

Jacques Cousteau (JAC) NERR Meteorological Metadata
April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025
Latest Update: July 31, 2025

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

I. Data Set and Research Descriptors

1) Principal investigator(s) and contact persons

Thomas Grothues, Ph.D
Department of Marine & Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University
Rutgers University Marine Field Station
800 c/o 132 Great Bay Blvd.
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
609-296-5260 x 262
grothues@marine.rutgers.edu

Steve Evert, Field Station Manager
Steve.evert@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4486

Patricia McHugh, SWMP Technician
pttmchugh@marine.rutgers.edu
201-661-1285

Stockton University
Marine Science and Environmental Field Station, Bldg. 504
30 Wilson Avenue
Port Republic, NJ 08241

2) Entry verification –

Data are uploaded from the CR1000X data logger to a personal computer with a Windows 7 or newer operating system. Files are exported from LoggerNet in a comma-delimited format and uploaded to the CDMO where they undergo automated primary QAQC and become part of the CDMO's online provisional database. During primary QAQC, 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 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, append files, and export the resulting data file to the CDMO for tertiary QAQC and assimilation into the CDMO's authoritative online database. For more information on QAQC flags and QAQC codes, see Sections 11 and 12.

SWMP technician Patricia McHugh collected; QA/QC checked and compiled 2024 weather data per CDMO procedures. Raw data files were collected monthly and backed up to disc and a secondary hard drive. Pre-processing macros were run on a dedicated met station computer. All data was backed up to secondary hard drive, disc and remote servers.

3) Research objectives –

The principal objective is to record long-term meteorological data for the JC NERR in order to observe any environmental changes or trends over time. A major component of the JCNERR SWMP program is the monitoring of estuarine water quality. The close coupling between meteorological conditions and estuarine water quality has necessitated the monitoring of atmospheric conditions in the system as well. The meteorological data collected at the Reserve site thus provide valuable information on the atmospheric influences on water quality in the JCNERR system.

4) Research methods –

Campbell Scientific data telemetry equipment was installed at the Nacote Creek Meteorological station on 11/15/05 and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID #3B00D112. (Where 3B00D112 is the GOES ID for that station.) 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>.

Data are collected in Eastern Standard Time (EST) for the entire year.

The 15-minute data are collected in the following formats for the **CR1000X**:

Averages from 5-second data:

Air Temperature (°C), Relative Humidity (%), Barometric Pressure (mb), Wind Speed (m/s), Wind Direction (degrees), Battery Voltage (volts)

Maximum and Minimum Air Temperature (°C) and their times from 5-second data (these data are available from the reserve)

Maximum Wind Speed (m/s) and time from 5-second data

Wind Direction Standard Deviation (degrees)

Totals:

Precipitation (mm), PAR (millimoles/m²), and Cumulative Precipitation (mm) (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.)

Recommended calibration frequency for the MET station sensors:

- Temperature/Humidity- yearly recalibration
- Precipitation 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
- CR1000/CR1000X-every 5 years

5) Site location and character –

The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR) at Mullica River/Great Bay is located on the northeast coast of the United States on the Atlantic Ocean. The estuary is near Tuckerton, New Jersey about 14 kilometers north of Atlantic City. The met station is located adjacent to Nacote Creek, a tributary of the Mullica River. The site is approximately 14.3 kilometers WSW of Little Egg Inlet, the primary saltwater influence of the JC NERR. The met station is located on property owned by the Stockton University Marine Science and

Environmental Field Station in Port Republic, NJ, and approximately 1.8 kilometers south of the Chestnut Neck marina on the Mullica River and 0.4 kilometers northeast of Rt. 9 in Port Republic, NJ.

GPS coordinates: N 39 degrees, 32 minutes, 06 seconds
 W 74 degrees, 27 minutes, 49 seconds

Station Measurements

Tower and sensor heights	Height (<i>meters</i>)	Notes
Tower	13.00	Estimated height
Platform (<i>if applicable</i>)	0.0381	Approx 1.5"
Telemetry Box		Measured to base of box
Temperature/Relative Humidity	1.83	Measured to base of sensor
Barometric Pressure	0.36	Height in the enclosure
Wind	12.50	Estimated height
PAR	3.33	Measured to base of sensor
Precipitation gauge	1.93	Distance from the tower
	1.96	Height from ground to bottom of sensor

NOTE: Platform Height NOT included in sensor measurements, measurements are from the base of the tower

The nearest long term water quality monitoring station is located at Chestnut Neck Marina, approximately 1.8 kilometers north of the met station. Water quality data (currently not included in the JAC NERR SWMP program) for Nacote Creek is at a site adjacent to the met station. The unit is mounted on a 13-meter tower adjacent to the Nacote Creek, approximately 20 m from the high tide line. The elevations above the marsh surface are as follows: Barometric pressure: 2.56 m, temperature and relative humidity: 1.86 m, PAR: 3.36 m; Wind: 12.53 m, highest point on tower (lightning rod): 14 m. These measurements add the “platform height” to each individual sensor height from the table above. The rain gauge is approximately 1.96 m above the marsh surface and 1.93 m north of the tower. The area is sparsely covered with clam shell debris and upland grasses.

Typical weather patterns for the New Jersey Coast include afternoon sea breezes (SW) and near still winds from midnight until shortly after sunrise during the summer months. Major weather events typically include 2-3 day duration periods of ENE winds and significant cold fronts from October through March. These cold fronts typically bring extended periods of increased NW winds commonly reaching 25-40 knots.

SWMP Station Timeline

Station Code	SWMP Status	Station Name	Location	Active Dates	Reason Decommissioned	Notes
NC	Active(P)	JACNCEMT	N 39 degrees, 32 minutes, 06 seconds W 74 degrees, 27 minutes, 49 seconds	current	NA	NA

6) Data collection period –

The meteorological monitoring program was started in October 2002 at the JCNERR. The Reserve has a long-standing program in the collection of water quality data and other meteorological data, which is available at the Rutgers University Marine Field Station before October 2002 by contacting the Research Coordinator listed above. The 2025 data collection interval spanned from April 1, 2025 at 00:00 to June 30, 2025 at 23:45.

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 2020.

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 meteorological data collected in the SWMP program of JCNERR are important to assess migration patterns of key species found in the Mullica River-Great Bay Estuary, Little Egg Harbor, and other contiguous waters. Included here are the seasonal movements of striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) and summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*). The meteorological data are also important for studies of the population dynamics of shellfish species, notably the hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*). Furthermore, the data are valuable for evaluating environmental conditions that influence benthic communities, both those inhabiting soft sediments and living attached to hard surfaces (i.e., epibenthos). One of the most important areas of study for the coastal bay waters of Little Egg Harbor is dealing with submerged aquatic vegetation (*Zostera marina* and *Ruppia maritima*). A major concern is the health and vitality of the SAV, and how the beds in the bay are affected by natural factors (e.g., storms, unusual temperature conditions, reduced dissolved oxygen, etc.) and anthropogenic influences. All of the aforementioned studies are either underway or scheduled for future work. In addition to meteorological monitoring, JAC NERR also monitors water quality and nutrient data as part of SWMP. These data are available online at <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/>.

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

II. Physical Structure Descriptors

9) Sensor specifications –

Parameter: LI-COR Quantum Sensor

Units: mmol m⁻² (total flux)

Sensor type: High stability silicon photovoltaic detector (blue enhanced)

Model #: LI190
Light spectrum waveband: 400 to 700 nm
Temperature dependence: 0.15% per °C maximum
Stability: <±2% change over 1 yr
Operating Temperature: -40°C to 65°C; Humidity: 0 to 100%
Sensitivity: typically 5 µA per 1000 µmoles s⁻¹ m⁻²
Serial Number: Q51236
Date of Last Calibration: 10/4/2019
Dates of Sensor Use: 4/20/2022 – current as of 06/30/2025

Parameter: Wind speed Sensor
Units: meter per second (m/s)
Sensor type: 18 cm diameter 4-blade helicoids propeller molded of polypropylene
Model #: R.M. Young 05304-L Wind Monitor
Range: 0-60 m/s (134 mph); gust survival 100 m/s (220 mph)
Accuracy: +/- 0.3 m/s
Serial Number: 161979
Date of Last Calibration: 09/27/2021
Dates of Sensor Use: 07/13/2022- current as of 06/30/2025

Parameter: Wind direction Sensor
Units: degrees
Sensor type: balanced vane, 38 cm turning radius
Model #: R.M. Young 05304-L Wind Monitor
Range: 360° mechanical, 355° electrical (5° open)
Accuracy: +/- 3 degrees
Serial Number: 161979
Date of Last Calibration: 09/27/2021
Dates of Sensor Use: 07/13/2022- current as of 06/30/2025

Parameter: Temperature Sensor
Units: Celsius
Sensor type: Platinum resistance temperature detector (PRT)
Model #: HC2S3 Temperature and Relative Humidity Probe
Operating Temperature: -40°C to +60°C
Range: -40°C to +60°C
Accuracy: ± 0.2 °C @ 20°C
Serial Number: 20076900
Date of Last Calibration: 09/27/2021
Dates of Sensor Use: 04/20/2022 – current as of 06/30/2025

Parameter: Barometric Sensor
Units: millibars (mb)
Sensor type: Vaisala Barocap © silicon capacitive pressure sensor
Model #: PTB110
Operating Range: Pressure: 600 to 1060 mb; Temperature: -40°C to +60°C;
Humidity: non-condensing
Accuracy: ± 0.5 mb @ 20°C; +/- 2 mb @ 0°C to 40°C; +/- 4 mb @ -20°C to 45°C; +/- 6 mb @ -40°C to 60°C
Stability: ± 0.1 mb per year

Serial Number: T2530693
Date of Last Calibration: 08/27/2021
Dates of Sensor Use: 04/20/2022- current as of 06/30/2025

Parameter: Precipitation Sensor
Units: millimeters (mm)
Sensor type: Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge
Model #: TE525
Rainfall per tip: 0.01 inch
Operating range: Temperature: 0° to 50°C; Humidity: 0 to 100%
Accuracy: +/- 1.0% up to 1 in./hr; +0, -3% from 1 to 2 in./hr; +0, -5% from 2 to 3 in./hr
Serial Number: 525
Date of Calibration: 09/15/2013
Date of Calibration: 05/07/2020
Date of Calibration: 04/14/2022
Dates of Sensor Use: 08/26/2011 – current as of 06/30/2025

Datalogger:

CR1000X:

The CR1000X has a total onboard memory of 128 MB of flash and 4MB of battery backed SRAM. There are 8 MB of flash memory reserved for loading the operating system and 1MB of flash reserved for configuration settings. SRAM is used for the CRBasic program operating memory, communication memory, and data storage, with 72 MB of flash for extended data storage. Additional data storage expansion is available with a removable microSD flash memory card of up to 16 GB.

Serial Number: 12964
Date CR1000X Installed: 07/07/2020 – current as of 12/31/2022
Date CR1000X Calibrated: 10/10/2019 (purchased 2020)

CR1000X Firmware Version (s): CR1000x running OS 4.02 installed on 07/07/2020

CR1000/CR1000X Program Version(s): JACNCMET_V6.0.0_07072020.cr1x installed on 07/07/2020

JACNCMET_CR1000X_V6.0.0_04202022.cr1x installed on 04/20/2022

JACNCMET_V6.0.1_030923.crlx on 03/09/2023

JACNCMET_V6.0.1_112823.crlx on 11/28/2023 current program running

GOES Transmitter:

Model Number: TX312
Serial Number: 1863
Date Installed: 11/05/2005

Model Number: TX320
Serial Number: unknown
Date Installed: 6/1/2023

10) Coded variable definitions -

Sampling station:	Sampling site code:	Station code:
Nacote Creek	NC	jacncmet

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/CR1000X, 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 –

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.

Small negative PAR values are within range of the LI-COR sensor and are due to normal errors in the sensor and the CR1000 Datalogger. The Maximum signal noise error for the LI-COR sensor is +/- 2.214 mmoles/m² over a 15 minute interval. These values are automatically flagged and coded as <1> (CAF).

Relative Humidity data greater than 100 are within range of the sensor accuracy of +/-3% and are flagged and coded as suspect, <1> (CAF). Values greater than 103 are rejected <-3>.

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.**

The Temperature/Relative Humidity sensor began reading negative minimum temperatures on 08/13/2024. Reserve staff went out to the MET station on 8/27/24 to try and diagnose the issue, and cleaned the Temp/RH sensor upon arrival. No wires were astray and no connections were frayed. After cleaning the probe, the temperatures returned to a more normal, stable reading, but the data after 08/13/24 all through March 2025 for Temp/RH is marked as suspect <1>(CSM) for this reason. A replacement probe will be installed in July of 2025.