



USACE Quality Controlled, Consistent Measurement Archive

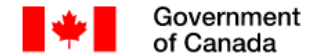
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US ARMY ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER COASTAL & HYDRAULICS LABORATORY



Outline:

1. USACE ERDC CHL Wave Information Study (WIS)
– brief overview
2. USACE National Coastal Wave Climate
3. USACE Quality Controlled, Consistent (QCC) Measurement Archive
 1. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) National Data Buoy Center (NDBC)
 2. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Marine Environmental Data Section (MEDS)





Research Oceanographer, Coastal Processes Branch

- PI responsibilities for USACE projects:
 - **National Coastal Wave Climate (NCWC)** work unit
 - **Wave Information Study (WIS)** operational and R&D work units



PROBLEM

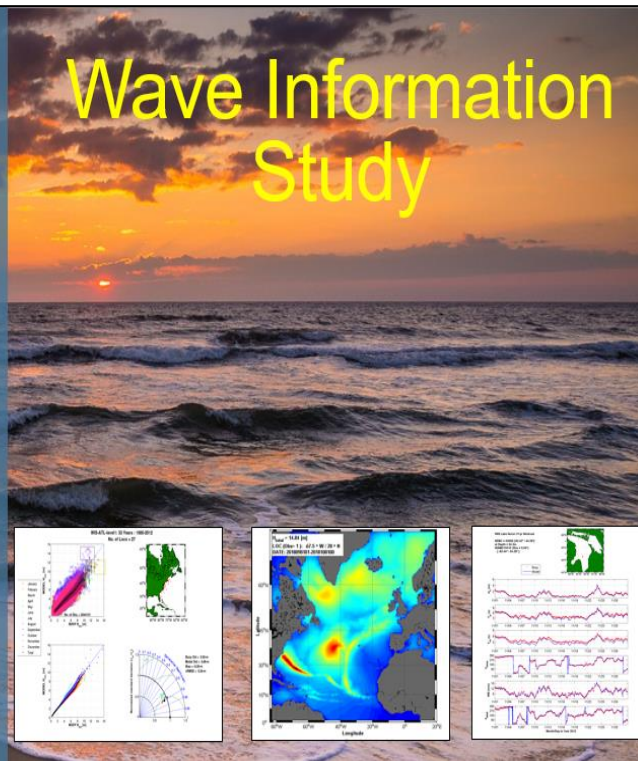
- Knowledge of the wave climatology is required for planning, design, construction, and maintenance of USACE projects in the coastal zone
- Information is scarce due to the lack of measurements at locations over timescales long enough to be statistically significant
- This lack of information is a critical problem for USACE operations, and project maintenance near the coast

SOLUTION

- Generation of long-term coastal wave estimates using spectral wave models forced by high quality wind fields, to retain continuity
- Validate the model estimates to measurements
- Provide easy access to the estimates and tailored products specific to project needs

IMPACT

- Fully automated hindcast system with limited manual intervention
- Model simulations cost-effective compared measurements
- Timely web site updates with new wave estimates



- The Wave Information Study (WIS): wave climatology needed for planning & design, construction & maintenance of USACE coastal projects – observations too expensive, so WIS fills in the gaps
- WIS provides long-term (~1970) wave estimates along all US coasts, including the Great Lakes, for pre-selected output locations
- Hindcast wave estimates (height, wave period, and direction) and directional spectral estimates
- *USACE ERDC CHL WIS Portal:*
<https://wisportal.erdcdren.mil/>



NATIONAL COASTAL WAVE CLIMATE (NCWC)

FY20-22 THRUSTS



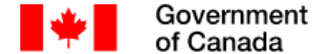
Question: How accurate are the wave measurement data that are used for USACE WIS validation, wave related R&D and wave model improvements?

Goal: Clean Data for Assimilation – USACE wave applications and climate trend analyses



A. Observational data storage errors – develop a clean, quality controlled measurement archive.

- NOAA NWS National Data Buoy Center (NDBC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada Marine Environmental Data Section (MEDS)



Uses: Instrument and Platform evaluations:

- NDBC hull size and wave instrumentation variations



Uses: Wave Power Trends:

- Using USACE QCC measurement archive and WIS data to track spatial and temporal variation in wave fields.

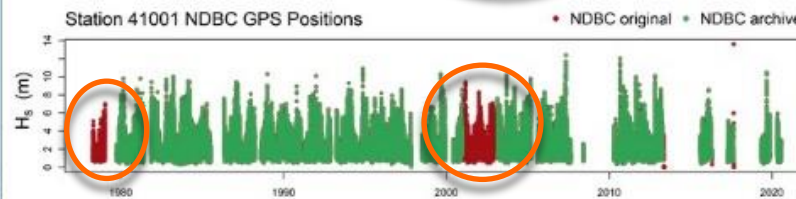
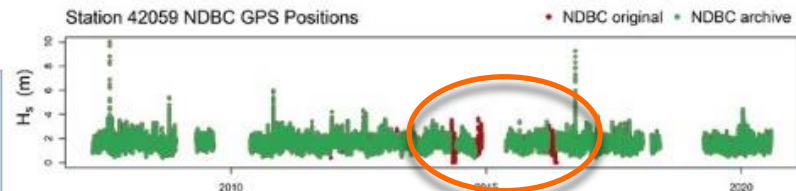
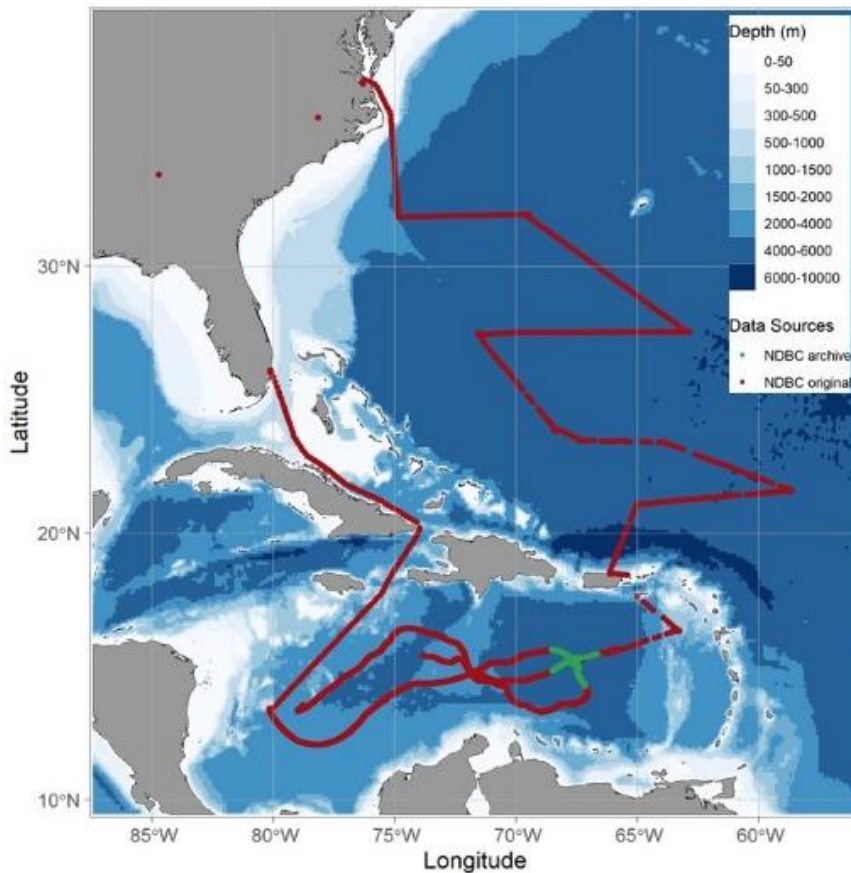


A. NDBC OBSERVATIONAL DATA STORAGE ERRORS

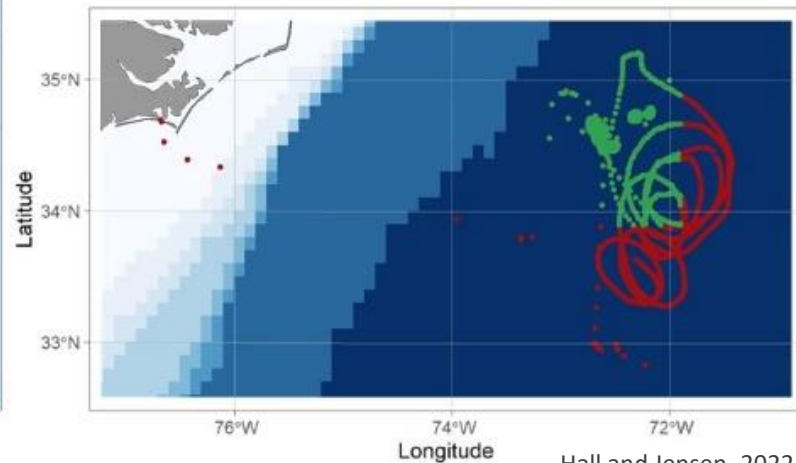


NDBC Stations 42059 and 41001 locations before and after geographical QA/QC

Station 42059 NDBC GPS Positions

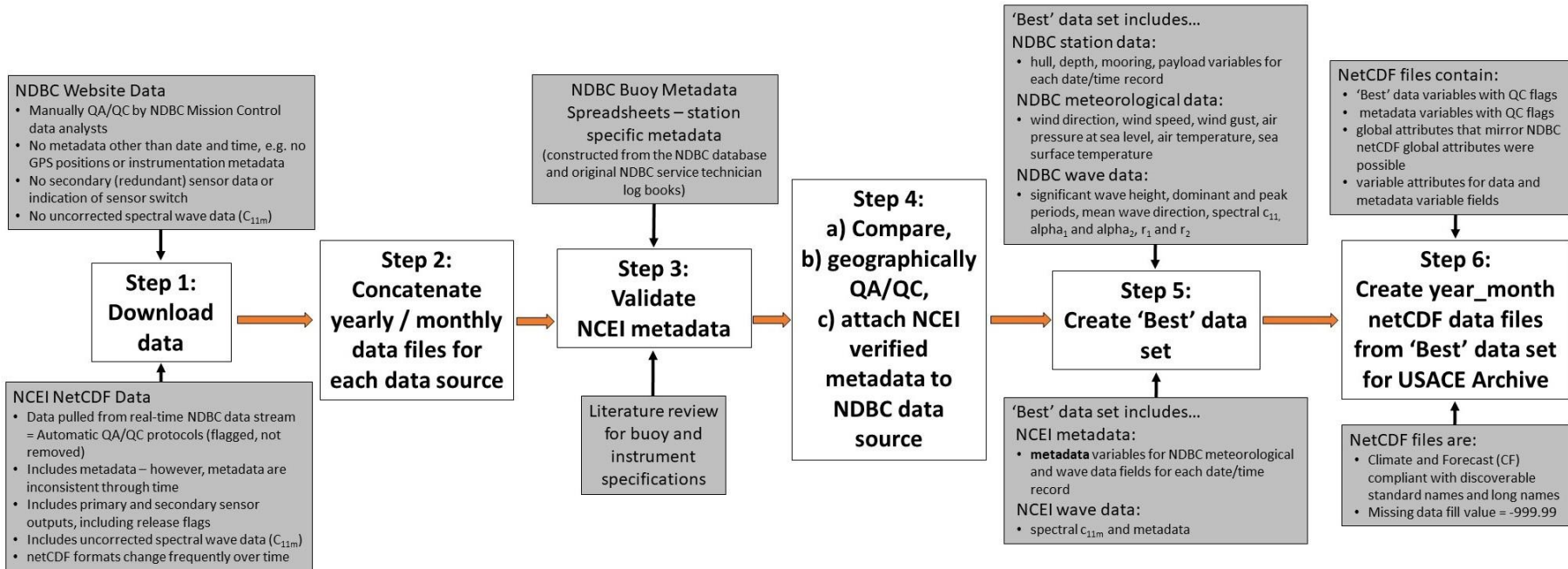


Station 41001 NDBC GPS Positions





A. NDBC OBSERVATIONAL DATA STORAGE ERRORS

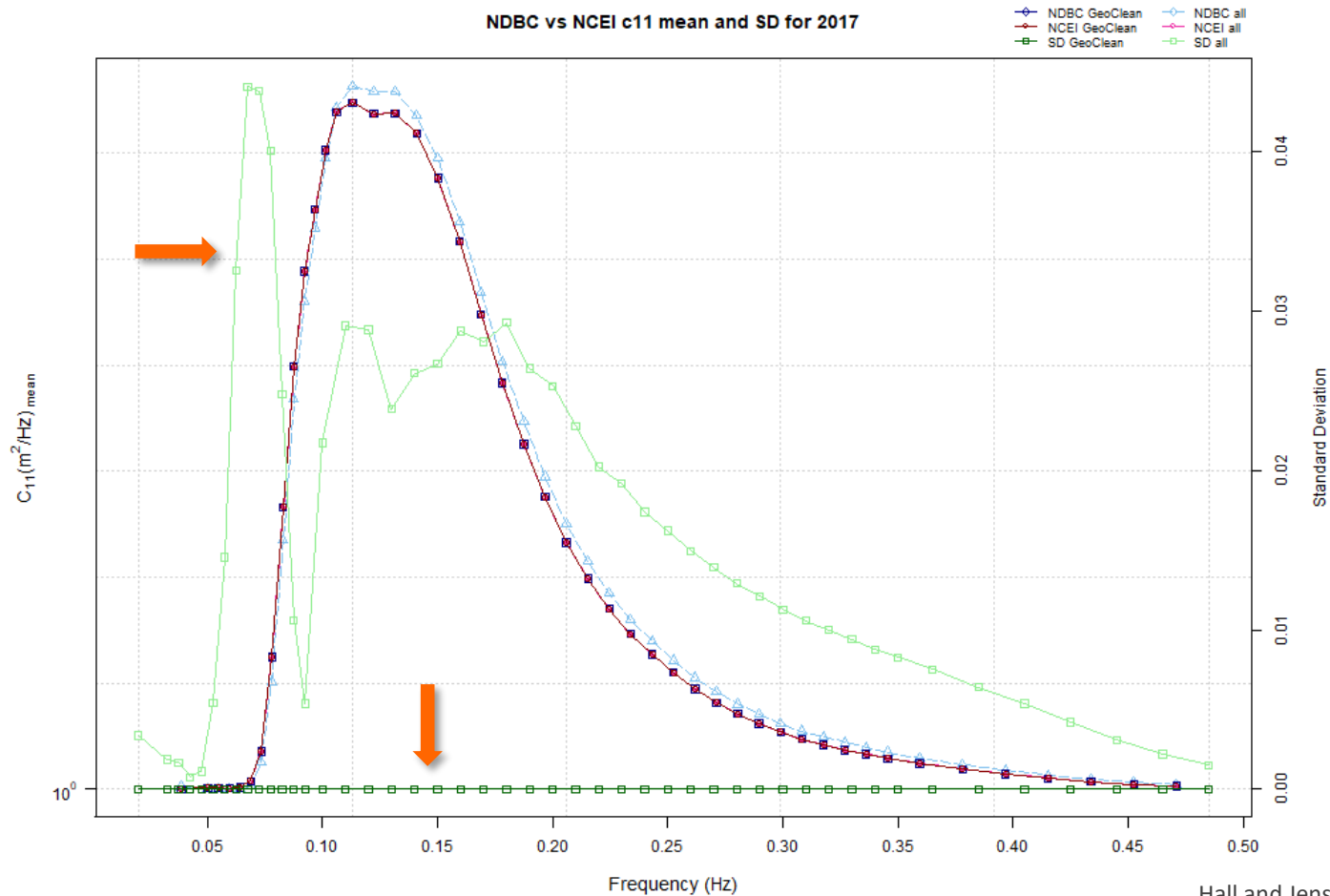




A. NDBC OBSERVATIONAL DATA STORAGE ERRORS



NDBC station 41008 geographically QA/QC spectral wave energy (C_{11})





A. NDBC OBSERVATIONAL DATA STORAGE ERRORS



Both re-published in the UNESCO / IOC Ocean Best Practices (OBP) Repository:

Repository of community practices in Ocean Research, Applications and Data/Information Management
<https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/>



Hall, C. & R.E. Jensen. 2021. Utilizing Data from the NOAA National Data Buoy Center. ERDC/CHL CHETN-I-100.

Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.21079/11681/40059>


OBP Repo:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.25607/OBP-1087>

Hall, C. & R.E. Jensen. 2022. USACE Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory Quality Controlled, Consistent Measurement Archive. *Scientific Data* 9:248.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01344-z>

OBP Repo: <https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/handle/11329/2063>



US Army Corps of Engineers

Utilizing Data from the NOAA National Data Buoy Center

By Candice Hall and Robert E. Jensen

PURPOSE: This Coastal and Hydraulics Engineering Technical Note (CHETN) guides users through the quality control (QC) and processing steps that are necessary when using archived U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) wave and meteorological data. This CHETN summarizes methodologies to geographically clean and QC NDBC measurement data for use by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) user community.

INTRODUCTION: The USACE acknowledges that “Estimates of wave conditions are needed in almost all coastal engineering studies” (USACE 2002, II-1-1). The expense to monitor waves along all U.S. coasts can become cost prohibitive; however, the importance of wave measurements is real. The USACE has adopted a paradigm of strategically positioning wave measurement sites to maximize their effectiveness and filling in the gaps with model estimates. To satisfy this requirement, in the 1970s, the USACE developed the Wave Information Studies (WIS) that computes long-term (over 4 decades), hourly wave estimates along all U.S. coastlines, including the Great Lakes and U.S. island territories (USACE 2020).

The WIS wave estimates require in situ buoy wave data for validation and calibration similar to that of Ortiz-Royero and Mercado-Irizarry (2008); Reguero et al. (2012); Rusu and Guedes Soares (2012); Van Nieuwkoop et al. (2013); Stopa and Cheung (2014); Stopa and Mouche (2016). One source of WIS validation data is the NDBC network of meteorological and wave measurement buoys.

NDBC has deployed buoys with wave measurement capabilities around the U.S. coastline and the Great Lakes since the 1970s. Long-term time series data from a single buoy site have experienced multiple instrumentation modifications and data archival upgrades with advances in technology. Between 1970 and 2020, NDBC has deployed at least eight directional wave measurement systems for operational or experimental use (e.g., Steele et al. 1985; NDBC 1996; NDBC 2003; Teng et al. 2007; Crout et al. 2008; Teng et al. 2009; Riley et al. 2011; Hall et al. 2018a; Riley et al. 2019).

While NDBC has worked hard to minimize the effects of the modifications on its data (e.g., Teng and Timpe 1995; Teng et al. 2007; Riley and Bouchard 2015; Hall et al. 2018a), different versions of these data are archived in multiple online locations, each with their own set of storage protocols. If these data are used without prior knowledge of these archival idiosyncrasies, use of the measured data in wave-related research activities may be compromised. This CHETN summarizes the steps required to achieve the best available time-series datasets for all buoy data collected by NDBC since the 1970s.

ERDC/CHL CHETN-I-??
MONTH 2021

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OPEN DATA DESCRIPTOR

USACE Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory Quality Controlled, Consistent Measurement Archive

Candice Hall¹ & Robert E. Jensen²

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) utilizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) buoy measurements for validation of their wave models and within coastal applications. However, NDBC data are accessible via multiple archives, each with their own source-specific storage, metadata, and quality control protocols, which result in inconsistencies in the accessible data. Therefore, USACE has developed an independent, quality controlled, consistent (QC) Measurement Archive that captures the best available NDBC observations with verified metadata. This work details the methodology behind this USACE QC Measurement Archive, showcasing improvements in data quality via geographical location and wave parameter examples. Note that this methodology only removes known erroneous data, it does not verify data quality from an alternate source. This self-describing, USACE QC Measurement Archive therefore provides a database of consistently stored, geographically QA/QC'd NDBC data and metadata.

Background & Summary

One of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) missions is to oversee operations and maintenance activities in the coastal waters of the U.S. These activities include sediment transport, hardened structures, harbor navigability, climate resilience and coastal protection, all of which require knowledge and assessment of the wave climate. For practical assessments, USACE wave related technologies require accurate and homogeneous wave measurements from in situ observational platforms.

To that end, USACE sponsored an investigation into uncertainty errors in the wave measurement systems that are used for evaluating products such as their Wave Information Study (WIS), a wave hindcast effort that serves as the basis for resolving the U.S. wave climate. Of particular interest are measurement errors that may compromise wave model evaluations. These errors may be indistinguishable from wind forcing or wave model deficiencies, and may transfer into other USACE wave and coastal applications.

One source of validation data is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) in situ buoy meteorological and wave measurements. As of 2022, NDBC publishes their data via two different streams: real time and historical. The real time data feed undergoes broad, automated QA/QC protocols¹ to meet emergency management and forecasting agency latency commitments that require swift publication to the Global Telecommunications System (GTS). These 'Real Time Data' files are also published within individual stations pages on the NDBC website as tabular files that are continually updated and cover the last forty-five days (e.g. https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_realtime.php?station=41009).

Once latency commitments are met, NDBC manually QA/QC² these data and stores them within station specific 'Historical Data' text files on their website on a monthly basis (e.g. https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_historical.php?station=41009). As per NOAA requirements, NDBC archives their data on a monthly basis in the official NOAA archives, which are found at the National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI); <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/marine-environmental-wave-database/>. NDBC collates their website data annually and copy these data, in a Unidata's Network Common Data Form (netCDF) format, for storage on the NDBC Distributed Oceanographic Data Systems framework (DOOS); <https://doos.ndbc.noaa.gov/thredds/catalog/data/catalog.html>. Essentially, the NDBC website and the DOOS may be considered as a single source of NDBC historical data that are stored in different formats.

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SCIENTIFIC DATA | (2022) 9:248 | <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01344-z>

A. MEDS OBSERVATIONAL DATA STORAGE



Fisheries and Oceans Canada Marine Environmental Data Section (MEDS)

- Wave data: <https://www.meds-sdmm.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/isdm-gdsi/waves-vagues/data-donnees/index-eng.asp>
- Single files for historical bulk wave parameters (.csv) and metadata (.csv)
- Single year to date (y2d) files (.fb)
- Annual spectral data files (.fb)

Configuration	All CSV Data	Year to Date of Spectral Data	Annual Files of Spectral Data	File Size (KB)
①	meta_c45149.csv			27
	④			2,128
	C45149_CSV.ZIP			
		⑤ C45149_Y2D.zip		182
			⑥ C45149_2000.ZIP	545.9
			⑥ C45149_2001.ZIP	770.7
			⑥ C45149_2002.ZIP	1,149.6
			⑥ C45149_2003.ZIP	1,514.5
			⑥ C45149_2004.ZIP	1,390.2
			⑥ C45149_2005.ZIP	1,562.6
			⑥ C45149_2006.ZIP	1,351.5
			⑥ C45149_2007.ZIP	976.4
			⑥ C45149_2008.zip	375.1
			⑥ C45149_2009.zip	1,349.1
			⑥ C45149_2010.zip	1,575.8
			⑥ C45149_2011.ZIP	957.3
			⑥ C45149_2012.ZIP	1,147.1
			⑥ C45149_2013.ZIP	1,421.5
			⑥ C45149_2014.zip	1,449.3
			⑥ C45149_2015.zip	1,576.5
			⑥ C45149_2016.ZIP	1,243.0
			⑥ C45149_2017.zip	1,347.5
			⑥ C45149_2018.ZIP	926.2
			⑥ C45149_2019.ZIP	1,016.6
			⑥ C45149_2020.zip	1,106.1
			⑥ C45149_2021.zip	1,211.2

Actions:

- Data extracted from various formats for consistency
- Available metadata sourced and merged with concatenated files
- Data were QC'd as per MEDS QC codes
- Exported as year_month netCDF files

```

AE      S Lake Huron      C45149
43.5330  81.9670  58.0 2000 5 6 1123  34.1  0.100E+01  1 13 3 2 41
0.20500E+03WDIR 0.13000E+01NSPD 0.20000E+01GSPD 0.00000E+00WDIR 0.00000E+00WSPD
0.00000E+00GSPD 0.99910E+03ATMS 0.18340E+02DRYT 0.18300E+02SSTP 0.42097E+02LTGS
0.83113E+02LNGS 0.66081E-01LCFS 0.20000E+01LRFS
0.02VCAR 0.00VWHS 0.00VCMX 14.22VTFK 2.20VTFP
0.3906E-02 0.3906E-02 0.1606E-01 0.7813E-02 0.3906E-02 0.1451E-01
0.1172E-01 0.3906E-02 0.1211E-01 0.1563E-01 0.3906E-02 0.8540E-02
0.1953E-01 0.3906E-02 0.5027E-02 0.2344E-01 0.3906E-02 0.2499E-02
0.2734E-01 0.3906E-02 0.1187E-02 0.3125E-01 0.3906E-02 0.3512E-03
0.3516E-01 0.3906E-02 0.1491E-03 0.3906E-01 0.3906E-02 0.2003E-04
0.4297E-01 0.3906E-02 0.4460E-04 0.4688E-01 0.3906E-02 0.9603E-04
0.5078E-01 0.3906E-02 0.2590E-03 0.5469E-01 0.3906E-02 0.3145E-04
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0.1563E+00 0.1172E-01 0.3600E-04 0.1699E+00 0.1563E-01 0.3327E-04
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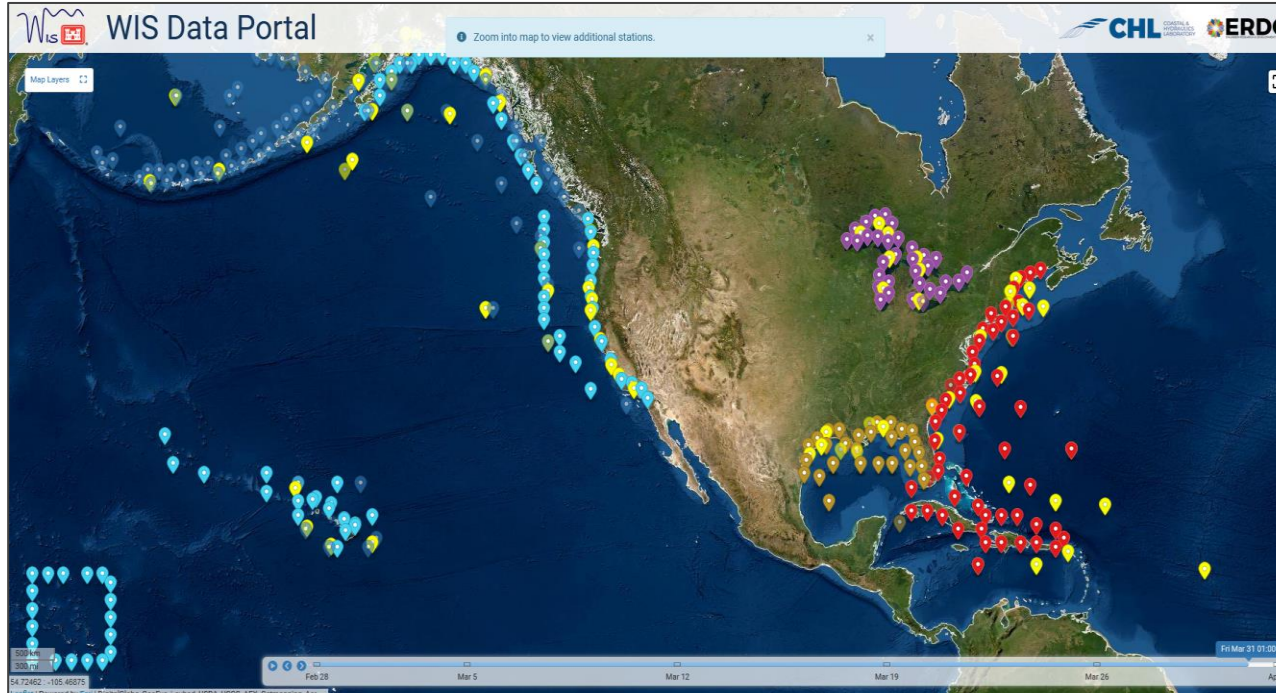


USACE QCC MEASUREMENT ARCHIVE SOURCES



1. USACE ERDC CHL WIS Portal:

<https://wisportal.erdcdren.mil/>



ERDC Knowledge Core

2. USACE ERDC CHL Data Server (Thredds): NDBC & MEDS

<https://chlthredds.erdcdren.mil/thredds/catalog/buoys/catalog.html>



3. 1970 – 2021 Static NDBC Archive in the ERDC Knowledge Core:

Hall, C. & R.E. Jensen. 2022. USACE QCC NDBC Measurement Archive. ERDC Knowledge Core, Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory. <http://dx.doi.org/10.21079/11681/43121>



QUESTIONS?

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