

Continuous Monitoring

March 2016 Q-Meeting



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Continuous Monitoring

1. Increasing importance
2. Basic overview of continuous monitoring (CM)
3. Benefits and drawbacks of using CM devices
4. DEAR CM initiatives, including workgroup
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Thanks in advance to all the WMDs for letting me borrow their photos

Why is continuous monitoring important?

- **Florida dissolved oxygen water quality standard**
(Chap. 62-302.533, F.A.C)
- **Supports state agencies'**
 - Water resource modeling
 - Hydrologic condition reporting (GW)
 - Performance monitoring (restoration & resource management projects)
 - Real-time springs data



DEP Uses of Continuous Monitoring Data

Dissolved oxygen water quality standard (Chap. 62-302.533, F.A.C)

- *Allows* for CM instead of grab sampling for Class I, Class II, Class III and Class-III Limited Waters
 - **predominantly freshwaters:**
 - Class I, Class II, Class III and Class-III Limited Waters- a time of day translation is required for lakes and streams
 - **predominantly marine waters:**
 - Class II, Class III and Class-III Limited Waters- at least 3 full days of diel data collected either for a
 - 7-day average DO % saturation
 - 30-day average DO % saturation
- Transitional zone DO assessments

*A full day of diel data shall consist of 24 hours of measurements collected at a regular time interval of no longer than one hour."

DEP Uses of Continuous Monitoring Data (cont'd)

- **Salinity regimes**
Understand tidal systems

DEP Groundwater Protection Section

- Contracts with WMDs & consulting firms to monitor
 - rain events and agricultural activity near selected springs
 - groundwater seepage into surface waters – tracks septic system effluent

DEP Florida Coastal Office (formerly CAMA)

- Aquatic Preserves and National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs) use YSI 6600s and YSI EXO 2 sondes to collect coastal and estuarine data (field measurements)
- Follows NOAA SOPs

What is continuous monitoring?

DEP defines Continuous Monitoring as **“data collected over a time series using a recording device”**.

“a methodology that utilizes sensors connected to data loggers and provides multiple results of a given characteristic, spaced at pre-determined time intervals” (NWQMC Aquatic Sensor workgroup).

In-line samplers and meters used for drinking and wastewater may also be referred to as “continuous monitoring”.



Most CM systems have 3 functional parts

- main body called a sonde,
- variety of sensors
- data storage mechanism



- internal datalogger as part of the sonde;
- a computer (above water) connected by cable;
- radio transmitter with a receiving station elsewhere.

Continuous Monitoring Data

- Field parameters/measurements
 - Dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity or conductivity, pH
 - Flow



YSI EXO2



Cycle PO4

- Water quality analytes
 - Chlorophyll-a
 - nitrate+nitrite
 - turbidity



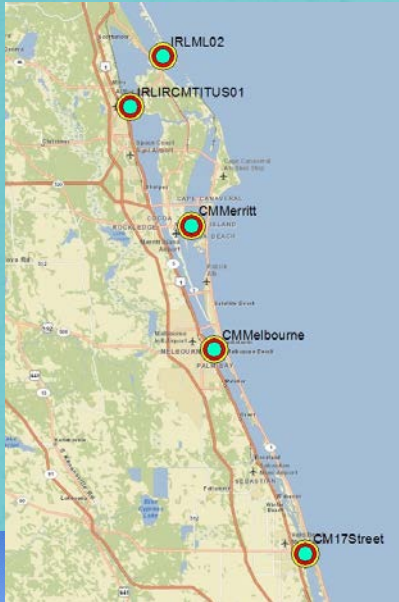
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Continuous Monitoring: Challenges

(from January 2015 Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council meeting)

1. Appropriate deployment
2. Lack of formal protocols
3. Operation & maintenance requirements/costs
4. Data management and sharing

Appropriate Deployment



- useful for learning about ecological & hydrological systems;
- “provide the foundation for a more comprehensive evaluation of the variability in loading characteristics and water-quality degradation than provided by discrete water-quality samples” (Rasmussen et al, USGS, 2003);
- Useful for obtaining “deep” data over a short period of time;
- verifies whether conditions are static or cyclical over time, or change during/after an event.

Lack of formal protocols

- No current state SOPs; QA/QC and SOPs are at various stages of development and approval;
- These vary by instrument and monitoring entity;
- Most methods used for measuring analytes not approved by EPA or DEP
- For QA/QC, agencies in Florida currently use :
 - monthly grab sampling
 - telemetry to allow near real-time data checking for outliers, or anomalous data
- NOAA and USGS have time-tested, formalized SOPs, training, audits, and annual evaluations;

Operation & Maintenance Costs



algae

- Tend to be expensive; cost from \$5,000 - \$14,000/unit;
- Require at least 1-2 FTE to install, service, and maintain, depending upon the numbers of sites.

- Most devices must be retrieved or serviced every 2-3 weeks



corrosion

Operation & Maintenance Costs

- Most are susceptible to biofouling or vandalism, depending on device placement;
- On their own, agencies have developed “jackets” or enclosures to minimize biofouling



barnacles

Data Storage & Sharing

- Lack of approved SOPs and QA/QC protocols can inhibit data comparability between programs;
- CM collects more data points over time than other sampling methods; data require additional resources for storage, management, and analyses.
- SJRWMD: uses Hydstra to both evaluate and manage CM data. Has real-time data available at <http://webapub.sjrwmd.com/agws10/hdswq/>
- SWFWMD: uses internal db for CM data. Real-time springs data at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/springs/>
- NOAA: uses CDMO

DEAR CM initiatives

- DEAR CM workgroup;
- AEQA conducting analyses of grab sample/CM data from around the state;
- Funding additional CM evaluations of appropriate deployment uses;
- Funding Aquarius software to store/analyze CM data until the Watershed Information Network (WIN) is ready to accept CM data

DEAR CM Workgroup

- Jessica Mostyn, Ben Russell, Michael Blizzard, Jon Turner, Cheryl Swanson, Lisa Van Houdt, Gary Payne, Brian Katz, John Kaba, Chrissy Rakowski, Kate Muldoon.
- Compiling & reviewing SOPs, papers, methods and information from other sources that use CM devices:
 - NOAA
 - USGS
 - Washington state
 - British Columbia
 - NWQMC Sensor Group <http://www.watersensors.org/>
- Over last 6 months, developed draft general CM SOP
 - Recording-keeping & documentation;
 - Minimum calibration requirements;
 - Optional comparison with grab sample measurements;
 - Preventative maintenance

Information Exchange on Concurrent Efforts

- Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council CM workgroup
 - Composed of WMDs, DEP, Ocean Research & Conservation Association, FCO reps;
 - Held first meeting in January 2016;
 - Collecting additional information on deployment, QA/QC, operations & maintenance, models, and data storage among monitoring entities in Florida;
- DEP Florida Coastal Office currently uses NOAA procedures & SOPs; has proposal to develop learning module for CM use.

CM: Next Steps

DEAR CM workgroup

- meeting with Division for draft SOP review
- potential inclusion in QA rule (2017)
- focusing next on
 - data management
 - pros/cons of different models for different purposes

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council CM workgroup

- plans to post CM use information on common site to inform Floridians

Questions???



Convict Springs, Lafayette County
--courtesy of Suwannee River WMD