Delaware (DEL) National Estuarine Research Reserve Nutrient Metadata
(January 2002-December 2002)
Latest Update: May 16, 2025

I. Data Set and Research Descriptors

1) Principal investigator(s) and contact persons –

a) Reserve Contacts:

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c) Other Contacts and Programs: None

2) Research objectives –

a) Monthly Grab Program:

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. The five sites chosen for monitoring will assist in understanding the impacts of both urban and agricultural impacts on the watersheds.

b) Diel Sampling Program:

The objective of this monitoring program is to provide baseline information on inorganic nutrient and Chla water quality status in the Delaware NERR. The diel sampling program attempts to capture a more comprehensive view by assessing fluctuating nutrient amounts throughout a lunar tidal cycle. The site chosen for monitoring will assist in understanding the impacts of both urban and agricultural impacts on the watersheds.

3) Research methods –

a) Monthly Grab Sampling Program:

Monthly grab samples are taken at 3 sites in the St. Jones River watershed and 2 sites in the Blackbird watershed. These sites coincide with the five datasonde sites: Scotton Landing, Lebanon Landing, Division Street, Blackbird Landing, and Beaver Branch. All grab samples are taken on the same day between +/- 3 hours slack-low tide. No distinction is made between neap and spring tide conditions. Efforts are made to allow for an antecedent dry period of 72 hours prior to sampling, however this was not always possible due to staffing limitations and extensive periods of inclimate weather. Sampling events are staggered 30 days apart to the best of the research staff's ability. Replicate (N=2) samples are collected with a Wildco grab sampler at an approximate depth of 30 cm. All samples are collected in wide-mouth, nalgene sample bottles that were previously acid washed (10%), rinsed (3x) with distilled-deionized water, dried, and rinsed (2x) with ambient water prior to collection of the sample. Samples are immediately placed on ice, in a dark cooler and returned to the laboratory.

Once in the DNERR laboratory, samples are shaken and processed for nutrient and Chla analysis. Sample processing includes the filtration of samples since all analysis takes place at the Virginia Institute for Marine Science (VIMS). The filtering methods differ between samples for Chla analysis and other nutrient parameter analysis. Chl-a processing included filtering a 100ml sample through a 47mm Whatman GF/F filters using a vaccum-pump and filter flask apparatus. The Whatman type GF/F filter is folded immediately after sample filtering, enclosed in tinfoil, placed in a sealed bag, and placed in the freezer until it is sent off for analysis the following day. Sample processing for other parameters includes filtering

100ml of a sample through 0.45um Millipore filters using a vaccum-pump and a filtering flask apparatus. If samples are extremely dirty a 47mm GF/C filter may be used to filter the sample prior to filtering through the 0.45um Millipore filter. The liquid volume of the filtered sample is collected into a Nalgene bottle and placed in the freezer until shipment time arrives the following day. All lab glassware is acid washed (10% HCl) and rinsed (6x) using distilled-deionized water between samples to avoid any contamination.

b) Diel Sampling Program:

Diel samples are collected once a month at Scotton Landing, a site located along the St. Jones River. An Isco 6700 automated sampler takes samples at 2.5-hour intervals over a 25-hour cycle, thus resulting in 11 samples per event. Diel sampling starts between +/- 3 hours slack-low tide. No distinction is made between neap and spring tide conditions. Efforts are made to allow for an antecedent dry period of 72 hours prior to starting the sampler, however this was not always possible due to staffing limitations and extensive periods of inclimate weather. Sampling events are staggered 30 days apart to the best of the research staff's ability. Samples are collected at an approximate depth of 30 cm coinciding with the vertical placement of the data sonde. All samples are collected in wide-mouth, Nalgene sampler bottles that were previously acid washed (10%), rinsed (3x) with distilled-deionized water, and dried. Samples are immediately placed on ice, inside the ice-filled sampler. Samples are processed in the same manner illustrated in the "Monthly Grab Sampling Program" portion of this section.

4) 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. There are five sampling sites, three located in the St. Jones component and two in the Blackbird Creek component.

1) Scotton Landing (SL) - is located in the Lower St. Jones River at the Scotton Landing Public Fishing Pier, just up stream of Delaware Route 113. The river is 22.3 km long (mainstream linear dimension), has an average depth of 4m MHW and the width is 50 m. At the sampling site, the depth is 3.2 m MHW and the width is 40 m. The sediment is clayey silt with no bottom vegetation. The watershed-draining site is 19778 ha. The site is influenced by freshwater runoff from the relatively urbanized area upstream. Pollutants in the area include PCB's.

Salinity ranges from 1- 30 ppt.
Tidal Range: Spring Mean (m) – 1.26

Neap Mean (m) – 1.13
Position: Latitude 39 degree 05' 05.9160" N
Longitude 75 degree 27' 38.1049" W

2) Blackbird Landing (BL) - is located in the upper Blackbird Creek at Blackbird Landing Road. The creek is 25.8 km long (mainstream linear dimension), has an average depth of 3 m MHW, and an average width of 90 m. At the sampling site, the depth is 1.8 m MHW and width is 110 m. The sediment is silty clay with no bottom vegetation. The watershed draining site is 4694 ha. The site is influenced by freshwater runoff from unimpacted forested areas intermixed with agricultural land uses and a small amount of low-density development. There is very little pollutant presence in the area.

Salinity ranges from 0-9 ppt.
Tidal Range: Spring Mean (m) – 1.12
Neap Mean (m) – 1.13
Position: Latitude 39 degree 23' 19.5196" N
Longitude 75 degree 38' 09.5882" W

3) Lebanon Landing (LL) - is located in the mid portion of the St. Jones River at the Lebanon Landing Public Fishing Pier, farther upstream from the Scotton Landing monitoring site. The St. Jones River is 22.3 km long (mainstream linear dimension), has an average depth of 4m MHW and the width is 50 m. At the sampling site, the depth is 3.0 m MHW and the width is 28 m. The sediment is clayey silt with no bottom vegetation. The watershed-draining site is 19778 ha. The site is influenced by freshwater runoff from the relatively urbanized area upstream. Pollutants in the area include PCB's.

Salinity ranges from 0 to 28ppt.
Tidal Range: Spring Mean (m) – 0.855
Neap Mean (m) – 0.671
Position: Latitude 39 degree 06' 51.8" N
Longitude 75 degree 29' 57.1" W

4) Division Street (DS) - is located in the upper portion of the St. Jones River near the USGS station on Division Street. The site is influenced by runoff from the urbanized surroundings. The St. Jones River is 22.3 km long (mainstream linear dimension), has an average depth of 4m MHW and the width is 50 m. At the sampling site, the depth is 0.6m MHW and the width is 26 m. The sediment is clayey silt with no bottom vegetation. The site is fresh water and is influenced by urban freshwater runoff.

Salinity Range: Fresh water (0.1 ppt)
Tidal Range: Not Applicable, freshwater

Position:	Latitude	39 degree 09’ 49.4” N
	Longitude	75 degree 31’ 08.7” W

5) Beaver Branch (BB) - is located in the upper Blackbird Creek. . The sampling site is situated on the south side of a Union Church Road bridge. The creek is 1.5 km long (mainstream linear dimension), has an average depth of 1.5m MHW, and an average width of 37m. At the sampling site, the depth is 1.4m MHW and width is 12.8 m. The site is influenced by freshwater runoff from unimpacted forested areas intermixed with agricultural land uses and increasing amounts of development. The sediment is silty clay with no bottom vegetation. Some emergent vegetation exists near the western bank. The watershed draining site is 4694 ha. There is very little pollutant presence in the area.

Salinity Range: 0.5-10.0 ppt		
Tidal Range:	Spring Mean (m) – 0.82	
	Neap Mean (m)-0.72	
Position:	Latitude	39 degree 24' 08.6" N
	Longitude	75 degree 37' 40.7" W

5) Code variable definitions –

Each individual sample is given a 3 part name code in addition to other codes. The 3 part name code, “delslnut” for example, gives the reserve name (del = Delaware), station name (sl = Scotton Landing, etc), and SWMP program code (nut = nutrient monitoring program).

Sampling Site Codes:

delslnut = Delaware Reserve nutrient data for Scotton Landing
delblnut = Delaware Reserve nutrient data for Blackbird Landing
delllnut= Delaware Reserve nutrient data for Lebanon Landing
deldsnut = Delaware Reserve nutrient data for Division Street
delbbnut= Delaware Reserve nutrient data for Beaver Branch

The monitoring codes are set as “1” to indicate grab samples and “2” to indicate diel samples. Replicates are also given specific codes. Grab samples in which duplicates sample are taken utilize a “1” for the first sample and a “2” for the second sample. Diel samples are always labeled with a “1” since only one sample is taken at each 2.5 hr interval.

6) Data collection period –

Diel Sampling

Site	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
SL	01/22/02	1015	1/23/2002	0845
SL	2/19/2002	0900	2/20/2002	1000
SL	02/25/02	1400	3/26/2002	1500
SL	4/17/2002	0800	4/18/2002	0900
SL	5/28/2002	1100	5/29/2002	1200
SL	6/24/2002	1400	6/25/2002	1500
SL	No July Sample Taken			
SL	8/5/2002**	1130	8/6/2002	1230
SL	8/22/2002	0800	8/23/2002	0900
SL	9/19/2002	1100	9/20/2002	1200
SL	10/7/2002	0730	10/8/2002	0830
SL	11/12/2002	0900	11/13/2002	1000
SL	12/16/2002	1300	12/17/2002	1400

** See Section 16 for further information

Grab Sampling

Site	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
SL	1/7/2002	1113	1/7/2002	1117
SL	2/4/2002	0956	2/4/2002	1003
SL	3/7/2002	1116	3/7/2002	1119
SL	4/5/2002	0906	4/5/2002	0910
SL	5/6/2002	1042	5/6/2002	1050
SL	6/4/2002	1030	6/4/2002	1035
SL	7/2/2002	0908	7/2/2002	0913
SL	No August Sample Taken			
SL	9/24/2002	0641	9/24/2002	0646
SL	10/29/2002	0938	10/29/2002	0942
SL	11/26/2002	0855	11/26/2002	0858
SL	12/10/2002	0836	12/10/2002	0841

Site	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
LL	1/7/2002	1132	1/7/2002	1137
LL	2/4/2002	1033	2/4/2002	1038
LL	3/7/2002	1133	3/7/2002	1137
LL	4/5/2002	0926	4/5/2002	0929
LL	5/6/2002	1104	5/6/2002	1109
LL	6/4/2002	1051	6/4/2002	1055
LL	7/2/2002	0934	7/2/2002	0937
LL	No August Sample Taken			
LL	9/24/2002	0703	9/24/2002	0706

LL	10/29/2002	0956	10/29/2002	0959
LL	11/26/2002	0907	11/26/2002	0910
LL	12/10/2002	0900	12/10/2002	0904

Site	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
DS	1/7/2002	1045	1/7/2002	1049
DS	2/4/2002	1059	2/4/2002	1104
DS	3/7/2002	1154	3/7/2002	1158
DS	4/5/2002	0946	4/5/2002	0949
DS	5/6/2002	1128	5/6/2002	1133
DS	6/4/2002	1113	6/4/2002	1118
DS	7/2/2002	0959	7/2/2002	1003
DS	No August Sample Taken			
DS	9/24/2002	0722	9/24/2002	0727
DS	10/29/2002	1016	10/29/2002	1020
DS	11/26/2002	0927	11/26/2002	0930
DS	12/10/2002	0917	12/10/2002	0922

Site	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
BL	1/7/2002	1004	1/7/2002	1007
BL	2/4/2002	1223	2/4/2002	1226
BL	3/7/2002	1237	3/7/2002	1243
BL	4/5/2002	1038	4/5/2002	1041
BL	5/6/2002	1220	5/6/2002	1222
BL	6/4/2002	1212	6/4/2002	1218
BL	7/2/2002	1055	7/2/2002	1058
BL	No August Sample Taken			
BL	9/24/2002	0812	9/24/2002	0814
BL	10/29/2002	1050	10/29/2002	1055
BL	11/26/2002	1020	11/26/2002	1023
BL	12/10/2002	1013	12/10/2002	1018

Site	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
BB	No January Sample Taken For This Site			
BB	2/4/2002	1245	2/4/2002	1255
BB	3/7/2002	1251	3/7/2002	1255
BB	4/5/2002	1049	4/5/2002	1052
BB	5/6/2002	1227	5/6/2002	1231
BB	6/4/2002	1231	6/4/2002	1233
BB	7/2/2002	1107	7/2/2002	1109
BB	No August Sample Taken			
BB	9/24/2002	0821	9/24/2002	0824

BB	10/29/2002	1110	10/29/2002	1123
BB	11/26/2002	1032	11/26/2002	1035
BB	12/10/2002	1033	12/10/2002	1036

7) Associated researchers and projects –

The DNERR water quality monitoring program occurs at the corresponding nutrient sample sites. A YSI 6600 datasonde is deployed at each site measuring: dissolved oxygen, salinity, specific conductivity, water temperature, depth, turbidity, and pH. Weather data is collected in both the St. Jones River and Blackbird Creek watershed near nutrient/water quality sites as another portion of the NERRS SWMP program. An additional stormwater sampling program is underway to analyze the impact of agricultural BMP's at sites in the Blackbird Creek Watershed, St. Jones River Watershed.

8) Distribution -

NOAA/ERD retains the right to analyze, synthesize and publish summaries of the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program data. The PI retains the right to be fully credited for having collected and processed the data. Following academic courtesy standards, the PI and NERR site where the data were collected will be contacted and fully acknowledged in any subsequent publications in which any part of the data are used. Manuscripts resulting from this NOAA/OCRM supported research that are produced for publication in open literature, including refereed scientific journals, will acknowledge that the research was conducted under an award from the Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 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.

NERR water quality data and metadata can be obtained from the Research Coordinator at the individual NERR site (please see Section 1. 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 http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/. Data are available in text tab-delimited format, Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format and comma-delimited format.

II. Physical Structure Descriptors:

9) Entry verification –

Excel data files containing measured values received from the VIMS Analytical Laboratory are used to generate calculated parameter values. Both directly measured and calculated values were entered into this document by Michael G. Mensinger. Michael G. Mensinger is also responsible for a visual QA/QC to make sure no entry errors are present. The original Excel files received from VIMS are archived on the State of Delaware server. Edited files containing additional calculated parameters, are archived on the State of Delaware server and sent to the CDMO for additional archiving.

10) Parameter Titles and Variable Names by Data Category –

Required NOAA/NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program water quality parameters are denoted by an asterisks "*".

Data Category	Parameter	Variable Name	Units of Measure
i) Phosphorus:	*Orthophosphate	PO4F	mg/L as P
ii) Nitrogen:	*Nitrite + Nitrate, Filtered	NO23F	mg/ L as N
	*Nitrite, Filtered	NO2F	mg/ L as N
	*Nitrate, Filtered	NO3F	mg/ L as N
	*Ammonium, Filtered	NH4F	mg/ L as N
	*Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	DIN	mg/ L as N
iii) Plant Pigments:	*Chlorophyll a	CHLA_N	ug/ L
	*Phaeophytin	PHEA	ug/ L

iv) Field Parameters: none

Notes:
1. Time is coded based on a 2400 hour clock and is referenced to Eastern Standard Time (EST).
2. Reserves have the option of measuring either NO23 or NO2 or NO3.

11) Measured and Calculate Laboratory Parameters –

a) Variables Measured Directly:

Nitrogen Species:	NO2F, NO23F, NH4F
Phosphorus:	PO4F
Other:	CHLA, PHEA

b) Computed Variables:

Nitrogen Species: NO3: (NO23F-NO2F)
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 the VIMS Nutrient Analytical Laboratory. The MDL is determined as 3 times the standard deviation of a minimum of 7 replicates of a single low concentration sample. Table 1 presents the current MDL's; these values are reviewed and revised periodically.

Table 1. Method Detection Limits (MDL) for measured water quality parameters.

Parameter	Variable	Method Detection Limit	Dates in Use
Ammonium	NH4F	0.0015 mg/ L as N	2002-2003
Nitrite	NO2F	0.0002 mg/ L as N	2002-2003
Orthophosphate	PO4F	0.0006 mg/ L as P	2002-2003
Nitrite + Nitrate, filtered	NO23F	0.0008 mg/ L as N	2002-2003
Chlorophyll a	CHLA	0.5000	2002-2003
Phaeophytin	PHEA	0.5000	2002-2003

13) Laboratory Methods –

i) Parameter: Orthophosphate

Method References:
Virginia Institute of Marine Science Analytical Service Center.
SKALAR Method: O-Phosphate / Total Phosphate Catnr. 503-365.1, issue 042993/MH/93-Demo1.
Murphy, J. and J.P. Riley. 1962. A modified single solution method for the determination of phosphate in natural waters. Analytica Chim. Acta 27 : 31-36.
EPA 600/R-97/072 Method 365.5 Determination of Orthophosphate in Estuarine and Coastal Waters by Automated Colorimetric Analysis. IN: Methods for the Determination of Chemical Substances in Marine and Estuarine Environmental Matrices - 2nd Edition. National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development . U.S. EPA, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.

Method Descriptor:
Instrumentation: SKALAR San-Plus continuous flow autoanalyzer.
Ammonium molybdate and antimony potassium tartrate react in a sulfuric acid environment to form an antimony-phospho-molybdo complex, which is reduced to a blue colored complex by ascorbic acid. Reaction is heat catalizyed at 40?C and measured colorimetrically at 880nm. The range is 1-50 ppb.

Preservation Method:
100ml of a sample is filtered through 0.45um Millipore filters using a vaccum-pump and a filtering flask apparatus. If samples are extremely dirty a 47mm GF/C filter may be used to filter the sample prior to filtering through the 0.45um Millipore filter. The liquid volume of the filtered sample is collected into a Nalgene bottle and placed in the freezer until shipment time arrives the following day.

ii) Parameter: Nitrite

Method References:
Virginia Institute of Marine Science Analytical Service Center.
SKALAR Method 467

Method Descriptor:
Instrumentation: SKALAR San-Plus continuous flow autoanalyzer.
An adaptation of the diazotization method. Under acidic conditions, nitrite ion reacts with sulfanilimide to yield a diazo compound which couples with N-1-napthylethylenediamine dihydrochloride to form a soluble dye which is measured colorimetrically at 540nm. The range is 0.001 to 0.050 mg/L.

Preservation Method:
100ml of a sample is filtered through 0.45um Millipore filters using a vaccum-pump and a filtering flask apparatus. If samples are extremely dirty a 47mm GF/C filter may be used to filter the sample prior to filtering through the 0.45um Millipore filter. The liquid volume of the filtered sample is collected into a Nalgene bottle and placed in the freezer until shipment time arrives the following day.

iii) Parameter: Nitrate + Nitrite

Method References:
Virginia Institute of Marine Science Analytical Service Center.

SKALAR Method: Nitrate + Nitrite/ Total Dissolved Nitrogen Catnr. 461-353.2 issue 120293/MH/93128060.

U.S. EPA. 1974 Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes, pp. 207 -212.

Wood, E.D., F.A.G. Armstrong and F.A. Richards. 1967. Determination of nitrate in seawater by cadmium-copper reduction to nitrite. J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. U.K. 47: 23.

Grasshoff, K., M. Ehrhardt and K. Kremling. 1983. Methods of Seawater Analysis. Verlag Chemie, Federal Republic of Germany. 419 pp.

EPA 600/R-97/072 Method 353.4 Determination of Nitrate and Nitrite in Estuarine and Coastal Waters by Gas Segmented Flow Colorimetric Analysis. IN: Methods for the Determination of Chemical Substances in Marine and Estuarine Environmental Matrices - 2nd Edition. National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development U.S. EPA, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.

Method Descriptor:
Instrumentation: SKALAR San-Plus continuous flow autoanalyzer.

Nitrate is reduced to nitrite by a copper/cadmium reductor column. The nitrite ion then reacts with sulfanilimide to form a diazo compound. This compound then couples with n-1-napthylenediamine dihydrochloride to form a reddish/purple azo dye and is read colorimetrical at 540 nm. Nitrate concentration is obtained by subtracting the corresponding nitrite value from the NO3- + NO2- concentration. The color development chemistry is the same as that used in Nitrite. Range is 0 -1.2 mg/L.

Preservation Method:
100ml of a sample is filtered through 0.45um Millipore filters using a vaccum-pump and a filtering flask apparatus. If samples are extremely dirty a 47mm GF/C filter may be used to filter the sample prior to filtering through the 0.45um Millipore filter. The liquid volume of the filtered sample is collected into a Nalgene bottle and placed in the freezer until shipment time arrives the following day.

iv) Parameter: Ammonia

Method References:
Virginia Institute of Marine Science Analytical Service Center.

U.S. EPA. 1974. Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes, pp. 168-174.

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 14th edition. p 410. Method 418A and
418B (1975).

Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Part 31. "Water", Standard 1426-74, Method A, p 237 (1976).

EPA 600/R-97/072 Method 349.0. Determination of Ammonia in Estuarine and Coastal Waters by Gas Segmented Continuous Flow Colorimetric Analysis. IN: Methods for the Determination of Chemical Substances in Marine and Estuarine Environmental Matrices - 2nd Edition.

National Exposure Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Development U.S. EPA, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.

Method Descriptor:
Instrumentation: SKALAR San-Plus continuous flow autoanalyzer.
Alkaline phenol and hypochlorite react with ammonia to form indophenol blue that is proportional to the ammonia concentration. The blue color formed is intensified with sodium nitroprusside. Reaction is heat catalyzed at 37oC and is measured colorimetrically at 660 nm. The range is 0.01 - 2.0 mg/L.

Preservation Method:
100ml of a sample is filtered through 0.45um Millipore filters using a vaccum-pump and a filtering flask apparatus. If samples are extremely dirty a 47mm GF/C filter may be used to filter the sample prior to filtering through the 0.45um Millipore filter. The liquid volume of the filtered sample is collected into a Nalgene bottle and placed in the freezer until shipment time arrives the following day.

v) Parameter: Chlorophyll and Pheophytin

Method References:

Virginia Institute of Marine Science Analytical Service Center.
Strickland, J.D.H., and Parson, T.R. 1972. A Practical Handbook of Seawater Analysis. Fish. Res. Bd. Canada 167:310.
TD-700 Laboratory Fluorometer Operating Manual. Version 1.8. July 7, 1999. Turner Designs, 845 West Maude Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.
EPA /600/ R-97/072 - Method 445.0. In Vitro Determination of Chlorophyll a and Pheophytin a in Marine and Freshwater Algae by Fluoresence. Methods for the Determination of Chemical Substances in Marine and Estuarine Environmental Matrices Revision 1.2. September 1997.
Using the Turner Designs Model 10 Analog, The 10AU Digital, Or the TD-700 Fluorometer with EPA Method 445.0. January 19, 1999. Turner Designs, 845 West Maude Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

Method Descriptor:

Instrumentation: Milton Roy Spectronic 1201 spectrophometer or Turner Designs TD-700 fluorometer. The two methods for determining Chlorophyll a given here are with 1) a scanning spectrophotometer and 2) a Turner Design fluorometer. The method used requires filtering a known quantity of water through a glass fiber filter (4.7 cm GF/F). This filter is later ground with a tissue grinder made of teflon/glass.

Approximately 1-3mLs of 90% acetone are added to the filter before grinding. Acetone is also used to wash the filter into 17 x 150 test tube with tight fitting cap. The sample is steeped at least 2 hours and not exceeding 24 hours at 4oC, in the dark. The samples are centrifuged and read on a spectrophotometer or fluorometer. If the samples can not be read within that time period, storage in the freezer at -20oC for a few days is acceptable. If pheophytin measurements are desired, the sample is acidified and read again.

Preservation Method:

A 100ml sample is filtered through a 47mm Whatman GF/F filters using a vaccum-pump and filter flask apparatus. The Whatman type GF/F filter is folded immediately after sample filtering, enclosed in tinfoil, placed in a sealed bag, and placed in the freezer until it is sent off for analysis the following day.

14) Reporting of Missing Data and Data with Concentrations Lower than Method Detection Limits –

Nutrient/Chla comment codes and definitions are provided in the following table. Missing data are denoted by a blank cell " " and commented coded with an "M". Laboratories in the NERRS System submit data that are censored at a lower detection rate limit, called the Method Detection Limit or MDL. MDL's for specific parameters are listed in the Laboratory Methods and Detection Limits Section (Section II, Part 14) of this document. Measured concentrations that are less than this limit are replaced with the minimum detection limit value and comment coded with a "B" in the variable code comment column. For example, the measured concentration of NO23F was 0.0005 mg/L as N (MDL=0.0008), the reported value would be 0.0008 with a "B" placed in the NO23F comment code column. Calculated

parameters are comment coded with a “C” and if any of the components used in the calculation are below the MDL, the calculated value is removed and also comment coded with a “B”. If a calculated value is negative, the value is removed and comment coded with an “N”.

Note: The way below MDL values are handled in the NERRS SWMP dataset was changed in November of 2011. Previously, below MDL data from 2002-2006 were also coded with a B, but replaced with -9999 place holders. Any 2002-2006 nutrient/pigment data downloaded from the CDMO prior to December November of 2011 will contain -9999s representing below MDL concentrations.

Comment Code	Definition
A	Value above upper limit of method detection
B	Value below method detection limit
C	Calculated value
D	Data deleted or calculated value could not be determined due to deleted data, see metadata for details
H	Sample held beyond specified holding time
K	Check metadata for further details
M	Data missing, sample never collected or calculated value could not be determined due to missing data
P	Significant precipitation (reserve defined, see metadata for further details)
U	Lab analysis from unpreserved sample
S	Data suspect, see metadata for further details

15) QA/QC Programs – [This section describes field variability, laboratory variability, the use of inter-organizational splits, sample spikes, standards and cross calibration exercises.]

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a) Precision:

i) Field Variability – True field replicates are taken at each site during grab sampling. The one replicate is a successive grab. Sample XXXXXX-G1 is taken and the sampler emptied. The grab sampler is deployed once again to acquire XXXXXX-G2.

ii) Laboratory Variability – none

iii) Inter-organizational splits – samples were not split or analyzed by two different labs

b) Accuracy:

i) Sample Spikes –information unavailable

ii) Standard Reference Material Analysis –information unavailable

iii) Cross Calibration Exercises – DNERR did not participate in cross calibration exercises.

16) Other Remarks-

On 5/16/2025 this dataset was updated to include embedded QAQC flags and codes for anomalous/suspect, rejected, missing, and below detection limit data. System-wide monitoring data beginning in 2007 were processed to allow for QAQC flags and codes to be embedded in the data files rather than using the original single letter codes used for the nutrient and pigment dataset along with the detailed sections in the metadata document for suspect, missing, and rejected data. Please note that prior to 2007, rejected data were deleted from the dataset so they are unavailable to be used at all. Suspect, missing, rejected and below minimum detection flags and appropriate three letter codes were embedded retroactively for dataset consistency. The QAQC flag/codes corresponding to the original letter codes are detailed below.

Flag/code	*If also C*	Historic Letter Code	Historic Code Definition
<1> [SUL]		A	Value above upper limit of method detection
<-4> [SBL]	<-4> [SCB]	B	Value below method detection limit
no need to flag/code unless combined		C	Calculated value
<-3> [GQD]	<3> [GCR]	D	Data deleted or calculated value could not be determined due to deleted data, see metadata for details
<1> (CHB)		H	Sample held beyond specified holding time
<0> (CSM) unless other flag		K	Check metadata for further details
<-2> [GDM]	<-2> [GCM]	M	Data missing, sample never collected or calculated value could not be determined due to missing data
<-3> [SNV] and <1> [SCC] for components		N	Negative calculated value
(CRE) or F_Record {CRE}		P	Significant precipitation (reserve defined, see metadata for further details)
<0> (CUS)		U	Lab analysis from unpreserved sample
<1> (CSM)		S	Data suspect, see metadata for further details

a.) The diel sample taken on August 5/6, 2002 supplements the missed July diel sampling date. On July 22, 2002 equipment failure shut the Isco sampler down and samples were not collected.

b.) No grab samples were taken for the month of August due to staffing limitations and rain delays at the end of the month.

c.) Grab samples collected on November 26, 2002 were subject to a mix-up at the VIMS analytical laboratory. CHLA analysis was performed during the normal timeframe, but samples were misplaced at VIMS for other nutrient analyses. In late April 2002 the problem was identified by the DNERR and the original samples were located at VIMS. Analyses of other parameters excluding CHLA and PHEA were run in late April once located.

d.) Grab samples from December 10, 2002 were subject to a mix-up at the VIMS analytical laboratory. Chl-A analysis was performed during the normal timeframe, but samples were discarded at the lab for other nutrient analyses. In late April 2002 the problem was identified by the DNERR and frozen remnant samples stored by DNERR were resent for analysis of other parameters excluding CHLA and PHEA.

e.) Diel data set on December 16/17, 2002 is missing three samples (12/17: 0400 EST, 0900 EST, 1130 EST). These bottles were empty upon sampler retrieval, presumably caused by intake hose freezing.

f.) Rainfall for 2002:

January	Rain amount (mm)
6	26.416
7	.762

11	10.922
19	13.716
20	4.826
21	2.032
23	1.016
24	3.048
25	3.048
31	1.016

March	Rain amount (mm)
2	11.938
3	5.080
10	.762
12	1.778
13	10.922
16	.508
17	4.318
18	18.288
20	23.622
26	17.526
27	6.604
31	17.272

April	Rain amount (mm)
1	2.540
3	4.318
9	12.954
10	6.096
12	7.620
16	4.064
20	.508
21	.508
22	5.588
25	4.318
26	.508
27	2.794
28	57.912

May	Rain amount (mm)
2	26.670
4	3.556
5	1.016

7	.254
12	34.798
13	8.128
14	.508
17	1.524
18	22.606

June	Rain amount (mm)
4	.254
5	12.446
6	22.352
7	1.778
13	3.048
14	4.826
15	.254
18	.508
19	.762
27	.762
28	.254

July	Rain amount (mm)
9	.762
10	4.318
14	2.286
15	.254
23	37.084
24	.762
25	7.366
27	7.620
28	1.016

August	Rain amount (mm)
6	1.270
24	13.462
28	24.384
29	41.656
31	.254

September	Rain amount (mm)
1	102.362
2	2.286
8	.254

9	.254
15	4.064
16	12.954
23	.254
26	20.574
27	4.826
28	3.048

October	Rain amount (mm)
9	.762
10	63.500
11	29.464
12	1.016
13	2.794
15	2.794
16	37.084
17	1.270
18	.254
20	.254
23	.254
25	14.224
26	16.002
28	.508
29	23.876
30	10.160
31	1.270

November	Rain amount (mm)
5	14.986
6	10.160
11	8.636
12	26.670
13	6.604
16	57.658
17	20.320
19	.254
21	7.366
22	4.826
27	3.302
30	1.270

December	Rain amount (mm)
5	1.270
6	2.286
7	3.810
8	2.794
11	36.830
13	18.288
20	16.256
22	.254
24	.762
25	19.558
30	.254