ACE Basin (ACE) NERR Nutrient Metadata
January-December 2024
Latest Update: 06/15/2025

Note: This is a provisional metadata document; it has not been authenticated as of its download date. Contents of this document are subject to change throughout the QAQC process and it should not be considered a final record of data documentation until that process is complete. Contact the CDMO (cdmosupport@baruch.sc.edu) or reserve with any additional questions.

I. Data Set and Research Descriptors

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2) Research objectives

Long-term water quality monitoring in the ACE Basin provides a unique opportunity to increase understanding of how various environmental factors influence estuarine processes. Based on discussions with local Coastal Zone Management (CZM) personnel and ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) staff knowledge of land use within the Reserve, the South Edisto River drainage basin was selected because it is well suited for studying contrasting hydrographic conditions and land use patterns.

The two major objectives of the ACE Basin monitoring program are to: 1) compare water quality conditions in shallow creeks along a salinity gradient and at different levels of development in the South Edisto River watershed and 2) track changes to the saltwater demarcation line in the South Edisto River as a result of prolonged drought, extraction of river water, and sea level rise.

The ACE NERR System Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) program began on March 3, 1995 in two tributaries of the South Edisto River, Big Bay Creek and St. Pierre Creek; in October 2002, monitoring stations were established in Fishing Creek and Mosquito Creek, tributaries of the South Edisto River. In 2014, two secondary stations were established in the South Edisto River proper at Jehossee Island and Grove Plantation.

Four primary monitoring stations (Edisto Island [replacement for Big Bay], Fishing Creek, Mosquito Creek and St. Pierre Creek) are used to study contrasting land use patterns in the reserve. The two "treatment" sites are Edisto Island and Mosquito Creek, where boat traffic is moderate to heavy and residential and

commercial development is moderate. St. Pierre Creek and Fishing Creek, where boat traffic is light and development is sparse, are designated as "control" sites. The four sites are located along a salinity gradient ranging from the polyhaline (Edisto Island & St. Pierre Creek) to mesohaline (Mosquito Creek) to oligohaline (Fishing Creek). See *Section 5 – Site Location and Character* for detailed descriptions of the sites.

The secondary stations at Jehossee Island (acejiwq) and Grove Plantation (acegpwq) are used to track changes in the saltwater demarcation line. These two stations extend our coverage of the salinity gradient in the South Edisto River. The Jehossee Island station is in the mesohaline zone, and the Grove Plantation station is in the oligohaline to freshwater zone, approximately 0.16 km (0.1 nautical miles) downstream of the legal saltwater demarcation line. See *Water Quality Metadata* for detailed descriptions of the sites.

In July 1997, the Reserve staff initiated a diel nutrient study at the Big Bay and St. Pierre monitoring stations; in 2002, St. Pierre Creek was designated as the SWMP diel site, and diel monitoring at the Big Bay site was discontinued. In February of 2002, the monthly grab nutrient-monitoring component of SWMP was initiated at the four primary monitoring stations in the ACE Basin NERR. Starting in 2016, the monthly grab samples at Edisto Island (EI) and St. Pierre (SP) were also analyzed for total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP). In addition, grab samples were also collected from two secondary monitoring stations (Jehossee Island, JI, and Grove Plantation, GP) for analysis of TN and TP. The JI and GP data are only available from the ACE Basin NERR Research Coordinator.

a) Monthly grab sampling program

The objective of this program is to ascertain the annual and seasonal fluctuations in nutrient levels at the primary water quality monitoring sites. Two samples are collected from each monitoring station between mid-ebb to slack-low tide periods each month. The samples are analyzed for ammonium, nitrite + nitrate, ortho-phosphate and chlorophyll-a concentrations. In addition, St. Pierre and Edisto Island samples are analyzed for total nitrogen and total phosphorus concentrations.

b) Diel sampling program

The objective of this program is to track the tidal fluctuations in nutrient levels during a complete diurnal tidal cycle (24 hr 48 min). Samples are collected once each month by an ISCO auto-sampler, and samples are analyzed for ammonium, nitrite + nitrate, ortho-phosphate, and chlorophyll-a concentrations.

3) Research methods

a) Monthly grab sampling program

Water samples are taken monthly at the four primary NERR water quality stations: Edisto Island (EI), St. Pierre Creek (SP), Fishing Creek (FC), and Mosquito Creek (MC) and two secondary NERR water quality stations: Jehossee Island and Grove Plantation (total nitrogen and total phosphorus only; not reported to CDMO). Two samples are collected, consecutively, at a depth of 0.3 meter below the surface, using a water-sampler or by hand. The "grab" samples are taken on the same day and between mid-ebb and slack-low tide (within 3 hours before slack-low tide). No distinction is made between neap and spring tide conditions or between morning and afternoon tides.

All samples are collected in wide-mouth, clear polypropylene bottles that are acid washed (10% HCl solution), rinsed (6x) with distilled or deionized water, and dried prior to the sampling day. At each sampling site, sample bottles are rinsed (2x) with ambient water prior to sample collection. Samples are immediately removed from natural light and placed on ice, then returned to the laboratory. Samples are filtered at the laboratory within four hours of retrieval. Samples are filtered through 25-mm glass fiber filter and then stored at -20^{o}C.

Nutrient (NH_4, NO_2+NO_3, PO_4, TN, and TP) samples are shipped to Chesapeake Biological Laboratory for analysis while chlorophyll samples are analyzed at the ACE NERR. Chlorophyll samples are analyzed within 24 hours of collection (see *Section 13 - Analytical Methods*).

b) Diel sampling program

Diel monitoring occurs monthly at the St. Pierre Creek water quality station. Thirteen water samples are collected every 2 hours and 4 minutes over the complete diurnal tidal cycle (24 hr 48 min), using an ISCO auto-sampler. Sample collection begins at the predicted slack-low; and are collected at a depth of 0.5 meters below the surface. No distinction is made between neap and spring tide conditions.

All samples are collected in clear polypropylene bottles, which are acid washed (10% HCl solution), rinsed (6x) with distilled or deionized water, and dried prior to the sampling day. Due to the use of the ISCO auto-sampler, ambient water rinses prior to sample collection are not feasible, but the sampler does rinse the collection hose with the ambient water prior to collecting the sample. During the collection period, samples are kept cooled by ice stored in the enclosed ISCO. When retrieved, samples are removed from the auto-sampler and placed on ice. Samples are filtered at the laboratory within four hours of retrieval. In the laboratory, samples are filtered through 25-mm glass fiber filter and then stored at -20°C.

Nutrient (NH_4, NO_2+NO_3, PO_4) samples are shipped to Chesapeake Biological Laboratory for analysis while chlorophyll samples are analyzed at the ACE NERR. Chlorophyll samples are analyzed within 24 hours of collection (see Section 13 - *Analytical Methods*).

4) Site location and character

Site name	Edisto Island
Latitude and longitude	32.5040 N -80.3247 W
Tidal range *(meters)*	1.82 (average range at Carter's Dock, NOAA station 8667679)
Salinity range *(psu)*	13.2-35.4, 28.8 (2024 min-max, average, varies yearly)
Type and amount of freshwater input	average annual streamflow on S. Edisto River is 74 m^3/s
Water depth (*meters, MLW*)	2.2 m, estimate
Sonde distance from bottom (*meters*)	0.5 m, estimate
Bottom habitat or type	Soft sediment, shell hash
Pollutants in area	Limited surface runoff of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and PAHs, CCA, creosote
Description of watershed	See description below

Site name	Fishing Creek
Latitude and longitude	32.63593 N -80.36556 W
Tidal range *(meters)*	1.88 (average at Dawhoo Bridge, NOAA station 8666799)
Salinity range *(psu)*	0.1-28.4, 8.0 (2024 min-max, average, varies yearly)
Type and amount of freshwater input	average annual streamflow on S. Edisto River is 74 m^3/s, no freshwater input from N. Edisto River

Water depth (*meters, MLW*)	2.2 m, estimate
Sonde distance from bottom (*meters*)	0.8 m, estimate
Bottom habitat or type	Soft sediment
Pollutants in area	No anthropogenic pollutants
Description of watershed	See description below

Site name	Mosquito Creek
Latitude and longitude	32.5558 N -80.4380 W
Tidal range *(meters)*	1.89 (average at Musselboro Island, NOAA station 8667209)
Salinity range *(psu)*	0.3-29.9, 15.2(2024 min-max, average, varies yearly)
Type and amount of freshwater input	average annual streamflow on S. Edisto River is 74 m^3/s, input from Ashepoo River is not measured but limited
Water depth (*meters, MLW*)	3.4 m, estimate
Sonde distance from bottom (*meters*)	0.2 m, estimate
Bottom habitat or type	Soft sediment, shell hash, debris
Pollutants in area	Mainly nutrients from impoundments, residential and light commercial downstream
Description of watershed	See description below

Site name	St. Pierre
Latitude and longitude	32.52800 N -80.36144 W
Tidal range *(meters)*	1.86 (average at Peters Point, NOAA station 8667425)
Salinity range *(psu)*	3.7-35.1, 27.7 (2024 min-max, average, varies yearly)
Type and amount of freshwater input	average annual streamflow on S. Edisto River is 74 m^3/s
Water depth (*meters, MLW*)	1.47 m, estimate
Sonde distance from bottom (*meters*)	0.5 m, estimate
Bottom habitat or type	Soft sediment
Pollutants in area	No anthropogenic pollutants
Description of watershed	See description below

All ACE NERR historical nutrient/pigment monitoring stations:

Station Code	SWMP Status	Station Name	Location	Active Dates	Reason Decommissioned	Notes
aceeinut	P	Edisto Island	32.5040 N -80.3247 W	01/01/2015 - current	NA	NA
acefcnut	P	Fishing Creek	32.63593 N -80.36556 W	10/01/2002 - current	NA	NA
acemcnut	P	Mosquito Creek	32.5558 N -80.4380 W	10/01/2002 - current	NA	NA
acespnut	P	St. Pierre	32.52800 N -80.36144 W	03/01/1995 - current	NA	NA
acebbnut	P	Big Bay	32.4941 N -80.3241 W	03/01/1995 - 12/31/2014	see Big Bay description below	NA

ACE Basin NERR is one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the East Coast. The study area encompasses the Ashepoo, Combahee and South Edisto River basins, which empty into St. Helena Sound. The NERR consists of approximately 60,702 ha (150,000 acres) of diverse estuarine wetlands providing preserved habitats for fish and wildlife.

The South Edisto River has a drainage area of approximately 394,176 ha (974,030 ac), encompassing the area between Four Holes Swamp and St. Helena Sound. The river receives considerable input of freshwater (average annual streamflow is 74 m^3/s, 2613.29 ft^3/sec). The official saltwater-freshwater demarcation line on the river lies at river mile 20 (32.19 km); however, during periods of very low flow, the saltwater interface can intrude to river mile 32 (51.5 km), which is approximately 12 river miles (19.31 km) from the inland boundary of the reserve. Salt marshes of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) dominate the wetlands in the euhaline, polyhaline, and mesohaline, while waterfowl impoundments are the dominant land cover in the oligohaline and fresh waters.

The average tidal range in the South Edisto River is approximately 2.0 m (6.6 ft), with a maximum of 2.8 m (9.2 ft) and a minimum of 1.4 m (4.6 ft). The bottom habitat at all stations consists of mud which is intermixed with dead shell hash at the saltwater sites.

Primary Monitoring Stations

Three of the four primary water quality stations (Edisto Island, Fishing Creek, and St. Pierre Creek) are in tributaries of the South Edisto River with Fishing Creek also having a connection to the N. Edisto River. One station (Mosquito Creek) is in a tributary of both the South Edisto and Ashepoo rivers. The descriptions of the sites are as follow:

Edisto Island (EI) – GPS coordinates: 32.5040 N and -80.3247 W
On January 1, 2015, Edisto Island water quality station replaced the Big Bay station as a primary station. The Edisto Island station is approximately 1.27 km (0.68 nautical miles) upstream of the previous site (Big Bay) and is located on a dock at the Edisto Beach State Park. Water quality data was collected at both stations for 8 months and the overall results were very similar. Edisto Island station is also designated as a "treatment" site because of its proximity to developed areas.

The eastern bank of the Big Bay creek, at the new station is bordered by *Spartina alterniflora* and *Salicornia virginica*. The high ground is dominated by maritime forest, characterized by live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), slash pine (*Pinus taeda*); and cabbage palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*). A marsh island with no high ground borders the western bank while American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) forms a reef along both creek banks. Boat traffic is heavy, especially during the warmer months, and the creek is closed to shellfish harvesting because of the surrounding human activities. Nonpoint sources of pollution, including fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and PAHs, to the monitoring station are surface runoff from lawns, golf courses, and paved ramps. Docks and bulkheads are constructed of concrete or wood treated with creosote, CCA-treated, or Wolmanized process.

Fishing Creek (FC) – GPS coordinates: 32.63593 N and -80.36556 W
This monitoring station is in a tributary of Fishing Creek, approximately 2 km (1.08 nautical miles) from the mouth of the creek and is located approximately 5 m (16.41 ft) from the northern bank of the creek. The tributary flows through the eastern half of Jehossee Island, a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) protected by the USFWS, and Fishing Creek forms the northeast border of the island. The station is surrounded by extensive *Spartina cynosuroides* marsh and vast mud flats. The upland area is characterized by slash pine, live oak, and cabbage palmetto.

The Fishing Creek monitoring station is designated as a "control" site because there is no development in the immediate area, and boat traffic is relatively light in the creek. The WMA contains impoundments (formerly rice fields) that are managed as wildlife habitat for endangered fauna and migratory waterfowl. No pesticides or herbicides are applied to the wetlands.

Mosquito Creek (MC) – GPS coordinates: 32.5558 N and -80.4380 W
This water quality monitoring station is in Mosquito Creek (a tributary of both the South Edisto and Ashepoo rivers), approximately 2.51 km (1.36 nautical miles) from the Ashepoo River and 12 km (6.48 nautical miles) from the South Edisto River, and it is approximately 5 m (16.41 ft) from the southern bank of the creek.

The Mosquito Creek station is designated as a "treatment" site because of the land use practices in the surrounding area. Agriculture fields and impounded wetlands are found upstream of the monitoring station. Approximately fifteen docks constructed of creosote, concrete, Wolmanized or CCA treated wood; a public boat landing; a commercial seafood business with commercial shrimp boats and a fueling dock are located approximately 1.00 km (0.54 nautical miles) downstream of the monitoring station. The major contributor of nonpoint source pollution to the monitoring station is surface runoff from the impoundments and agricultural lands that may contain high levels of nutrients and, at times, herbicides and pesticides. Impoundment trunks open and drain into the creek increasing the nutrient load and possibly introducing herbicides and pesticides. Vegetation in the area includes salt marsh dominated by *Spartina alterniflora* and *Juncus roemerianus*. Upland fringe areas consist of cabbage palmetto, live oaks and pine trees.

St. Pierre Creek (SP) – GPS coordinates: 32.52800 N and -80.36144 W
This monitoring station is in a small tributary of St. Pierre Creek, approximately 0.25 km (0.13 nautical miles) from the mouth of the creek, and it is approximately 5 m (16.41 ft) from the northern bank of the creek. The tributary flows through the southern portion of Bailey Island, and the creek forms the eastern border of the island. The monitoring station is surrounded by a wide expanse of *Spartina alterniflora* marsh. Extensive mud flats and oyster reefs fringe the banks. Maritime forest communities comprised of species such as wax myrtles (*Morella cerifera*), live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), and palmettos dominate the upland areas.

The St. Pierre Creek station is designated as a "control" site because development in the immediate area was sparse when the station was established on March 3, 1995, and the tributary is subject to relatively light boat traffic. In 1996, the 695-acre (281.26 ha) island was sold, and the owners partnered with The Nature Conservancy to design a conservation-based development. Four hundred and three acres in the center of Bailey Island were set aside as a nature preserve that is managed by The Nature Conservancy, and the number of residential lots on the remaining 292 acres (118.17 ha) is limited to 67 (27.11 ha). Access to the island is limited to one bridge and all roads on the island are single lane and made of crushed seashells. In addition, a conservation manual was developed for the property owners that provide specific lot designs and construction guidelines as well as landscaping guidelines to protect the maritime and estuarine habitats.

Inactive Monitoring Stations

Big Bay (BB) – GPS coordinates: 32.4941 N and -80.3241 W
This monitoring station was in Big Bay Creek proper, approximately 2 km (1.24 mi) from the mouth of the creek and was located about 5 m (16.41 ft) from the southern bank of the creek. It was a "treatment" site because it was subject to nonpoint source pollution and was surrounded by moderate level of development. The southern bank of the Big Bay Creek near this station was bordered by residential and commercial

development, with little setback from the bordering *Spartina alterniflora* marsh. For instance, there are over forty private docks, two commercial seafood docks and a marina with 75 slips, three paved boat ramps, and two fueling areas along the southern bank. Docks and bulkheads are constructed of concrete, or creosote, CCA-treated or Wolmanized material. Boat traffic was heavy, especially during the warmer months, and the creek is closed to shellfish harvesting because of the surrounding human activities. The major sources of nonpoint source pollution were surface runoff from lawns, golf courses, and paved ramps that contain fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and PAHs. All of the high ground along the southern bank was developed (i.e., residential homes, condominiums and restaurants); and maritime plant communities have been replaced by golf courses, lawns and ornamental gardens. Small patches of a few maritime species (i.e. live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), cabbage palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*), and Southern red cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*)) are found along the roads. In contrast, the northern bank was bordered by a wide expanse of *Spartina alterniflora* marsh, and no high ground is present. American oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) forms a reef along the creek banks, especially the northern side, and on intertidal mud flats within the creek. The site was moved to Edisto Island due to the dock upon which it was located being owned by a private individual that was not maintaining the structure. Water quality data was collected at both stations for 8 months and the overall results were very similar.

5) Coded variable definitions

Each individual sample is given a 3-part name code in addition to the date of grab sample collection or start date of diurnal sample collection. The name code gives the Reserve 3-letter code, station 2-letter code and SWMP program 2-letter code.

Sampling Station:	**Site code:**
Edisto Island	EI
Fishing Creek	FC
Mosquito Creek	MC
St. Pierre	SP

3 Part Name Codes:

aceeinut = ACE Basin Edisto Island nutrient samples
acefcnut = ACE Basin Fishing Creek nutrient samples
acemcnut = ACE Basin Mosquito Creek nutrient samples
acespnut = ACE Basin St. Pierre Creek nutrient samples

Monitoring Programs:

Monthly grab sample program = 1
Diel grab sample program = 2

6) Data collection period

a) Grab sampling (sample collection time listed in Eastern Standard Time)

The SWMP grab sample program began in 2002 for St. Pierre Creek, Big Bay Creek, Fishing Creek, and Mosquito Creek with Edisto Island replacing Big Bay Creek in 2015.

Site	**Sample Date**	**Rep 1 Time**	**Sample Date**	**Rep 2 Time**
EI	01/22/2024	09:21	01/22/2024	09:22
EI	02/07/2024	09:12	02/07/2024	09:13
EI	03/07/2024	09:12	03/07/2024	09:13
EI	04/08/2024	10:47	04/08/2024	10:48
EI	05/07/2024	10:26	05/07/2024	10:27
EI	06/04/2024	09:02	06/04/2024	09:03
EI	07/01/2024	07:13	07/01/2024	07:14
EI	08/01/2024	08:30	08/01/2024	08:31
EI	09/17/2024	11:02	09/17/2024	11:03
EI	10/01/2024	10:03	10/01/2024	10:04
EI	11/13/2024	09:05	11/13/2024	09:06

EI	12/02/2024	12:12	12/02/2024	12:13

Site	Sample Date	Rep 1 Time	Sample Date	Rep 2 Time
FC	01/22/2024	12:32	01/22/2024	12:33
FC	02/07/2024	11:36	02/07/2024	11:37
FC	03/07/2024	11:35	03/07/2024	11:36
FC	04/08/2024	13:26	04/08/2024	13:27
FC	05/07/2024	12:56	05/07/2024	12:57
FC	06/04/2024	12:24	06/04/2024	12:25
FC	07/01/2024	09:38	07/01/2024	09:39
FC	08/01/2024	11:07	08/01/2024	11:08
FC	09/17/2024	13:22	09/17/2024	13:23
FC	10/01/2024	13:10	10/01/2024	13:11
FC	11/13/2024	12:11	11/13/2024	12:12
FC	12/02/2024	15:09	12/02/2024	15:10

Site	Sample Date	Rep 1 Time	Sample Date	Rep 2 Time
MC	01/22/2024	10:51	01/22/2024	10:52
MC	02/07/2024	10:27	02/07/2024	10:28
MC	03/07/2024	10:35	03/07/2024	10:36
MC	04/08/2024	12:04	04/08/2024	12:05
MC	05/07/2024	11:37	05/07/2024	11:38
MC	06/04/2024	11:20	06/04/2024	11:21
MC	07/01/2024	08:28	07/01/2024	08:29
MC	08/01/2024	09:43	08/01/2024	09:44
MC	09/17/2024	12:04	09/17/2024	12:05
MC	10/01/2024	11:22	10/01/2024	11:23
MC	11/13/2024	11:05	11/13/2024	11:06
MC	12/02/2024	13:25	12/02/2024	13:26

Site	Sample Date	Rep 1 Time	Sample Date	Rep 2 Time
SP	01/22/2024	09:53	01/22/2024	09:54
SP	02/07/2024	09:59	02/07/2024	10:00
SP	03/07/2024	09:37	03/07/2024	09:38
SP	04/08/2024	11:18	04/08/2024	11:19
SP	05/07/2024	10:50	05/07/2024	10:51
SP	06/04/2024	09:50	06/04/2024	09:51
SP	07/01/2024	07:36	07/01/2024	07:37
SP	08/01/2024	08:53	08/01/2024	08:54
SP	09/17/2024	11:28	09/17/2024	11:29
SP	10/01/2024	10:45	10/01/2024	10:46
SP	11/13/2024	09:52	11/13/2024	09:53
SP	12/02/2024	12:36	12/02/2024	12:37

b) Diel sampling (sample collection time listed in Eastern Standard Time)

The SWMP diel sample program began in 2002 for the St. Pierre Creek site.

Site	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
SP	01/22/2024	12:09	01/23/2024	12:57
SP	02/07/2024	12:20	02/08/2024	13:08
SP	03/07/2024	11:53	03/08/2024	12:41
SP	04/08/2024	12:58	04/09/2024	13:46
SP	05/07/2024	13:31	05/08/2024	14:19**
SP	06/04/2024	12:16	06/05/2024	13:04

SP	07/01/2024	10:06***	07/02/2024	10:54***
SP	08/01/2024	11:38	08/02/2024	12:26
SP	09/17/2024	13:24	09/18/2024	14:12
SP	10/01/2024	13:00	10/02/2024	13:48
SP	11/13/2024	11:55	11/14/2024	12:43
SP	12/02/2024	15:12	12/03/2024	16:00

** Last sample was not collected
***Sample 1 and 7 were not collected

7) Associated researchers and projects

As part of the System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP), and weather and water quality data are obtained with a Campbell Scientific CR1000X data logger and YSI EXO2/3 data loggers, respectively. Diel nutrient samples are gathered once per month at the St. Pierre water quality monitoring station, and grab samples are obtained at each of the primary stations once per month. The concentrations of the following parameters are measured and recorded for the nutrient monitoring program: ammonium (NH4), nitrite + nitrate (NO2 + NO3), ortho-phosphate (PO4), and chlorophyll-a (Chl-a). Historic water quality, nutrient, and weather data can be obtained at http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu. Information about other studies conducted in the ACE Basin may be obtained from the ACE NERR Research Coordinator.

As part of the System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP), ACE NERR also monitors 15-minute meteorological and water quality data which may be correlated with this nutrient/pigment dataset. The meteorological (Bennett's Point) and water quality data from the stations (EI, GP and SP) are telemetered to the CDMO and HADS. These data are available at http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu. Information about other studies conducted in the ACE Basin may be obtained from the ACE Basin NERR Research Coordinator.

8) Distribution

NOAA retains the right to analyze, synthesize and publish summaries of the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program data. The NERRS retains the right to be fully credited for having collected and processed the data. Following academic courtesy standards, the NERR site where the data were collected should be contacted and fully acknowledged in any subsequent publications in which any part of the data are used. The data set enclosed within this package/transmission is only as good as the quality assurance and quality control procedures outlined by the enclosed metadata reporting statement. The user bears all responsibility for its subsequent use/misuse in any further analyses or comparisons. The Federal government does not assume liability to the Recipient or third persons, nor will the Federal government reimburse or indemnify the Recipient for its liability due to any losses resulting in any way from the use of this data.

Requested citation format:
NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). System-wide Monitoring Program. Data accessed from the NOAA NERRS Centralized Data Management Office website: www.nerrsdata.org; *accessed* 12 October 2022.

NERR nutrient data and metadata can be obtained from the Research Coordinator at the individual NERR site (please see Principal investigators and contact persons), from the Data Manager at the Centralized Data Management Office (please see personnel directory under the general information link on the CDMO home page) and online at the CDMO home page www.nerrsdata.org. Data are available in comma separated version format.

II. Physical Structure Descriptors

9) Entry verification

Nutrient data are entered into a Microsoft Excel worksheet and processed using the NutrientQAQC Excel macro. The NutrientQAQC macro sets up the data worksheet, metadata worksheets, and MDL worksheet; adds chosen parameters and facilitates data entry; allows the

user to set the number of significant figures to be reported for each parameter and rounds using banker's rounding rules; allows the user to input MDL values and then automatically flags/codes measured values below MDL and inserts the MDL; calculates parameters chosen by the user and automatically flags/codes for component values below MDL, negative calculated values, and missing data; allows the user to apply QAQC flags and codes to the data; produces summary statistics; graphs selected parameters for review; and exports the resulting data file to the CDMO for tertiary QAQC and assimilation into the CDMO's authoritative online database.

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory calculates and reports results in mg/L.

10) Parameter titles and variable names by category

Data Category	Parameter	Variable Name	Units of Measure
Phosphorus and Nitrogen:			
	*Orthophosphate	PO4F	mg/L as P
	*Ammonium, Filtered	NH4F	mg/L as N
	*Nitrite + Nitrate, Filtered	NO23F	mg/L as N
	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	DIN	mg/L as N
	Total Nitrogren	TN	mg/L as N
	Total Phosphorus	TP	mg/L as P
Plant Pigments:			
	*Chlorophyll a	CHLA_N	µg/L

Notes:
1. Time is coded based on a 2400 clock and is referenced to Standard Time.
2. Reserves have the option of measuring either NO2 and NO3 or they may substitute NO23 for individual analyses if they can show that NO2 is a minor component relative to NO3. ACE NERR staff and the Analytical Laboratory staff have determined that separate NO_2 and NO_3 data were not necessary because the concentration of NO_2 is negligible when compared to the concentration of NO_3.

11) Measured or calculated laboratory parameters

a) **Parameters measured directly**

Nitrogen species:	NH4F, NO23F, TN
Phosphorus species:	PO4F, TP
Other:	CHLA_N

b) **Calculated parameters**

DIN	NO23F+NH4F

12) Limits of detection

Method Detection Limits (MDL), the lowest concentration of a parameter that an analytical procedure can reliably detect, have been established by Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (nutrients) and the ACE Basin NERR (chlorophyll). The MDL is determined as 3 times the standard deviation of a minimum of 7 replicates of a single low concentration sample. These values are reviewed and revised periodically.

Parameter	Start Date	End Date	MDL	Revisited
PO4F	01/01/2024	12/31/2024	0.0034	05/01/2024
NH4F	01/01/2024	12/31/2024	0.009	05/01/2024
NO23F	01/01/2024	12/31/2024	0.0009	05/01/2024
TN	01/01/2024	12/31/2024	0.05	05/01/2024
TP	01/01/2024	12/31/2024	0.0015	05/01/2024
CHL-A	01/01/2024	12/31/2024	0.5	05/01/2024

13) Laboratory methods

The supplies used by the ACE Basin NERR to collect and process water samples are: 1) 1-L wide-mouth clear polypropylene bottles; 2) 1-L clear polypropylene ISCO bottles; 3) 60-ml scintillation vials and caps; 4) 15-ml polypropylene centrifuge tubes and caps; 5) borosilicate culture vials; 6) 60-ml filtering apparatus [polypropylene syringe, syringe plunger and syringe filter holder with 25 mm filter size]; 7) 25 mm microfiber filter paper; 8) pump pipettor (variable volume: 0.5-5 ml) and polypropylene pipette tips; 8) 90% acetone solution; and 9) 10% hydrochloric acid.

Prior to sample collection, the sample bottles, scintillation vials and caps, and filtering apparatus are acid-washed with a 10% hydrochloric acid bath, rinsed (6x) with distilled or deionized water, and dried. The dried bottles are capped, and the filtering apparatus is covered and stored.

a) **Initial Processing**

The samples are initially processed (filtered or whole water) by ACE NERR staff within four hours of collection. Water samples are agitated by gently inverting the bottle 10 times to suspend the particulates. Whole water samples (TN, TP) are obtained by pouring directly into scintillation vials. To prevent contamination, clean foceps are used to remove a 25 mm filter from the box and place it on the filter holder. Samples are agitated by gently inverting the bottle 10 times to suspend the particulates. The filter syringe and two scintillation vials are rinsed ("seeded") with the agitated sample water and then the filter holder is screwed onto the bottom of the syringe. Fifty ml of the agitated water is filtered through the filter apparatus (syringe with attached filter holder). After filtering the 50 ml, the filter holder is removed from the syringe, set aside, and covered until it is inspected. If sediments and other solids in the sample prevent the filtration of the entire 50 ml, the volume that is filtered is written on a laboratory sheet and the unfiltered portion discarded. The filtering apparatus is rinsed with distilled water, and the filtering process is repeated as above for the other samples.

A scintillation vial is filled with filtered water and then placed in a -20 °C freezer. The vials are sent to Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) within five to six days of sample collection and shipped on dry ice via overnight courier. Upon reaching CBL they are placed in a -20°C freezer.

The two filters to be analyzed for chlorophyll are examined for similar color and coverage of particulates. If similar, then each filter is placed in a labeled centrifuge tube filled with 10 ml of 90% acetone. The tube is capped and covered with foil. If the density and coverage of particulates on one filter is noticeably different than the duplicate filter, both filters are discarded and the filtering process is repeated until two filters of similar color and coverage are obtained. After filtering all of the samples, the centrifuge tubes are stored in a -20°C freezer until analysis the following day by the ACE NERR.

b) **Parameter: NH4F**

CBL Method: 19

Method Reference: Standard Methods # 4500-NH3 G-2011

Method Descriptor: This method is dependent upon the Berthelot Reaction, during which a blue colored compound, closely related to indophenol, forms when an ammonium salt solution is added to sodium phenoxide. Filtered samples are complexed with sodium potassium tartrate and sodium citrate. The complexed sample reacts with alkaline phenol and hypochlorite, catalyzed by sodium nitroprusside, yielding an intense blue color suitable for photometric measurement.

The method is suitable for NH4 concentrations 0.009 to 1.68 mg NH4-N/L.

Preservation Method: Water collected for ammonium should be filtered through a Whatman GF/F glass fiber filter (nominal pore size 0.7 μm), or equivalent and measured for salinity. Water should be acidified to a pH of <2 and cooled to 4°C. The AutoAnalyzer vial container (sample cups) should be clean and sample rinsed. Acidified ammonium samples may be stored up to 28 days at 4°C. Non acidified ammonium samples may be refrigerated at 4°C for no longer than one day. Prior to analysis, check samples and adjust pH accordingly. Sample pH should be between 5 and 9.

c) **Parameter: NO23F**

CBL Method: 17

Method Reference: EPA 353.2, Rev. 2.0 (1993)

Method Descriptor: Filtered samples are passed through a granulated copper-cadmium column to reduce nitrate to nitrite. The nitrite, both that which was reduced from nitrate and nitrite that was originally present, is then determined by diazotizing with sulfanilamide and coupling with N-1-napthylethylenediamine dihydrochloride to form a colored azo dye.

The method is suitable for NO3+NO2 concentrations 0.0009 to 0.056 mg NO3+NO2-N/L.

Preservation Method: Water collected for nitrite+nitrate should be filtered through a Whatman GF/F glass fiber filter (nominal pore size 0.7 μm), or equivalent and measured for salinity. Water should be acidified to a pH of <2 and cooled to 4°C. The AutoAnalyzer vial container (sample cups) should be clean and sample rinsed. Acidified nitrite+nitrate samples may be stored up to 28 days at 4°C. Non acidified nitrite+nitrate samples may be refrigerated at 4°C for no longer than one day. Prior to analysis, check samples and adjust pH accordingly. Sample pH should be between 5 and 9.

d) **Parameter: PO4F**

CBL Method: 20

Method Reference: EPA 365.1, Rev. 2.0 (1993)

Method Descriptor: Filtered samples are mixed with a sulfuric acid-antimony-molybdate solution, and subsequently with an ascorbic acid solution, yielding an intense blue color suitable for photometric measurement.

The method is suitable for PO4-P concentrations 0.0034 to 1.488 mg PO4-P/L.

Preservation Method: Water collected for orthophosphate should be filtered through a Whatman GF/F glass fiber filter (nominal pore size 0.7 μm), or equivalent and measured for salinity. Water should be acidified to a pH of <2 and cooled to 4°C. The AutoAnalyzer vial container (sample cups) should be clean and sample rinsed. Acidified orthophosphate samples may be stored up to 28 days at 4°C. Non acidified ammonium samples may be refrigerated at 4°C for no longer than one day. Prior to analysis, check samples and adjust pH accordingly. Sample pH should be between 5 and 9.

d) **Parameter: TN**

CBL Method: 22

Method Reference: EPA 353.2, Standard Methods # 4500-NC, 4500-NO3F

Method Descriptor: An exact amount of whole water is placed in test tubes where an exact amount of Potassium Persulfate Digestion Reagent is added. Under initially alkaline conditions and heat, nitrate is the sole nitrogen product. The now digested samples are buffered, then mixed and passed through a granulated copper-cadmium column to reduce nitrate to nitrite. The nitrite, both that which was reduced from nitrate and originally present, is then determined by diazotizing with sulfanilamide and coupling with N-1-napthylethylenediamine dihydrochloride to form a colored azo dye.

Preservation Method: Water should be acidified to a pH of <2 and cooled to 4°C. The AutoAnalyzer vial container (sample cups) should be clean and sample rinsed. Samples may be stored for 6 months prior to analysis.

e) **Parameter: TP**

CBL Method: 24

Method Reference: 65.1, Standard Methods # 4500-PB5, 4500-PE

Method Descriptor: An exact amount of whole water for TP are placed in test tubes where an exact amount of Potassium Persulfate Digestion Reagent is added. Under initially alkaline conditions and heat, nitrate is the sole nitrogen product. As the potassium persulfate continues to oxidize, conditions become acidic and orthophosphate becomes the sole phosphorus product. The now digested samples are buffered, then mixed with a sulfuric acid-molybdate solution, and subsequently with an ascorbic acid solution, yielding an intense blue color suitable for photometric measurement.

Preservation Method: Water should be acidified to a pH of <2 and cooled to 4°C. The AutoAnalyzer vial container (sample cups) should be clean and sample rinsed. Samples may be stored for 6 months prior to analysis.

e) **Parameter: CHLA_N**

Method Reference: Modification of EPA Method 445.0 (EPA/600/R-92/121)

Method Descriptor: The extract is used in the procedure to determine the chlorophyll-a chemistry. Within a 24-hour period post-filtering, the filters are centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes and then 5 ml are transferred to culture tubes, using a pump pipettor. The extraction is read at 440 nm wavelength, on a Turner Trilogy fluorometer. The Welsehmeyer Method is used to measure chlorophyll-a without acidication.

Preservation Method: The 25-mm glass filters are placed in centrifuge tubes (one filter/tube) filled with 10 ml of 90% acetone solution and frozen for up to 24 hours. Samples have been stored for up to 72 hours without any noticeable difference in values. If samples are not be analyzed until after a 72-hour period then the filter must be drawn dry, removed from the 10 ml of 90% acetone solution and stored in a desiccator at -20°C for up to 30 days.

14) Field and Laboratory QAQC programs

a) **Precision**

i) **Field variability** – Grab samples were collected monthly at each of the four primary monitoring sites. A water-sampler or hand collection was used to collect two consecutive samples at a depth of 0.3-0.5 meter below the surface. The grab samples were taken on the same day and between mid-ebb and slack-low water (~ 3 hrs before slack-low water to slack-low water).

Diel samples were collected monthly in St. Pierre Creek near the water quality station. Samples were collected every 2 hours and 4 minutes over a complete diurnal tide cycle (24 hr 48 min), using an ISCO auto-sampler. Sample collection began at the predicted slack-low, and samples were collected at a depth of 0.5 meters below the surface. Diel samples do not have replicates.

ii) **Laboratory variability** – One replicate is filtered for nutrients. Typically, 10% of the samples analyzed by CBL consists of laboratory duplicates. Two replicates are filtered for each chlorophyll *a* sample.

iii) **Inter-organizational splits** – No splits: all samples were analyzed by the same laboratory.

b) **Accuracy**

i) **Sample spikes** – Throughout the analytical batch, typically 10% of the total number of samples analyzed consists of laboratory spikes to assess analyte precision and analyte recovery.

ii) **Standard reference material analysis** – CBL's Standard reference materials for ammonium, nitrite+nitrate, and orthophosphate are supplied by SPEX, a US EPA certified company. The samples are analyzed at the beginning and end of every run.

iii) **Cross calibration exercises** – CBL has participated in the NERR cross calibration exercise in 2018. CBL also participates in the Chesapeake Bay Blind Audit program that was initiated in 1998.

15) QAQC flag definitions

QAQC flags provide documentation of the data and are applied to individual data points by insertion into the parameter's associated flag column (header preceded by an F_). QAQC flags are applied to the nutrient data during secondary QAQC to indicate data that are out of sensor range low (-4), rejected due to QAQC checks (-3), missing (-2), optional and were not collected (-1), suspect (1), and that have been corrected (5). All remaining data are flagged as having passed initial QAQC checks (0) when the data are uploaded and assimilated into the CDMO ODIS as provisional plus data. The historical data flag (4) is used to indicate data that were submitted to the CDMO prior to the initiation of secondary QAQC flags and codes (and the use of the automated primary QAQC system for WQ and MET data). This flag is only present in historical data that are exported from the CDMO ODIS.

-4 Outside Low Sensor Range
-3 Data Rejected due to QAQC
-2 Missing Data
-1 Optional SWMP Supported Parameter
0 Data Passed Initial QAQC Checks
1 Suspect Data
4 Historical Data: Pre-Auto QAQC
5 Corrected Data

16) QAQC code definitions –

QAQC codes are used in conjunction with QAQC flags to provide further documentation of the data and are also applied by insertion into the associated flag column. There are three (3) different code categories, general, sensor, and comment. General errors document general problems with the sample or sample collection, sensor errors document common sensor or parameter specific problems, and comment codes are used to further document conditions or a problem with the data. Only one general or sensor error and one comment code can be applied to a particular data point. However, a record flag column (F_Record) in the nutrient data allows multiple comment codes to be applied to the entire data record.

General errors

GCM	Calculated value could not be determined due to missing data
GCR	Calculated value could not be determined due to rejected data
GDM	Data missing or sample never collected
GQD	Data rejected due to QA/QC checks
GQS	Data suspect due to QA/QC checks
GSM	See metadata

Sensor errors

SBL	Value below minimum limit of method detection
SCB	Calculated value could not be determined due to a below MDL component
SCC	Calculation with this component resulted in a negative value
SNV	Calculated value is negative
SRD	Replicate values differ substantially
SUL	Value above upper limit of method detection

Parameter Comments

CAB	Algal bloom
CDR	Sample diluted and rerun
CHB	Sample held beyond specified holding time
CIP	Ice present in sample vicinity
CIF	Flotsam present in sample vicinity
CLE	Sample collected later/earlier than scheduled
CRE	Significant rain event
CSM	See metadata
CUS	Lab analysis from unpreserved sample

Record comments

CAB	Algal bloom
CHB	Sample held beyond specified holding time
CIP	Ice present in sample vicinity
CIF	Flotsam present in sample vicinity
CLE	Sample collected later/earlier than scheduled
CRE	Significant rain event
CSM	See metadata

CUS	Lab analysis from unpreserved sample
Cloud cover	
CCL	clear (0-10%)
CSP	scattered to partly cloudy (10-50%)
CPB	partly to broken (50-90%)
COC	overcast (>90%)
CFY	foggy
CHY	hazy
CCC	cloud (no percentage)
Precipitation	
PNP	none
PDR	drizzle
PLR	light rain
PHR	heavy rain
PSQ	squally
PFQ	frozen precipitation (sleet/snow/freezing rain)
PSR	mixed rain and snow
Tide stage	
TSE	ebb tide
TSF	flood tide
TSH	high tide
TSL	low tide
Wave height	
WH0	0 to <0.1 meters
WH1	0.1 to 0.3 meters
WH2	0.3 to 0.6 meters
WH3	0.6 to > 1.0 meters
WH4	1.0 to 1.3 meters
WH5	1.3 or greater meters
Wind direction	
N	from the north
NNE	from the north northeast
NE	from the northeast
ENE	from the east northeast
E	from the east
ESE	from the east southeast
SE	from the southeast
SSE	from the south southeast
S	from the south
SSW	from the south southwest
SW	from the southwest
WSW	from the west southwest
W	from the west
WNW	from the west northwest
NW	from the northwest
NNW	from the north northwest
Wind speed	
WS0	0 to 1 knot
WS1	> 1 to 10 knots
WS2	> 10 to 20 knots
WS3	> 20 to 30 knots
WS4	> 30 to 40 knots
WS5	> 40 knots

17) Other remarks/notes

Data may be missing due to problems with sample collection or processing. Laboratories in the NERR System submit data that are censored at a lower detection rate limit, called the Method Detection Limit or MDL. MDLs for specific parameters are listed in the Laboratory Methods and Detection Limits Section (see *Section II, Part 12*) of this document. Concentrations that are less than this limit are censored with the use of a QAQC flag and code, and the reported value is the method detection limit itself rather than a measured value. For example, if the measured concentration of NO23F was 0.0005 mg/l as N (MDL=0.0008), the reported value would be 0.0008 and would be flagged as out of sensor range low (-4) and coded SBL. In addition, if any of the components used to calculate a variable are below the MDL, the calculated variable is removed and flagged/coded -4 SCB. If a calculated value is negative, it is rejected and all measured components are marked suspect. If additional information on MDL's or missing, suspect, or rejected data is needed, contact the Research Coordinator at the reserve submitting the data.

Note: The way below MDL values are handled in the NERRS SWMP dataset was changed in November of 2011. Previously, below MDL data from 2007-2010 were also flagged/coded, but either reported as the measured value or a blank cell. Any 2007-2011 nutrient/pigment data downloaded from the CDMO prior to November of 2011 will reflect this difference.

Sample hold times for 2024: Samples are held at -20 °C. NERRS SOP allows dissolved nutrient samples to be held for up to 28 days (CHLA for 30 days) at -20°C, plus allows for up to 5 days for collecting, processing, and shipping samples. TN/TP may be held up to 6 months. Samples held beyond that time period are flagged suspect <1> and coded (CHB). If measured values were below MDL, the values were reported as the MDL and flagged/coded as <-4> [SBL] (CHB).

*Samples held longer than allowed by NERRS protocols

	Date Analyzed			
Sample Date	**PO4F**	**NH4F**	**NO23F**	**CHLA_N**
Grab Samples				
01/22/2024	02/02/2024	02/02/2024	02/01/2024	01/23/2024
02/07/2024	02/22/2024	02/22/2024	02/27/2024 (02/21/2024 – FC Grab 2)	02/08/2024
03/07/2024	03/15/2024	03/15/2024	03/19/2024	03/08/2024
04/08/2024	04/22/2024	04/22/2024	04/24/2024	04/09/2024
05/07/2024	05/15/2024	05/15/2024	05/20/2024	05/08/2024
06/04/2024	06/21/2024	06/21/2024	06/19/2024	06/05/2024
07/01/2024	07/10/2024	07/10/2024	07/22/2024	07/02/2024
08/01/2024	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	08/02/2024
09/17/2024	10/07/2024	10/07/2024	10/16/2024	09/18/2024
10/01/2024	10/23/2024	10/23/2024	10/30/2024	10/01/2024
11/13/2024	12/05/2024	12/05/2024	12/06/2024	11/14/2024
12/02/2024	12/12/2024	12/12/2024	12/19/2024	12/03/2024

	Date Analyzed			
Sample Dates	**PO4F**	**NH4F**	**NO23F**	**CHLA_N**
Isco Samples				
01/22-23/2024	02/02/2024	02/02/2024	02/01/2024	01/24/2024
02/07-08/2024	02/22/2024	02/22/2024	02/27/2024 (02/21/2024 – Samples 2, 8, and 11)	02/09/2024
03/07-08/2024	03/15/2024	03/15/2024	03/19/2024	03/09/2024
04/08-09/2024	04/22/2024	04/22/2024	04/24/2024	04/10/2024
05/07-08/2024	05/15/2024	05/15/2024	05/20/2024	05/09/2024
06/04-05/2024	06/21/2024	06/21/2024	06/19/2024	06/06/2024
07/01-02/2024	07/10/2024	07/10/2024	07/22/2024	07/03/2024
08/01-02/2024	NO DATA	NO DATA	NO DATA	08/03/2024
09/17-18/2024	10/07/2024	10/07/2024	10/16/2024	09/19/2024
10/01-02/2024	10/23/2024	10/23/2024	10/30/2024	10/02/2024
11/13-14/2024	12/05/2024	12/05/2024	12/06/2024 (12/13/2024-Sample 10)	11/15/2024
12/01-02/2024	12/12/2024	12/12/2024	12/19/2024	12/04/2024

	Date Analyzed	
Sample Date	**TN**	**TP**
Grab Samples		
01/22/2024	02/23/2024	02/23/2024
02/07/2024	03/06/2024	03/06/2024
03/07/2024	03/28/2024	03/28/2024
04/08/2024	04/30/2024	04/30/2024
05/07/2024	05/23/2024	05/23/2024
06/04/2024	07/02/2024	07/02/2024
07/01/2024	08/02/2024 (08/13/1014 – EI Grab 1)	08/02/2024 (08/13/1014 – EI Grab 1)
08/01/2024	NO DATA	NO DATA
09/17/2024	10/24/2024 SP; 01/03/2025 EI	10/24/2024 SP; 01/03/2025 EI
10/01/2024	11/07/2024	11/07/2024
11/13/2024	01/15/2025	01/15/2025
12/02/2024	01/15/2025	01/15/2025

Precipitation Blanket Statement

The Reserve is over 72,846 ha, and it encompasses most of the estuarine portion of the 320,000-ha ACE Basin watershed, extending 27.14 km northward from the mouth of St. Helena Sound to its inland boundary at the defunct *SCCL* railroad. Due to the immense size of the Reserve it is not uncommon to observe heavy rainfall in one area of the Reserve but not in another area.

Data Editing/Flagging Notes: Organized by Sample type, and Code

Grab Samples: (Monitoring Program 1)

All Sites

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

Data for nutrients from the August 2024 sampling event are missing. Shipping company did not pick up the nutrient shipment due to Tropical Storm Debby on 08/05/2024. Another sampling run could not be completed later in the month due to lack of staff. The chlorophyll samples were analyzed by ACE staff. The values are flagged as <-2> [GCM] (CSM) for DIN and <-2> [GDM] (CSM) for others.

Suspect Data (Flag <1>)
Data for nutrients from the January 2024 sampling event are flagged as suspect. Nutrient samples were sent on 01/24/2024 and received at the processing lab thawed (not frozen) on 01/29/2024 due to shipping error. The values are flagged as <1>(CSM) .

Edisto Island
Suspect Data (Flag <1>)
The differences in field replicates for the identified parameter during the following sampling events were suspect. The percent difference between field replicates was greater than 50%. The values are flagged as <1> [SRD] (CSM).

Nitrite+Nitrate	11/13/2024 (0.0260 and 0.0127 mg/L)
Nitrite+Nitrate	12/02/2024 (0.0214 and 0.0119 mg/L)

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)
None

Fishing Creek
Suspect Data (Flag <1>)
The differences in field replicates for the identified parameter during the following sampling events were suspect. The percent difference between field replicates was greater than 50%. The values are flagged as <1> [SRD] (CSM).

Nitrite+Nitrate	11/13/2024 (0.0724 and 0.0317 mg/L)
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	11/13/2024 (0.090 and 0.048 mg/L)
Nitrite+Nitrate	12/02/2024 (0.0232 and 0.0131 mg/L)

Mosquito Creek
Missing Data (Flag <-2>)
No laboratory replicate chlorophyll-a measurement was determined for the following sample due to a processing error. The chlorophyll-a values are flagged as <-2> [GDM] (CSM).
07/01/2024 – 08:29

St. Pierre Creek
None

Diel Samples: St. Pierre Creek (Monitoring Program 2)
Rejected Data (Flag <-3>)
The nutrient and chlorophyll values for ISCO samples 8 (07/02/2024 – 00:34) and 13 (07/01/2024 – 10:54) were rejected due high suspended sediment levels and subsequent higher than normal nutrient and chlorophyll values measured during that tidal cycle. The ISCO deployment resulted in samples 1 and 7 being too muddy to filter and only 10 ml of water could be filtered for samples 8 and 13. The values are flagged as <-3> [GCM] (CSM) for DIN and <-3> [GQD] (CSM).

The ammonium values for ISCO sample 12 (07/02/2024 – 08:50) was rejected due to the value being more than 2.5 times greater than any other ammonium values measured during that tidal cycle. The ISCO deployment resulted in samples 1 and 7 being too muddy to filter and only 10 ml of water could be filtered for samples 8 and 13. The values are flagged as <-3> [GCM] (CSM) for DIN and <-3> [GQD] (CSM).

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)
The ISCO sampler did not collect the last sample 05/08/2024 - 14:19. The ISCO error message stated that the sampler was unable to detect liquid; the suction tube was wrapped around the piling so the strainer was out of water during this time. The values are flagged as <-2> [GCM] (CSM) for DIN and <-2> [GDM] (CSM) for others.

The ISCO sampler picked up significant levels of mud from the bottom of the creek during low tides on 07/01/2024. ISCO samples 1 (10:06) and 7 (22:30) could not be used for nutrient analysis due to excessive solids preventing filtration. The values are flagged as <-2> [GCM] (CSM) for DIN and <-2> [GDM] (CSM) for others.

Data for nutrients from the August 2024 sampling event are missing. Shipping company did not pick up the nutrient shipment due to Tropical Storm Debby on 08/05/2024. Another sampling run could not be completed later in the month due to lack of staff. The chlorophyll samples were analyzed by ACE staff. The values are flagged as <-2> [GCM] (CSM) for DIN and <-2> [GDM] (CSM) for others.

Suspect Data (Flag <1>)

Data for nutrients from the January 2024 sampling event are flagged as suspect. Nutrient samples were sent on 01/24/2024 and received at the processing lab thawed (not frozen) on 01/29/2024 due to shipping error. These values are flagged as <1>(CSM).

The chlorophyll value for ISCO sample 13 (03/08/2024 – 12:41) was suspect due to the value being higher than any other value during 2024; however, the value was not rejected. The value is flagged as <1> [GQS] (CSM).

The nitrate+nitrite value for ISCO sample 10 (11/14/2024 – 06:31) was suspect due to the value being higher than any other value during 2024; however, the value was not rejected. The value is flagged as <1> [GQS] (CSM).

Nutrient Equipment History

Turner 10-AU-005-CE Fluorometer

1994 – Fluorometer (S/N: 0057 LRXX) was purchased in **April**.
2004 – Fluorometer was sent to Turner designs for a standard repair in **November**.
2012 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **July**.
2013 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **May**.
2014 – Fluorometer was sent in Turner designs for a standard repair in **October**.
2014 – Calibration during **December** but was not successful, so unit was re-set to default settings.
2016 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **July**.
2016 – Solid standard was replaced in **August**.
2018 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **February**.
2019 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **February**. Turner Trilogy Fluorometer purchased **November**.

Turner Triology Fluorometer

2020 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **October**.
2021 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **October**.
2022 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **February**.
2023 – Fluorometer was calibrated in **March**. Solid standard was replaced in **March**.
2024 - Fluorometer was calibrated in **March**.