**Lake Superior (LKS)** **NERR Meteorological Metadata**

**January to December, 2015**

**Latest Update:** January 20, 2017

**I. Data Set and Research Descriptors**

**1) Principal investigator(s) and contact persons –**

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Tracey Ledder, Monitoring Coordinator, is responsible for all data management

**2) Entry verification –** This section explains how the data were verified (QAQC’d) before being sent to the CDMO to be archived into the permanent database.

Data are uploaded from the CR1000 data logger to a ruggedized laptop (IBM compatible). Data files are transferred to a Personal Computer (IBM compatible) via flash drive. Files are opened and exported from LoggerNet in a comma-delimited format and uploaded to the CDMO where they undergo automated primary QAQC and become part of the CDMO’s online provisional database. During primary QAQC, data are flagged if they are missing or out of sensor range. The edited file is then returned to the Reserve where it is opened in Microsoft Excel and processed using the CDMO’s NERRQAQC Excel macro. The macro inserts station codes, creates metadata worksheets for flagged data and summary statistics, and graphs the data for review. It allows the user to apply QAQC flags and codes to the data, append files, and export the resulting data file to the CDMO for tertiary QAQC and assimilation into the CDMO’s authoritative online database. For more information on QAQC flags and QAQC codes, see Sections 11 and 12.

Tracey Ledder, Monitoring Coordinator, is responsible for data management.

**3) Research objectives –**

The Lake Superior NERR is situated on the freshwater estuary at the confluence of the St. Louis River and Lake Superior, the largest and most pristine of the Great Lakes. The Reserve is a diverse, 16,697-acre complex that contains a variety of representative terrestrial and aquatic habitats allowing for extensive research and educational opportunities. The Reserve provides opportunities for research and monitoring, experiential learning, and training while continuing to contribute to the protection of the ecological health of the St. Louis River freshwater estuary and Lake Superior coastal habitats.

The Lake Superior NERR implements the NERR System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP). This includes four continuous water quality monitoring stations with monthly nutrient and chlorophyll sampling, a meteorological station, and monthly sampling at one site consisting of 12 nutrient and chlorophyll samples collected over a 24-hour period. Data is archived at the Centralized Data Management Office (CDMO) as per established protocols. During the 2015 open water season, four continuous water quality stations were operational by April 16th. Samples were taken monthly for nutrients and chlorophyll *a* beginning the last week of April. These samples were analyzed in the Reserve Lab, according to written Standard Operating Procedures.

The SWMP weather station and data sonde site was established in Pokegama Bay and is the central location of a developing Great Lakes climate change Sentinel Site. The LSNERR climate change effects research site (Sentinel Site) is now operational with the focus of measuring the impacts of storm events on sediment delivery, basin morphology, and the consequences to aquatic plant communities and specifically wild rice.

To promote information access by the public in a timely manner, the LKS NERR provides real-time water quality and meteorological information using telemetry systems (satellite and cellular). This information will be used in the Coastal Training Program (CTP) and Education programs and made available to the public online and in the Lake Superior NERR Learning Center (scheduled for completion in 2017). While SWMP data from the MET station was available throughout 2015 from the CDMO Real-Time Data Application, “real-time” data from two water quality sondes was available April through November.

**4) Research methods –**

Campbell Scientific data telemetry equipment was installed at the Pokegama Bay meteorological station (PO) in July, 2013, and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID #3B048454. 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](http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/).

The 15 minute Data are collected in the following formats for the **CR1000**:

Averages from 5-second data:

Air Temperature (°C), Relative Humidity (%), Barometric Pressure (mb), Wind Speed (m/s), Wind Direction (degrees), Battery Voltage (volts), and Total Solar Radiation (W/m2) (available from the Reserve)

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

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

Wind Direction Standard Deviation (degrees)

Totals:

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

Recommended calibration frequency for the MET station sensors:

- Temperature/Humidity- yearly recalibration

- Rain Gauge- yearly recalibration

- Wind Speed/Direction- yearly or every 2 years (depending on the sensor)

- Barometric Pressure- every 2 years recalibration

- PAR- every 2 years recalibration

- CR1000-every 5 years (required beginning 2014, one year initial grace period)

*-*Total Solar Radiation *(this is an optional sensor)-*

LI-COR LI-200S - every 2 years, with recalibrations performed during the spring and summer

**5) Site location and character –**

The Lake Superior NERR is located within the estuary of the St. Louis River. The St. Louis River watershed covers approximately 3,634 square miles in northeast Minnesota and 263 square miles in northwest Wisconsin. In the upper watershed the river flows through lake clays and glacial deposits for approximately 100 miles. Near the city of Thomson the channel narrows and the river flows through a rocky rapid-filled gorge. Approximately 23 river miles upstream from Lake Superior is the Fond du Lac dam, the lowest of several dams. Below the gorge and dams the river begins to take on the characteristics of a fresh water estuary. At the mouth of the river is the largest working harbor on the Great Lakes.

The MET three-meter instrument tower is mounted on a nine-foot metal platform embedded at the bank (by helical anchors in the river bed) of the Pokegama River, within the Superior Municipal Forest, such that there is no shading and minimal wind block. Sensors are placed on the tower according to the CDMO MET manual, with the exception of the rain sensor which sits at the western corner of the platform. The immediate surrounding area is riverine wetland, rising gently in elevation to forest. The Pokegama River is a tributary to the St. Louis River, entering the estuary on the Wisconsin side of Clough Island. The Pokegama River watershed measures approximately 20,144 acres, 51% of which is wetland, 37% forested, 4% developed and 6% agricultural use (the remainder is bare land or open water).

A SWMP water quality monitoring sonde was added to this station in September, 2013.

MET Geographical Location: 46.672360 -92.135614

Platform base installed at shoreline at an altitude approximately 189 meters above sea level. The 1.9 m2 metal platform sits 2.5 m above the adjacent land surface (river berm). The three-meter instrument tower sits on the platform such that the sensors are at the following heights;

Sensor heights in meters from platform (from ground)

Temperature and Humidity: 1.75 m (4.3 m)

PAR and TotSoRad: 3 m (5.5 m)

Wind: 3.5 m (6 m)

Rain: 1.1 m (3.7 m)

BP: 1.2 m (3.7 m)

Distance to Oliver Bridge SWMP site: 5,350.0 meters

to Blatnick Bridge SWMP site: 8,925.7 meters

to Barkers Island SWMP site: 7,796.6 meters

**6) Data collection period –**

MET Deployment Table 2015

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DEPLOYED | RETRIEVED | NOTES |
| 12/18/2014 00:00 | 01/15/2015 12:00 |  |
| 01/15/2015 12:15 | 02/24/2015 09:30 |  |
| 02/24/2015 09:45 | 03/17/2015 09:00 |  |
| 03/17/2015 09:15 | 04/16/2015 14:45 |  |
| 04/16/2015 15:00 | 05/12/2015 10:00 | Rain gauge opened today |
| 05/12/2015 10:15 | 06/09/2015 14:00 | Changed RH sensor |
| 06/09/2015 14:15 | 07/07/2015 11:15 | Rain sensor calibrated |
| 07/07/2015 11:30 | 07/30/2015 12:00 | ADCP Starflow Set-up |
| 07/30/2015 12:15 | 08/18/2015 13:15 |  |
| 08/18/2015 13:30 | 09/14/2015 11:00 |  |
| 09/14/2015 11:15 | 10/08/2015 10:45 |  |
| 10/08/2015 11:00 | 11/02/2015 14:30 |  |
| 11/02/2015 14:45 | 11/18/2015 14:30 |  |
| 11/18/2015 14:45 | 11/30/2015 15:00 | Rain gauge closed and covered |
| 11/30/2015 15:15 | 12/17/2015 14:15 |  |
| 12/17/2015 14:30 | 12/30/2015 14:45 |  |
| 12/30/2015 15:00 | 12/31/2015 23:45 |  |

**7) Distribution –** This section will address data ownership and data liability with the following excerpt from the Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Data Dissemination Policy for the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program in the metadata.

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

**8) Associated researchers and projects** (link to other products or programs) **–**

Samples were taken monthly at these four sites (ol, po, bl, ba) for the SWMP required nutrient and chlorophyll *a* analyses (as well as suspended solids, and TP/TN, parameters of local interest) from April to November, 2015, with an additional under-ice sampling in January, 2015. These samples were taken by NERR staff and interns, and analyzed in the in-house laboratory (established 2014).

Under-ice sampling at 30 sites was carried out with researchers from NRRI and LLO. The objective of this project is to follow algal community changes under ice and document areas of low dissolved oxygen in winter. There are few winter sampling projects undertaken along Lake Superior. Partners who assisted with sample analysis were; LSNERR, GLERL, LLO, USGS, and NRRI.

Research projects were carried out by students this field season for comparison of water quality sensor readings and laboratory methods for chlorophyll/chlorophyll *a* and turbidity/solids. It was found that though the data from the sensor was comparable to that of the laboratory in each case, the correlation was weak, making it difficult to infer concentrations of chlorophyll *a* or suspended solids from sonde data.

The SWMP weather station and data sonde site was established in Pokegama Bay and is the central location of a developing Great Lakes climate change Sentinel Site. Permanent vegetation surveys were established in the wetlands surrounding the SWMP site, with vegetation community data collection beginning in summer 2014. Vegetation surveys were again completed at these locations in August, 2015. A focus of this project is wild rice and the resulting data will also be used to measure reference site conditions to compare with wild rice restoration efforts throughout the estuary.

The USGS is working on a biophysical model of the St. Louis River Estuary. The USGS will be collecting data throughout the estuary until 2018 to build this model. The Lake Superior NERR is assisting by coordinating collection of SWMP data to alternate with USGS sampling and tending additional equipment, such as tending a sonde at the Superior Entry

The LSNERR Research Coordinator, assisted by the Monitoring Coordinator and Coastal Training Program Coordinator, plan to coordinate a monitoring network in the estuary in order best match management needs with monitoring data. The result will be a list of prioritized needs match with organizations best suited to meet those needs.

**II. Physical Structure Descriptors**

**9) Sensor specifications –**

Parameter: Temperature

Units: Celsius

Sensor type: Platinum resistance temperature detector (PRT)

Model #: HMP45C Temperature and Relative Humidity Probe

Operating Temperature: -40°C to +60°C

Range: -40°C to +60°C

Accuracy: ± 0.2 °C @ 20°C

Serial Number: F4540095

Date of Calibration: 11/20/10

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013-06/03/2014

Serial Number: F454006

Date of Last Calibration: 03/21/2014

Dates of Sensor Use: 06/03/2014-05/12/2015

Serial Number: F4540095

Date of Calibration: 04/09/2015

Dates of Sensor Use: 05/12/2015 – current as of 12/31/2015

Parameter: Relative Humidity

Units: Percent

Sensor type: Vaisala HUMICAP© 180 capacitive relative humidity sensor

Model #: HMP45C Temperature and Relative Humidity Probe

Range: 0-100% non-condensing

Accuracy at 20°C: +/- 2% RH (0-90%) and +/- 3% (90-100%)

Temperature dependence of RH measurement: +/- 0.05% RH/°C

Serial Number: F4540095

Date of Calibration: 11/20/10

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013-06/03/2014

Serial Number: F454006

Date of Last Calibration: 03/21/2014

Dates of Sensor Use: 06/03/2014-05/12/2015

Serial Number: F4540095

Date of Calibration: 04/09/2015

Dates of Sensor Use: 05/12/2015 – current as of 12/31/2015

Parameter: Barometric Pressure

Units: millibars (mb)

Sensor type: Vaisala Barocap © silicon capacitive pressure sensor

Model #: CS-106 (Vaisala PTB110)

Operating Range: Pressure: 600 to 1060 mb; Temperature: -40°C to +60°C;

Humidity: non-condensing

Accuracy: ± 0.5 mb @ 20°C; +/- 2 mb @ 0°C to 40°C; +/- 4 mb @ -20°C to 45°C; +/- 6 mb @ -40°C to 60°C

Stability: ± 0.1 mb per year

Serial Number: G3260032

Date of Last Calibration: 08/16/2011

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013 – 06/03/2014

Serial Number: G3260090

Date of Last Calibration: 04/02/2014

Dates of Sensor Use: 06/03/2014 – current as of 12/31/2015

Parameter: Wind speed

Units: meter per second (m/s)

Sensor type: 18 cm diameter 4-blade helicoids propeller molded of polypropylene

Model #: R.M. Young 05103 Wind Monitor

Range: 0-60 m/s (134 mph); gust survival 100 m/s (220 mph)

Accuracy: +/- 0.3 m/s

Serial Number WM110138

Date of Last Calibration: 04/20/2011

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013 – current as of 12/31/2015

Parameter: Wind direction

Units: degrees

Sensor type: balanced vane, 38 cm turning radius

Model #: R.M. Young 05103 Wind Monitor

Range: 0-60 m/s (134 mph); gust survival 100 m/s (220 mph)

Accuracy: +/- 0.3 m/s

Serial Number WM110138

Date of Last Calibration: 04/20/2011

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013 – current as of 12/31/2015

Parameter: Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR)

Units: mmoles m-2 (total flux)

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

Model #: LI190SB

Light spectrum waveband: 400 to 700 nm

Temperature dependence: 0.15% per °C maximum

Stability: <±2% change over 1 yr

Operating Temperature: -40°C to 65°C; Humidity: 0 to 100%

Sensitivity: typically 5 µA per 1000 µmoles s-1 m-2

Serial Number: Q45936

Multiplier: 1.25617, 08/15/2013

Date of Last Calibration: 08/24/2011

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013 – 04/24/2014

Serial Number: Q45947

Multiplier: 1.32662, 06/03/2014

Date of Last Calibration: 03/24/2014

Dates of Sensor Use: 06/03/2014 – current as of 12/31/2015

Parameter: Total Solar Radiation

Units: W m-2

Sensor Type: high stability silicon photovoltaic detector

Model #: LI200S

Light Spectrum Waveband: 400 to 1100 nm

Temperature dependence: 0.15% per oC maximum

Stability: <+/- 2% change over 1 year

Operating Temperature: -40oC to 65oC; Humidity: 0 to 100%

Sensitivity: typically 90 uA per 100 W m-2

Serial Number: PY74880

Multiplier: 108.2368, 08/15/2013

Date of Last Calibration: 06/03/2011

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013 – 04/24/2014

Serial Number: PY74852

Multiplier: 117.3708, 06/03/2014

Date of Last Calibration: 03/24/2014

Dates of Sensor Use: 06/03/2014 – current as of 12/31/2015

Parameter: Precipitation (unheated rain gauge)

Units: millimeters (mm)

Sensor type: Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge (Texas Instruments)

Model #: TR-525I

Rainfall per tip: 0.01 inch

Operating range: Temperature: 0° to 50°C; Humidity: 0 to 100%

Accuracy: +/- 1.0% up to 1 in./hr; +0, -3% from 1 to 2 in./hr; +0, -5% from 2 to 3 in./hr

Serial Number: 48686-711

Date of Last Calibration: 08/01/2011 (checked on deployment)

Dates of Sensor Use: 08/15/2013 – 04/24/2014

Date of Calibration: 06/04/2014

Dates of Sensor Use: 06/04/2014 – 06/09/2015

Date of Last Calibration: 06/09/2015

Dates of Sensor Use: 06/09/2015 – current as of 12/31/2015

The CR1000 has 2 MB of Flash EEPROM that is used to store the Operating System. Another 128 K Flash is used to store configuration settings. A minimum of 2 MB SRAM is (4 MB optional upgrade) available for program storage (16K), operating system use, and data storage. Additional storage is available by using a compact flash card in the optional CFM100 Compact Flash Module.

**Date CR1000 Installed:** *July 2013*

**Date CR1000 Calibrated:** 10/07/2011

**CR1000 Firmware Version (s):** *LoggerNet Version 4.1*

**CR1000 Program Version(s):** *lkspomet\_VER5.5\_12062013.cri*

**10) Coded variable definitions –**

Sampling station: Sampling site code: Station code:

Pokegama Bay PO lkspomet

**11) QAQC flag definitions –**

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

-5 Outside High Sensor Range

-4 Outside Low Sensor Range

-3 Data Rejected due to QAQC

-2 Missing Data

-1 Optional SWMP supported Parameter

0 Passed Initial QAQC Checks

1 Suspect Data

2 *Open - reserved for later flag*

3 *Open - reserved for later flag*

4 Historical Data: Pre-Auto QAQC

5 Corrected Data

**12) QAQC code definitions** –

QAQC codes are used in conjunction with QAQC flags to provide further documentation of the data and are also applied by insertion into the associated flag column. There are three (3) different code categories, general, sensor, and comment. General errors document general problems with the CR1000, sensor errors are sensor specific, and comment codes are used to further document conditions or a problem with the data. Only one general or sensor error and one comment code can be applied to a particular data point, but some comment codes (marked with an \* below) can be applied to the entire record in the F Record column.

General Errors

GIM Instrument malfunction

GIT Instrument recording error, recovered telemetry data

GMC No instrument deployed due to maintenance/calibration

GMT Instrument maintenance

GPD Power down

GPF Power failure / low battery

GPR Program reload

GQR Data rejected due to QA/QC checks

GSM See metadata

Sensor Errors

SDG Suspect due to sensor diagnostics

SIC Incorrect calibration constant, multiplier or offset

SIW Incorrect wiring

SMT Sensor maintenance

SNV Negative value

SOC Out of calibration

SQR Data rejected due to QAQC checks

SSD Sensor drift

SSN Not a number / unknown value

SSM Sensor malfunction

SSR Sensor removed

Comments

CAF Acceptable calibration/accuracy error of sensor

CCU Cause unknown

CDF Data appear to fit conditions

CML Snow melt from previous snowfall event

CRE\* Significant rain event

CSM\* See metadata

CVT\* Possible vandalism/tampering

CWE\* Significant weather event

**13) Other remarks/notes** –

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

Small negative PAR values are within range of the sensor and are due to normal errors in the sensor and the CR1000 Datalogger. The Maximum signal noise error for the Licor sensor is +/- 2.214 mmoles/m2 over a 15 minute interval.

Relative Humidity data greater than 100 are within range of the sensor accuracy of +/-3%.

Data recorded for all parameters (with the exception of cumulative precipitation) at the midnight timestamp (00:00) are the 15 minute averages and totals for the 23:45-23:59 time period of the previous day. Cumulative precipitation data at the midnight timestamp (00:00) are the sum of raw (unrounded) precipitation data from 00:00 to 23:59 of the previous day. Summing each individual 15-minute total precipitation value from the same period will result in small differences from cumulative precipitation due to rounding. It is especially important to note how data at the midnight timestamp are recorded when using January 1st and December 31st data. **Note: Cumulative precipitation is no longer available via export from the CDMO. Please contact the Reserve or the CDMO for more information or to obtain these data.**

Lake Superior water levels were high in 2014, at least a foot higher than the previous 17 years. When ice formed on the river and bays in the winter, the higher water levels and ice formation led to ice-jacking of the MET station. The welding of the braces on the footings was torn off, and the platform leaned off vertical. An engineering firm and local contracting firms were contracted to repair the platform but needed to wait for the formation of ice in fall 2015. Firm ice is required (about 24 inches) to move the construction equipment to the MET station on the river without causing environmental damage to the wetland. Temperatures into December 2015 were too mild to allow development of enough ice for construction to occur. Construction of new footings and repair of the MET platform did occur in February, 2016. Soil borings completed on site encountered 30 feet of silt/clay/muck above a sand unit. The new footings were extended to the sand unit for stability.

Due to the leaning tower, the F-Record for all data records were coded as “CSM” and not considered suspect since the bubbles on the levelers for the PAR and Total Solar Radiation sensors were still within the circle in the level device, though not exactly centered.

The Rain sensor was covered for winter 2014-2015, uncovered April 16, 2015 at 15:00. There was no rain during this maintenance but the rain sensor was accidentally tipped, and total precipitation at 15:00 is flagged as rejected. Cumulative precipitation is rejected from 15:00 through the end of the day (April 17, 2015 00:00). The sensor was calibrated on 06/09/2015 between 14:30 and 15:00, and total precipitation data at that time was rejected due to maintenance. Cumulative precipitation values were rejected from 14:30 through the end of the day (06/10/2015 00:00). Total precipitation was also rejected on 10/8/2015 at 10:15 due to maintenance. Cumulative data were rejected from 10:15 through 10/9/2015 00:00The Rain sensor was then covered for winter 2015-2016 on November 18, 2015 at 14:45.

Slightly elevated nighttime PAR values were observed throughout the year and were flagged as suspect. Reasons for the elevated values are unknown. <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php> was used to determine sunrise and sunset times for determining timestamps to flag and code.

RH values greater than 103 are rejected and flagged and coded as <-3> CSM.

A newly calibrated Air temperature/RH sensor was changed in on 05/12/2015 at about 10:00, therefore the data for RH at 10:15 was flagged <-3>SMT CSM; rejected for sensor maintenance.