HRECOS West Point Water Quality Metadata

Last updated: 08/20/2024

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Station Overview
Location: West Point Military Academy (41.3861, -73.9550)

Data collection period: 7/14/2016-present

Parameters: pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, salinity, turbidity, water temperature, and water depth above sonde

Previous installation: same location

Previous data collection period: 6/22/2013-9/12/2014

Previous parameters: pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, salinity, turbidity, and water temperature, depth (NAVD88)

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Station Description:
1st installation (7/17/2013 – 9/12/2014): The sonde was housed in an 18' long aluminum tube mounted to the dock. The bolt supporting the sonde was approximately 10 feet below the level of low tide. Stage (relative to vertical datum NAVD88) was measured every 15 minutes with a nitrogen purge system connected to a Paroscientific PS2 pressure transducer.

New installation: The water quality station is located on the right bank at the South Dock at West Point Military Academy. A YSI 6600 water-quality sonde was deployed to collect data every 15 minutes. The sonde is housed in a 10’ stainless tube mounted about 2’ below the deck surface. The sonde depth sensor sits about 4.5 feet below NGVD29 vertical datum, or roughly 4 feet below mean low tide. Water depth (relative to the instrument) is calculated from the sonde pressure transducer and is corrected for

variations in barometric (atmospheric pressure) in real-time by the data logger and a CS106 barometer using the following equation: *Corrected Depth = Depth + ((1013- Barometric Pressure) * .0102)*.

Sonde was upgraded from a 6600 to a YSI EXO2 sonde on 7/20/2022.

Special Remarks:

Date	Remark
9/12/2014	Station decommissioned during construction at dock
7/14/2016	Station re-established
7/20/2022	6600 sonde replaced with YSI EXO2 sonde

Distribution Terms:
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Data Quality Assurance:
Data collection and verification have been performed on all parameters (except velocity; see below) since the establishment of this station (January 2011) according to the HRECOS Quality Assurance Project Plan, which is available at www.hrecos.org

Remark on velocity: The level gage and velocity meter have been maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey since their adoption/installation by the agency in September 2016. Water elevation is verified by USGS annually, while velocity is only a working dataset and is primarily purposed for short-term operational use. USGS-verified data may have been corrected based on field measurements, sensor calibrations, sensor cleanings, and other observations using standard USGS methodology. Unverified data is provisional and is subject to revision.

Code Definitions

Flag code definitions:

A	Accepted data
P	Provisional data
S	Suspect data, consult comment codes
R	Rejected data, consult comment codes
C	Corrected data, consult comment codes

Comment code definitions:

General Errors

[GIM]	instrument malfunction
[GIT]	instrument recording error, recovered telemetry data
[GMC]	no instrument deployed due to maintenance/calibration
[GPF]	power failure/low battery
[GQR]	rejected due to QAQC checks
[GSM]	see metadata
[GIC]	no instrument deployed due to ice
[GNF]	deployment tube clogged/no flow
[GOW]	out of water event

Sensor Errors

[SBO]	blocked optic
[STF]	catastrophic temperature sensor failure
[SCF]	conductivity sensor failure
[SDF]	depth port frozen
[SDP]	DO membrane puncture
[SDO]	DO suspect
[SIC]	incorrect calibration/contaminated standard
[SNV]	negative value
[SPC]	post calibration out of range
[SSD]	sensor drift
[SSM]	sensor malfunction
[SOW]	sensor out of water
[SSR]	sensor removed (not deployed)
[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 < 28 percent saturation
(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

YSI EXO2 Sensor Specifications:
Consult description and remarks for upgrade dates.

Parameter: Temperature
Units: Celsius (C)
Sensor Type: Thermistor
Model#: 599870-01
Range: -5 to 50 C
Accuracy: -5 to 35: +/- 0.01, 35 to 50: +/- .005
Resolution: 0.01 C

Parameter: Conductivity
Units: mS/cm
Sensor Type: 4-electrode cell with autoranging
Model#: 599870-01
Range: 0-200 mS/cm
Accuracy: 0 to 100: +/- 0.5% of reading or 0.001 mS/cm; 100 to 200: +/- 1% of reading
Resolution: 0.001 mS/cm to 0.1 mS/cm

Parameter: Salinity
Units: practical salinity units (psu)/parts per thousand (ppt)
Sensor Type: Calculated from conductivity and temperature
Range: 0 to 70 psu
Accuracy: +/- 1.0% of reading pr 0.1 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: pH

Units: pH units
Sensor Type: Glass combination electrode
Model#: 599701 (guarded) or 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, 90-degree 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
Units: micrograms/Liter, RFU
Sensor Type: Optical probe
Model#: 599102-01
Range: 0 to 400 ug/Liter; 0 to 100 RFU
Accuracy: Dependent on methodology
Resolution: 0.1 ug/L chl a, 0.1% RFU

Parameter: Phycocyanin
Units: micrograms/Liter, RFU
Sensor Type: Optical probe
Model#: 599102-01
Range: 0 to 100 ug/Liter; 0 to 100 RFU
Accuracy: Dependent on methodology
Resolution: 0.1 ug/L PC, 0.1% RFU

YSI 6600 Sensor Specifications
Consult description and remarks for upgrade dates.

Parameter: Temperature
Units: Celsius (C)
Sensor Type: Thermistor
Model#: 6560
Range: -5 to 45 C
Accuracy: +/- 0.15 C
Resolution: 0.01 C

Parameter: Conductivity
Units: mS/cm
Sensor Type: nickel electrode
Model#: 6560
Range: 0-100 mS/cm
Accuracy: 0 to 100: +/- 0.5% of reading or 0.001 mS/cm
Resolution: 0.001 mS/cm to 0.1 mS/cm

Parameter: Salinity
Units: parts per thousand (ppt)
Sensor Type: Calculated from conductivity and temperature

Parameter: Dissolved Oxygen % saturation
Sensor Type: Optical probe w/ mechanical cleaning
Model#: 6150 ROX
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: +/- 15% 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#: 6150 ROX
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: pH
Units: pH units
Sensor Type: Glass combination electrode
Model#: 6589
Range: 0 to 14 units
Accuracy: +/- 0.2 units
Resolution: 0.01 units

Parameter: Turbidity
Units: nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)
Sensor Type: Optical
Model#: 6136
Range: 0 to 1000 NTU
Accuracy: +/-2% of reading or 0.3 NTU (whichever is greater
Resolution: 0.1 NTU

Parameter: Chlorophyll
Units: RFU, micrograms/Liter
Sensor Type: Optical probe
Model#: 6025
Range: 0 to 400 ug/Liter; 0 to 100 RFU
Accuracy: Dependent on methodology
Resolution: 0.1 ug/L chl a, 0.1% RFU

Remarks on Sensor Specifications and Units

Conductivity:

Historically, specific conductivity data from HRECOS sites was reported in millisiemens/cm. However beginning in 2019, reporting switched to microsiemens/cm. All data files available on hrecos.org have been converted to reflect this change.

Salinity:

The 6600 series sondes report salinity in parts per thousand (ppt) units, the EXO sondes report practical salinity units (psu).

Turbidity:

The 6600 series sondes report turbidity in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU), the EXO sondes use formazin nephelometric units (FNU).

Chlorophyll and Phycocyanin 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.