

Water Quality Metadata

Last updated: 12/8/2025

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Station Overview

Location: Schodack Island State Park

Data collection period: 05/09/2008 – present

Parameters: Parameters: pH, chlorophyll*, depth above sonde, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, turbidity, water elevation**, and water temperature.

*Chlorophyll measurements ceased 12/12/2011

**Water elevation previously calculated using a formula; see below.

Contacts

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Station Description

The hydrologic site for Schodack Landing is immediately south of the Schodack Island State Park boat launch and the instrument housing is fixed to the steel bulkhead. Total water depth at mean low water is about 2 m and the instrument is about 0.5 m above the bottom. With the shoreline position of the deployment the data represent the relatively shallow areas of this portion of the Hudson River. Cross-channel sampling shows this part of the River is well-mixed for DO, and dissolved ions (conductivity, pH) but there are tidal increases in turbidity near the shoreline. The site is about 10 miles downstream of Albany.

Water elevation is calculated in real-time since it was surveyed in (NAVD88) on 11/25/2012 (Water Elevation = -1.48265 + sonde depth). Because the depth sensor is not vented to the atmosphere, we adjust depth measurements for barometric pressure using the following equation:

$$\text{Corrected Depth} = \text{Depth} + ((1013 - \text{Barometric Pressure}) * .0102)$$

This correction is performed in real-time on all data since 9/23/2011 00:00:00 EST. Data is recorded by a CR800 logger.

Chlorophyll measurements ended 12/12/2011 when it was decided that data from this instrument were not informative.

In August of 2022, site equipment was upgraded from YSI 6600 to YSI EXO2.

Special Remarks

8/2/2022	6600 sonde was replaced with a YSI EXO2.
August 2024-March 2024	Ongoing telemetry issues. Expect data gaps during this time period.

Distribution Terms

HRECOS requests that attribution be given whenever HRECOS material is reproduced and re-disseminated and the HRECOS Coordinator be notified prior to publications including any part of the data. Example citation: "Hudson River Environmental Conditions Observing System. 2012. Albany Hydrologic Station data. Accessed April 13th, 2016. <http://www.hrecos.org/>."

Data Quality Assurance

Data collection and verification have been performed on all parameters since the establishment of this station according to the HRECOS Quality Assurance Project Plan(s), which are available at www.hrecos.org

Code Definitions

Parameters

WTMP	Water temperature	Degrees Celsius
SPCO	Specific conductance	uS/cm
SALT	Salinity	See remarks below
PH	pH	
TURB	Turbidity	See remarks below
DOPC	Dissolved oxygen saturation	Percent (%)
DOCONC	Dissolved oxygen concentration	mg/L
DEPTH	Depth above instrument	m
CHLA	Chlorophyll	RFU
PHYCO	Phycocyanin	RFU

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 or calibration
GPF	Power failure
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 or 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 for deployment
STS	Turbidity spike
SWM	Wiper malfunction or loss

Other 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
CDB	Disturbed bottom
CDF	Data appear to fit conditions
CFK	Fish fill
CIP	Surface ice present
CLT	Low tide
CMC	In field cleaning and maintenance
CMD	Mud in probe guard
CND	New deployment
CRE	Significant rain event
CSM	See metadata
CTS	Turbidity spike
CVT	Possible vandalism
CWD	Data collected at wrong depth
CWE	Significant weather event

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: Specific conductance

Units: mS/cm or uS/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

Remarks on Sensor Specifications and Units

Consult description and remarks for upgrade dates.

Specific conductance:

Historically, specific conductance data from HRECOS sites was reported in millisiemens/cm (mS/cm). However, beginning in 2019, reporting switched to microsiemens/cm (uS/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.

Remarks on Data Correction

From May 2019 to March 2026, data were collected and reviewed by the United States Geological Survey, according to their standard operating procedure which is outlined in the following document:

Wagner, R.J., Boulger, R.W., Jr., Oblinger, C.J., and Smith, B.A., 2006, Guidelines and standard procedures for continuous water-quality monitors—Station operation, record computation, and data reporting: U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 1–D3, 51 p.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/tm1D3>

Part of data review includes correcting for sensor drift if it occurred during deployment. Per USGS protocol, provisional data are flagged as P and once reviewed they are flagged as A, even if data correction occurred.

Appendix A

Final Report – HRECOS Installation at Schodack Island State Park

Stuart Findlay

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

HRF Award # 001/07E

October 30, 2009

The original proposal to the Hudson River Foundation had several major goals and all these have been met and surpassed over the last two years.

1. Installation – A functional, multi-variable water quality and meteorological site has been established at the SISP in collaboration with Gary Wall of the USGS. The site has been operational with very minor gaps since spring of 2008.

2. Field sampling – To determine how well the shore-mounted site captures variability across the channel we collected water samples from the east and west shore over a 24 hr period using ISCO Automatic samplers. During the last ten hours we sampled three points across the channel cross-section with surface, mid-depth and near-bottom samples. Solutes (gases, conductivity) were homogeneous across the channel and so the near-shore continuous record can probably be considered representative of the cross-section. Not surprisingly, turbidity, suspended sediment and chlorophyll varied considerably over space and time with most patterns appearing related to tide stage. The Figure below shows the suspended matter concentrations at the East, Mid and Western channel sites over an ebbing-flooding transition. At sampling times near low water and early in the flood tide the locations are dramatically different with rapid changes in which portion of the channel shows highest concentrations. At other time the three locations are fairly similar and so a single sampling point would be more representative of the suspended sediment in the cross section.