

Jacques Cousteau (JAC) NERR 2009 Nutrient Metadata
March 2010 to December 2010
Latest Update: 21 January 2015

I. Data Set and Research Descriptors

1) Principal investigator(s) and contact persons

a) Reserve contact

Michael J. Kennish
Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
Phone: 732-932-6555 (ext. 240)
e-mail: kennish@marine.rutgers.edu

b) Laboratory contact

Ronald J. Lauck, Jr.
Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
Phone: 732-932-6555 (ext. 561)
e-mail: lauck@marine.rutgers.edu

c) Other contacts and programs

Gregg P. Sakowicz
Field Researcher/SWMP Technician
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
Rutgers University Marine Field Station
800 Great Bay Blvd.
C/o 132 Great Bay Blvd.
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
Phone: 609-296-5260 (ext. 267)
e-mail: sakowicz@marine.rutgers.edu

2) Research objectives

a) Monthly grab

Monthly grab samples for the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR) are taken along a well-defined salinity gradient of the Mullica River-Great Bay

estuarine system. The sites where the samples are taken along this salinity gradient include Lower Bank and Chestnut Neck in the Mullica River and Buoy 126 and Buoy 139 in Great Bay (see site descriptions below). These four sampling sites span a distance of more than 30 km. In addition a monthly grab sample is taken in Little Egg Harbor estuary at Buoy 115 (see site description below). A major objective of this monitoring program is to determine the nutrient concentrations along the aforementioned salinity gradient over a long-term time series. Previous studies have shown that nitrogen standing stocks in the Mullica River-Great Bay Estuary largely consist of nitrate, ammonium, and nitrogen in organic combination. The nitrogen enters at the head of the estuary largely in inorganic form, but in Great Bay it is transformed mainly to organic combination. However, more data are needed to accurately assess the concentrations of the various nitrogen forms along the salinity gradient, and to determine seasonal variations in the concentrations over a protracted period of several years. It is also necessary to obtain continuous monthly measurements of phosphate, which is also a macronutrient of considerable importance to the system.

Monthly grab samples are needed to obtain accurate measurements of nitrate, ammonium, and phosphate because of their overriding importance to primary production in waters of the JNEERR. These data can then be compared to chlorophyll *a* measurements to assess their relationship to phytoplankton biomass. A major goal of JNEERR is to characterize biotic communities along the salinity gradient of the Mullica River-Great Bay Estuary, and it is therefore vital to obtain physical-chemical measurements (including nutrient concentrations) along the gradient. A part of this effort is to determine the nutrient concentrations along the salinity gradient, and how these concentrations are influencing biotic processes down-estuary. In addition, a long-term objective of monthly grab sampling is to develop a nutrient (nitrogen) budget for JCNERR. To develop a budget, data (concentrations) are needed on the various nitrogen species monitored at the SWMP sites as well as data collected on the nitrogen forms associated with atmospheric deposition. An accurate nutrient budget will be useful for analyzing the overall productivity of estuarine waters in the JNEERR, which will be important to resource managers of the system.

b) Diel sampling program

Diel sampling is conducted via an ISCO automated sampler at Buoy 126 in Great Bay to assess nutrient concentrations and changes in concentrations over tidal cycles. In addition, these data augment monthly grab samples taken at Buoy 126 (see above). It is believed that nutrients entering from the watershed estuary are not utilized within the Mullica River because of the lack of light penetration. The depth of the river and the dark color from the tannins flowing down the river from the Pine Barrens hinder the utilization of these nutrients by planktonic organisms. Where the river empties into the bay, light penetration reaches the bottom and allows utilization of the nutrients by phytoplankton, making this region more productive. Diel sampling over the course of a lunar day at Buoy 126 will also be useful in the development of a nutrient budget for the system.

3) Research methods

a) Monthly grab sampling program

Monthly grab samples were taken at four stations within the Mullica River-Great Bay estuary and at one station in the Little Egg Harbor estuary. Samples were taken at four principle JNEERR datasonde stations (Buoy 126, Buoy 139, Chestnut Neck and Lower Bank) and at one station in Little Egg Harbor estuary (Buoy 115). Samples were collected at approximately 30-day intervals. Effort was made to obtain grab samples at or before slack low tide conditions (+3 hour before low tide), approximately one month after the previous sampling period. No distinction was made between neap and spring tide conditions. Water-related field parameters were measured in situ with a YSI 600XL paired with a YSI 650MDS display unit and manually recorded on a field datasheet. Weather-related field parameters were assessed by observation and estimation. Replicate (N=2) samples were collected by hand with a bucket at an approximate depth of 10 cm. All samples were collected in amber, nalgene, 500 ml sample bottles that were previously acid washed (15 % H₂SO₄), rinsed (5x) with distilled-deionized water, and rinsed (1x) with ambient water prior to collection of the sample. Samples were immediately placed on ice in a cooler and returned to the laboratory at the Rutgers Marine Field Station. Once in the laboratory, samples were shaken and processed for nutrient and Chl a analysis. Samples were then frozen in a -10 °C freezer overnight at RMFS and transported to Rutgers University, IMCS as soon as possible thereafter. Once the processed samples were transported to Rutgers University, IMCS they were stored in a -20 °C freezer until analyses were performed.

b) Diel sampling program

Monthly diel samples were taken at the principle long-term datasonde station Buoy 126. Samples were collected at approximately 30-day intervals. Sampling occurred during any tidal condition and no distinction was made between spring and neap tide conditions. Twelve samples were collected over a lunar day at 2-hour-and-15-minute intervals using an ISCO auto-sampler. Samples were taken at a fixed depth, approximately 2.0 meters from the bottom. All samples were collected in clear, plastic, 1000 ml ISCO sample bottles. Samples were retrieved as soon as possible after completion of the auto-sampler program. Samples were then transferred from the clear, plastic ISCO bottles to 500 ml amber nalgene bottles that were previously acid washed (15 % H₂SO₄), rinsed (5x) with distilled-deionized water, and rinsed (1x) with ambient water prior to collection of the sample. Samples were immediately placed on ice in a cooler and returned to the laboratory at Rutgers Marine Field Station. Once in the laboratory, samples were shaken and processed for filtered for nutrient and Chl a analysis. Samples were then frozen in a -10°C freezer overnight at RMFS and transported to Rutgers University, IMCS as soon as possible thereafter. Once the filtered samples were transported to Rutgers University, IMCS they were stored in a -20 °C freezer until analyses were performed.

4) Site location and character

The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JNEERR) at the Mullica River-Great Bay estuary is located on the south-central coastline of New Jersey. The estuary is

near Tuckerton, New Jersey about 14 kilometers north of Atlantic City. Water is the predominant habitat in the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, covering 27,599 ha (~60% of the area). Marsh blankets an additional 13,034 ha (>28% of the area). Forest cover is the next largest category; it amounts to 4,616 ha (~10% of the area). Developed landscape, which is relatively sparse, provides the least cover (553 ha or slightly over 1% of the area). Domestic development is concentrated in two small communities, Mystic Island and Tuckerton; the boundaries of these communities extend to within 3 km of the margin of Great Bay. There is little impact from development or pollution at the 5 monitoring station in the JNERR

There are five nutrient monitoring stations in the JCNERR for which data are reported in this document: B5 (Buoy 115, secondary SWMP) in Little Egg Harbor, B6 (Buoy 126) near the mouth of the Little Egg Inlet, B9 (Buoy 139) in Great Bay, and NE (Chestnut Neck) and BA (Lower Bank) in the Mullica River. Data loggers are located at the four principal SWMP stations (BA, NE, B6, and B9); an extensive water quality database has been developed for these sites. Water quality data is collected on-demand at B5 via a hand-held YSI MDS 650 unit paired with a 600XL sonde.

The characteristics of the nutrient monitoring sites are summarized below:

1) Buoy 115 (B5) - 39° 31'07.68"N, 74° 17'13.92"W - This most recent monitoring site is in Little Egg Harbor Bay, bordering the Edwin B. Forsythe Refuge on Holgate (Long Beach Island) about 3 km northeast of the Rutgers University Marine Field Station. Full-time water-quality monitoring of this non-SWMP station was discontinued in 2003 after ice-floes tore the hardware and housings from the structure. The following site description is from 2002 (the most recent year-long dataset); we do not expect this description to differ significantly from present conditions: The depth of the bay at this site is approximately 3 meters, with a tidal range of 6.73 to 8.76 meters. The bottom consists predominantly of sand with little shell or organic material. Salinity values averaged 30.8 ppt, with a range of 29.3 to 32.5 ppt. Groundwater inputs from margins of the estuary, as well as surface flow from Mullica River, account for most of the freshwater entering that affects this site. The input of freshwater from local precipitation and marsh surface runoff is of secondary importance.

2) Buoy 126 (B6) - 39deg 30'28.44"N, 74 deg 20'18.67"W- located three kilometers from Little Egg Inlet on the eastern side of Great Bay and is 100 meters from the nearest land that is a natural marsh island. This is a naturally deep area that has never been dredged, but it is located about 0.5 kilometers from an area in the Intracoastal Waterway that is dredged regularly. The datalogger at this location is attached to Intracoastal Waterway Buoy 126 and is the closest monitoring station to Little Egg Inlet. This site can be characterized by having strong tidal currents, 2-3 knots, fine to coarse sand bottom with an extensive blue mussel bed surrounding the area. Groundwater inputs from margins of the estuary as well as surface flow from Mullica River account for the majority of freshwater coming into the system at this site, followed by input from rainwater from the marsh surface. In 2010, the reported temperature at this station ranged from 0.5°C to 29.6°C, with an average of 17.5°C. The reported salinity at this station ranged from 17.1ppt to 31.9ppt, with an average of 29.3ppt. It is important to note that fouling may have occasionally depressed some salinity readings and

are “flagged” as such in the dataset, so the aforementioned average and range may not be accurate. The tidal range, as recorded by the datasonde, was 2.17m. It has been some time since the actual depth at this station has been surveyed (sediment deposition and erosion around the structure has effect on the actual depth of the water column at this station), but in 2008 average depth at the B6 station was assessed at 3.91m, with a range of 2.72 to 5.09m.

3) Buoy 139 (B9) - 39deg 29'24.65"N, 74 deg 22'53.83"W - is located 4 kilometers from Buoy 126 on the western side of Great Bay and is located about one to one and one-half kilometers from land. The datalogger at this location is attached to Intracoastal Waterway Buoy 139. The closest landform is an extensive salt marsh approximately 1.5 kilometers wide, which borders the upland area. This area is dredged by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers approximately every five to six years to maintain the channel at a sufficient navigable depth of approximately 2.5 meters at mean low water. The surrounding depth of the bay is approximately 1.5 to 2 meters. This site is characterized by having maximum currents of about 1.5 knots with a muddy sand bottom and with little structure or shell. Groundwater inputs from margins of the estuary as well as surface flow from Mullica River account for the majority of freshwater coming into the system at this site, followed by input from rainwater from the marsh surface and above. In 2010, the reported temperature at this station ranged from 0.2°C to 29.8°C, with an average of 18.3°C. The reported salinity at this station ranged from 15.7ppt to 32.3ppt, with an average of 29.0ppt. It is important to note that fouling may have occasionally depressed some salinity readings and are “flagged” as such in the dataset, so the aforementioned average and range may not be accurate. The tidal range, as recorded by the datasonde, was 2.14m. It has been some time since the actual depth at this station has been surveyed (sediment deposition and erosion around the structure has effect on the actual depth of the water column at this station), but in 2008 average depth at the B9 station was assessed at 3.18m, with a range of 2.13 to 4.55m.

4) Chestnut Neck (NE) - 39deg 32'52.37"N, 74deg 27'38.77"W - located 12 kilometers up the Mullica River from the mouth of the river. The river begins at a line drawn between Graveling Point and Oysterbed Point on the northwestern side of Great Bay. The Mullica River at this location is quite wide, about 250 meters. The datalogger is attached to the dock of a small marina along the southern shore of the river adjacent to the main channel. This location has never been dredged. The site is characterized by having tidal currents of less than one knot, during both ebb and flood tide, and has a mixed organic mud/sand bottom. Freshwater input is primarily from groundwater and watershed runoff. In 2010, the reported temperature at this station ranged from -1.4°C to 30.3°C, with an average of 17.2°C. The reported salinity at this station ranged from 0.4ppt to 27.2ppt, with an average of 16.2ppt. It is important to note that fouling may have occasionally depressed some salinity readings and are “flagged” as such in the dataset, so the aforementioned average and range may not be accurate. The tidal range, as recorded by the datasonde, was 2.34m. It has been some time since the actual depth at this station has been surveyed (sediment deposition and erosion around the structure has effect on the actual depth of the water column at this station), but in 2008 average depth at the NE station was assessed at 2.32m, with a range of 1.11 to 3.45m.

5) Lower Bank (BA) - 39deg 35'37.18"N, 74 deg 33'05.44"W - located 13 kilometers upriver

of the Chestnut Neck location. The Mullica River at this site is about two hundred meters wide. The datalogger is located at the center of a bridge spanning the Mullica River. The northern bank of the river is sparsely developed with single-family houses and has a steep bank about five meters high. The southern shore has an extensive marsh and fresh water wetland area about three kilometers wide. This site can be characterized by having fast tidal currents, just over one knot, deep water, and fine mixed organic mud and sandy sediment. Freshwater input is primarily from groundwater and watershed runoff. In 2010, the reported temperature at this station ranged from -0.2°C to 31.3°C, with an average of 19.1°C. The reported salinity at this station ranged from 0.0ppt to 18.6ppt, with an average of 4.9ppt. It is important to note that fouling may have occasionally depressed some salinity readings and are “flagged” as such in the dataset, so the aforementioned average and range may not be accurate. The tidal range, as recorded by the datasonde, was 1.86. It has been some time since the actual depth at this station has been surveyed (sediment deposition and erosion around the structure has effect on the actual depth of the water column at this station), but in 2008 average depth at the BA station was assessed at 2.77m, with a range of 1.43 to 3.98m. This station is potentially more impacted by development than the other four sites due to its location south of the bulkhead waterfront communities of Long Beach Island and the town of Manahawkin, NJ.

5) Code variable definitions

jacb5nut = Jacques Cousteau Reserve nutrient data for Buoy 115
 jacb6nut = Jacques Cousteau Reserve nutrient data for Buoy 126
 jacb9nut = Jacques Cousteau Reserve nutrient data for Buoy 139
 jacnenut = Jacques Cousteau Reserve nutrient data for Chestnut Neck
 jacbanut = Jacques Cousteau Reserve nutrient data for Lower Bank

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 hr interval.

6) Data Collection Period

GRAB SAMPLING

Site	Month	Date	Rep1 Time	Rep2 Time
B5	January	*	*	*
B5	February	*	*	*
B5	March	03/25/10	08:31	08:33
B5	April	04/19/10	14:33	14:35
B5	May	05/20/10	17:23	17:25
B5	June	06/08/10	09:09	09:11
B5	July	07/27/10	14:44	14:46

B5	August	08/30/10	14:46	14:48
B5	September	09/29/10	13:29	13:31
B5	October	10/20/10	11:44	11:46
B5	November	11/22/10	14:40	14:42
B5	December	12/09/10	14:50	14:52
B6	January	*	*	*
B6	February	*	*	*
B6	March	03/25/10	08:17	08:19
B6	April	04/19/10	14:02	14:04
B6	May	05/20/10	17:10	17:12
B6	June	06/08/10	08:52	08:54
B6	July	07/27/10	14:32	14:34
B6	August	08/30/10	14:12	14:14
B6	September	09/29/10	13:53	13:55
B6	October	10/20/10	11:29	11:31
B6	November	11/22/10	14:31	14:33
B6	December	12/09/10	14:10	14:12
B9	January	*	*	*
B9	February	*	*	*
B9	March	03/25/10	08:07	08:09
B9	April	04/19/10	14:19	14:21
B9	May	05/20/10	17:01	17:03
B9	June	06/08/10	08:36	08:38
B9	July	07/27/10	14:20	14:22
B9	August	08/30/10	13:57	13:59
B9	September	09/29/10	13:42	13:44
B9	October	10/20/10	11:17	11:19
B9	November	11/22/10	14:21	14:23
B9	December	12/09/10	14:28	14:31
NE	January	*	*	*
NE	February	*	*	*
NE	March	03/25/10	09:46	09:48
NE	April	04/19/10	15:37	15:39
NE	May	05/20/10	18:40	18:42
NE	June	06/08/10	10:20	10:22
NE	July	07/27/10	16:50	16:52
NE	August	08/30/10	15:24	15:26
NE	September	09/29/10	17:09	17:11
NE	October	10/20/10	13:24	13:26
NE	November	11/22/10	16:01	16:03
NE	December	12/09/10	16:31	16:33
BA	January	*	*	*

BA	February	*	*	*
BA	March	03/25/10	11:32	11:34
BA	April	04/19/10	16:03	16:05
BA	May	05/20/10	19:08	19:11
BA	June	06/08/10	10:57	10:59
BA	July	07/27/10	17:20	17:22
BA	August	08/30/10	15:52	15:54
BA	September	09/29/10	17:36	17:38
BA	October	10/20/10	14:34	14:36
BA	November	11/22/10	16:40	16:42
BA	December	12/09/10	15:10	15:12

* Unable to sample during this period due to ice

DIEL (ISCO) SAMPLING

Site	Month	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
B6	January	*	*	*	*
B6	February	*	*	*	*
B6	March	03/24/10	12:00	03/25/10	12:45
B6	April	04/19/10	14:00	04/20/10	14:45
B6	May	05/19/10	18:00	05/20/10	18:45
B6	June	06/08/10	00:00	06/09/10	00:45
B6	July	07/26/10	14:00	07/27/10	14:45
B6	August	08/30/10	14:00	08/31/10	14:45
B6	September	09/28/10	17:00	09/29/10	17:45
B6	October	10/31/10	07:00	11/01/10	07:45
B6	November	11/21/10	14:00	11/22/10	14:45
B6	December	**	**	**	**

* Unable to sample during this period due to ice

** Unable to sample during this period due to overnight deep-freeze conditions during this month

7) Associated researchers and projects

As part of the SWMP long-term monitoring program, WKB NERR also monitors Meteorological and Water Quality data which may be correlated with this Nutrient dataset. These data are available from the Research Coordinator or online at <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/>.

A poster was prepared for the 2011 NERRS Technician Training Workshop concerning the relationship between nutrient levels and fire events in the Mullica River watershed.

A Stockton College Masters student, Christopher Huch, examined relationship between nutrient levels and fire events in the Mullica River watershed as his Capstone project.

Nutrient data from the aforementioned fire events were presented and discussed in a JCNERR “Ecological Evening” talk on 21 April 2011.

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 nutrient data and metadata can be obtained from the Research Coordinator at the individual NERR site (please see Principal investigators and contact persons), from the Data Manager at the Centralized Data Management Office (please see personnel directory under the general information link on the CDMO home page) and online at the CDMO home page <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/> as well as www.nerrsdata.org. Data are available in text tab-delimited format.

II. Physical Structure Descriptors

9) Entry verification

Monthly nutrient and plant pigment data files, in excel format, are sent to JNEERR by the Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab. Files consist of sampling station ID, date and time and parameter values expressed in micro moles; these are converted to milligrams per liter (with the exception of Chlorophyll A, which is reported as micrograms per Liter). The Laboratory Supervisor, Ronald Lauck, verifies all parameter values in the excel file through cross comparison with the laboratory data sheets. The data are reviewed for values that appear erroneous or illogical. Any samples found to have questionable results are reanalyzed. JNEERR staff (Gregg P. Sakowicz, SWMP Technician/Field Researcher) then performs the following:

Since the Rutgers University Laboratory calculates and reports results in μM , values must first be converted to mg/L as N, P, or C for consistency in the NERR System. JNERR staff calculates the concentrations as mg/l based on atomic weights of 14.01, 30.97, and 12.01 for N, P, and C respectively. Therefore, JNERR staff multiplies the concentrations reported by the Rutgers Laboratory by 0.01401, 0.03097, and 0.01201 to yield concentrations in mg/L as N, P, and C respectively.

Nutrient data are entered into a Microsoft Excel worksheet and processed using the NutrientQAQC Excel macro. The NutrientQAQC macro sets up the data worksheet, metadata worksheets, and MDL worksheet; adds chosen parameters and facilitates data entry; allows the user to set the number of significant figures to be reported for each parameter and rounds using banker's rounding rules; allows the user to input MDL values and then automatically flags/codes measured values below MDL and inserts the MDL ; calculates parameters chosen by the user and automatically flags/codes for component values below MDL, negative calculated values, and missing data; allows the user to apply QAQC flags and codes to the data; produces summary statistics; graphs selected parameters for review; and exports the resulting data file to the CDMO for tertiary QAQC and assimilation into the CDMO's authoritative online database

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
Phosphorus and Nitrogen:			
	*Orthophosphate	PO4F	mg/L as P
	*Nitrite + Nitrate, Filtered	NO23F	mg/L as N
	*Ammonium, Filtered	NH4F	mg/L as N
	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	DIN	mg/L as N
	Total Dissolved Nitrogen	TDN	mg/L as N
Carbon:			
	Dissolved Organic Carbon	DOC	mg/L as C
Plant Pigments:			
	*Chlorophyll a	CHLA_N	$\mu\text{g/L}$
Field Parameters:			
	Water Temperature	WTEM_N	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
	Specific Conductivity	SCON_N	mS/cm^3
	Salinity	SALT_N	ppt
	Dissolved Oxygen	DO_S_N	% Sat
	Dissolved Oxygen	DO_N	mg/L
	pH	PH_N	pH units

Notes:

1. Time is coded based on a 2400 clock and is referenced to Eastern Standard Time (EST).
2. Reserves have the option of measuring either NO₂ and NO₃ or they may substitute NO₂ for individual analyses if they can show that NO₂ is a minor component relative to NO₃. JAC NERR and analytical laboratory staff determined that analysis to isolate individual concentrations for NO₂ and NO₃ is not necessary. The concentration of NO₂ is negligible when compared to the concentration of NO₃.

11) Measured and calculated laboratory parameters

a) Variables measured directly

Nitrogen species: NO₂3F, NH₄F, TDN
 Phosphorus species: PO₄F
 Carbon species: DOC
 Other: CHLA_N

b) Computed variables

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 Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems 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. Methods are from Lachat Instruments QuikChem methods.

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

Parameter	Variable	Method	MDL mg/L	Dates in Use
Ammonium	NH ₄ F	31-07-06-1-B	0.001	Jan 2007-present
Nitrate/Nitrite	NO ₂ 3F	30-107-04-1-C&D	0.001	Jan 2007-present
Orthophosphate	PO ₄ F	31-115-01-1-H	0.003	Jan 2007-present
Total Dissolved Nitrogen	TDN	SM 5310 B	0.029	Apr 2004-present
Dissolved Organic Carbon	DOC	SM 5310 B	0.084	Apr 2003-present

Chlorophyll a CHLA_N EPA 445.0 0.01(µg/L) Jan 2003-present

13) Laboratory methods

i) **Parameter: PO4F**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab Laboratory Method
Method Reference: Lachat Instruments, 1993. QuikChem Method 31-115-01-1-H.
Method Descriptor: Samples were filtered with a 0.45 µm membrane filter and subjected to ammonium molybdate and antimony potassium tartate under acidic conditions to form a complex. The complex is reduced with ascorbic acid to form a blue complex that absorbs light at 880 nm.
Preservation Method: Stored in dark at –20 °C for up to 30 days.

ii) **Parameter: NO23F**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab Laboratory Method
Method Reference: Lachat Instruments, 1992. QuikChem Method 30-107-04-1-C&D.
Method Descriptor: Samples were filtered with a 0.45 µm membrane filter. Nitrate is reduced to nitrite by passage of sample through a copperized cadmium column. The nitrite (reduced nitrate plus original nitrite) is then determined with sulfanilamide under acidic conditions to form a diazonium ion. The diazonium ion is coupled with N-(1-naphthyl)ethylenediamine dihydrochloride, which results in a pink dye that absorbs at 520 nm.
Preservation Method: Stored in dark at -20 °C for up to 14 days.

iii) **Parameter: NH4F**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab Laboratory Method
Method Reference: Lachat Instruments, 1993. QuikChem Method 31-107-06-1-B.
Method Descriptor: Samples were filtered with a 0.45 µm membrane filter. The method used is based on the Berthelot reaction. Samples are subjected to hypochlorite-phenol, which results in indophenol blue. The indophenol blue is measured at 630 nm and is proportional to the ammonium concentration.
Preservation Method: Stored in dark at –20 °C for up to 3 days.

iv) **Parameter: DIN**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab Laboratory Method
Method Reference: N/A
Method Descriptor: Dissolved inorganic nitrogen is calculated by adding the ammonium concentration to the nitrate plus nitrite concentration. Ammonium and nitrate plus nitrite concentrations are determined as stated above.
Preservation Method: N/A

v) **Parameter: CHLA_N**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab Laboratory Method
Method Reference: US.EPA 1997. Method 445.0
Method Descriptor: Samples with a known volume were filtered with a 0.45 µm

membrane filter. Samples were dissolved in 5 ml 90% acetone/ 10% MgCO₃ solution. Fluorescence determined using a Shimadzu RF-1501 spectrofluorometer. Preservation Method: Filter is drawn dry, removed, placed in a glass tube with a phenolic screw cap, wrapped in aluminum foil and stored at –20 °C for up to 30 days.

vi) **Parameter: TDN**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab Laboratory Method

Method Reference: SM 5310 B

High Temperature Combustion (HTC) measurements of DOC (using Shimadzu's NPOC method) and TDN are performed using a Shimadzu TOC 5000A total carbon analyzer (Shimadzu Corp, Japan) coupled with a Antek (PAC) 7000B nitrogen chemiluminescence detector (Antek Instruments).

vii) **Parameter: DOC**

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14) Field and Laboratory QA/QC programs

a) **Precision**

i) **Field variability**

JCNERR collects two successive grab samples for the monthly grab sample program.

ii) **Laboratory variability**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab analyzes a laboratory duplicate once for every nine samples.

iii) **Inter-organizational splits**

None

b) **Accuracy**

i) **Sample spikes**

Rutgers University, IMCS, Ecosystems Lab analyzes a matrix spike once for every ten samples.

ii) **Standard reference material analysis**

None

iii) **Cross calibration exercises**

None

15) QAQC flag definitions – This section details the primary and secondary QAQC flag definitions.

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

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

16) QAQC code definitions – This section details the secondary QAQC Code definitions used in combination with the flags above.

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

General errors

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

Sensor errors

- | | |
|-----|---|
| SBL | Value below minimum limit of method detection |
| SCB | Calculated value could not be determined due to a below MDL component |

SCC	Calculation with this component resulted in a negative value
SNV	Calculated value is negative
SRD	Replicate values differ substantially
SUL	Value above upper limit of method detection

Parameter Comments

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

Record comments

CAB	Algal bloom
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Cloud cover

CCL	clear (0-10%)
CSP	scattered to partly cloudy (10-50%)
CPB	partly to broken (50-90%)
COC	overcast (>90%)
CFY	foggy
CHY	hazy
CCC	cloud (no percentage)

Precipitation

PNP	none
PDR	drizzle
PLR	light rain
PHR	heavy rain
PSQ	squally
PFQ	frozen precipitation (sleet/snow/freezing rain)
PSR	mixed rain and snow

Tide stage

TSE	ebb tide
TSF	flood tide
TSH	high tide
TSL	low tide

Wave height	
WH0	0 to <0.1 meters
WH1	0.1 to 0.3 meters
WH2	0.3 to 0.6 meters
WH3	0.6 to > 1.0 meters
WH4	1.0 to 1.3 meters
WH5	1.3 or greater meters
Wind direction	
N	from the north
NNE	from the north northeast
NE	from the northeast
ENE	from the east northeast
E	from the east
ESE	from the east southeast
SE	from the southeast
SSE	from the south southeast
S	from the south
SSW	from the south southwest
SW	from the southwest
WSW	from the west southwest
W	from the west
WNW	from the west northwest
NW	from the northwest
NNW	from the north northwest
Wind speed	
WS0	0 to 1 knot
WS1	> 1 to 10 knots
WS2	> 10 to 20 knots
WS3	> 20 to 30 knots
WS4	> 30 to 40 knots
WS5	> 40 knots

17) Other remarks

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

on MDL's or missing, suspect, or rejected data is needed, contact the Research Coordinator at the Reserve submitting the data.

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

Sample notes:

It is important to note that Buoy 115 (jacob5nut) in Southern Barnegat Bay is not a required SWMP station. It is considered a secondary SWMP station and is an additional station collected as a compliment/comparison to the SWMP samples collected in the Mullica River/Great Bay complex.

A few large discrepancies between replicate grab samples were observed and flagged in the dataset as “[SRD] (CSM)” (denoting “Replicate values differ substantially” and “See metadata”, respectively) code in the dataset. It is up to the user to retain or discard these data during analyses.

No diel sampling was conducted during the months of January and February 2010 due to ice-over conditions of local waters.

Normally, the grab and diel samples are collected concurrently in an overlapping manner, but technical issues with the ISCO unit in October 2010 resulted in disparate collection periods (10/20/2010 and 10/31/2010-11/01/2010, respectively).

There were two notably elevated (as compared to the rest of the samples collected during the sampling period) PO₄ values recorded during the March 2010 diel sampling at 03/24/2010 21:00 and 03/24/2010 23:15. The weather during the spring season in this region often includes high-pressure-induced NW winds that can cause “blow out tide” conditions in the estuary. During these blow-out tide events, high tides are depressed and low tides are exaggerated by the displacement of water offshore, causing significant drainage of water levels in estuaries and embayments. It is hypothesized that these extreme low tides may also pull water out of marsh sediment, bringing along with it the nutrients otherwise entrained in those sediments, which may cause elevated/aberrant nutrient levels. These two samples were obtained around the low tide, so it seems to fit the scenario. In addition there is a migrant colony of pinnipeds that utilize the island adjacent to this site and may input nutrients to the system. Despite these possible explanations, the values are extremely elevated for this site and have been rejected.

There were two notably elevated (as compared to the rest of the samples collected during the sampling period) DOC values recorded during the April 2010 diel sampling at 04/19/2010 18:30 and 04/20/2010 03:30. The weather during the spring season in this region often includes high-pressure-induced NW winds that can cause “blow out tide” conditions in the

estuary. During these blow-out tide events, high tides are depressed and low tides are exaggerated by the displacement of water offshore, causing significant drainage of water levels in estuaries and embayments. It is hypothesized that these extreme low tides may also pull water out of marsh sediment, bringing along with it the nutrients otherwise entrained in those sediments, which may cause elevated/aberrant nutrient levels. These two samples were obtained during lower tides, so it seems to fit the scenario but have been flagged as suspect.

There were two notably elevated (as compared to the rest of the samples collected during the sampling period) NH₄ values recorded during the July 2010 diel sampling at 07/26/2010 20:45 and 07/27/2010 01:15. Both these values happened during the same “leg” of the tidal cycle (at peak high and ebb of the same tidal “swing”), but no other trend or cause could be discerned so they have been flagged as suspect.

The DOC values for the jacnenut station on 8/30/2010 are flagged suspect and coded [SRD] (CSM)” (denoting “Replicate values differ substantially” and “See metadata”). It is believed that the dissimilar, lower value for replicate 1 is due to acid contamination and it is likely not valid. Use of the replicate 2 DOC value is at the discretion of the user.

Similarly, the TDN values for jacnenut on 8/30/2010 are dissimilar. Replicate 1 is rejected as below the minimum detection limit [SRD] (CSM). Replicate 2 is flagged suspect and coded [SRD] (CSM). Replicate 2 appears more realistic and may be used at the discretion of the user.

There were two notably elevated (as compared to the rest of the samples collected during the sampling period) NH₄ values recorded during the September 2010 diel sampling at 09/29/2010 04:15 and 09/29/2010 06:30. These data were collected at approximately low tide around a lower-than-usual water level, but no other trend or cause could be identified. These data have been flagged as suspect in the dataset.

There was a notably elevated PO₄F value for the jacnenut station grab sample replicate 1 on 12/9. It was rejected while the lower replicate 2 value was marked suspect and coded [SRD] (CSM).

No diel sampling was conducted in December 2010 due to overnight deep-freeze conditions that would have frozen samples in the ISCO unit.

Field Notes:

Heavy construction on the Garden State Parkway bridge (just up-river of the Chestnut Neck sample site) was being performed intermittently in 2010 potentially affecting samples taken at all stations (except Buoy 115), and particularly those at Chestnut Neck.

No physical (“water quality”) parameters are included in this dataset for the diel sample program because these data can be obtained via download from the Buoy 126 station (jacb6wq) at www.nerrsdata.org . It is recommended that users utilize the new Advanced

Query System (www.nerrsdata.org/aqs) to merge these nutrient and water-quality data into one seamless file.

While basic and notable weather information was inserted into the F_Record column for all grab samples, it is recommended that users of these data refer to the JCNERR's meteorological dataset from the Nacote Creek Meteorological station (jacncmet) for weather information. The meteorological dataset can be accessed online at the CDMO home page <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/> or www.nerrsdata.org . It is recommended that users utilize the new Advanced Query System (www.nerrsdata.org/aqs) to merge these nutrient and water-quality data into one seamless file

Additionally, regarding inserting comment codes concerning weather, only significant rain events potentially affecting the data were inserted into the diel portion of the dataset. If users seek to correlate the diel samples with weather conditions, it is recommended that they refer to the JCNERR's meteorological dataset. The meteorological dataset can be accessed online at the CDMO home page <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/> or www.nerrsdata.org .

Regarding significant rain events during diel sampling: The following diel sampling periods were preceded by periods of significant and/or heavy rains within a 3-5 day period that appear to have possibly affected some parameters in their respective datasets:

March sample period: 03/24-25/2010; preceded by significant precipitation 03/22-23/2010.

May sample period: 05/19-20/2010; preceded by significant precipitation 05/18/2010.

October sample period: 10/31/2010-11/01/2010; preceded by moderate but sustained precipitation 10/27-30/2010

November sample period: 11/21-22/2010; preceded by significant precipitation 4 days earlier 11/16-17/2010.

The above are flagged with the “{CRE} {CSM}” (denoting “Significant rain event” and “See metadata”, respectively) code in the dataset. It is up to the user to retain or discard these data during analyses.

At other times, minor (possibly insignificant) precipitation occurred within a 3-5 day window leading up to, or during, the diel sampling period. These (very) minor events are not flagged with a “{CRE} {CSM}” (denoting “Significant rain event” and “See metadata”, respectively) code in the dataset. It is up to the user to utilize the meteorological data from the JCNERR's Nacote Creek weather station (jacncmet) or other sources to examine this relationship and determine whether it is appropriate to retain or discard these data during analyses.

A light sheen of oil was noted, in addition to marsh-plant flotsam, at Lower Bank during the September (09/29/2010) grab sample collection.