**Great Bay (GRB) NERR Water Quality Metadata**

**April 1 – December 9, 2020**

**Latest Update: April 14, 2021**

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@belle.baruch.sc.edu](file:///C:\Users\Lara%20Martin\Dropbox\SWMP-lab\2018\WQ%202018\SWMP%20files\cdmosupport@belle.baruch.sc.edu) or Reserve with any additional questions.

**I. Data Set and Research Descriptors**

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**2) Entry verification**

Deployment data are downloaded from the YSI EXO2 data loggers to a Dell Latitude E5540 laptop (IBM compatible). Files are exported from the KOR Software in an Excel File (.XLS) and uploaded to the CDMO where they undergo automated primary QAQC, automated depth corrections for changes in barometric pressure (cDepth parameter), and then 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 the cDepth parameter, 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 are generally accepted as being the most accurate. For more information on QAQC flags and codes, see Sections 11 and 12. Tom Gregory and Lara Martin are responsible for data management. GRB archives all raw and QAQC’d files in Dropbox, in addition to back-up hard drives.

**3) Research objectives**

YSI EXO2 data loggers, hereafter referred to as sondes, are deployed in the middle of Great Bay (GB) and in the Squamscott (SQ), Oyster (OR), and Lamprey Rivers (LR) as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserves' (NERRS) System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP). The goal is to develop and maintain temporally intensive long-term datasets of physio-chemical parameters of water quality at locations that are representative of the Great Bay estuarine system. The Great Bay site is relatively unimpacted, while the three tidal river sites (Lamprey, Oyster and Squamscott) have large drainage basins and are impacted by both point (wastewater treatment plants) and nonpoint sources of pollution. In addition to establishing a baseline of water quality and increasing our understanding of the spatial and temporal variability of important indicators of estuarine water quality, the data is used by researchers in the analysis of physical and biological processes.

**4) Research methods**

Sondes are programmed to obtain measurements of specific conductivity, salinity, dissolved oxygen mg/L and percent saturation, pH, temperature, depth, and turbidity every 15 minutes (Eastern Standard Time). Only EXO2 sondes were deployed 2017-2020, although in years previous to this, YSI model 6600 sondes were used. All are equipped with non-vented depth sensors.

Sondes are swapped every three to four weeks although CDMO protocols permit deployments up to 45 days. The sonde in the field is retrieved and a newly calibrated replacement deployed immediately so there is little to no data gap. The 3-4 week deployment duration may be constrained by battery life (shorter life in colder waters) and fouling of the sensors during the warm summer months. The instruments are deployed continuously during ice-free seasons, except for brief periods when they are removed for cleaning, maintenance, and recalibration.

YSI conductivity standard (YSI 3169 – 50 mS/cm) and Fondriest Environmental pH 7 and 10 buffers (FNBU5007-G and FNBU5010-G) are used for calibration. YSI turbidity standard (YSI 6073G – 124 FNU) is used to calibrate turbidity probes. Air-saturated water is used to calibrate percent dissolved oxygen. Temperature sensors are cross-checked every calibration against a NIST traceable certified thermometer. After a deployment, each sonde is brought back to the laboratory for a post-calibration check. Each sensor is run in its respective standard to determine whether calibration values have drifted during deployment.

During each sonde replacement, field measurements of temperature, salinity, specific conductance, and dissolved and percent oxygen are recorded using a handheld YSI PRO 2030 field meter.

Total Algae sensors (chlorophyll-a, in addition to blue-green algae/phycocyanin [BGA-PC]) and fluorescent dissolved organic matter (fDOM) sensors are now being deployed at 3 Great Bay reserve sites. Only chlorophyll-a data is QAQC’d using the CDMO macro. Blue-green algae and fDOM data are included in the reported dataset but have not been officially QAQC’d. Please contact the reserve for this data and sensor calibration protocols.

Chlorophyll sensors are individually calibrated in µg/L units using a 2-point calibration method. Deionized water is used as a 0 standard and a Rhodamine WT dye as the second standard (0.625 mg/L Rhodamine WT dilution--200:1 dilution of the original liquid concentrate). The effect of temperature on the fluorescence of Rhodamine WT dye is accounted for when calibrating the EXO Total Algae sensor. The temperature correction coefficient of the Rhodamine WT standard solution is determined using a table provided by YSI. The true temperature of the standard is cross referenced to table values to obtain the corrected µg/L chl-a value for Rhodamine WT. The corrected fluorescence value is entered in the KOR software for calibration. We then post-calibrate the sensors in deionized water and dye standard to determine how much drift there is between deployments.

The Lamprey and Squamscott River sondes are deployed inside vertical piling mounted 4-inch PVC tubes with the sensors 0.5 meters off the bottom. The bottom of the SQ pipe has four 10-inch rectangular slots cut out to facilitate water flow. The LR sonde pipe has many 2-inch holes cut out for water flow. Both pipes were cleaned at the beginning of the 2019 field season.

The Great Bay sonde is deployed 0.5 meters off the bottom inside a 3-foot PVC tube that is attached to the shank of a 50-pound mushroom anchor. This pipe also has four 10-inch slots cut out.

Due to shallow depths and a narrow channel, the Oyster River sonde must be deployed with the least amount of vertical expression above bottom. Typically, it is around 0.5 meters, but it can be as shallow as 0.3 meters. This is achieved by deploying the sonde inside a 3-foot PVC tube that is attached to the shank of a 50-pound mushroom anchor, similar to the Great Bay site. This allows for the sonde to be stationed in an upright position but also makes the anchor less susceptible to dragging. The bottom of this pipe also has four 10-inch slots for flow.

The Squamscott River sonde is typically telemetered via Nexsens transmitters using cellular technology, although for 2020 it was not. The transmissions are scheduled hourly and contain 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**

**Site #1 Great Bay (GB)**

Location: Central area of Great Bay proper.

Coordinates are 43º 04' 20" N latitude and 70º 52' 10" W longitude.

Salinity range: 5-32 ppt (seasonally); 0-5 ppt from high to low tide.

Temperature range: -1º C to 24º C (seasonally); 0-3 (from high to low tide)

Depth: 6.5 meters at MLW

Tidal height: 2.7 meters

Bottom type: Mud and rock channel bottom

Tidal velocity: maximum 50 cm/sec

Watersheds: Squamscott, Lamprey and Winnicut Rivers plus smaller streams.

High tide influence from Little Bay and associated rivers

Pollutant influence: clean reference site

**Site #2 Squamscott River (SQ)**

Location: Mid channel of the Squamscott River at the Boston and Maine Railroad Bridge, Stratham, NH.

Coordinates are 43º 02' 30" N latitude and 70º 55' 20" W longitude

Salinity range: 0-30 ppt (seasonally); 5-20 ppt from high to low tide.

Temperature range: -1º C to 27º C (seasonally); difference of 0-5º between high and low tide

Depth: 3.5 meters at MLW

Tidal height: 2.7 meters

Bottom type: Mud/oyster channel bottom

Tidal velocity: maximum 50 cm/sec

Watersheds: Exeter River, adjacent marshes

Pollutant influence: Urban stormwater, agriculture, two municipal wastewater treatment plants, residential septic systems

**Site #3 Lamprey River (LR)**

Location: West bank of the tidal portion of the Lamprey River, approximately 300 m downstream of the dam at Route 108 in Newmarket, NH.

Coordinates are 43º 04' 48" N latitude and 70º 56' 04" W longitude.

Salinity range: 0 - 27 ppt (seasonally); difference of up to 15 ppt between high and low tides.

Temperature range: -1º C to 27º C (seasonally); difference of up to 5º C between high and low tides.

Depth: 3.5 meters

Tidal height: 2.7 meters

Bottom type: Mud/rock

Tidal velocity: maximum 40 cm/sec

Watershed: Lamprey River

Pollutant influence: Urban stormwater, adjacent marina, upstream and downstream wastewater treatment plants, upstream agriculture

**Site #4 Oyster River (OR)**

Location: In the center channel of the tidal portion of the Oyster River, approximately 300 m downstream of the head of tide dam adjacent to Jackson’s Landing in Durham, NH.

Coordinates are 43.134º N latitude and 70.911º W longitude

Salinity range: 0 –32 ppt (seasonally); difference of up to 15 ppt between high and low tides

Temperature range: -1º C to 27º C (seasonally); difference of up to 5° C between high and low tides

Depth: 0.3 meters at MLW, 3 meters at highest high tides

Tidal height: 2.7 meters (maximum)

Bottom type: Mud

Tidal velocity: maximum 40 cm/sec

Watershed: Oyster River

Pollutant influence: Urban stormwater, mooring field and crew dock, downstream wastewater treatment plant, upstream agriculture, residential on-site sewage disposal.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Station Code | SWMP Status | Station Name | Location | Active Dates | Reason Decommissioned | Notes |
| GB | P | Great Bay | 43º 04’ 20" N, 70º 52' 10" W | 07/1995 –  present | NA | NA |
| LR | P | Lamprey River | 43º 04' 48" N, 70º 56' 04" W | 05/1998 –  present | NA | NA |
| OR | P | Oyster River | 43º 08’ 02” N, 70º 54’ 40” W | 06/2000 –  present | NA | NA |
| SQ | P | Squamscott River | 43º 02' 30" N, 70º 55' 20" W | 07/1997 –  present | NA | NA |

**6) Data collection period**

Great Bay data collection began July 24, 1995. This sonde was originally on a floating buoy,

approximately one meter below the surface. It was moved to its current location and depth (0.5

meters off the bottom) April 2014.

Squamscott River data collection began July 1997.

Lamprey River data collection began May 1998.

Oyster River data collection began June 2000.

The instruments are removed from the water during the winter months due to non-navigable conditions caused by ice and the removal of channel markers. Icing is particularly severe in the rivers and is harmful to instruments, boats, and telemetry equipment.

**Great Bay Reserve Deployment Dates 2020**

Great Bay

Deploy date and time Retrieval date and time

05/07/2020 13:45 06/04/2020 10:00

06/04/2020 10:30 07/01/2020 14:30

07/01/2020 14:45 08/05/2020 11:45

08/05/2020 12:00 09/03/2020 13:00

09/03/2020 13:15 09/29/2020 13:45

09/29/2020 14:00 10/22/2020 09:15

10/22/2020 09:30 11/12/2020 12:45

11/12/2020 13:00 12/09/2020 08:45

Lamprey River

Deploy date and time Retrieval date and time

05/14/2020 11:15 06/16/2020 11:00

06/16/2020 11:15 07/17/2020 10:30

07/17/2020 10:45 08/12/2020 07:30

08/12/2020 07:45 09/10/2020 09:00

09/10/2020 09:15 10/06/2020 07:45

10/06/2020 08:00 11/05/2020 15:00

11/05/2020 15:15 12/03/2020 14:30

Oyster River

Deploy date and time Retrieval date and time

05/07/2020 12:30 06/05/2020 12:30

06/05/2020 13:00 06/25/2020 15:45

06/25/2020 16:00 07/30/2020 09:30

07/30/2020 09:45 08/19/2020 11:00

08/19/2020 11:05 09/10/2020 10:00

09/10/2020 10:15 10/01/2020 13:00

10/01/2020 13:15 10/22/2020 07:30

10/22/2020 07:45 11/10/2020 09:30

11/10/2020 09:45 12/04/2020 13:30

Squamscott River

Deploy date and time Retrieval date and time

05/11/2020 09:45 06/11/2020 08:00

06/11/2020 08:15 07/02/2020 13:15

07/02/2020 13:30 08/05/2020 12:45

08/05/2020 13:00 08/25/2020 09:00

08/25/2020 09:15 09/17/2020 14:00

09/17/2020 14:15 10/09/2020 11:15

10/09/2020 11:30 11/09/2020 13:00

11/09/2020 13:15 12/09/2020 13:15

**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 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](http://www.nerrsdata.org). Data are available in comma delimited format.

**8) Associated researchers, projects, and data end-users**

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

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) research – Dr. David Burdick; Dr. Gregg Moore; Dr. Fred Short - Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. Supported by Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership and NH Department of Environmental Services.

Oyster reef mapping and restoration – Dr. Ray Grizzle, Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. Supported by NH Fish and Game, the NOAA-UNH Joint Hydrographic Center and the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping.

EPA National Coastal Assessment Program – Dr. Stephen H. Jones, Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. Funded by the US-EPA.

Oyster spawning and recruitment trends – The Nature Conservancy, University of New Hampshire, Great Bay NERR, and NH Fish and Game utilize temperature and salinity data for predictions.

Lobster and horseshoe crab migration trends – Dr. Win Watson, Jackson Estuarine Laboratory.

**II. Physical Structure Descriptors**

**9) Sensor specifications**

Great Bay NERR deployed only EXO2 sondes this monitoring year. Most of the sondes and sensors used were manufactured in 2016 and 2017. The reserve is still using one EXO2 from 2013 and three from 2014 and several probes from similar time periods. Typically, the sondes are outfitted with the same set of sensors throughout the monitoring season, although the sondes are rotated between all the sites. The reserve is now using Total Algae (Chlorophyll/BGA-PC) and fDOM probes which are a part of the sensor configuration. The Oyster River sonde does not have Total Algae or fDOM probes.

YSI EXO2 Sonde:

Parameter: Temperature

Units: Celsius (C)

Sensor Type: Wiped probe; Thermistor

Model#: 599827

Range: -5 to 50º C

Accuracy: ±0.2º C

Resolution: 0.001º C

Parameter: Conductivity

Units: milli-Siemens per cm (mS/cm)

Sensor Type: Wiped probe; 4-electrode cell with autoranging

Model#: 599827

Range: 0 to 100 mS/cm

Accuracy: ±1% of the reading or 0.002 mS/cm, whichever is greater

Resolution: 0.0001 to 0.01 mS/cm (range dependent)

Parameter: Salinity

Units: practical salinity units (psu)/parts per thousand (ppt). Values calculated using conductivity and temperature data

Model#: 599827

Sensor Type: Wiped probe

Range: 0 to 70 ppt

Accuracy: ±2% of the reading or 0.2 ppt, whichever is greater

Resolution: 0.01 psu

Parameter: Dissolved Oxygen % saturation

Sensor Type: Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning

Model#: 599100-01

Range: 0 to 500% air saturation

Accuracy: 0-200% air saturation: +/- 1% of the reading or 1% air saturation, whichever is greater.

200-500% air saturation: +/- 5% or reading

Resolution: 0.1% air saturation

Parameter: Dissolved Oxygen mg/L (Calculated from % air saturation, temperature, and salinity)

Units: milligrams/Liter (mg/L)

Sensor Type: Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning

Model#: 599100-01

Range: 0 to 50 mg/L

Accuracy: 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

Resolution: 0.01 mg/L

Parameter: Non-vented Level - Shallow (Depth)

Units: feet or meters (ft or m)

Sensor Type: Stainless steel strain gauge

Range: 0 to 33 ft (10 m)

Accuracy: +/- 0.013 ft (0.04 m)

Resolution: 0.001 ft (0.001 m)

Parameter: pH

Units: pH units

Sensor Type: Glass combination electrode

Model#: 599702 (wiped)

Range: 0 to 14 units

Accuracy: +/- 0.01 units within +/- 10° of calibration temperature, +/- 0.02 units for entire temperature range

Resolution: 0.01 units

Parameter: Turbidity

Units: formazin nephelometric units (FNU)

Sensor Type: Optical, 90º scatter

Model#: 599101-01

Range: 0 to 4000 FNU

Accuracy: 0 to 999 FNU: 0.3 FNU or +/-2% of reading (whichever is greater).

1000 to 4000 FNU +/-5% of reading

Resolution: 0 to 999 FNU: 0.01 FNU, 1000 to 4000 FNU: 0.1 FNU

Parameter: Chlorophyll/Total Algae (BGA-PC)

Units: micrograms/Liter (µg/Liter)

Sensor Type: Optical probe with mechanical cleaning

Model#: 599102-01

Range: 0 to 400 µg/Liter

Accuracy: Dependent on methodology

Resolution: 0.1 µg/Liter chl-a, 0.1% FS

Parameter: fDOM (fluorescent dissolved organic matter)

Units: Quinine sulfate units (QSU)

Sensor Type: Optical probe with mechanical cleaning

Model#: 599104-01

Range: 0 to 300 parts per billion (ppb) Quinine Sulfate equivalent (QSE)

Accuracy: Dependent on methodology

Resolution: 0.01 ppb QSE

Detection Limit: 0.07 ppb QSE

**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**

Sampling station: Sampling site code: Station code:

Great Bay GB grbgbwq

Lamprey River LR grblrwq

Oyster River OR grborwq

Squamscott River SQ grbsqwq

**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**

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**

Great Bay

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  **Deployed** | **DO% adjusted for BP** | **Baro Press mmHg** | **Depth m** | **Depth Offset m** | **SpCond 50 mS/cm** | **pH 7** | **pH 10** | **Turbidity 0 FNU** | **Turbidity**  **124 FNU** | **Chl 0 DI ug/L** | **Chl Rhodamine**  **ug/L** | **Rhodamine**  **Standard ug/L** |
| 05/07/2020 | 99.6 | 756.7 | -0.06 | -0.05 | 50.03 | 7.14 | 10.09 | 0.23 | 125.1 | -0.05 | 62.5 | 63.2 |
| 06/04/2020 | 98.7 | 754.4 | -0.04 | -0.04 | 50.10 | 7.07 | 9.92 | 0.20 | 124.7 | -0.25 | 73.8 | 71.5 |
| 07/01/2020 | 99.0 | 759.7 | -0.01 | 0.00 | 50.06 | 7.09 | 10.04 | 0.40 | 124.9 | 0.20 | 62.8 | 64.1 |
| 08/05/2020 | 99.3 | 755.7 | -0.07 | -0.06 | 48.35 | 6.92 | 9.96 | 0.02 | 123.5 | 0.05 | 64.7 | 64.1 |
| 09/03/2020 | 99.9 | 757.5 | -0.03 | -0.03 | 49.63 | 6.84 | 10.04 | 0.20 | 123.9 | 0.15 | 64.7 | 64.2 |
| 09/29/2020 | 100.3 | 768.5 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 50.03 | 6.98 | 10.06 | 0.30 | 123.1 | 0.2 | 64.3 | 63.8 |
| 10/22/2020 | 99.8 | 761.2 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 50.05 | 7.10 | 9.98 | 0.40 | 123.6 | 0.6 | 63.5 | 63.0 |
| 11/12/2020 | 99.1 | 755.5 | -0.06 | -0.06 | 49.73 | 7.00 | 9.97 | -0.07 | 123.2 | 0.07 | 70.1 | 68.3 |

Lamprey River

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  **Deployed** | **DO% adjusted for BP** | **Baro Press mmHg** | **Depth m** | **Depth Offset m** | **SpCond 50 mS/cm** | **pH 7** | **pH 10** | **Turbidity 0 FNU** | **Turbidity**  **124 FNU** | **Chl 0 DI ug/L** | **Chl Rhodamine**  **ug/L** | **Rhodamine**  **Standard ug/L** |
| 05/14/2020 | 101.6 | 771.6 | 0.15 | 0.16 | 50.06 | 7.13 | 9.98 | 0.04 | 125.1 | -0.08 | 66.4 | 66.1 |
| 06/16/2020 | 99.8 | 763.4 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 50.44 | 7.05 | 10.05 | 0.05 | 124.5 | 0.0 | 65.9 | 65.7 |
| 07/17/2020 | 99.0 | 761.1 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 49.82 | 7.12 | 10.03 | 0.10 | 124.2 | 0.20 | 71.3 | 69.6 |
| 08/12/2020 | 100.5 | 766.4 | 0.08 | 0.9 | 49.58 | 7.02 | 10.03 | 0.30 | 123.2 | 0.28 | 64.4 | 64.7 |
| 09/10/2020 | 96.4 | 748.8 | -0.16 | -0.15 | 50.01 | 7.08 | 10.23 | 0.20 | 123.8 | 0.10 | 62.1 | 62.6 |
| 10/06/2020 | 101.3 | 768.1 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 50.05 | 6.98 | 9.95 | -0.07 | 123.5 | -0.03 | 66.7 | 66.2 |
| 11/05/2020 | 101.5 | 760.5 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 49.72 | 6.89 | 9.97 | 0.16 | 123.7 | -0.03 | 62.6 | 61.7 |

Oyster River

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| **Date**  **Deployed** | **DO% adjusted for BP** | **Baro Press mmHg** | **Depth m** | **Depth Offset m** | **SpCond 50 mS/cm** | **pH 7** | **pH 10** | **Turbidity 0 FNU** | **Turbidity**  **124 FNU** | **Chl 0 DI ug/L** | **Chl Rhodamine**  **ug/L** | **Rhodamine**  **Standard ug/L** |
| 05/07/2020 | 99.9 | 756.4 | -0.05 | -0.05 | 49.84 | 7.24 | 10.10 | 0.32 | 122.8 |  |  |  |
| 06/05/2020 | 99.8 | 758.9 | -0.01 | -0.02 | 50.07 | 7.15 | 10.11 | 0.30 | 124.1 |  |  |  |
| 06/25/2020 | 98.8 | 757.0 |  |  | 49.96 | 7.12 | 10.10 | 0.01 | 124.4 |  |  |  |
| 07/30/3030 | 100.1 | 756.3 | -0.05 | -0.05 | 50.27 | 7.05 | 10.03 | **6.4** | **81.0** |  |  |  |
| 08/19/2020 | 100.3 | 766.4 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 49.88 | 6.94 | 10.00 | 0.05 | 123.1 |  |  |  |
| 09/10/2020 | 99.7 | 757.6 | -0.03 | -0.03 | 49.94 | 7.08 | 10.13 | 0.03 | 123.5 |  |  |  |
| 10/01/2020 | 100.8 | 768.5 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 49.90 | 7.08 | 10.05 | 0.12 | 123.8 |  |  |  |
| 10/22/2020 | 100.3 | 763.9 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 50.20 | 7.16 | 10.10 | 0.20 | 122.0 |  |  |  |
| 11/10/2020 | 100.4 | 759.6 | 0.00 | -0.01 | 49.87 | 6.95 | 9.95 | 0.04 | 122.8 |  |  |  |

Squamscott River

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  **Deployed** | **DO% adjusted for BP** | **Baro Press mmHg** | **Depth m** | **Depth Offset m** | **SpCond 50 mS/cm** | **pH 7** | **pH 10** | **Turbidity 0 FNU** | **Turbidity**  **124 FNU** | **Chl 0 DI ug/L** | **Chl Rhodamine**  **ug/L** | **Rhodamine**  **Standard ug/L** |
| 05/11/2020 | 99.7 | 760.9 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 50.01 | 7.16 | 10.06 | 0.20 | 126.0 | 0.15 | 60.9 | 61.3 |
| 06/11/2020 | 98.6 | 754.3 | -0.08 | -0.08 | 50.19 | 7.06 | 10.03 | 0.10 | 124.8 | 0.30 | 65.9 | 65.2 |
| 07/02/2020 | 99.8 | 759.6 | 0.00 | -0.01 | 49.82 | 7.10 | 9.96 | 0.20 | 124.7 | 0.01 | 63.6 | 64.7 |
| 08/05/2020 | 99.1 | 753.5 | -0.08 | -0.09 | 50.47 | 7.03 | 10.04 | 0.10 | 124.1 | 0.15 | 67.6 | 66.8 |
| 08/25/2020 | 99.9 | 760.2 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 49.69 | 6.78 | 9.98 | 0.05 | 123.8 | 0.05 | 65.5 | 64.8 |
| 09/17/2020 | 99.8 | 764.6 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 50.08 | 6.96 | 10.03 | 0.20 | 123.2 | -0.02 | 63.1 | 62.3 |
| 10/09/2020 | 101.4 | 767.7 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 49.81 | 7.10 | 10.05 | 0.26 | 122.6 | 0.05 | 64.6 | 62.6 |
| 11/09/2020 | 100.1 | 753.7 | -0.09 | -0.09 | 49.70 | 7.09 | 10.02 | 0.16 | 123.4 | -0.05 | 68.6 | 67.2 |

**14) Other remarks/notes**

**Turbidity anomalies – Biological**

This type of anomaly includes turbidity readings that are outside of the normal range or greatly elevated above background baseline and unrelated to increased sediment suspension or decreased water column clarity. We believe this data is real and not a sensor malfunction, although not reflective of actual water column turbidity. These extreme values are likely due to biological factors (e.g., fish, crabs, other marine organisms). Our general guideline for flagging single-point spikes which are ≥200 FNU and more than 10 times greater than the surrounding values is to flag the point suspect <1> or to reject <-3> and label it with a turbidity spike [STS] code.

**Turbidity anomalies - Suspension**

This type of anomaly includes turbidity readings that are either outside the normal range or greatly elevated above background baseline and related to flow or weather-induced suspension. We believe this data is real and not a sensor malfunction, although not reflective of actual water column turbidity. These values are likely due to floating organic matter (e.g., eelgrass, leaves, detritus) suspended in the water column. Our general guideline for flagging this data is to closely analyze readings that are over 200 FNU and more than 5 times the magnitude of the surrounding values and linked to wind or high/changing water currents. These readings may be declared suspect <1> or rejected <-3> and labeled with a turbidity spike [STS] code.

**Chlorophyll fluorescence anomalies**

Biofouling, floating detritus, and/or a disturbed bottom can cause chlorophyll fluorescence optical sensors to record values which are outside the normal environmental range. Data points over five times the magnitude of surrounding values may be flagged as suspect <1> and labeled with a chlorophyll spike [SCS] code. Additionally, sustained values over 100 µg/L are considered suspect or rejected unless unusual conditions at the site can be verified. Spikes that exceed 400 µg/L are rejected <-3> and labeled with the [SCS] code.

Many of our sites regularly record chlorophyll-a values exceeding 100 µg/L. Although we suspect that some of these data points are real, a result of fluorescing plankton, we have not yet been able to collect grab samples and perform extractive chlorophyll analysis which validate this high sonde data.

**15) Flagged data and other comments**

The depth data at the Oyster River and Great Bay site can display a fair bit of variability between deployments. Due to design of our sonde rigs, when swapping the instrument, it is necessary to pull up the entire anchor. Even though we have a GPS waypoint for the site and mark the spot with a temporary float when we pull up the sonde anchor, it is very difficult to return the anchor to exactly the same location. At the Great Bay site this can cause +/- 0.5 meter depth discrepancies between deployments.

**Great Bay**

05/07/2020 13:45 – 06/05/2020 13:30 <1> [GSM] (CWD)

Logger was deployed at the wrong GPS waypoint at the beginning of the field season. It was situated within 20-30 meters of the correct location. Although data from this period do not show patterns different from following deployments, all data has been labeled suspect. The sonde was placed in the proper location 06/05/2020 14:00.

06/05/2020 13:45 <-3> (CMC)

Sonde was moved approximately 25 meters, to a slightly shallower location. Depth decreased by 0.7 meters.

08/04/2020 06:45 – 08/05/2020 11:45 <-3> [SSD] (CSM)

Towards the end of the deployment, dissolved oxygen values started to drift downwards. When the instrument was retrieved, there was a heavy algal layer on the sensor bodies and sonde guard, in addition to a 3-inch fish inside of the sonde guard. The sensor post-calibrated well within range.

<1> <-3> [SBO] [SWM] (CSM)

10/06/2020 23:45 – 10/07/2020 06:45

10/08/2020 11:30 – 13:30

10/13/2020 18:30 – 19:15

10/19/2020 17:15 – 23:15

10/20/2020 13:00 – 15:45

10/21/2020 01:45 – 08:30

We believe the central wiper malfunctioned repeatedly during this deployment. This may have caused the wiper to park over or partially over the chlorophyll and/or turbidity sensor faces causing abrupt spikes in these parameters. In addition, when the sonde was retrieved, the wiper brush was missing. The light biofouling on the sensor faces may have contributed to some of the increased values. Furthermore, October 13-17, 2020, approximately 3-4 inches of rain fell and there were high winds. Despite these impacts, turbidity and chlorophyll data at the end of this deployment transitioned well with the beginning of the next deployment though. This indicates to us that the wiper issues were intermittent, and that biofouling may have played a lesser role.

12/01/2020 00:00 – 14:00 <1> [SCS] (CSM)

Two inches of rain fell 11/30 – 12/01/1010. In addition, there were wind gusts up to 35mph. This rain event likely disturbed the sediments around the sonde.

**Lamprey River**

07/01/2020 02:45 – 07/03/2020 07:15 <0> [GSM] (CRE)

Three to four inches of rain fell 06/29/2020 and 06/30/2020. Much of this occurred in very short periods of time as heavy downpours. This caused dramatic swings in specific conductance and salinity over the following days. Dissolved oxygen and temperature were also affected but to a lesser degree.

**Oyster River**

07/14/2020 09:45 – 10:15 <0> (CSM)

07/16/2020 00:00 – 00:45 <0> (CSM)

07/16/2020 11:15 – 11:45 <0> (CSM)

07/17/2020 01:15 – 01:30 <0> (CSM)

07/18/2020 01:15 – 01:45 <0> (CSM)

07/18/2020 13:45 – 14:15 <0> (CSM)

07/19/2020 02:30 – 07/30/2020 09:15 <1> (CSM)

During the second half of the deployment, pH and dissolved oxygen values started to drift downwards. Field logs do not note any sort of fouling presence. The dissolved oxygen cap and pH tip were older although both calibrated and post-calibrated fine.

We believe the pH and dissolved oxygen values on the high end of the range are fairly reliable. Values at the low end of the range were most affected. We suggest that the low pH and dissolved oxygen data are valid but perhaps an artifact of the sonde rig location for this deployment as the trend was resolved when the sonde was replaced.

During these periods, pH and dissolved oxygen values plummeted rapidly during ebbing mid-tide but then spiked back up equally as quickly. These fluctuations occurred in a 30-45 minute time window. The sonde is located in a shallow mudflat area next to a boat channel. It seems that as the tide started to drop, the moving water was flowing only in the channel but when the tide got low enough, the water pulled away from the sonde quickly causing the decrease in values. As the water around the sonde stabilized, the pH and dissolved oxygen rebounded.

08/11/2020 09:15 – 08/19/2020 10:45 <-3> [SPC] (CBF)

Turbidity post calibration was out of range [6.4@0](mailto:6.4@0) and [81.0@124](mailto:81.0@124). The sensors and sonde guard were fouled with tunicates. Sensor faces were moderately fouled as the wiper did not work reliably. In addition, the wiper brush was very splayed.

08/19/2020 11:00 – 09/11/2020 09:15 <0> [GSM] (CWD)

When the sonde was deployed 08/19/2020 11:00, the sonde anchor was accidentally placed in a slightly different location, 0.75 meters shallower than previous deployments. It stayed at this location through the end of the deployment and for the first day of the following deployment. It was moved to the correct depth 09/11/2020 09:30.

<-3> [GOW] (CSM)

08/20/2020 07:45 – 08:30

08/21/2020 08:30 – 09:15

08/22/2020 09:30 – 09:45

Because datalogger was deployed 0.75 meters shallower than normal 08/19/2020 11:00, three out-

of-water incidents occurred. All data associated with these events were rejected.

<0> [GSM]

08/22/2020 22:00

08/23/2020 10:15 – 10:30

08/23/2020 23:00 – 23:15

08/31/2020 06:00 – 06:15

09/11/2020 00:30 – 01:45

The shallow placement of the sonde, in conjunction with very low tides, impacted this data. The

sensors did not come out of the water although it is likely that the sensor faces may have been just

below the surface of the water causing instability in the output.

**Squamscott River**

07/21/2020 07:15 – 08/05/2020 12:30 <1> [SSD] (CBF)

Towards the end of the deployment, dissolved oxygen values started to drift downwards, particularly at the low end of the range. We suspect that this may have been due to biofouling. The sensor bodies and sonde guard were heavily fouled with hydroids when the sonde was retrieved although the sensor faces were clean, and the central wiper brush parked correctly. We believe the dissolved oxygen values on the high end of the range are fairly reliable.

**All sites**

The following are 2020 daily precipitation totals >10.2 mm (0.4 inches) recorded at the Great Bay NERR weather station in Greenland, NH. Note that significant rainfall amounts can affect all measured parameters, most noticeably salinity, turbidity, pH, and occasionally dissolved oxygen. Rainfall exceeding 1 inch in a day or consecutive days of rain often cause specific conductance/salinity in the riverine sites to drop to zero.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Total Daily Precip (mm) |
| 01/25/2020 | 32.0 (Snow) |
| 02/07/2020 | 13.7 (Snow) |
| 02/27/2020 | 22.9 (Snow) |
| 03/23/2020 | 22.9 (Snow/rain) |
| 03/29/2020 | 17.0 |
| 04/27/2020 | 20.6 |
| 05/01/2020 | 20.6 |
| 06/24/2020 | 10.7 |
| 06/29/2020 | 31.5 |
| 06/30/2020 | 64.5 |
| 07/13/2020 | 21.3 |
| 08/19/2020 | 20.3 |
| 08/23/2020 | 11.7 |
| 08/29/2020 | 29.0 |
| 09/10/2020 | 12.4 |
| 09/30/2020 | 13.2 |
| 10/13/2020 | 41.9 |
| 10/16/2020 | 10.9 |
| 10/17/2020 | 32.0 |
| 10/29/2020 | 18.8 |
| 11/01/2020 | 10.4 |
| 11/23/2020 | 48.0 |
| 11/26/2020 | 14.5 |
| 11/30/2020 | 38.1 |
| 12/01/2020 | 10.9 |
| 12/05/2020 | 54.6 |
| 12/25/2020 | 24.9 |

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.