SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STORMWATER MONITORING COALITION

Bight '18 Trash

Presentation to CTAG

December 10, 2021

Trash is a problem

California is making significant investments in trash mitigation

All this effort leads to questions

- What is the extent and magnitude of trash on the seafloor and inland waterways?
- What are the trends of trash types and amounts on the seafloor and inland waterways?
- Are there any factors that may be contributing to larger amounts of trash in watersheds?

The Bight Program is providing answers

- What is the extent and magnitude of trash on the seafloor and inland waterways?

  Trash is pervasive

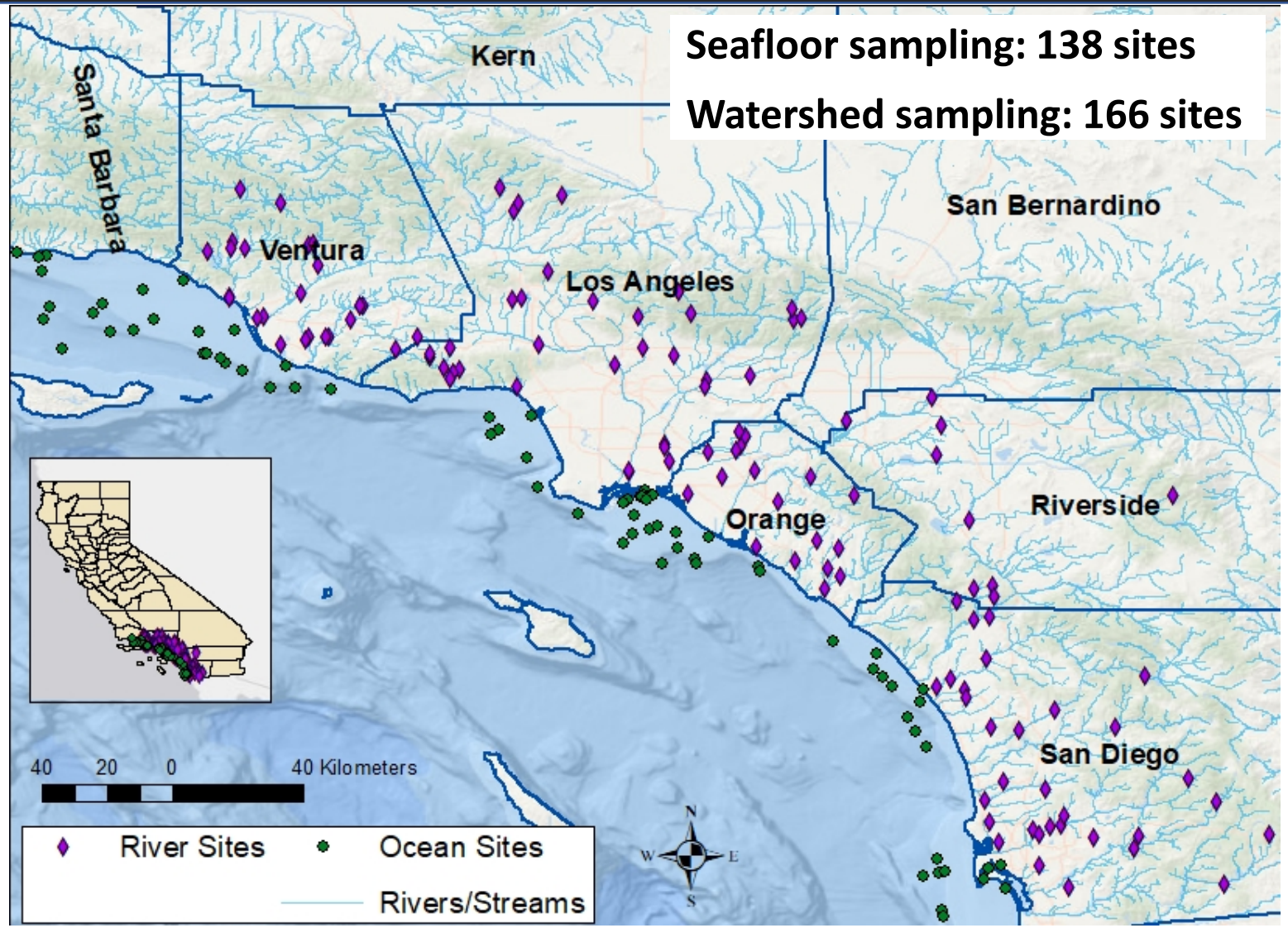
- What are the trends of trash types and amounts on the seafloor and inland waterways?

  Trash is increasing offshore, but management actions seem to be reducing trash in watersheds

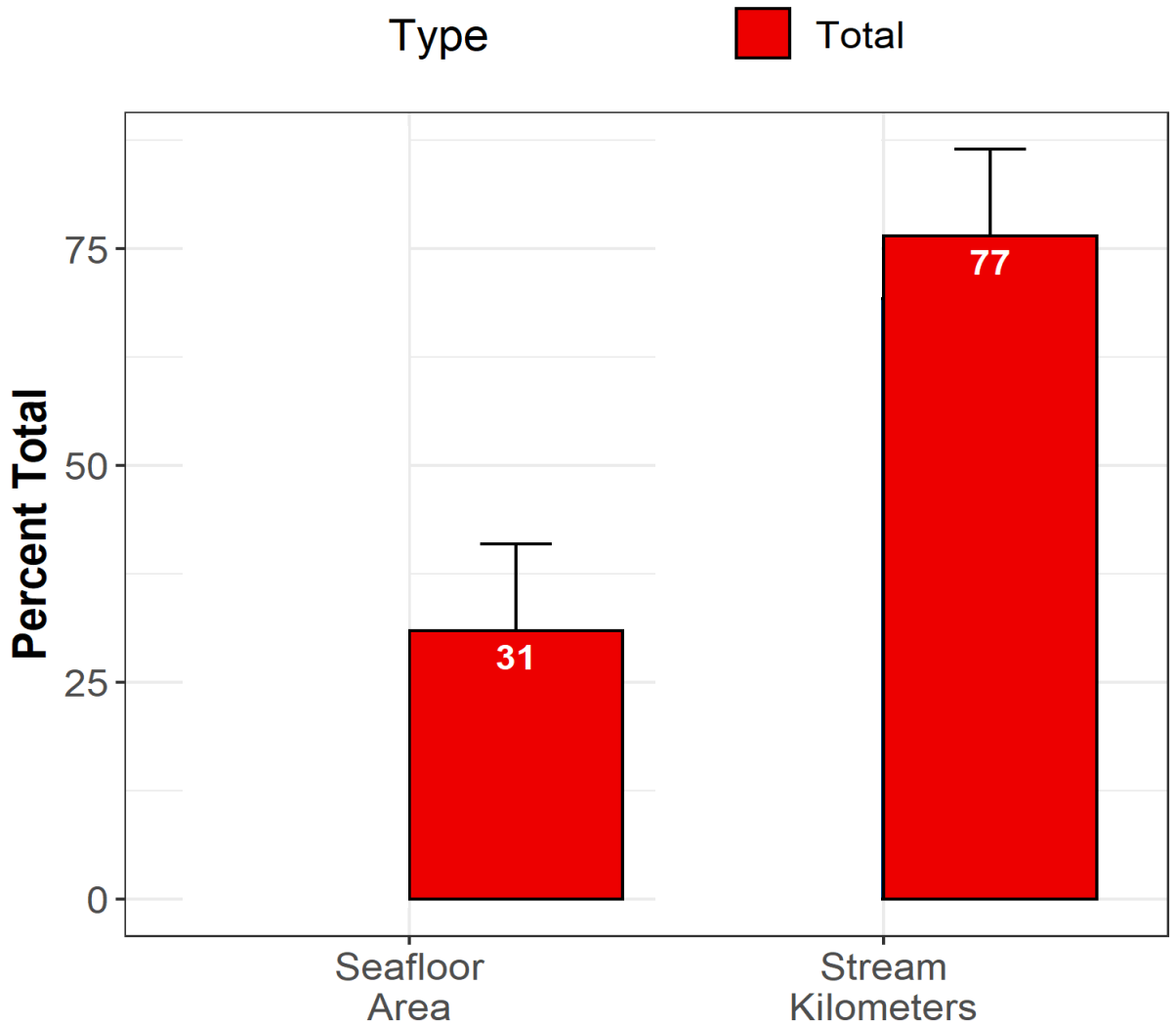
- Are there any factors that may be contributing to larger amounts of trash in watersheds?

  Trash is most common in urban areas; stream access seems to play a big role in increased trash

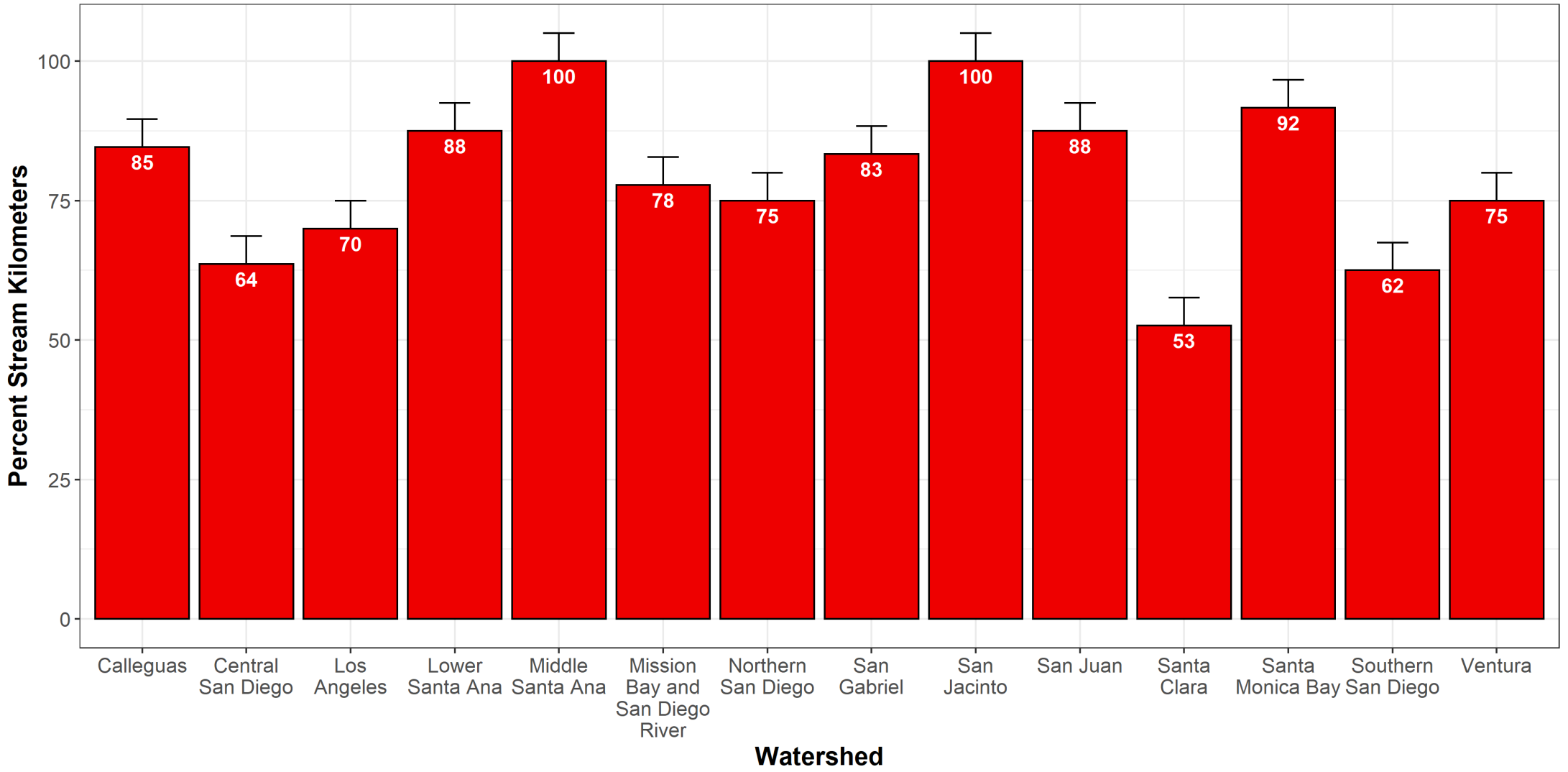
Regionwide Sampling Effort



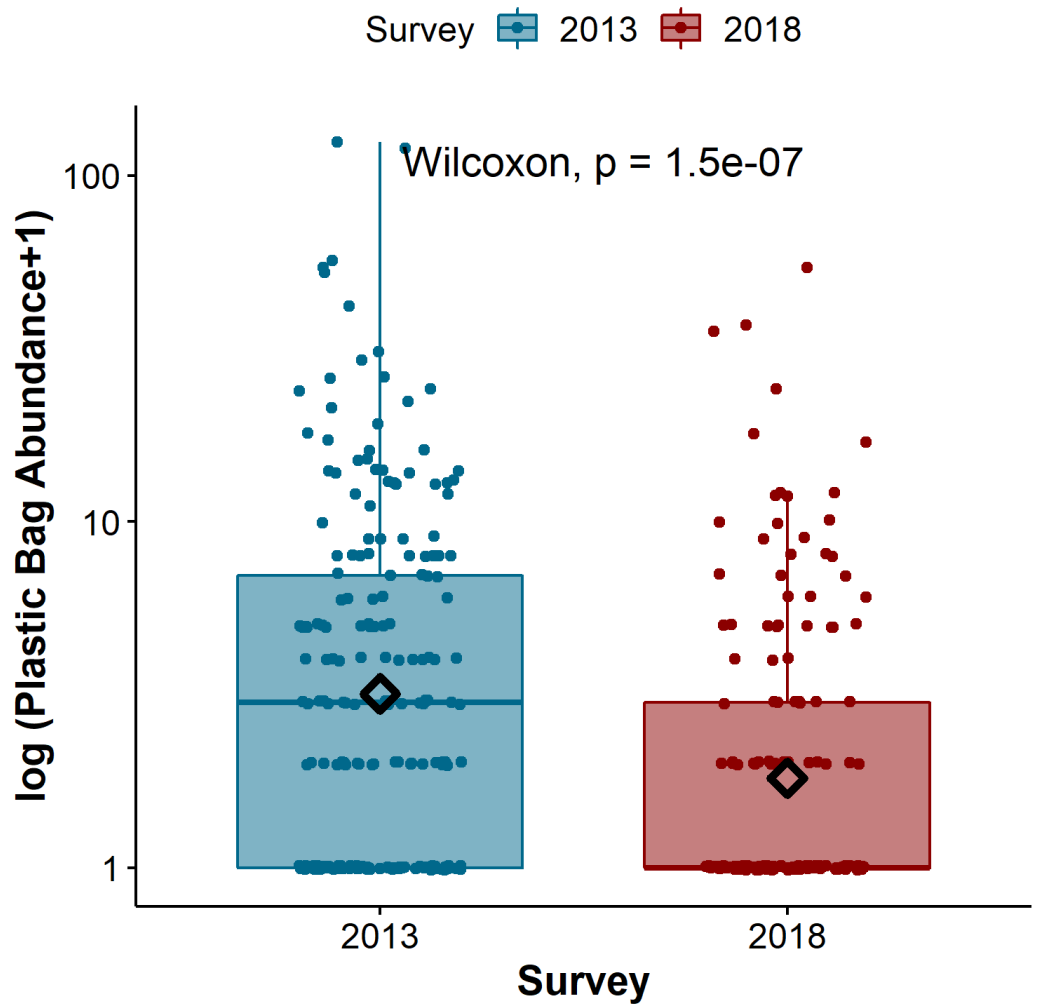
Trash is pervasive in watersheds and on the seafloor



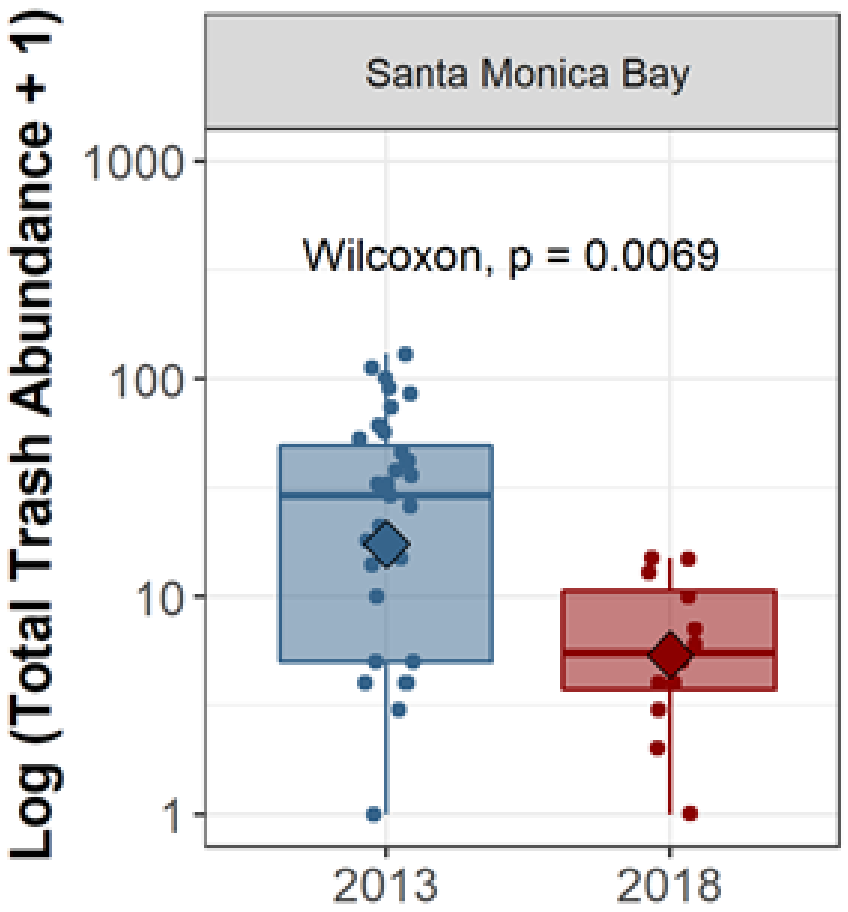
Trash was common in all watersheds



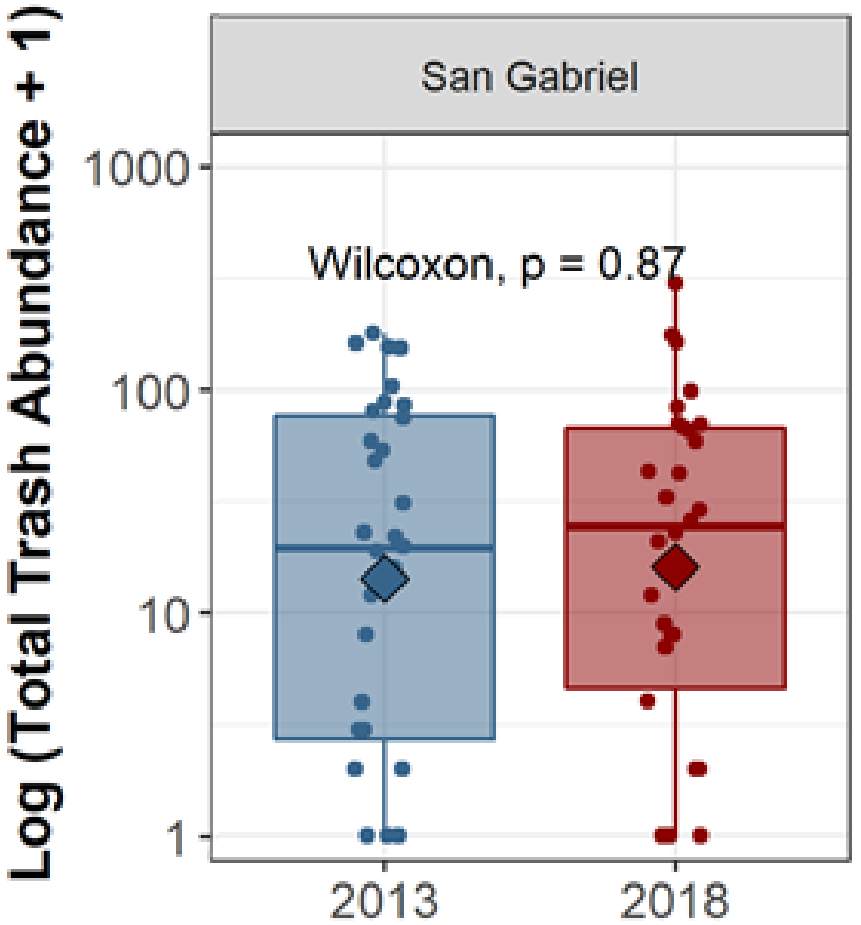
Regionwide Reduction in Plastic Bags Since Bag Ban in 2016



Reduction in Trash in Santa Monica Bay Watershed, which has a Trash TMDL

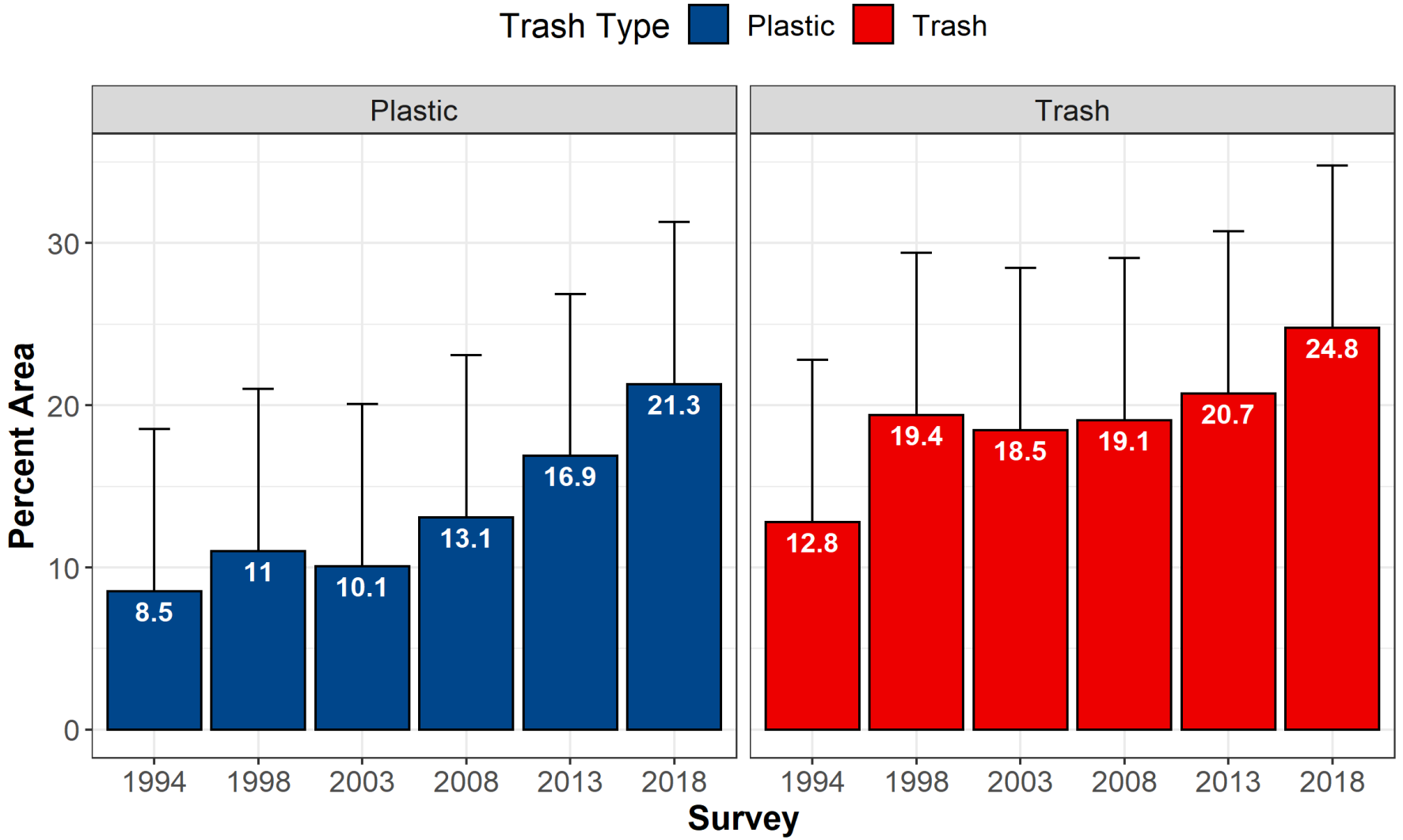


TMDL



No TMDL

Still work to be done:
Extent of trash and plastic is increasing offshore



Next Steps

The Bight Program can help:

- Source control
  - Take steps to reduce plastic
  - SCCWRP is contributing to efforts to evaluate alternatives to plastic
- Mitigation
  - Trash capture in storm water management

evaluate effectiveness

- New concern: Microplastics
  - Plastic doesn't go away but it does get smaller…
  - Extent and magnitude & microplastic effects

determine if it's a problem

Questions?

- karenm@sccwrp.org