



September 11, 2019

Dr. Charles Regan
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Dr. Regan:

RE: Extension, Recalibration, Sensitivity Analysis/Model Refinement, and Compliance Scenarios for the Shell Rock River Watershed HSPF Model

This letter presents the methods for extending the time-series data through 2018 for the Shell Rock River Watershed (07080202) HSPF model application watershed data management (WDM) files, an overview of the hydrologic and water quality recalibration, and a summary of the sensitivity analysis and subsequent model refinement and compliance scenarios for the Shell Rock River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessments.

The Shell Rock River Watershed and impaired waterbodies in the watershed are shown in Figure 1. The Shell Rock River Watershed model was developed and calibrated through a previous work order in 2014 and is described in previous RESPEC reports and memoranda [McCutcheon, 2014a; 2014b]. Model subwatersheds are shown in Figure 2.

TIME-SERIES DEVELOPMENT

This section describes the procedures used to extend and replace the existing meteorological, point-source, and atmospheric deposition time series (1995–2012) through 2018. The primary sources for historical time series are spatially gridded datasets from the North American Land Data Assimilation System (NLDAS) and Parameter-Elevation Regression on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM). The NLDAS is a 12-kilometer (km) by 12-km dataset that provides hourly meteorological data. PRISM is a 4-km by 4-km dataset that provides daily precipitation totals, which are computed by combining a dense network of station data with radar measurement estimates that are interpolated based on climate-elevation regression for each digital elevation model (DEM).

PRECIPITATION

The original precipitation (PREC) time series consisted of Better Assessment Science Integrating Point and Nonpoint Sources (BASINS) and High Spatial Density Precipitation Network (HIDEN) stations. To update this model application, station precipitation data were replaced with a combination of PRISM- and NLDAS-gridded data. NLDAS and PRISM data are available up to the current year (within the last few weeks of the download date), and were used as the primary sources of precipitation and other meteorological inputs for this watershed model. The daily PRISM precipitation generally has a better fit to the point precipitation station data. Therefore, these precipitation averages were used as the primary dataset and then disaggregated by hourly NLDAS data. The final disaggregated PRISM time

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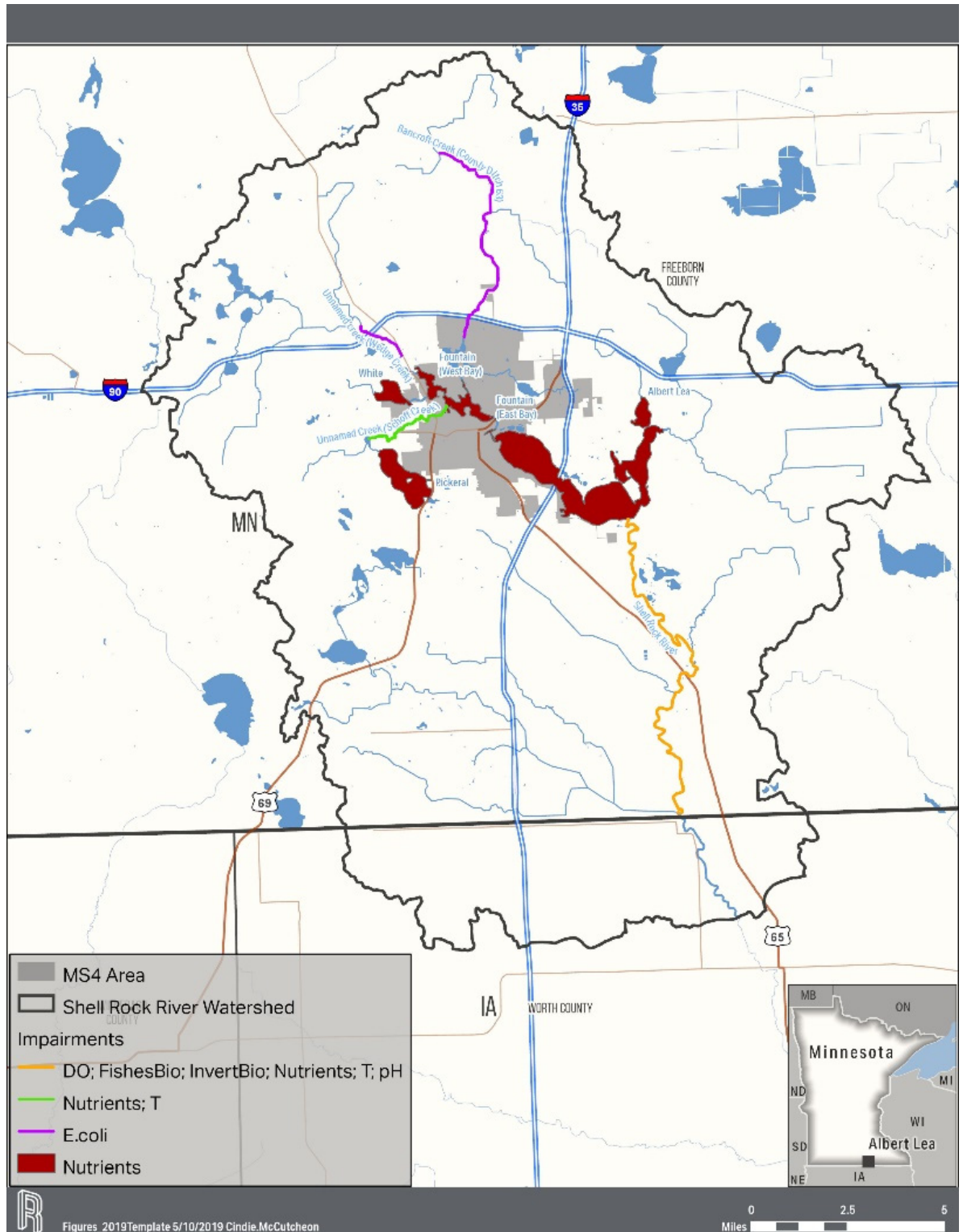


Figure 1. Shell Rock River Watershed and Impaired Waterbodies.

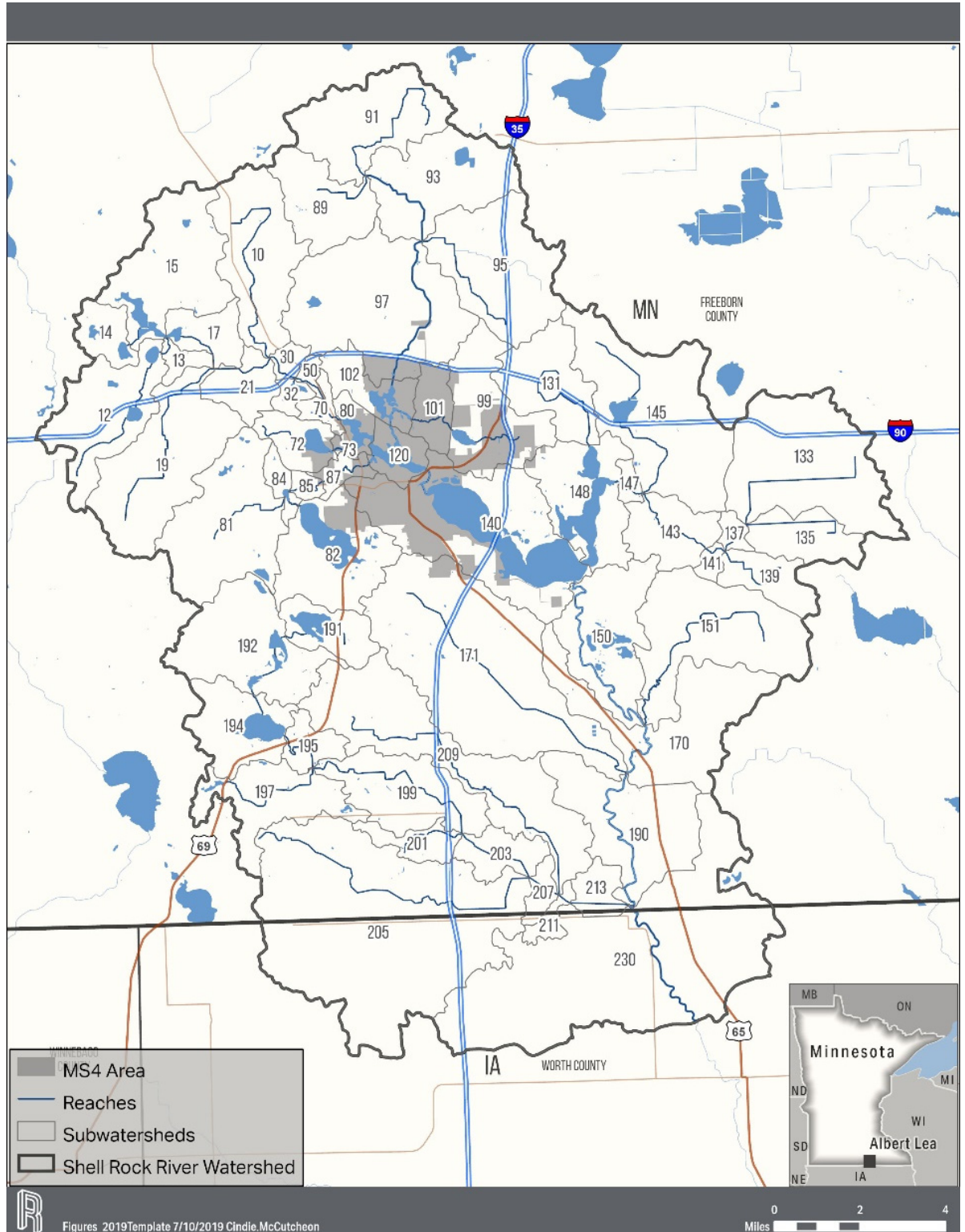


Figure 2. Subwatersheds and Reaches for the Shell Rock River Watershed.



series (1995–2018) replaced rainfall data from the previous model application. This model application applied an aerial average disaggregated data over each hydrozone (an aggregation of subwatersheds that all receive the same meteorological data) classified in the Shell Rock River Watershed model.

AIR TEMPERATURE, SOLAR, AND WIND SPEED

NLDAS provides hourly air temperature (ATEM), solar radiation (SOLR), and wind speed (WIND) parameters that were directly applied to the meteorological time series and converted into the units required for HSPF. Each of these constituents replaced BASINS data from the previous model application for consistency during model redevelopment.

CLOUD COVER, DEW POINT, AND POTENTIAL EVAPORATION

The remaining meteorological constituents were not directly used from the NLDAS dataset and required additional computations. Cloud cover (CLOU) was estimated by SOLR data provided from the NLDAS database by using a parabolic equation [Thompson, 1976].

Dew point temperatures (DEWP) were computed from a series of calculations that stemmed from NLDAS specific humidity. The World Meteorological Organization [2014] uses specific humidity and ATEM to calculate the relative humidity. Relative humidity was then applied with ATEM to the August-Roche-Magnus approximation of the Clausius-Clapeyron equation to calculate DEWP.

Hourly potential evaporation (PEVT) was represented by a computed Penman pan evaporation based on the Penman [1948] formula and the Kohler et al. [1955] method. The variables required to compute the Penman pan evaporation are daily relative humidity, DEWP, ATEM, and wind travel.

POINT SOURCES

All of the point sources represented in the model are summarized in Table 1, and detailed locations are shown in Figure 3. One major (MN0041092) and 15 minor point sources are located in the Shell Rock River Watershed. Daily data were available for the full model time period at the Albert Lea Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Daily data were also available for portions of the model time period (generally 2014 or 2015 through 2018) at the Albert Lea Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Clarks Grove WWTF, POET Biorefining–Glenville, Glenville WWTF, Hayward WWTF, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Myre Big Island State Park, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) Albert Lea Travel Information Center, and Twin Lakes WWTF. Other facilities had monthly data. Daily discharge data were provided as daily average flow, and monthly discharge data were provided as a combination of monthly volumes and monthly average flow.

When dates or date ranges were missing from the raw data at the Albert Lea WWTF, discharge was assumed to be still occurring. Monthly average data were used to fill the dataset if missing records were greater than a week. Linear interpolation was used to fill the dataset when the missing data gap was less than or equal to 1 week. At minor facilities when daily data were available, but dates or date ranges were missing, the assumption was made that no discharge was occurring. When discharge was not occurring, but one or more water quality constituent was reported, the monthly average data were used to fill the dataset. If flows were consistent and discharging less than 3 consecutive days, the consistent value (interpolation) was used to fill the missing flow. If monthly discharge dates were missing, the assumption was made that no discharge was occurring. When a pre-1999 date did not have a discharge value but did not have a “no discharge” flag and no flow or other constituent data were available, no discharge was assumed. For the months that had a “no discharge” flag with no flow value but had other constituent data, no discharge was also assumed. Flow rates were edited when the calculated discharge days were greater than the number of days in the month or when the flow rate was greater



than the total monthly discharge. When a “no discharge” flag occurred but flow and other water quality values were present, discharge was assumed to be occurring. When a total flow volume was provided without a flow rate, the average discharge days were used to calculate and disperse the flow rate. Missing months were filled with monthly averages.

Table 1. Shell Rock Watershed Point-Sources Summary

Name	Reach I.D.	Site I.D.	Category	Notes
Lou Rich Inc.	140	MN0000086	Noncontact Cooling Water	No New Data Records
Farmland Foods	140	MN0000124	Noncontact Cooling Water	No New Data Records
Schweigert Foods	140	MN0000175	Noncontact Cooling Water	Switched to Cargill
Glenville WWTF	171	MN0021245	Class D Municipal	Some Daily Data
Minnesota DNR Myre Big Island State Park	140	MN0033740	Class D Municipal	Some Daily Data
Albert Lea WWTF	150	MN0041092	Class A Municipal	Daily Data Full Time Period
Hayward WWTF	145	MN0041122	Class D Municipal	Some Daily Data
POET Biorefining–Glenville	170	MN0065692	Tile Line to Surface Discharge	Some Daily Data
Albert Lea/Austin KOA Campground	133	MN0069167	No Surface Discharge	Not Included in Model
Holsum Foods	140	MNG250024	Noncontact Cooling Water	No New Data Records
Cargill Value Added Meats	140	MNG255077	Noncontact Cooling Water	Took Over Schweigert Foods
Twin Lakes WWTF	195	MNG580042	Class D Municipal	Some Daily Data
MNDOT Albert Lea Travel Information Center	205	MNG580065	Class D Municipal	Some Daily Data
Clarks Grove WWTF	93	MNG580067	Class D Municipal	Some Daily Data
Albert Lea WTP	140	MNG640002	Water Treatment Plant	Some Daily Data
Magellan Pipeline Co LP - Albert Lea	201	MNG790110	Class D Municipal	No New Data Records

Data are monthly unless indicated in Notes column.

The period of record and completeness was assessed for each facility. Available parameters from the Albert Lea WWTF that are applicable to the model application include carbonaceous 5-day biological oxygen demand (CBOD₅), total suspended solids (TSS), total phosphorus (TP), ammonia nitrogen, nitrate plus nitrite, and dissolved oxygen (DO). Available parameters from the minor daily data that are applicable to the model application include CBOD₅, TSS, ammonia nitrogen, and DO, and the applicable parameters from the minor monthly data include CBOD₅, TSS, and DO. Very little ammonia nitrogen and nitrate plus nitrite data were available in the minor monthly data (three data points at the Glenville WWTF). Available point-source water quality data were filled by using monthly mean values. Where monthly means were unavailable, interpolation was used. Effluent water quality parameters available vary by site; however, most parameters were generally available from WWTFs.

Limited nitrate plus nitrite data were available for Albert Lea WWTF; therefore, a monthly concentration time-series was developed by averaging monthly concentrations and interpolating months with no data. Nitrogen species data were largely unavailable in the minor point-source data. Categories for each point source are shown in Table 1. Point-source loads for nitrogen species were calculated using numbers for point-source facilities by category supplied by Weiss [2012] and are represented

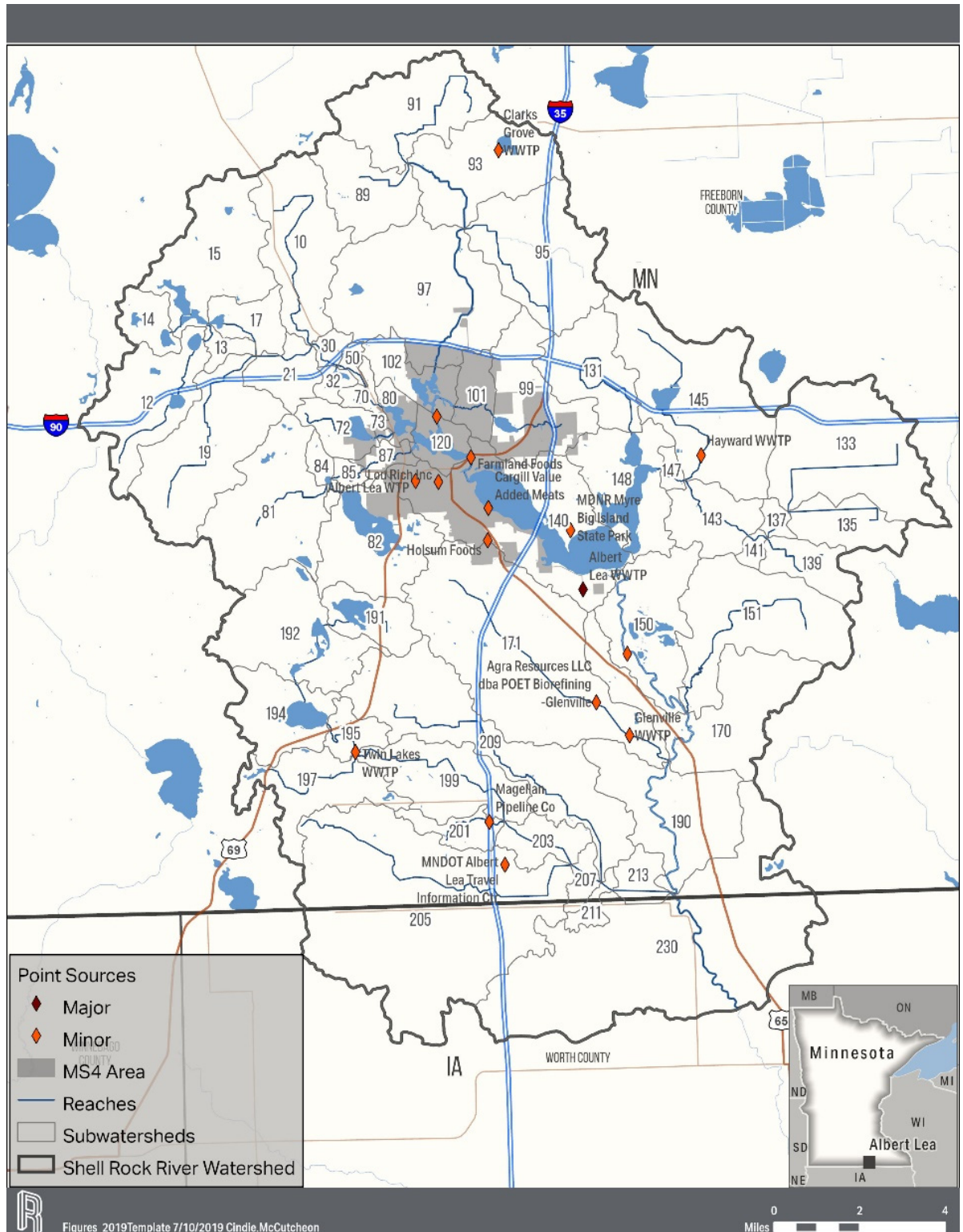


Figure 3. Point-Source Locations for the Shell Rock River Watershed.



in Table 2. The facility categories that applies to the Shell Rock River Watershed are depicted in bold. Phosphorus speciation data were also unavailable for the point-source data, and methods for estimating phosphorus species from point-source TP and CBOD₅ were derived from methods that are similar to those used in the Minnesota River model application [TetraTech, 2009]. Temperature data were also not available from the Shell Rock River point sources. A temperature dataset was derived by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) using an average mean monthly temperature of the following WWTFs: Albertville, Alexandria, Elko New Market, and Willmar [Regan, 2019].

Table 2. Categorical Concentrations Assumptions [Weiss, 2012]

Category	General Description	TN ^(a) (mg/L)	NO _x ^(b) (mg/L)	TKN ^(c) (mg/L)	NH _x ^(d) (mg/L)
A	Class A municipal–large mechanical	19	15	4	3
B	Class B municipal–medium mechanical	17	10	7	4
C	Class C municipal–small mechanical/pond mix	10	7	3	1
D	Class D municipal–mostly small ponds	6	3	3	1
O	Other–generally very low volume effluent	10	7	3	2
PEAT	Peat mining facility–pump out/drainage from peat	10	7	3	2
T	Tile Line to Surface Discharge	10	7	3	3
P	Paper industry	10	7	3	2
NCCW	Noncontact cooling water	4	1	3	2
POWER	Power Industry	4	1	3	2
WTP	Water treatment plant	4	3	1	1
GRAV	Gravel mining wash water	2	1	1	1
GW	Industrial facilities–primarily private groundwater well	0.25	0.25	0	0

Facility categories applicable to the Shell Rock River Watershed are shown in bold.

mg/L = milligrams per liter.

- (a) Total nitrogen
- (b) Nitrate-nitrite
- (c) Total Kjeldahl nitrogen
- (d) Total ammonia

Besides temperature, concentrations of all available constituents, including biological oxygen demand (BOD) as CBOD_u, which was converted from CBOD₅ by using Equation 1 [Chapra, 1997], were converted from mg/L to loads in pounds per day (lb/day) (concentration × flow × conversion factor, conversion factor = 8.34). Temperature was converted from °F to a heat load in British Thermal Units (BTU) per day (temperature × flow × conversion factor, conversion factor = 8,339,145).

$$L_o = \frac{y_5}{1 - e^{-k_1(5)}} \quad (1)$$

where:

$$L_o = \text{CBOD}_u$$

$$y_5 = \text{CBOD}_5$$

$k_1 = 0.10$, minimum value after primary treatment.



Estimated daily time series were then imported into a WDM file, and loads were applied to the corresponding stream in the external sources block of the user control input (UCI) file. All of the represented point-source flows and loads were recalculated for the entire modeling period (1995–2018) to ensure processing consistency.

ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION

Atmospheric deposition of nitrate and ammonia was explicitly accounted for in the Shell Rock River Watershed model application by inputting separate wet and dry deposition fluxes. Wet atmospheric deposition data were downloaded from the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). The NADP site chosen to represent the Shell Rock River Watershed wet deposition was Lamberton (MN27). Wet deposition includes the deposition of pollutants from the atmosphere that occurs during precipitation events. Thus, nitrate and ammonia wet deposition was applied as concentrations (mg/L) to the precipitation input time series.

Dry atmospheric deposition data were downloaded from the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNet). The CASTNet site chosen to represent the Shell Rock River Watershed dry deposition was Perkinstown (PRK134). Dry deposition does not depend on precipitation; therefore, nitrate and ammonia dry deposition data (originally in kilograms per hectare [kg/ha]) were applied in the model application by using a pound-per-acre approach (lb/ac). Figure 4 illustrates both the wet and dry atmospheric deposition sites.

Dry atmospheric deposition of phosphorus also contributes to the TP load in the Shell Rock River Watershed [Barr Engineering, 2007]. Because of the lack of temporal data, atmospheric phosphorus deposition was represented by using monthly values of daily dry fluxes using the MONTH-DATA block in HSPF. A value of 0.27 kg/ha/yr (0.00066 lb/ac/day) was provided by Barr Engineering and distributed throughout the months with higher values in the summer and lower values in the winter.

HYDROLOGIC RECALIBRATION

After all of the time-series data were extended and processed and WDMs were updated, the Shell Rock River Watershed HSPF model was recalibrated for hydrology and water quality.

HYDROLOGIC DATA

The continuous, observed stream-flow data required for calibration were available at 14 gages in the Shell Rock River Watershed. Table 3 lists the stream-flow gages and their corresponding periods of record to support the model calibration. The locations of flow-monitoring sites are illustrated in Figure 5. Flow data were downloaded from the Minnesota DNR and MPCA Cooperative Stream Gaging Network and supplied by the Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD).

In addition to the stream-flow data updates, lake-level and snow data were acquired and processed. Lake-elevation data were obtained from the Minnesota DNR Lakefinder web service and the MPCA. Lake depths were obtained through a two-step process: (1) calculating the bottom elevation by subtracting the maximum depth from the maximum recorded lake level and (2) subtracting the bottom elevation from the observed lake-level time series. Snow depth and snowfall data were obtained at the Albert Lea 3 SE station through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Regional Climate Center's Applied Climate Information System (RCC-ACIS) web service.

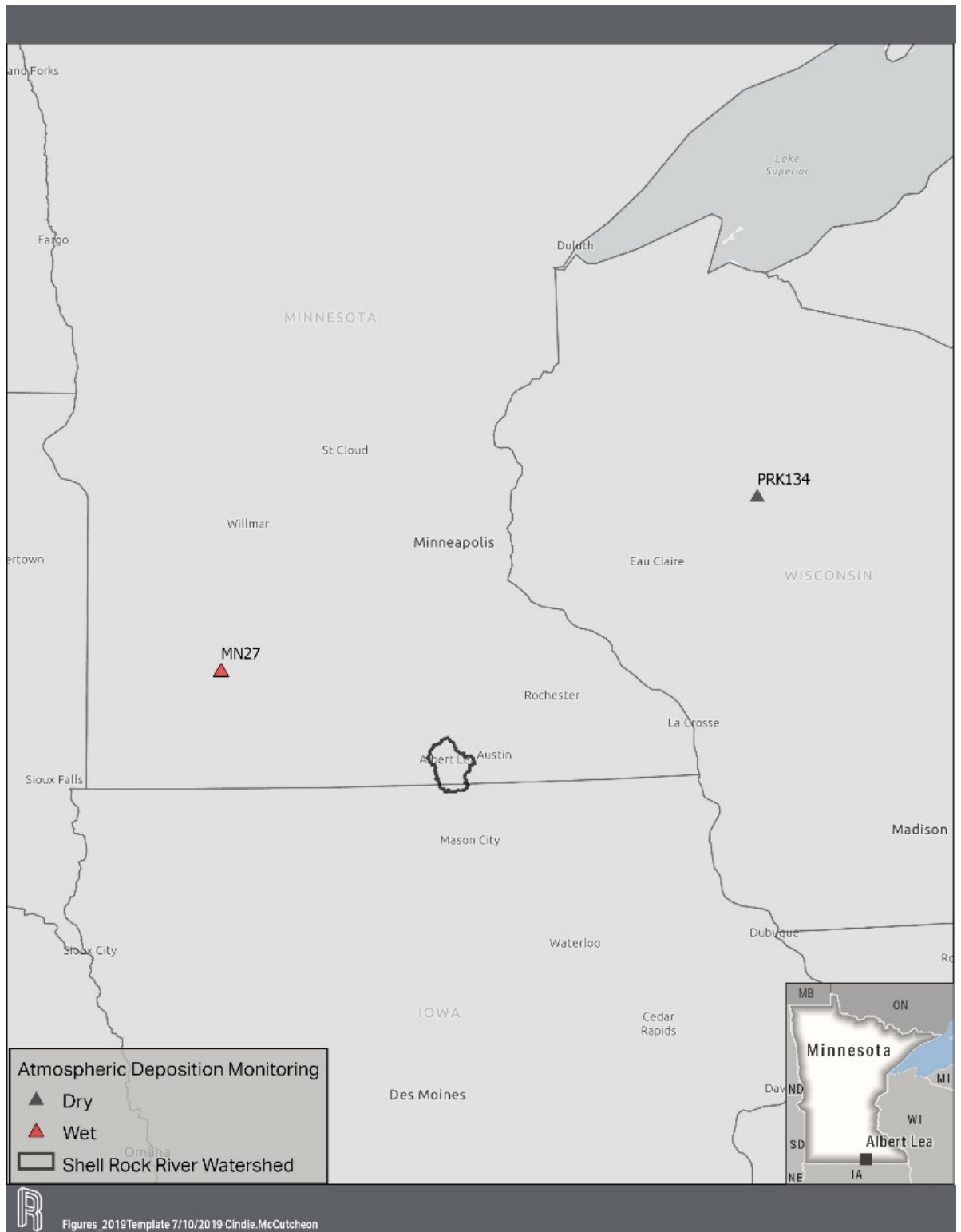


Figure 4. Atmospheric Deposition Sampling Locations.



Table 3. Summary of Flow Calibration Gages

Source	Gage	Gage Description	HSPF Reach I.D.	Period of Record	Sample Count	Mean Flow (cfs)
SRRWD	SWC01	Wedge Creek	50	2009–2018	1,994	41
SRRWD	SMC01	Mud Lake	81	2009–2018	1,936	8
SRRWD	SSC01	Shoff Creek	85	2009–2018	1,786	12
SRRWD	SBC01	Bancroft Creek	97	2009–2018	1,996	33
SRRWD	SGC01	Wetland Stream	101	2009–2018	1,533	12
SRRWD	SFL01	Fountain Lake Dam	120	2009–2018	1,625	218
SRRWD	SNE01	Northeast Creek	131	2009–2018	1,631	5
SRRWD	SPL01B	Hayward Creek	141	2009–2018	1,818	23
SRRWD	SPL02	Hayward Creek	145	2009–2018	1,679	16
SRRWD	SLP01	Peter Lund Creek	147	2009–2009	45	6
SRRWD	SSR01	Albert Lea Lake Outlet	140 148	2013–2018	1,048	263
SRRWD	SSR02	Shell Rock River near Glenville	150	2009–2018	2,082	207
SRRWD	SSR03	Shell Rock BR	190	2012–2018	1,779	235
MN DNR	H49009001	Shell Rock River near Gordonsville	190	2008–2018	3,569	199

cfs = cubic feet per second.

HYDROLOGIC CALIBRATION

Typical hydrologic calibration is an iterative process that is intended to match simulated flow to observed flow by methodically adjusting model parameters. The HSPF hydrologic calibration is divided into four sequential phases: (1) establishing an annual water balance, (2) making seasonal adjustments, (3) adjusting low-flow/high-flow distribution, and (4) adjusting storm-flow/hydrograph shape. By iteratively adjusting specific calibration parameter values in accepted ranges, the simulation results can be improved until an acceptable comparison of simulated results and measured data is achieved. The procedures and parameter adjustments involved in these phases are more thoroughly described in Donigian et al. [1984] and in the HSPF hydrologic calibration expert system (HSPEXP) [Lumb et al., 1994].

Model performance was evaluated using a weight-of-evidence approach, which is described by Donigian [2002]. This approach uses visual and statistical methods to characterize the model's performance. The approach was integrated into the hydrologic calibration to continuously evaluate model results and efficiently improve calibration performance until no apparent improvement is present from further parameter adjustments. This process was performed at each flow gage by adjusting the parameters for land segments upstream. Moreover, greater weight was applied to the performance of the model at gages that had a larger contributing area and a longer period of record. Consistency in parameter values and intraparameter variations for each land-segment category throughout the watershed were also considered during the hydrologic calibration.

Because of Minnesota's climate and large number of lakes, simulated snowfall/snowmelt and hydraulic processes were examined in addition to comparing observed and simulated flow. Snowfall and snow

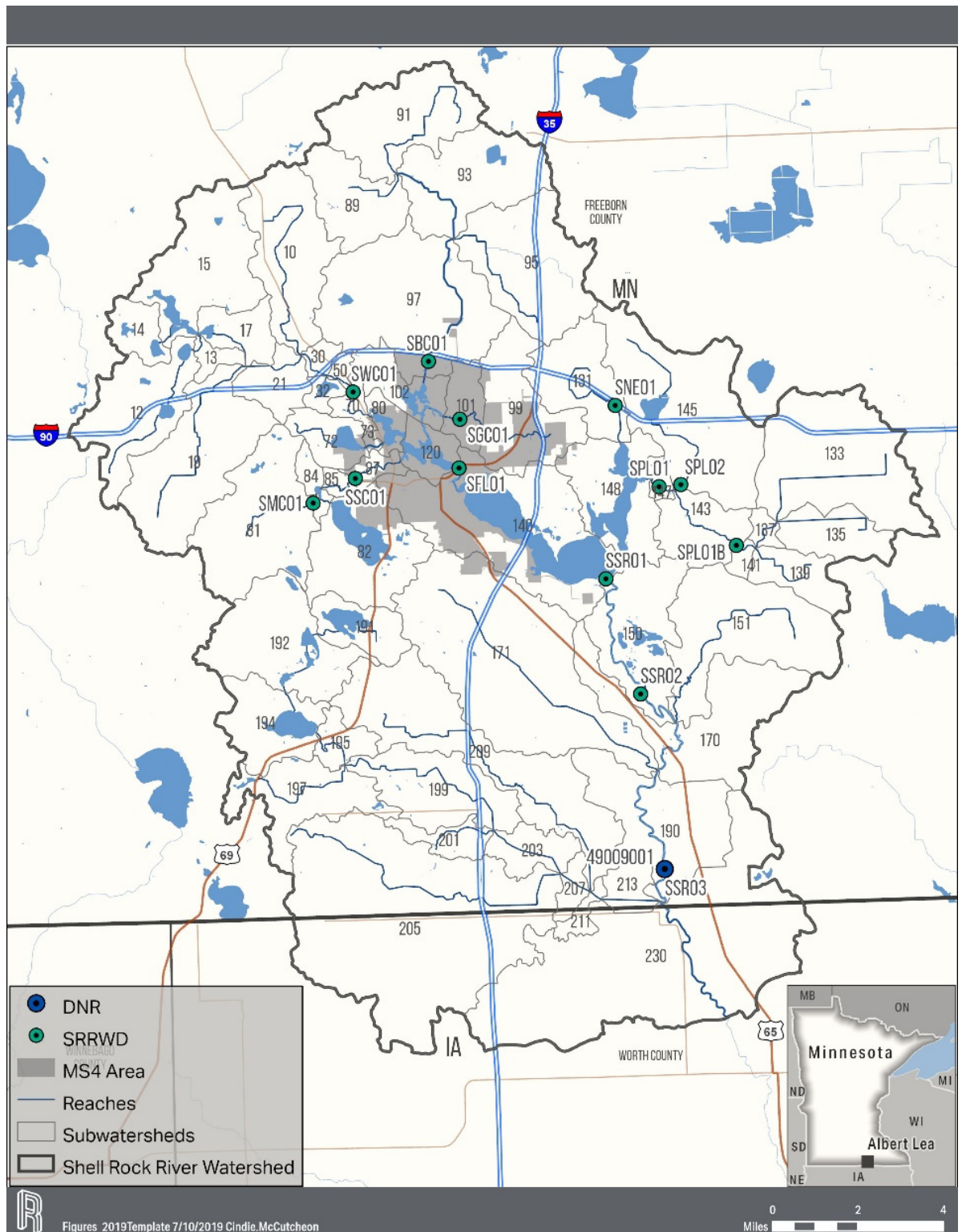


Figure 5. Flow-Monitoring Locations for the Shell Rock River Watershed.



depth amounts were calibrated early in the process; however, the snow parameter calibration depended greatly on the timing and magnitude of spring melt. The lake-level calibration involved adjusting the reference outlet elevations to accurately represent lake volumes before outflow occurs. Lake-geometry parameters, as well as outlet depths and outflow calculations, were adjusted to modify the function tables (F-tables) with the storm-flow phase of the standard calibration to adequately represent lake volumes and outflows.

To assess model performance, graphical plots were evaluated, and the statistics were compared to objective criteria developed from 20 years of experience with HSPF applications. The percent-error statistics, correlation coefficient (R), and the coefficient of determination (R^2) were compared with the criteria provided by Donigan [2000; 2002] to evaluate the performance of the daily and monthly flows. These measures allowed the modeler to assess the quality of the overall model application performance in descriptive terms to aid in accepting or rejecting the model application. The previous calibration memorandum [McCutcheon, 2014b] further describes the simulation and calibration methods, weight-of-evidence approach, and performance criteria.

HYDROLOGIC CALIBRATION RESULTS

The hydrologic calibration focused on the most downstream gages. Those gages ensured that the water routing across the land, through interflow, and the groundwater were correctly represented. Gages on smaller tributaries helped calibrate parameters for the land-segment categories; however, the focus of the hydrology calibration was the mainstem gages. The tables of results detail model performance at the primary, mainstem gage (Reach 190). The weighted water-balance components in each watershed are provided in Table 4, and Table 5 shows calibration statistics and volume percent error for the primary gage. Calibration figures at the primary mainstem gage are provided in Attachment A. Calibration figures for other flow gages, snow sites, and lake levels are provided in the deliverable results folder.

Table 4. Summary of the Water Balance

Water-Balance Component	Water-Balance Component Description	Percent of Water Supply (%)
SURO	Surface outflow	1.8
IFWO	Interflow outflow	8.5
AGWO	Active groundwater outflow	26.5
IGWI	Inflow to inactive groundwater	0.0
CEPE	Evaporation from interception storage	19.4
UZET	Evapotranspiration from upper zone	17.4
LZET	Evapotranspiration from lower zone	25.8
AGWET	Evapotranspiration from active groundwater storage	0.1
BASET	Evapotranspiration from active groundwater outflow (baseflow)	0.2
IMPEV	Evapotranspiration from impervious areas	0.3



Table 5. Hydrology Calibration Results for the Primary Gage

Observed Flow Gage	HSPF Reach	Total Runoff Volume			Monthly			Daily			Storm Percent Error (%)	
		Observed (in)	Simulated (in)	% Δ	R	R ²	MFE	R	R ²	MFE	Volume	Peak
H49009001	190	12.78	12.97	1.44	0.93	0.86	0.84	0.90	0.80	0.79	-1.12	-8.78

MFE = model-fit efficiency.

WATER QUALITY RECALIBRATION

The water quality constituents that were modeled in the Shell Rock River Watershed included TSS, temperature, DO, BOD, and nutrients. The methods described in the following sections provide RESPEC with the ability to estimate TSS, temperature, DO, and nutrient loads, as well as calculate contributions from point, nonpoint, and atmospheric sources. The following sections summarize data availability and methods for parameterization and calibration; more detail is available in McCutcheon [2014b].

WATER QUALITY DATA

Under an ideal model-development scenario, all of the processes that are represented in the model would be characterized by ambient monitoring throughout the watershed. These processes include TSS, DO, and BOD dynamics; sediment oxygen demand and benthic fluxes; and primary production. Water quality parameters that are monitored to characterize these processes include temperature, DO, BOD, nitrogen species (e.g., nitrate/nitrite, ammonia, and Kjeldahl nitrogen), phosphorus species (total and inorganic phosphorus), organic carbon, and chlorophyll *a* (which represents phytoplankton). However, information that would fully characterize a system is rarely, if ever, available, and model performance is compared to the available data.

Observed ambient water quality data were obtained from the MPCA and SRRWD. Water temperature, TSS, DO, BOD, chlorophyll *a*, ammonia, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), nitrate/nitrite, orthophosphate, and TP water quality monitoring data are available for many of the lakes and streams throughout the watershed. Attachment B summarizes the available water quality data by constituent and illustrates the spatial locations of water quality monitoring sites for each model application. The MPCA and SRRWD also collected continuous water temperature and DO data at various locations in the watershed.

Total nitrogen (TN) is often not directly measured in either of the ambient water quality datasets, but it can be calculated by summing concurrent samples of nitrate, nitrite, and TKN. Similarly, organic nitrogen can be calculated as the difference between concurrent samples of TKN and ammonia nitrogen.

WATER QUALITY CALIBRATION

The Shell Rock River model application represents the processes that drive sediment erosion, delivery, and transport in the watershed from land-surface, instream, and point-source sediment contributions. The primary calibration parameters involved in characterizing landscape-erosion processes are the coefficients and exponents from three equations that represent different soil detachment and removal processes. The primary parameters involved in calibrating instream sediment transport and bed behavior include critical shear stresses for deposition and scour for silt and clay as well as the coefficient and exponent in the non-cohesive (sand) transport power function. The sediment behavior for each size class was investigated to ensure that sediment dynamics reflected field observations. While HSPF does not explicitly simulate streambank contribution dynamics, they were implicitly included by allowing the streambed to contribute those loads.



Nutrient sources that are represented in the Shell Rock River model application included point sources, such as water treatment facilities, nonpoint sources from the watershed, septic systems, atmospheric deposition (nitrate, ammonia, and phosphorus), subsurface flow, and benthic contributions. Point-source facility contributions were explicitly modeled for future permitting purposes. Methods for processing loads were previously described with a summary of modeled point sources provided in Table 1 and locations shown in Figure 3. Nonpoint sources of total ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, and BOD were simulated through accumulation and depletion/removal and a first-order wash-off rate from overland flow. Because of the affinity of orthophosphate to bind to sediments, orthophosphate was simulated using a linear relationship with sediment washing off the land. Subsurface flow concentrations were estimated on a monthly basis for calibration. Atmospheric depositions of nitrogen and ammonia were applied to all of the land areas and contribute to the nonpoint-source load through the buildup/wash-off process. Atmospheric deposition onto water surfaces was represented in the model as a direct input to the lakes and river systems.

The model simulates the instream and lake processes that contribute to algal growth, nutrient consumption, and DO dynamics. All of the required instream parameters were specified for total ammonia, inorganic nitrogen, orthophosphate, and BOD. The processes in the instream portion of the model include BOD accumulation, storage, decay rates, benthic algal oxygen demand, settling rates, and reaeration rates. Phytoplankton dynamics (i.e., respiration, growth, settling rates, density, and nutrient requirements) are included along with the similar demands of attached benthic algae. Because a large portion (approximately 50 percent) of the instream TSS consist of volatile suspended solids in the Shell Rock River Watershed, the phytoplankton in the reach was added to the modeled sediment prior to the comparison to the observed total suspended solids samples. Maintaining consistent parameters in each land-use category throughout the Shell Rock River Watershed was a priority during calibration.

Lake water quality calibrations are often difficult in HSPF because the model represents lakes as a completely homogenous system. Phosphorus was added to lakes using the MONTH-DATA block as a monthly time series to lakes. This time series represents phosphorus contributions from the lake bottom because of wind and other internal loading mechanisms. Although this process is not well documented, it was completed as a part of the calibration process because many of the Shell Rock River lakes are known to have curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) present, have carp populations that potentially stir up sediments, and are very shallow and are, therefore, impacted by wind mixing.

WATER CALIBRATION RESULTS

The calibrated results from the most downstream, data-intensive reach in the Shell Rock River Watershed, which falls on Reach 190, are included in Attachment C. The results for the remaining reaches are provided in the deliverable results folders. Three figures for each constituent are included: concentration duration curves, monthly average boxplots, and time-series plots, with observed data depicted in blue and model simulations in red. Because of the diurnal variability, hourly boxplots are also provided for temperature and DO. Additional calibration figures for the remaining calibration reaches/lakes, and outputs generated from HSPEXP+ are also provided in the deliverable results folders.

Continuous water temperature and DO calibration results are also included in Attachment C. The duration plots and monthly/hourly average boxplots include a combined dataset from both the MPCA and SRRWD for the period of record. Individual time-series plots are provided by source and year for the 2012 and 2013 sampling periods. The MPCA did not collect continuous water temperature data; therefore, all the observed continuous water temperature data are from the SRRWD.



SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

A sensitivity analysis was completed on the Shell Rock River HSPF model application to review and refine parameters that affect the summer average TP and the daily minimum DO concentrations. The key parameters that were evaluated impacted temperature, sediment oxygen demand, reaeration, phytoplankton, benthic algae, BOD, and ammonia nitrification, which, in turn, impact the TP and DO in Albert Lea Lake and upstream impaired lakes as well as in the Shell Rock River below Albert Lea Lake. Each parameter was multiplied by a minimum and maximum factor in two separate model runs. Factors were based on modeling experience and bounded by expected ranges. The resulting minimum, average, and maximum concentrations for the separate model runs were summarized and updated calibration figures were generated. This process was used to inform the model calibration on the parameters that should be the most heavily focused upon. A sensitivity analysis was also run using the methods described for the final, calibrated HSPF model to illustrate the impact of variations in calibration parameters. Parameters, factors, and percent relative difference results of average DO and TP loads are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Water Quality RCHRES Parameters Adjusted for the Sensitivity Analysis

Table	Parameter	Multiplication Factors		Percent Relative Difference		
		Minimum	Maximum	DO (%)	TP (%)	TP ^(a) (%)
OX-REAPARM	REAK	0.5	2	2	< 1	< 1
OX-BENPARM	BENOD	0.8	1.2	25	< 1	< 1
OX-BENPARM	BRBOD(1)	0.5	5	< 1	2	2
OX-GENPARM	KODSET	0.5	2	< 1	8	9
OX-GENPARM	KBOD20	0.5	2	< 1	1	1
PLNK-PARM1	MALGR	0.8	1.2	38	9	8
PLNK-PARM1	NONREF	0.8	1.2	< 1	2	< 1
PLNK-PARM2	TALGRL	0.5	1.6	11	17	2
PLNK-PARM2	TALGRM	0.85	1.1	42	15	9
PLNK-PARM3	ALR20	0.5	2	11	3	4
PHYTO-PARM	SEED	0.5	4	< 1	< 1	< 1
PHYTO-PARM	MXSTAY	0.5	2	1	2	3
PHYTO-PARM	OREF	0.5	2	2	4	7
PHYTO-PARM	CLALDH	0.5	2	< 1	< 1	< 1
PHYTO-PARM	PHYSET	0.5	2	1	2	3
PHYTO-PARM	REFSET	0.5	2	< 1	5	5
BENAL-PARM	MBAL	0.5	2	13	2	2
Average				12	7	8

(a) Growing season (June to September).



COMPLIANCE SCENARIOS

It is important that scenarios be evaluated to represent the flows and phosphorus concentrations that the Albert Lea WWTF can currently discharge and how they impact the phosphorus concentrations, minimum daily DO, and DO flux in the Shell Rock River. The scenarios informed the TMDL development staff of the most appropriate permit limits for the facility. A broad set of scenarios were initially run that covered a wide range of Albert Lea WWTF discharge rates (4.5 to 18.38 million gallons a day [mgd]), TP loads (25 to 75 pounds per day), and CBOD₅ concentrations (5 to 25 mg/L). After several iterations, a final set of scenarios were run that met the river eutrophication standard (RES) and the DO standard at HSPF Reach 190. The final scenarios were (1) Base Scenario, (2) Albert Lea Lake Compliance, (3) Local Load Allocation Compliance, (4) Albert Lea WWTF DO, (5) Albert Lea WWTF TP.

The first scenario is the final calibrated model at current conditions (Base Scenario). For the second scenario, Albert Lea Lake TP concentrations were capped at the RES (0.090 mg/L). The third scenario includes Scenario 2 with the local TP load (areas contributing to the Shell Rock River below Albert Lea Lake) reduced approximately 35 percent to meet an average TP outflow concentration of 0.150 mg/L. For Scenarios 4 and 5, Albert Lea Lake TP concentrations were capped at the RES (0.900 mg/L), the local TP load was reduced 35 percent to meet the average TP outflow concentration of 0.150 mg/L, and Albert Lea WWTF discharges were set to the dry-weather design flow of 9.125 mgd. The TP concentration of Albert Lea WWTF was then adjusted to meet the TP standard during the growing season (Scenario 5) and the DO standard during the full year (Scenario 4). The scenario results of average TP, chlorophyll *a*, and BOD₅ concentrations, along with DO fluxes and daily minimum DO concentrations, are provided for the growing season (June–September) in Table 7. The same results for the full year are provided in Table 8. It was determined that with Albert Lea Lake and local loads reduced to water quality standards, the Albert Lea WWTF TP outflow concentration would need to be set to 0.64 mg/L for the Shell Rock River to meet the TP standard during the growing season (0.150 mg/L) and at 0.68 mg/L to meet the DO standard (daily minimum of 5 mg/L) during the full year when the facility is discharging at 9.125 mgd. For consistency with the permit standards, rotating ammonia concentrations of 3.0 mg/L (April–May), 1.0 mg/L (June–September), 3.0 mg/L (October–November), and 7.0 mg/L (December–March) were applied for Scenarios 4 and 5.

Table 7: Scenario Results for the Growing Season (2009–2018)

Scenario	Avg TP (mg/L)	Avg Chl-a (ug/L)	Avg BOD5 (mg/L)	DO Flux (mg/L)	Min DO (mg/L)
1	0.60	42.6	4.9	16.9	0.1
2	0.55	22.8	2.9	9.9	4.0
3	0.54	22.6	2.6	9.8	4.1
4	0.16	17.1	2.8	6.2	5.0
5	0.15	16.8	2.7	5.9	5.1

The scenario that meets the TP standard is highlighted in gray.



Table 8: Scenario Results for All Months (2009–2018)

Scenario	Avg TP (mg/L)	Avg Chl-a (ug/L)	Avg BOD5 (mg/L)	DO Flux (mg/L)	Min DO (mg/L)
1	0.73	32.2	4.2	16.9	0.1
2	0.68	18.8	2.6	9.9	4.0
3	0.68	18.7	2.3	9.8	4.1
4	0.18	15.7	2.7	6.2	5.0
5	0.17	15.5	2.7	5.9	5.1

The scenario that meets the DO standard is highlighted in gray.

Because the facility has not historically been discharging at their dry-weather design flow, additional scenarios were run to determine what the maximum TP concentration could be if the Albert Lea WWTF continues to discharge at their lower historical flows (an average of 4.04 mgd). The scenarios concluded that if the Albert Lea WWTF were to discharge their TP draft TMDL WLA at the lower historic flows, the Shell Rock River would be in exceedance of the 0.150 mg/L water quality standard, and that the maximum concentration that could be discharged from the facility should remain at or below 1 mg/L for the Shell Rock River to remain in compliance with their seasonal average standard of 0.150 mg/L. Therefore, in addition to the draft WLA of 48.4 lb/day for the Albert Lea WWTP, a concentration limit of 1 mg/L should be implemented.

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FINAL REMARKS

Thank you for reviewing the methods and results of the extension, recalibration, sensitivity analysis/model refinement, and compliance scenarios of the Shell Rock River Watershed HSPF model application. We are available to discuss the contents of this memorandum with you and appreciate any feedback you may have.

Sincerely,

Chris D. Lupo
Water Resources Engineer



ATTACHMENT A

HYDROLOGY RESULTS FOR REACH 190 IN THE SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED MODEL APPLICATION



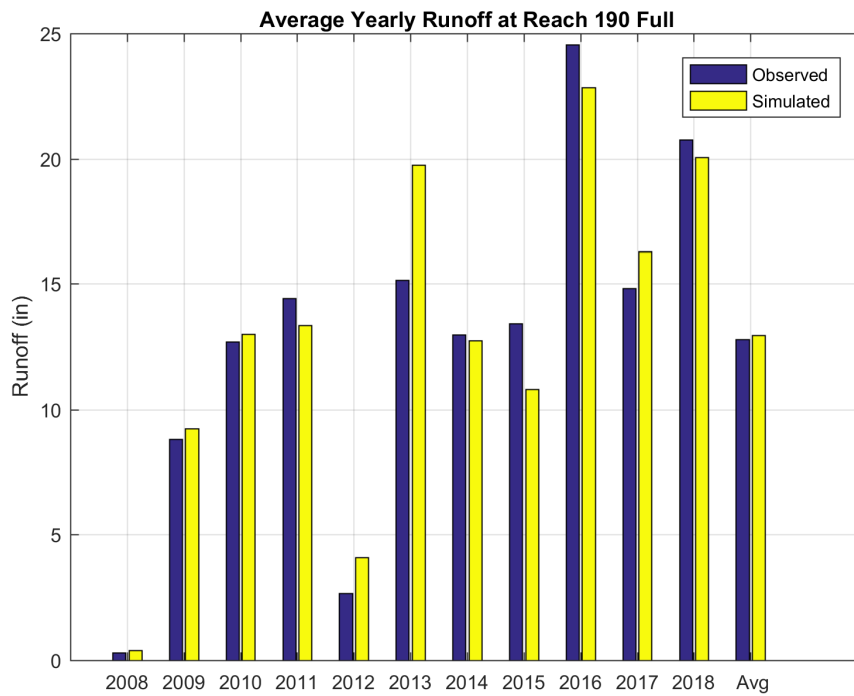


Figure A-1. Average Yearly Runoff at Reach 190.

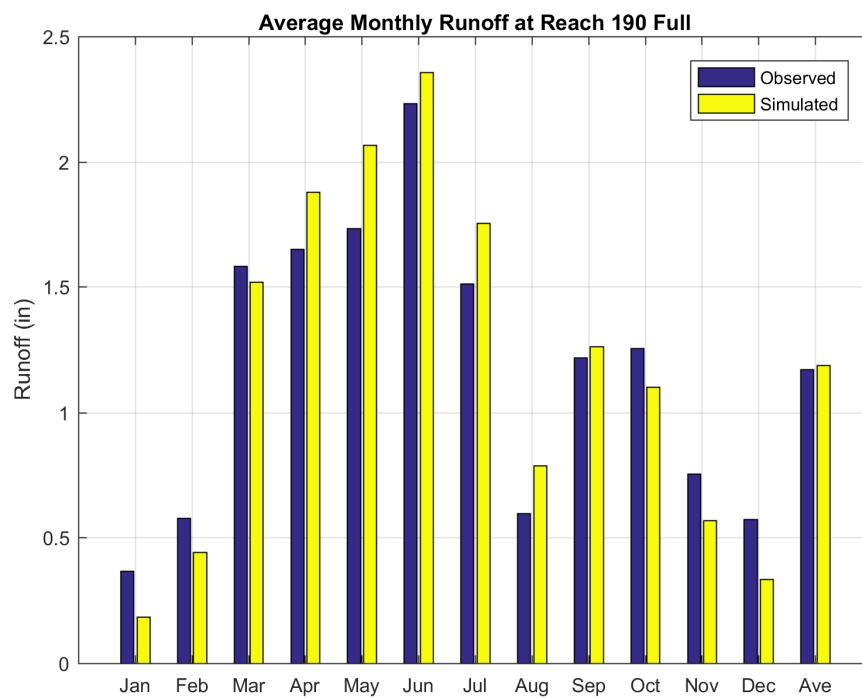


Figure A-2. Average Monthly Runoff at Reach 190.

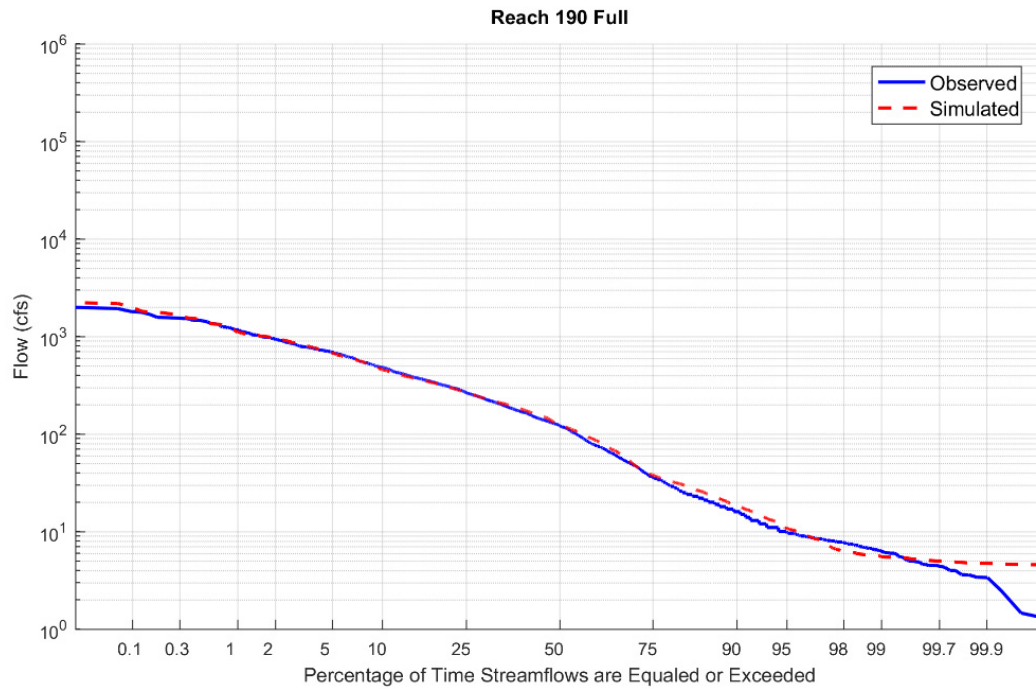


Figure A-3. Flow Duration Plot for Reach 190.

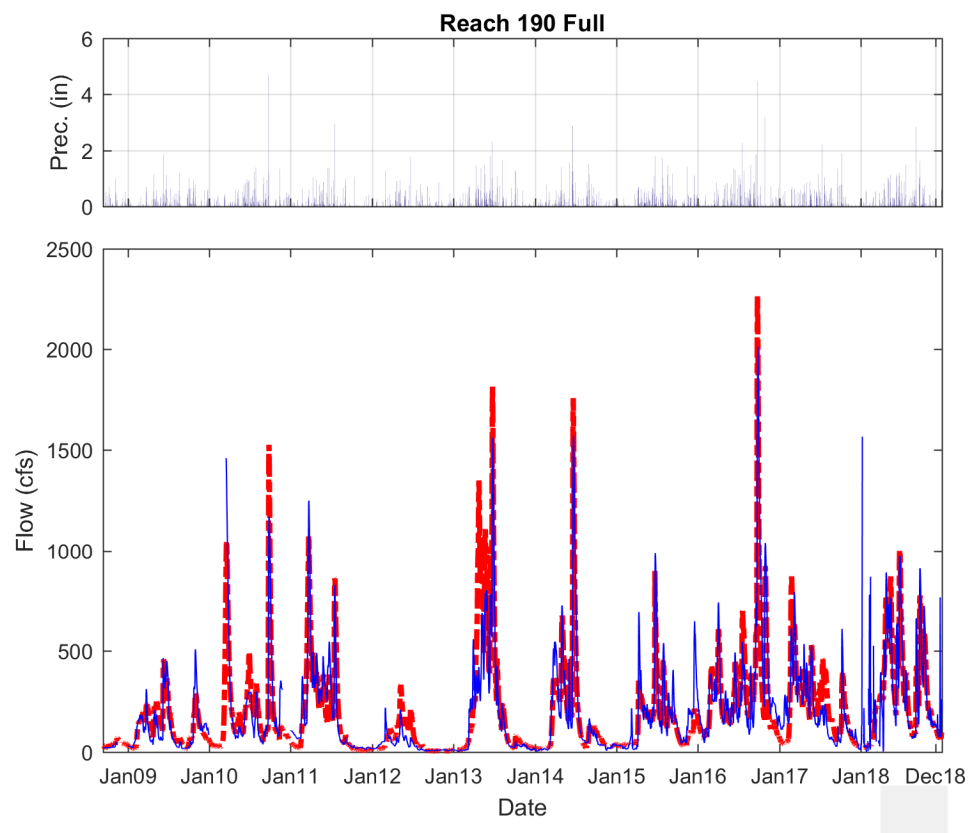


Figure A-4. Daily Hydrographs for Reach 190.



ATTACHMENT B

OBSERVED WATER QUALITY DATA AND LOCATIONS FOR THE SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED MODEL APPLICATION



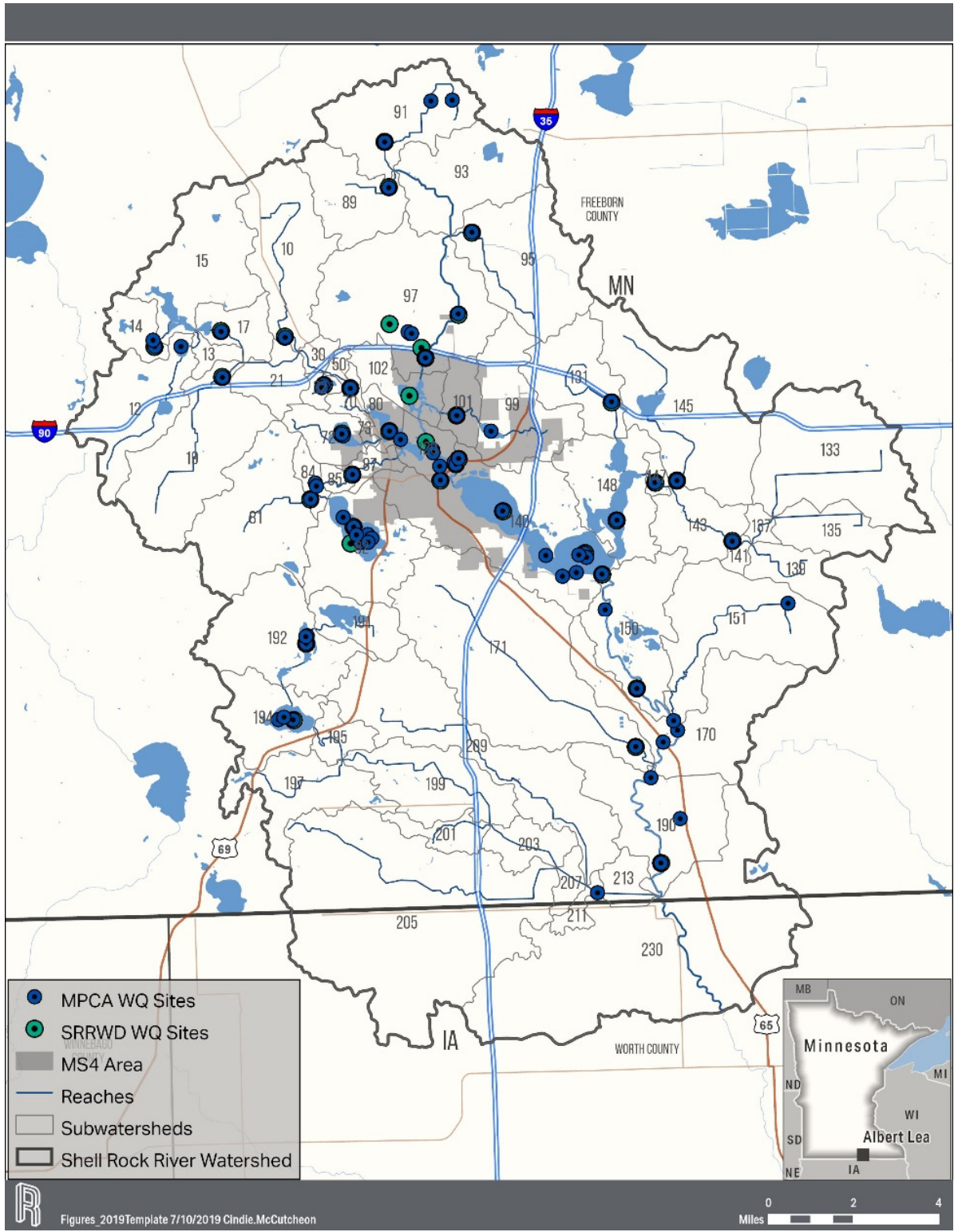


Figure B-1. Water Quality Calibration Sites in the Shell Rock River Watershed.

Table B-1. Water Quality Calibration Data (Page 1 of 5)

MPCA Site I.D.	SRRWD Site I.D.	Reach I.D.	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Dissolved Oxygen	Total Suspended Solids	Volatile Suspended Solids	Water Temperature	Ammonia Nitrogen	Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Nitrate + Nitrite	Organic Carbon	Ortho-phosphate	Phosphorus	Total
S005-008	SWC02	10			2			2							4
S005-008	N/A	10		10	18	13		18		10	11		3	13	96
24-0037-00-201	N/A	12						1						1	2
24-0038-00-201	LHL01	14		79	67	79	67	68	12	12	14		78	79	555
24-0038-00-201	N/A	14						1						1	2
24-0038-00-202	N/A	14						1						1	2
S005-009	SWC03	17			2			2							4
S005-009	N/A	17		10	17	13		17		10	11		3	13	94
S005-010	SWC04	19			2			2							4
S005-010	N/A	19		10	16	13		16		10	11		3	13	92
24-0040-00-100	N/A	32		1										1	2
24-0040-00-201	LSS01	32		76	62	76	64	64	12	12	12		76	76	530
24-0040-00-201	N/A	32						1						1	2
S004-121	SWC01	50		102	119	125	21	120	94	104	114		106	122	1,027
S004-121	N/A	50		28	86	71	14	125		10	15		61	71	481
24-0024-00-100	N/A	72		1										1	2
24-0024-00-201	LCH01	72		101	80	81	69	85	12	12	14		102	102	658
24-0024-00-201	N/A	72		19	13			19					19	21	91
24-0018-02-201	LFL01	80		174	85	155	22	90	129	129	135	92	178	178	1,367
24-0018-02-201	N/A	80		54	51	22	7	55					60	60	309
S004-117	SMC01	81		14	117	127	1	118	14	14	22		127	126	680
S004-117	N/A	81			49	50	1	49			14		50	50	263

Table B-1. Water Quality Calibration Data (Page 2 of 5)

MPCA Site I.D.	SRRWD Site I.D.	Reach I.D.	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Dissolved Oxygen	Total Suspended Solids	Volatile Suspended Solids	Water Temperature	Ammonia Nitrogen	Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Nitrate + Nitrite	Organic Carbon	Ortho-phosphate	Phosphorus	Total
24-0025-00-100	N/A	82		1										1	2
24-0025-00-201	LPL01	82		116	86	98	76	91	17	17	74		118	117	810
24-0025-00-201	N/A	82		55	51	27	10	56					62	62	323
24-0025-00-202	N/A	82						1						2	3
24-0025-00-203	N/A	82						1						1	2
24-0025-00-204	N/A	82						1						1	2
24-0025-00-205	N/A	82												1	1
24-0025-00-206	N/A	82						1						2	3
24-0068-00-201	N/A	84												1	1
24-0068-00-202	N/A	84						1						1	2
S004-114	SSC01	85		107	122	134	19	123	88	88	97		135	135	1,048
S004-114	N/A	85		23	53	48	14	53			4		48	48	291
S005-006	SBC03	89			2			2							4
S005-006	N/A	89		12	16	15		16		12	13		3	14	101
S005-007	SBC04	91			2			2							4
S005-007	N/A	91		12	15	15		15		12	13		3	14	99
S006-536	N/A	91			3			3	3		3		3	3	18
S005-005	SBC02	95			2			2							4
S005-005	N/A	95		12	15	15		15		12	13		3	14	99
S004-120	SBC01	97		114	128	139	21	129	108	115	123		123	139	1,139
S004-120	N/A	97		21	83	69	14	83		11	16		58	69	424
S006-535	N/A	97			7			7	3		3		3	3	26
S004-118	SGC01	101		92	105	114	14	106	79	80	84		114	114	902

Table B-1. Water Quality Calibration Data (Page 3 of 5)

MPCA Site I.D.	SRRWD Site I.D.	Reach I.D.	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Dissolved Oxygen	Total Suspended Solids	Volatile Suspended Solids	Water Temperature	Ammonia Nitrogen	Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Nitrate + Nitrite	Organic Carbon	Ortho-phosphate	Phosphorus	Total
S004-118	N/A	101		21	45	46	14	45			4		46	46	267
24-0018-03-202	LFL03	102		61	37	61		37	61	61	61	48	61	61	549
24-0018-01-201	N/A	120		3	3	4	4	3					4	4	25
24-0018-01-203	N/A	120													0
24-0018-01-204	N/A	120		56	54	24	9	56					60	60	319
24-0018-01-100	LFL02	120		195	115	166	26	119	124	124	131	89	200	201	1,490
S004-119	SFL01	120		107	119	127	17	120	87	87	94		126	127	1,011
S000-142	N/A	120			1			1							2
S004-116	SNE01	131		85	114	122	13	116	83	84	93		122	122	954
S004-116	N/A	131			48	50	1	48			12		50	50	259
24-0014-00-100	N/A	140		1										1	2
24-0014-00-104	LAL02	140		113	87	93	71	89	17	17	73		115	115	790
24-0014-00-104	N/A	140		58	64	24	10	56					61	62	335
24-0014-00-203	N/A	140													0
24-0014-00-205	LAL01	140		112	88	92	71	91	17	17	73		117	116	794
24-0014-00-205	N/A	140		54	55	26	11	56					63	63	328
24-0014-00-207	N/A	140												1	1
24-0014-00-213	N/A	140		1				1						1	3
24-0014-00-239	N/A	140						1						1	2
S005-772	SPL01B	141		85	104	109		106	85	85	86		109	109	878
S005-772	N/A	141			22	16		22			10		16	16	102
S005-773	SPL02	145		85	98	102		100	85	85	85		102	102	844
S005-773	N/A	145			24	18		24			9		18	18	111

Table B-1. Water Quality Calibration Data (Page 4 of 5)

MPCA Site I.D.	SRRWD Site I.D.	Reach I.D.	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Dissolved Oxygen	Total Suspended Solids	Volatile Suspended Solids	Water Temperature	Ammonia Nitrogen	Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Nitrate + Nitrite	Organic Carbon	Ortho-phosphate	Phosphorus	Total
S004-115	SPL01	147			18	25	2	18			11		26	26	126
S004-115	N/A	147		1	37	35	3	37			5		35	35	188
24-0014-00-206	LAL03	148		116	89	90	70	92	18	19	75		116	117	802
24-0014-00-206	N/A	148		58	60	25	10	60					63	64	340
S000-002	SSR01	150		98	112	120	83	111	14	14	23		122	122	819
S000-002	N/A	150		6	34	31	4	34	3		9		34	36	191
S004-113	SSR02	150		104	116	127	90	118	14	14	22		128	127	860
S004-113	N/A	150		26	55	49	15	56			8		48	52	309
S005-117	N/A	150		2	10	2	2	10	1	1	4		1	4	37
S001-011	N/A	170			3	2		3							8
S007-148	N/A	170		2	8			8			2			2	22
S005-096	SCD16	171		14	94	99	1	96	14	14	15		99	99	545
S005-096	N/A	171			22	23	1	22			13		23	24	128
S000-084	SSR03	190		103	99	102	87	101	14	14	14		101	102	737
S000-084	N/A	190	24	45	315	416	251	322	83	335	399	36	331	418	2,975
S006-770	N/A	190		3	8	1	1	8			4			4	29
24-0031-00-100	N/A	192		1										1	2
24-0031-00-201	LUT01	192		91	75	79	66	77	12	12	12		91	91	606
24-0031-00-201	N/A	192		19	12	1	1	20					19	20	92
24-0031-00-202	N/A	192												1	1
24-0027-00-100	N/A	194		1	1			1					1	1	5
24-0027-00-201	LLT01	194		95	70	78	66	79	12	12	12		94	95	613
24-0027-00-201	N/A	194		18	12	1	1	19					18	20	89

Table B-1. Water Quality Calibration Data (Page 5 of 5)

MPCA Site I.D.	SRRWD Site I.D.	Reach I.D.	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Dissolved Oxygen	Total Suspended Solids	Volatile Suspended Solids	Water Temperature	Ammonia Nitrogen	Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Nitrate + Nitrite	Organic Carbon	Ortho-phosphate	Phosphorus	Total
24-0027-00-202	N/A	194						1						2	3
S005-615	N/A	211			23	10	10	23	9	10	10			10	105
24-0017-00-100	N/A	N/A		1										1	2
24-0082-00-201	N/A	N/A			3			3	3		3		3	3	18
LD00152	N/A	N/A			1			1	1		1		1	1	6
S004-119	N/A	N/A		22	47	49	14	47			4		49	49	281
S005-113	N/A	N/A				1							1	1	3
S005-774	N/A	N/A				7							7	7	21
S005-775	N/A	N/A				11							11	11	33
S006-537	N/A	N/A			3			3	3		3		3	3	18
S006-538	N/A	N/A			3			3	3		3		3	3	18
S015-206	N/A	N/A				5								5	10
S015-207	N/A	N/A				5								5	10
S015-208	N/A	N/A				5								5	10
N/A	LAKEVIEW	N/A													0
N/A	LFD01	N/A		1	8	8	8	8					9	9	51
N/A	LPL02	N/A		7	6	7	3	6			7		7	7	50
N/A	SCDF01	N/A			30	32	18	30					32	32	174
N/A	SCDF02	N/A			32	34	20	32					34	34	186
N/A	SCDF03	N/A			9	11		9					11	11	51
N/A	SFD01	N/A		1	8	9	7	9	1	1	1		9	9	55
N/A	SGCD01	N/A			16	17		16			4		17	17	87



ATTACHMENT C

WATER QUALITY CALIBRATION FIGURES FOR REACH 190 IN THE SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED MODEL APPLICATION



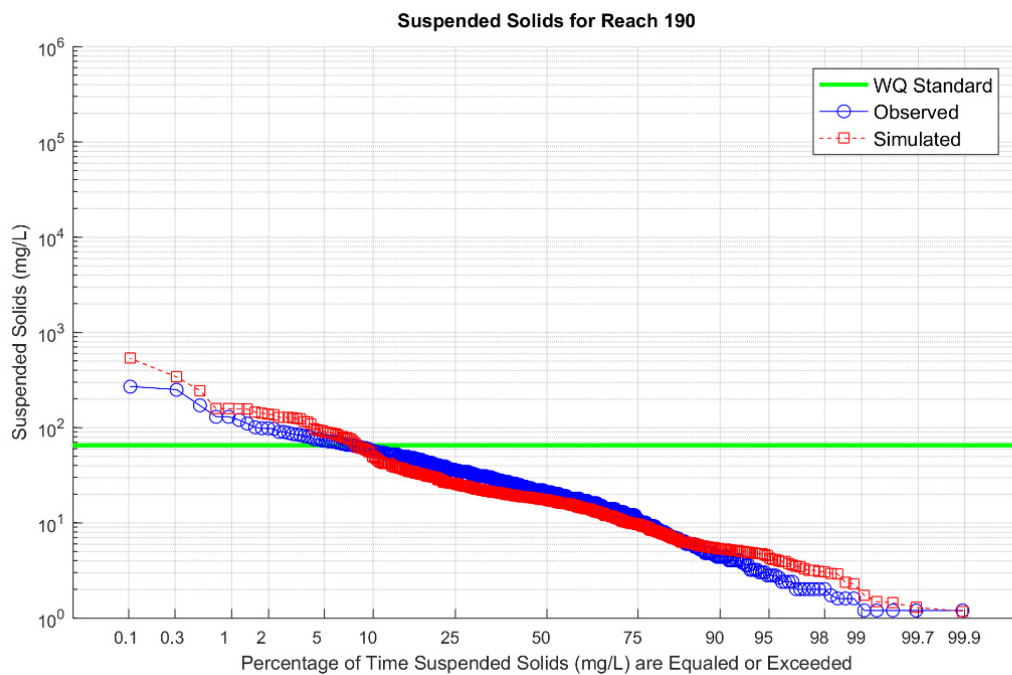


Figure C-1. Suspended Solids Duration Curve at Reach 190.

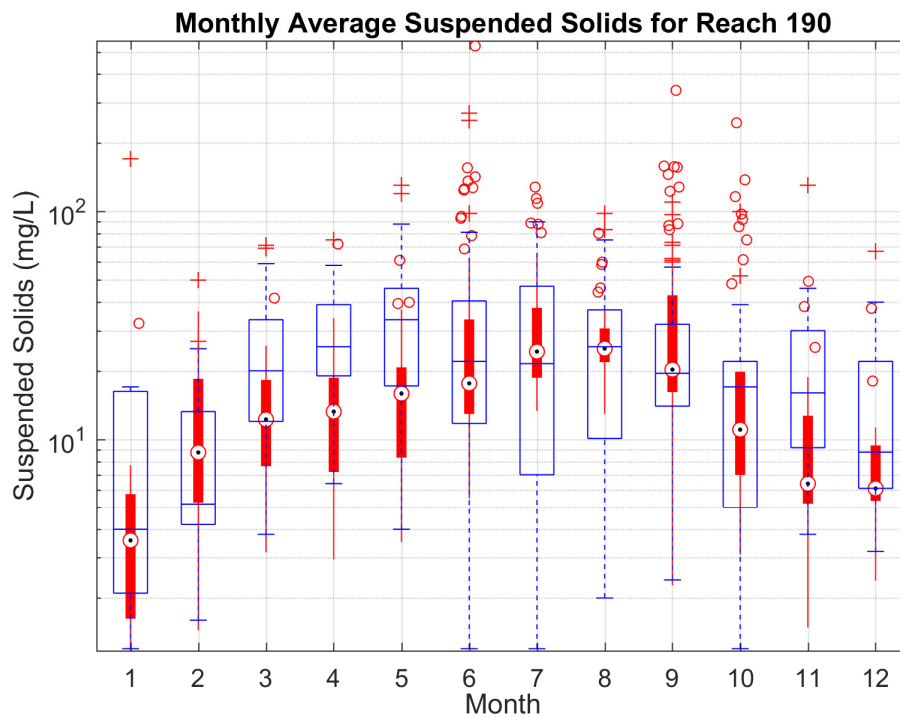


Figure C-2. Suspended Solids Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

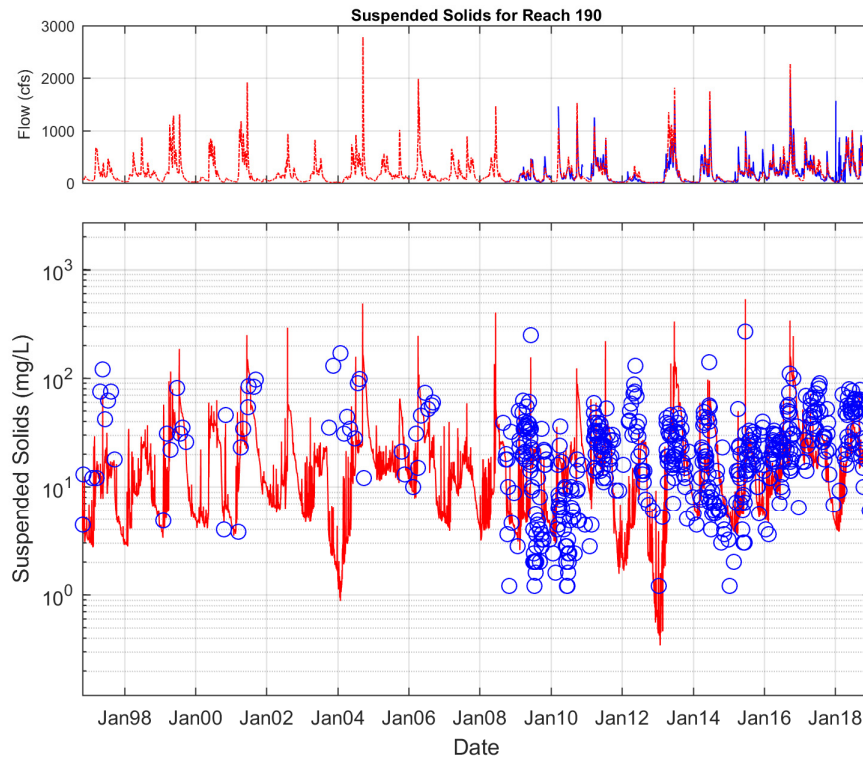


Figure C-3. Suspended Solids Time Series at Reach 190.

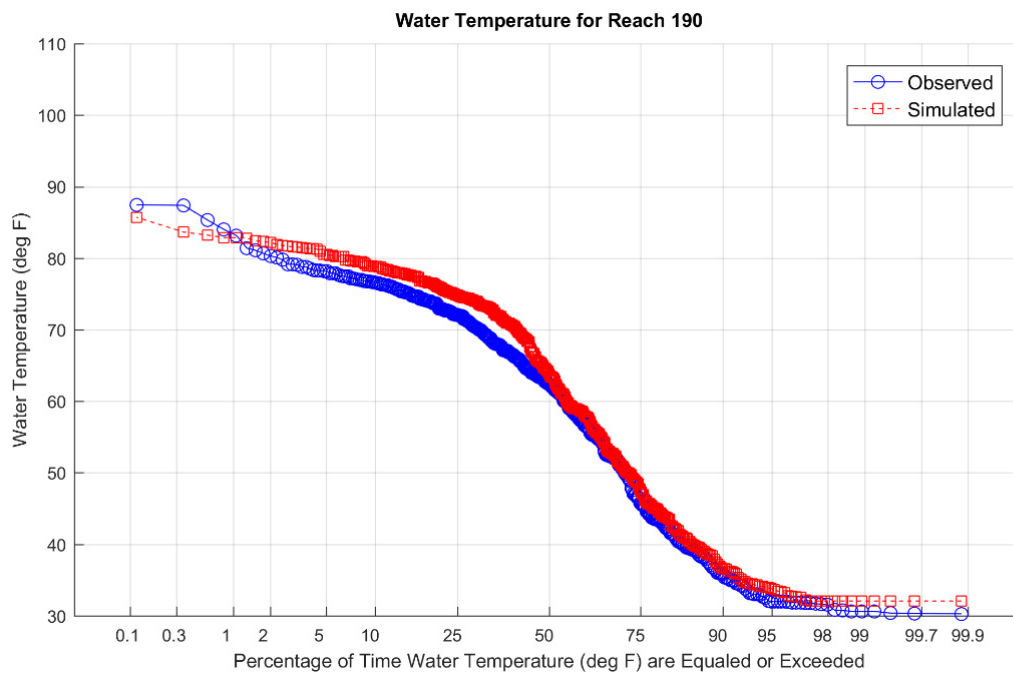


Figure C-4. Water Temperature Duration Curve at Reach 190.

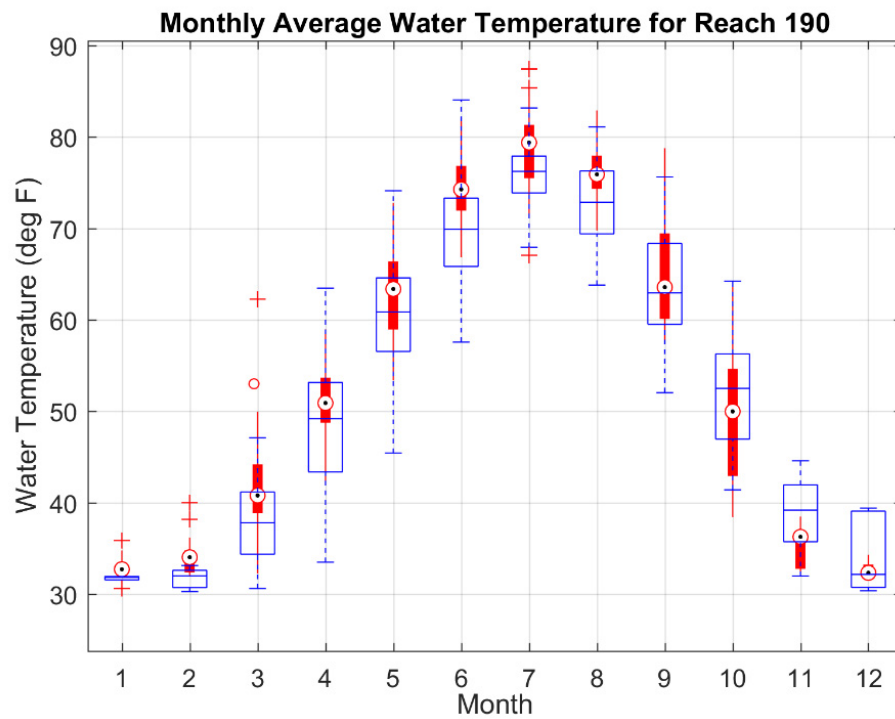


Figure C-5. Water Temperature Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

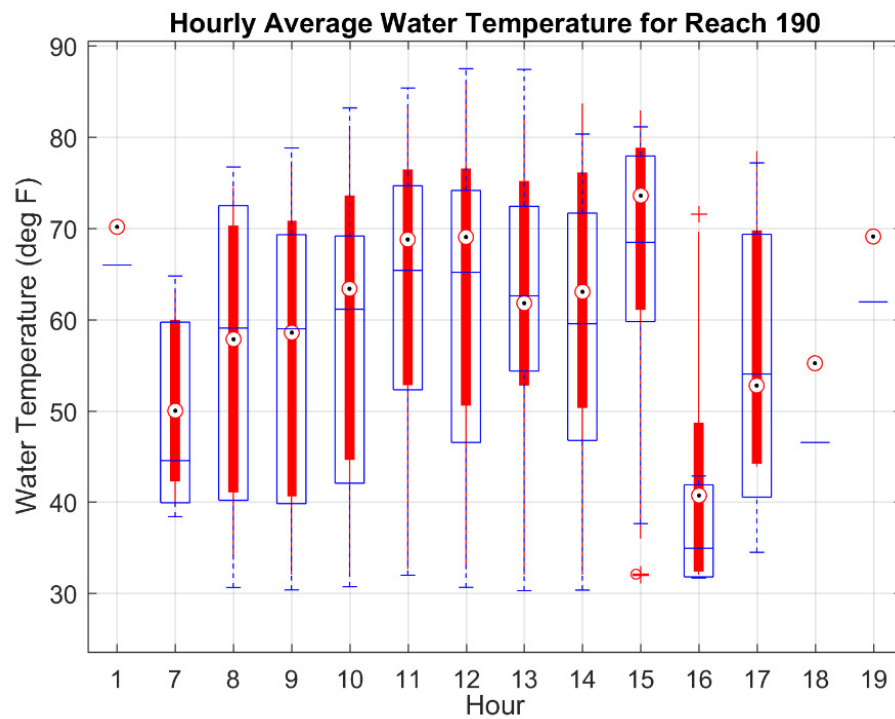


Figure C-6. Water Temperature Hourly Averages at Reach 190.

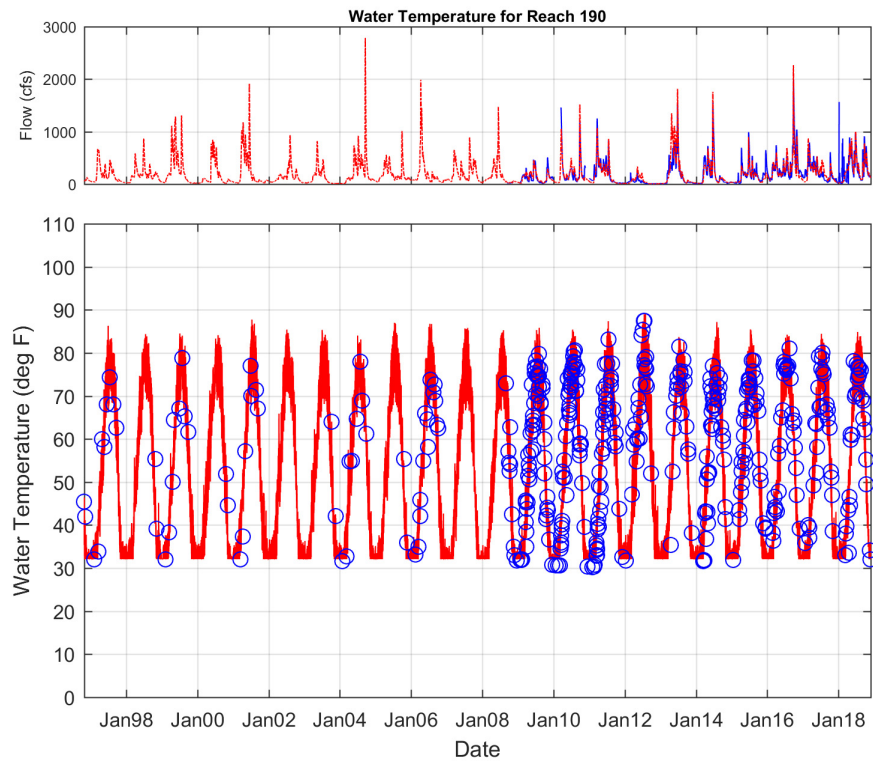


Figure C-7. Water Temperature Time Series at Reach 190.

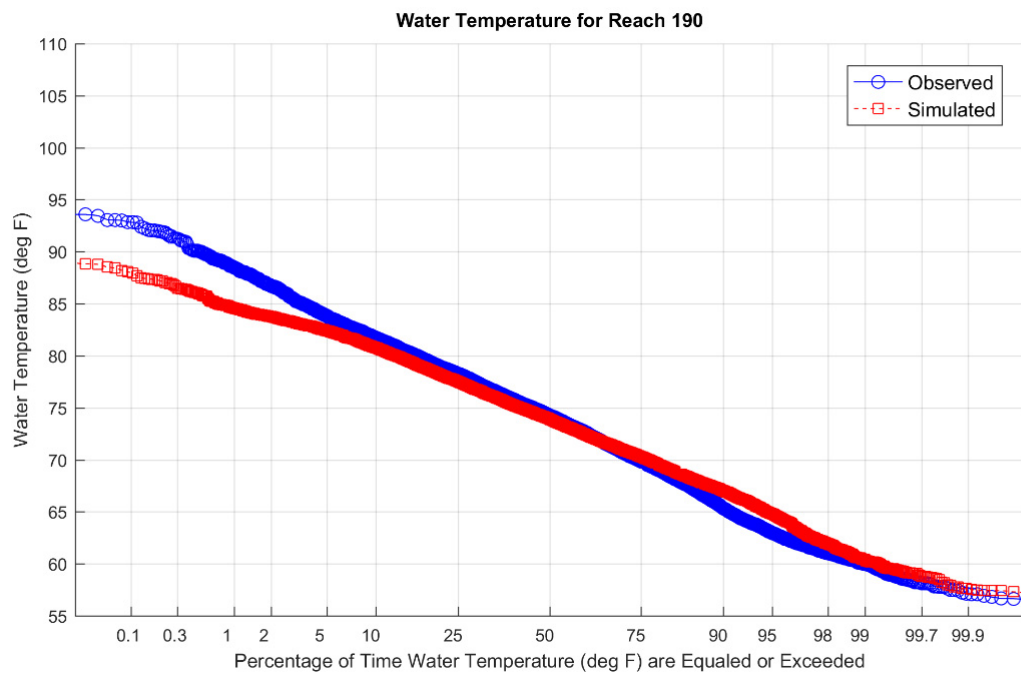


Figure C-8. Continuous Water Temperature Duration Curve at Reach 190 (SRRWD).

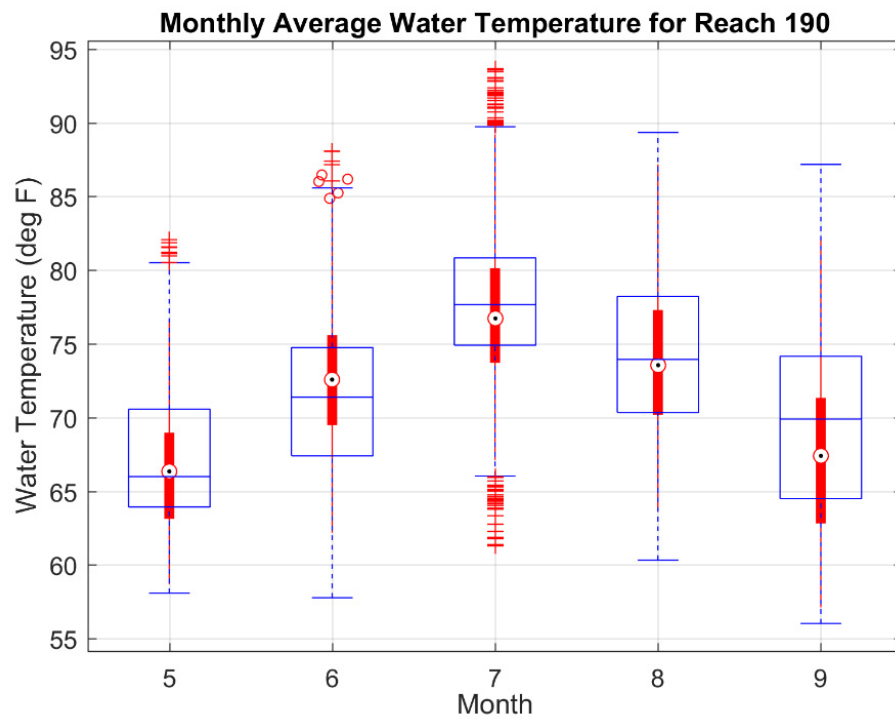


Figure C-9. Continuous Water Temperature Monthly Averages at Reach 190 (SRRWD).

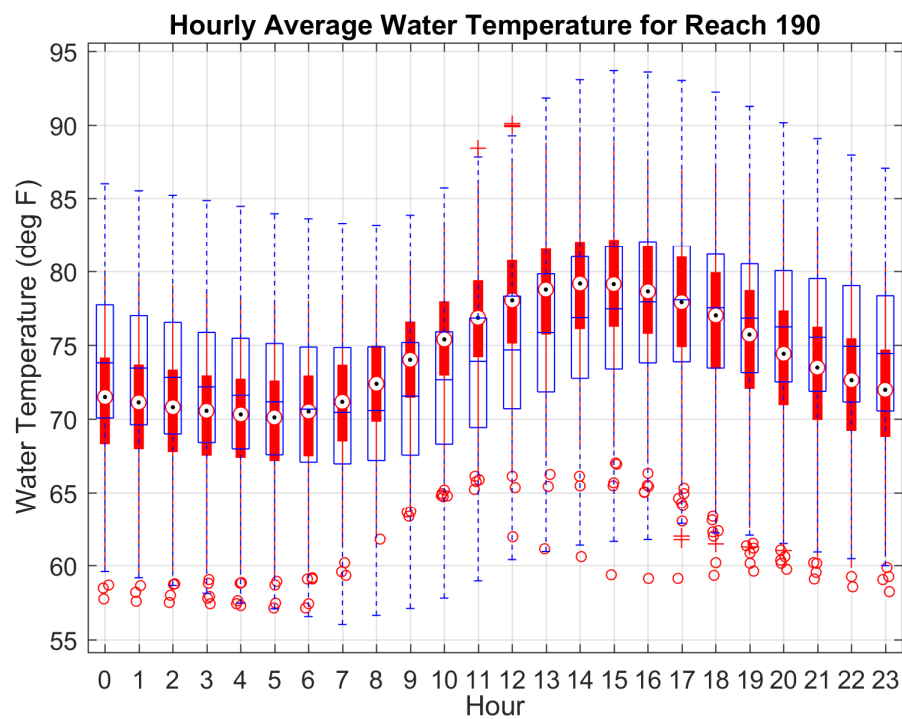


Figure C-10. Continuous Water Temperature Hourly Averages at Reach 190 (SRRWD).

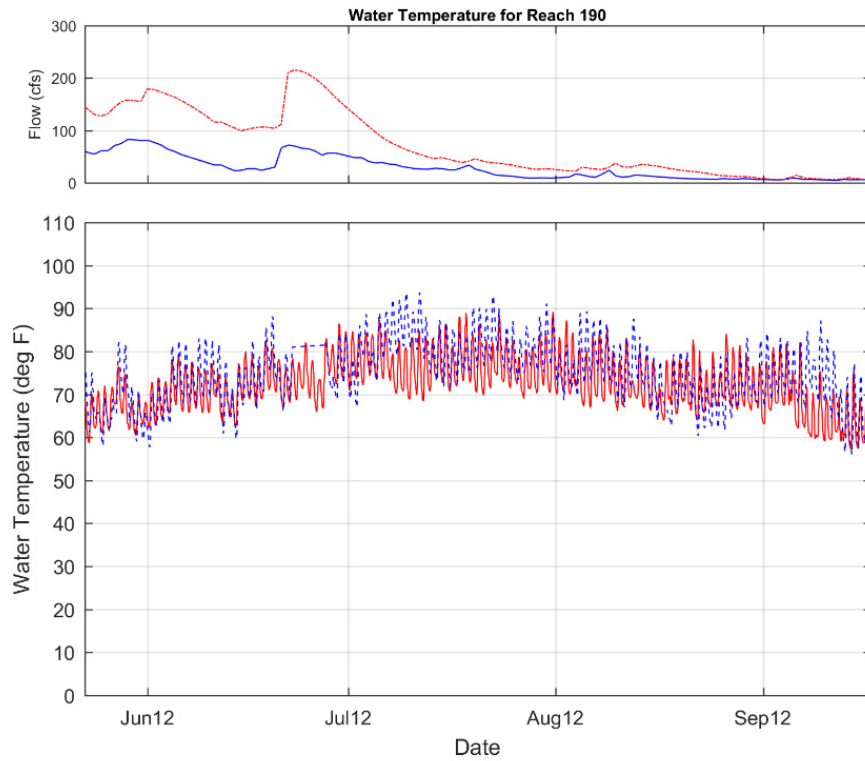


Figure C-11. Continuous Water Temperature Time Series at Reach 190 (SRRWD 2012).

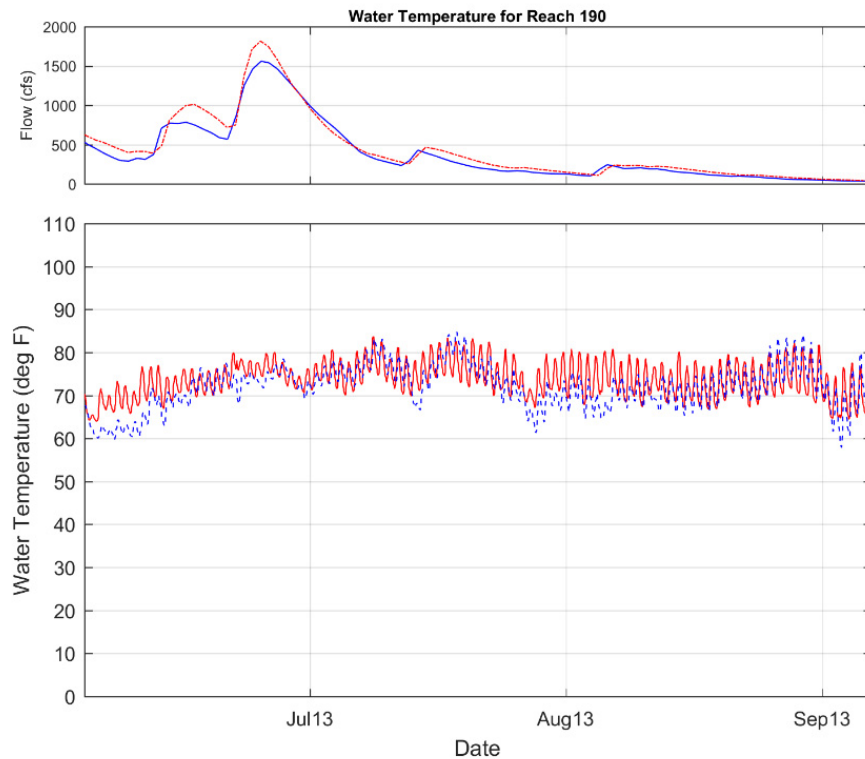


Figure C-12. Continuous Water Temperature Time Series at Reach 190 (SRRWD 2013).

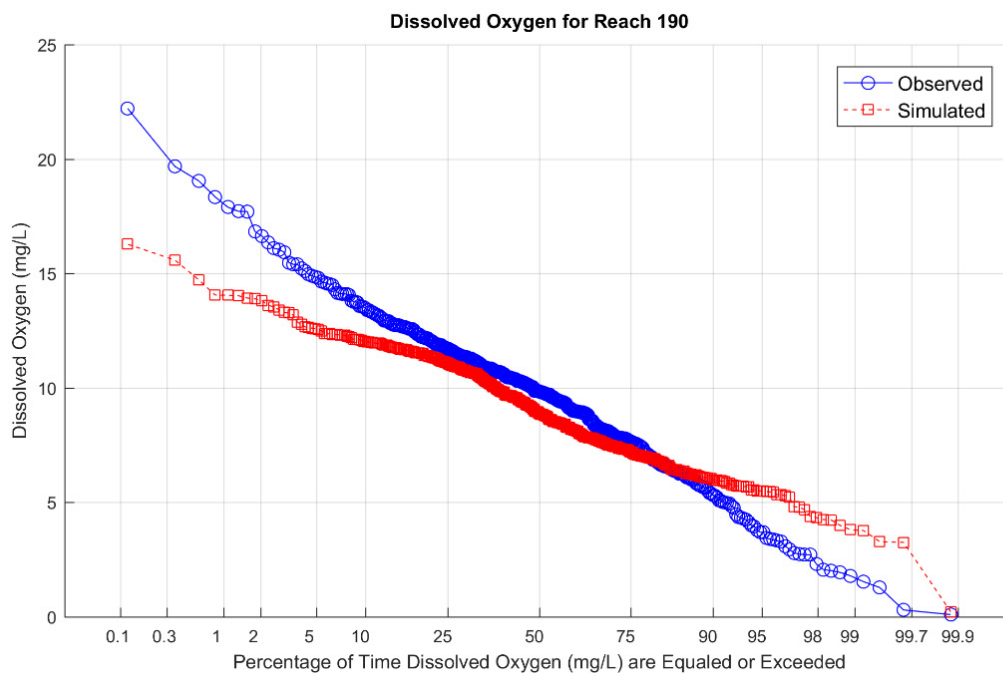


Figure C-13. Dissolved Oxygen Duration Curve at Reach 190.

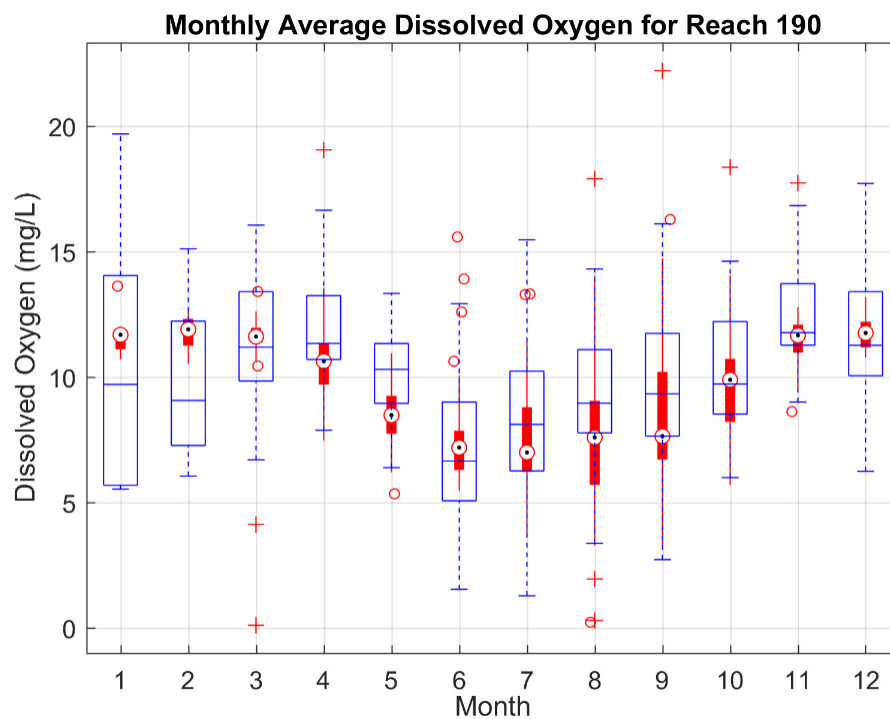


Figure C-14. Dissolved Oxygen Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

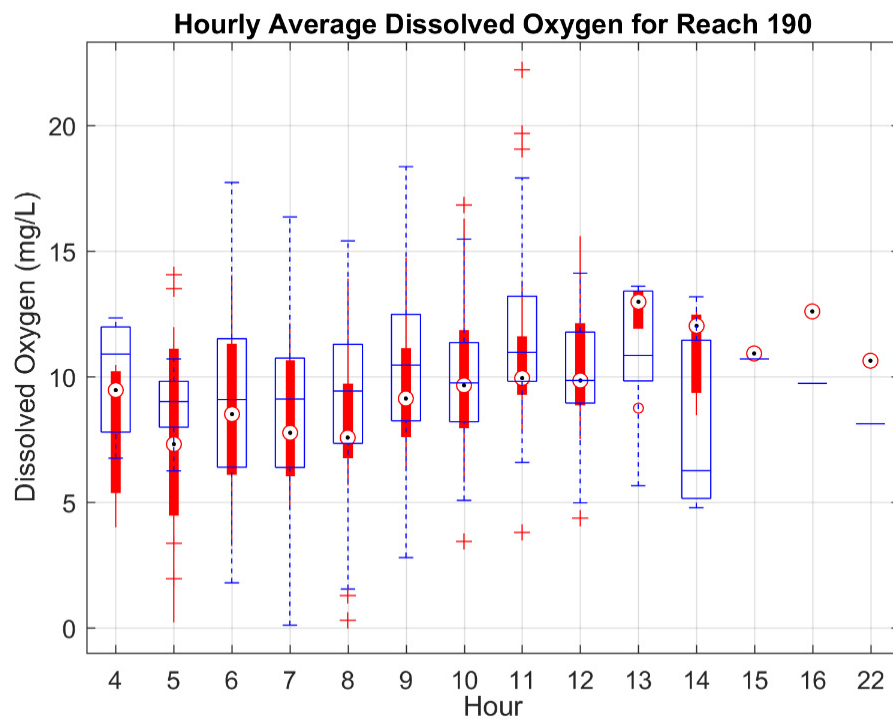


Figure C-15. Dissolved Oxygen Hourly Averages at Reach 190.

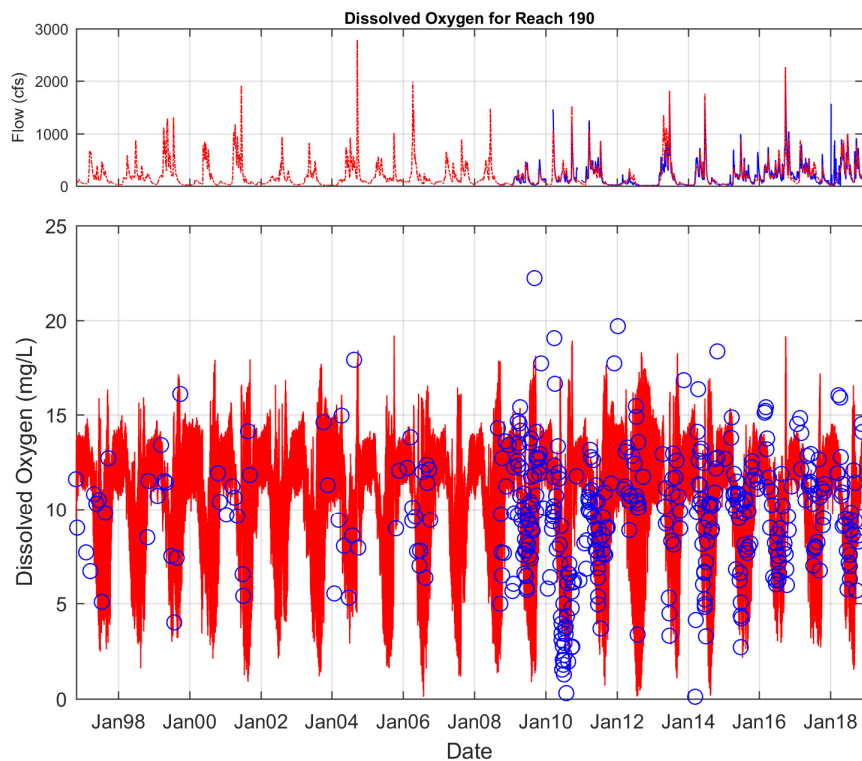


Figure C-16. Dissolved Oxygen Time Series at Reach 190.

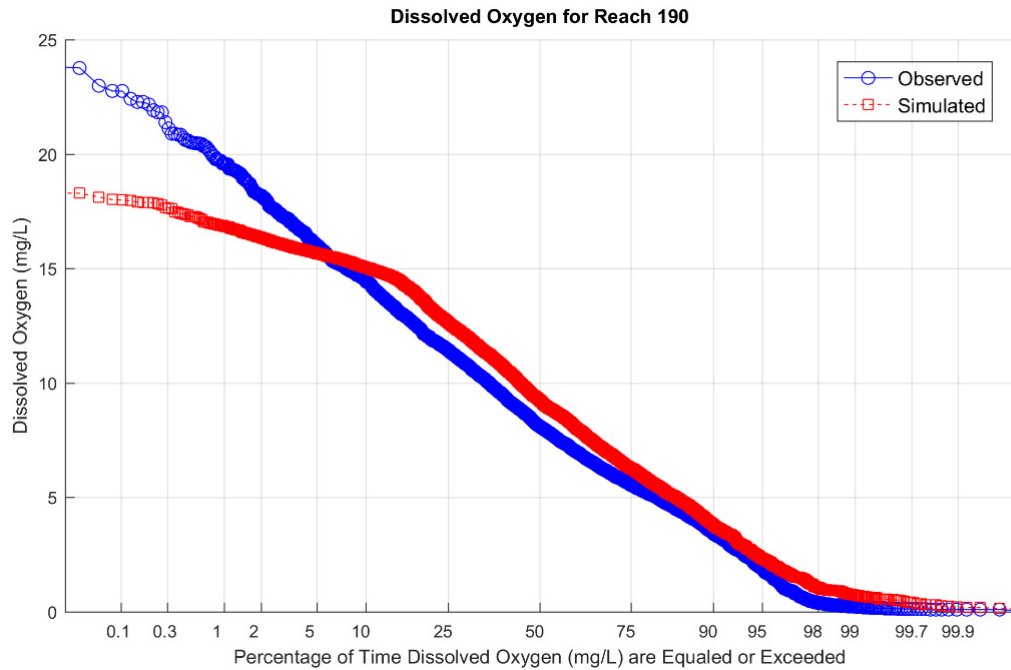


Figure C-17. Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Duration Curve at Reach 190 (SRRWD and MPCA Combined).

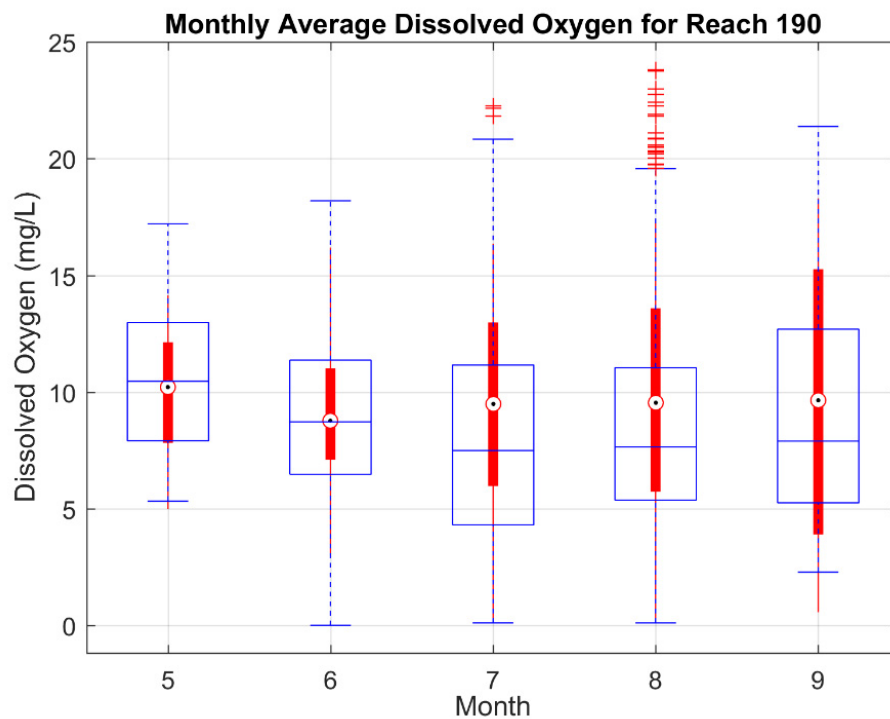


Figure C-18. Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monthly Averages at Reach 190 (SRRWD and MPCA Combined).

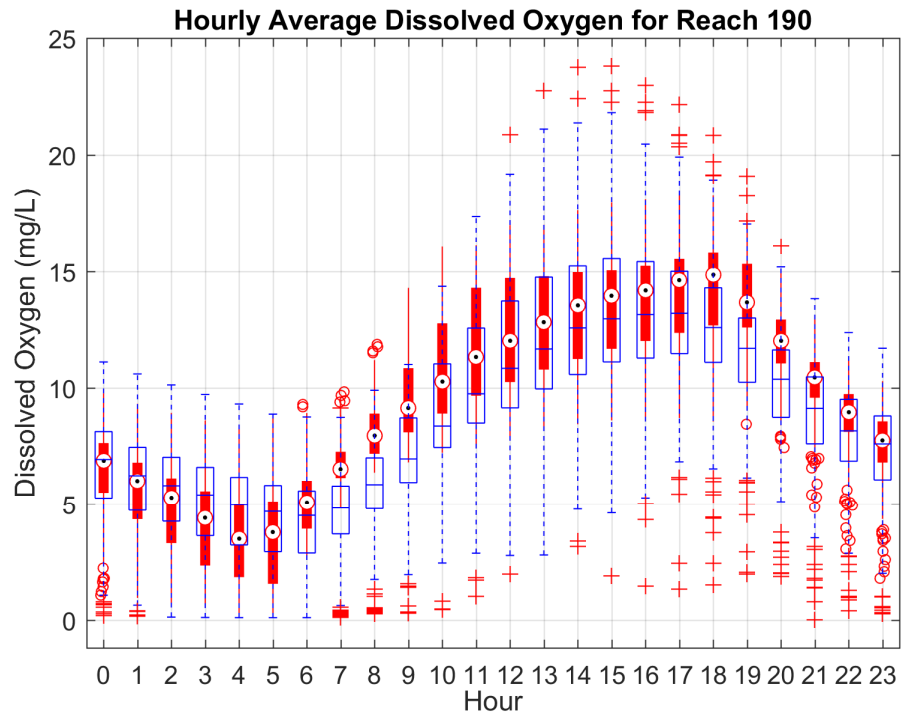


Figure C-19. Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Hourly Averages at Reach 190 (SRRWD and MPCA Combined).

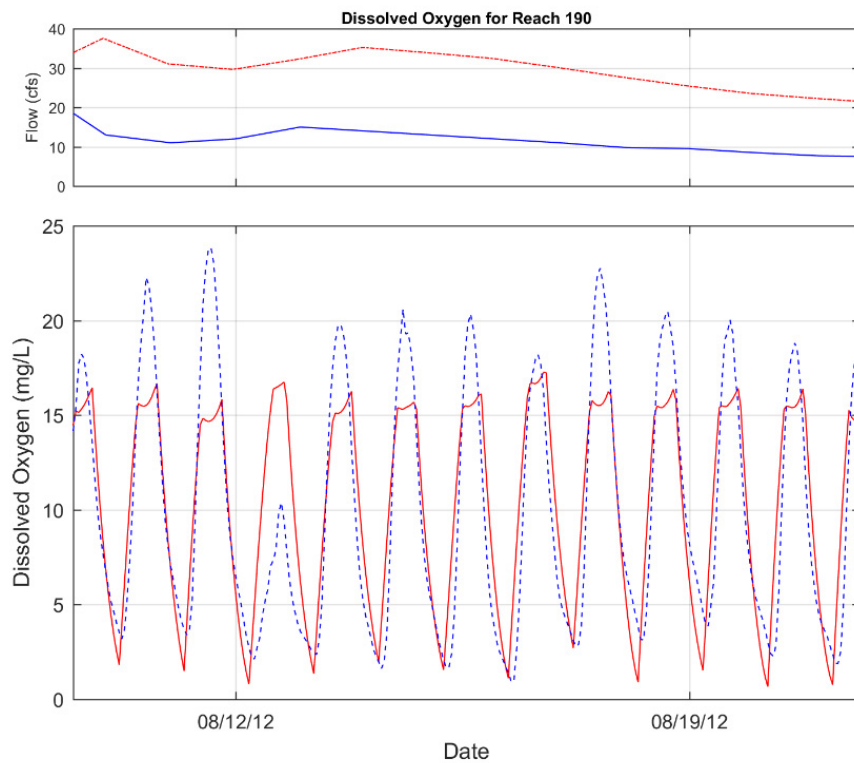


Figure C-20. Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Time Series at Reach 190 (MPCA 2012).

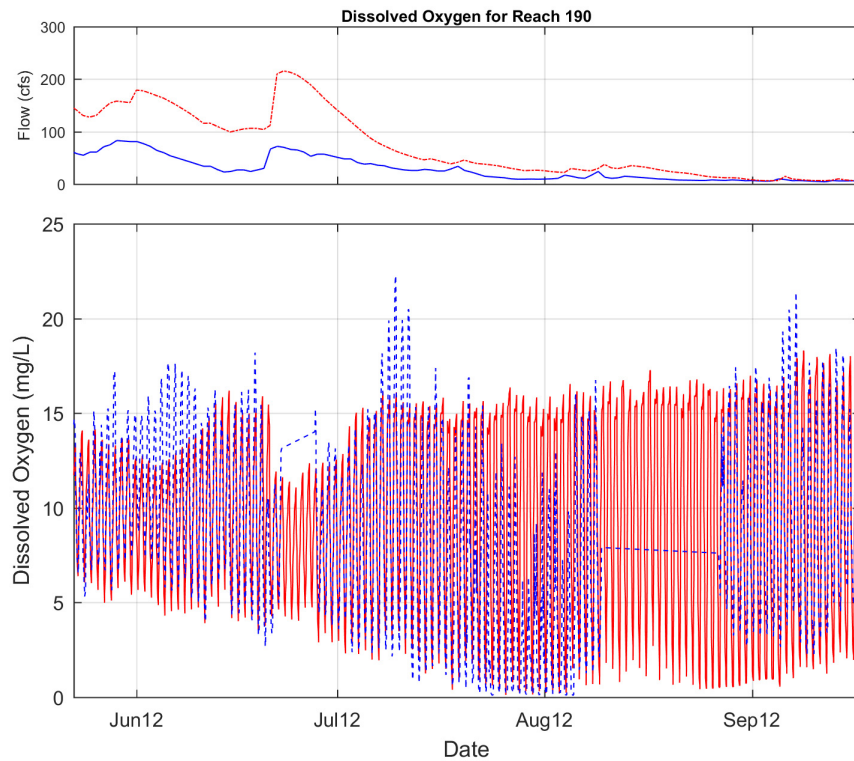


Figure C-21. Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Time Series at Reach 190 (SRRWD 2012).

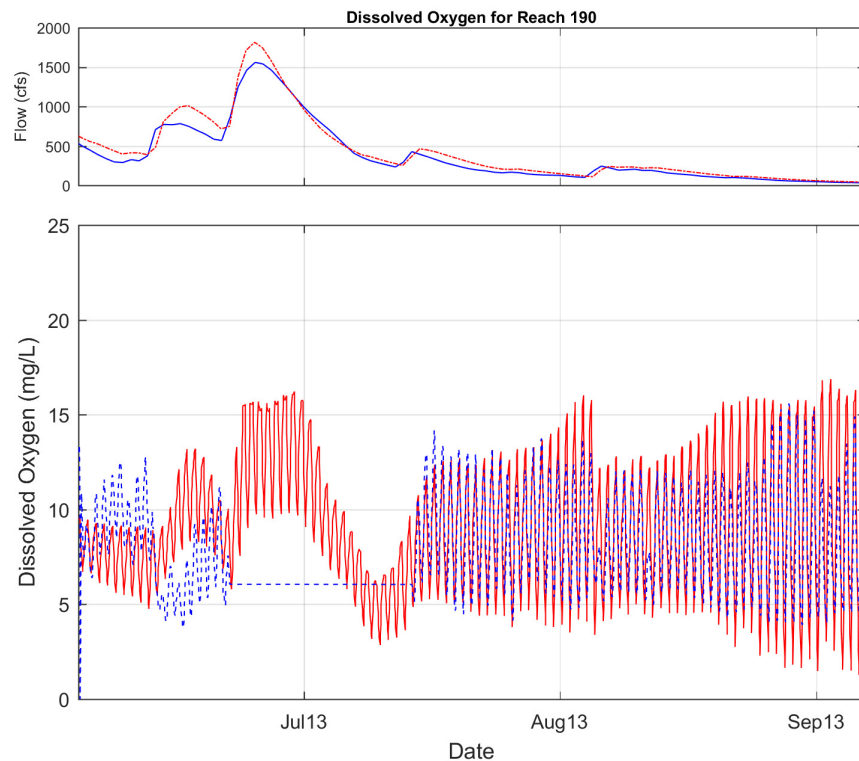


Figure C-22. Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Time Series at Reach 190 (SRRWD 2013).

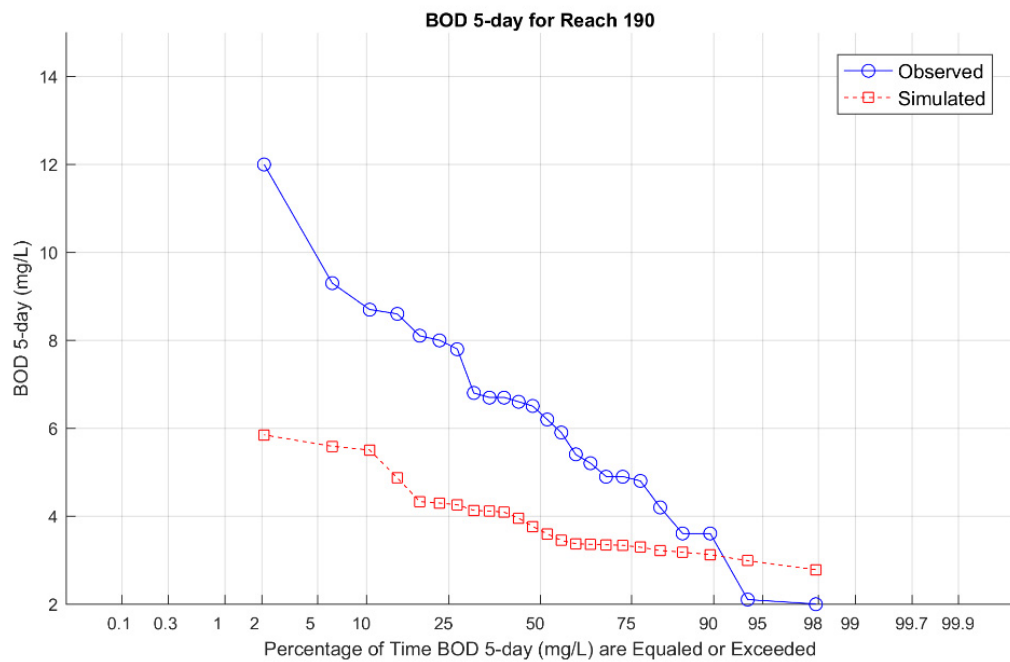


Figure C-23. Biological Oxygen Demand Duration Curve at Reach 190.

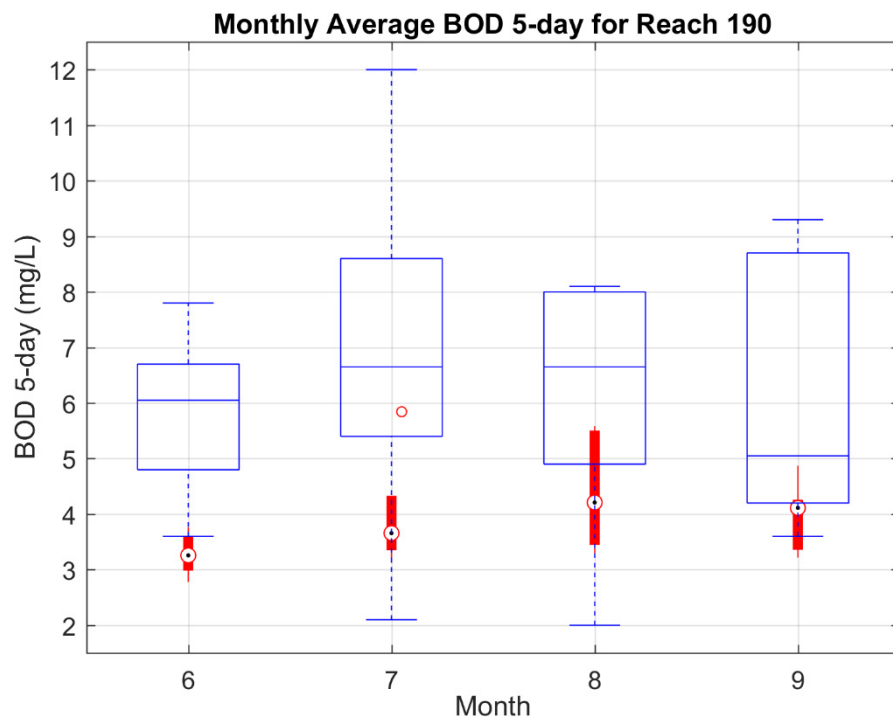


Figure C-24. Biological Oxygen Demand Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

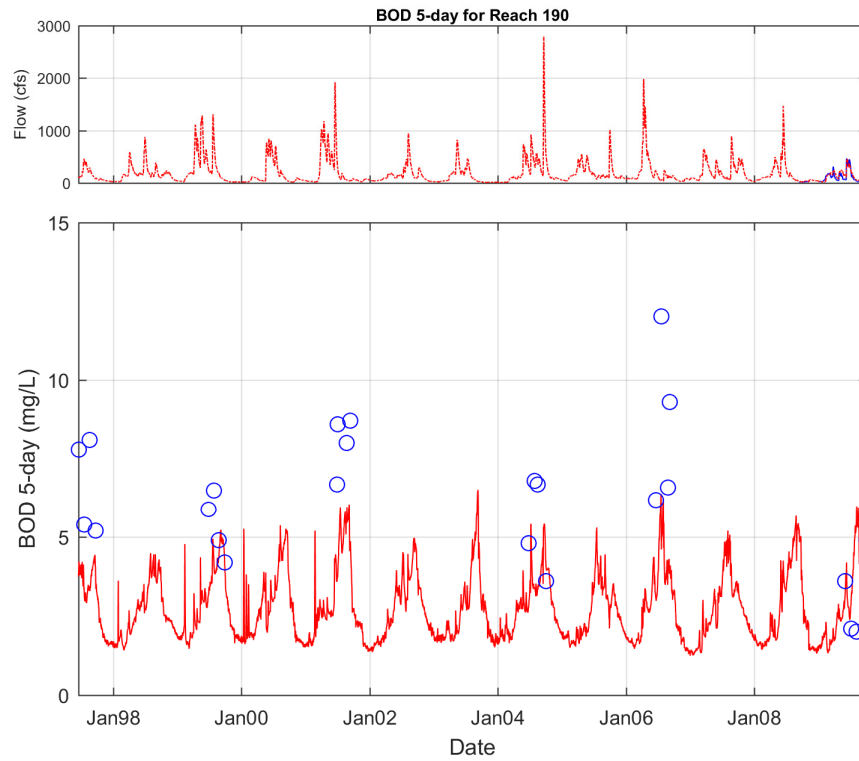


Figure C-25. Biological Oxygen Demand Time Series at Reach 190.

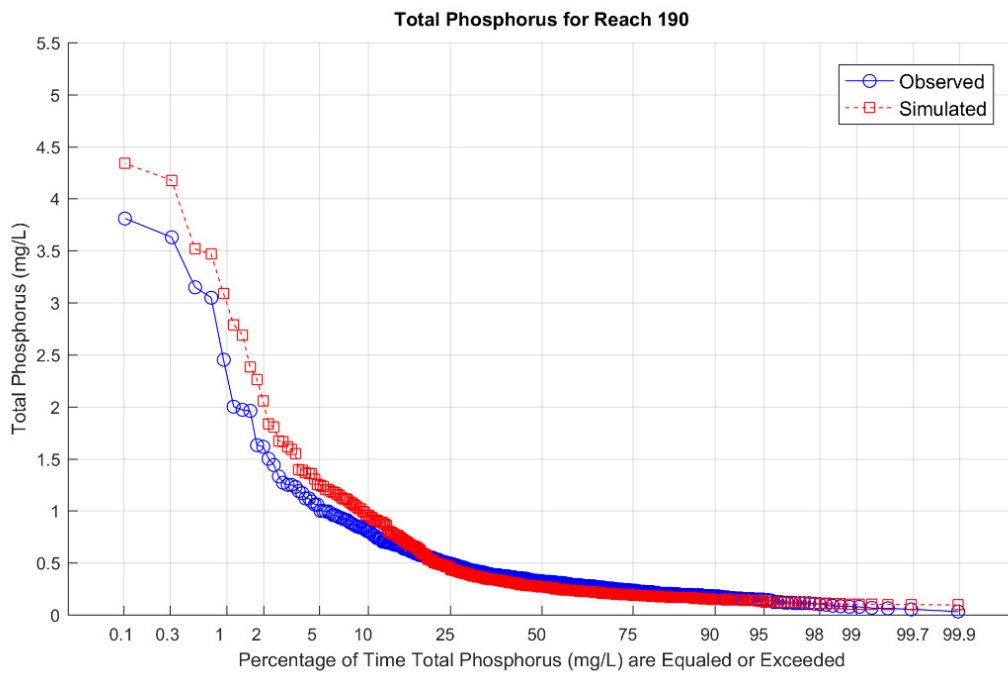


Figure C-26. Total Phosphorus Duration Curve at Reach 190.

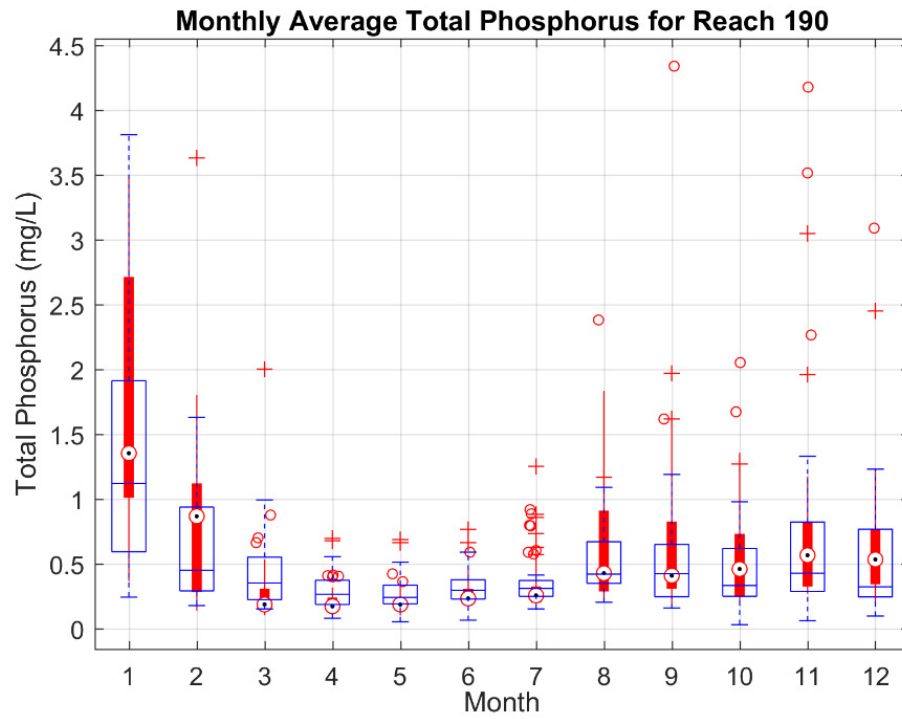


Figure C-27. Total Phosphorus Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

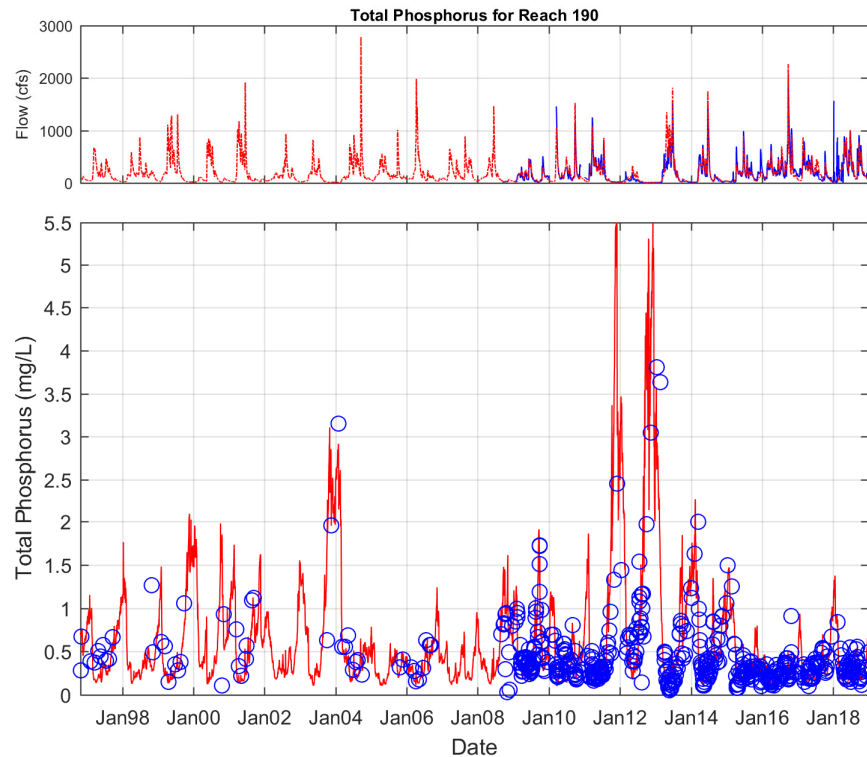


Figure C-28. Total Phosphorus Time Series at Reach 190.

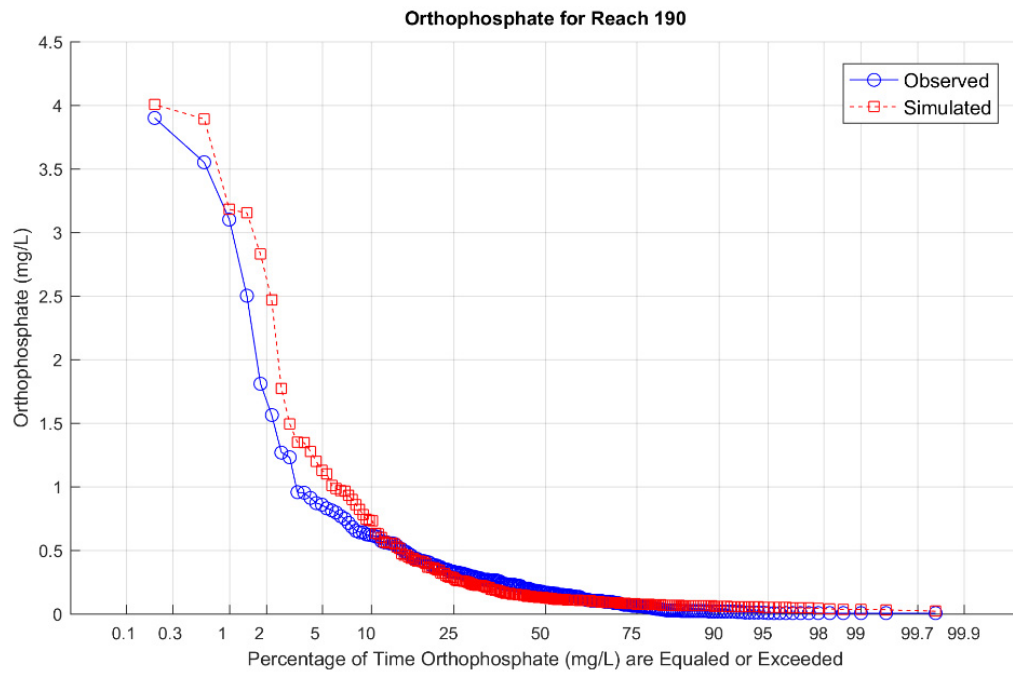


Figure C-29. Orthophosphate Duration Curve at Reach 190.

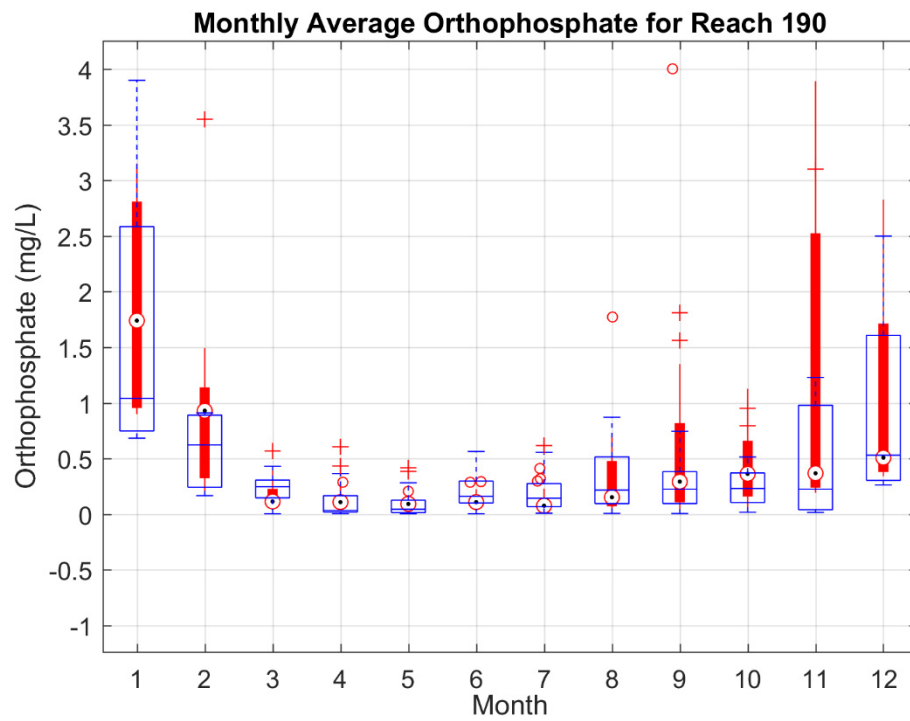


Figure C-30. Orthophosphate Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

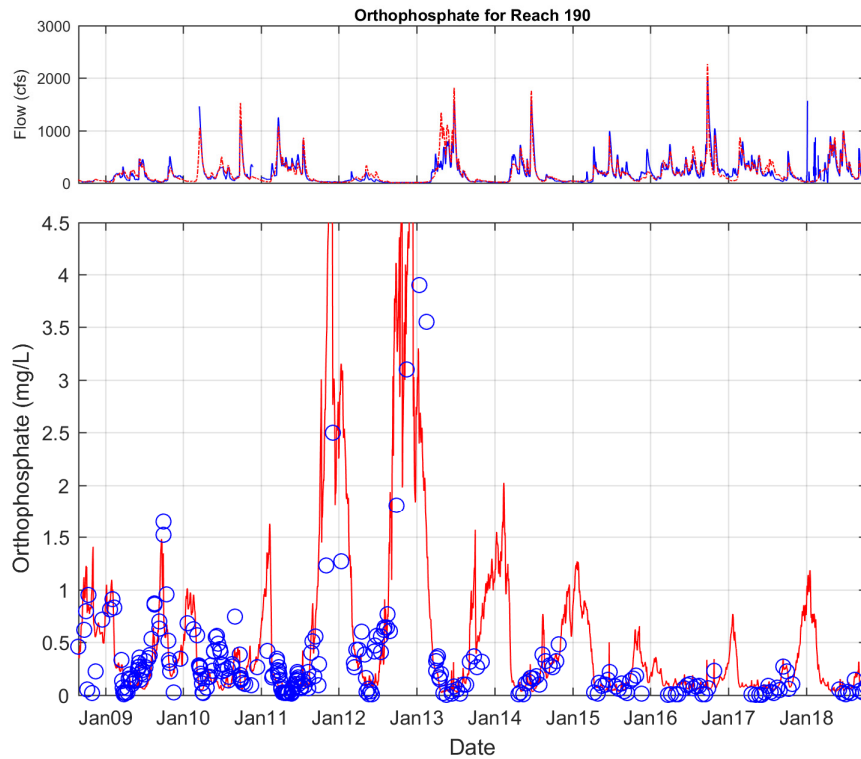


Figure C-31. Orthophosphate Time Series at Reach 190.

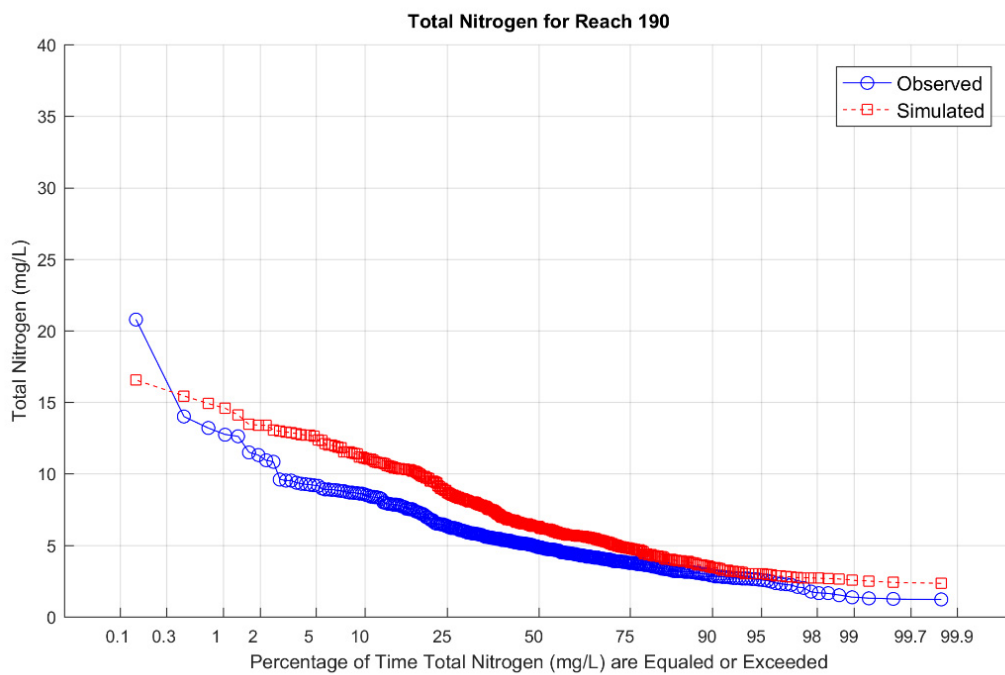


Figure C-32. Total Nitrogen Duration Curve at Reach 190.

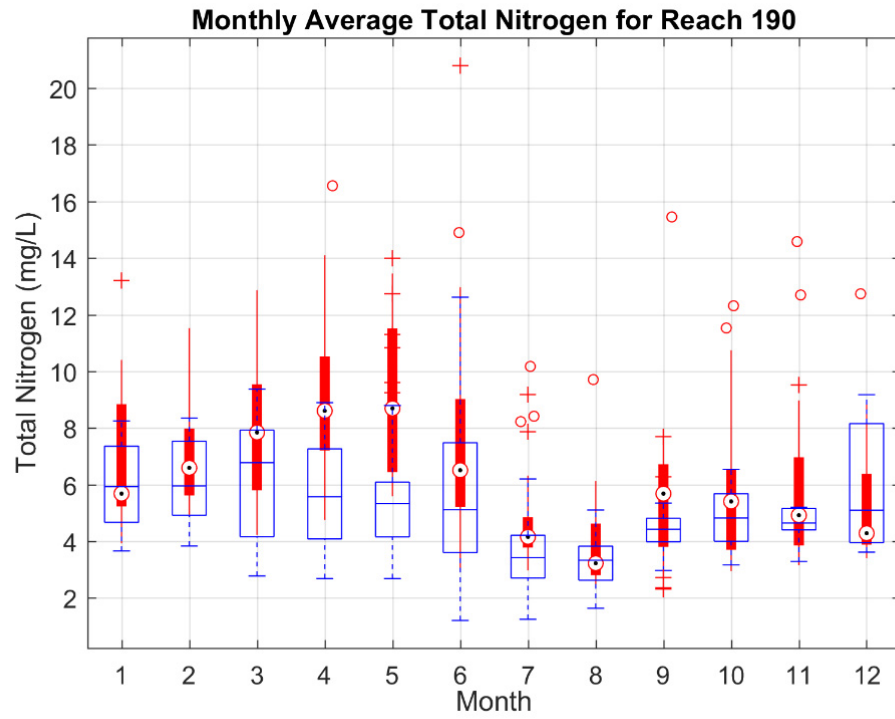


Figure C-33. Total Nitrogen Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

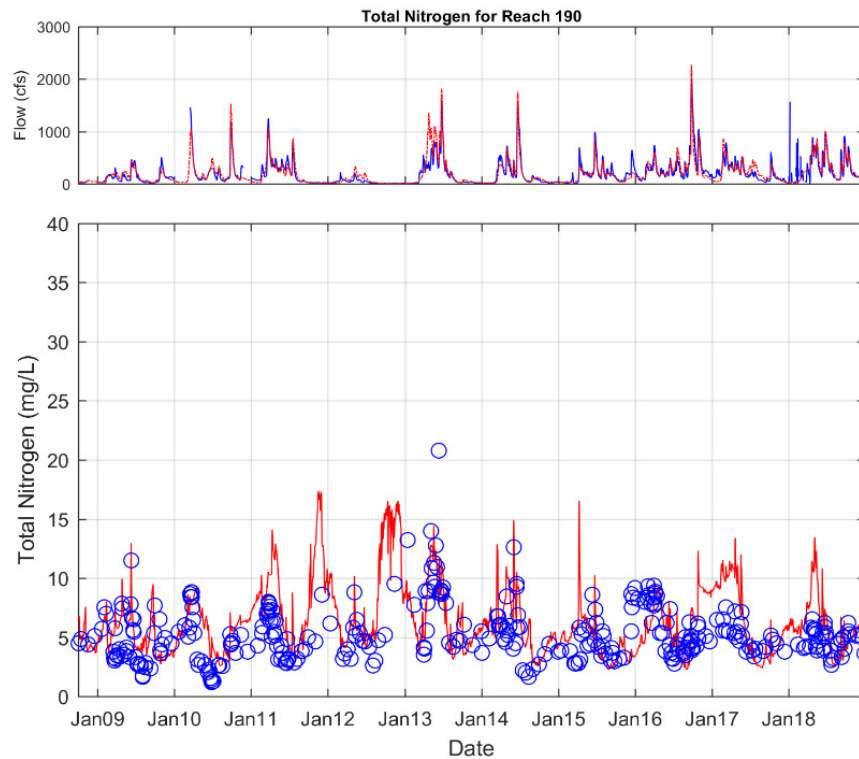


Figure C-34. Total Nitrogen Time Series at Reach 190.

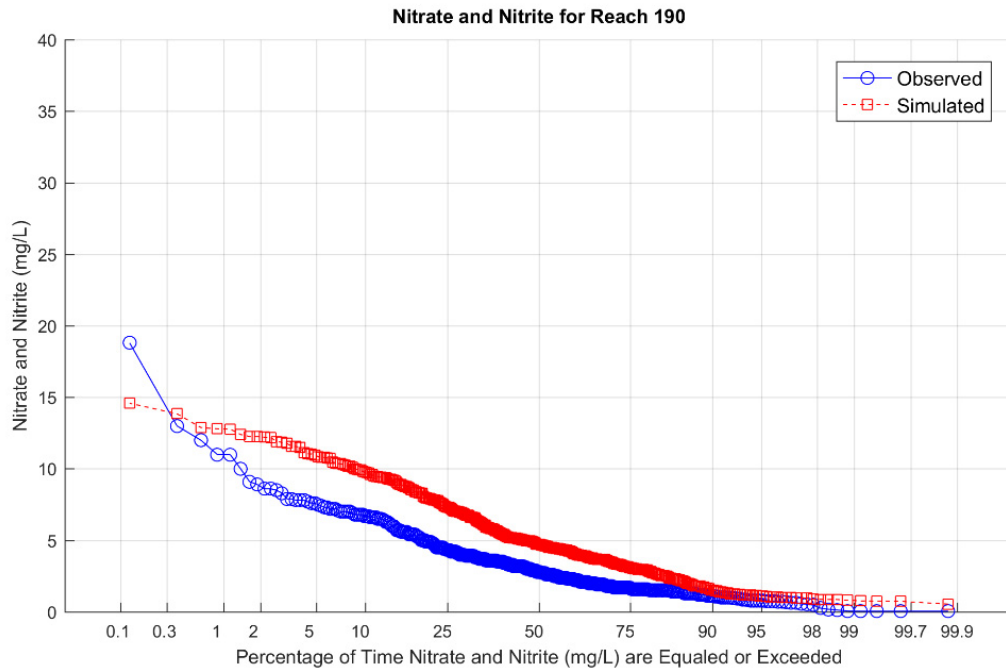


Figure C-35. Nitrate and Nitrite Duration Curve at Reach 190.

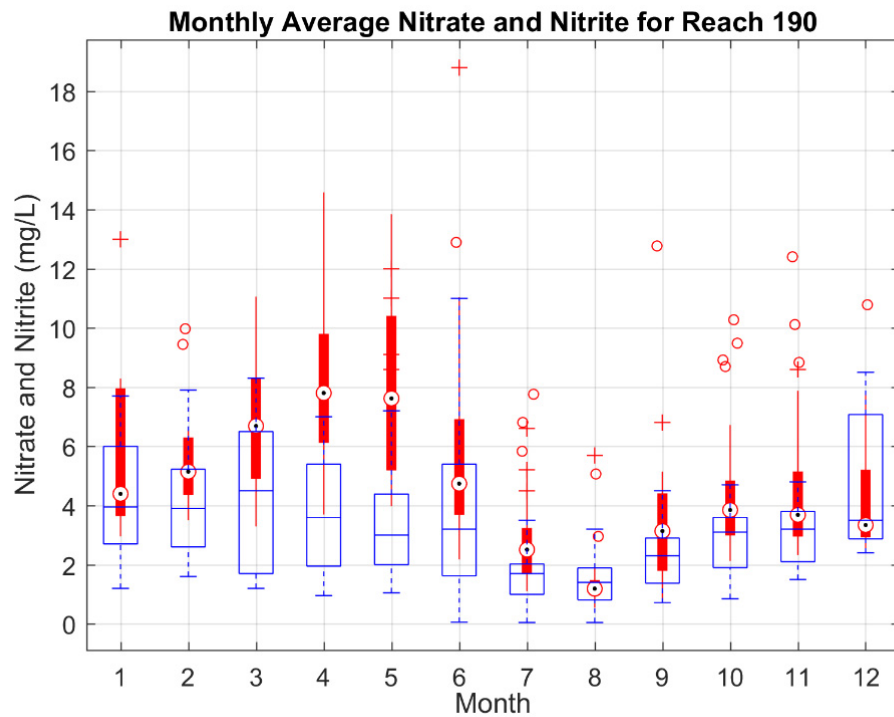


Figure C-36. Nitrate and Nitrite Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

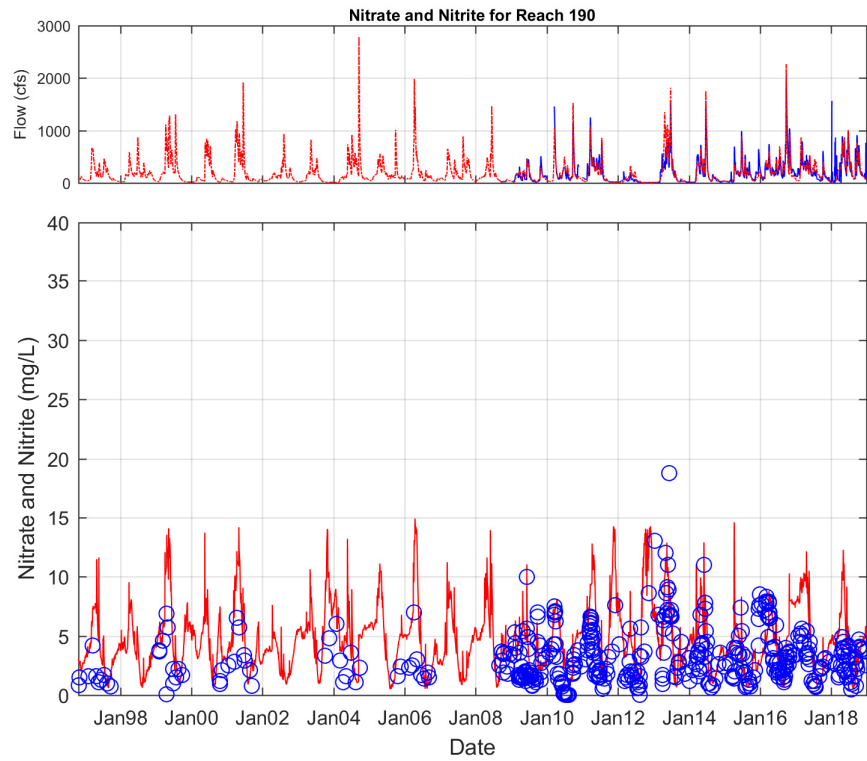


Figure C-37. Nitrate and Nitrite Time Series at Reach 190.

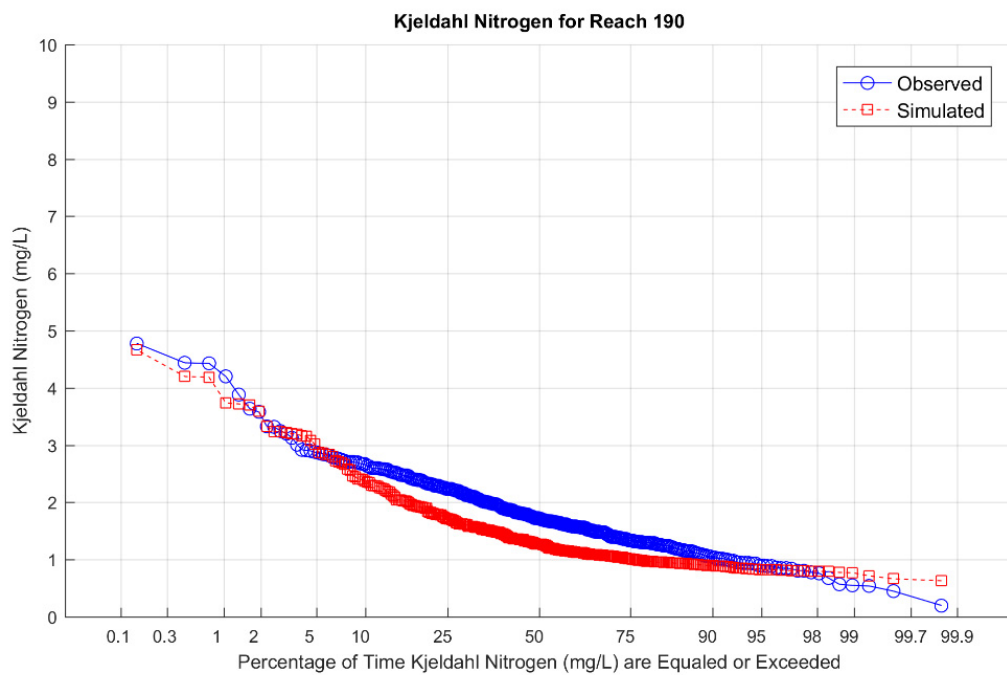


Figure C-38. Kjeldahl Nitrogen Duration Curve at Reach 190.

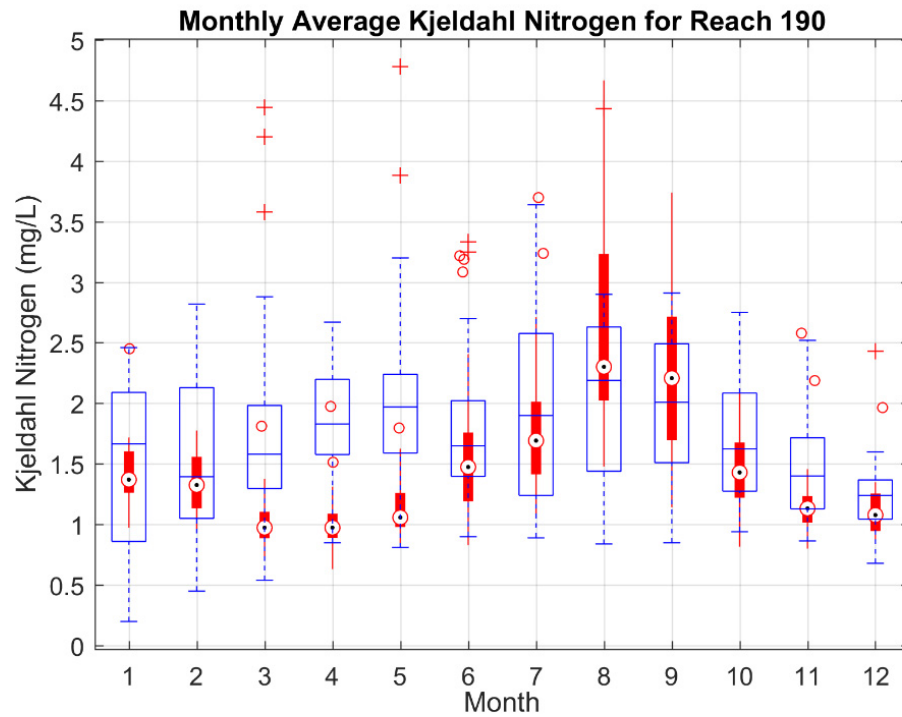


Figure C-39. Kjeldahl Nitrogen Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

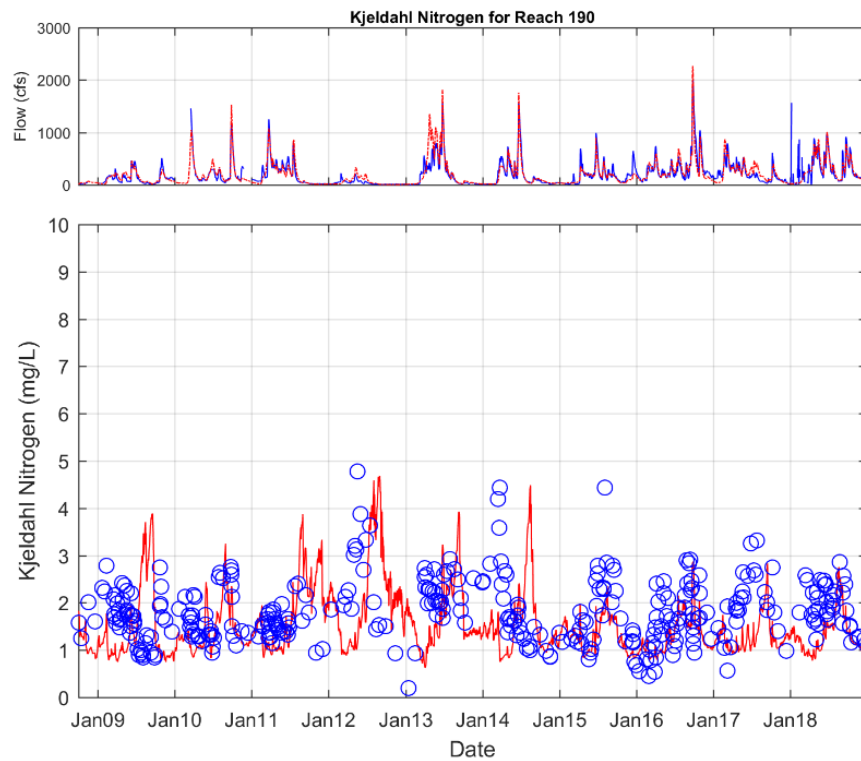


Figure C-40. Kjeldahl Nitrogen Time Series at Reach 190.

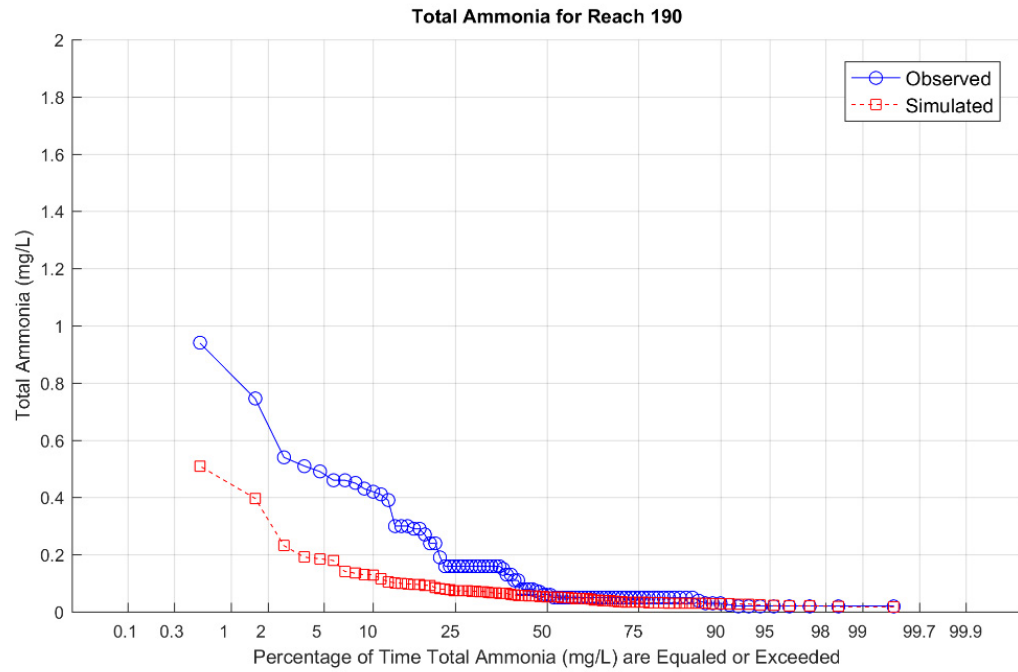


Figure C-41. Total Ammonia Duration Curve at Reach 190.

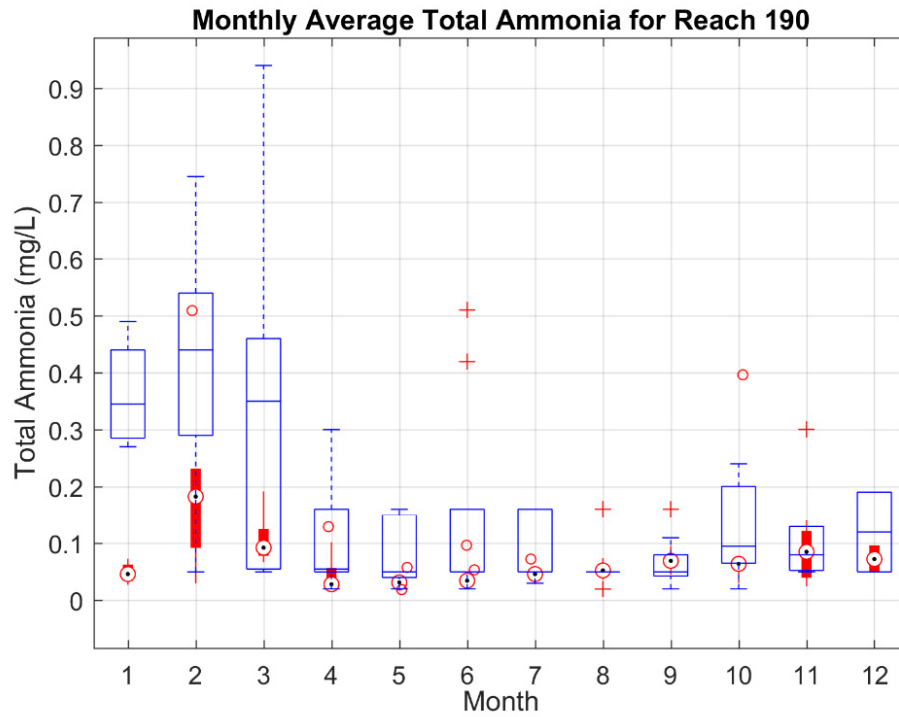


Figure C-42. Total Ammonia Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

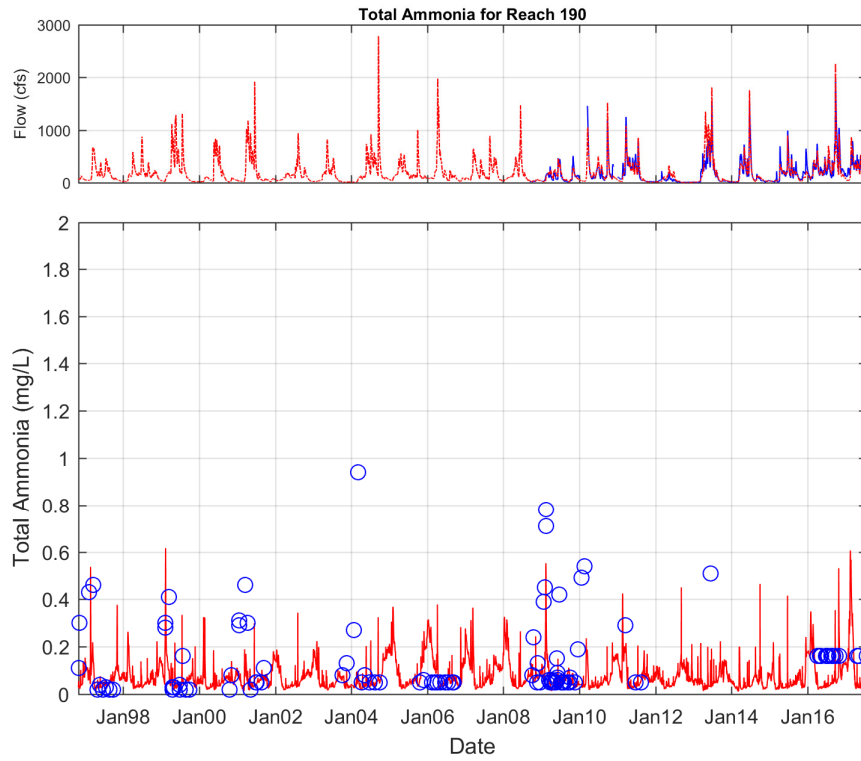


Figure C-43. Total Ammonia Time Series at Reach 190.

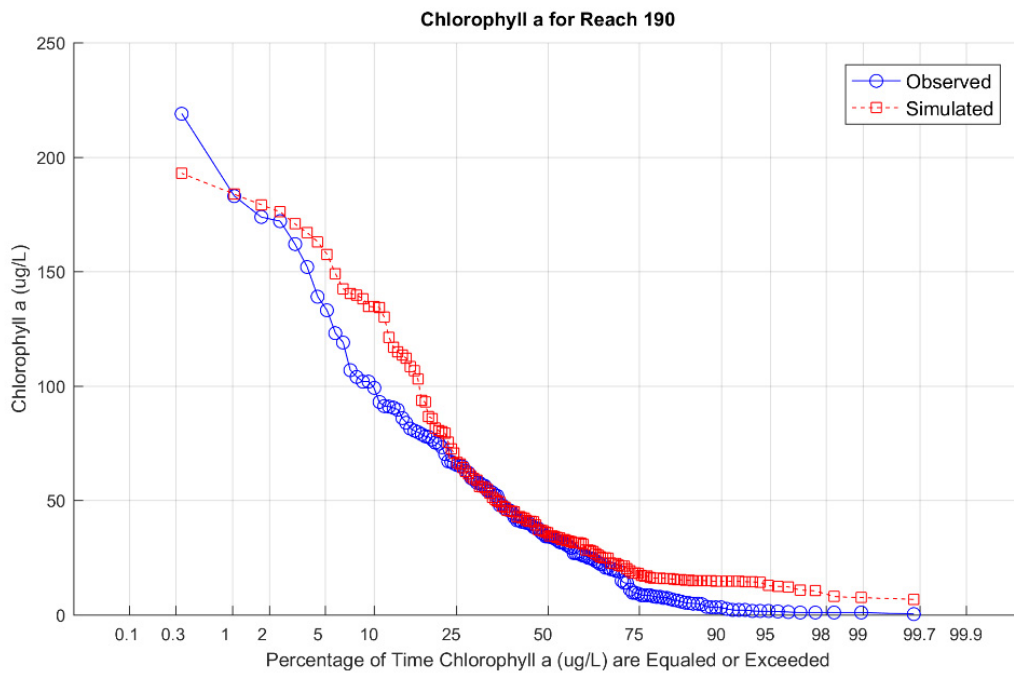


Figure C-44. Chlorophyll *a* Duration Curve at Reach 190.

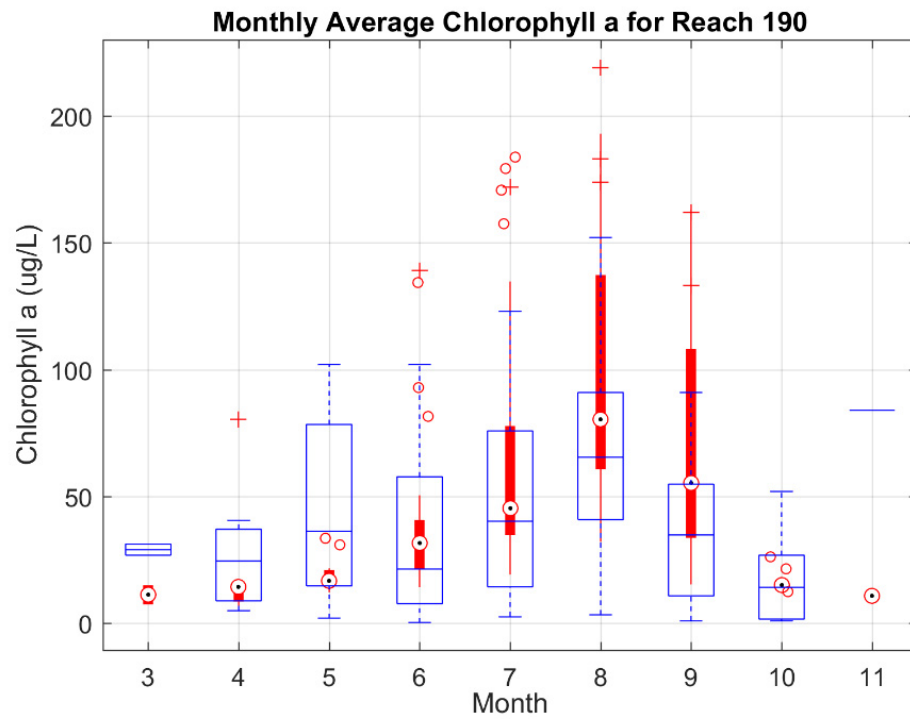


Figure C-45. Chlorophyll *a* Monthly Averages at Reach 190.

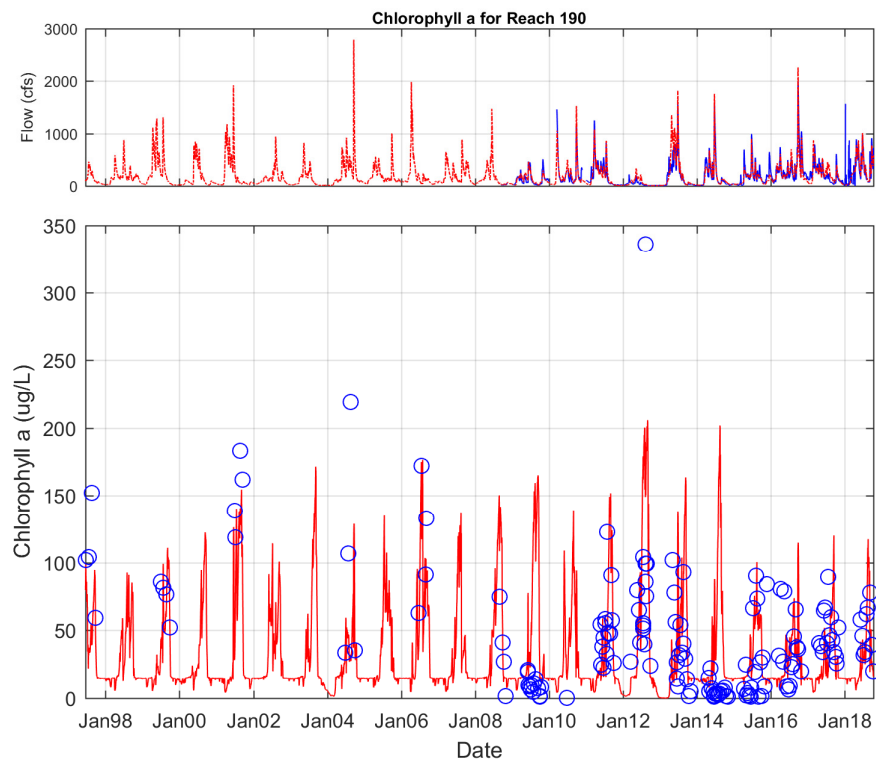


Figure C-46. Chlorophyll *a* Time Series at Reach 190.