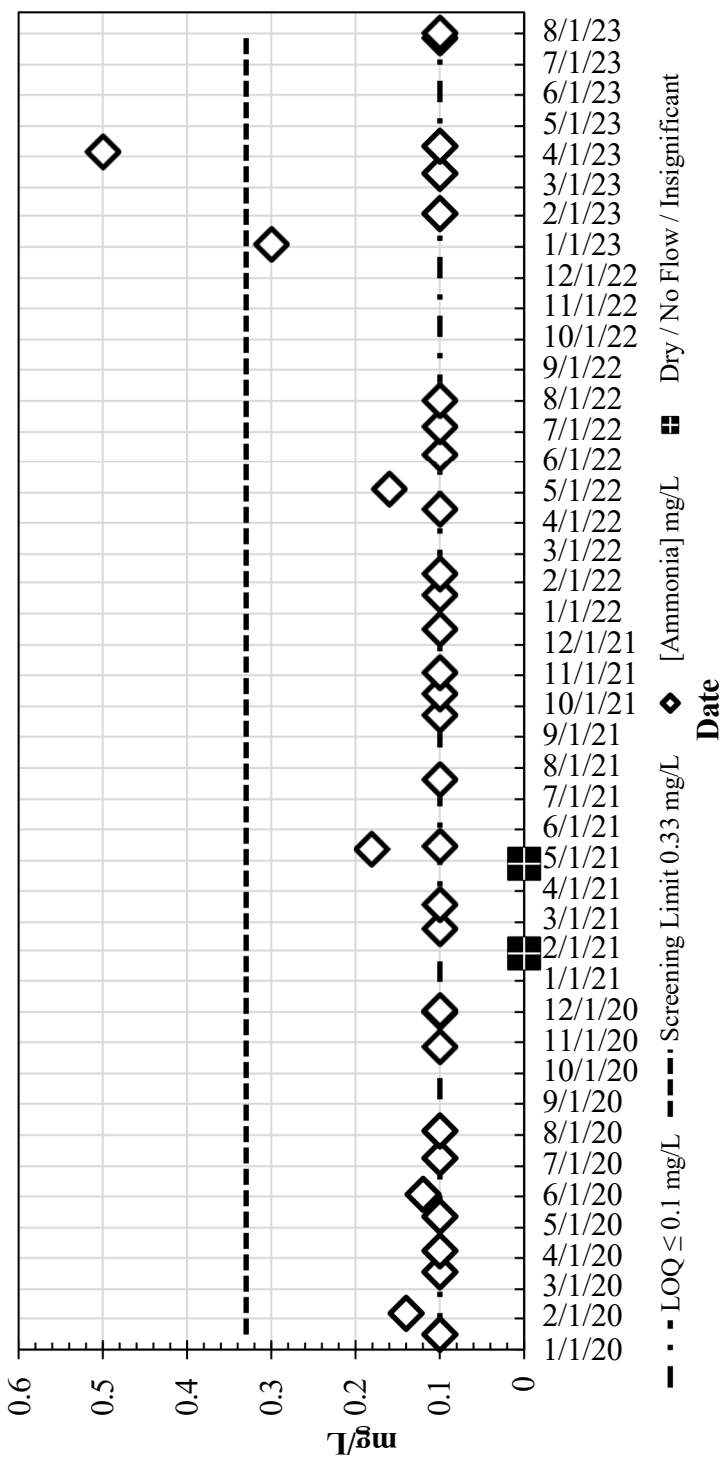
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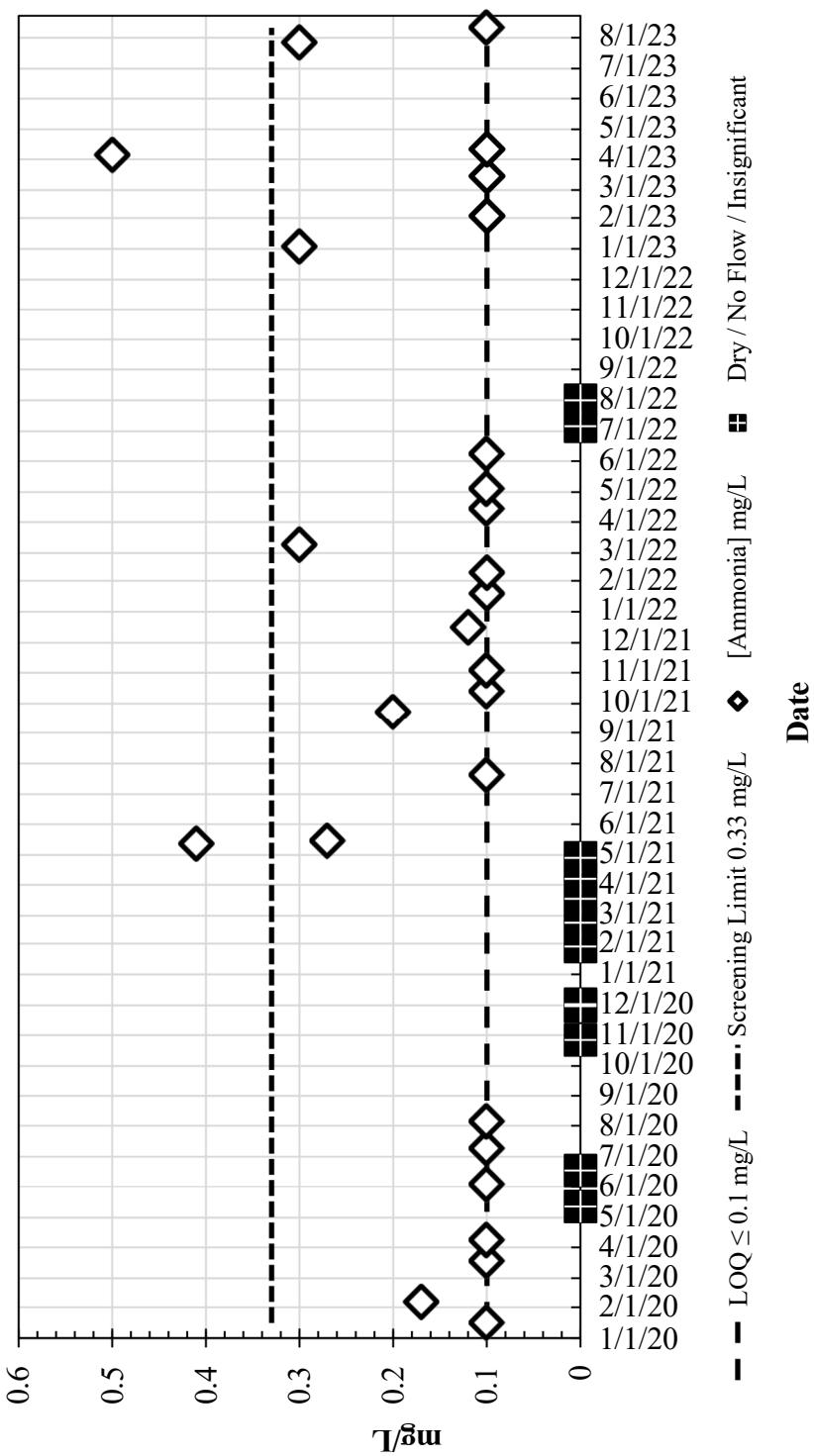
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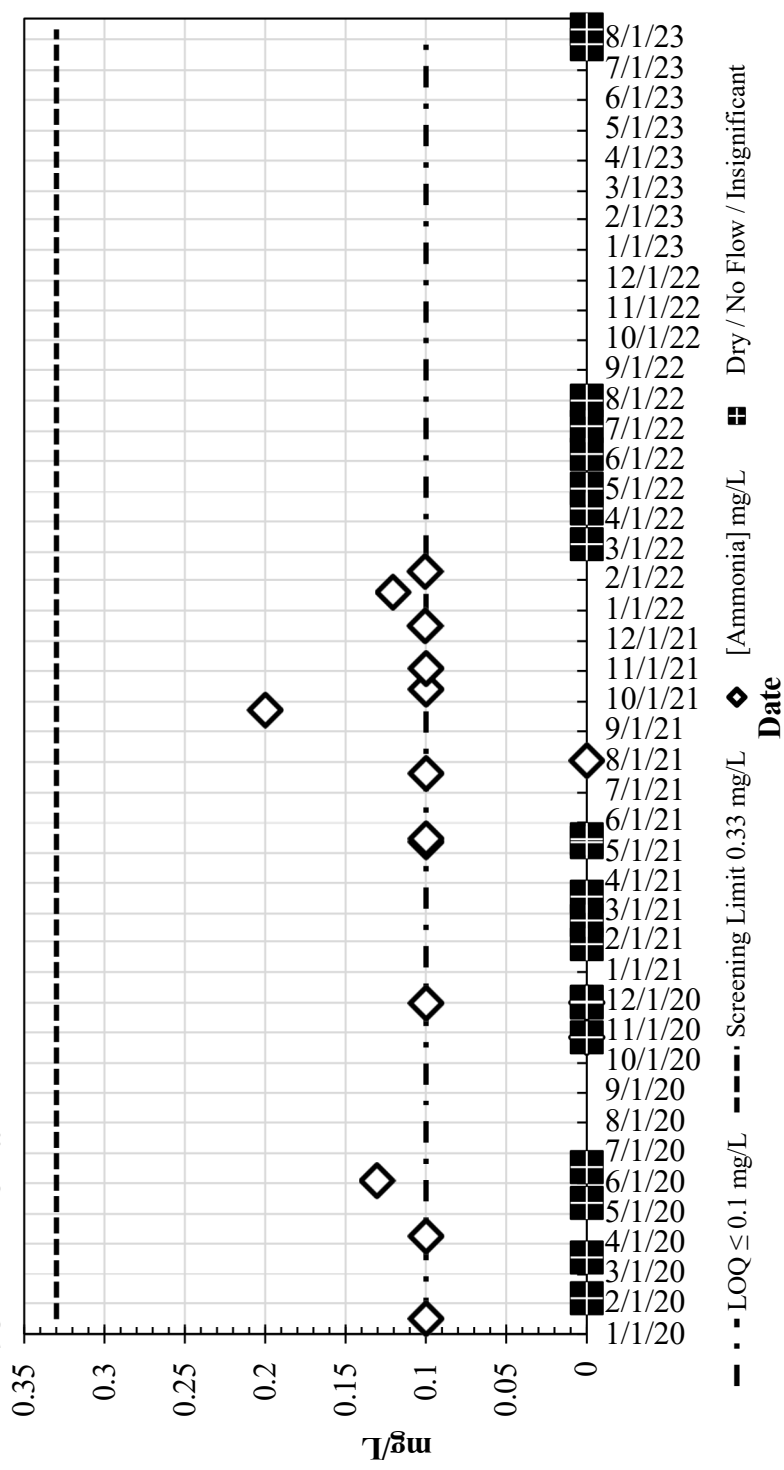
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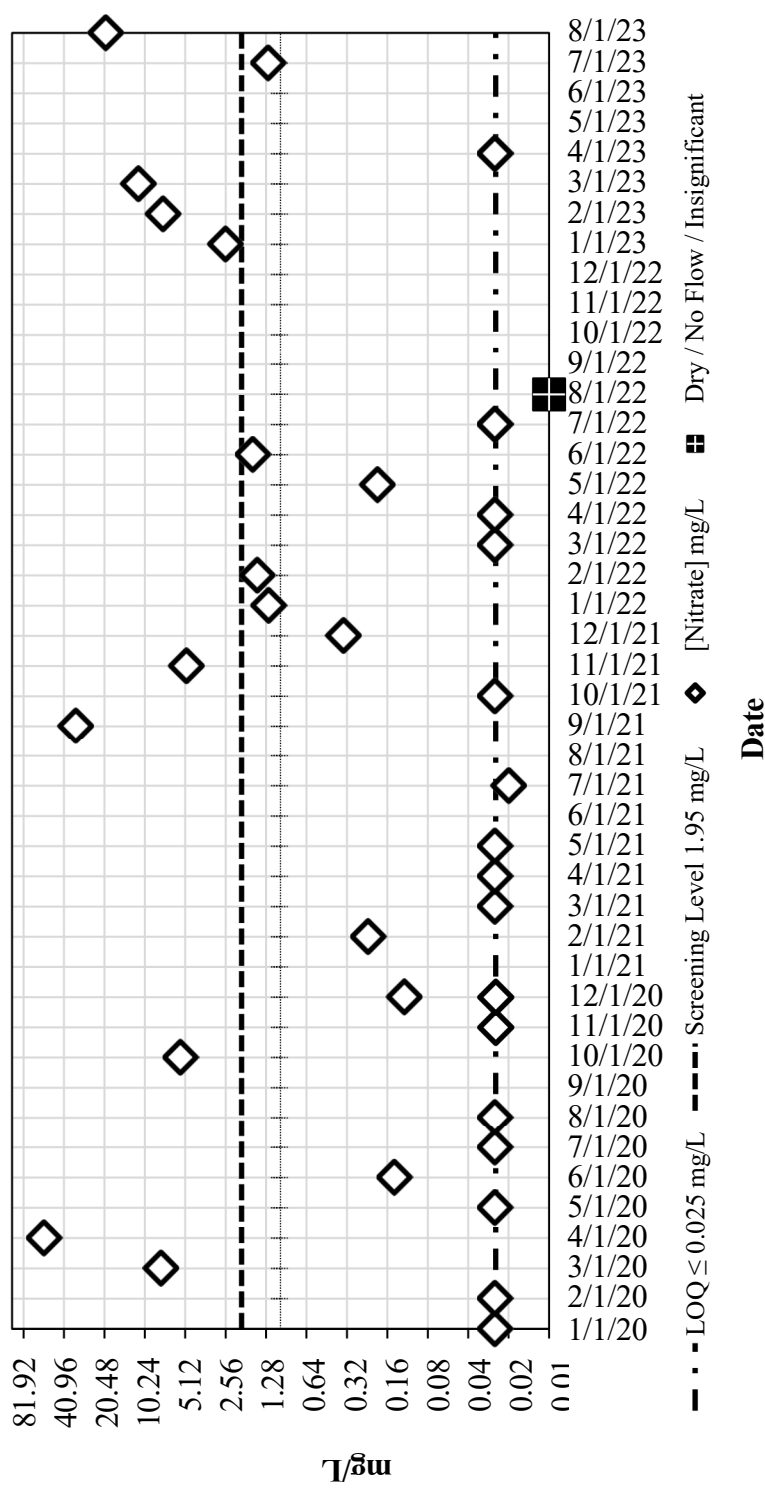
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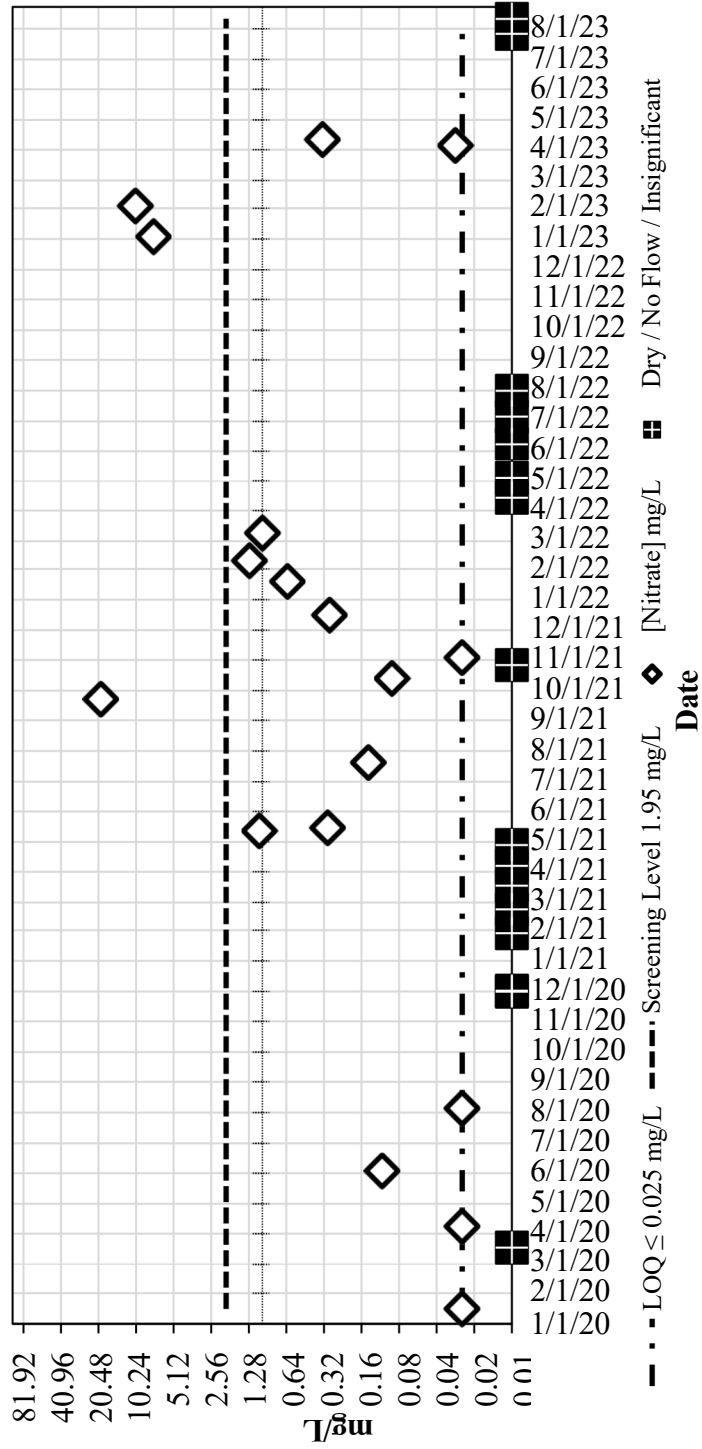
21931 Ammonia



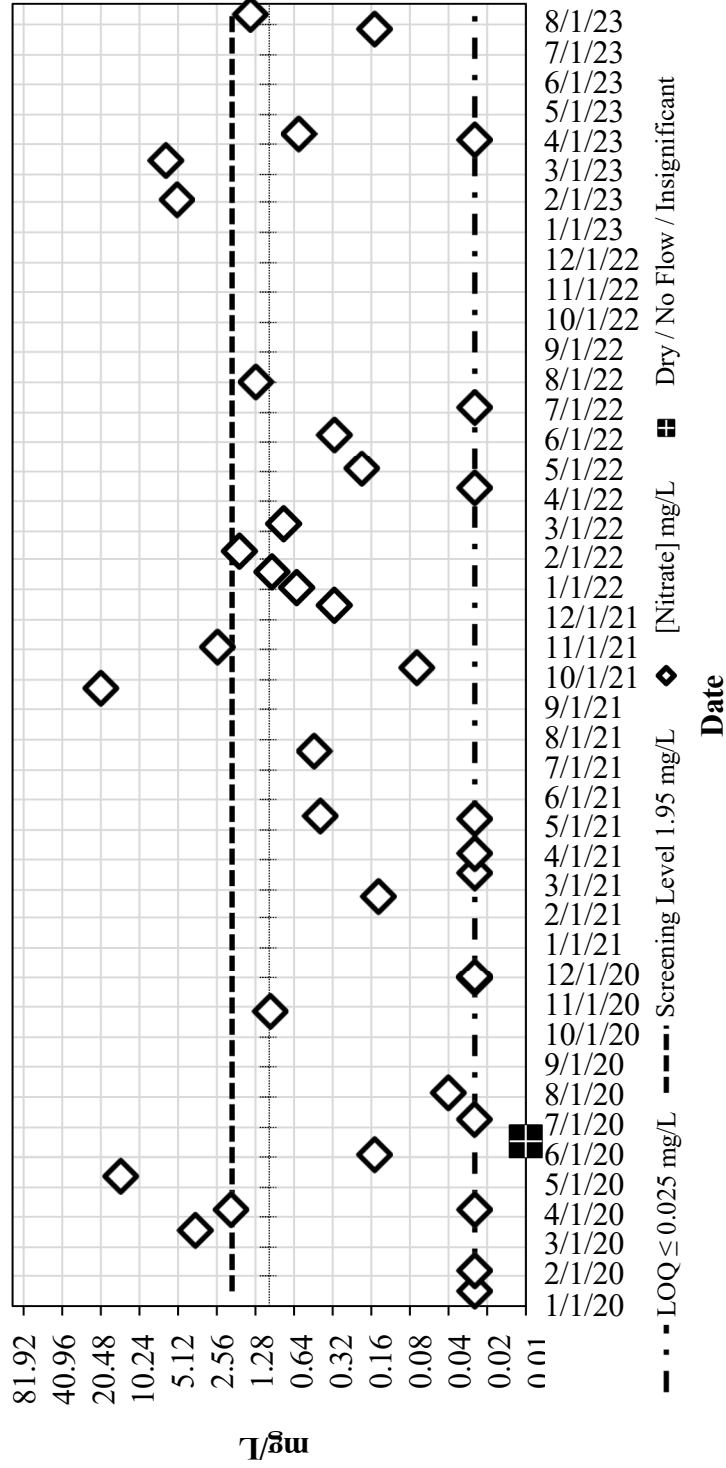
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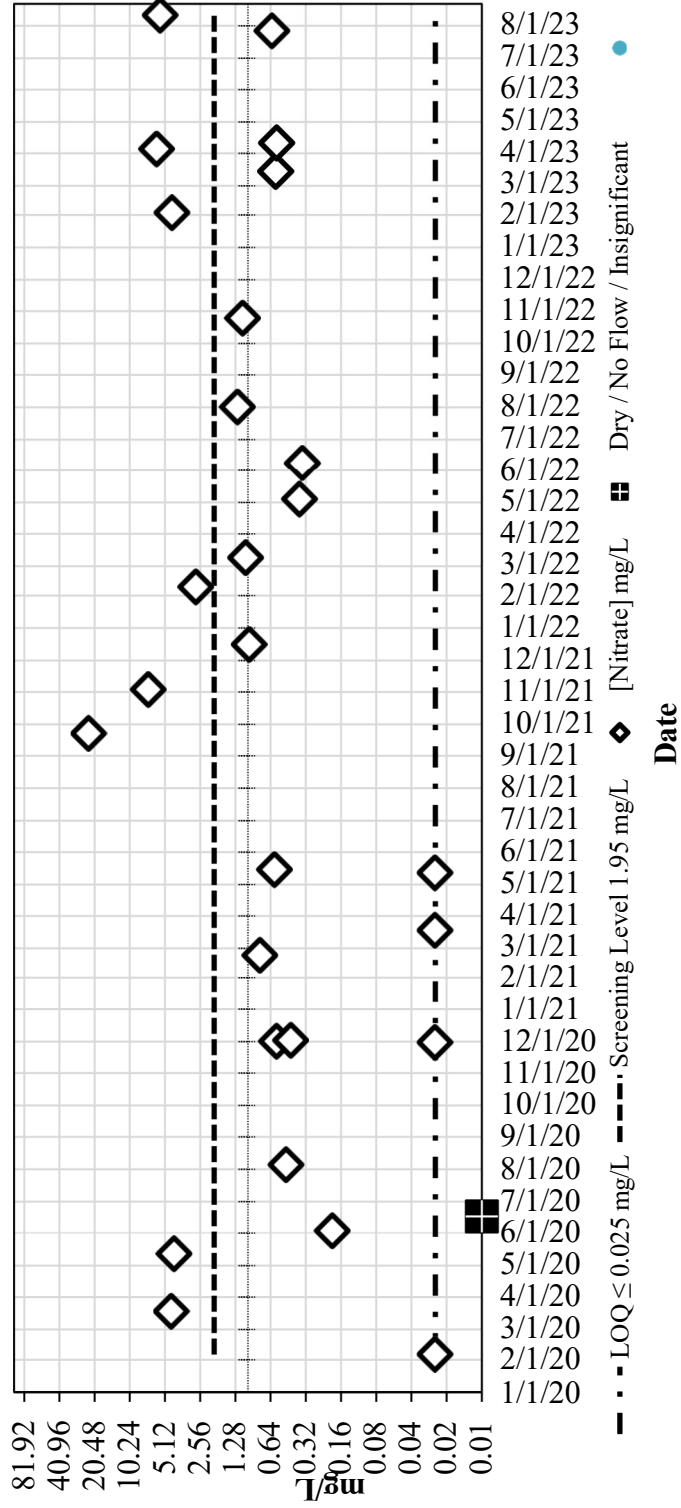
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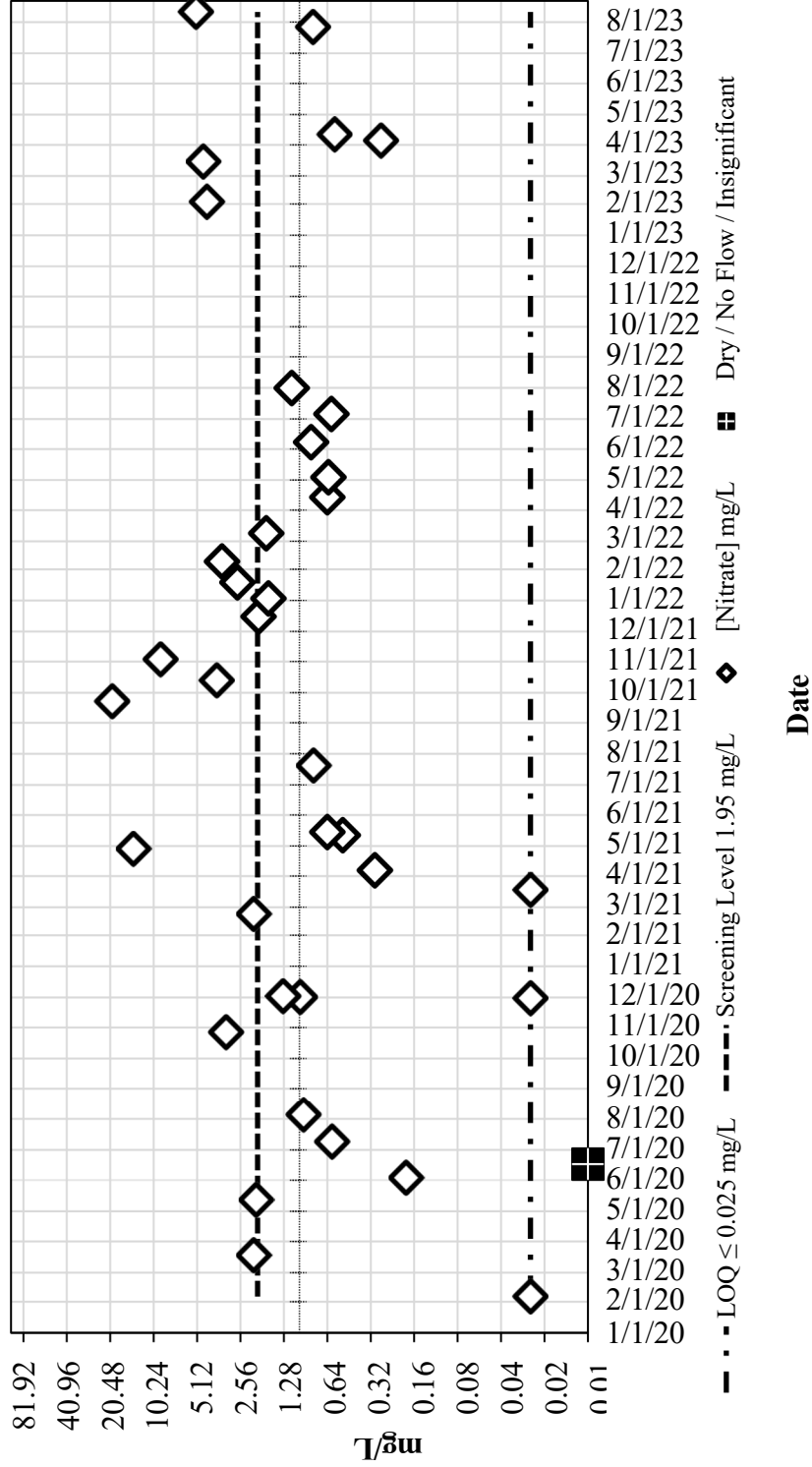
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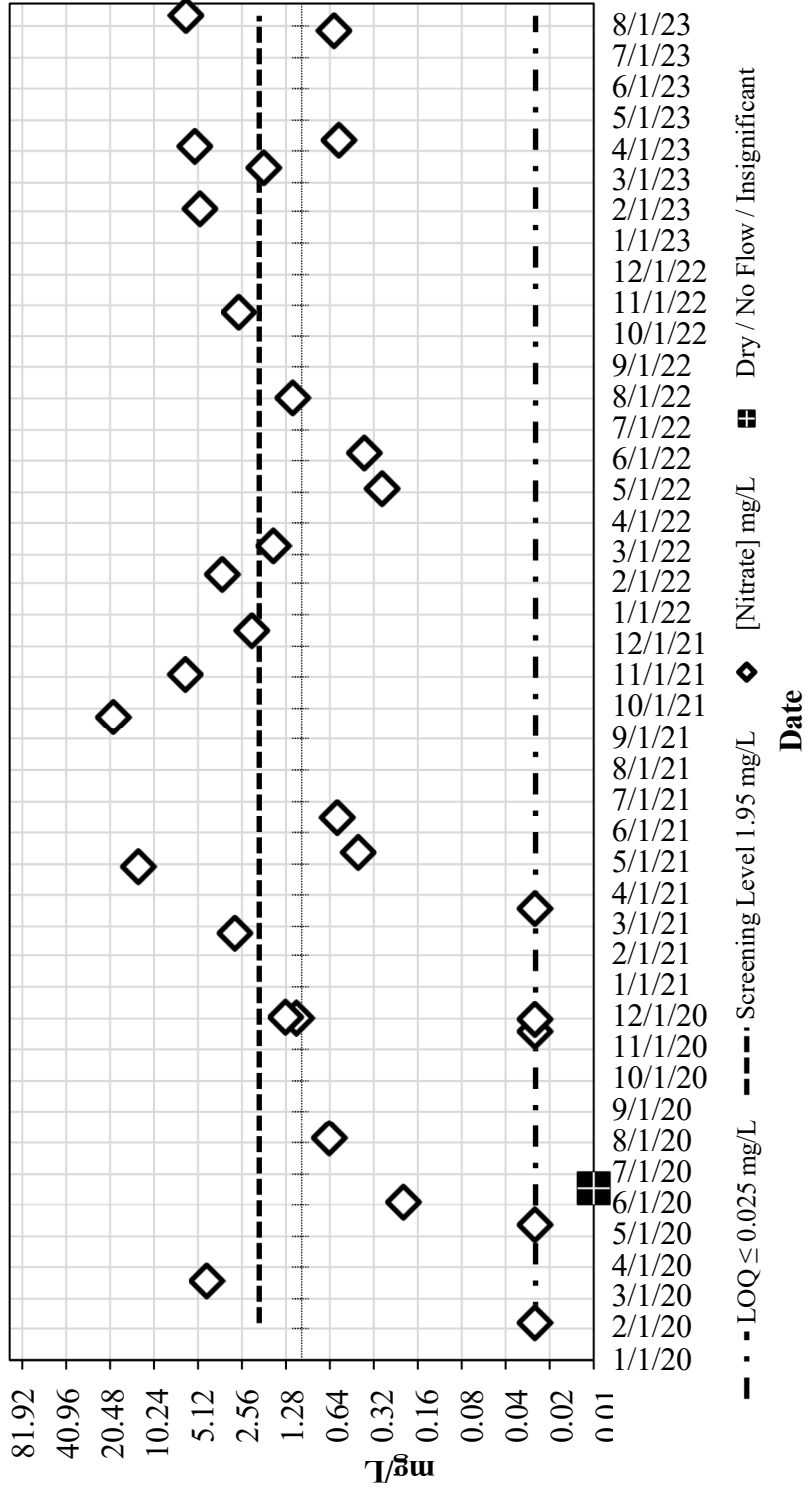
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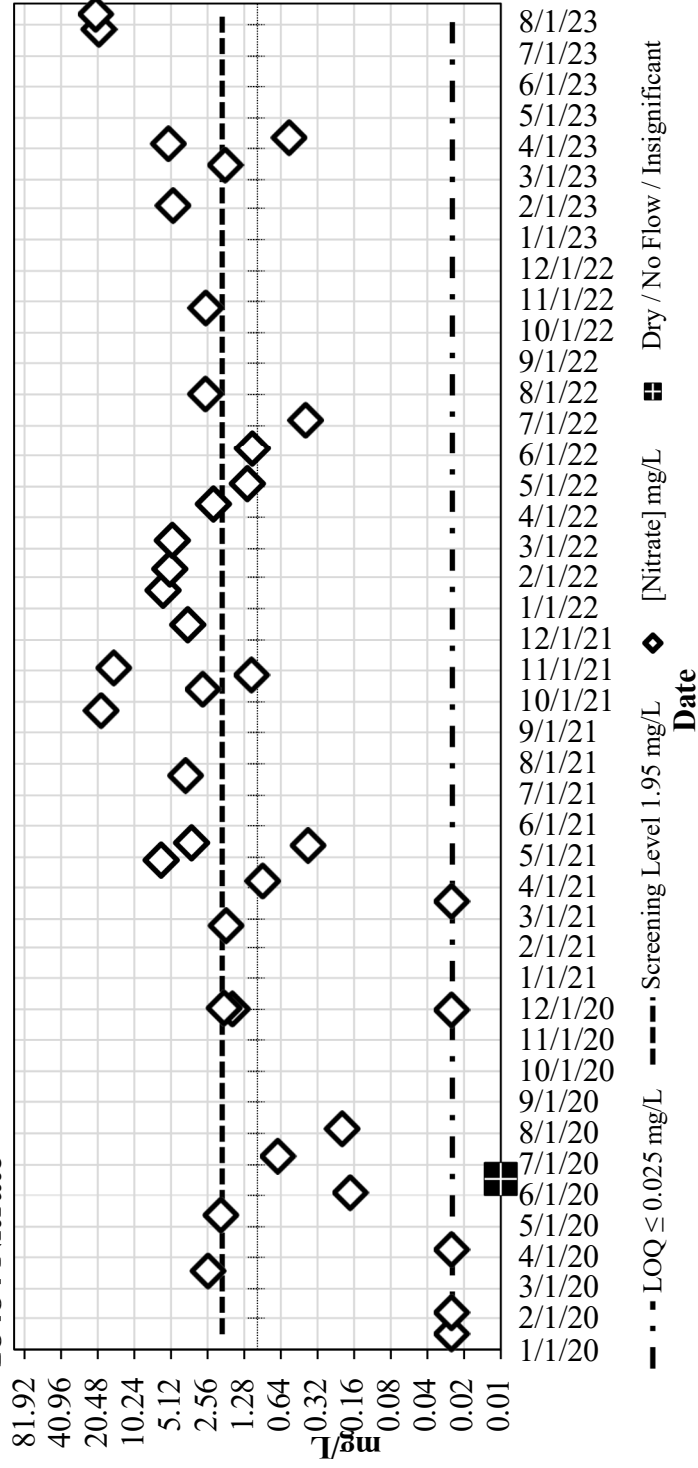
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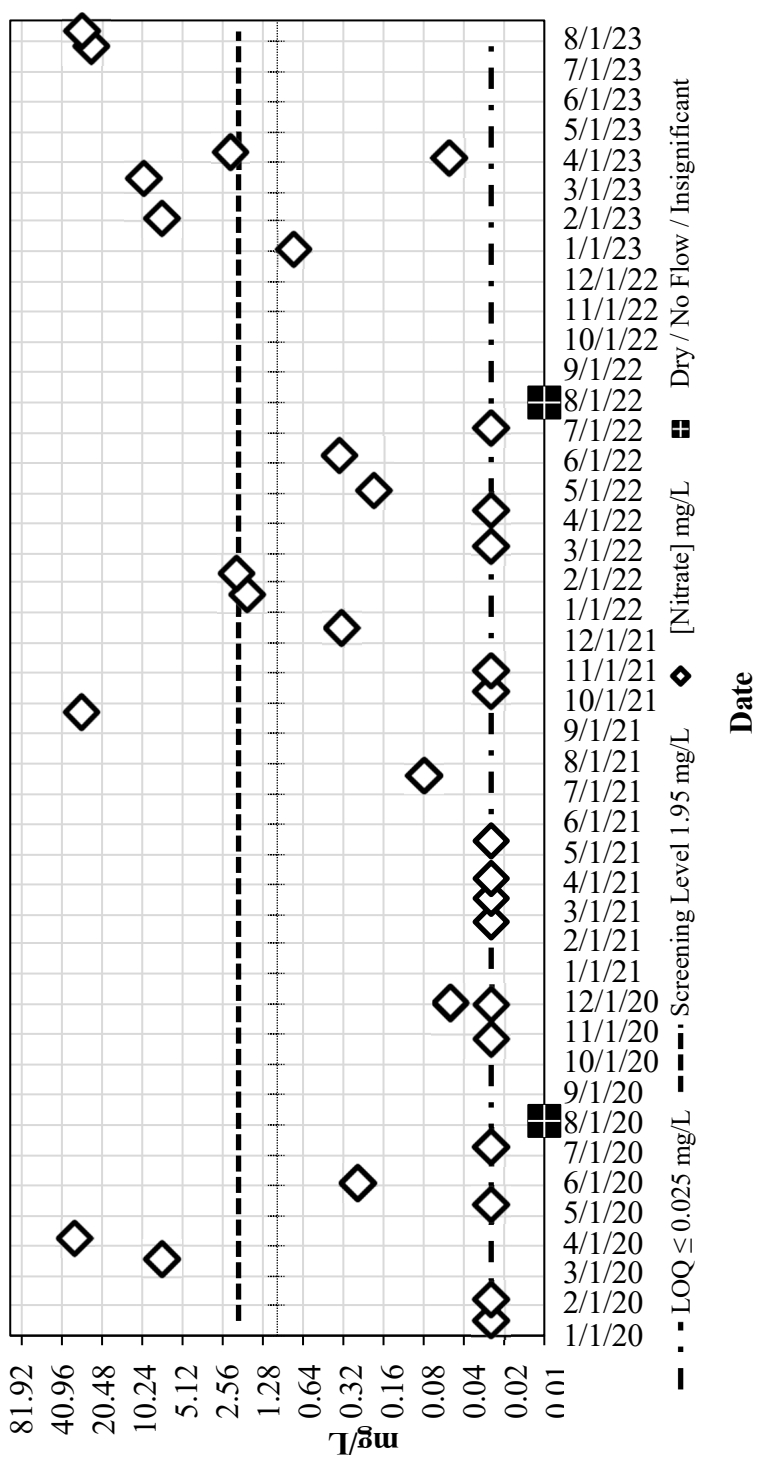
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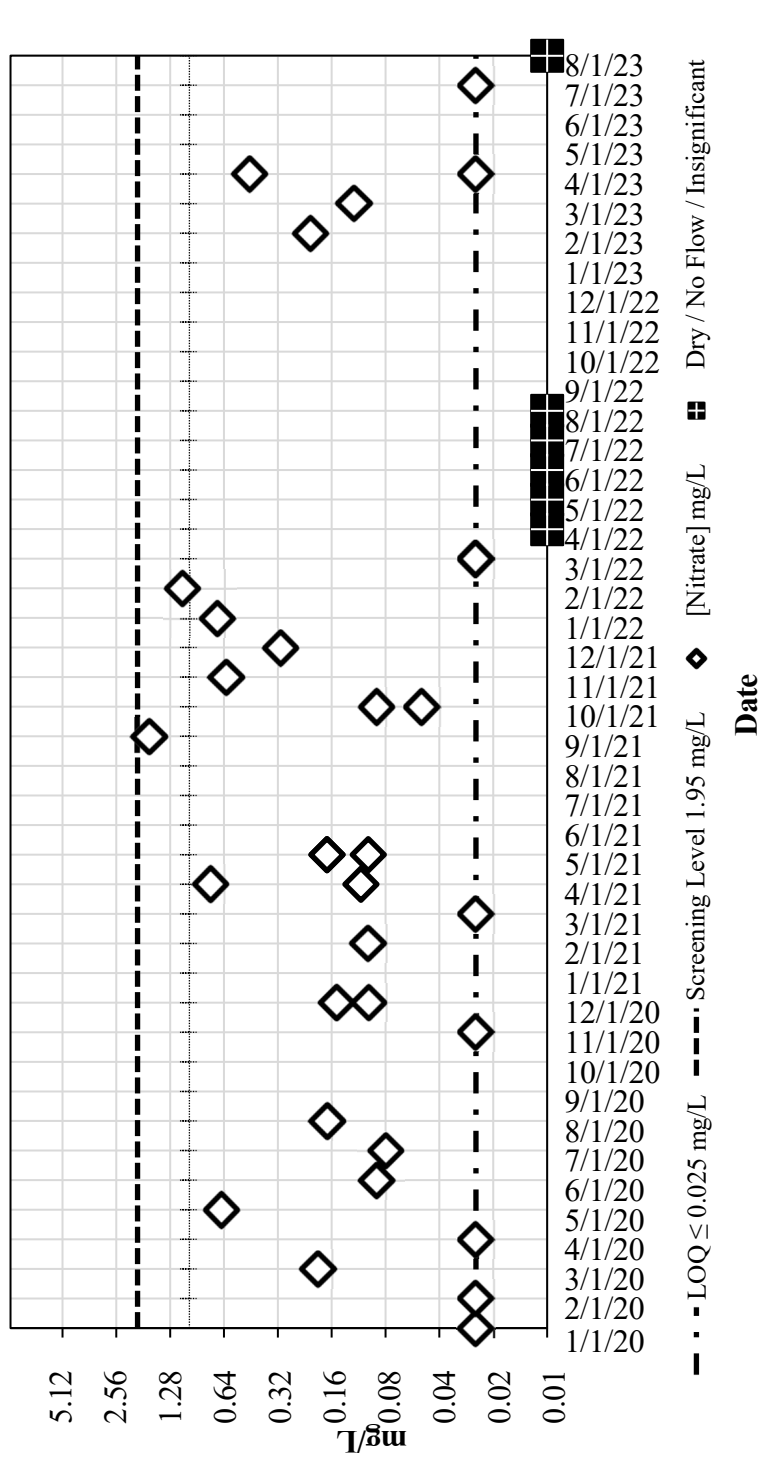
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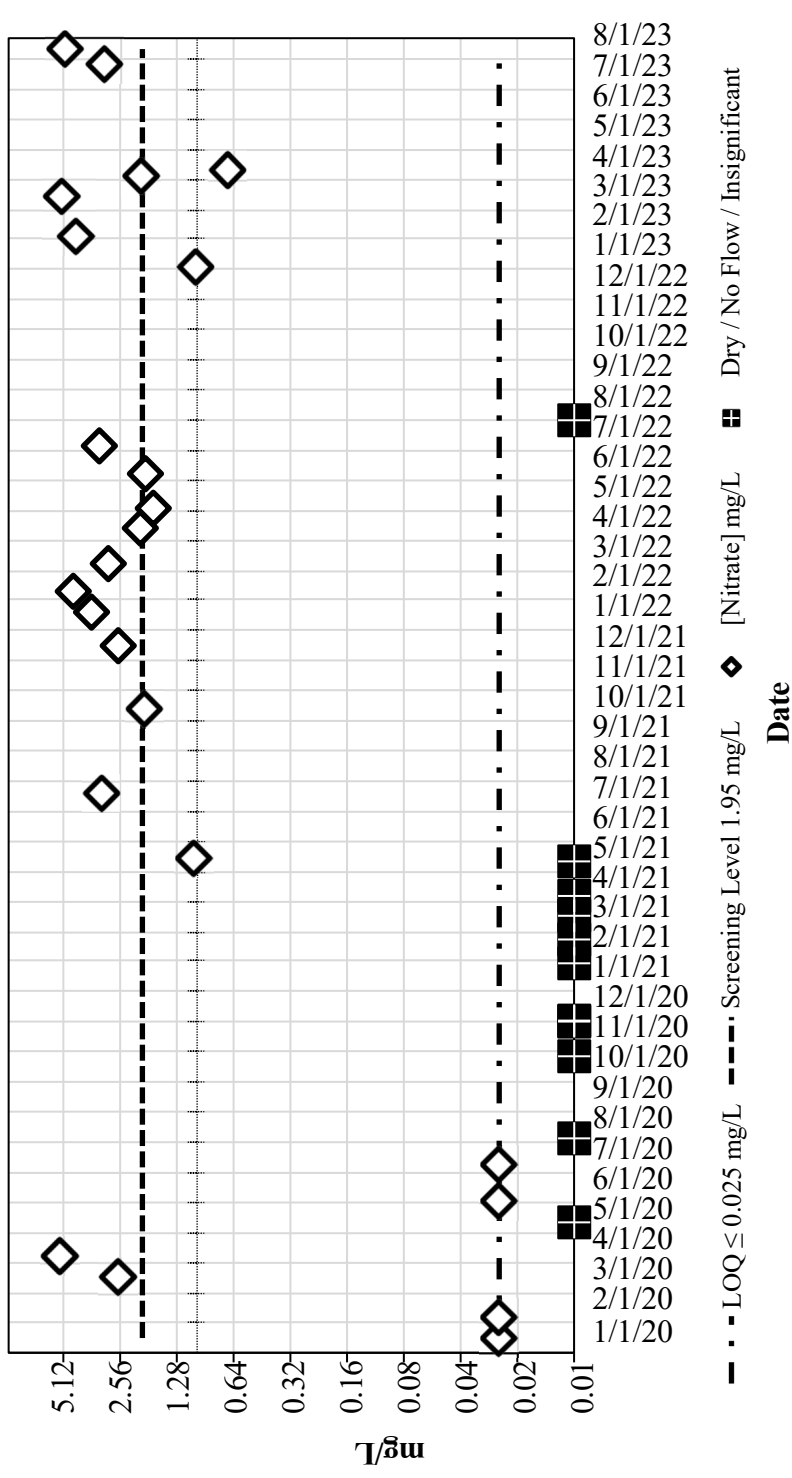
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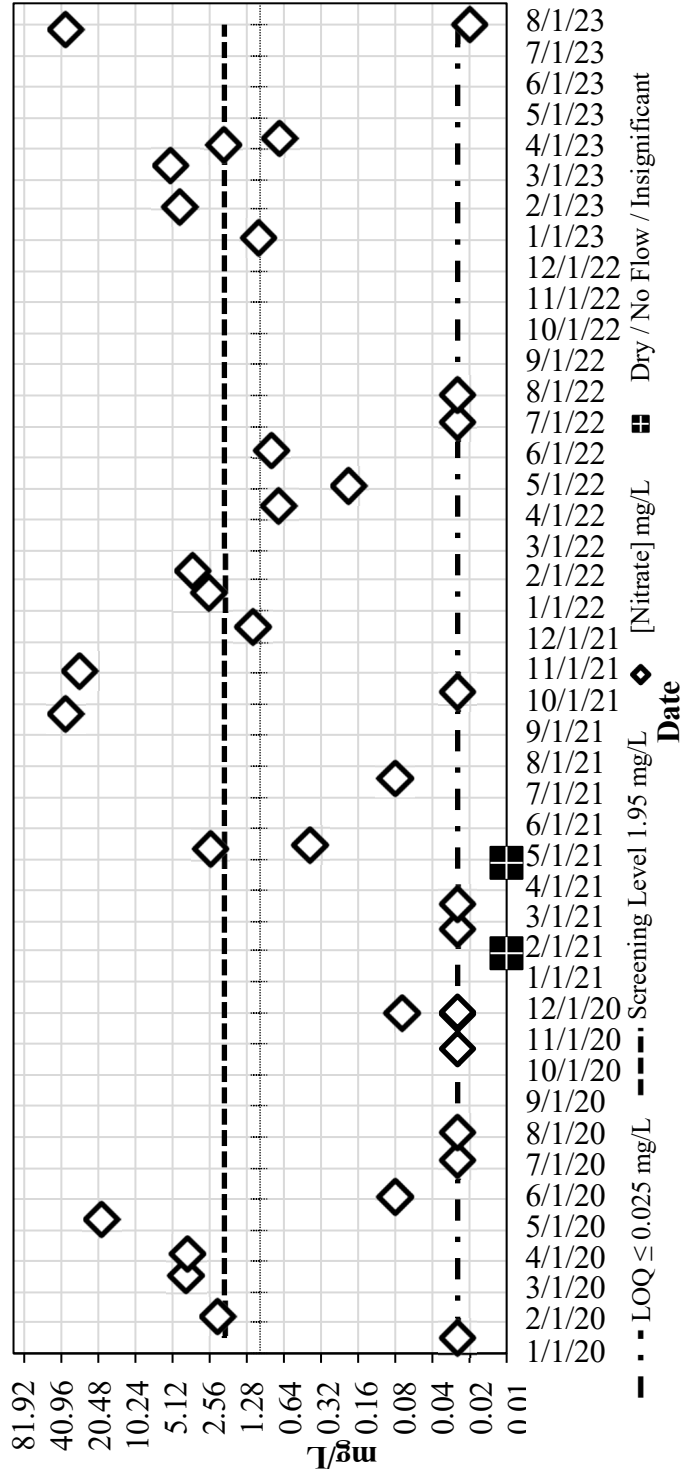
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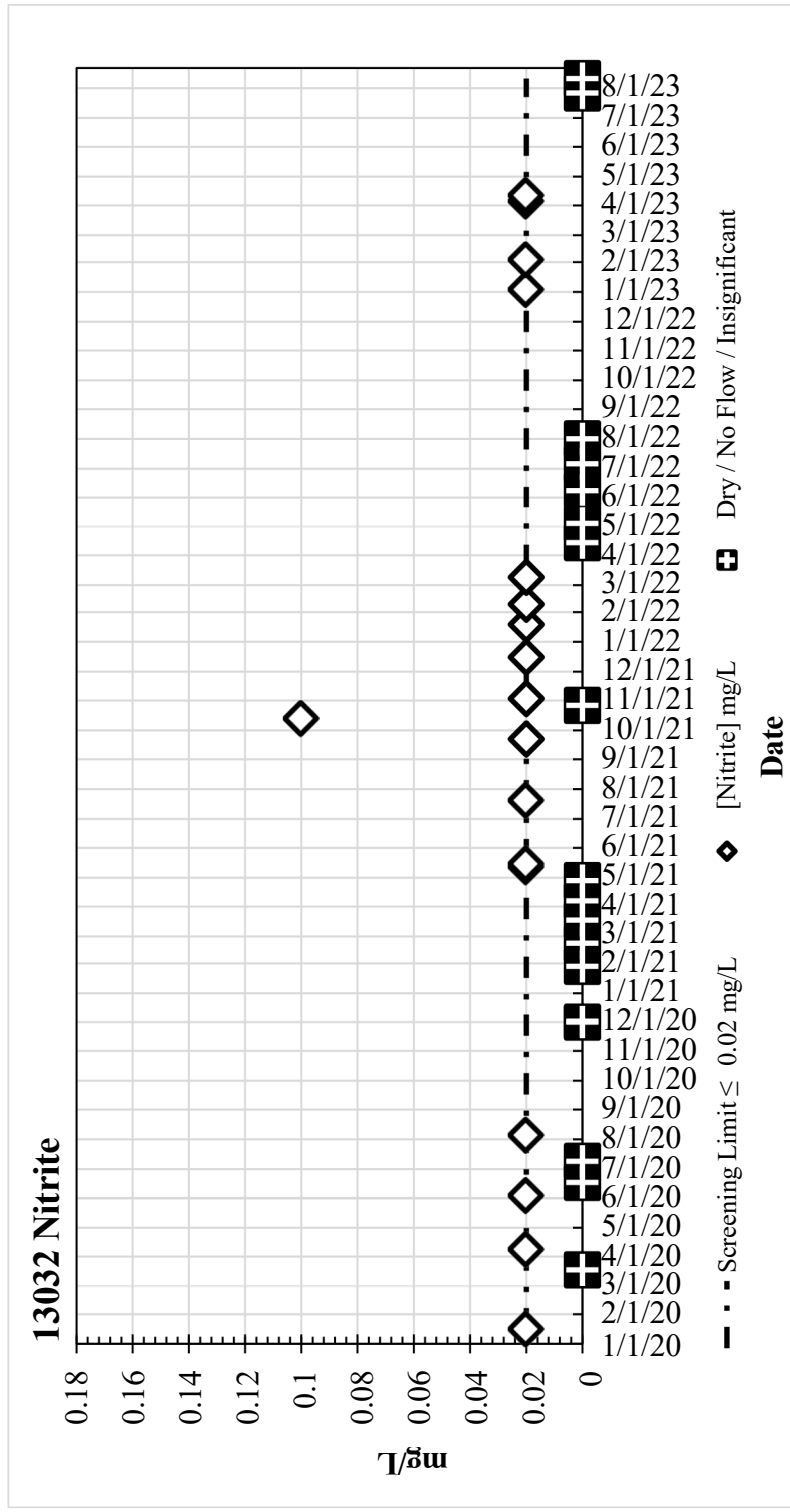
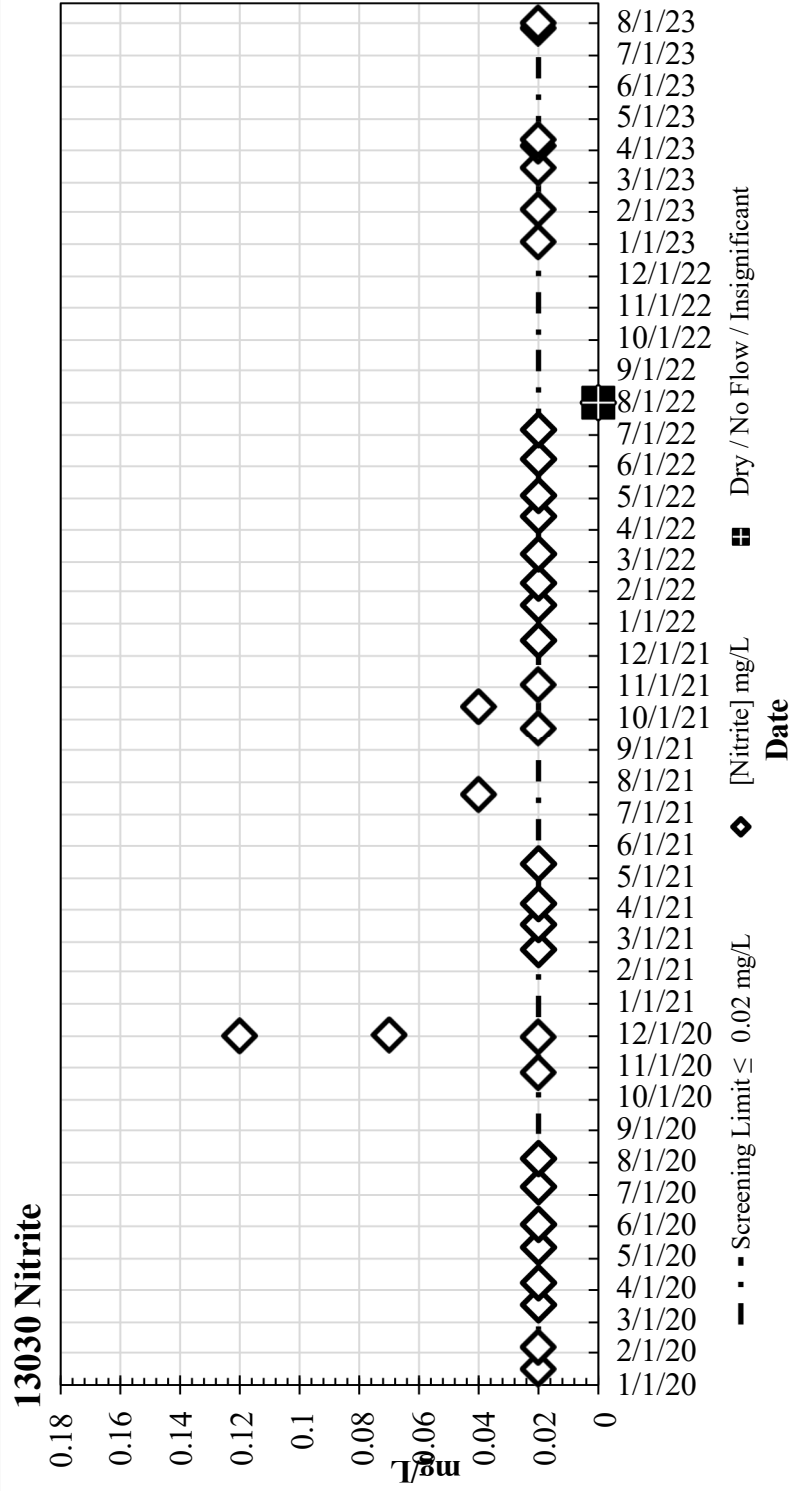


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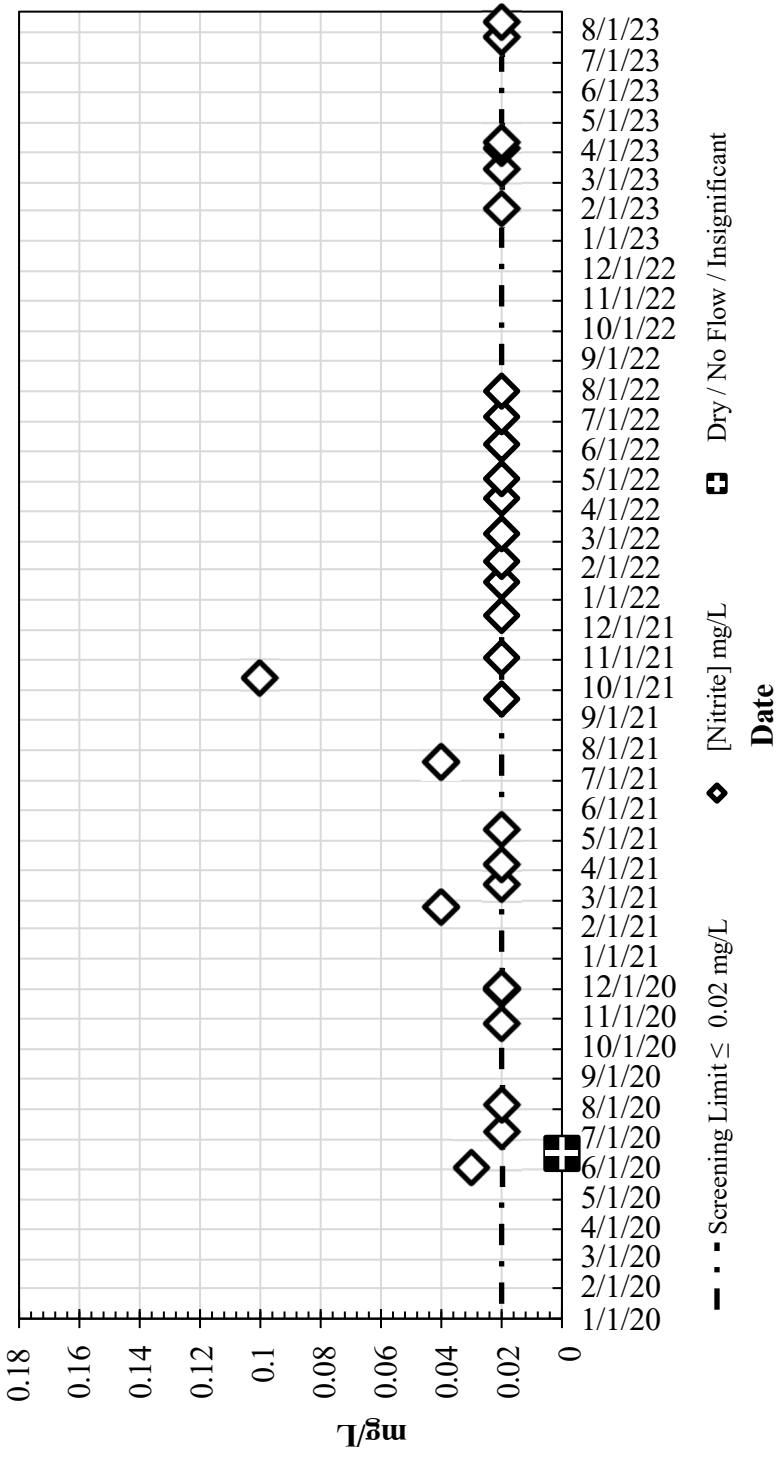


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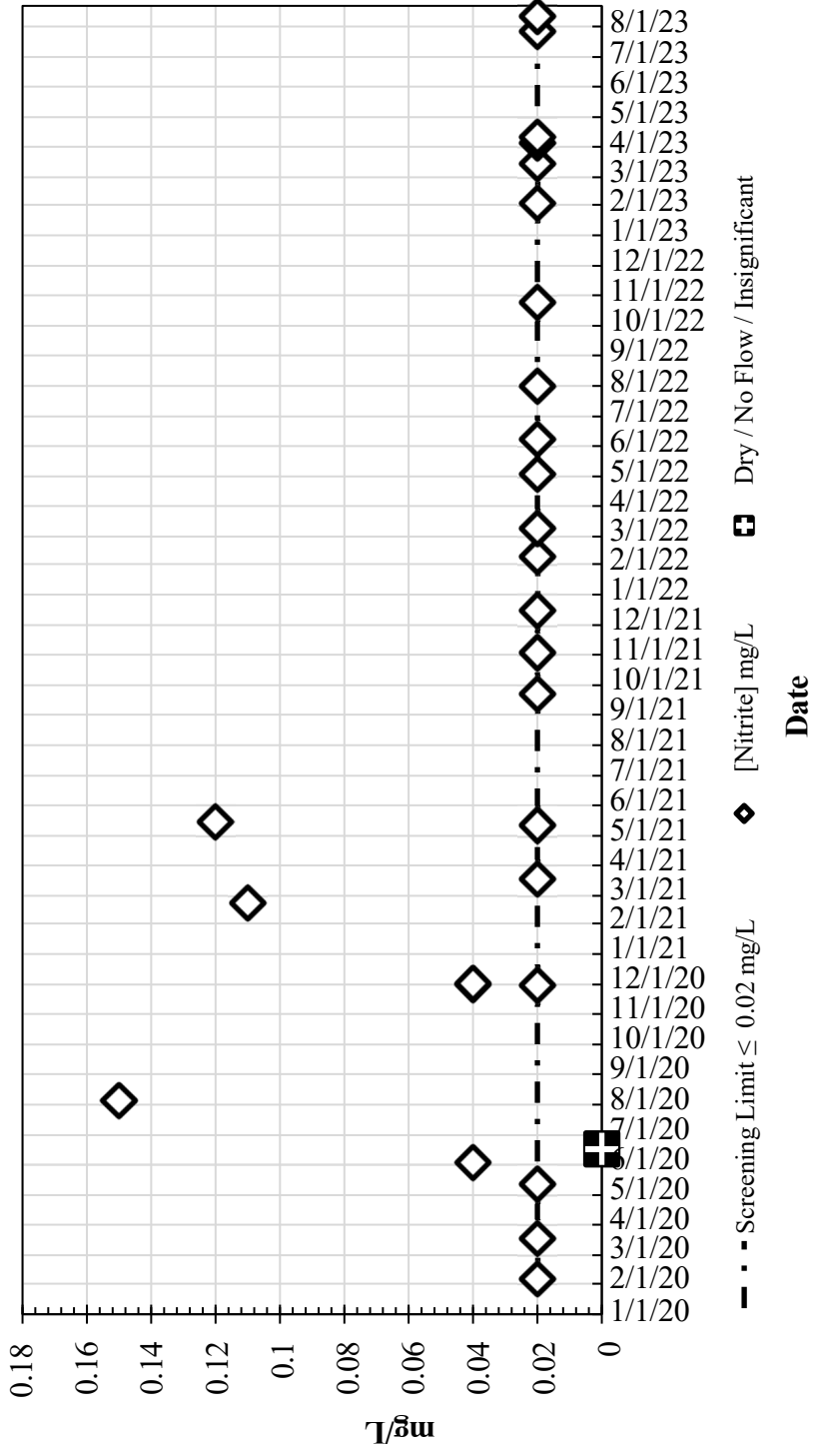


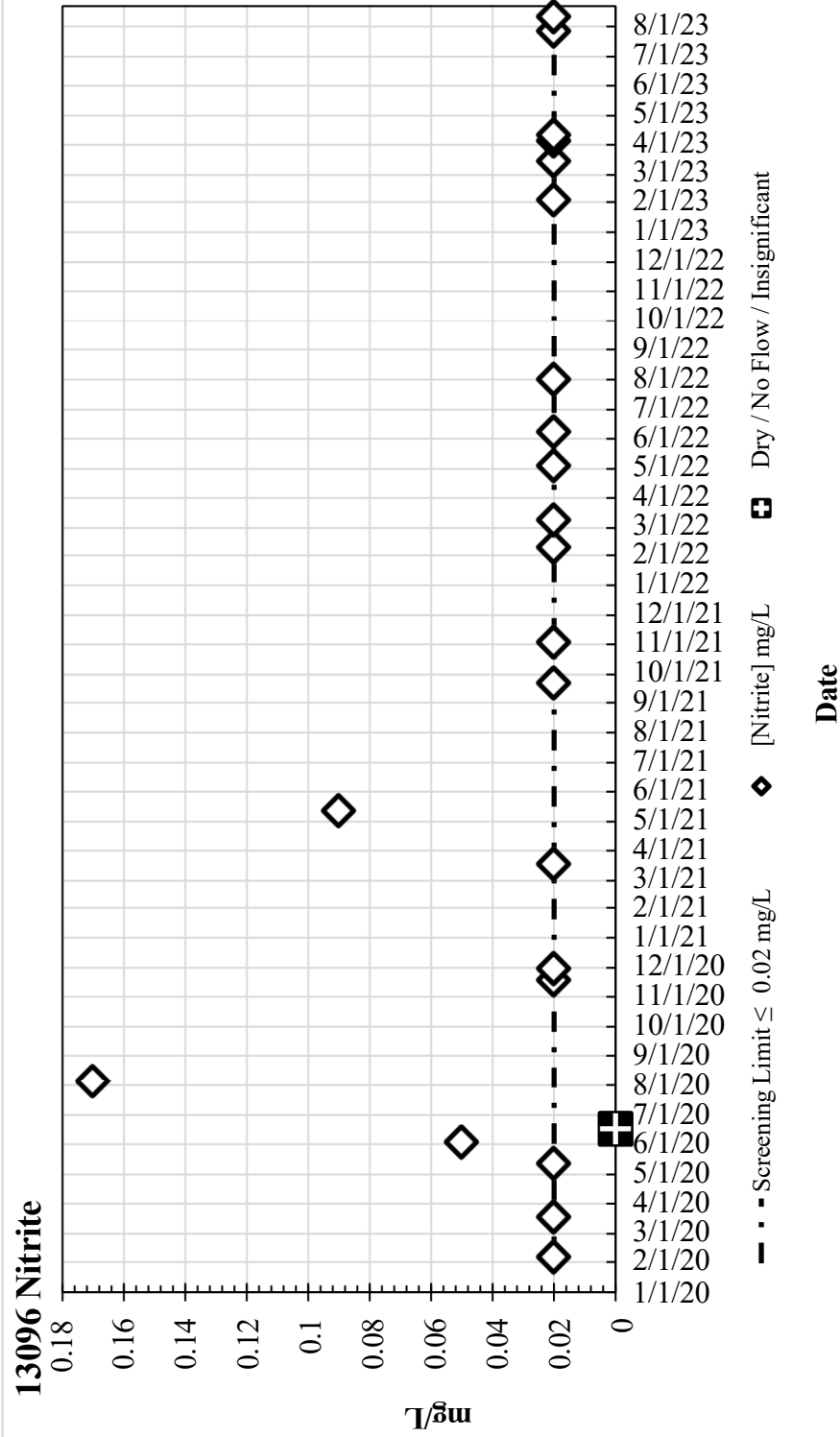
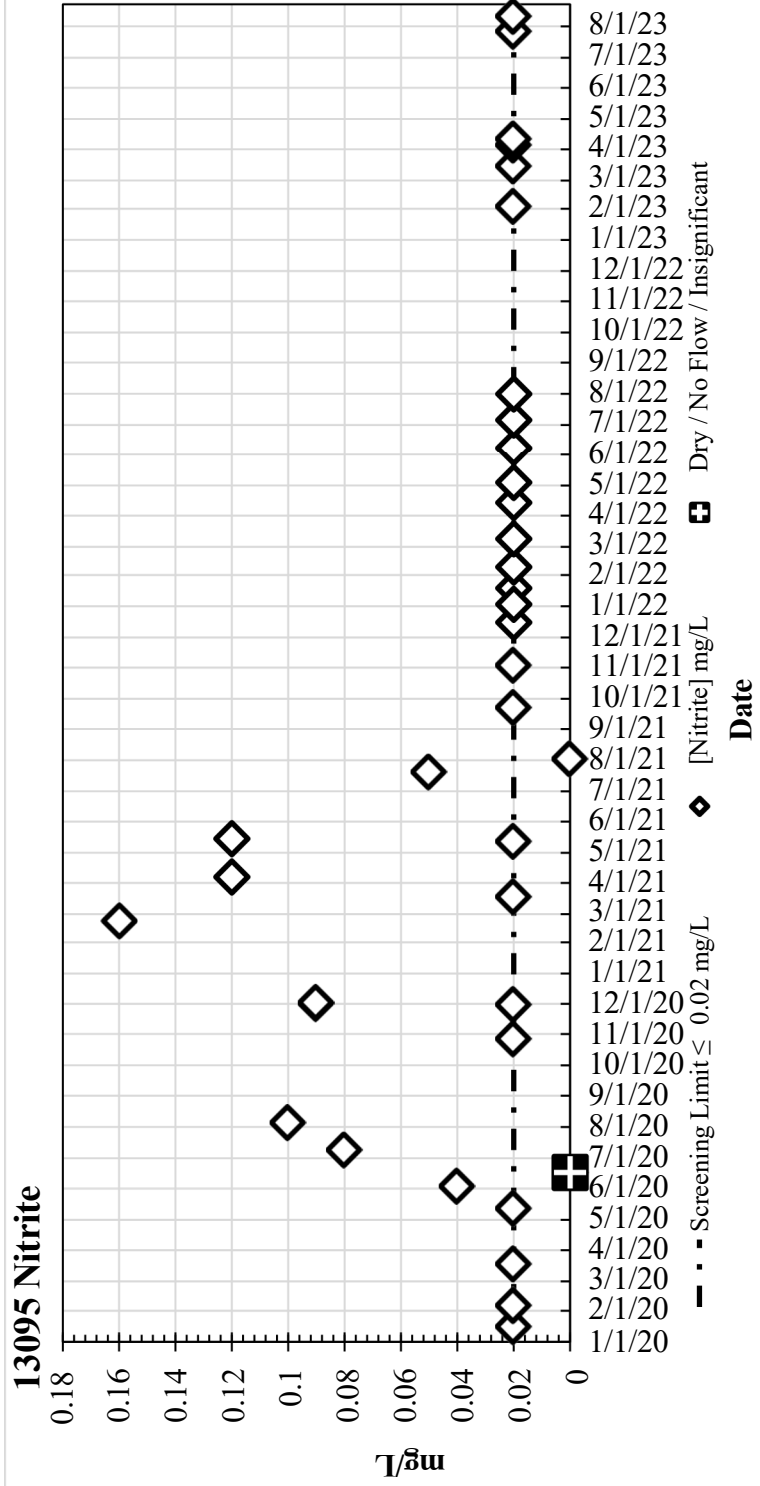


13093 Nitrite

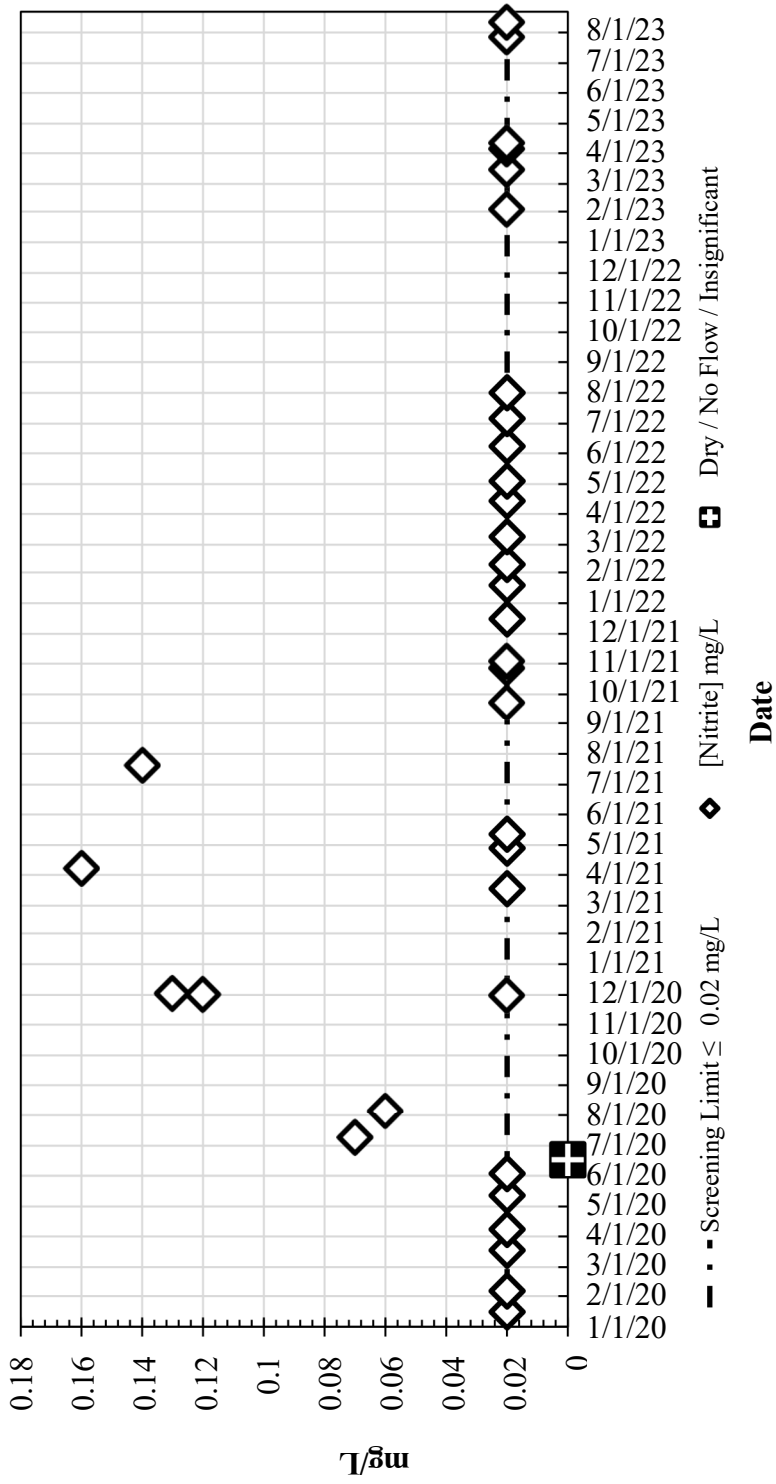


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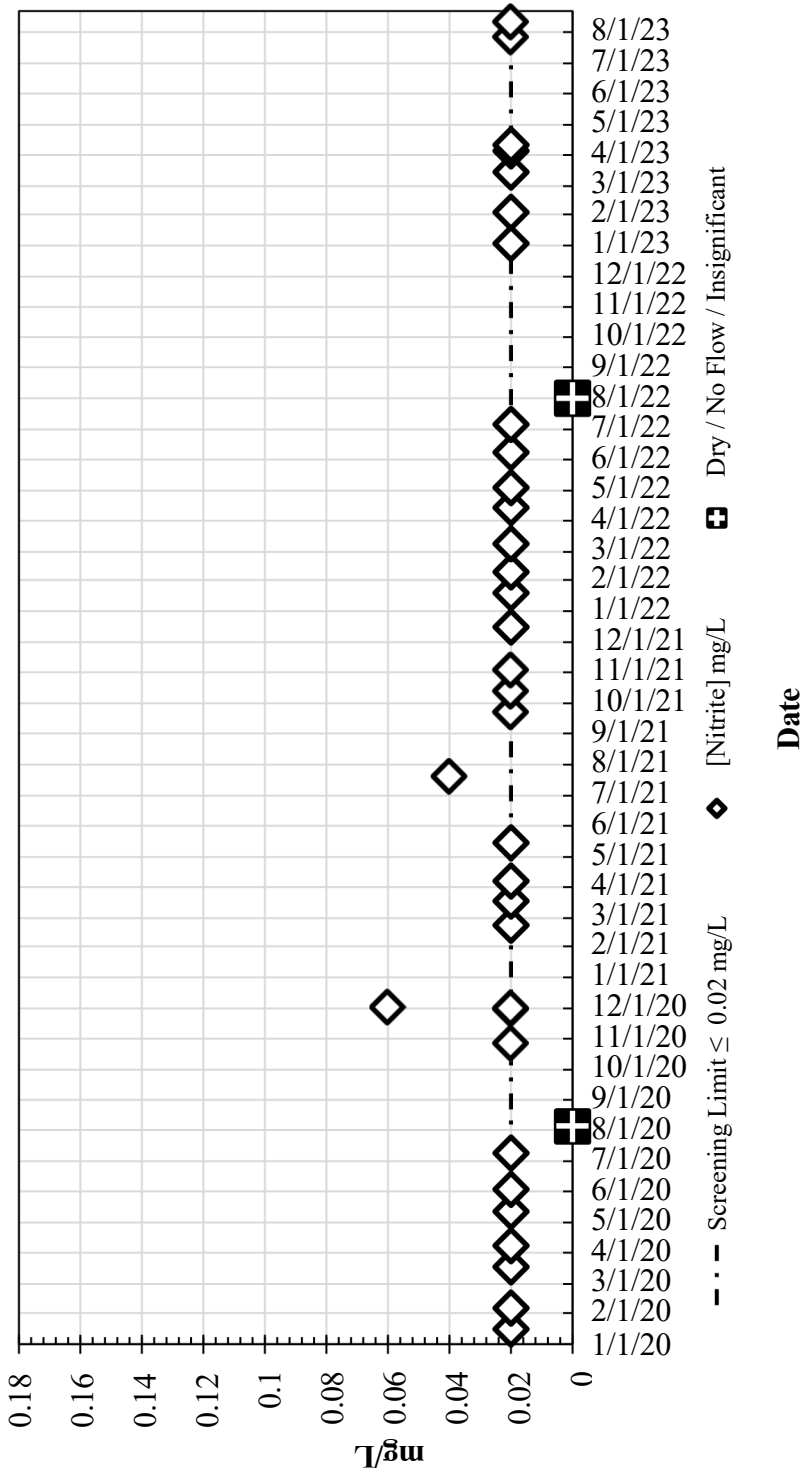




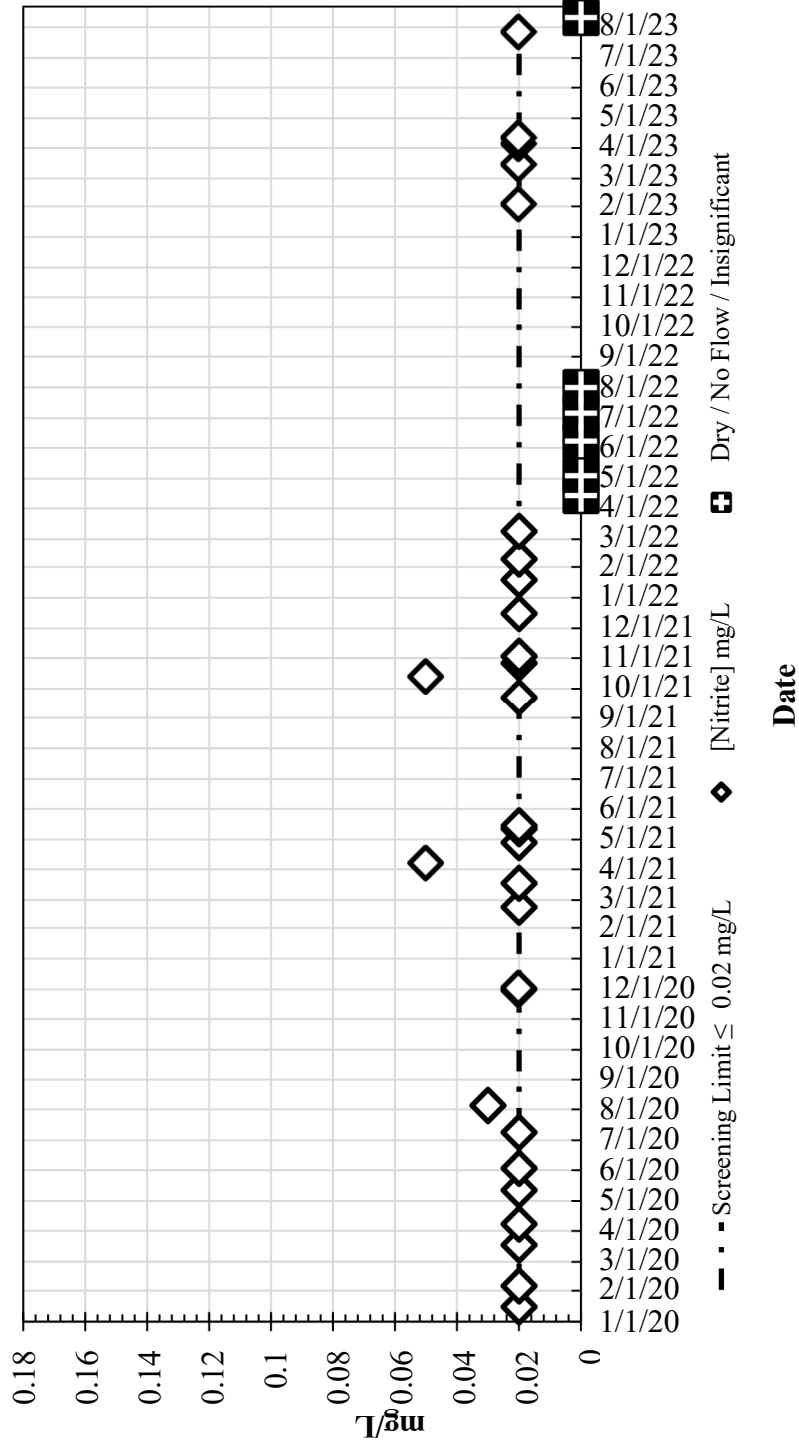
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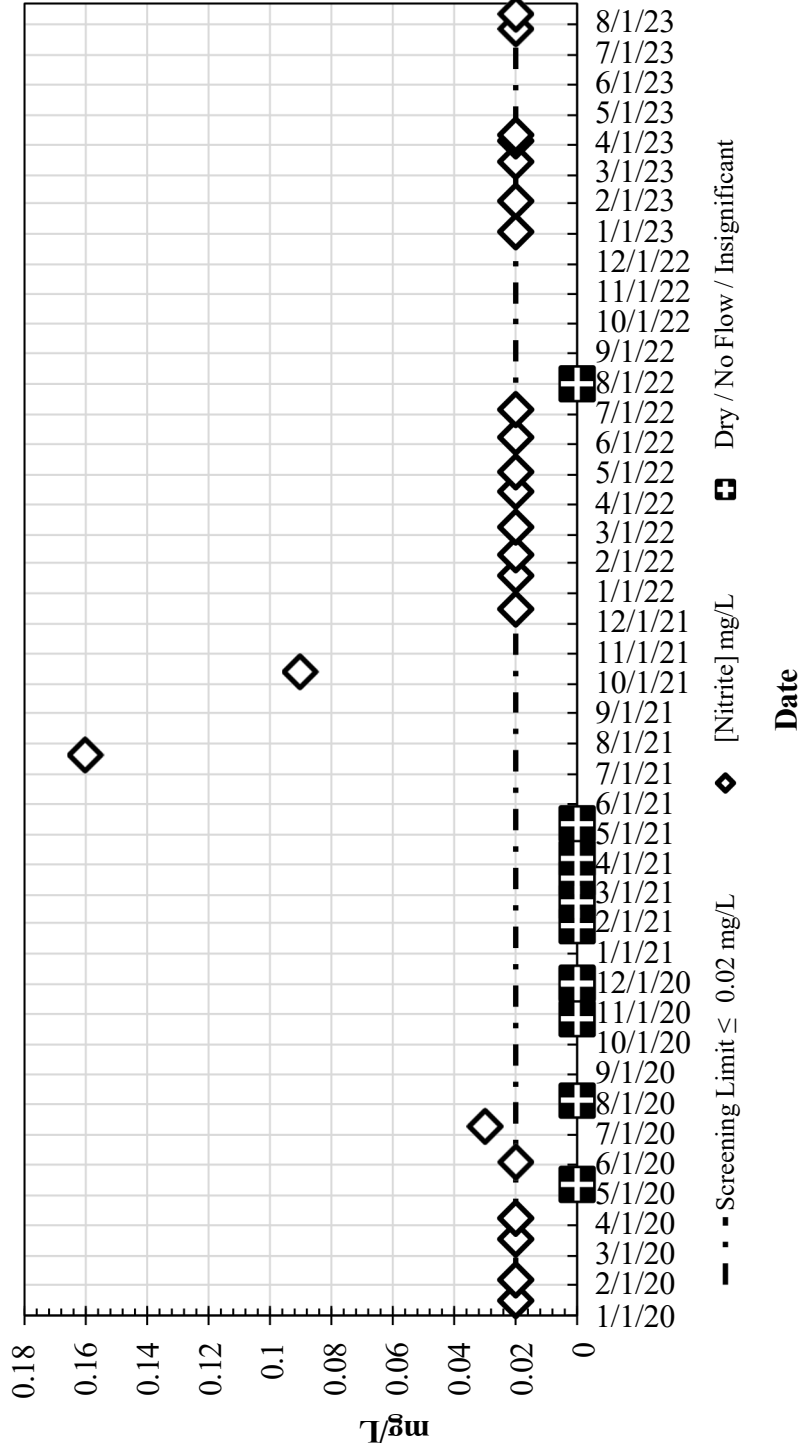
18642 Nitrite



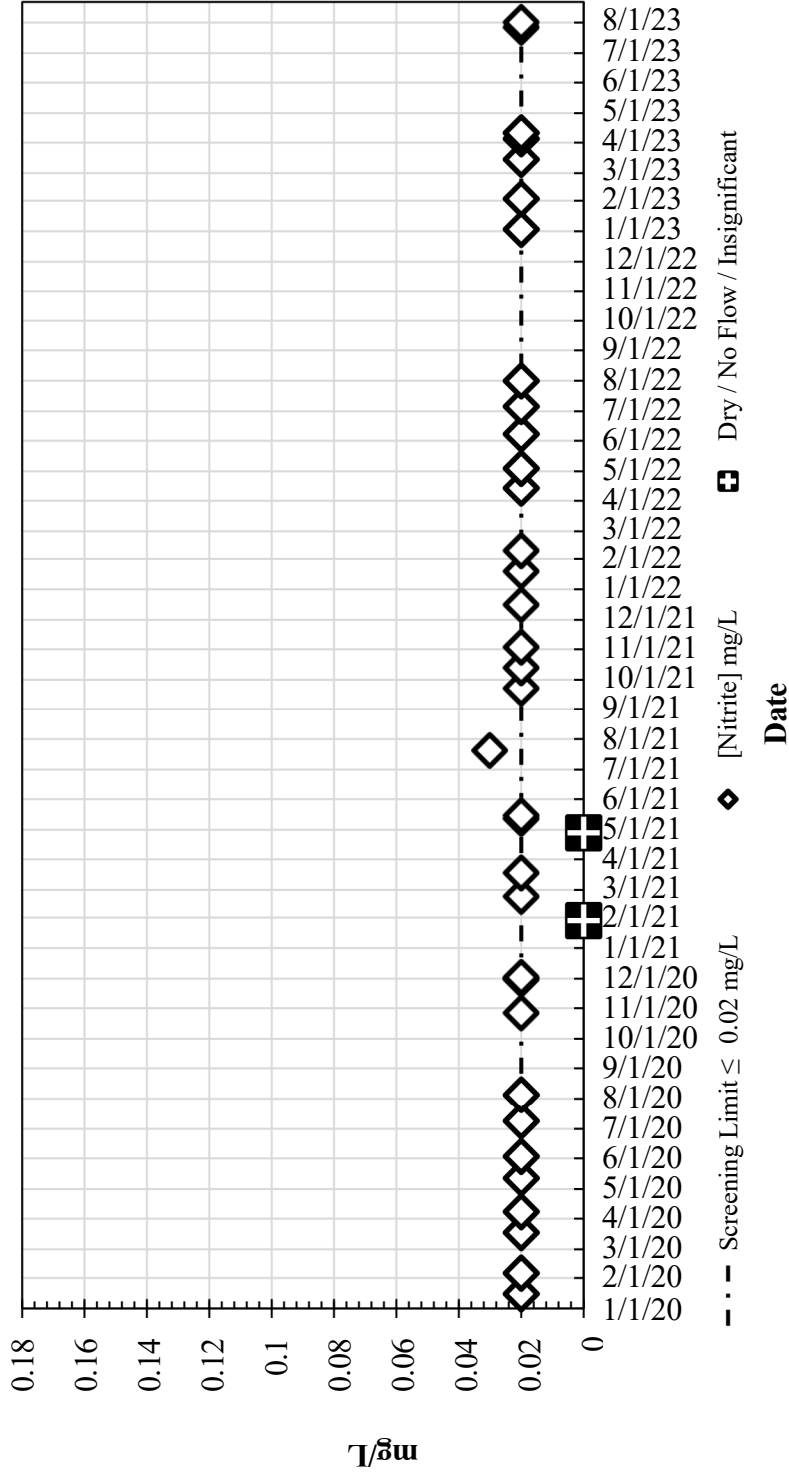
21594 Nitrite



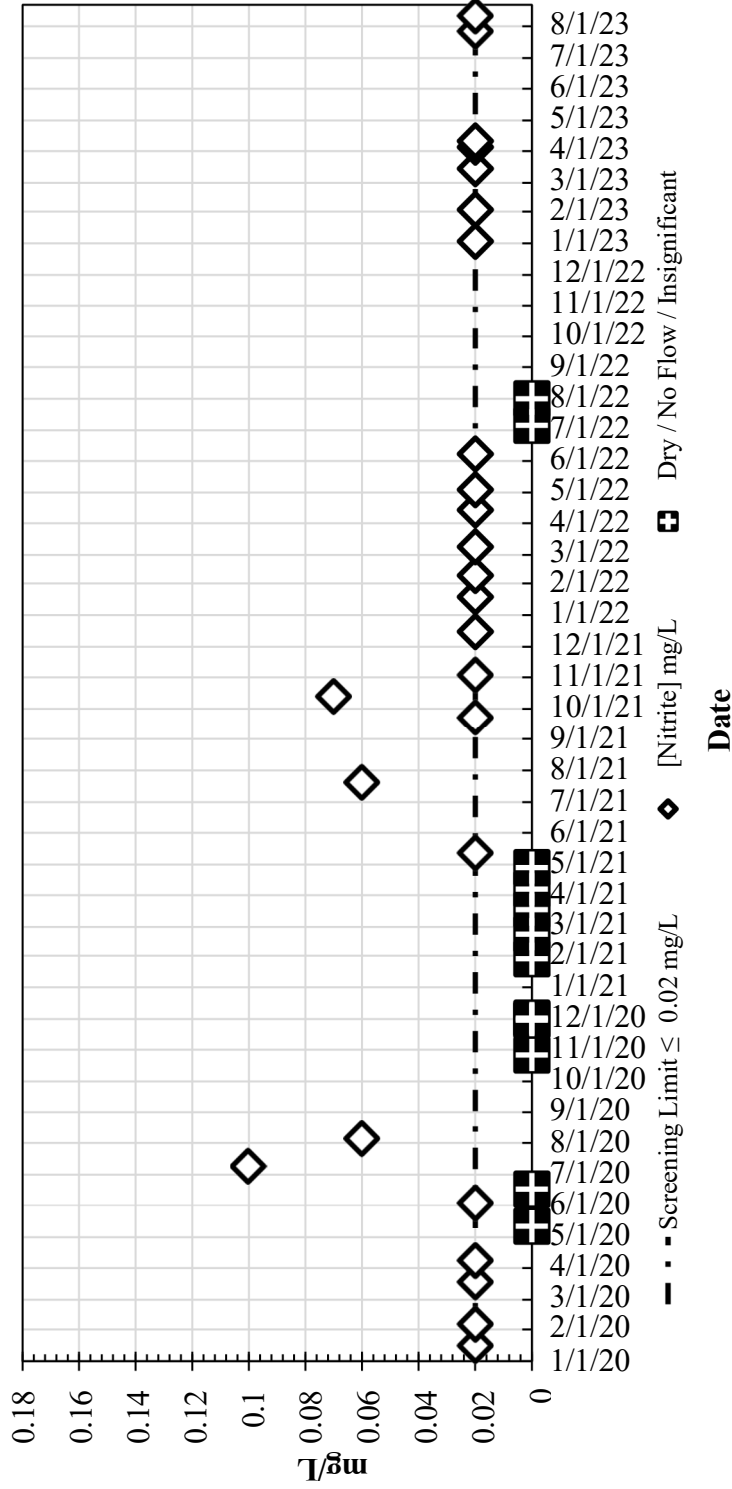
21596 Nitrite



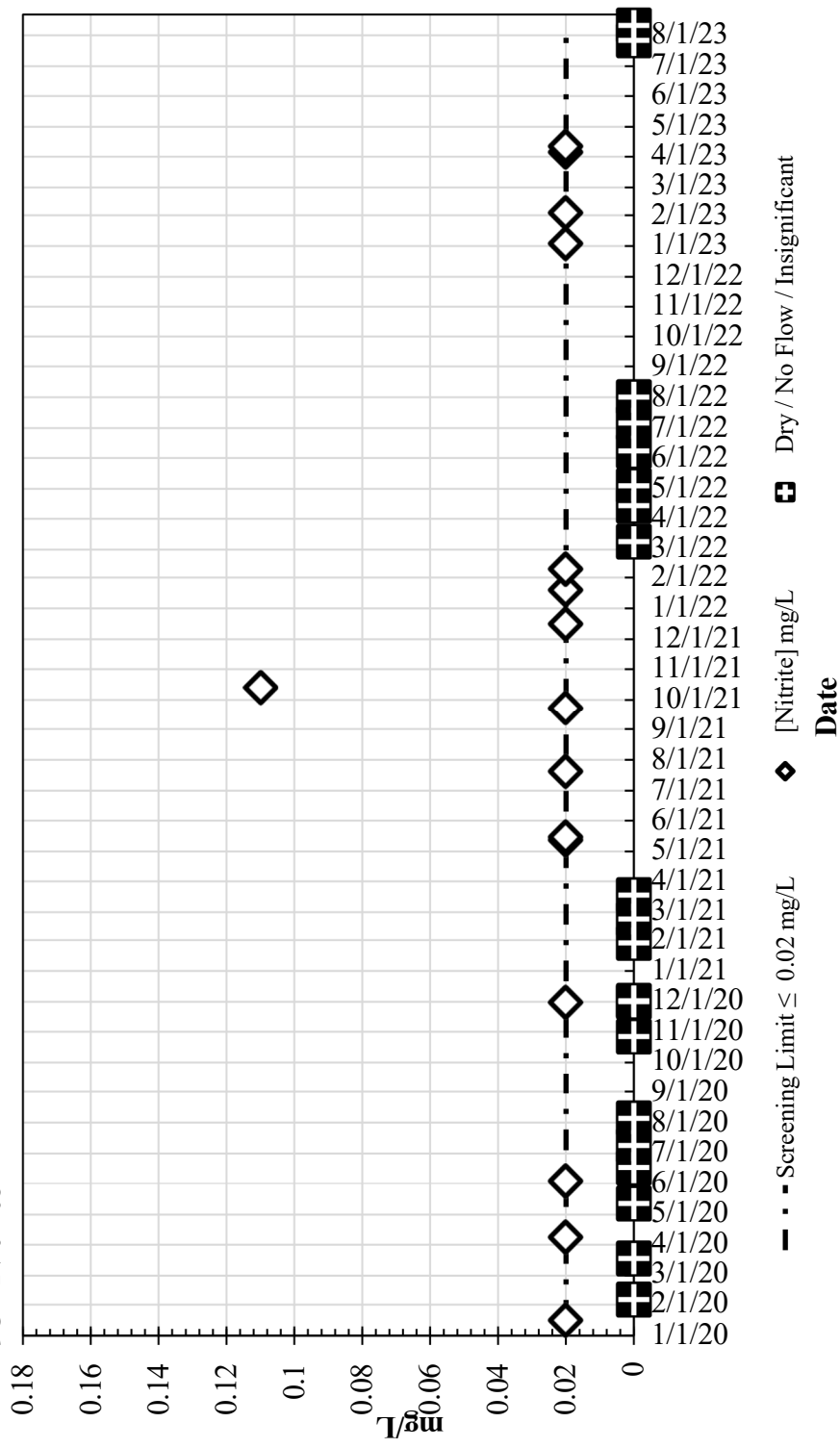
21598 Nitrite



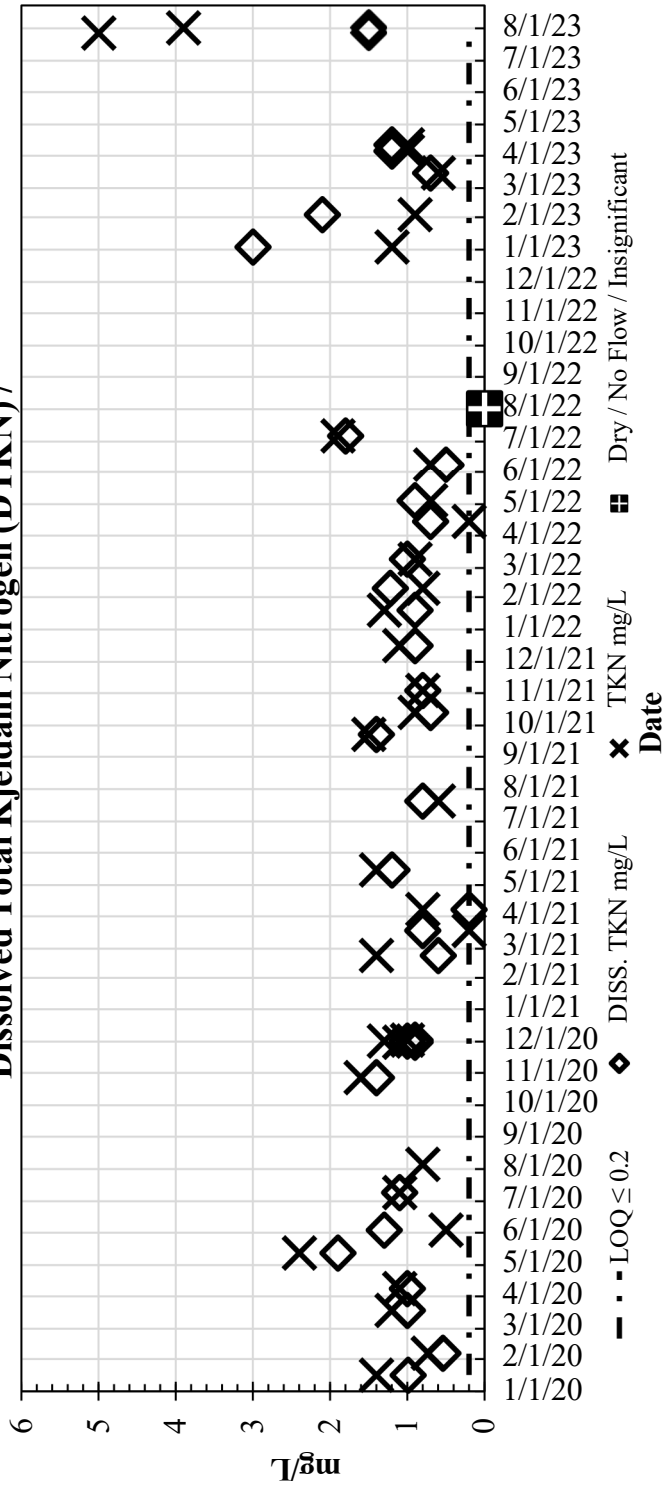
21929 Nitrite



21931 Nitrite

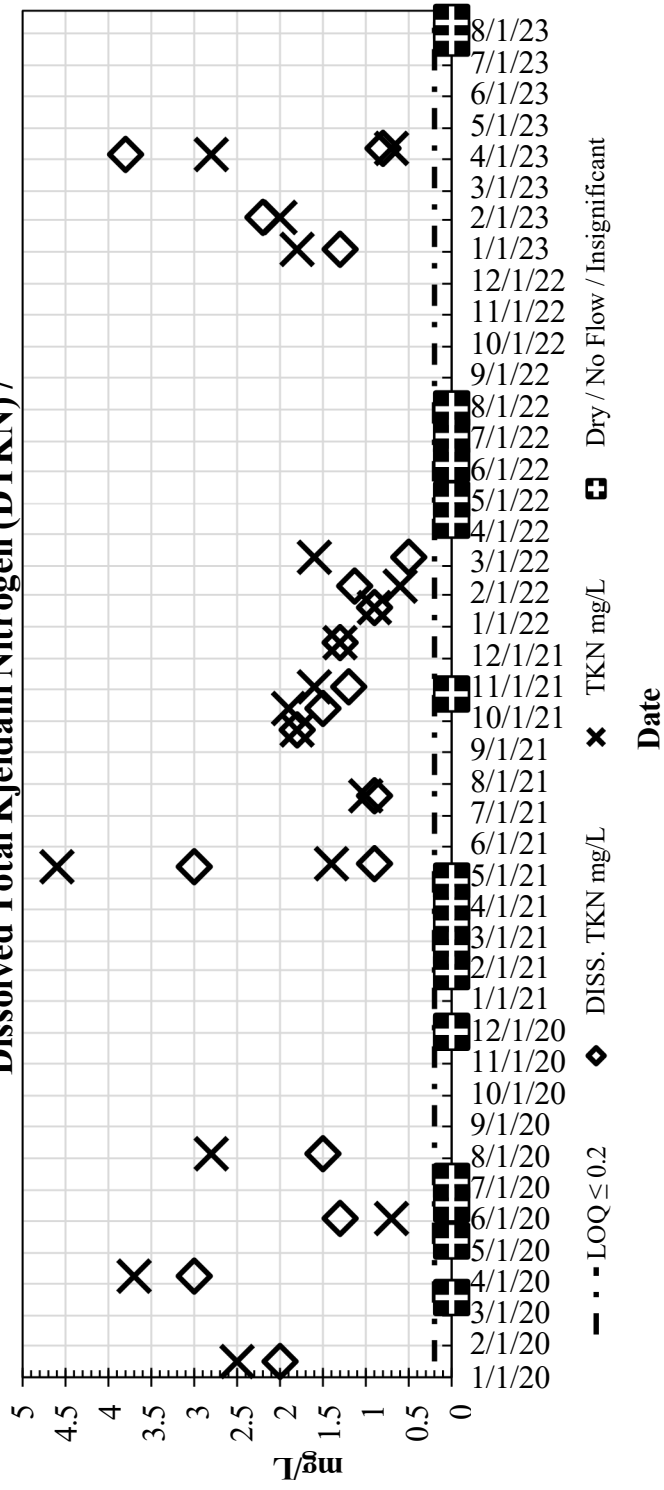


13030 Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



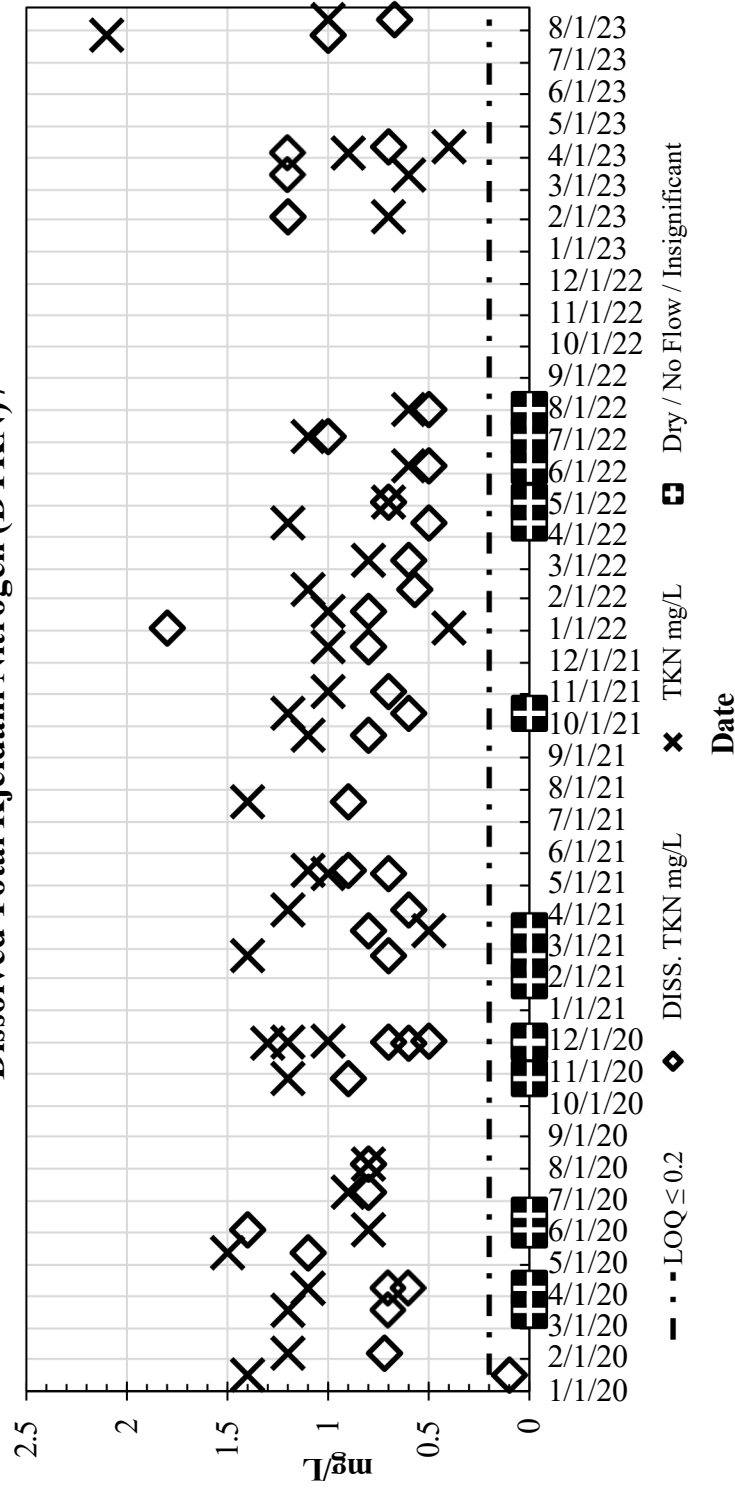
13032

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



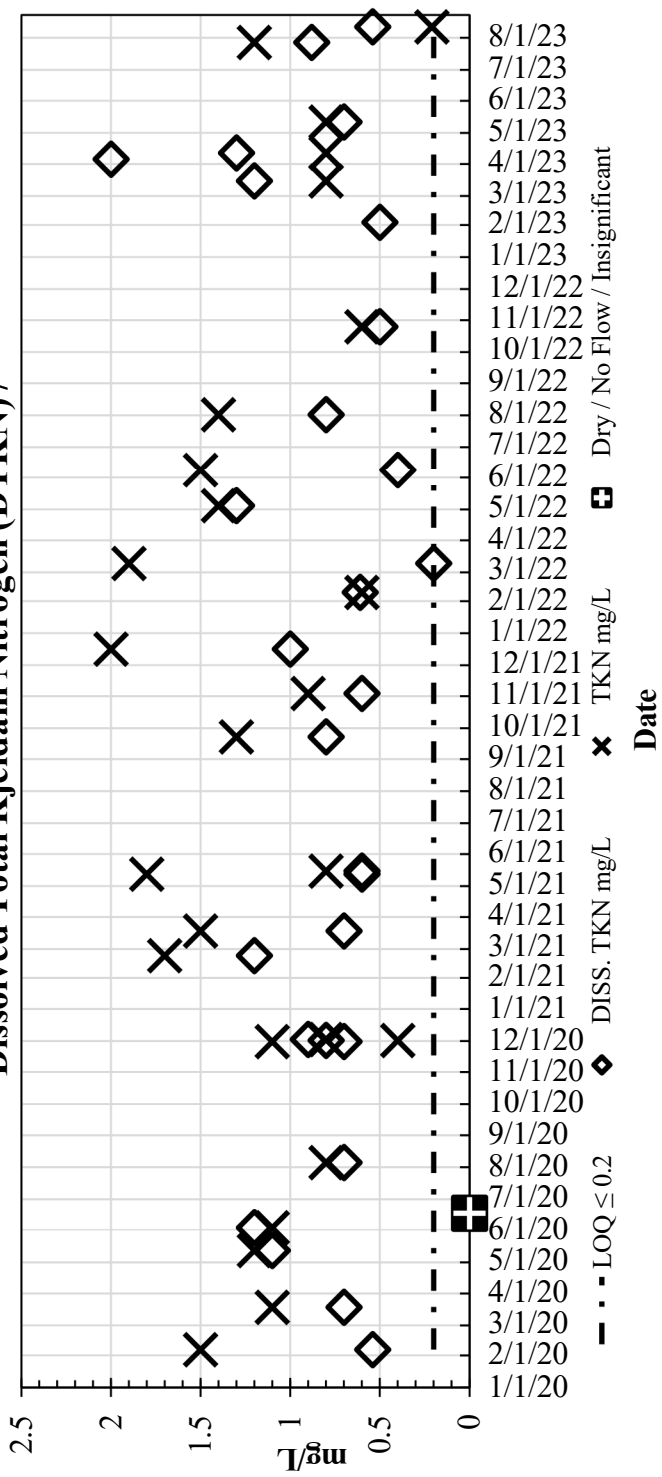
13093

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



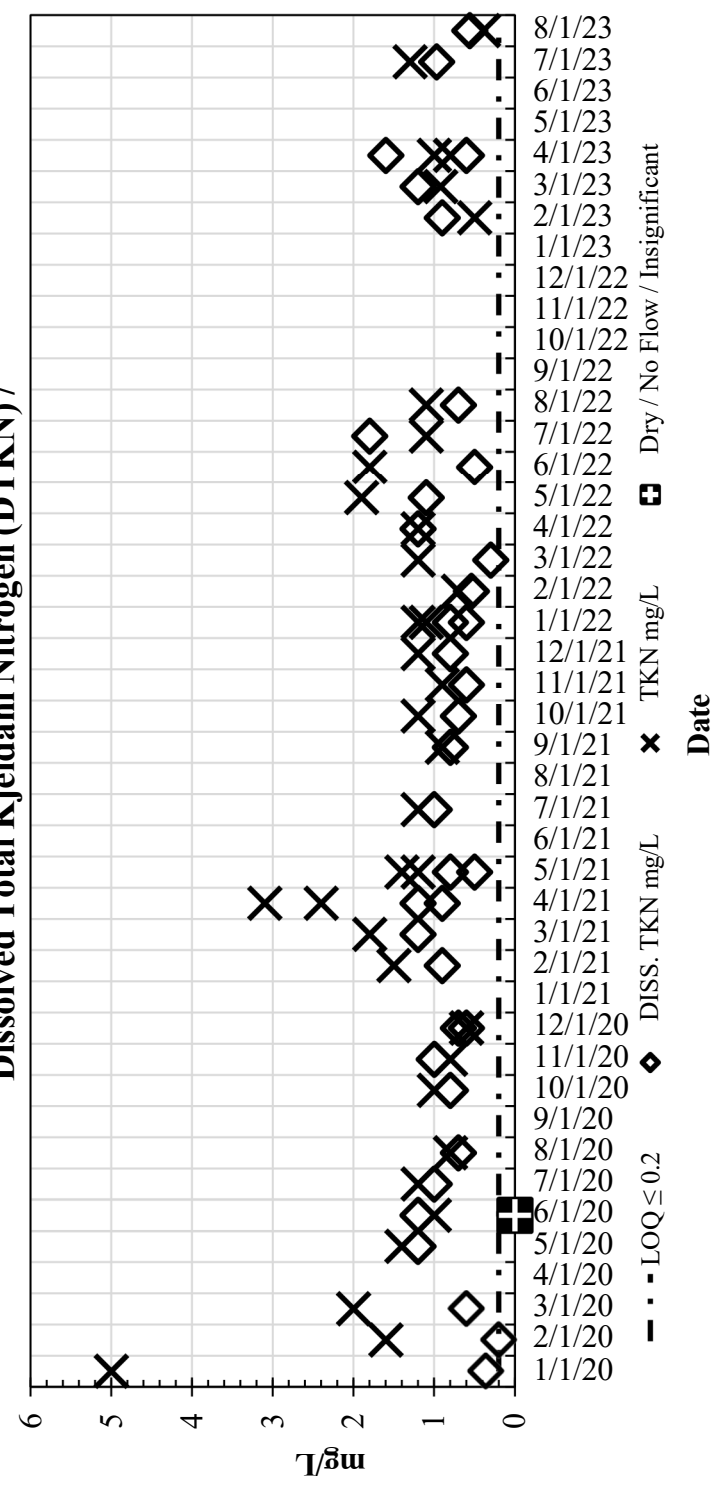
13094

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



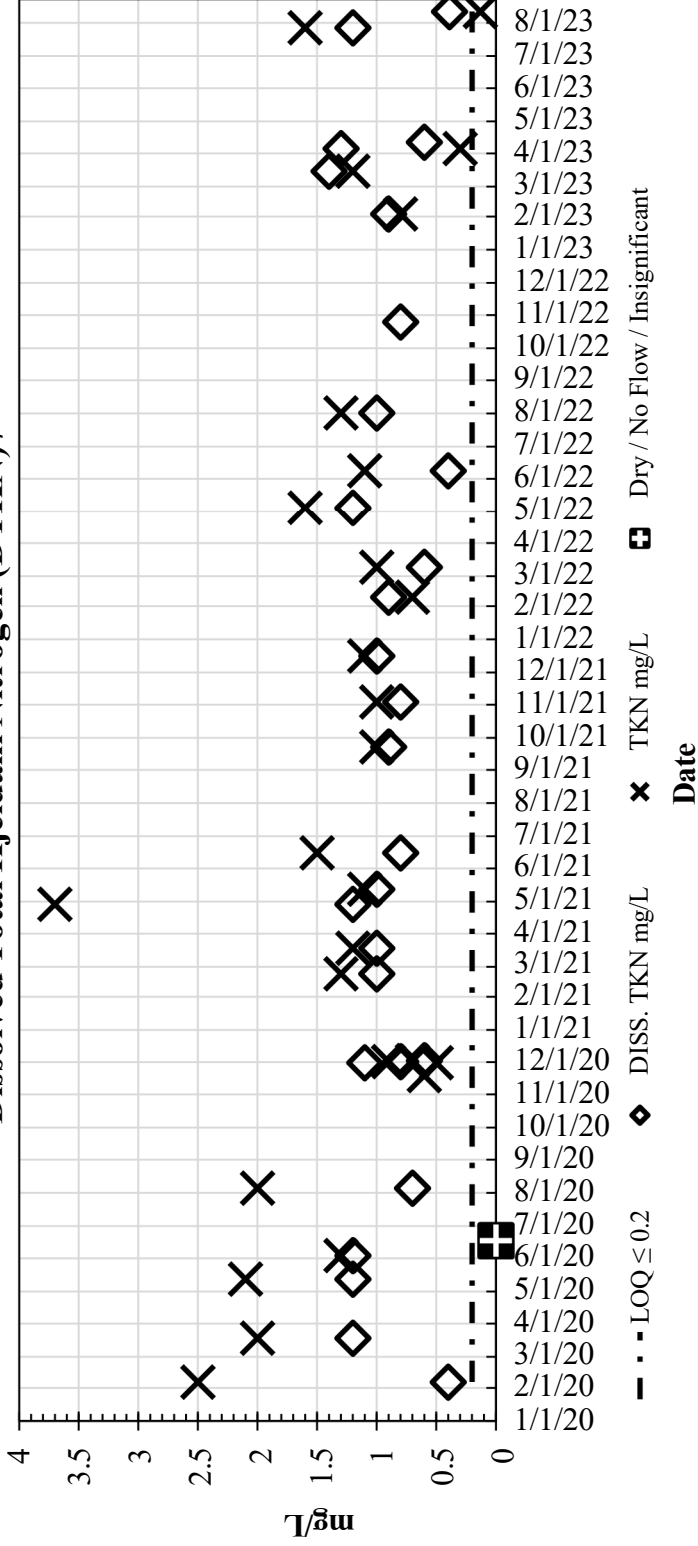
13095

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



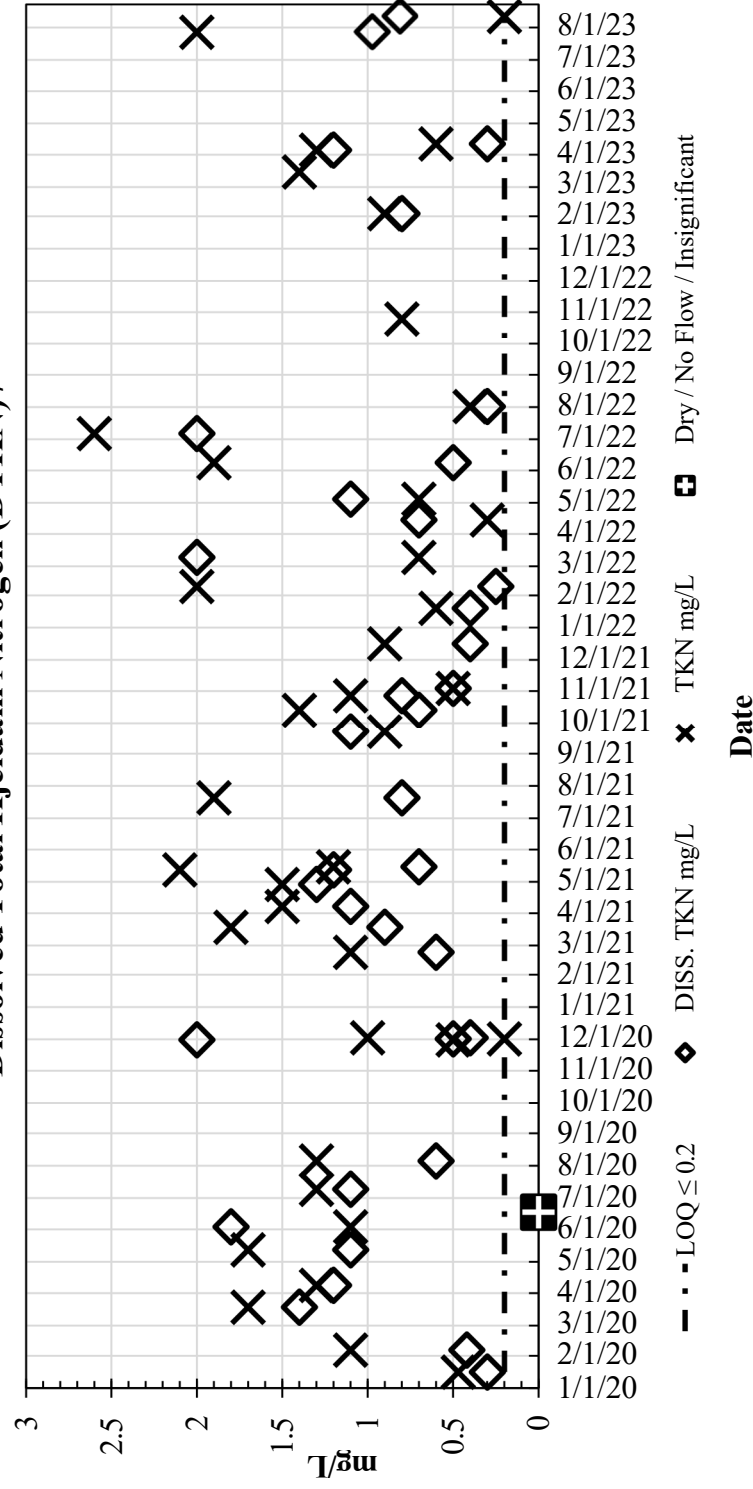
13096

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



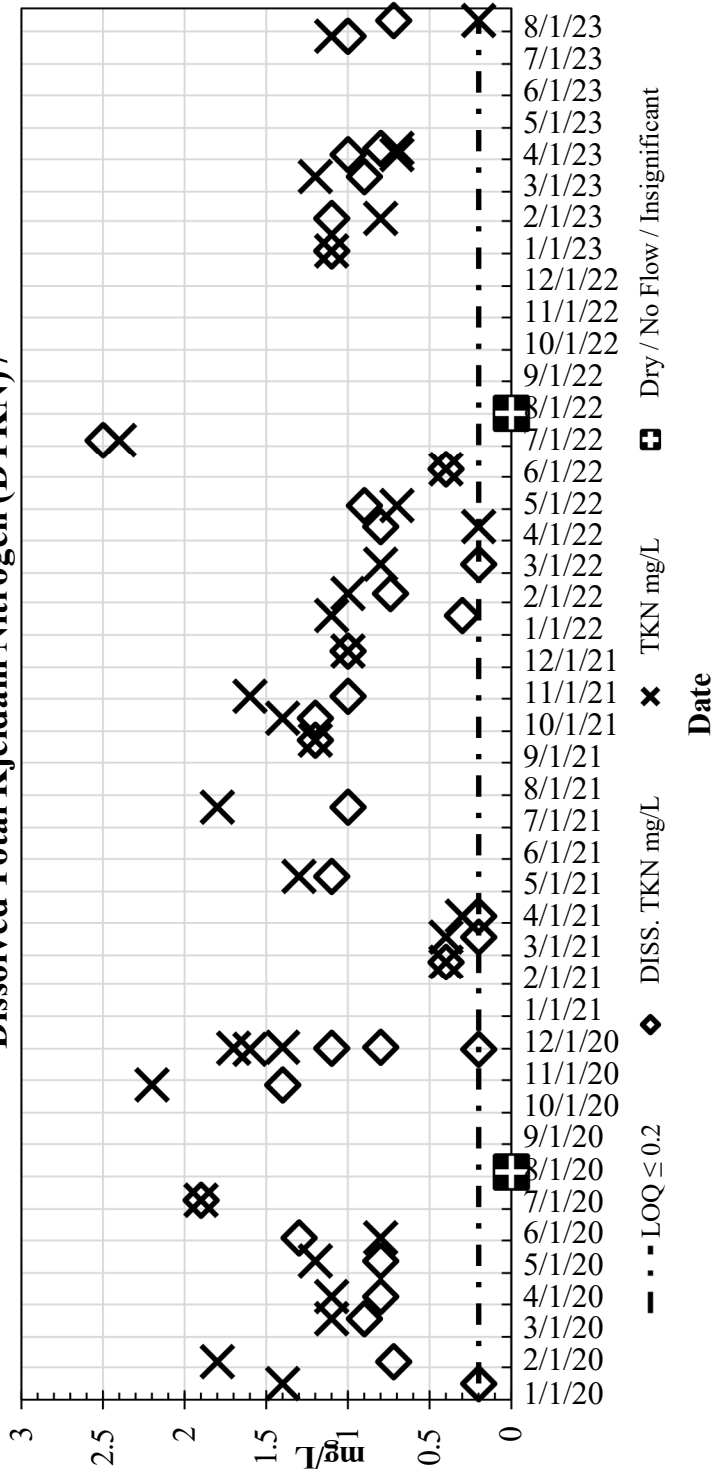
18484

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



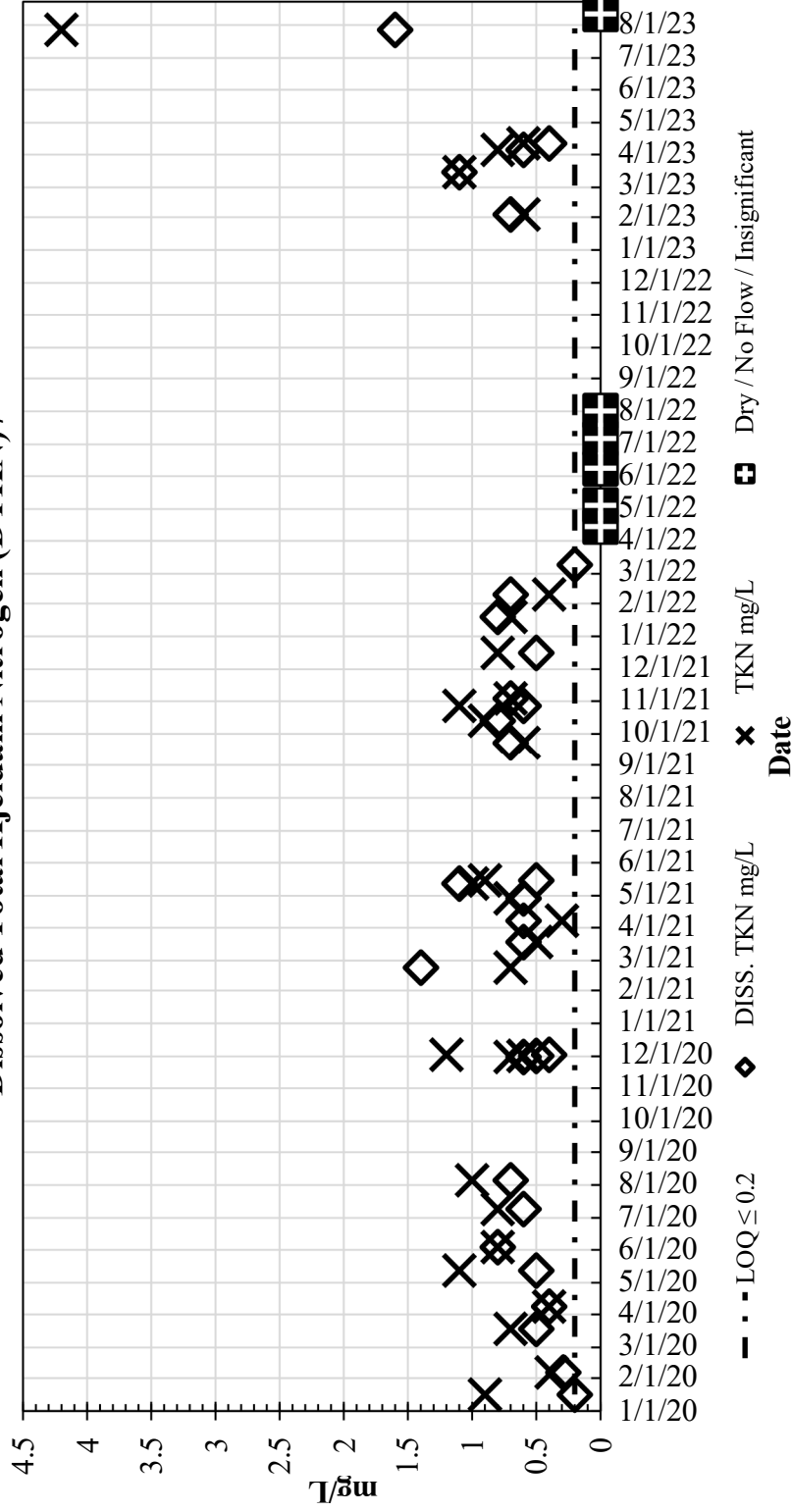
Station 18642

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /

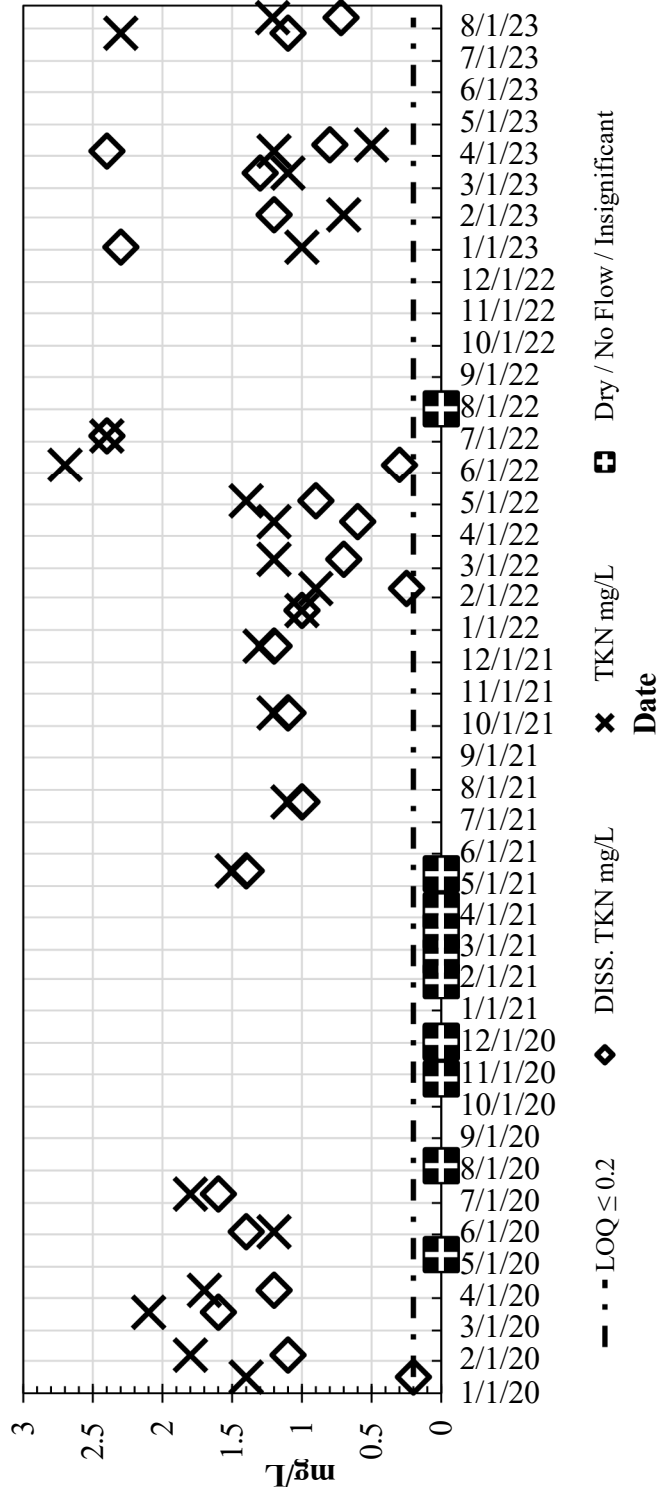


21594

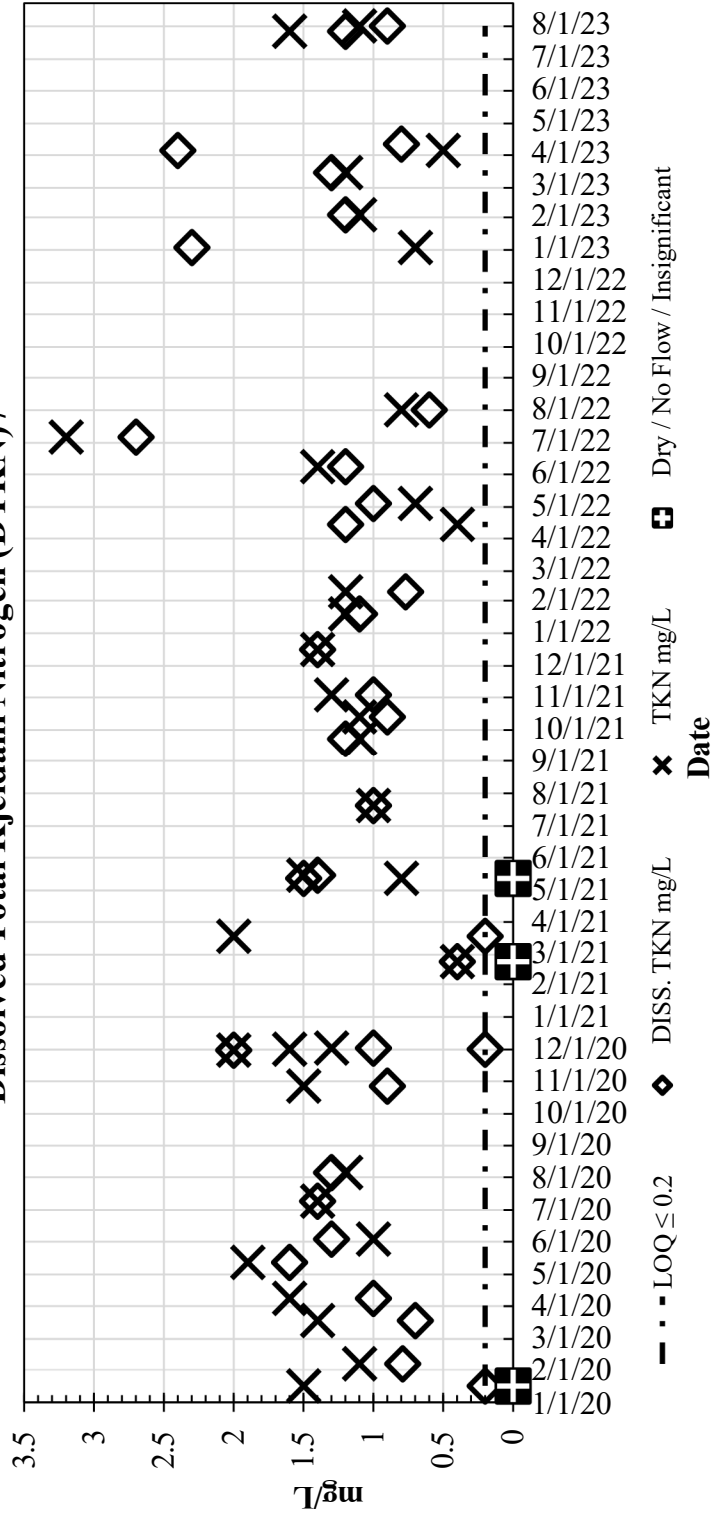
Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



Station 21596
Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /

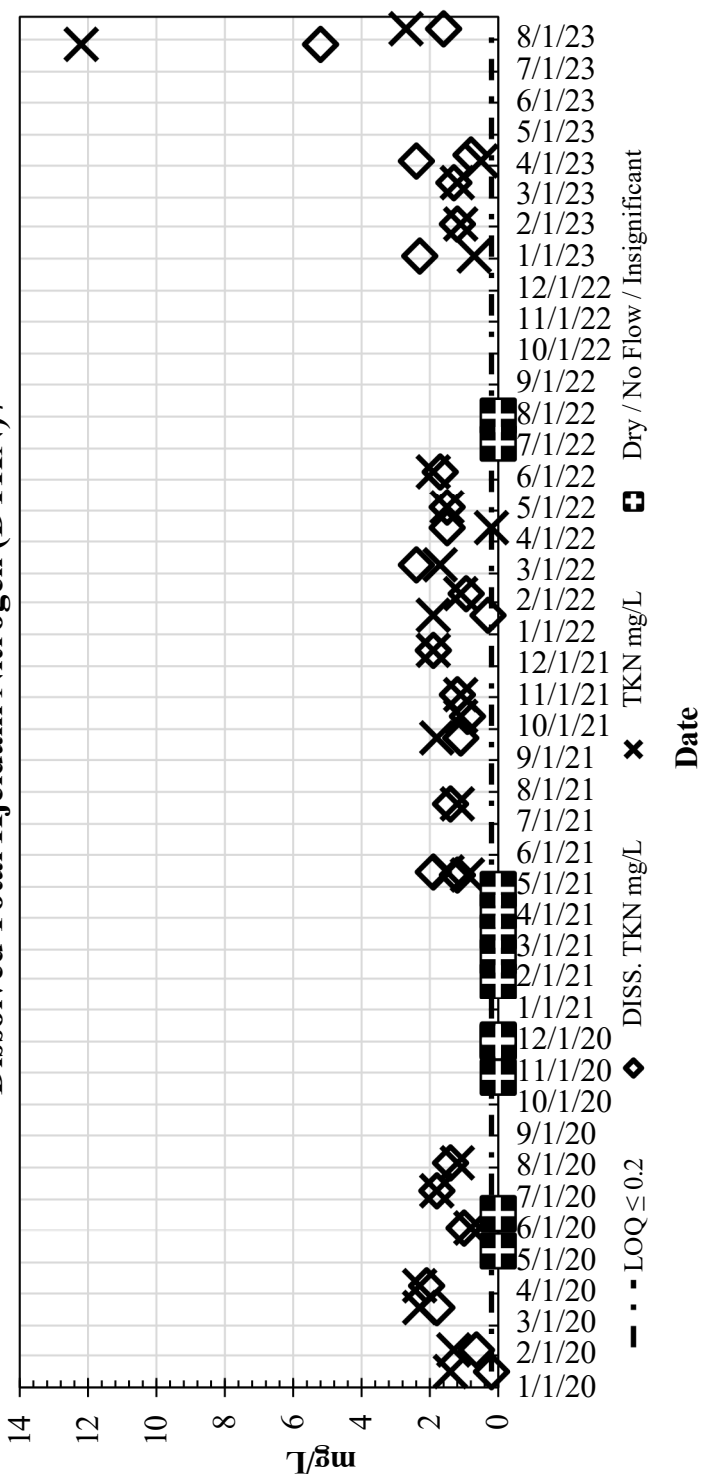


21598
Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



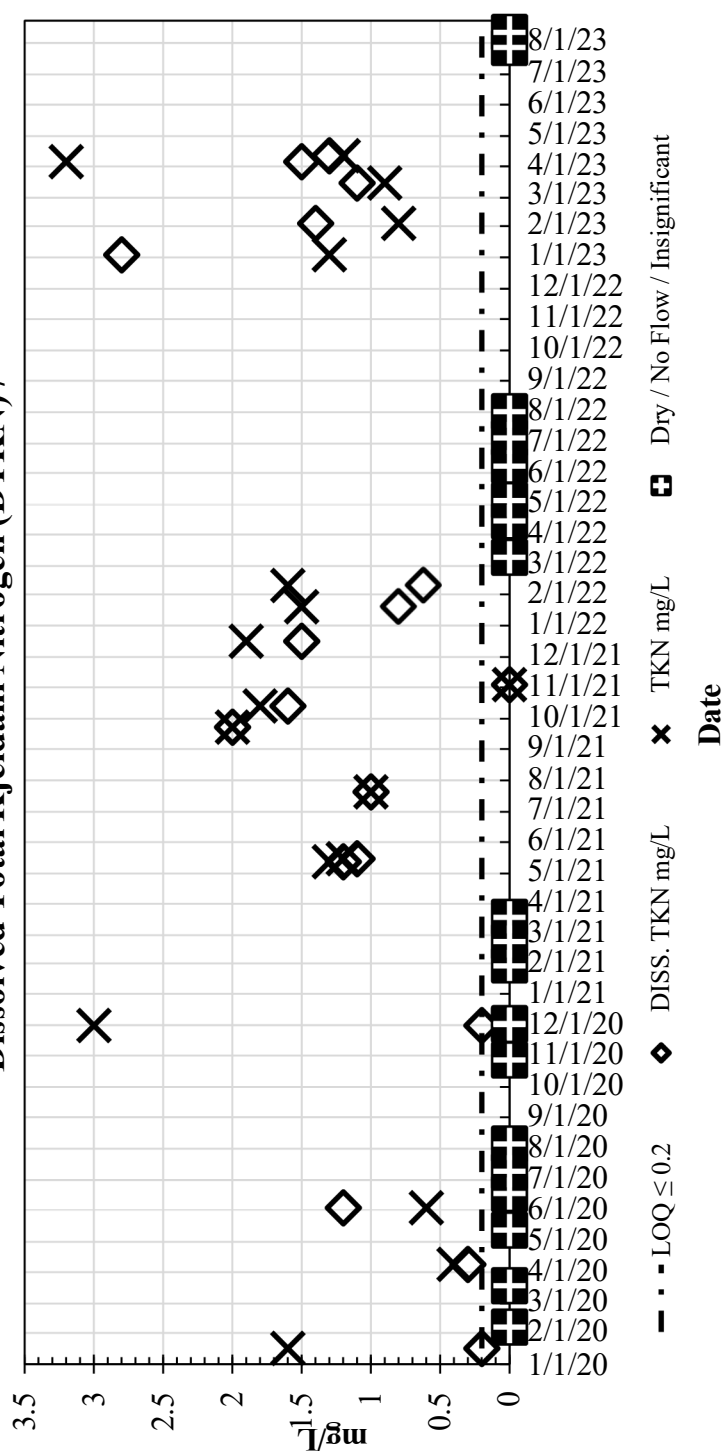
21929

Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /

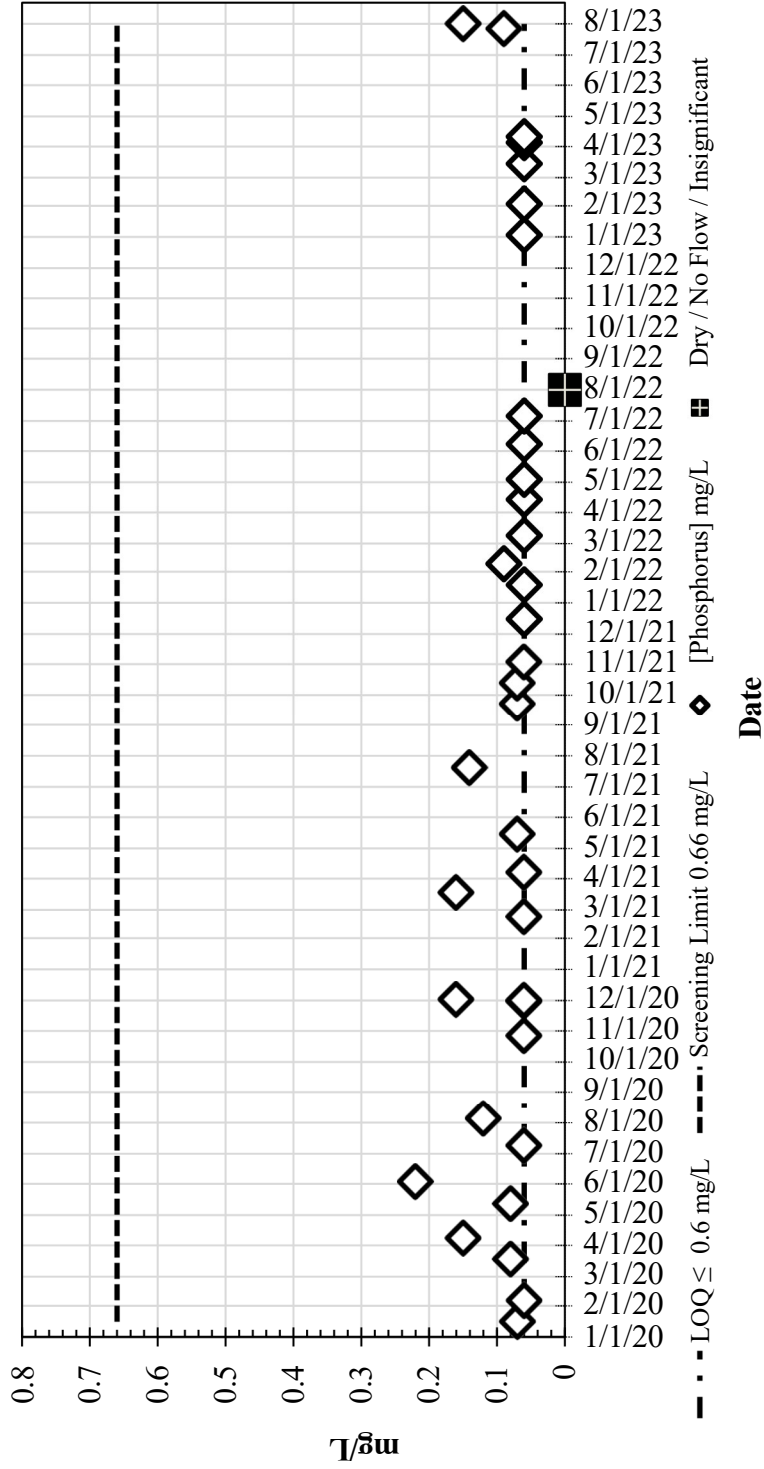


21931

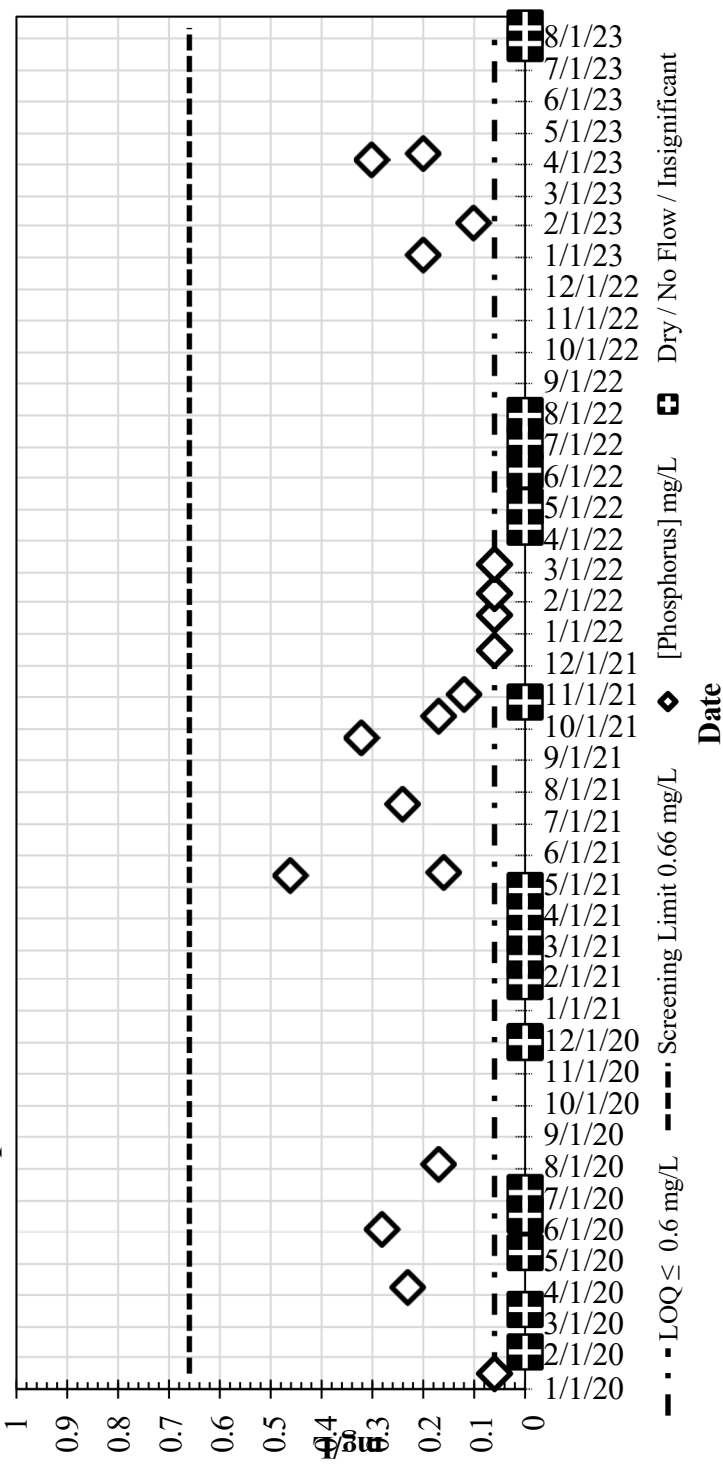
Dissolved Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (DTKN) /



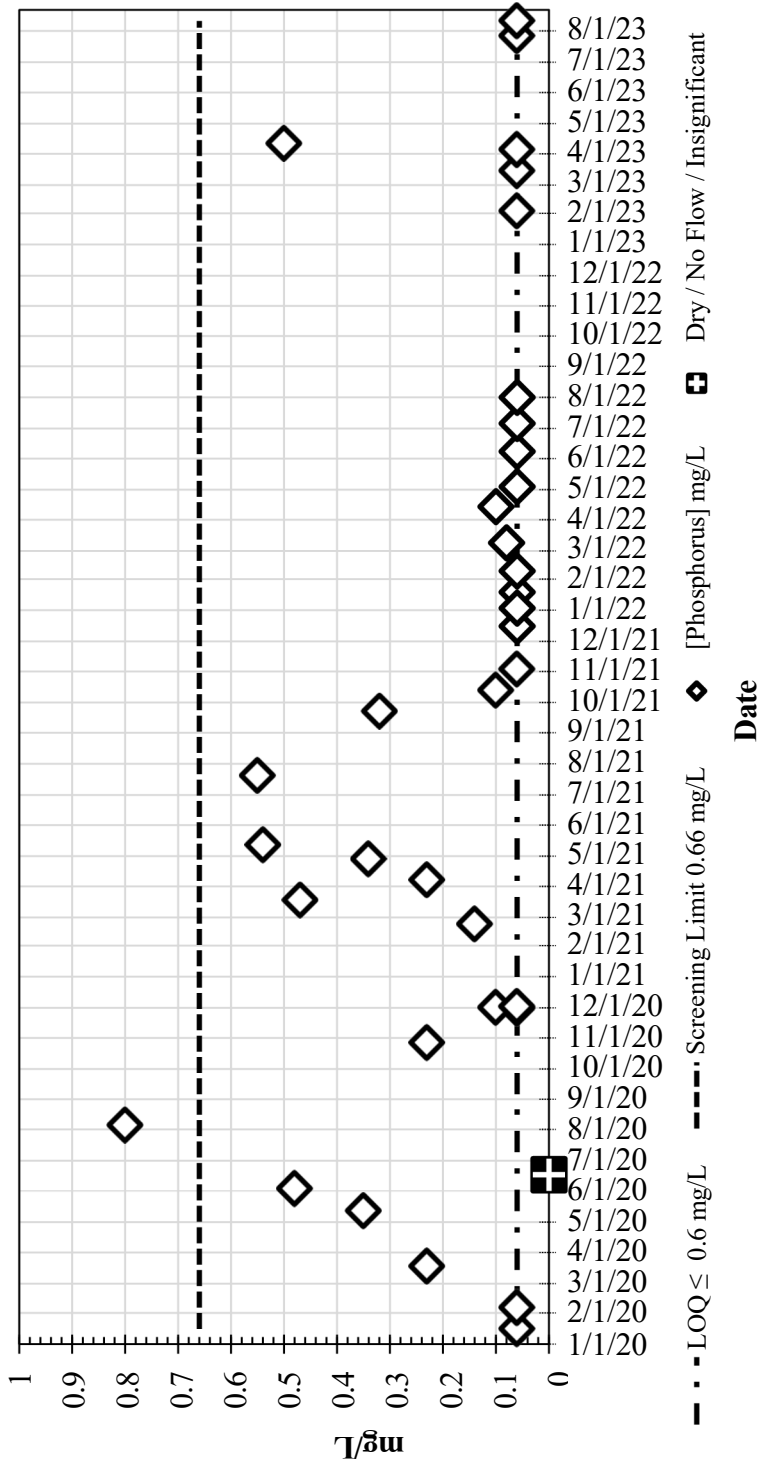
13030 Total Phosphorus



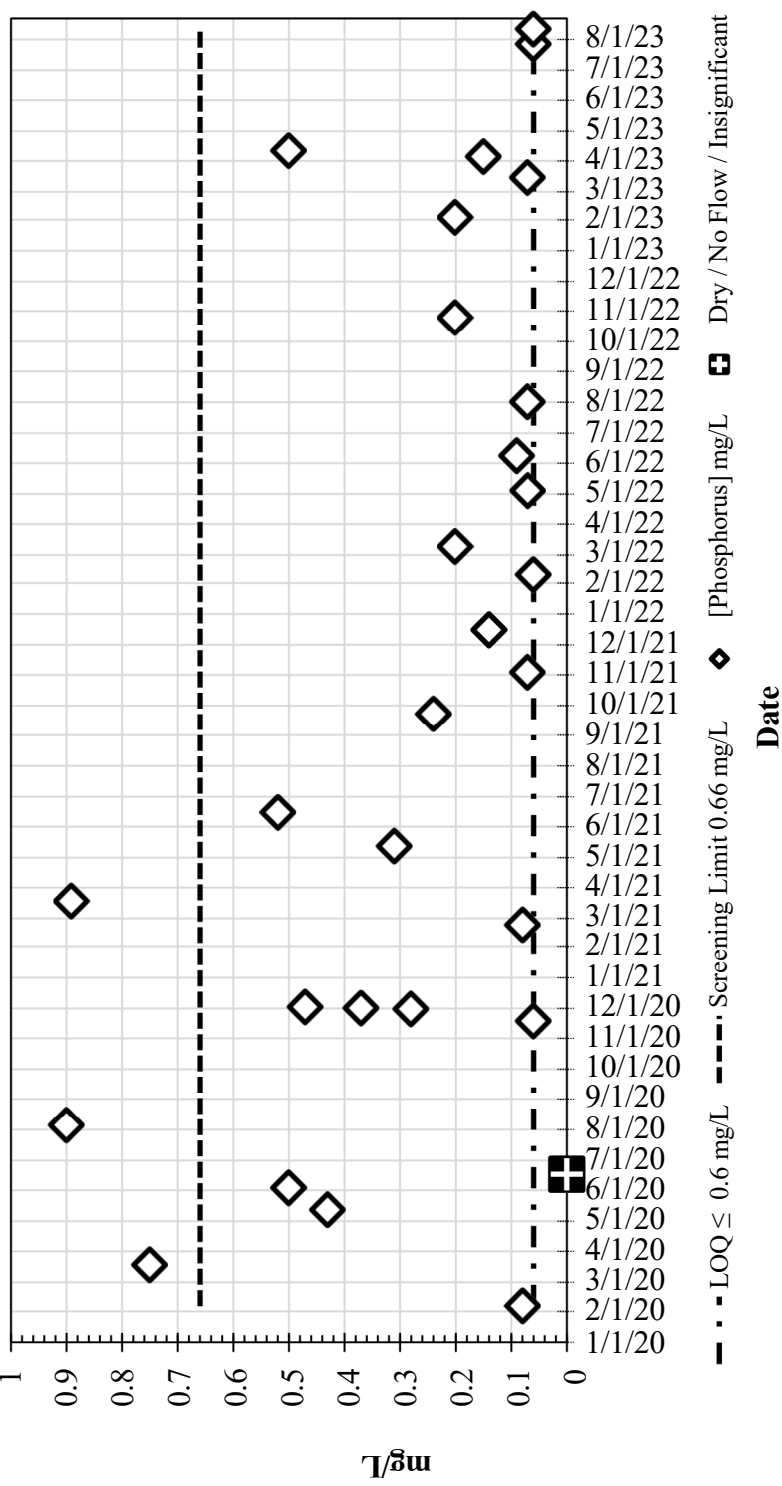
13032 Total Phosphorus



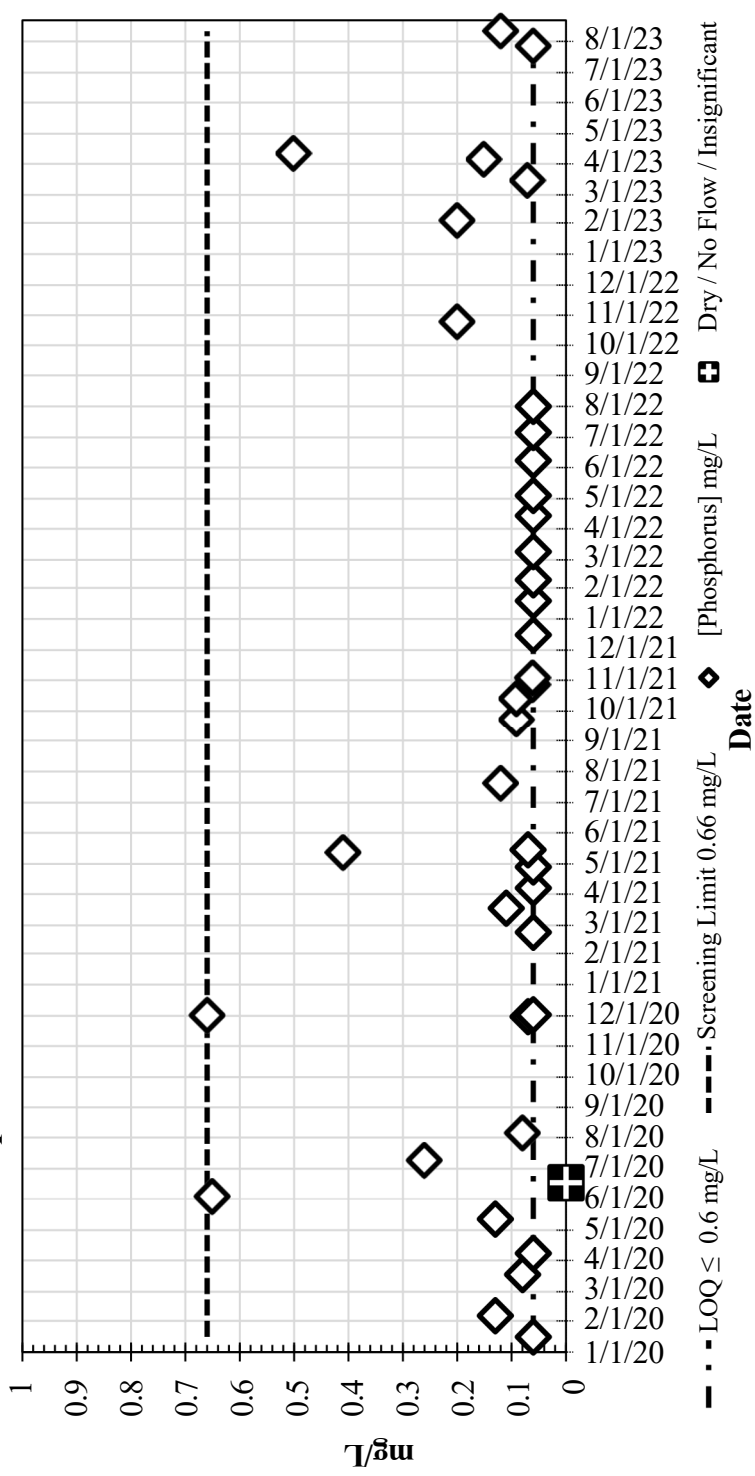
13095 Total Phosphorus



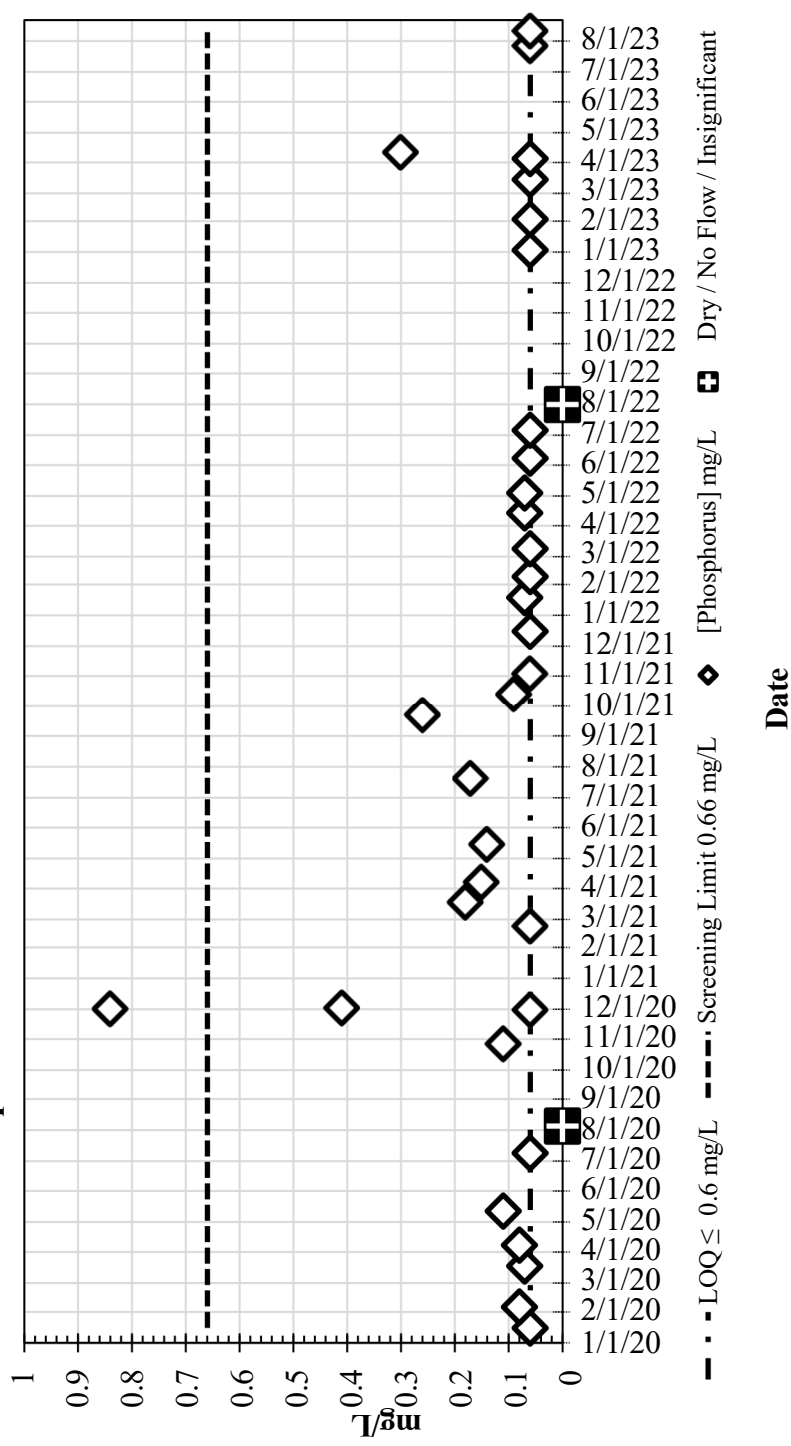
13096 Total Phosphorus



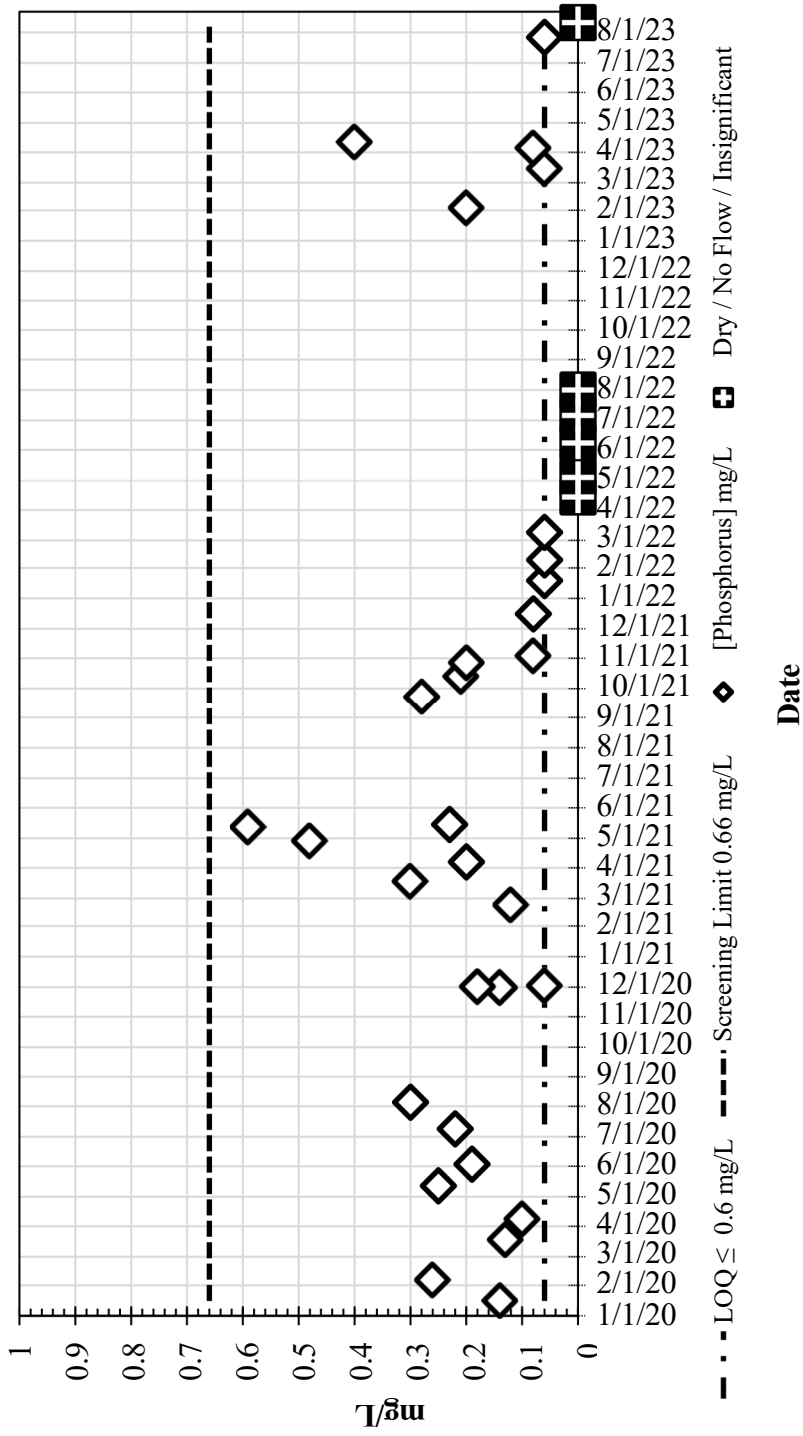
18484 Total Phosphorus



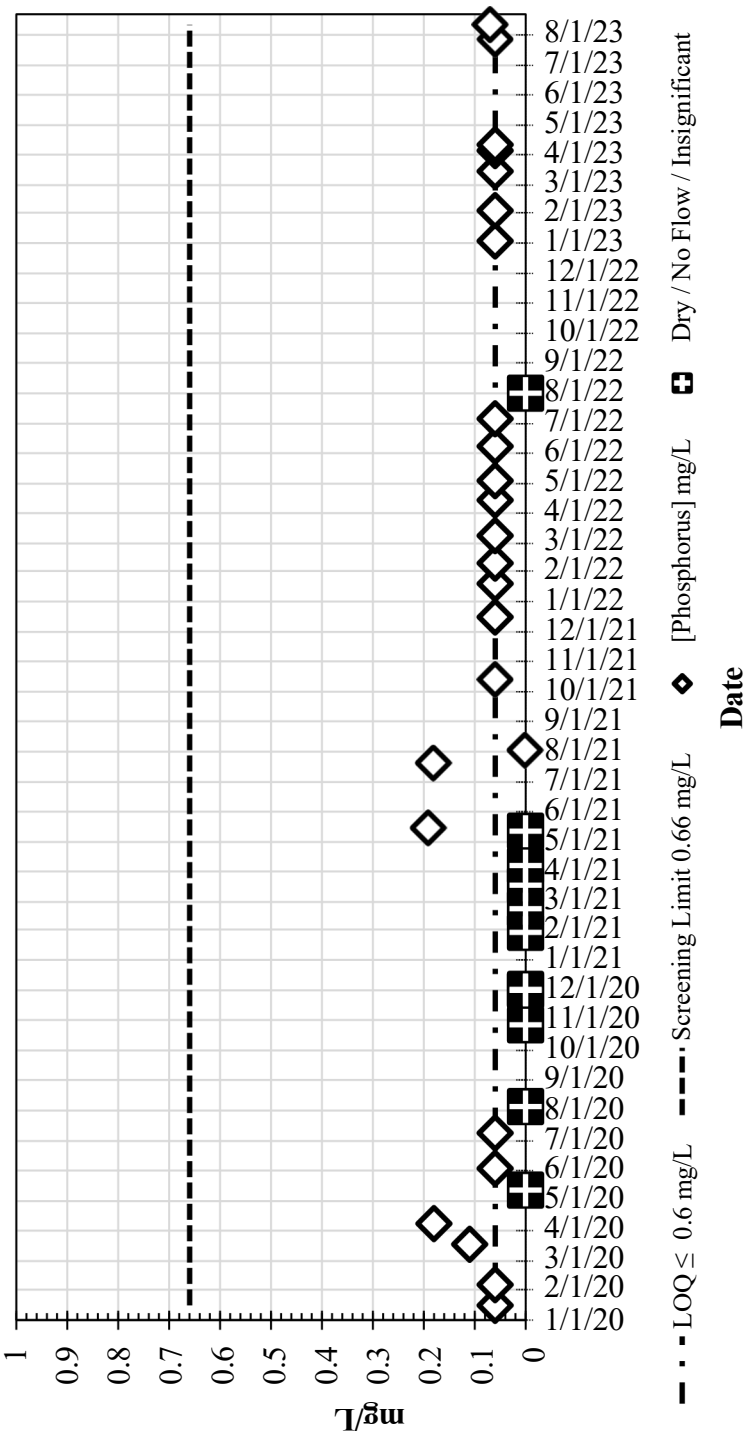
18642 Total Phosphorus



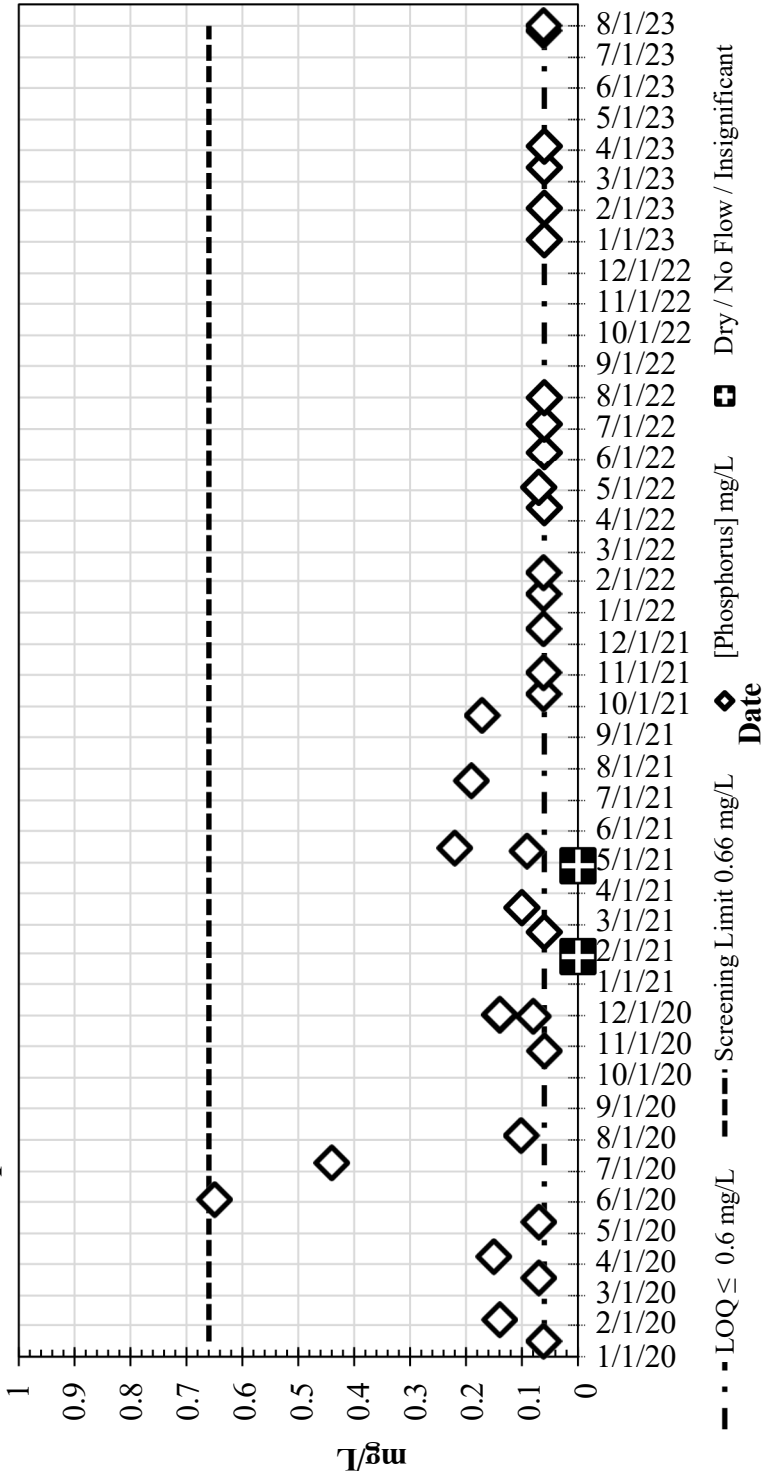
21594 Total Phosphorus



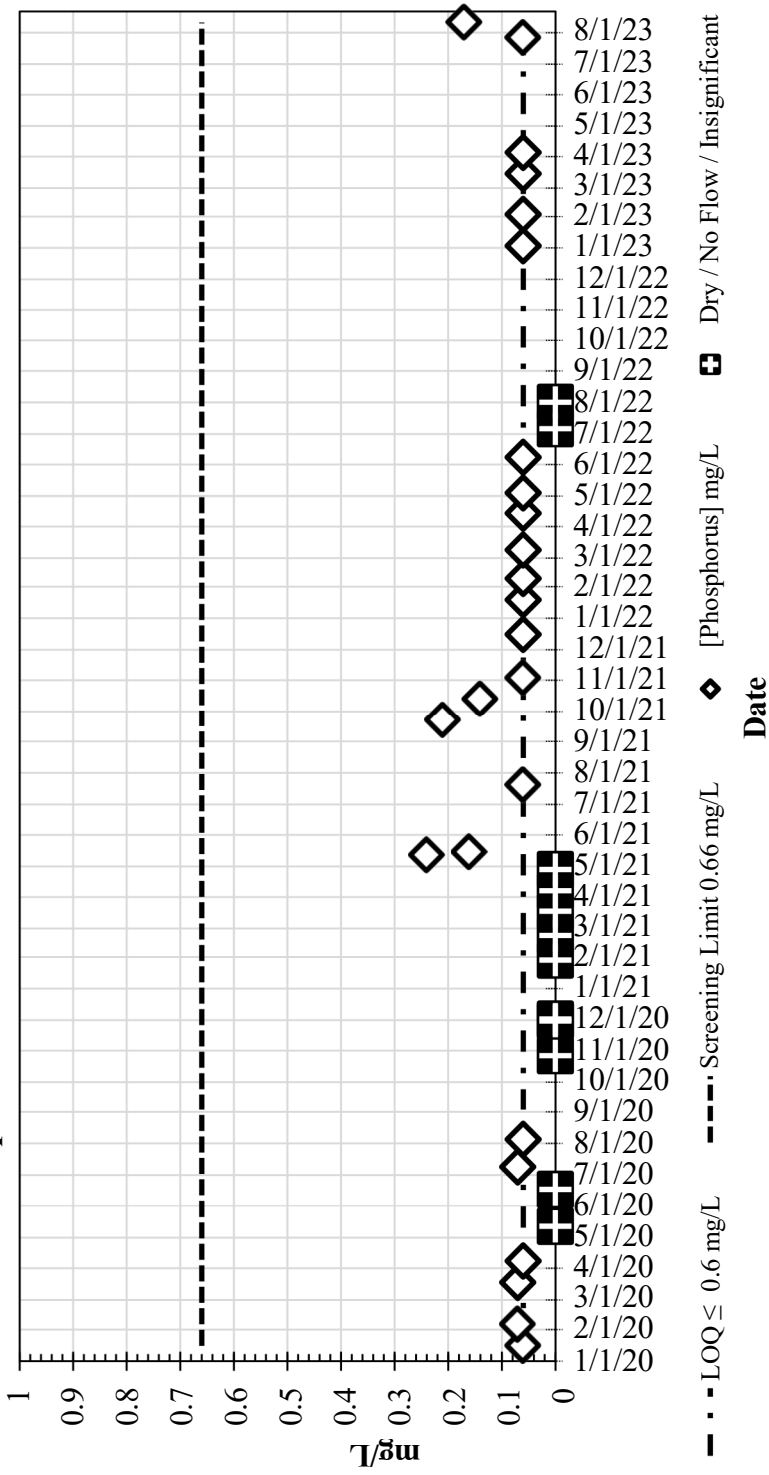
21596 Total Phosphorus



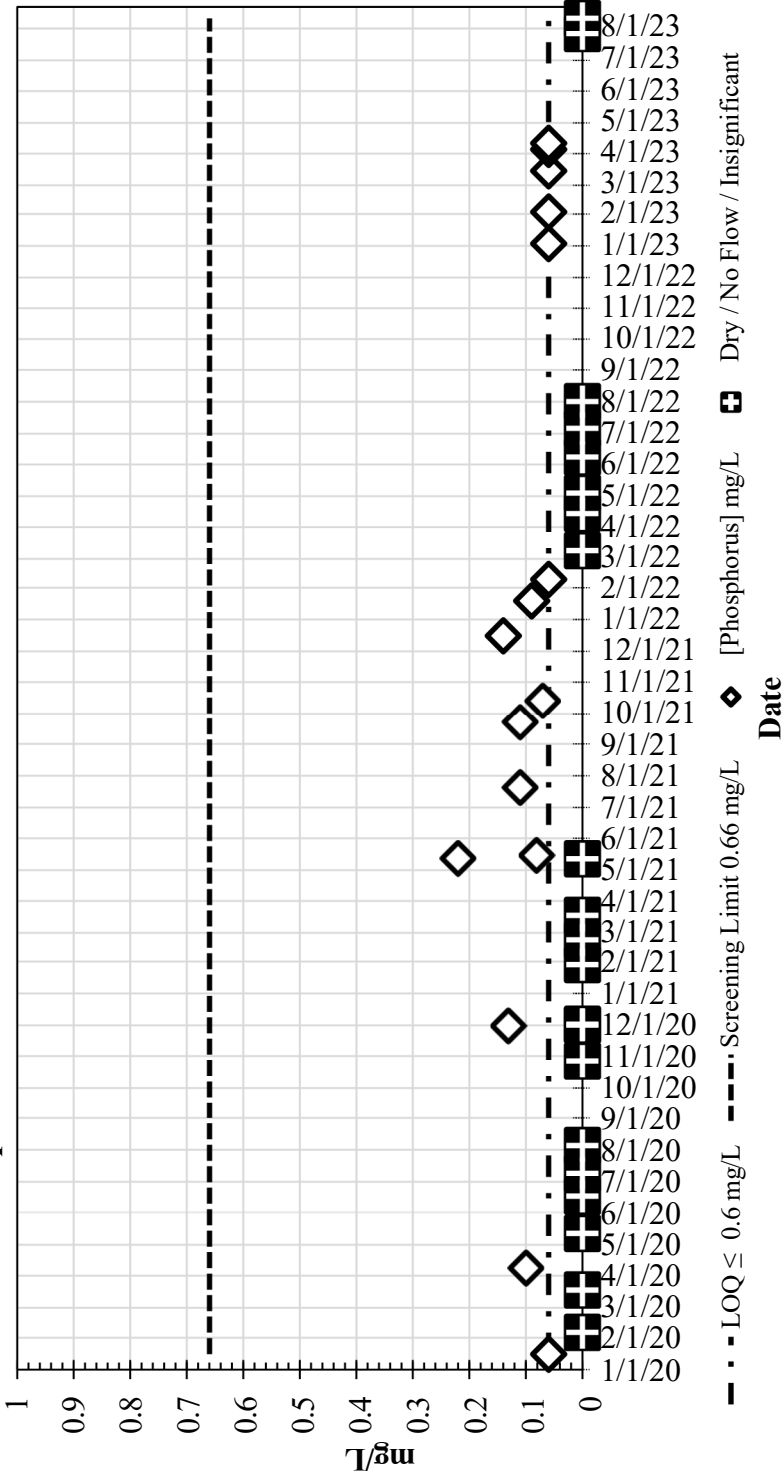
21598 Total Phosphorus



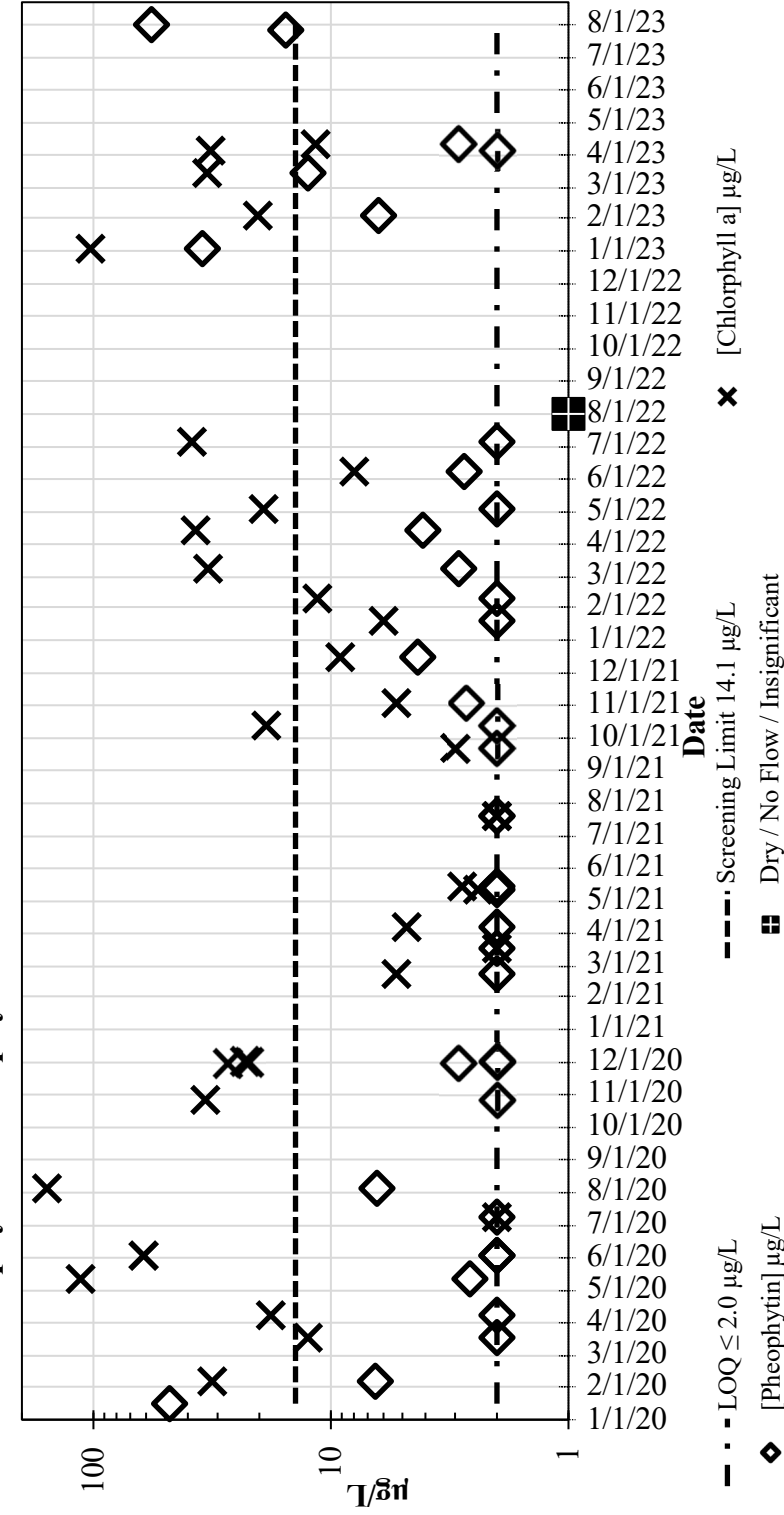
21929 Total Phosphorus



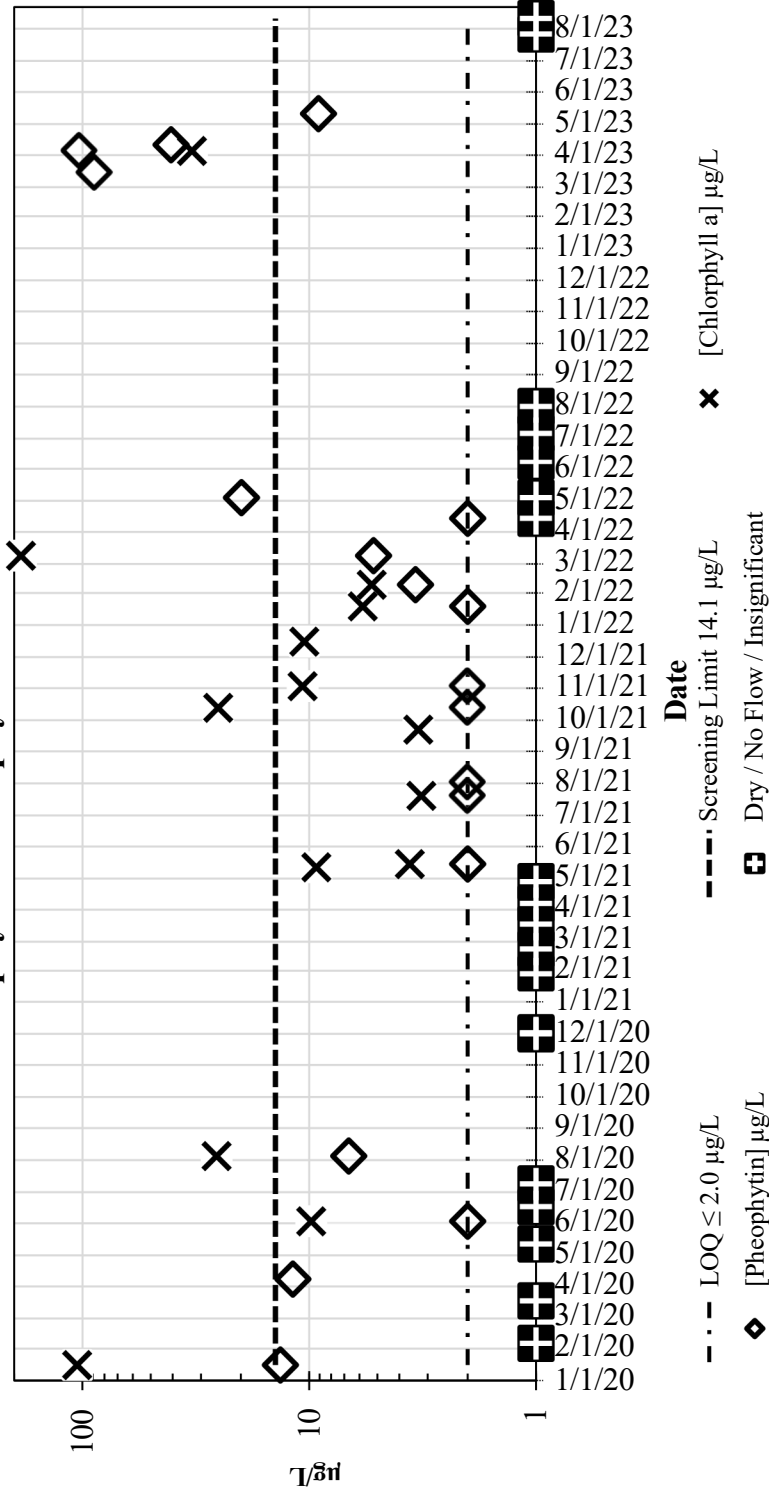
21931 Total Phosphorus



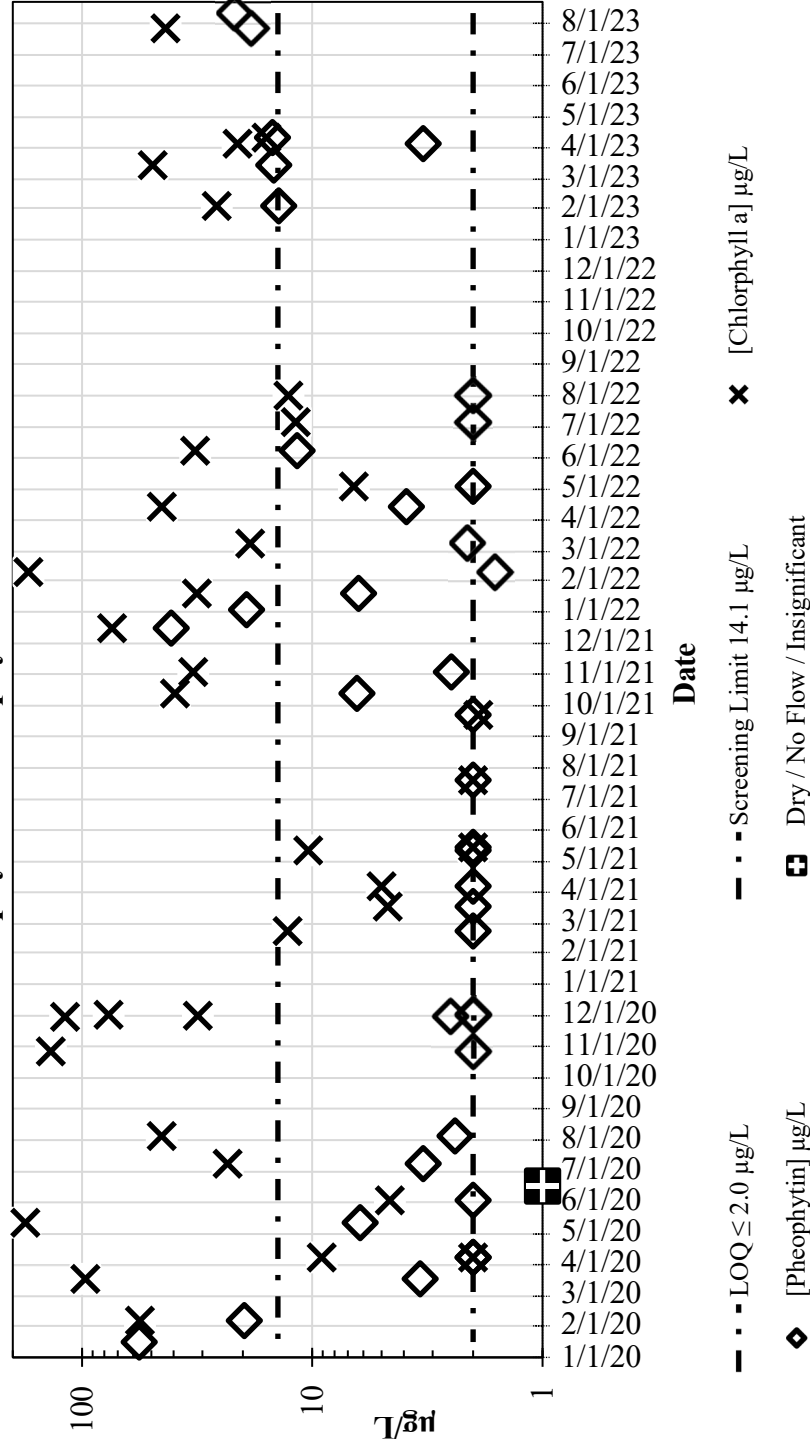
13030 Chlorophyll a / Pheophytin



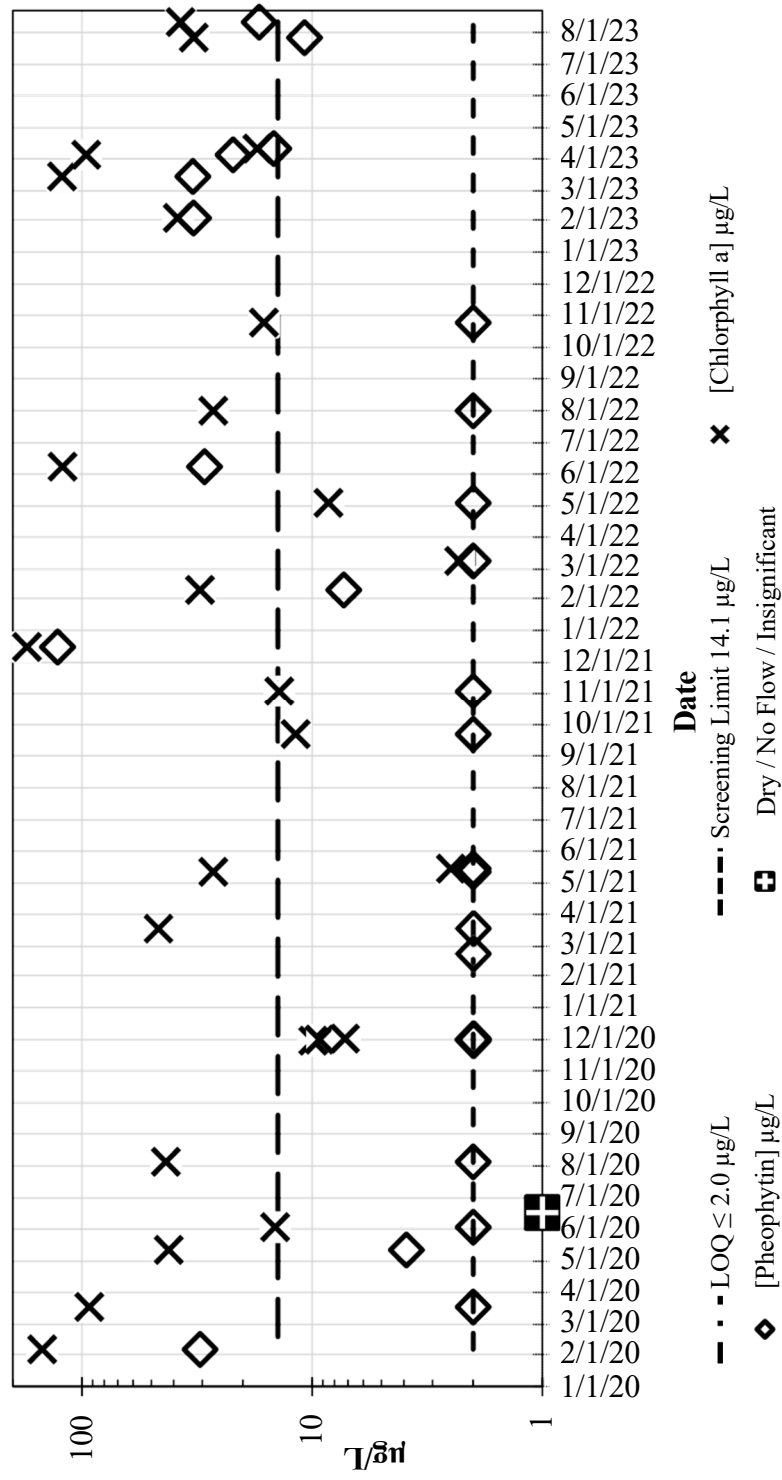
Station 13032 Chlorophyll-*a* / Pheophytin



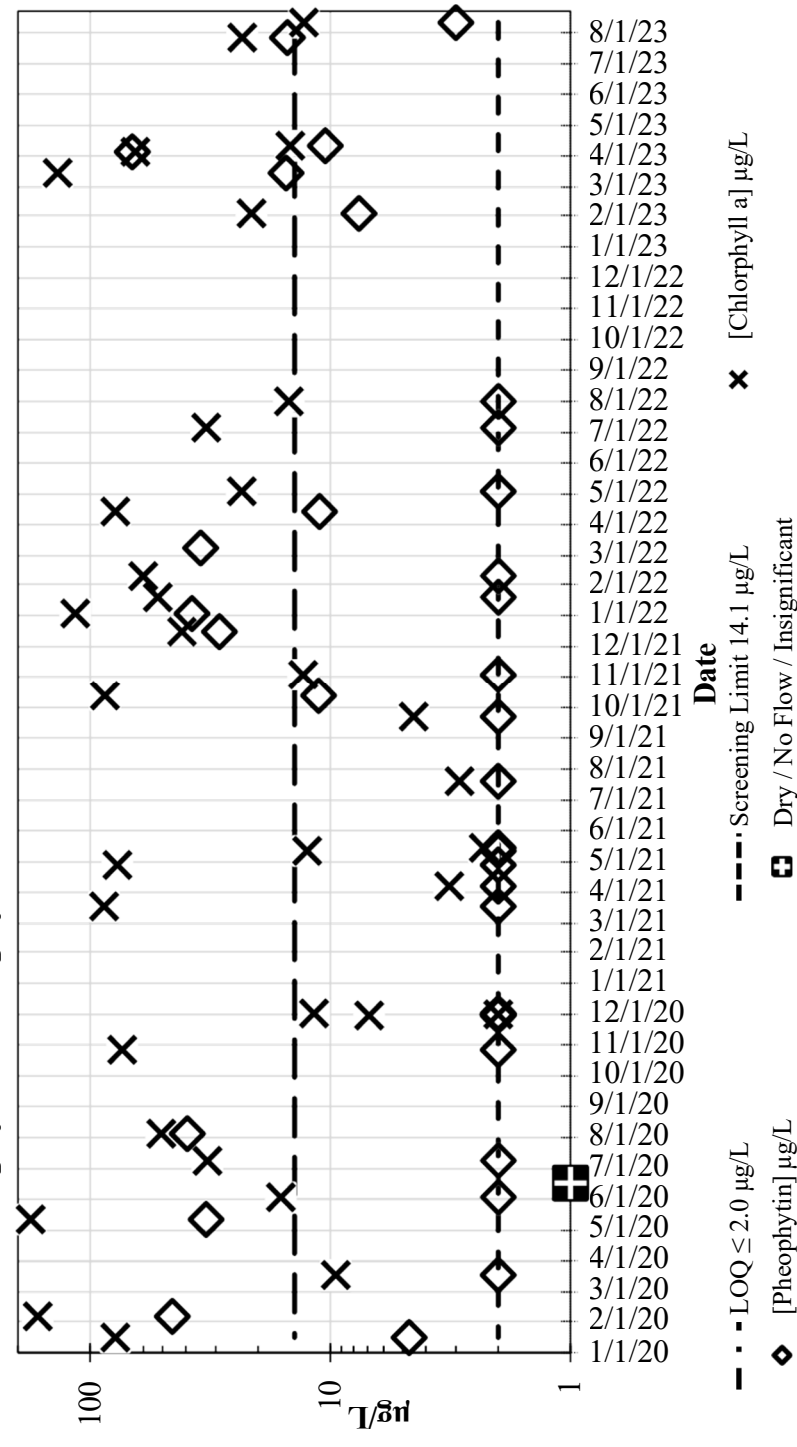
Station 13093 Chlorophyll-*a* / Pheophytin



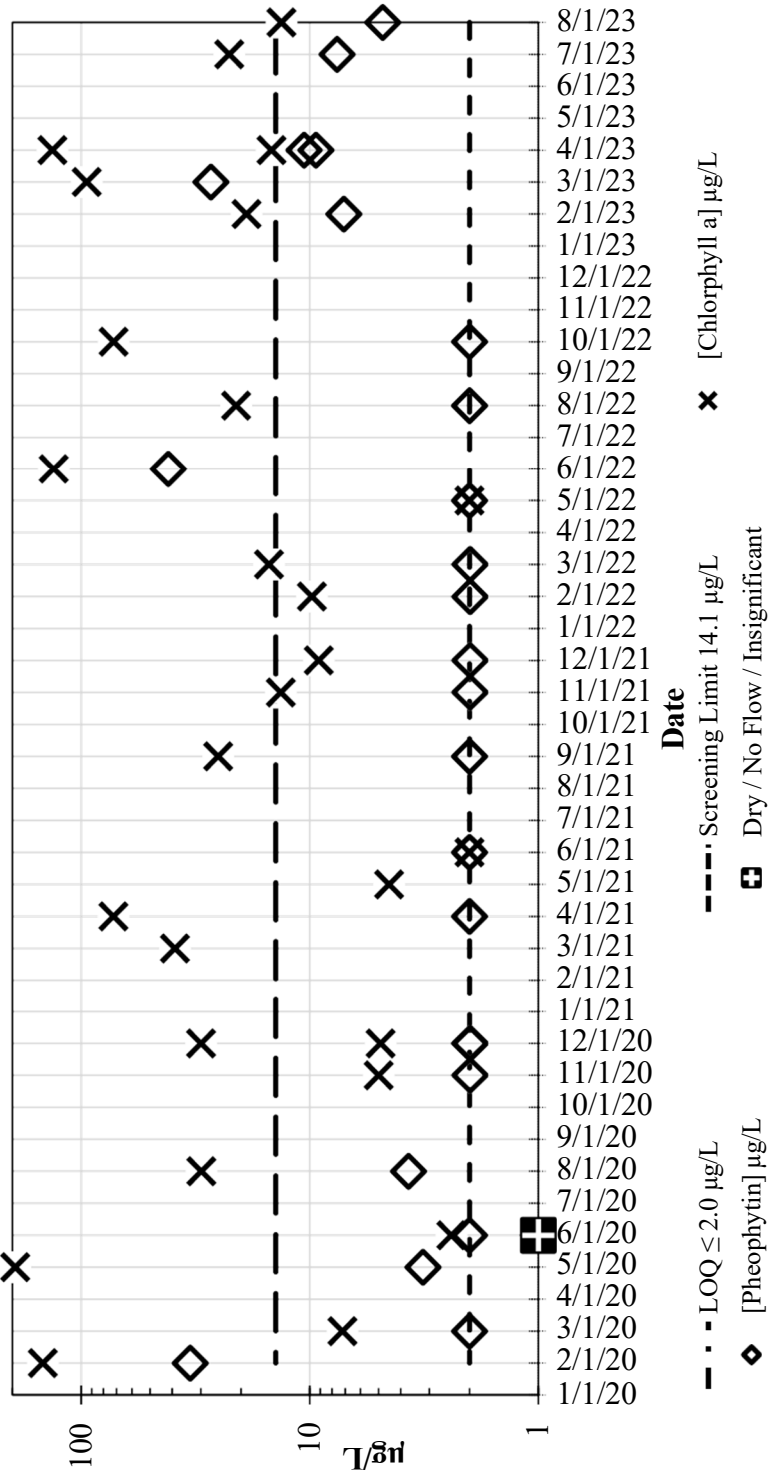
13094 Chlorophyll a / Pheophytin



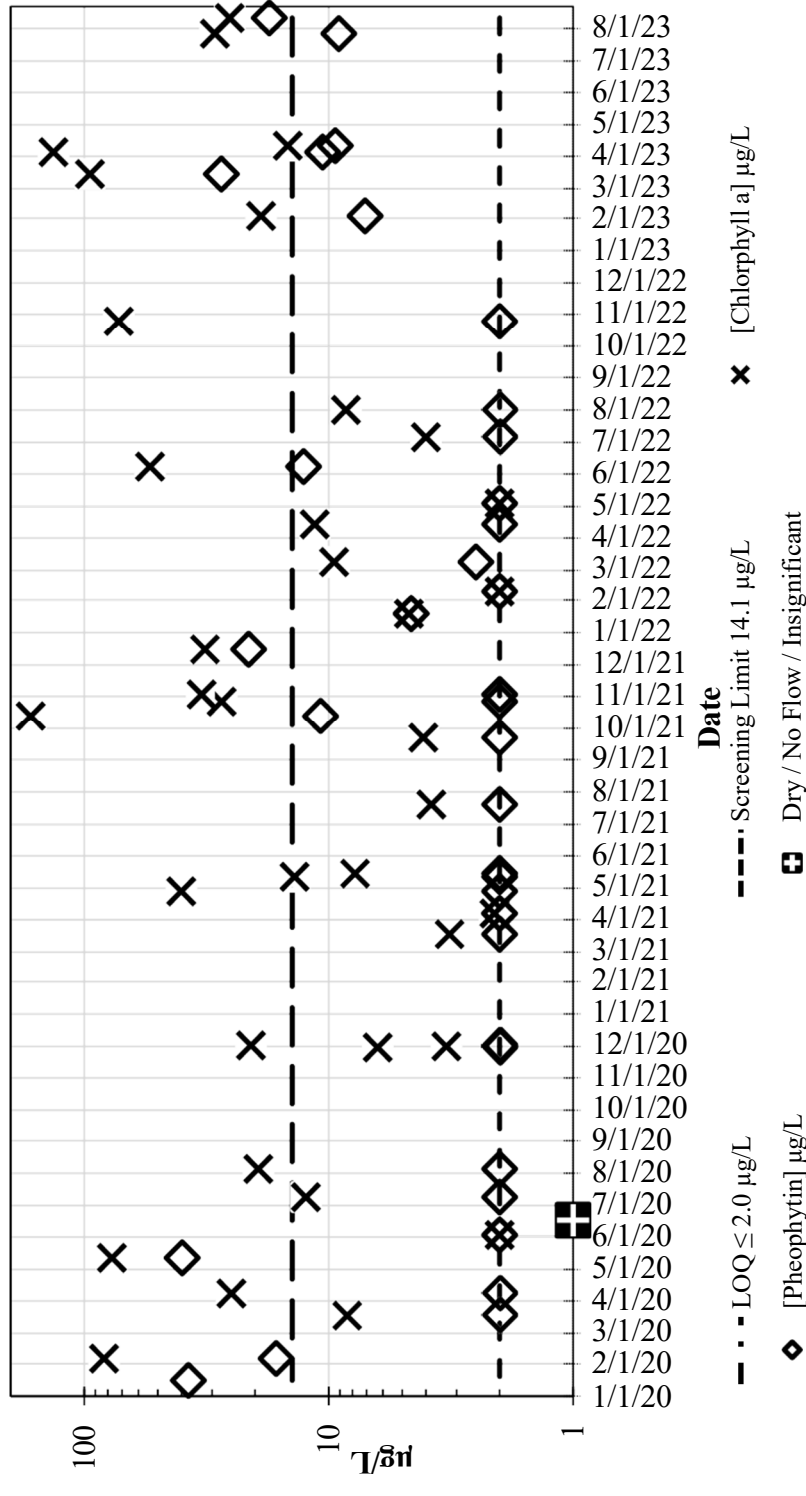
13095 Chlorophyll a / Pheophytin



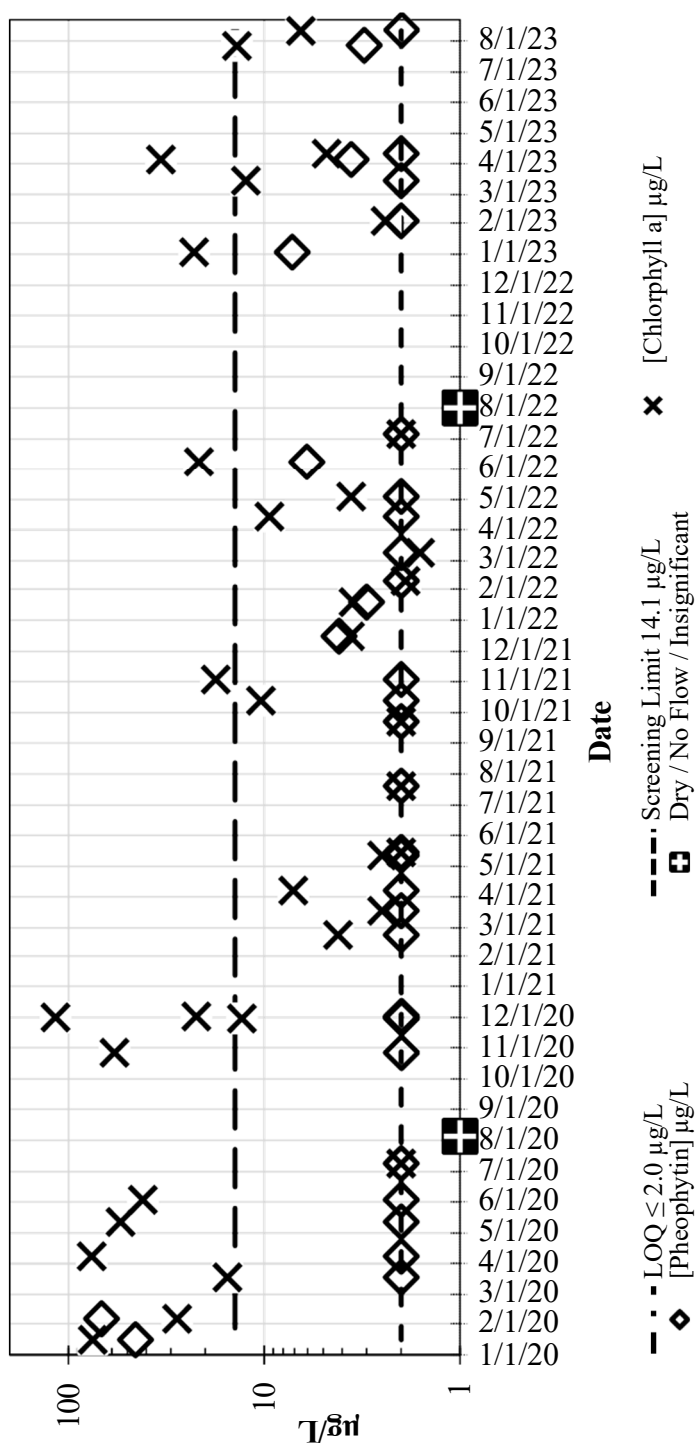
13096 Chlorophyll a / Pheophytin



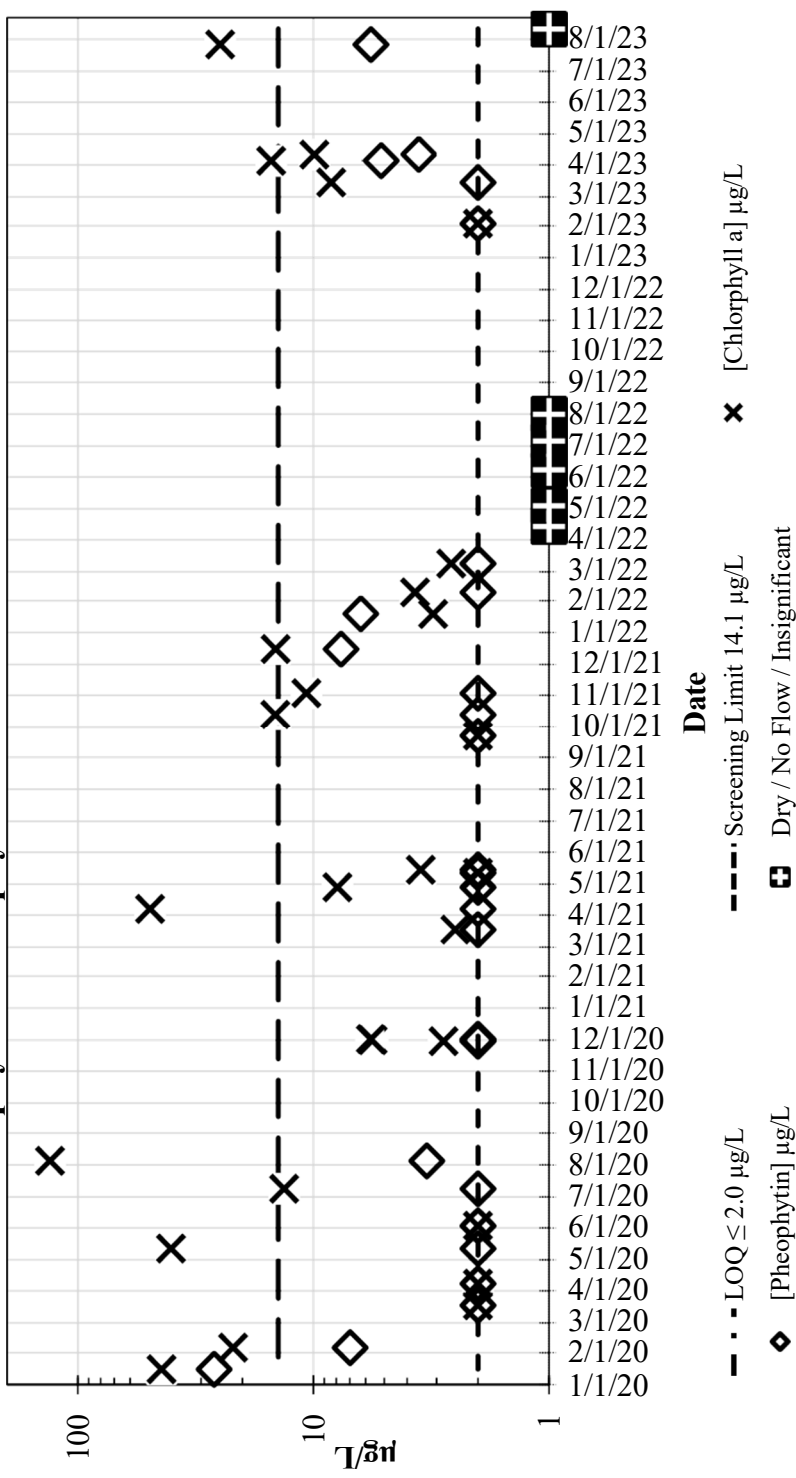
Station 18484 Chlorophyll-a / Pheophytin



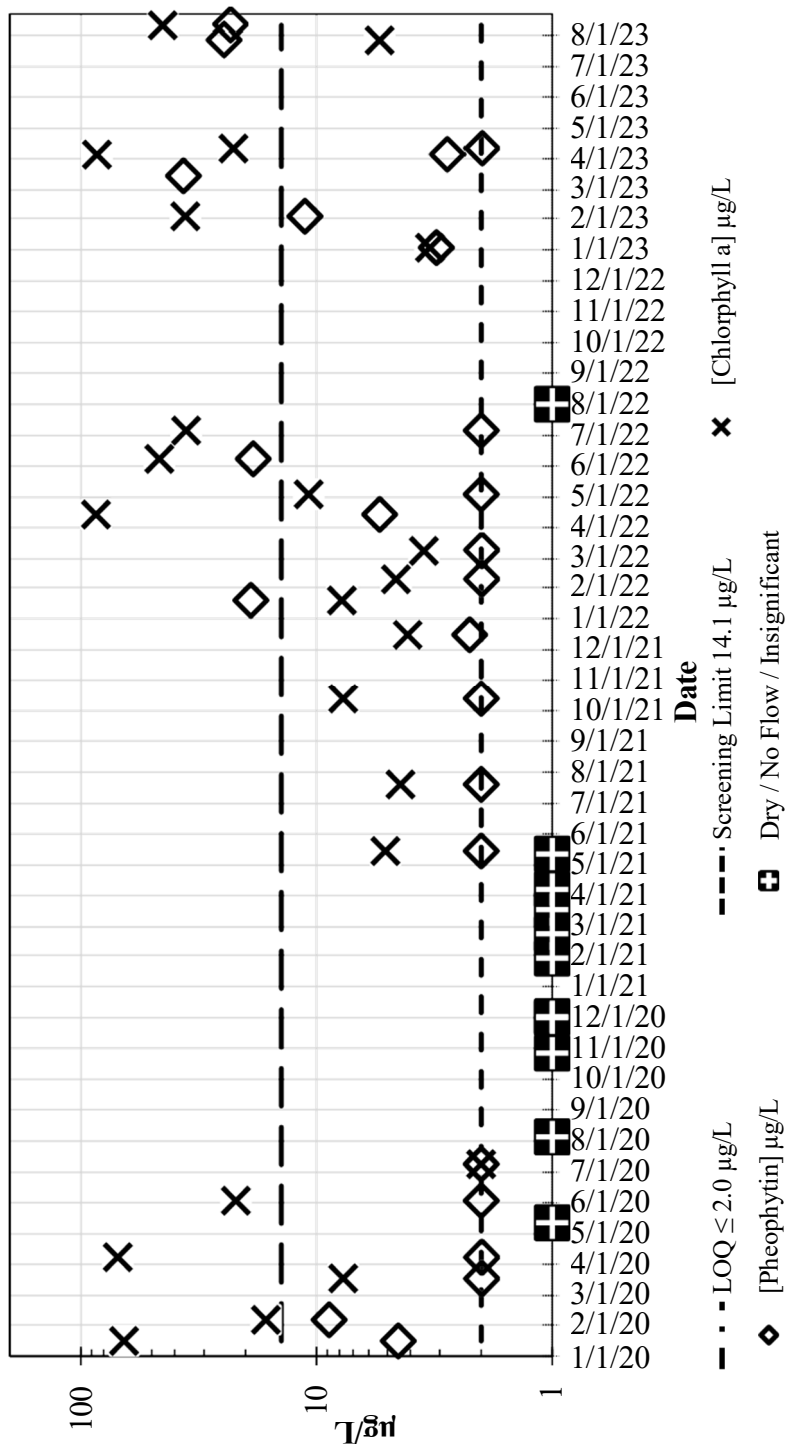
Station 18642 Chlorophyll-a / Pheophytin



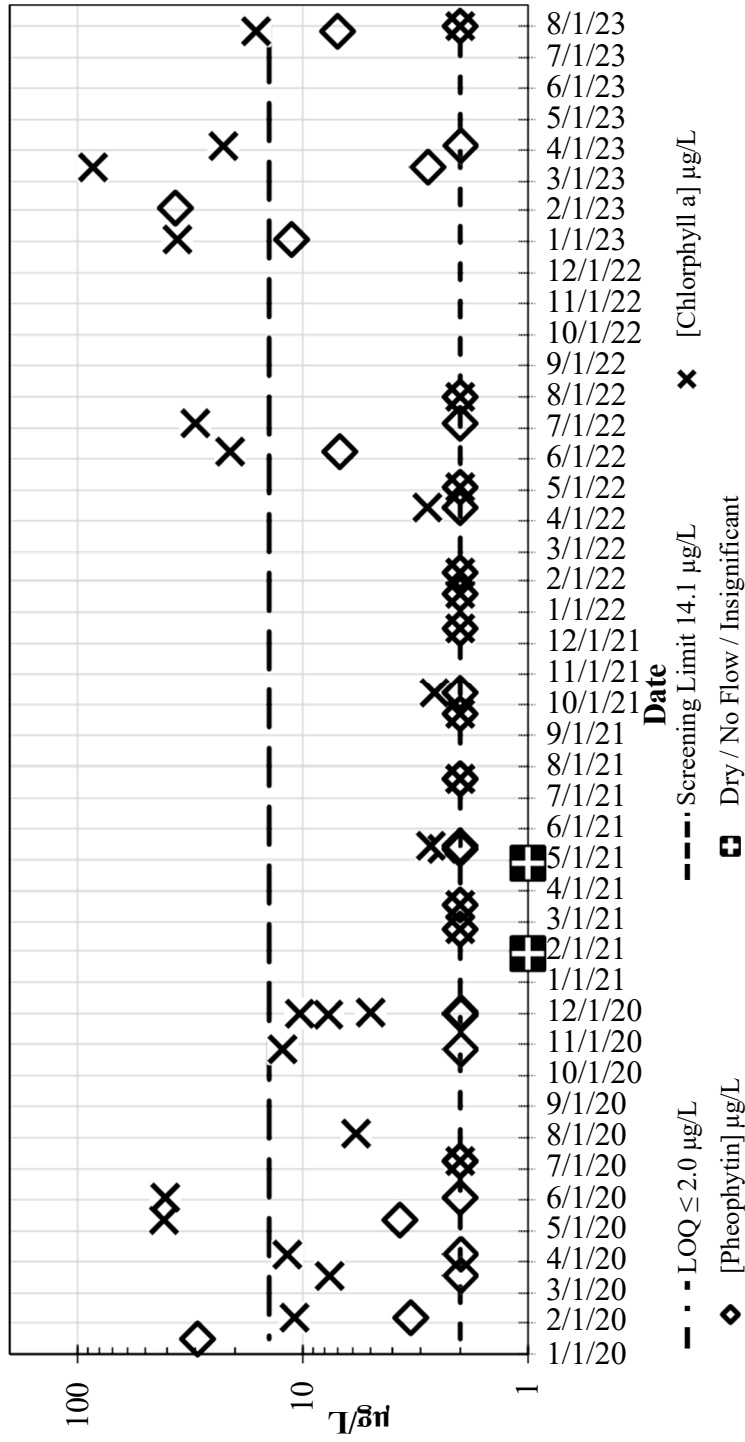
Station 21594 Chlorophyll-a / Pheophytin



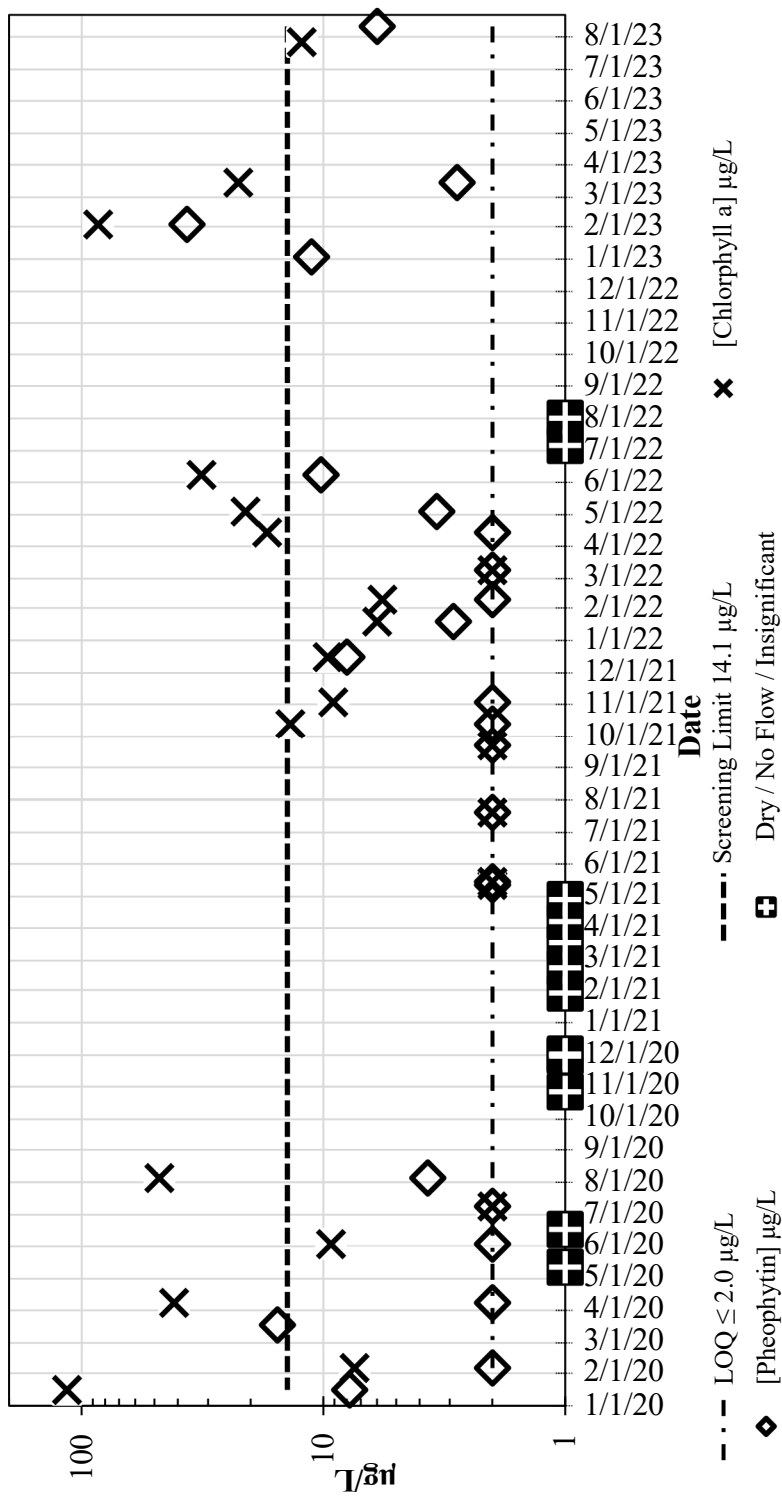
Station 21596 Chlorophyll-*a* / Pheophytin



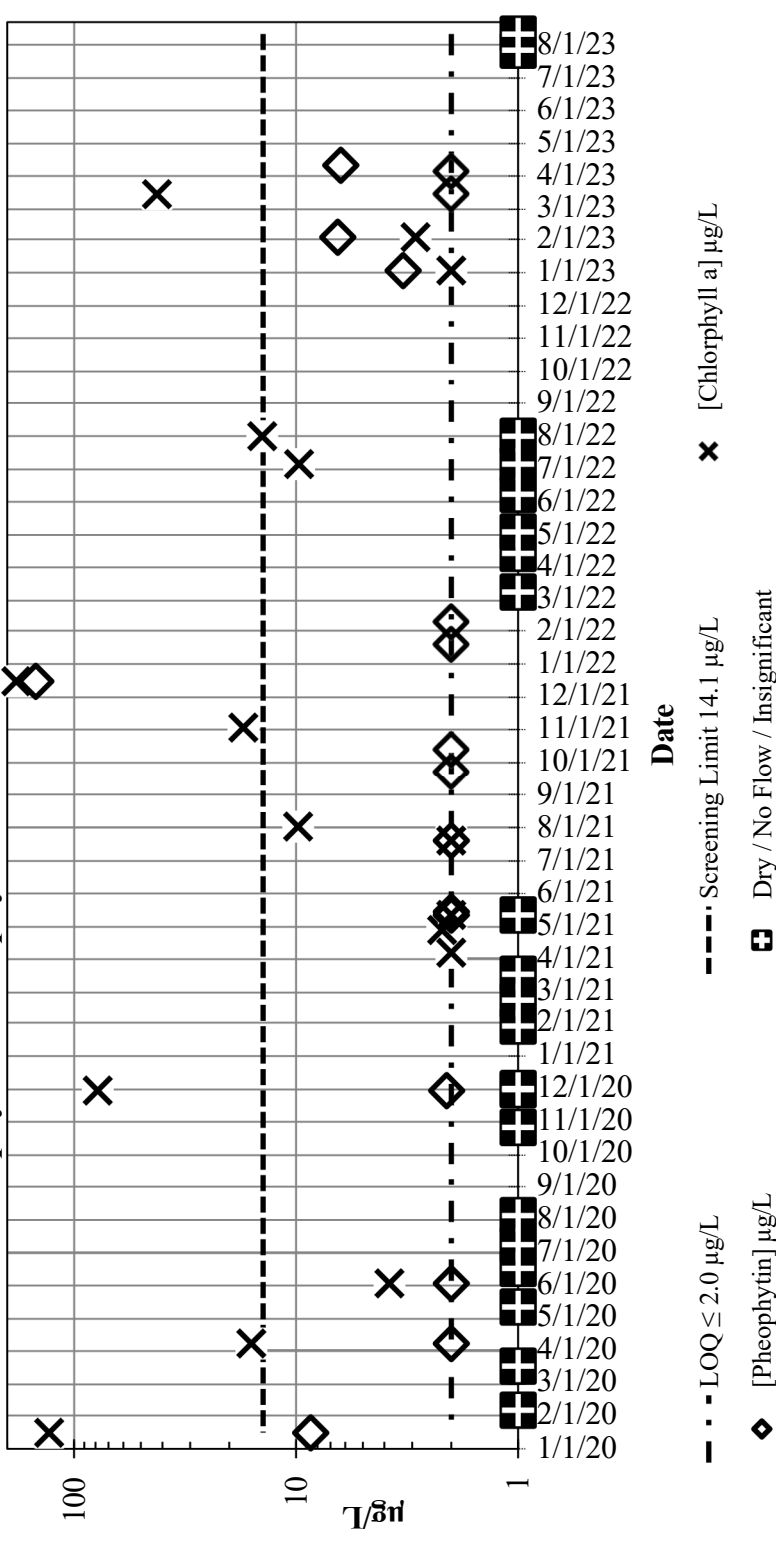
21598 Chlorophyll a / Pheophytin



21929 Chlorophyll a / Pheophytin



Station 21931 Chlorophyll-a / Pheophytin



Conclusion

Nutrient inputs to Petronila Creek Above Tidal (TCEQ Segment 2204) come from a variety of permitted and non-permitted sources including wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), non-point source (NPS) runoff from cropland, groundwater interactions, wildlife, and other natural sources.

Permitted sources include eight WWTPs that contribute treated domestic wastewater to Petronila Creek Above Tidal or its tributaries, one of which contributes measurable flow to the study area. The City of Driscoll is permitted to release up to 100,000 gpd of treated effluent upstream of station 13096. A ninth source, US Ecology, is permitted for stormwater effluent only (Appendix B).

Water quality monitoring was typically conducted at base flow conditions for much of the study period. Many of the nutrient parameters analyzed in this report show an extremely wide range of concentrations with results spanning from the limits of quantification to values significantly above their respective screening levels. Episodes of highly elevated nutrient concentrations as well as periods of very low concentrations show varying degrees of seasonality and are summarized below:

Ammonia-

The LOQ for ammonia is 0.1 mg/L. The TCEQ screening level is 0.33 mg/L.

Ammonia	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	0.01 mg/L	0.8 mg/L	0.14 mg/L
Main Steam Stations	0.01 mg/L	0.5 mg/L	0.11 mg/L
Tributary Stations	0.10 mg/L	0.8 mg/L	0.14 mg/L

Nitrate-Nitrogen-

LOQ for nitrate-nitrogen is 0.025 mg/L. The TCEQ screening level is 1.95 mg/L.

Nitrate-Nitrogen	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	0.02 mg/L	57 mg/L	3.15 mg/L
Main Steam Stations	0.02 mg/L	37.5 mg/L	2.9 mg/L
Tributary Stations	0.02 mg/L	57 mg/L	3.27 mg/L

Nitrite-Nitrogen-

The LOQ for [nitrite-nitrogen] is 0.02 mg/L, however no TCEQ screening level exists for this parameter.

Nitrite-Nitrogen	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	0.02 mg/L	5.3 mg/L	0.06 mg/L
Main Steam Stations	0.02 mg/L	0.15 mg/L	0.02 mg/L
Tributary Stations	0.02 mg/L	5.3 mg/L	0.08 mg/L

Dissolved Total Kjedahl Nitrogen (Dissolved TKN)-

The LOQ for dissolved TKN is 0.2 mg/L, however no TCEQ screening levels exist for this nutrient parameter.

DTKN	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	0.20 mg/L	5.2 mg/L	1.03 mg/L
Main Steam Stations	0.20 mg/L	2.7 mg/L	0.87 mg/L
Tributary Stations	0.20 mg/L	5.2 mg/L	1.11 mg/L

Total Kjedahl Nitrogen (TKN) –

The LOQ for TKN is 0.2 mg/L, however no TCEQ screening levels exist for this nutrient parameter.

TKN	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	0.20 mg/L	12.2 mg/L	1.29 mg/L
Main Steam Stations	0.20 mg/L	4.2 mg/L	1.07 mg/L
Tributary Stations	0.20 mg/L	12.2 mg/L	1.39 mg/L

Total Phosphorus -

The LOQ for TP is 0.06 mg/L. The TCEQ screening level is 0.69 mg/L.

Phosphorus	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	0.06 mg/L	4.75 mg/L	0.16 mg/L
Main Steam Stations	0.06 mg/L	2.88 mg/L	0.16 mg/L
Tributary Stations	0.06 mg/L	4.75 mg/L	0.17 mg/L

Chlorophyll- a –

The LOQ for Chlorophyll-a is 2.0 µg/L. The TCEQ screening level is 14.1 µg/L.

Chlorophyll-a	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	2 ug/L	1321.9 ug/L	49.1 ug/L
Main Steam Stations	2 ug/L	390.4 ug/L	29.1 ug/L
Tributary Stations	2 ug/L	1321.9 ug/L	58 ug/L

Pheophytin –

The LOQ for Pheophytin is 2.0 µg/L, however no TCEQ screening levels exist for this nutrient parameter.

Pheophytin	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Main steam and Tributary Stations	2 ug/L	2415 ug/L	15.92 ug/L
Main Steam Stations	2 ug/L	127.7 ug/L	27.23 ug/L
Tributary Stations	2 ug/L	2415 ug/L	19.98 ug/L

Recommendations

To adequately quantify the spatial and temporal contribution of nutrient inputs to Petronila Creek Above Tidal (TCEQ Segment 2204), nutrient data collection in the watershed is recommended to continue to further assess hydrologic and climactic variability effects on water quality.

Appendix A: Photographs of Monitoring Stations

Station 21928 – Petronila Tributary @ FM 70 (Cefe #1)

Downstream view at Station 21928





Upstream view at Station 21928

Station 21929 – Petronila Tributary @ FM 70 (Cefe #2)



Downstream view at Station 21929

Station 13030 – Petronila Tributary @ FM 70



Upstream view at Station 13030

Downstream view at Station 13030



Station 13093 – Petronila Creek @ FM 70



Upstream view at Station 13093

Downstream view at Station 13093



Station 21596 – Petronila Tributary @ FM 892



Upstream view at Station 21596

Downstream view at Station 21596



Station 18642 – Petronila Tributary @ FM 892



Upstream view at Station 18642

Downstream view at Station 18642



Station 13094 – Petronila Creek @ FM 892



Upstream view at Station 13094

Station 21931 – Petronila Tributary @ FM 3354

Downstream view at Station 21931



Upstream view at Station 21931

Station 13095 - Petronila Creek @ CR 232

Downstream view at Station 13095





Upstream view at Station 13095

Station 13032 – Petronila Tributary @ CR 18 & CR 75

Downstream view at Station 13032



Upstream view at Station 13032

Station 13096 – Petronila Creek @ FM 665

Downstream view at Station 13096



Station 18484 – Petronila Tributary @ CR 24

Downstream view at Station 18484





Upstream view at Station 18484

Station 21594 – Petronila Tributary @ CR 233

Downstream view at Station 21594





Upstream view at Station 21594

Appendix B

Wastewater Discharge Permit Information

2204 Petronila Creek Above Tidal

#1. WQ0002888-000 – US Ecology Texas: storm water via Nueces County drainage ditch

#2. WQ0010140-001 – City of Agua Dulce: 160,000 gpd via Agua Dulce Creek

#3. WQ0010592-001 – City of Orange Grove: 200,000 gpd via Agua Dulce Creek

#4. WQ0011541-001 – City of Driscoll: 100,000 gpd

#5 WQ0011583-002 – Nueces County WCID #5: 8,000,000 gpd via Banquete Creek

#6. WQ0011754-001 – Bishop Consolidated ISD: 8,000 gpd via drainage ditch

#7. WQ0014802-001 – Geo Group: 150,000 gpd via drainage ditch

#8. WQ0014981-002 – KB Foundation of Texas: 9,000 gpd