

Chesapeake Bay Maryland (CBM) NERR Water Quality Metadata
January – September 2018
Latest Update: August 29, 2019

I. Data Set and Research Descriptors

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2) Entry verification

Deployment data are uploaded from the YSI data logger to a Personal Computer (IBM compatible). Files are exported from EcoWatch in a comma-delimited format (.CDF), EcoWatch Lite in a comma separated file (CSV) or KOR Software in an Excel File (.XLS) and uploaded to the CDMO where they undergo automated primary QAQC; automated depth/level corrections for changes in barometric pressure (cDepth or cLevel parameters); and become part of the CDMO's online provisional database. All pre- and post-deployment data are removed from the file prior to upload. A reserve may opt to include additional non-required data during primary upload, such as chlorophyll/fluorescence data. CBM NERR does collect and upload chlorophyll fluorescence data (see section 4 for additional chlorophyll methodology information). During primary QAQC, data are flagged if they are missing or out of sensor range. The edited file is then returned to the Reserve for

secondary QAQC where it is opened in Microsoft Excel and processed using the CDMO's NERRQAQC Excel macro. The macro inserts station codes, creates metadata worksheets for flagged data and summary statistics, and graphs the data for review. It allows the user to apply QAQC flags and codes to the data, remove any overlapping deployment data, append files, and export the resulting data file for upload to the CDMO. CBM NERR applies codes to data that are out of water due to low water depth, data obtained from sensors that malfunctioned/broke/post-calibrated out of range, data skewed by heavy biofouling, and data that appear as anomalous "spikes." To objectify what qualifies as a spiked data point and decrease the inherent subjectivity of such determinations, a data point is coded as a blocked optic or turbidity/chlorophyll spike if it is at least three times greater than both its preceding and following values. Other anomalous data are coded with the appropriate code as well as a "see metadata" code to further explain their exclusion from the dataset. Upload after secondary QAQC results in ingestion into the database as provisional plus data, recalculation of cDepth or cLevel parameters, and finally tertiary QAQC by the CDMO and assimilation into the CDMO's authoritative online database. Where deployment overlap occurs between files, the data produced by the newly calibrated sonde is generally accepted as being the most accurate. For more information on QAQC flags and codes, see Sections 11 and 12. Stephanie Hall is responsible for data management at CBM NERR.

Commented [11]: Insert additional new CDMO data upload procedures

3) Research objectives

One of the objectives of the monitoring program at CBM NERR is to conform to the NERR System Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) where the overall goal is a long-term dataset providing baseline water quality information capable of tracking trends and identifying changes in water quality over temporal and spatial scales. In addition to the aforementioned NERR-wide research objectives, reserve-specific objectives include understanding how anthropogenic activities affect water quality and examining the effects of submerged macrophyte communities on water quality. To accomplish this, monitoring sites were selected that characterize the variety of habitat and water quality conditions existing at two of the three components that make up the CBM NERR, the Jug Bay and Otter Point Creek components. At the Jug Bay component, three sites were selected that span the range of conditions thought to be typical of this site. These sites include a reference site, an impaired site and a mainstem site; where the reference site is thought to have little anthropogenic-induced effect on water quality, an impaired site where anthropogenic activities strongly influence local water quality, and a mainstem site thought to be highly representative of mainstem water quality conditions at the Jug Bay component. The fourth and final site is located at the Otter Point Creek component, a much smaller component, and is thought to represent typical water quality conditions at this site. All four sites span the range of habitat conditions at these components to include varying abundances of submerged macrophyte communities as well as varying depth and energy regimes from shallow tidal creeks to proportionately deep tidal river systems to shallow open water embayments. Additional monitoring, outside the scope of this effort, is being done at all three components; Jug Bay, Otter Point Creek, and Monie Bay components. These efforts use comparable field sampling methods, with high spatial resolution, to better understand the spatial variability between and around the sites monitored in this effort.

4) Research methods

Water quality measurements were taken every 15 minutes from January through September 2018 at each station, weather permitting. One YSI6600V2 data logger is deployed at each station. All data are recorded in Eastern Standard Time. When a datasonde is retrieved, another one is deployed at the same time to ensure a continuous dataset. During transport to and from the sampling sites, dataloggers are placed horizontally in a cooler with a damp towel. The cooler lid is kept slightly ajar, allowing the datalogger to be in equilibrium with the ambient barometric pressure.

Deployment apparatus' are constructed out of 4" diameter PVC pipe and suspended vertically in the water column. 2" diameter holes are cut into the PVC pipes at 2" intervals to guarantee free flow of water through the PVC pipe. The pipes are painted with Trinidad SR antifouling paint. The pipe is attached to a 2x4 using copper plated clevis hangers. The 2x4 is bolted to a piling with the bottom of the PVC pipe resting on the bottom of the river. A stop bolt was placed 0.25 meters from the bottom of the pipe to keep the YSI instrument at a constant depth above bottom.

Measurements for temperature, specific conductance, salinity, percent oxygen saturation, dissolved oxygen concentration, water depth, pH, turbidity, and chlorophyll fluorescence are recorded every 15 minutes. Deployments range from two to four weeks, depending on biofouling intensity (temperature dependent) and availability of field personnel. When a deployment concludes, dataloggers are replaced with newly serviced and calibrated instruments. At the time of replacement two (2) simultaneous overlapping readings are taken between the old and new YSI instruments, as well as an in situ reading with a series 3 or 4a Hydrolab sonde. All simultaneous overlapping readings are taken prior to the previously deployed sonde being

disturbed in any way. Once retrieved, the sondes are placed in a cooler with a damp towel for transport back to the lab. The sondes are then placed in a bucket with 100% air-saturated water, continuing to log data every 15 minutes. DO post-calibration record is taken from this logged data the following morning, using the current barometric pressure reading from a mercury barometer. Logging is then stopped, and YSI sondes are post calibrated using the same standards as used in the calibration.

Deployment data are collected and data are uploaded onto a PC, archived, and then visually examined. Efforts are made to relate sensor conditions to any apparent outliers or anomalies (eg. battery charge status, or normal DO data at the beginning of a deployment may be distinguished from erroneous data resulting from a known malfunction, such as an electrical short in an optical sensor). Data loggers and sensors are cleaned, serviced and calibrated according to the methods described in the YSI Operating Manual and SWMP Operating Procedures. Laboratory calibration procedures are carried out in accordance with the YSI Operating Manual methods. Standards for turbidity are purchased from YSI. Standards for pH and Chlorophyll are purchased from Fisher Scientific, a YSI approved vendor. Specific conductance standards are prepared in-house, from A.C.S. certified KCl. Data are reviewed and edited according to the YSI Data Review and Editing Protocol in Appendix B of the CDMO manual. The pH, specific conductance, depth, turbidity, and chlorophyll sensors are calibrated using the following methods: 2-point pH 7 and 10, specific conductance standard to the nearest concentration of river (with following standards 6.668 mS/cm and 24.82 mS/cm), pressure-dependant depth in the air, 2-point turbidity standards of 0 (deionized water) and 126 NTU's, 2-point chlorophyll standards of 0 (deionized water) and temperature-dependent Rhodamine WT standard. The DO sensor is calibrated using the YSI recommended aerated water in a bucket method. As a quality assurance check, YSI datalogger records during sonde deployment and retrieval are compared to the series 3 or 4a Hydrolab instrument. Post-deployment measurements of all the parameters are recorded before cleaning the data loggers. Sensors are immersed in the appropriate standard solutions (e.g., pH) and readings recorded using discreet sampling.

Because chlorophyll fluorescence data is collected *in vivo* there is an inherent loss of accuracy due to lack of disruption of the cells and subsequent extraction of chlorophyll, possible interference from other fluorescent organisms, and the inverse effects of temperature and light. Chlorophyll data should be used only as estimates of chlorophyll activity, not as accurate quantitative measurements. These limitations are reduced by following calibration and Rhodamine WT standard protocol according to the YSI Operating Manual. Chlorophyll data are considered as accurate as possible when matchup readings correlate and post-calibration is within range of the temperature-dependent standard, suggesting there was no sensor drift in readings during the deployment. For more accurate chlorophyll measurements contact the Research Coordinator for the extractive analysis data obtained from field grab samples.

A Sutron Sat-Link2 transmitter was installed at the Railroad Bridge (RR) station on 11/18/05 and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID # 3B00629C. A Sutron Sat-Link2 transmitter was also installed at the Otter Point Creek (OC) station on 09/25/2006 and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID # 3B03D61C. The transmissions are scheduled hourly and contain four (4) datasets reflecting fifteen minute data sampling intervals. Upon receipt by the CDMO, the data undergoes the same automated primary QAQC process detailed in Section 2 above. The "real-time" telemetry data become part of the provisional dataset until undergoing secondary and tertiary QAQC and assimilation in the CDMO's authoritative online database. Provisional and authoritative data are available at <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu>.

5) Site location and character

The Chesapeake Bay Maryland NERR is comprised of three components, Otter Point Creek, Jug Bay, and Monie Bay, which are scattered throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay. All three components are thought to represent the diverse semi-diurnal estuarine environments of the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay.

Otter Point Creek is a shallow, open water embayment located in the tidal headwaters of the Bush River on the Upper Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Otter Point Creek is the smallest and proportionately shallowest of the three components and consists of 672 acres of open water, tidal marshes, forested wetlands and upland hardwood forests surrounded by major highways, large residential communities, and heavy commercial and industrial development. The watershed draining into Otter Point Creek is rapidly being developed and urbanized. As a result, sediments are rapidly accreting into the marsh and are very fine and flocculent resulting in typically high turbidity when submerged macrophytes are not present. The non-native *Hydrilla verticillata* submerged macrophyte invaded the marsh in 2002 and has colonized most bottom substrates less than one half meter depth at low tide. There is one station (OC) located at the Otter Point Creek component.

Jug Bay is located in the upper tidal reaches of the Patuxent River and represents a river dominated by tidal freshwater marsh with expansive emergent vegetation communities. The Patuxent River is located on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay and drains highly urbanized areas of the Washington Metropolitan area. Jug Bay is a 722-acre tidal estuary providing a narrow transition zone between brackish marshes and upland freshwater wetlands. The broad, shallow waters of Jug Bay support a profusion of freshwater plants and animals. Emergent and submerged vegetation crowd the river channel and form an interlaced pattern of tidal and nontidal marshes, swamps and forested wetlands surrounded by upland woods and fields. The component has deep water river dominated areas (>10m depth) as well as an extensive shallow water (<1m depth) network of tidal creeks and flooded mud flats. Submerged macrophytes are persistent along the shoreline of these creeks and are extensive within the flooded mud flats and the emergent marshes. There are three stations (MC, RR, IP) located at the Jug Bay Component.

Monie Bay is located on the lower Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Wicomico River. The Monie Bay Component represents a mesohaline bay with primarily three tidal creeks representing a variety of agricultural input. The local area is largely undeveloped with varying agriculture and rural residential land use. The component is dominated by salt marshes with tidal fresh marshes in the upper tidal reaches of the tributaries. Shallow water habitats give way to fringing submerged macrophyte communities. One monitoring site is located within this component though the data are not submitted to the CDMO as SWMP compliant. These data may be obtained directly from the reserve.

The following is a list of the 4 sites as well as site characteristics

Mataponi Creek (MC)
38° 44.599'N, 76° 42.446'W (NAD83)
38.74331667, -76.70743333 (GIS format)

Site MC is located in a small tributary off the upper tidal headwaters of the Patuxent River, Maryland. MC is 2.4 km upstream of the mouth, midchannel in the creek, which is approximately 7m wide. The southern bank is steep and covered mainly with hardwood trees while the northern bank is tidal marsh. The sonde is deployed vertically in a perforated PVC pipe. Average depth at this site is roughly 0.7 meters with a mean tidal fluctuation of approximately 0.6 m. The YSI is deployed 0.25m off of the creek bottom. Salinities at this site rarely exceed 0.1 ppt. The bottom habitat is soft sediment, and SAV grassbeds are abundant during the summer months. Because this site is located along the main channel of Mataponi Creek, water quality is reflective of the general quality of water flowing along the main portion of the creek. The SAV community at this site is seasonally very dense and thus water quality is thought to be strongly influenced by the presence of SAV during the summer months. Freshwater inputs are not quantified. Any pollutants would most likely be due to agricultural runoff. No USGS gauge for streamflow is available.

Railroad Bridge (RR)
38° 46.877'N, 76° 42.822'W (NAD 83)
38.78128333, -76.7137 (GIS format)

Site RR is located in the mainstem of the upper tidal headwaters of the Patuxent River, Maryland. The site is slightly upstream (roughly 0.3km) from Jackson's Landing at the Patuxent River Park (previous PR site 2002). This section of the Patuxent River is approximately 70m wide and average depth at the site is 1.4m. The YSI is deployed 0.25 m off of the river bottom. Bottom habitat is soft sediment, and grassbeds are evident in the area during summer months. Mean tidal fluctuation is approximately 0.6 m. Salinities are typically less than 1 ppt at this site throughout the year. In 2003 this site was moved from 38° 46' 50.6" N, 76° 42' 29.1" W (Jug Bay) to its present location because of the shallow nature of the old site. The new site location (RR) is at the end of the old railroad bed and is deployed vertically in a perforated PVC pipe near midchannel of the Patuxent River. Because this site is located along the main channel of the Patuxent River, water quality is reflective of the general quality of water flowing along the main portion of the river. The site is roughly 1km downstream of the confluence of the Western Branch tributary and the Patuxent River Mainstem, thus water quality is influenced by Western Branch. A large wastewater treatment plant (averaging 20 mgd) discharges directly into the Western Branch tributary of the Patuxent River just upstream of IP. USGS streamflow for the closest gauge (Latitude 38°57'21.3"N, Longitude 76°41'37.3"W NAD83): yearly mean of approximately 350 – 430 cfs.

Iron Pot Landing (IP)

38° 47.760'N, 76° 43.248' W (NAD 83)
38.796, -76.7208 (GIS Format)

Site IP is located 2.09km from the mouth of Western Branch. IP is attached vertically off of a small pier near midchannel of the river and has an average depth of 1.6m. The YSI is deployed 0.25 m off of the river bottom. The site is roughly 1km downstream of a large (20 mgd) wastewater treatment plant effluent. The river is approximately 15m wide and flows through extensive riparian buffers. Both banks of the river are flanked by hardwood flora. Mean tidal fluctuation is approximately 0.6 m. Salinity at this site is generally 0.1 ppt. Bottom habitat is soft sediment, and grassbeds are evident during the summer months. USGS streamflow for the closest gauge (Latitude 38°48'51.2"N, Longitude 76°44'55.4"W NAD83): yearly mean of approximately 100 – 130 cfs. In addition, a wastewater treatment plant discharges about 15 – 30 cfs about 1 km upstream of site.

Otter Point Creek (OC)
39° 27.047'N, 76° 16.474'W (NAD 83)
39.45078333, -76.27456667 (GIS Format)

Site OC is located approximately 0.3km from the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. OC is deployed vertically in a perforated PVC pipe and has an average depth of 0.7m. The YSI is deployed 0.25 m off of the creek bottom. Bottom habitat is extremely soft sediment, and grass beds inundate the site during summer months. Salinity at this station rarely rises above 0.1 ppt. Mean tidal fluctuation is about 0.3 m. The average water levels are generally lower in the winter due to north and northwest winds that increase the egress from Chesapeake Bay. The sonde is periodically exposed to very low tides, and sediments at the site are extremely fine and flocculent. Because of the shallowness of the tidal marsh, coupled with the dramatic daily changes in the depth and width of the stream, deployments at the site present many problems. These problems include periodic exposure of the sonde, very high turbidity, sedimentation rates associated with tidal infiltration, and wind and wave generated resuspension that causes severe fouling of the probes. Water quality at the site represents extreme shallow water habitats. Thus it is not uncommon to see very large fluctuations in temperature and dissolved oxygen at this site ranging from complete anoxia to full saturation, due in part to the shallow nature of the site and the effects of marsh processes on water quality. Additionally, the site is seasonally dominated by dense SAV communities from June-October and thus water quality conditions during this time are likely influenced by the presence of these macrophytes. USGS streamflow for the closest gauge (Latitude 39°26'21.4"N, Longitude 76°18'21.7"W NAD83): yearly mean of approximately 90 cfs. Site is in substantially urban environment which accounts for its flashiness. Pollutants are mostly urban run-off, with some industrial discharge possible.

SWMP Station Timeline

Station Code	SWMP Status	Station Name	Location	Active Dates	Reason Decommissioned	Notes
RR	P	Railroad Bridge	38°57'21.3"N 76°41'37.3"W	04/04/03 – present	NA	NA
IP	P	Iron Pot Landing	38°48'51.2"N 76°44'55.4"W	04/04/03 – present	NA	NA
MC	P	Mattaponi Creek	38° 44.599'N, 76° 42.446'W	04/22/03 – present	NA	NA
OC	P	Otter Point Creek	39°26'21.4"N 76°18'21.7"W	04/15/03 - present	NA	NA
JB	P	Jug Bay	38° 46' 45.12 N, 76° 42' 27.72 W	7/1/95 - 12/1/02	Inadequate deployment structure, poor representation of river	NA

PR	P	Patuxent River	38° 46' 23.52 N, 76° 42' 32.76 W	7/1/95 - 12/1/02	Inadequate deployment structure, poor representation of river	NA
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6) Data collection period - Long-term data collection using sondes at Railroad Bridge (Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary) (RR) began on April 4, 2003; Mataponi Creek (MC) began April 22, 2003; Iron Pot Landing (IP) began April 4, 2003; and Otter Point Creek (OC) began April 15, 2003.

2018 collection dates and times are as follows. All times are in Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Railroad Bridge
RR

Deployment Start Date	Deployment Start Time	Deployment End Date	Deployment End Time
12/2/2017	11:30	1/3/2018	10:30
1/3/2018	10:45	2/1/2018	08:45
2/1/2018	09:00	3/1/2018	09:00
3/1/2018	09:15	4/3/2018	09:15
4/3/2018	09:30	4/18/2018	08:30
4/18/2018	08:45	5/1/2018	08:15
5/1/2018	08:30	5/16/2018	08:45
5/16/2018	09:00	5/31/2018	08:00
5/31/2018	08:15	6/14/2018	08:00
6/14/2018	08:15	6/28/2018	07:45
6/28/2018	08:00	7/21/2018	07:45
7/12/2018	08:00	7/30/2018	08:30
7/30/2018	08:45	8/14/2018	07:45
8/14/2018	08:00	8/29/2018	08:15
8/29/2018	08:30	9/11/2018	10:30
9/11/2018	10:45	9/27/2018	07:45
9/27/2018	08:00	10/11/2018	11:15
10/11/2018	11:30	10/24/2018	08:15
10/24/2018	08:30	11/21/2018	09:15
11/21/2018	08:30	12/12/2018	08:45
12/12/2018	09:30	1/9/2019	10:30

Mataponi Creek
MC

Deployment Start Date	Deployment Start Time	Deployment End Date	Deployment End Time
12/5/2017	13:00	1/3/2018	13:00
3/1/2018	12:00	4/3/2018	11:45
4/3/2018	12:00	4/18/2018	11:00
4/18/2018	11:15	5/1/2018	10:30
5/1/2018	10:45	5/16/2018	12:00
5/16/2018	12:15	5/31/2018	10:00
5/31/2018	10:15	6/14/2018	10:30
6/14/2018	10:45	6/28/2018	10:15
6/28/2018	10:30	7/12/2018	09:30
7/12/2018	09:45	7/30/2018	11:15
7/30/2018	11:30	8/14/2018	09:15
8/14/2018	09:30	8/29/2018	11:00
8/29/2018	09:30	9/11/2018	13:00
9/11/2018	13:15	9/27/2018	09:45
9/27/2018	10:00	10/11/2018	08:15
10/11/2018	08:30	10/24/2018	11:15
10/24/2018	11:30	11/21/2018	10:45
11/21/2018	11:00	12/12/2018	11:30

**Ironpot Landing
IP**

Deployment Start Date	Deployment Start Time	Deployment End Date	Deployment End Time
12/5/2017	12:00	1/3/2018	11:30
1/3/2018	11:45	2/1/2018	10:00
2/1/2018	10:15	3/1/2018	11:00
3/1/2018	11:15	4/3/2018	10:45
4/3/2018	11:00	4/18/2018	09:45
4/18/2018	10:00	5/1/2018	09:30
5/1/2018	09:45	5/16/2018	10:30
5/16/2018	10:45	5/31/2018	11:30
5/31/2018	11:45	6/14/2018	09:30

6/14/2018	09:45	6/28/2018	09:15
6/28/2018	09:30	7/21/2018	10:45
7/12/2018	11:00	7/30/2018	10:15
7/30/2018	10:30	8/14/2018	10:15
8/14/2018	0000	8/29/2018	0000
8/29/2018	09:30	9/11/2018	12:00
9/11/2018	12:15	9/27/2018	11:00
9/27/2018	11:15	10/11/2018	09:30
10/11/2018	09:45	10/24/2018	10:00
10/24/2018	10:15	11/21/2018	11:45
11/21/2018	12:00	12/12/2018	10:30
12/12/2018	10:45	1/9/2018	11:45

**Otter Point Creek
OC**

Deployment Start Date	Deployment Start Time	Deployment End Date	Deployment End Time
12/14/2017	09:45	1/2/2018	11:15
3/5/2018	11:15	4/10/2018	09:30
4/10/2018	09:45	4/24/2018	11:30
4/24/2018	11:45	5/8/2018	10:30
5/8/2018	10:45	5/22/2018	08:30
5/22/2018	08:45	6/7/2018	10:15
6/7/2018	10:30	6/20/2018	10:00
6/20/2018	10:15	7/5/2018	09:30
7/5/2018	09:45	7/19/2018	10:15
7/19/2018	10:30	8/1/2018	09:00
8/1/2018	09:15	8/22/2018	09:00
8/22/2018	09:15	9/5/2018	11:45
9/5/2018	12:00	9/18/2018	10:00
9/18/2018	10:15	10/4/2018	08:00
10/4/2018	08:15	10/24/2018	08:45
10/24/2018	09:00	11/15/2018	10:45
11/15/2018	11:00	12/6/2018	10:30

7) 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 process 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: <http://www.nerrsdata.org/>; accessed 12 October 2012..

NERR water quality 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 delimited format.

8) Associated researchers and projects - Included in annual metadata document.

As part of the SWMP long-term monitoring program, CBM NERR also monitors 15-minute meteorological along with monthly grab samples and diel sampling for nutrient data which may be correlated with this water quality dataset. These data are available at www.nerrsdata.org.

II. Physical Structure Descriptors

9) Sensor specifications –

CBM NERR deployed only 6600EIDS V2 data sondes with ROX DO sensors and non-vented depth in 2018 at all 4 stations (RR, IP, MC, OC).

YSI 6600V2 data logger:

Parameter: Temperature

Units: Celsius (C)

Sensor Type: Thermistor

Model#: 6560

Range: -5 to 50 °C

Accuracy: +/-0.15 °C

Resolution: 0.01°C

Parameter: Conductivity

Units: milli-Siemens per cm (mS/cm)

Sensor Type: 4-electrode cell with autoranging

Model#: 6560

Range: 0 to 100 mS/cm

Accuracy: +/-0.5% of reading + 0.001 mS/cm

Resolution: 0.001 mS/cm to 0.1 mS (range dependent)

Parameter: Salinity
Units: parts per thousand (ppt)
Sensor Type: Calculated from conductivity and temperature
Range: 0 to 70 ppt
Accuracy: +/- 1% of reading or 0.1 ppt, whichever is greater
Resolution: 0.01 ppt

Parameter: Dissolved Oxygen % saturation
Units: percent air saturation
Sensor Type: Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning
Model#: 6150 ROX
Range: 0 to 500% air saturation
Accuracy: 0-200% air saturation: +/-1% of the reading or 1% air saturation, whichever is greater 200-500% air saturation: +/-15% or reading
Resolution: 0.1% air saturation

Parameter: Dissolved Oxygen mg/L (Calculated from % air saturation, temperature and salinity)
Units: milligrams/Liter (mg/L)
Sensor Type: Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning
Model#: 6150 ROX
Range: 0 to 50 mg/L
Accuracy: 0-20 mg/L: +/-0.1 mg/l or 1% of the reading, whichever is greater
20 to 50 mg/L: +/-15% of the reading
Resolution: 0.01 mg/L

Parameter: Non-Vented Level – Shallow (Depth)
Units: feet or meters (ft or m)
Sensor Type: Stainless steel strain gauge
Range: 0 to 30 ft (9.1 m)
Accuracy: +/-0.06 ft (0.018 m)
Resolution: 0.001 ft (0.001m)

Parameter: pH – bulb probe or EDS flat glass probe
Units: pH units
Sensor Type: Glass combination electrode
Model#: 6561 or 6561FG
Range: 0 to 14 units
Accuracy: +/- 0.2 units
Resolution: 0.01 units

Parameter: Turbidity
Units: nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)
Sensor Type: Optical, 90 degree scatter, with mechanical cleaning
Model#: 6136
Range: 0 to 1000 NTU
Accuracy: +/- 2% of reading or 0.3 NTU (whichever is greater)
Resolution: 0.1 NTU

Parameter: Chlorophyll Fluorescence
Units: micrograms/Liter
Sensor Type: Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning
Model#: 6025
Range: 0 to 400 ug/Liter
Accuracy: Dependent on methodology

Resolution: 0.1 ug/L chl a, 0.1% FS

Depth Qualifier:

The NERR System-Wide Monitoring Program utilizes YSI data sondes that can be equipped with either vented or non-vented depth/level sensors. Readings for both vented and non-vented sensors are automatically compensated for water density change due to variations in temperature and salinity; but for all non-vented depth measurements, changes in atmospheric pressure between calibrations appear as changes in water depth. The error is equal to approximately 1.02 cm for every 1 millibar change in atmospheric pressure, and is eliminated for vented sensors because they are vented to the atmosphere throughout the deployment time interval.

Beginning in 2006, NERR SWMP standard calibration protocol calls for all non-vented depth sensors to read 0 meters at a (local) barometric pressure of 1013.25 mb (760 mm/hg). To achieve this, each site calibrates their depth sensor with a depth offset number, which is calculated using the actual atmospheric pressure at the time of calibration and the equation provided in the SWMP calibration sheet or digital calibration log. This offset procedure standardizes each depth calibration for the entire NERR System. If accurate atmospheric pressure data are available, non-vented sensor depth measurements at any NERR can be corrected.

In 2010, the CDMO began automatically correcting depth/level data for changes in barometric pressure as measured by the Reserve's associated meteorological station during data ingestion. These corrected depth/level data are reported as cDepth and cLevel, and are assigned QAQC flags and codes based on QAQC protocols. Please see sections 11 and 12 for QAQC flag and code definitions.

NOTE: older depth data cannot be corrected without verifying that the depth offset was in place and whether a vented or non-vented depth sensor was in use. No SWMP data prior to 2006 can be corrected using this method.

The following equation is used for corrected depth/level data provided by the CDMO beginning in 2010:

$((1013-BP)*0.0102)+\text{Depth/Level} = \text{cDepth/cLevel}$

Salinity Units Qualifier:

In 2013, EXO sondes were approved for SWMP use and began to be utilized by Reserves. While the 6600 series sondes report salinity in parts per thousand (ppt) units, the EXO sondes report practical salinity units (psu). These units are essentially the same and for SWMP purposes are understood to be equivalent, however psu is considered the more appropriate designation. Moving forward the NERR System will assign psu salinity units for all data regardless of sonde type.

Turbidity Qualifier:

In 2013, EXO sondes were approved for SWMP use and began to be utilized by Reserves. While the 6600 series sondes report turbidity in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU), the EXO sondes use formazin nephelometric units (FNU). These units are essentially the same but indicate a difference in sensor methodology, for SWMP purposes they will be considered equivalent. Moving forward, the NERR System will use FNU/NTU as the designated units for all turbidity data regardless of sonde type. If turbidity units and sensor methodology are of concern, please see the Sensor Specifications portion of the metadata.

Chlorophyll Fluorescence Disclaimer:

YSI chlorophyll sensors (6025 or 599102-01) are designed to serve as a proxy for chlorophyll concentrations in the field for monitoring applications and complement traditional lab extraction methods; therefore, there are accuracy limitations associated with the data that are detailed in the YSI manual including interference from other fluorescent species, differences in calibration method, and effects of cell structure, particle size, organism type, temperature, and light on sensor measurements.

10) Coded variable definitions

Water Quality Sampling station:	Sampling Site code:	Station code:
Railroad Bridge	RR	cbmrrwq
Mattaponi Creek	MC	cbmmcqw
Iron Pot Landing	IP	cbmipwq
Otter Point Creek.	OC	cbmocwq

11) 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_). During primary automated QAQC (performed by the CDMO), -5, -4, and -2 flags are applied automatically to indicate data that is missing and above or below sensor range. All remaining data are then flagged 0, passing initial QAQC checks. During secondary and tertiary QAQC 1, -3, and 5 flags may be used to note data as suspect, rejected due to QAQC, or corrected.

- 5 Outside High Sensor Range
- 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
- 2 *Open - reserved for later flag*
- 3 Calculated data: non-vented depth/level sensor correction for changes in barometric pressure
- 4 Historical Data: Pre-Auto QAQC
- 5 Corrected Data

12) 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 deployment or YSI datasonde, sensor errors are sensor specific, 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, but some comment codes (marked with an * below) can be applied to the entire record in the F_Record column.

General Errors

- GIC No instrument deployed due to ice
- GIM Instrument malfunction
- GIT Instrument recording error; recovered telemetry data
- GMC No instrument deployed due to maintenance/calibration
- GNF Deployment tube clogged / no flow
- GOW Out of water event
- GPF Power failure / low battery
- GQR Data rejected due to QA/QC checks
- GSM See metadata

Corrected Depth/Level Data Codes

- GCC Calculated with data that were corrected during QA/QC
- GCM Calculated value could not be determined due to missing data
- GCR Calculated value could not be determined due to rejected data
- GCS Calculated value suspect due to questionable data
- GCU Calculated value could not be determined due to unavailable data

Sensor Errors

SBO	Blocked optic
SCF	Conductivity sensor failure
SCS	Chlorophyll spike
SDF	Depth port frozen
SDG	Suspect due to sensor diagnostics
SDO	DO suspect
SDP	DO membrane puncture
SIC	Incorrect calibration / contaminated standard
SNV	Negative value
SOW	Sensor out of water
SPC	Post calibration out of range
SQR	Data rejected due to QAQC checks
SSD	Sensor drift
SSM	Sensor malfunction
SSR	Sensor removed / not deployed
STF	Catastrophic temperature sensor failure
STS	Turbidity spike
SWM	Wiper malfunction / loss

Comments

CAB*	Algal bloom
CAF	Acceptable calibration/accuracy error of sensor
CAP	Depth sensor in water, affected by atmospheric pressure
CBF	Biofouling
CCU	Cause unknown
CDA*	DO hypoxia (<3 mg/L)
CDB*	Disturbed bottom
CDF	Data appear to fit conditions
CFK*	Fish kill
CIP*	Surface ice present at sample station
CLT*	Low tide
CMC*	In field maintenance/cleaning
CMD*	Mud in probe guard
CND	New deployment begins
CRE*	Significant rain event
CSM*	See metadata
CTS	Turbidity spike
CVT*	Possible vandalism/tampering
CWD*	Data collected at wrong depth
CWE*	Significant weather event

13) Post Deployment Information - Included in annual metadata document.

Railroad Bridge

Deployment Date	SpCond	DO	pH		Turb		Depth		Chl		
	6.668	100%	7	10	0	126	Sonde	Pressure-determined Offset	0	Meter in Rhodo Sol'n	Temp-determined Stnd
mm/dd/yy	mS/cm	sat			NTU		m		µg/L		
1/3/2018	6520	100.7	6.96	9.95	-1.6	128.8	0.008	0.014	-0.9	114.2	116

2/1/2018	6648	98	7.15	10.17	-1.1	125.4	-0.15	-0.15	0.2	121.6	117
3/1/2018	6509	103.5	7.13	10.13	1	129.6	0.015	-0.014	0.4	127.8	116
4/3/2018	6563	99.5	7.15	10.06	1.4	121.1	-0.056	-0.041	0.1	120.2	116
4/18/2018	6440	99.8	-9.99*	N/A	0.7	112	0.054	0.054	-0.2	114.1	114
5/1/2018	6467	99	7.1	10.02	0.8	116.6	0.017	0.041	0.7	113.6	111
5/16/2018	6594	96.6	7.06	10.01	1	135.9	-0.055	-0.041	0.2	109.1	112
5/31/2018	6433	97.7	7.06	10.04	0.3	132.8	-0.025	-0.014	0.6	106.2	112
6/14/2018	6579	99.1	7.08	10.1	2	128.6	-0.052	-0.054	0.8	88.1	113
6/28/2018	6390	99.9	7.08	10.05	-3	124.9	0.131	0.097	-0.5	113.4	117
7/12/2018	6720	100.2	7.01	9.98	0.1	140	0.046	0.054	-1.3	115	111
7/30/2018	6540	100.4	7.04	10.04	-2.4	118.4	0.013	0.014	-1.6	114.9	113
8/14/2018	5790	99.1	7.11	10.07	2.4	125.4	0.025	0.041	4	111.4	113
8/29/2018	6494	99.3	7.07	10.06	2.3	124.9	0.066	0.095	0.1	101.8	110
9/11/2018	6513	98.6	7.08	10.06	0.4	132.2	0.014	0.014	0.6	108.5	112
9/27/2018	6350	94.6	7.1	10.1	-0.2	148.2	-0.086	-0.082	0.2	111.3	111
10/11/2018	6470	100.6	7.09	10.06	-0.3	122.4	0.077	0.095	1.2	114.7	118
10/24/2018	6218	99.5	7.02	10.01	0.6	125.5	0.032	0.054	0.2	112.9	114
11/21/2018	6306	99.5	7.01	10.01	0.5	124.8	0.046	0.068	0.3	113.3	116
12/12/2018	6642	99.1	7.02	10.02	-0.6	126.1	-0.068	-0.082	0.1	124.3	117

* pH sensor failure

Ironpot Landing

Deployment Date	SpCond	DO	pH		Turb		Depth		Chl		
	6.668	100%	7	10	0	126	Sonde	Pressure-determined Offset	0	Meter in Rhodo Sol'n	Temp-determined Stnd
mm/dd/yy	mS/cm	sat			NTU		m		µg/L		
1/3/2018	6546	99.6	7.21	10.17	-1.1	114.7	-0.019	0.014	0.2	113.6	116
2/1/2018	6599	98.9	7	10.01	1.2	127.7	-0.168	-0.15	-0.2	119.5	117
3/1/2018	6519	102.8	-9.99*	N/A	1.9	129.1	0.012	0.014	0.4	122.7	117
4/3/2018	6577	101.8	7.06	9.97	0.5	120	-0.067	-0.041	0.2	120.4	116
4/18/2018	6582	100	7.53	10.43	-0.5	114.7	0.063	0.054	-0.5	115.6	115
5/1/2018	6537	99	7.23	10.17	-0.1	113.2	0.008	0.041	-0.2	112.1	111
5/16/2018	6500	94.7	6.99	9.96	-0.1	134.2	-0.059	-0.041	0.5	107.4	112
5/31/2018	6368	98.1	7.08	10.06	1	131.9	-0.021	-0.014	1	104.3	112
6/14/2018	6643	98.6	7.04	10.07	-0.3	119.8	-0.016	0.014	0.4	119.8	113
6/28/2018	3542	100.2	7.08	10.1	1.7	130.2	0.32	0.095	0.6	108.6	116
7/12/2018	6478	98.5	-9.99*	N/A	1.3	142	0.06	0.054	0.4	114	111
Deployment Date	SpCond	DO	pH		Turb		Depth		Chl		
	6.668	100%	7	10	0	126	Sonde	Pressure-determined Offset	0	Meter in Rhodo Sol'n	Temp-determined Stnd
mm/dd/yy	mS/cm	sat			NTU		m		µg/L		
7/30/2018	6523	99.8	7.01	10.03	0.9	121.4	0.01	0.014	0.5	109.4	112
8/14/2018	6370	83.8	7.04	9.98	-0.4	124	0.026	0.041	1	113.4	113
8/29/2018	6499	99.5	7.02	10.08	2.1	125.2	0.059	0.095	0.4	94.6	110

9/11/2018	6596	98.7	7.1	10.11	0.5	124.3	0.012	0.014	0.7	111.7	112
9/27/2018	6393	94.1	7.09	10.09	1.1	137.8	-0.075	-0.082	1.6	105.6	111
10/11/2018	6614	97.6	7.06	10.01	-0.8	118.5	0.09	0.095	0.4	112.6	116
10/24/2018	6624	99.9	7.04	10.03	-0.2	123.2	0.034	0.054	0.4	116.7	115
11/21/2018	6667	99.1	7.07	10.05	-1.9	122.5	0.061	0.068	1.6	113.8	116
12/12/2018	7390	99.6	6.99	10	-0.2	122.8	-0.069	-0.082	-0.3	123.9	118

*pH sensor
failure

Mataponi Creek

Deployment Date	SpCond	DO	pH		Turb		Depth		Chl		
	6.668	100%	7	10	0	126	Sonde	Pressure-determined Offset	0	Meter in Rhodo Sol'n	Temp-determined Stnd
mm/dd/yy	mS/cm	sat			NTU		m		µg/L		
3/1/2018	6564	99.1	6.83	9.87	1.6	132	0.005	0.014	0.5	120	116
4/3/2018	6556	101.1	6.99	9.9	1	125.8	0.183	-0.041	-0.4	121.3	115
4/18/2018	6520	99.1	7.01	10.03	-0.7	115.6	0.071	0.054	-0.5	114.9	114
5/1/2018	6536	99.6	7.05	10	-0.5	117.2	0.019	0.041	0.6	111.2	111
5/16/2018	6598	95.5	7.1	10.1	-1.1	130.7	-0.048	-0.041	0.4	109.4	112
5/31/2018	6397	97.9	7.04	10.03	-0.6	126.4	-0.03	-0.014	0.1	104.8	112
6/14/2018	6472	99	7.06	10	0.2	130.1	-0.064	-0.054	0.7	116.9	112
6/28/2018	368	99	7.23	10.06	-2	133.8	0.07	0.095	-0.5	110.3	113
7/12/2018	3350	100.5	7.08	9.98	-0.1	140.9	0.176	0.054	0.2	112.5	112
7/30/2018	6450	99.6	7.05	10.04	-0.8	118.8	0.003	0.014	-0.1	109.3	113
8/14/2018	6440	97.2	7.05	10.03	-1.5	124.5	0.084	0.041	-0.1	112.5	113
8/29/2018	4825	99.5	7.05	10.06	-0.5	125.5	0.063	0.095	-0.7	102.6	111
9/11/2018	6618	98.4	7.1	10.07	-0.9	130	0.014	0.014	0.3	111.7	111
9/27/2018	6712	95.5	7.05	10.05	-2.5	128.6	-0.079	-0.082	0.8	109.5	111
10/11/2018	6521	98.9	7.1	10.06	-1.1	117.3	0.098	0.095	-0.2	115.8	119
10/24/2018	6702	99.9	7.06	10.03	-0.3	126.3	0.03	0.054	0.6	118.8	115
11/21/2018	6500	98	7.04	9.99	1	128.2	0.079	0.068	0.2	114.4	116

Otter Point Creek

Deployment Date	SpCond	DO	pH		Turb		Depth		Chl		
	6.668	100%	7	10	0	126	Sonde	Pressure-determined Offset	0	Meter in Rhodo Sol'n	Temp-determined Stnd
mm/dd/yy	mS/cm	sat			NTU		m		µg/L		

3/5/2018	6498	0*	7.08	10.04	-	0.3	127.8	0.051	0.068	-	0.7	114.1	117
4/10/2018	6536	100.5	7.08	9.97	1.7	124.5	-0.07	-0.056	0.9	111.5	115		
4/24/2018	6862	101.9	7.03	9.99	1.1	116.8	0.061	0.082	0	103	112		
5/8/2018	6642	98.4	**	**	1.3	125.9	0.022	0.041	-	0.5	105.7	112	
5/22/2018	6511	93.7	7.01	9.99	0.2	127.2	0.074	0.082	-	1.2	114.8	112	
6/7/2018	6545	98.5	7.08	10.04	0.2	127.6	0.002	-0.054	0.6	45.2***	113		
6/20/2018	6170	99	7.11	10.12	2.8	113.1	0.06	0.068	0.3	85.6	113		
7/5/2018	272	98.1	6.97	9.91	-	&	0.054	0.054	-	0.5	123.6	113	
7/19/2018	6393	98.7	6.95	9.93	-	127.2	0.048	0.054	-	0	110.1	113	
8/1/2018	6559	99.4	7.16	10.18	-	121.6	0.024	0.027	-	0.2	111	113	
8/22/2018	6407	98.3	7.11	10.13	1.7	131.4	0.083	0.068	0.7	109.4	113		
9/5/2018	6633	99.3	7.01	10.02	-	111.8	-0.053	-0.014	-	0.3	117.8	111	
9/18/2018	6503	99.1	6.97	10.02	1.7	141.4	0.046	0.054	-	2.1	109.7	110	
10/4/2018	!!!												
10/24/2018	6703	100.3	7.02	9.97	2.9	135.5	0.071	0.068	0.3	124.7	116		
11/15/2018	6604	100.8	7.13	10.1	-	126.3	0.087	0.095	-	0.3	124.1	116	

* Optic short in DO sensor.

** pH sensor failure.

*** Optic covered with fouling, wiper pad torn up.

& Fouled standard no value recorded.

!!! Temperature probe failure all parameters compromised.

14) Other remarks/notes

In addition to the sampling described above, several other data sets were collected. Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) was also collected using a LiCor 1400 display two sensors: one underwater quantum sensor and one ambient quantum sensor along with Secchi depth. Additional nutrient samples were also collected during the months of April through October. These data are available through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Visit www.eyesonthebay.net for more information.

Data are missing due to equipment or associated specific probes not being deployed, equipment failure, time of maintenance or calibration of equipment, or repair/replacement of a sampling station platform. Any NANs in the dataset stand for “not a number” and are the result of low power, disconnected wires, or out of range readings. If additional information on missing data is needed, contact the Research Coordinator at the reserve submitting the data.

Railroad Bridge (RR)

Received almost three inches of rain!

02/11/18 02:00 to 02/12/18 15:45

Although no fouling was noted at post calibration and turbidity probe post calibrated almost perfectly, erratic turbidity readings display as biofouling or wiper malfunction, therefore data is rejected.

02/26/18 19:00 to 03/01/18 09:00

More than five inches of rainfall!

07/22/18 01:15 to 07/25/18 20:45

Major rain event.

08/02/18 21:45 to 08/03/18 17:30

Iron Pot Landing (IP)

Received almost three inches of rain!

02/10/18 19:15 to 02/12/18 03:00

Deeper than usual depth readings caused by heavy rainfall in excess of 1".

05/17/18 19:15 to 05/20/18 10:00

06/03/18 10:00 to 06/05/18 22:00

Specific conductivity and salinity post calibrated very low and out of range but matchup at retrieval was good. Data transition between deployments appears seamless, therefore specific conductivity, salinity and affected parameters of depth and dissolved oxygen coded as suspect.

07/08/18 01:45 to 07/12/18 10:45

More than five inches of rainfall!

07/21/18 16:30 to 07/22/18 14:45

Data file was thought to have been uploaded and was unfortunately deleted before realizing it had not been uploaded. All data from data file was lost.

08/14/18 10:30 to 08/29/18 09:15

Mataponi Creek (MC)

Although pH post calibrated within range, readings low by about 0.7 units at deployment and 1.4 units at retrieval, therefore all data rejected.

03/01/18 12:00 to 04/03/18 11:45

Although dissolved oxygen post calibrated within range, readings low by almost 1 mg/L at retrieval and wiper was not operating properly at post calibration, therefore data rejected.

03/29/18 18:45 to 04/03/18 11:45

More than five inches of rainfall!

07/21/18 15:30 to 07/25/18 00:15

Although specific conductivity post calibrated out of range, readings at retrieval matchup were well within acceptable range, therefore specific conductivity, salinity, and affected parameters (depth and dissolved oxygen mg/L) are coded as suspect.

07/28/18 11:45 to 07/30/18 11:15

Although pH post calibrated well within range, retrieval matchup is a little low and data does not matchup with dissolved oxygen data at end of deployment.

09/08/18 05:15 to 09/11/18 13:00

Station pulled due to freezing temperatures.

12/12/2018 11:30

Otter Point Creek (OC)

Inexplicable drop in pH. pH probe calibrated and post calibrated within range and there was no other indication of probe malfunction, therefore data is not rejected but coded as suspect.

03/06/18 19:00 to 03/13/18 12:45

Optical short in dissolved oxygen probe may have caused malfunction in chlorophyll probe.

04/03/18	00:30 – 00:45,	01:15	
04/04/18	23:15 to	04/05/18	00:30

Optical short in dissolved oxygen probe may have caused malfunction in chlorophyll and turbidity probes.

04/05/18	00:45 to	04/09/18	01:30
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Optical short in dissolved oxygen probe caused a power drain in the sonde and ultimate sonde power failure.

04/08/18	05:15 – 10:45		
04/09/18	01:45 to	04/10/18	09:30

Although chlorophyll calibrated, post calibrated, and had good matchups, consistent erratic readings throughout deployment make chlorophyll readings unreliable and therefore rejected.

08/01/18	09:15 to	08/22/18	09:00
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Station pulled due to freezing temperatures.

12/06/2018	10:30
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