

Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KAC) NERR Water Quality Metadata
January – December 2021
Latest Update: 05/10/2023

I. Data Set and Research Descriptors

1) Principal investigator(s) and contact persons

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2) Entry verification

Deployment data are uploaded from the YSI data logger to a Personal Computer (IBM compatible). Files are exported from EcoWatch in a comma-delimited format (.CDF), EcoWatch Lite in a comma separated file (CSV) or KOR Software in an Excel File (.XLS) and uploaded to the CDMO where they undergo automated primary QAQC; automated depth/level corrections for changes in barometric pressure (cDepth or cLevel parameters); and become part of the CDMO's online provisional database. All pre- and post-deployment data are removed from the file prior to upload. During primary QAQC, data are flagged if they are missing or out of sensor range. The edited file is then returned to the Reserve for secondary QAQC where it is opened in Microsoft Excel and processed using the CDMO's NERRQAQC Excel macro. The macro inserts station codes, creates metadata worksheets for flagged data and summary statistics, and graphs the data for review. It allows the user to apply QAQC flags and codes to the data, remove any overlapping deployment data, append files, and export the resulting data file for upload to the CDMO. Upload after secondary QAQC results in ingestion into the database as provisional plus data, recalculation of cDepth or cLevel parameters, and finally tertiary QAQC by the CDMO and assimilation into the CDMO's authoritative online database. Where deployment overlap occurs between files, the data produced by the newly calibrated sonde is generally accepted as being the most accurate. For more information on QAQC flags and codes, see Sections 11 and 12. Steve Baird and Jim Schloemer were responsible for these tasks.

3) Research objectives

The YSI electronic data loggers are programmed to measure the water temperature, specific conductivity, dissolved oxygen, depth, pH, and turbidity conditions at 15-minute intervals. In Kachemak Bay, there are two permanent water quality monitoring stations (Homer and Seldovia), each having two data sondes. One site is located on the northeast side of the Bay at the end of the Homer Spit, and the other on the southwest side of the Bay in Seldovia. At each site, one data logger is suspended 1-meter below the surface ("Surface"), and one data logger is suspended 1-meter from the bottom ("Deep"). At both locations the surface sondes are horizontally within 100 meters of the deep sondes.

The circulation in Kachemak Bay is driven primarily by the 8-meter tidal flux. Regional circulation is characterized by generally cyclonic ocean currents in the Gulf of Alaska flowing onto the shelf off of Cook Inlet. Nutrient rich bottom water is upwelled and mixed with surface

water. These enriched waters may enter into Kachemak Bay, the inflow tending to stay along the southern shore flowing past the Seldovia instruments, while water flowing out of the bay stays along the Inner Bay and north shore, flowing past the Homer instruments. These trapped coastal flows separate the bay into two distinct ecosystems, and the instruments are positioned to reflect this distinction. Within each system there is vertical stratification of the water. The vertical placement of the sondes is designed to help elucidate the differences in circulation of the surface and deep waters.

As the inflowing water proceeds up the bay, fresh water runoff from the surrounding ice fields and watersheds dilute the salinity and increase the sediment load in the path of the Homer instruments. The in-flowing water, in the path of the Seldovia instruments, initially supports a marine system, while the northern out-flowing water of the Homer instruments is more estuarine. The Kachemak Bay water quality instruments capture this difference with deployments along the north and south shores. These data will be used to supplement studies on primary productivity, larval distribution, settlement, recruitment, growth rates, community dynamics, and biodiversity in the bay.

4) Research methods

Both telemetered instruments (“Deep”) are stationary and housed in ABS pipe mounted vertically on the ferry docks of Homer and Seldovia. The pipes are positioned to ensure that the sensors are approximately 1-meter above the bottom of the ocean floor (actual depth changes with respect to the tides). The surface sondes are attached to a buoy and a sonde guard that slides vertically on a cable to ensure that the sonde remains 1-meter below the surface as the tide is changing.

Calibration and deployment were performed monthly using methods outlined in the YSI Operations Manual. The following sensors are calibrated using standards purchased from YSI: pH (7 and 10), conductivity (50 mS/cm), and turbidity (126 NTU). Depth is calibrated at zero.

Chlorophyll data were calibrated using a one-point calibration for part of the year in 2021. The one-point calibration utilized deionized (DI) water and a zero point calibration. The YSI EXO operations manual and NERRS SWMP EXO Manual both call for a two-point calibration. After July 2021 the calibration for Chlorophyll at H3 was done according to SOPs. The SS site was not calibrated according to SOPs until November 2021.

QA/QC of Chlorophyll data is conducted by comparing sonde data to our monthly grab samples that are analyzed on a Turner 10-AU Spectrophotometer (see Nutrient data/metadata for 2017). Sonde data are accepted or rejected based on this comparison. The estimates of chlorophyll concentration produced by the YSI chlorophyll probe are meant to complement the more accurate results obtained by the monthly grab samples.

A Sutron Sat-Link2 transmitter was installed at the Homer Dolphin Deep station on 12/13/2005 and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID # 3B00077A WQ. A Sutron Sat-Link2 transmitter was installed at the Seldovia Deep station on 07/31/2007 and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID # 3B040240 WQ. The transmissions are scheduled hourly and contain four (4) data sets reflecting fifteen minute data sampling intervals. Upon receipt by the CDMO, the data undergoes the same automated primary QAQC process detailed in Section 2 above. The “real-time” telemetry data become part of the provisional dataset until undergoing secondary and tertiary QAQC and assimilation in the CDMO’s authoritative online database. Provisional and authoritative data are available at <http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu>.

5) Site location and character

Kachemak Bay is located approximately 200 kilometers south of Anchorage on the western shore of the Kenai Peninsula. Kachemak Bay, at 59.6° N and 151.5° W, is a temperate regional fjord with hydrographic conditions unique among the NERR system estuaries. The tidal range of 8-meters is among the largest in the world, and salinity ranges from near zero at stream mouths to 33.3 PSU at the entrance to the inner Bay. The bay is 35 kilometers wide at its mouth and approximately 57 kilometers long. The head of Kachemak Bay is located to the northeast at the Fox River Flats, and the mouth lies to the southwest, along a line between Anchor Point and Point Pogibshi. The 6-kilometer long Homer Spit that extends into the Bay from the northern shoreline splits Kachemak Bay into inner and outer bays. The Kachemak Bay NERR encompasses both the inner and outer bays. Water flows between the inner and outer Bays through a narrow opening formed between the Spit and the southern shoreline. The Bay has an average depth of 41-meters, and a maximum of 169-meters. Fresh water introduced primarily by the Fox, Bradley, and Martin Rivers and Sheep Creek at the head of the Bay, flows along the northwest shore of the inner Bay.

The Homer YSI data logger site is located on the north side of Kachemak Bay at 59.60203°N 151.40877°W. The “deep” sonde is deployed at a depth 1 meter from the bottom, in water fluctuating between 7.5 and 16.8 meters. The “surface” data sonde is deployed at a nominal depth of 1 meter. The bottom habitat is predominantly sand. Pollutants in the area are from the excessive boat traffic at the entrance of the Homer harbor, and a nearby fish waste outfall line. Throughout the year, salinity has ranged from 20.5 to 32.4 ppt, as the instrument's location in the stratified water column is dependent on tide height, with a tidal range of 8.1 meters. It is predominately an estuarine environment during summer months when glacial runoff is highest, and during the winter months it reverts to a more marine-like system with glacial runoff at a minimum.

The Seldovia YSI data logger site is located on the south side of Kachemak Bay at 59.44097°N 151.72089°W, approximately 25 kilometers southwest of the Homer site. As with the Homer site, the data loggers are situated on the ferry terminal dock, with one instrument 1 meter below the surface, and one 1 meter above the bottom, in water fluctuating between 4.3 and 13.0 meters. The access to Seldovia is limited to boat or air, as the site is located off the highway system. The bottom habitat is predominantly sand. Pollutants in the area are minimal. Throughout the year, salinity has ranged from 25.0 to 33.9 ppt at this site with a tidal range of 8.0 meters.

SWMP Station Timeline

Station Code	SWMP Status	Station Name	Location	Active Dates	Reason Decommissioned	Notes
kach3wq	p	Homer Surface 3	59° 36' 7.38 N, 151° 24' 33.90 W	05/31/2012 12:15 -	NA	NA

kachdwq	P	Homer Dolphin Deep	59° 36' 7.24 N, 151° 24' 31.61 W	01/01/2003 00:00 -	NA	NA
kacsdwq	P	Seldovia Deep	59° 26' 27.56 N, 151° 43' 15.46 W	01/01/2004 00:00 -	NA	NA
kacsswq	P	Seldovia Surface	59° 26' 27.56 N, 151° 43' 15.46 W	01/01/2004 00:00 -	NA	NA
kacbcwq	P	Bear Cove	59° 42' 20.41 N, 151° 3' 33.84 W	06/18/2002 11:30 - 09/24/2003 17:30	Change in research questions and difficult access.	Site was seasonal, because access was too difficult in winter.
kacdlwq	P	Homer Dolphin	59° 36' 7.24 N, 151° 24' 31.61 W	10/24/2002 10:00 - 12/31/2002 23:30	Just renamed to kachdwq.	Exact same site as kachdwq. Naming convention changed when installing paired surface-deep sondes.
kachowq	P	Homer	59° 36' 8.34 N, 151° 24' 36.00 W	07/12/2001 07:45 - 11/20/2002 12:30	On city dock. City built a newer dock surrounding old one.	1 meter off bottom, 62 meters from current kachdwq site. Data overlaps kacdlwq site in late 2002. Old mount destroyed by storm November 2002.
kachswq	P	Homer Dolphin Surface	59° 36' 7.24 N, 151° 24' 31.61 W	02/13/2004 09:30 - 11/28/2011 16:00	Sonde was getting destroyed by banging against pilings. Moved 35 meters.	Essential equivalent to kach3wq. Site was relocated to a safer location for the sonde in rough seas.
kacpgwq	P	Port Graham	59° 22' 13.91 N, 151° 53' 46.03 W	06/21/2002 10:00 - 09/24/2003 15:30	Change in research questions and difficult access.	Site was seasonal, because access was too difficult in winter.
kacsewq	P	Seldovia	59° 26' 27.56 N, 151° 43' 15.46 W	08/17/2001 15:15 - 12/31/2003 23:30	Just renamed to kacsdwq.	Exact same site as kacsdwq. Naming convention changed when installing paired surface-deep sondes.

6) Data collection period – Included in annual metadata document.

Monitoring at Homer Deep, Seldovia Deep, and Seldovia Surface was continuous throughout 2020. The Homer Surface site was sampled from 03/23/2021 and was removed during the winter months when ice formed on the surface waters at this site. Deployment and retrieval dates and times for 2020 are listed below:

Homer Surface 3

Loc	Deploy Start Time	Retrieve End Time	Sonde	pH		DO	Turb	Cond	Chl	Notes
H3	12/10/2020 13:45	01/24/21 16:00:00	EXO2 (Ursula)	599701		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	
H3	01/24/21 16:15:00	02/10/21 10:30:00	EXO2 (Gandalf)	599701		59100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
H3	06/01/21 14:45:00	06/17/21 09:45:00	EXO2 (Ursula)	599701		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
H3	06/17/21 10:15:00	07/19/21 10:30:00	EXO2 (Gandalf)	599701		59100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
H3	07/19/21 11:00:00	08/25/21 11:30:00	EXO2 (X-Ray)	599701		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
H3	08/25/21 12:00:00	10/07/21 15:15:00	EXO2 (Gandalf)	599701		59100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
H3	10/07/21 15:45:00	11/10/21 17:00:00	EXO2 (X-Ray)	599701		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
H3	11/10/21 17:30:00	12/09/21 12:45:00	EXO2 (Taxi)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01

Homer Deep

Loc	Deploy Start Time	Retrieve End Time	Sonde	pH		DO	Turb	Cond	Chl	Notes
HD	12/10/20 12:30:00	01/14/21 13:45:00	EXO2 (Quebec)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		
HD	01/14/21 14:00:00	02/10/21 10:15:00	EXO2 (Sierra)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
HD	02/10/21 10:30:00	03/24/21 10:15:00	EXO2 (Quebec)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
HD	03/24/21 10:45:00	04/16/21 14:00:00	EXO2 (Sierra)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
HD	04/16/21 14:15:00	05/10/21 12:30:00	EXO2 (Quebec)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
HD	05/10/21 12:45:00	06/17/21 09:15:00	EXO2 (Sierra)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
HD	06/17/21 10:00:00	07/19/21 10:30:00	EXO2 (Quebec)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
HD	07/19/21 10:45:00	08/25/21 11:15:00	EXO2 (Sierra)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
HD	08/25/21 11:30:00	10/07/21 15:00:00	EXO2 (Valence)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
HD	10/09/21 15:15:00	11/10/21 17:00:00	EXO2 (Valence)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
HD	11/10/21 17:15:00	12/09/21 12:30:00	EXO2 (Valence)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
HD	12/09/21 13:00:00	01/19/22 14:30:00	EXO2 (Romeo)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01

Seldovia Surface

Loc	Deploy Start Time	Retrieve End Time	Sonde	pH		DO	Turb	Cond	Chl	Notes
SS	12/11/20 12:30	1/21/21 12:15	EXO2 (Romeo)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	
SS	01/21/21 12:30:00	02/16/21 11:00:00	EXO2 (Papa)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-1
SS	02/16/21 11:45:00	03/25/21 10:00:00	EXO2 (Romeo)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	03/25/21 10:30:00	04/16/21 12:30:00	EXO2 (Whiskey)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	04/16/21 12:45:00	05/11/21 11:00:00	EXO2 (Romeo)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	05/11/21 11:15:00	06/16/21 10:30:00	EXO2 (Whiskey)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	06/16/21 11:00:00	07/16/21 10:15:00	EXO2 (Romeo)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	07/16/21 11:00:00	08/19/21 10:15:00	EXO2 (Whiskey)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	08/19/21 10:30:00	09/28/21 10:30:00	EXO2 (Romeo)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	09/28/21 11:00:00	10/11/21 09:45:00	EXO2 (Gandalf)	599701		59100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	10/11/21 10:00:00	11/09/21 10:00:00	EXO2 (Romeo)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	11/09/21 10:30:00	12/17/21 13:15:00	EXO2 (Gandalf)	599701		59100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01
SS	12/17/21 13:45:00	01/20/22 12:00:00	EXO2 (Whiskey)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827	599103-01	599090-01

Seldovia Deep

Loc	Deploy Start Time	Retrieve End Time	Sonde	pH		DO	Turb	Cond	Chl	Notes
SD	12/11/20 12:15:00	01/21/21 12:00:00	EXO2 (Taxi)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		
SD	01/21/21 12:30:00	02/16/21 10:45:00	EXO2 (Valence)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
SD	02/16/21 11:15:00	03/25/21 10:00:00	EXO2 (Taxi)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
SD	03/25/21 10:15:00	04/16/21 12:15:00	EXO2 (Valence)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
SD	04/16/21 12:30:00	05/11/21 11:00:00	EXO2 (Taxi)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
SD	05/11/21 11:15:00	06/16/21 10:30:00	EXO2 (Valence)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
SD	06/16/21 10:45:00	07/16/21 10:15:00	EXO2 (Taxi)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
SD	07/16/21 10:30:00	08/19/21 10:00:00	EXO2 (Valence)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
SD	08/19/21 10:30:00	09/28/21 10:30:00	EXO2 (Taxi)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01
SD	09/28/21 10:45:00	10/11/21 09:30:00	EXO2 (Sierra)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
SD	10/11/21 10:15:00	11/09/21 10:00:00	EXO2 (Quebec)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
SD	11/09/21 10:30:00	12/17/21 13:30:00	EXO2 (Sierra)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-1
SD	12/17/21 13:45:00	01/20/22 12:00:00	EXO2 (Taxi)	599702		599100-01	599101-01	599827		599090-01

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. 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.

Requested citation format:

NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). System-wide Monitoring Program. Data accessed from the NOAA NERRS Centralized Data Management Office website: <http://www.nerrsdata.org/>; accessed 12 October 2012..

NERR water quality data and metadata can be obtained from the Research Coordinator at the individual NERR site (please see Principal Investigators and Contact Persons), from the Data Manager at the Centralized Data Management Office (please see personnel directory under the general information link on the CDMO home page) and online at the CDMO home page www.nerrsdata.org. Data are available in comma delimited format.

8) Associated researchers and projects

The data are being combined with hydrographic survey data to examine water exchange between Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet. The sonde data provides the temporal context while the survey data provides the spatial information.

In addition, these data complement the other concurrent System-Wide Monitoring Program modules such as meteorological and nutrient data collection.

II. Physical Structure Descriptors

Sensor specifications, continued (YSI EXO sondes):

Parameter	Units	Sensor Type	Model	Range	Accuracy	Resolution
Temperature	Celsius (C)	Wiped probe; Thermistor	599827	-5 to 50 °C	±0.2 C	0.001 C
Conductivity	milli-Siemens per cm (mS/cm)	CT2 probe, 4- electrode cell with autoranging	599870	0 to 200 mS/cm	0 to 100: +/- 0.5% of reading or 0.001 mS/cm; 100 to 200: +/- 1% of reading	0.001 mS/cm to 0.1 mS/cm (range dependant)
Salinity	practical salinity units (psu)/parts per thousand (ppt)	CT2 probe, Calculated from conductivity and temperature		0 to 70 psu	+/- 1.0% of reading pr 0.1 ppt, whichever is greater	0.01 psu
Dissolved Oxygen %	percent air saturation (%)	Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning	599100- 01	0 to 500% air saturation	0-200% air saturation: +/- 1% of the reading or 1% air saturation, whichever is greater 200-500% air saturation: +/- 5% or reading	0.1% air saturation
Dissolved Oxygen mg/L	milligrams per Liter (mg/L); Calculated from % air saturation, temp and salinity	Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning	599100- 01	0 to 50 mg/L	0-20 mg/L: +/-0.1 mg/l or 1% of the reading, whichever is greater 20 to 50 mg/L: +/- 5% of the reading	0.01 mg/L
Depth	feet or meters (m)	Stainless steel strain gauge		0 to 30 ft (9.1 m)	: +/- 0.013 ft (0.004 m)	0.001 ft (0.001 m)
pH	pH units	Glass combination electrode	599701 and 599702	0 to 14 units	+/- 0.1 units within +/- 10° of calibration temperature, +/- 0.2 units for entire temperature range	0.01 units
Turbidity	formazin nephelometric units (FNU)	Optical, 90 ° scatter, with mechanical cleaning	599101- 01	0 to 4000 FNU	0 to 999 FNU: 0.3 FNU or +/-2% of reading (whichever is greater); 1000 to 4000 FNU +/-5% of reading	0 to 999 FNU: 0.01 FNU, 1000 to 4000 FNU: 0.1 FNU
Chlorophyll	micrograms/Liter (µg/L)	Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning	599102- 01	~0 to 400 µg/L	Dependent on methodology	0.1 ug/L chl a, 0.1% FS

Sensor specifications, continued (YSI 6600EDS V2-2 and 660 V2-4 data sondes):

Parameter	Units	Sensor Type	Model	Range	Accuracy	Resolution
Temperature	Celsius (C)	Thermistor	6560	-5 to 50 °C	+/-0.15 °C	0.01 °C
Conductivity	milli-Siemens per cm (mS/cm)	4-electrode cell with autoranging	6560	0 to 100 mS/cm	+/-0.5% of reading + 0.001 mS/cm	0.001 mS/cm to 0.1 mS/cm (range dependent)
Salinity	parts per thousand (ppt)	Calculated from conductivity and temperature		0 to 70 ppt	+/- 1.0% of reading or 0.1 ppt, whichever is greater	0.01 ppt
Dissolved Oxygen %	percent air saturation (%)	Rapid Pulse – Clark type, polarographic	6562	0 to 500 % air saturation	0-200 % air saturation, +/- 2 % of the reading or 2 % air saturation, whichever is greater; 200-500 % air saturation, +/- 6 % of the reading	0.1 % air saturation
Dissolved Oxygen mg/L	milligrams per Liter (mg/L); Calculated from % air saturation, temp and salinity	Rapid Pulse – Clark type, polarographic	6562	0 to 50 mg/L	0 to 20 mg/L, +/- 2 % of the reading or 0.2 mg/L, whichever is greater; 20 to 50 mg/L, +/- 6 % of the reading	0.01 mg/L
Dissolved Oxygen %	% Saturation	Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning	6150 ROX	0 to 500% air saturation	0-200% air saturation: +/- 1% of the reading or 1% air saturation, whichever is greater; 200-500% air saturation: +/- 15% of reading	0.1% air saturation
Dissolved Oxygen mg/L	milligrams/Liter (mg/L)	Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning	6150 ROX	0 to 50 mg/L	0-20 mg/L: +/-0.1 mg/L or 1% of the reading, whichever is greater; 20 to 50 mg/L: +/- 15% of the reading	0.01 mg/L
Depth	feet or meters (m)	Stainless steel strain gauge		0 to 30 ft (9.1 m)	+/- 0.06 ft (0.018 m)	0.001 ft (0.001 m)
pH	pH units	Glass combination electrode	6561 and 6561FG	0 to 14 units	+/- 0.2 units	0.01 units
Turbidity	nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)	Optical, 90 ° scatter, with mechanical cleaning	6136	0 to 1000 NTU	+/- 2 % reading or 0.3 NTU (whichever is greater)	0.1 NTU
Chlorophyll	micrograms/Liter (µg/L)	Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning	6025	~0 to 400 µg/L 0 to 100 RFU	The accuracy of the in vivo measurement will be completely dependent on the method of calibration	0.1 µg/L Chl 0.1% RFU

Depth Qualifier:

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

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

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

NOTE: older depth data cannot be corrected without verifying that the depth offset was in place and whether a vented or non-vented depth sensor was in use. No SWMP data prior to 2006 can be corrected using this method. The following equation is used for corrected depth/level data provided by the CDMO beginning in 2010:
$$((1013-BP)*0.0102)+Depth/Level = cDepth/cLevel.$$

Salinity Units Qualifier:

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

Turbidity Qualifier:

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

Chlorophyll Fluorescence Disclaimer:

YSI chlorophyll sensors (6025 or 599102-01) are designed to serve as a proxy for chlorophyll concentrations in the field for monitoring applications and complement traditional lab extraction methods; therefore, there are accuracy limitations associated with the data that are detailed in the YSI manual

including interference from other fluorescent species, differences in calibration method, and effects of cell structure, particle size, organism type, temperature, and light on sensor measurements.

10) Coded variable definitions

File name definitions: Reserve/deployment site/file definition/year
(ex: kacsswq2017 = Kachemak Bay/Seldovia Surface/WaterQuality/2017).

Sampling station	Sampling site code	Station code
Homer Surface	H3	kach3wq
Homer Deep	HD	kachdwq
Seldovia Surface	SS	kacsswq
Seldovia Deep	SD	kacsdwq

11) QAQC flag definitions

QAQC flags provide documentation of the data and are applied to individual data points by insertion into the parameter's associated flag column (header preceded by an F_). During primary automated QAQC (performed by the CDMO), -5, -4, and -2 flags are applied automatically to indicate data that is missing and above or below sensor range. All remaining data are then flagged 0, passing initial QAQC checks. During secondary and tertiary QAQC 1, -3, and 5 flags may be used to note data as suspect, rejected due to QAQC, or corrected.

- 5 Outside High Sensor Range
- 4 Outside Low Sensor Range
- 3 Data Rejected due to QAQC
- 2 Missing Data
- 1 Optional SWMP Supported Parameter
- 0 Data Passed Initial QAQC Checks
- 1 Suspect Data
- 2 *Open - reserved for later flag*
- 3 Calculated data: non-vented depth/level sensor correction for changes in barometric pressure
- 4 Historical Data: Pre-Auto QAQC
- 5 Corrected Data

12) QAQC code definitions – This section details the secondary QAQC Code definitions used in combination with the flags above. Include the following excerpt:

QAQC codes are used in conjunction with QAQC flags to provide further documentation of the data and are also applied by insertion into the associated flag column. There are three (3) different code categories, general, sensor, and comment. General errors document general problems with the deployment or YSI datasonde, sensor errors are sensor specific, and comment codes are used to further document conditions or a problem with the data. Only one general or sensor error and one comment code can be applied to a particular data point, but some comment codes (marked with an * below) can be applied to the entire record in the F_Record column.

General Errors

- GIC No instrument deployed due to ice
- GIM Instrument malfunction
- GIT Instrument recording error; recovered telemetry data
- GMC No instrument deployed due to maintenance/calibration
- GNF Deployment tube clogged / no flow

GOW	Out of water event
GPF	Power failure / low battery
GQR	Data rejected due to QA/QC checks
GSM	See metadata

Corrected Depth/Level Data Codes

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

Sensor Errors

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

Comments

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

13) Post deployment information

Homer Surface (H3):

[illegible]

Homer Deep (HD):

[illegible]

Seldovia Surface (SS):

[illegible]

Seldovia Deep (SD):

Site	Deploy Date	Sonde	SpCond (50 mS/cm)		DO (%)	pH (7)	pH (10)	Turb (0 NTU)	Turb (126 NTU)	Depth (m)
SD	1/21/21	Valence	49.8(50.0)		101	7	10	0.7(0.0)	123.2(124.0)	0.01(0.105)
SD	2/16/21	Taxi	49.62(50.0)			7.03	10.06	-0.35(0.0)	129.72(124.0)	-0.022(-0.022)
SD	3/25/21	Valence	49.74(50.0)		103.8	7.32	10.01	1.75(0.0)	125.91(124.0)	0.147(0.155)
SD	4/16/21	Taxi	49.9(50.0)		102.6	7.03	10.1	-0.56(0.0)	126.68(124.0)	0.7(-0.035)
SD	5/11/21	Valence	49.84(50.0)		92.6	7.08	10.07	0.67(0.0)	124.5(124.0)	-0.2(-0.168)
SD	6/16/21	Taxi	50.0(50.0)		103	7.05	10.07	1.34(0.0)	126.02(124.0)	0.058(0.057)
SD	7/16/21	Valence	50.017(50.0)			7.04	10.05	-2.13(0.0)	132.35(124.0)	0.07(0.062)
SD	8/19/21	Taxi	50.01(50.0)		97.8	7.12	10.14	0.05(0.0)	124.15(124.0)	-0.42(-0.193)
SD	9/28/21	Sierra	49.9(50.0)		98.9	7.02	10.1	-0.08(0.0)	128.1(124.0)	-0.32(-0.196)
SD	10/11/21	Quebec	50.01(50.0)		99.5	7.08	10.11	0.67(0.0)	123.4(124.0)	0.07(-0.067)
SD	11/9/21	Sierra	50.1(50.0)		98.2	7.05	10.1	0.4(0.0)	122.07(124.0)	-0.22(-0.184)
SD	12/17/21	Taxi	49.84(50.0)		97.9	7.02	10.09	-0.23(0.0)	125.07(124.0)	0.258(-0.265)

14) Other remarks/notes

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

Chlorophyll data were calibrated using a one-point calibration for part of the year in 2021. The one-point calibration utilized deionized (DI) water and a zero point calibration. The YSI EXO operations manual and NERRS SWMP EXO Manual both call for a two-point calibration. After July 2021 the calibration for Chlorophyll at H3 was done according to SOPs. The SS site was not calibrated according to SOPs until November 2021. ChlFluor data at H3 and SS submitted in 2021 have been marked 1 SIC CSM during the times listed below.

H3 1/1 to 9/28 2:45

SS 1/1 to 11/9 10:00

Seldovia Surface & Homer Surface sites move up and down on a cable. Sometimes the sonde gets hung-up on the cable, causing out of water events. <1.0 meter and >0.1 meter data are retained.

Homer surface was discovered missing on 03/24/2021 during routine field work. The mooring was damaged, and the sensor floated free. The sensor was not recovered, and all data were lost. Delay in manufacturing of the custom surface shuttle prevented redeployment until 06/10/2021.

Routine maintenance of the Homer surface and deep sondes was delayed during the month of September because a secure ship of the Alaska Marine Highway System was moored on the dock where the sensors are located. The sensors were deployed for 42 days rather than the standard 30. Data collected during this period seem unaffected.

Homer surface was retrieved 12/09/2021 12:50 and not redeployed due to heaving icing of the surface waters.

Home deep sonde was retrieved on 1/24 16:15 due to a C/T probe failure. A new probe was installed and the sonde was redeployed on 1/25 12:08. There was no sonde deployed between 1/24 16:15 and 1/28 12:00.

The pH probe on the Seldovia surface sonde posted at 10.73/13.23 with a slope of 144.1. There are no field notes indicating a broken pH tip or any issue with the pH probe. However, the post was off. The data do not appear impacted by this so we are unsure if something compromised the probe after retrieval.