

Delaware (DEL) NERR Meteorological Metadata
January 01, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Latest Update: February 27, 2017

I. Data Set & Research Descriptors

1) Principal investigators & contact persons:

Contact Persons:

Kari StLaurent, Research Coordinator, kari.StLaurent@state.de.us

Michael G. Mensinger, Environmental Scientist, mike.mensing@state.de.us

Address:

Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
818 Kitts Hummock Road
Dover, DE 19901

Phone: 302-739-6377

Fax: 302-739-3446

2) Entry verification

Data are uploaded from the CR1000 data logger to a Personal Computer (IBM compatible). Loggernet software, installed on the DNERR computer, is utilized to automatically upload data (every 15 minutes) via a short haul modem to this computer located at St. Jones Center for Estuarine Studies. The data are saved as a raw data file (SJ_RAW.dat) onto a separate hard drive and backed up onto Delaware Coastal Programs' (DCP) server. Files are exported from LoggerNet in a comma-delimited format and uploaded to the CDMO where they undergo automated primary QA/QC and become part of the CDMO's online provisional database. During primary QA/QC, data are flagged if they are missing or out of sensor range. The edited file is then returned to the Reserve where it is opened in Microsoft Excel and processed using the CDMO's NERRQA/QC 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 QA/QC flags and codes to the data, append files, and export the resulting data file to the CDMO for tertiary QA/QC and assimilation into the CDMO's authoritative online database. For more information on QA/QC flags and QA/QC codes, see Sections 11 and 12. Michael G. Mensinger conducts all data collection, data management, and QA/QC activities.

Common occurrences noted in the monthly queries were humidity values exceeding 100% and small negative PAR values. These two occurrences are within the range of the two sensors. All errors were double checked with other data that could support such "anomalous" weather changes. Wind speeds below the 0.5 m/s are common between 1900 and 0600 hours.

3) Research objectives:

The principal objective is to record long-term meteorological data for the St. Jones component of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve in order to observe any environmental changes or trends over time. The data are also used for specific research studies relating to

atmospheric deposition of nutrients and pesticides, and nutrient runoff influences from encroaching urbanization on estuarine systems. The meteorological data also serves a supporting role for the SWMP water quality and nutrient data sets since meteorological conditions directly impact these projects.

4) Research methods:

The Campbell Scientific weather station sampled every 5 seconds to produce both 15 minute averages of the measurements of air temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed and wind direction and 15 minute totals of precipitation and photosynthetically active radiation. The CR1000, installed on 09/18/06, contains 2 Mbytes of memory. The data is sent every 15 minutes to a computer for real-time display and storage. If the short haul modem link failed and data could not be automatically sent from the datalogger to the computer, the data would be downloaded from the CR1000 to a laptop computer following procedures in the CDMO Operations Manual. On a monthly basis, sensors on the weather station are inspected for damage or debris. If any is found, it is repaired and/or cleaned. Sensors are removed and sent back to Campbell Scientific for calibration at the following intervals:

Recommended calibration frequency for the MET station sensors:

- Temperature/Humidity- yearly recalibration
- Rain Gauge- yearly recalibration
- Wind Speed/Direction- yearly or every 2 years (depending on the sensor)
- Barometric Pressure- every 2 years recalibration
- PAR- every 2 years recalibration (Delaware recalibrates yearly)
- CR1000-every 5 years (required beginning 2014, one year initial grace period)
- LI-COR LI-200S - every 2 years, with recalibrations performed during the spring and summer

The 15 minute Data are collected in the following formats for the **CR1000**:

- i) Averages from 5-second data:
Air Temperature (°C), Relative Humidity (%), Barometric Pressure (mb),
Wind Speed (m/s), Wind Direction (degrees), Battery Voltage (volts)
- ii) Maximum and Minimum Air Temperature (°C) and their times from 5-second data (these data are available from the Reserve)
- iii) Maximum Wind Speed (m/s) and time from 5-second data
- iv) Wind Direction Standard Deviation (degrees)
- v) Totals:
Precipitation (mm), PAR (millimoles/m²), and Cumulative Precipitation (mm)

Campbell Scientific data telemetry equipment was installed at the St. Jones station on 11/16/05 and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID #3B00F7FE. The transmissions are scheduled hourly and contain four (4) data sets 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 Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is comprised of two component sites, the St. Jones River and Blackbird Creek components. Both components are located along the Delaware Bay Coast. The St. Jones River Component is located in central Kent County Delaware, east of the State capitol city, Dover. The Blackbird Creek component is located in the unincorporated area of Southern New Castle County. The meteorological station site, is located in the St. Jones DNERR component. It is located in a tidal marsh area with a wooded fringe area 100 m to the north, 75 m to east, 75 m to the west and 1+ km to south. The wooded area is of an approximate average height of 16 m.

Position: Latitude 39 degree 05' 20.05" N
Longitude 75 degree 26' 12.78" W

The unit is mounted on a 3-meter tower adjacent to the boardwalk that crosses the marsh. The elevations above the marsh surface are as follows; Barometric pressure - 2.2 m, temperature and relative humidity - 2.9 m, wind and PAR - 4.5 m, highest point on tower (lightning rod) - 4.9 m. The rain gauge is 2.4 m above the surface and 3 m south of the tower. The adjacent boardwalk is 1.1 m above the surface with a railing height of 1.0 m. A vegetative cover of spartina surrounds the area with an average height of 1 m. The tower and rain gauge are both 1 m east of the boardwalk. The weatherstation is located approximately 2 km from the water quality datasonde at Scotton Landing, approximately 4km from the water quality station at Lebanon Landing, and approximately 10km away from the water quality monitoring station at Division Street.

6) Data collection period:

The meteorological monitoring program was started in October 1997 at the DNERR and has been continuous through the present. The data collection format has followed NERRS protocol since standardized meteorological program development in November of 1998. The 2015 data set runs from January 1, 2015 (00:00 EST) through December 31, 2015 (23:45 EST) with missing data from the following periods:

01/27/2015 (07:45 – 14:45 EST)
02/04/2015 (1330 – 14:00 EST)
12/04/2015 (08:15 EST) – 12/08/2015 (15:00 EST)
12/22/2015 (14:45 – 16:00 EST)

Monthly data were downloaded from the station on the following dates:

01/05/2015	07/01/2015
02/04/2015	08/04/2015
03/03/2015	09/09/2015
04/02/2015	10/01/2015
05/07/2015	11/02/2015
06/01/2015	12/04/2015
	01/04/2016

7) Distribution:

According to the Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Data Dissemination Policy for the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program, 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 meteorological 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:

The NERR Water Quality Monitoring Project has four stations located at the DNERR. The principal objective of this study is to record long-term water quality data for St. Jones and Blackbird watersheds in order to observe any physical changes or trends in water quality over time. The Blackbird station represents a pristine site while the the three St. Jones River stations represent impacted sites. Measurements are taken every 15 minutes over roughly two-week collecting periods.

The NERR Nutrient Monitoring Project has five stations located at the DNERR. The objective of this monitoring program is to provide baseline information on inorganic nutrient and Chla water quality status in the Delaware NERR while also contributing to baseline information nationally. Diel and grab samples are collected monthly at each of the five sites.

In addition atmospheric deposition of rainfall events was performed during years past in the DNERR watersheds to monitor and characterize the nutrient input to the estuary from differing storm events and seasonally. One sampler was once positioned in the St. Jones watershed (the additional two were decommissioned in 2003) and one was once located in the Blackbird watershed.

II. Physical Structure Descriptors

9) Sensor specifications, operating range, accuracy, date of last calibration

LiCor Quantum Sensor

Model # LI190SB

Stability: $<\pm 2\%$ change over 1 yr

Operating Temperature: -40 to 65°C

Sensitivity: typically 5 μA per 1000 $\mu\text{moles s}^{-1} \text{m}^{-2}$

Light spectrum wavelength: 400 to 700 nm

Date of last Installation/Calibration: 8/15/2000 (installed new 12/20/2000)

12/19/2002: Replaced with unit (s/n Q22182, recalib 11/14/2002)

12/21/2004: Replaced with unit (s/n Q99240, recalib 09/17/2004)

01/11/2007: Replaced with unit (s/n Q22182, recalib 05/03/2005)

01/07/2008: Replaced with unit (s/n Q99240, recalib 11/14/2007) (multiplier = 1.29)

12/30/2008: Replaced with unit (s/n Q22182, recalib 10/31/2008) (multiplier = 1.51)

11/30/2009: Replaced with unit (s/n Q99240, recalib 05/22/2009) (multiplier = 1.35)

04/04/2011: Replaced with unit (s/n Q30325, recalib 01/20/2011) (multiplier = 1.591951)

04/12/2012: Replaced with unit (s/n Q22182, recalib 03/14/2012) (multiplier = 1.616825)

05/08/2013: Replaced with unit (s/n, Q30325 recalib 07/23/2012) (multiplier = 1.642489)

05/01/2014: Replaced with unit ((s/n Q22182 recalib 04/10/2014 (multiplier = 1.652324)

Discontinued use of this sensor model on 06/05/2015

PAR Multipliers:

1.29 (Used 01/07/2008 to 12/30/2008)

1.51 (Used 12/30/2008 to 11/30/2009)

1.35 (Used 11/30/2009 to 04/11/2011)

1.591951 (Used 04/11/2011 to 04/12/2012)

1.616825 (Used 04/12/2012 to 05/08/2013)

1.642489 (Used 05/08/2013 to 05/01/2014)

1.652324 (Used 05/01/2014 to 06/05/2015)

Apogee Quantum Sensor

Model # SQ-110

Stability: $<2\%$ per year

Operating Temperature: -40 to 70 C

Sensitivity: 0.2 mV per $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$

Light spectrum wavelength: 410 nm to 655 nm

Initiated Use of this Sensor Model: 06/05/2015

Date of Last Installation/Calibration:

06/05/2015: (s/n 17010 installed new, initial calib 11/2014)

PAR Multiplier: 0.025 (multiplier never changes with this model: Used 06/05/2015 to current)

Wind Monitor

Model # 05103

Range: 0-60 m/s; 360° mechanical

Date of last Installation/Calibration:

04/05/1999 (installed new 12/20/2000)

12/19/2002: Replaced with unit (s/n WM49558)

12/21/2004: Replaced with unit (s/n 35269, recalib 09/01/2004)

01/11/2007: Replaced with unit (s/n 49546, recalib 12/01/2006)

01/07/2008: Replaced with unit (s/n 35269, recalib 09/14/2007)
03/10/2010: Replaced with unit (s/n 49558, recalib 02/19/2010)
08/20/2012: Replaced with unit (s/n 49546, recalib 07/30/2012)
05/01/2014: Replaced with unit (s/n 49558, recalib 04/04/2014)

Temperature and Relative Humidity

Model #: HC2-S3 (05/08/2013 - current)

Operating Temperature: -40-+60°C

Temperature Measurement Range: -40-+60°C

Temperature Accuracy: ± 0.1 °C @ 23°C

Relative Humidity Measurement Range: 0-100% non-condensing

RH Accuracy: $\pm 0.8\%$ @ 23°C

Date of last Installation/Calibration:

05/08/2013: Replaced with unit (s/n 0061045311, brand new sensor)

05/01/2014: Replaced with unit (s/n 0061218130, brand new sensor)

06/05/2015: Replaced with unit (s/n 0020017749, brand new sensor)

Barometric Pressure (Discontinued Use of CS-105 on 11/04/2013)

Model # CS-106 (PTB110)

Operating Range: Pressure - 500-1100 mb

Temperature: -40-+60C

Humidity: non-condensing

Accuracy: ± 0.3 to 1.5 mb (+20-60C)

Stability: ± 0.1 mb per year

Date of Last Installation/Calibration:

11/04/2013: (s/n J4060004 installed new, initial calib 10/07/2013)

05/01/2014: (s/n J513002 installed new, initial calib 12/18/2013)

Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge

Model #: TE 525

Range: 0.1 mm

Accuracy: 1.0% at <2 "/hr

Serial Number: unavailable, designated as DNERR1

Date of Last calibration: field calibrated 12/20/2000, 12/19/2001, 12/19/2002,
12/22/2003, 12/22/2004, 12/16/2005, 12/29/2006, 01/07/2008, 12/30/2008, 10/05/2009,
09/23/2010, 09/19/2011, 09/20/2012, 09/20/2013, 09/11/2014, 09/08/2015

The CR1000 has two MB Flash EEPROM that is used to store the Operating System. Another 128 K Flash is used to store configuration settings. A minimum of 2 MB SRAM is (4 MB optional) is available for program storage (16K), operating system use, and data storage. Additional storage is available by using a compact flash card in the optional CFM100 Compact Flash Module.

CR1000 S/N: 4976 (installed on September 18, 2006)

Last Calibrated: 01/30/2015

CR1000 Firmware Version: OS27.05 (installation date unavailable)

CR1000 Program Versions: delsjmet_5.5_040411 (April 4, 2011 – April 12, 2012)
deljsmet_5.5_041212 (April 12, 2012 – May 07, 2013)
deljsmet_5.5_050713 (May 07, 2013 – May 08, 2013)

delsjmet_5.5_050813 (May 08, 2013 – November 04, 2013)
delsjmet_5.5_110413 (November 04, 2013 – December 11, 2013)
delsjmet_5.5_121113 (December 11, 2013- May 01, 2014)
delsjmet_5.5_050114 (May 01, 2014- June 05, 2015)
delsjmet_5.5_060515 (June 05, 2015 – June 25, 2015)
delsjmet_5.5_062515 (June 25, 2015 – present)

10) Coded variable indicator and variable code definitions:

- DELSJMET (station code) "DEL" indicates the Delaware NERR
"SJ" indicates the St. Jones River Site
"MET" indicates meteorological sampling/data

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 above or below sensor range, or missing. All remaining data are then flagged 0, as 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 Passed Initial QAQC Checks
- 1 Suspect Data
- 2 *Open - reserved for later flag*
- 3 *Open - reserved for later flag*
- 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 CR1000, 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
GIM Instrument Malfunction

GIT	Instrument Recording Error, Recovered Telemetry Data
GMC	No Instrument Deployed due to Maintenance/Calibration
GMT	Instrument Maintenance
GPD	Power Down
GPF	Power Failure / Low Battery
GPR	Program Reload
GQR	Data Rejected Due to QA/QC Checks
GSM	See Metadata

Sensor Errors

SDG	Suspect due to sensor diagnostics
SIC	Incorrect Calibration Constant, Multiplier or Offset
SIW	Incorrect Wiring
SMT	Sensor Maintenance
SNV	Negative Value
SOC	Out of Calibration
SQR	Data rejected due to QAQC checks
SSD	Sensor Drift
SSN	Not a Number / Unknown Value
SSM	Sensor Malfunction
SSR	Sensor Removed

Comments

CAF	Acceptable Calibration/Accuracy Error of Sensor
CCU	Cause Unknown
CDF	Data Appear to Fit Conditions
CML	Snow Melt from Previous Snowfall Event
CRE*	Significant Rain Event
CSM*	See Metadata
CVT*	Possible Vandalism/Tampering
CWE*	Significant Weather Event

13) Other remarks/notes

a) Data are missing due to equipment or associated specific sensors 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.

b) Small negative PAR values are within range of the sensor and are due to normal errors in the sensor and the CR1000 Datalogger. The Maximum signal noise error for the Licor sensor is +/- 2.214 mmol/m² over a 15 minute interval.

c) Relative Humidity data ranging from 100-103% are within range of the sensor accuracy of +/- 3%. Relative humidity values exceeding 103% are outside the sensor’s accuracy range and are rejected (coded with a -3) during QAQC analysis.

d) Data recorded for all parameters (with the exception of cumulative precipitation) at the midnight timestamp (00:00) are the 15 minute averages and totals for the 23:45-23:59 time period of the previous day. Cumulative precipitation data at the midnight timestamp (00:00) are the sum of raw (unrounded) precipitation data from 00:00 to 23:59 of the previous day. Summing each individual 15-minute total precipitation value from the same period will result in small differences from cumulative precipitation due to rounding. It is especially important to note how data at the midnight timestamp are recorded when using January 1st and December 31st data.

Note: Cumulative precipitation is no longer available via export from the CDMO. Please contact the Reserve or the CDMO for more information or to obtain these data.

e) “See Metadata Comment” (CSM Code) Explanations:

1. Small nighttime PAR values were observed throughout the year through visual scanning of the data and were marked as suspect. These slightly elevated (above 0 during night hours when expected PAR would be 0) values (usually not exceeding 2.214 mmol/m²) fall within the maximum signal noise error of the Licor sensor, but may be caused by moisture intrusions or other factors.

2. All data from 01/27/2015 (15:00 EST) to 02/04/2015 (13:15 EST) were collected using a backup CR1000 to avoid data loss while the normal datalogger was removed and sent in for calibration.

3. Cumulative Precipitation values were corrected on 06/05/2015 13:00 through 06/06/2015 00:00 from 0.0mm to 0.8mm to reflect rainfall that occurred earlier in the day and before the CR1000 program reload that reset the cumulative readings back to 0.0mm.

4. PAR data from 06/05/2015 13:00 - 06/25/2015 13:45 were either rejected or flagged as suspect due to the sensor outputting unrealistically low values during this timeframe. Only a few early morning and evening values were recorded each day, these were flagged as suspect, <1> CSM, while NaNs recorded during daylight hours were rejected <-3> SSN CSM.