



RAINBOW SPRINGS AQUATIC PRESERVE

Trisha Green

Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Springs Coast Management Committee | July 8, 2026

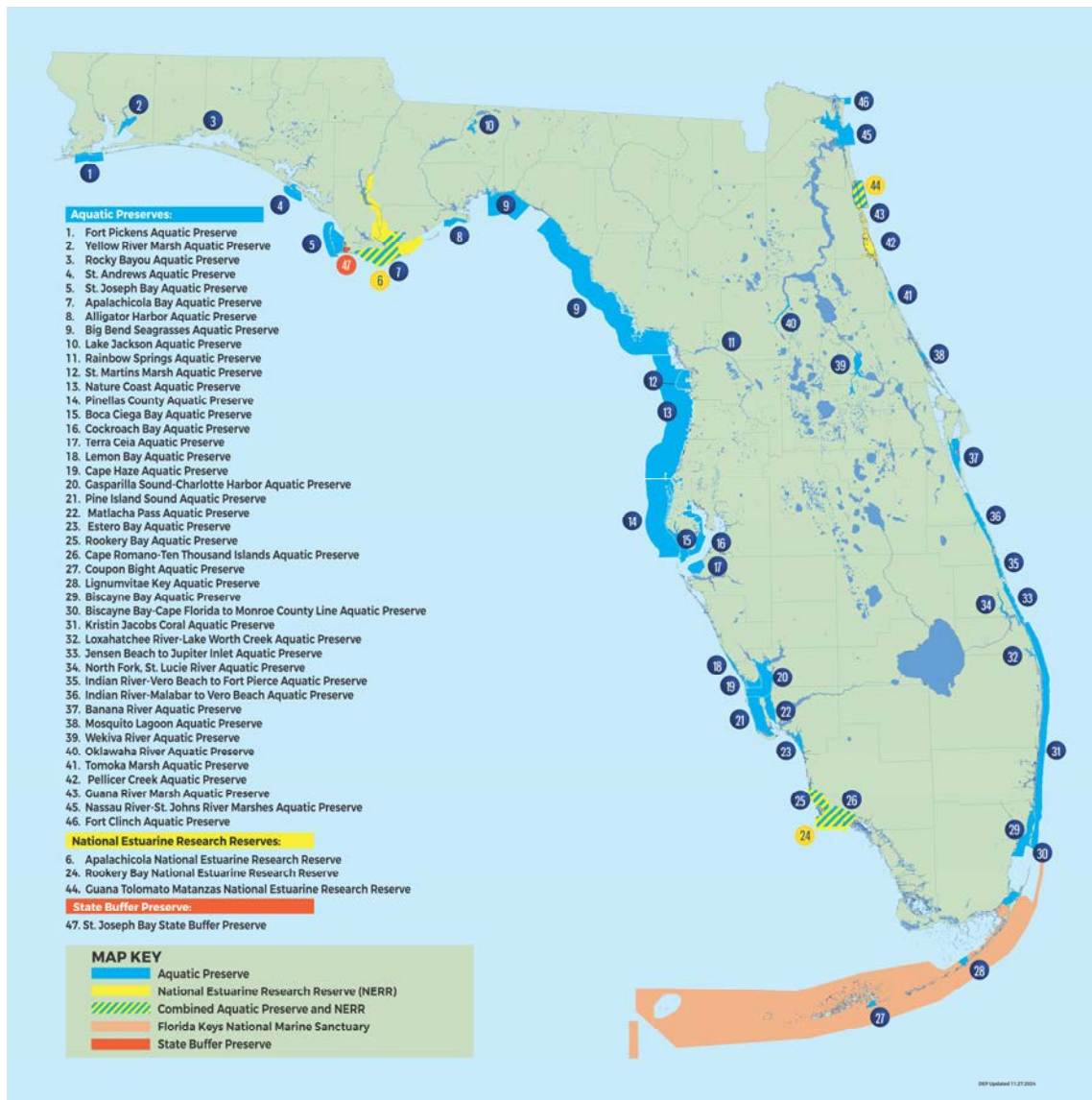


FLORIDA'S AQUATIC PRESERVES

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

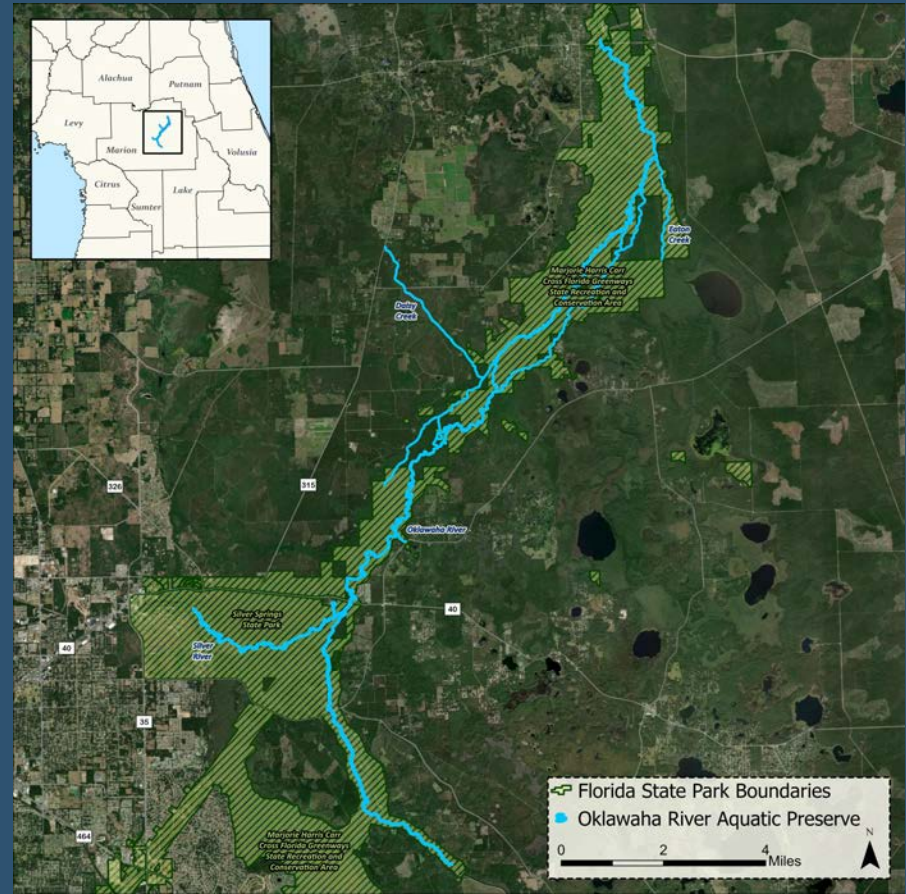


Aquatic preserves are areas set aside by the Florida Legislature for the purpose of “being preserved in their essentially natural or existing condition, so that their aesthetic, biological and scientific values may endure for the enjoyment of future generations” 18-20.001(2) Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)





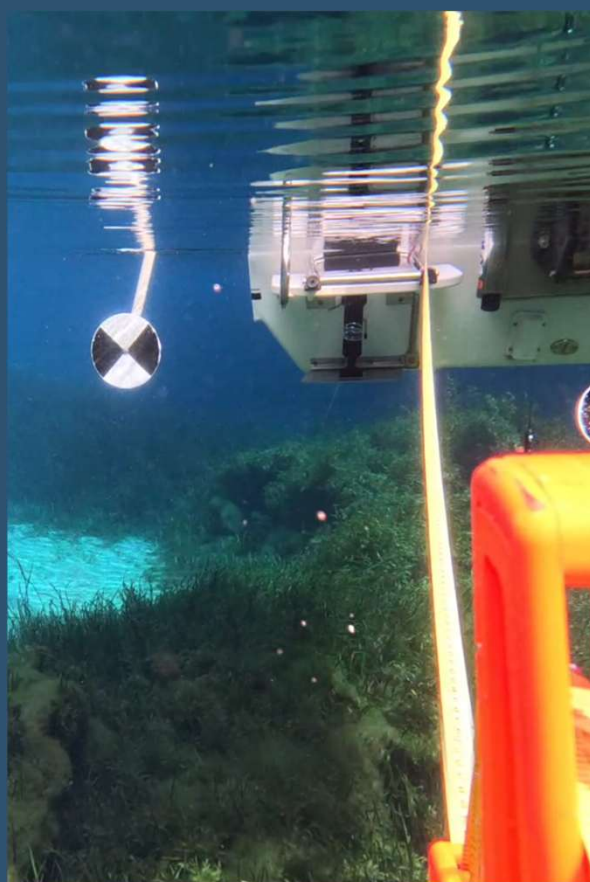
RAINBOW SPRINGS & OKLAWAHA RIVER AQUATIC PRESERVES





WATER QUALITY MONITORING

RAINBOW SPRINGS AQUATIC PRESERVE





INVASIVE FISH REMOVAL

RAINBOW SPRINGS AQUATIC PRESERVE





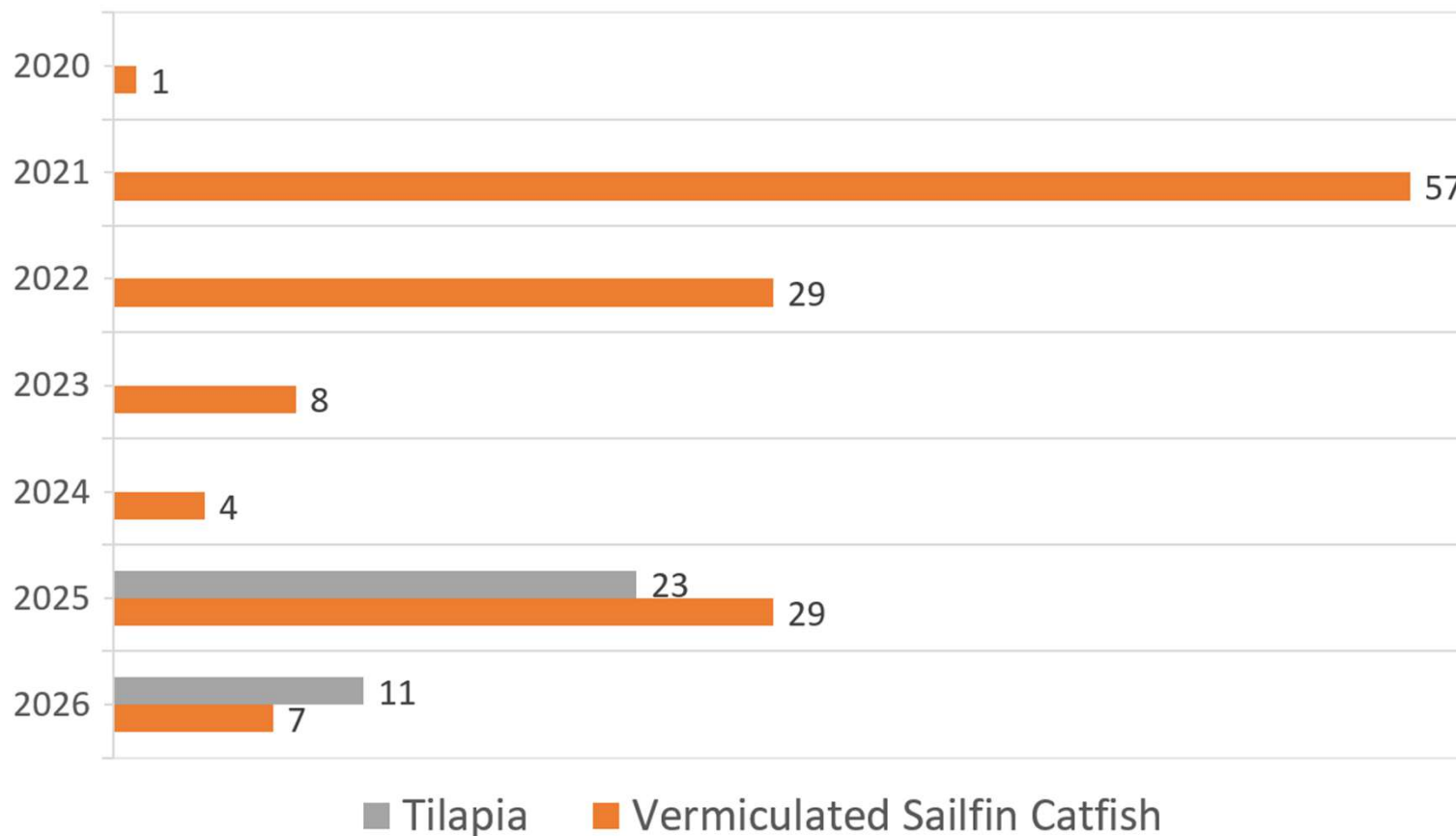
INVASIVE FISH REMOVAL

RAINBOW SPRINGS AQUATIC PRESERVE





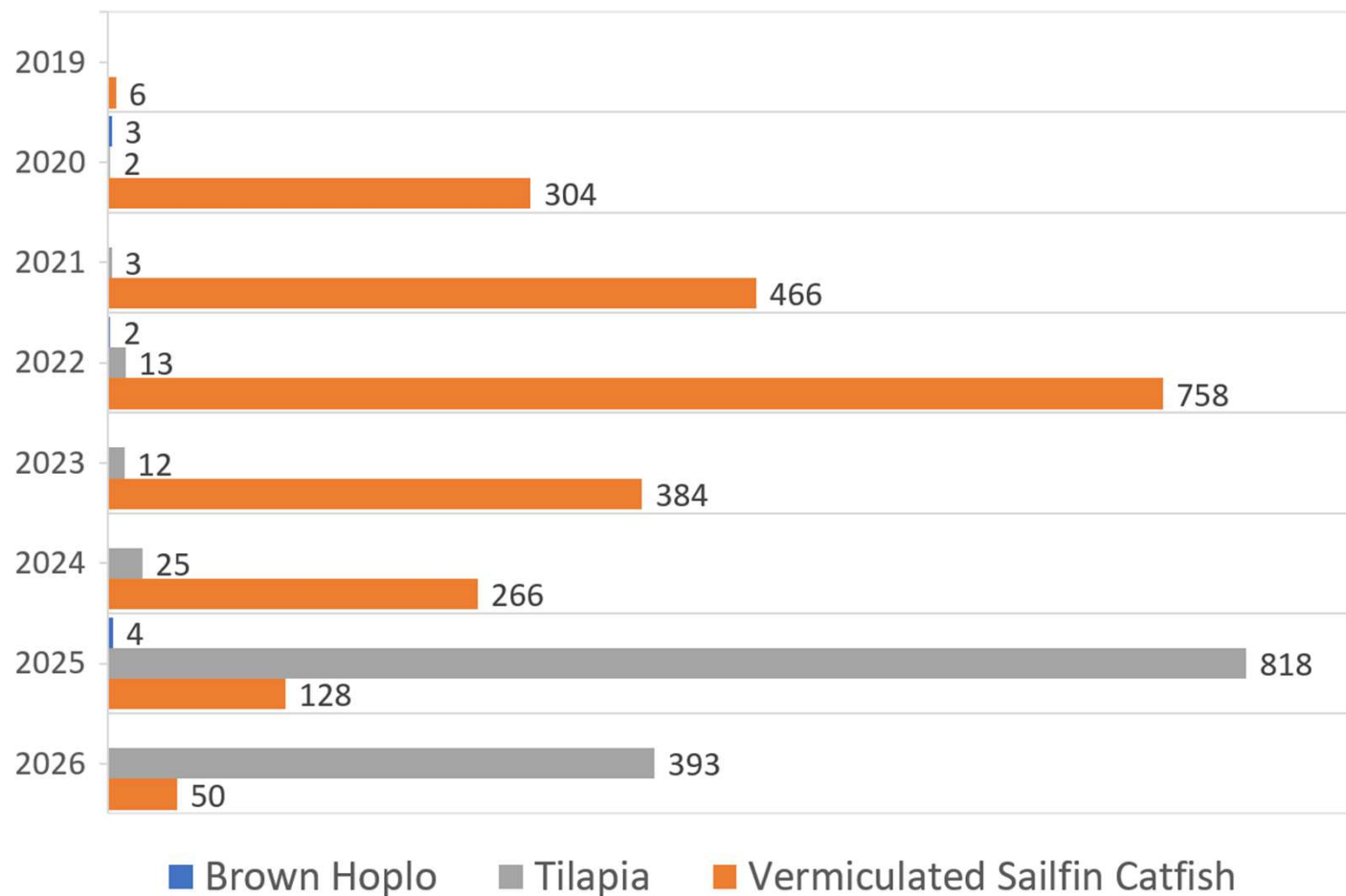
Invasive Fish Removal on the Rainbow River



Data source: DEP.



Invasive Fish Removal on the Silver River



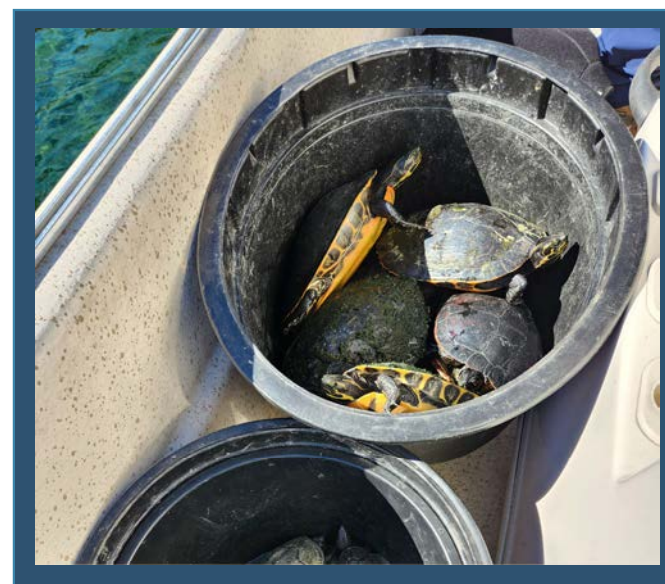
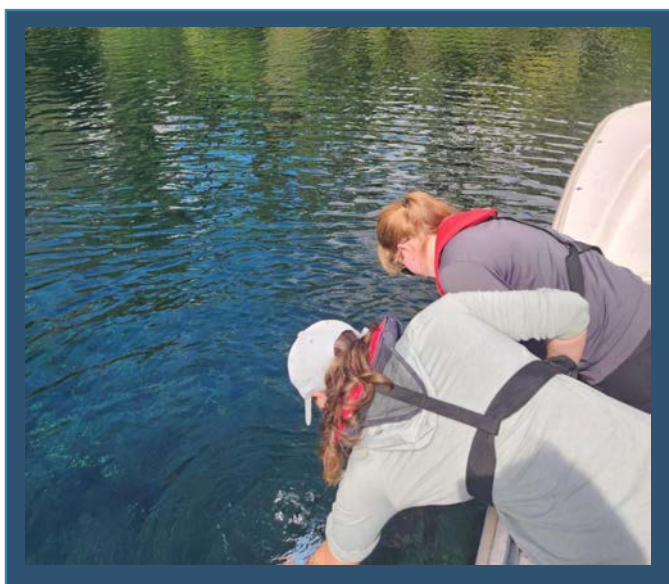
Data source: DEP.



PARTNERSHIPS

RAINBOW SPRINGS AQUATIC PRESERVE

Resource monitoring and management could not be done without our partners. We rely on shared knowledge, data, skills, supplies, manpower and equipment to monitor the status of the water, wildlife and plants.





OTHER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

RAINBOW SPRINGS AQUATIC PRESERVES



Education & Outreach



Obstruction Removal



Habitat Restoration

Our management plans state we are to maintain the springs and rivers in an essentially natural state. With public use at a record high, education is a priority to prevent further degradation of the resources. We are working with partners and stakeholders to propose and implement feasible habitat restoration methods.



OTHER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

RAINBOW SPRINGS AQUATIC PRESERVES



Site Visits



Resident Assistance

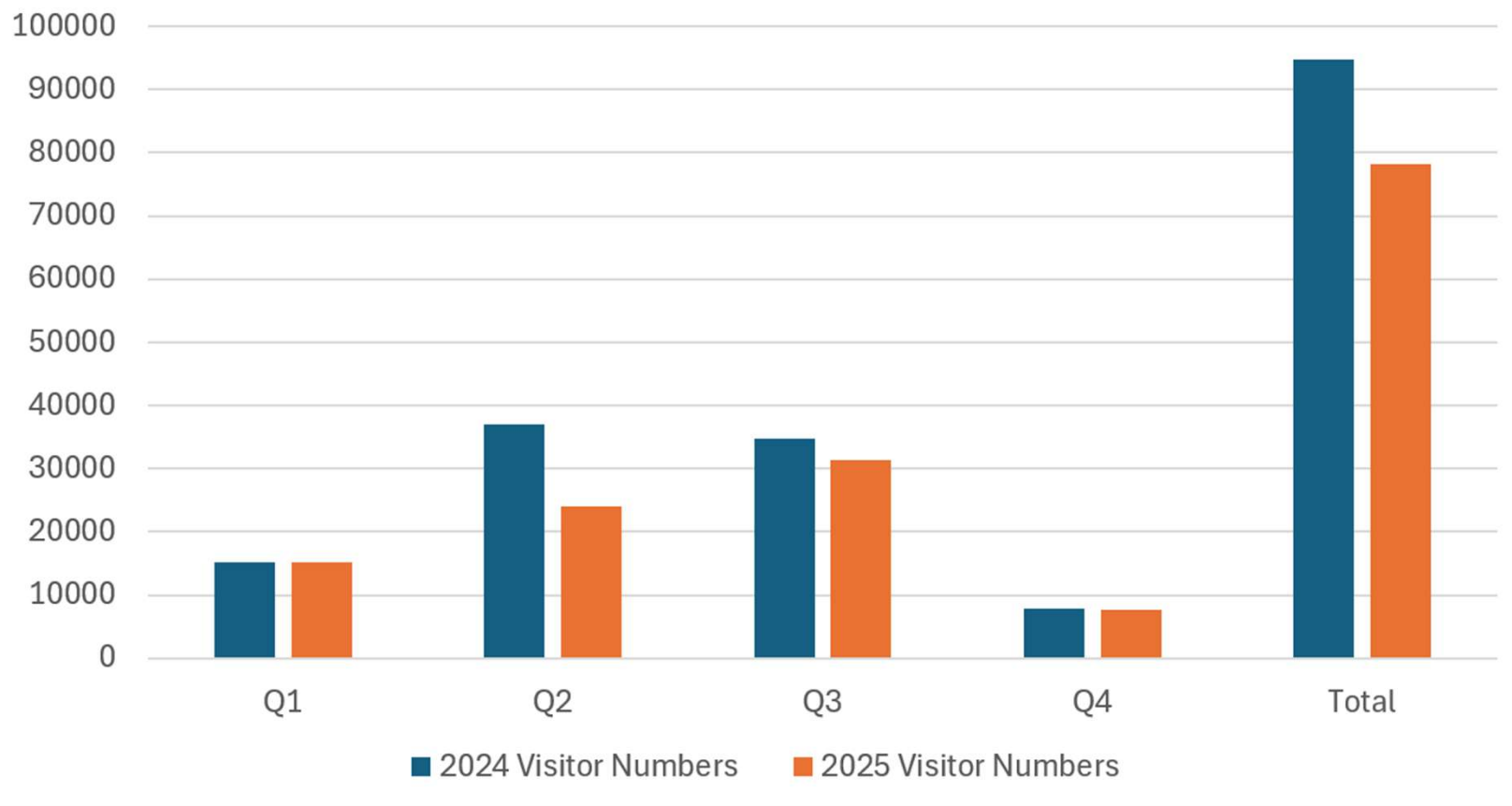


State Park Assistance

We work with other divisions of DEP and stakeholders to advise and provide assistance in the form of equipment, manpower, water access, data and expertise.



KP Hole County Park Visitor Use Numbers



Data source: KP Hole County Park.



UPDATES

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Statewide Ecosystem Assessment of Coastal and Aquatic Resources (SEACAR)

- Public data discovery portal
- Discrete water quality monitoring data:
<https://data.florida-seacar.org/programs/details/10010>
- Invasive fish removal data:
<https://data.florida-seacar.org/programs/details/10011>

Management Plans

- Renewal process will start 2027/2028.



50TH ANNIVERSARY

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



50th Anniversary of the Aquatic Preserve Act

- New aquatic preserve website.
 - <https://floridaaquaticpreserves.org/>.
 - News.
 - Calendar of events.
 - Aquatic preserve marketing film.



THANK YOU

Trisha Green

Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Contact Information:

Trisha.Green@FloridaDEP.gov

(352) 465-8565