

# Hurricane Harvey impacts on biogeochemistry of water assessed using samples collected in Mission-Aransas Estuary in south Texas from June 2017 to March 2019

**Website:** <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/839385>

**Data Type:** Other Field Results

**Version:** 1

**Version Date:** 2021-02-04

## Project

» [RAPID: The impact of Hurricane Harvey on water column and sediment biogeochemistry of the Mission-Aransas Estuary in south Texas](#) (Hurricane Harvey Biogeochemistry)

| Contributors                         | Affiliation  | Role                      |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <a href="#">Liu, Zhanfei</a>         | University of Texas - Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) | Principal Investigator    |
| <a href="#">Hardison, Amber</a>      | University of Texas - Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) | Co-Principal Investigator |
| <a href="#">Xue, Jianhong</a>        | University of Texas - Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) | Contact                   |
| <a href="#">Gerlach, Dana Stuart</a> | Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI BCO-DMO)    | BCO-DMO Data Manager      |
| <a href="#">Heyl, Taylor</a>         | Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI BCO-DMO)    | BCO-DMO Data Manager      |

## Abstract

The impact of Hurricane Harvey on the chemical composition of water was assessed using samples collected from June 2017 to March 2019 at Mission-Aransas Estuary in south Texas. Hydrographic measurements including temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and pH were collected on site using a YSI sonde. Water samples were obtained from both surface and bottom depths at 19 sites, and later analyzed for dissolved nutrients, organic carbon and nitrogen, and pigments.

## Table of Contents

- [Coverage](#)
- [Dataset Description](#)
  - [Methods & Sampling](#)
  - [Data Processing Description](#)
- [Data Files](#)
- [Related Publications](#)
- [Related Datasets](#)
- [Parameters](#)
- [Instruments](#)
- [Project Information](#)
- [Funding](#)

## Coverage

**Spatial Extent:** N:28.179 E:-96.831 S:27.923 W:-97.202

**Temporal Extent:** 2017-06-08 - 2019-03-07

## Methods & Sampling

Water samples were collected from both surface and bottom depths at 19 sites in the Mission Aransas Estuary. Hydrographic measurements including temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and pH were collected on site using a YSI sonde. Upon return to the lab on the same day, 200 to 1000 milliliters of the collected water was filtered through pre-combusted 47 mm glass fiber filters (Whatman GF/F, 0.7  $\mu$ m), which were frozen immediately at -20  $^{\circ}$ C until analysis.

## Organic carbon and nitrogen

The GF/F filters were first acidified to remove inorganic carbon by acid fumigation according to Hedges and Stern (1984). The organic carbon and nitrogen content in these samples was then measured using a Thermo FLASH 2000 CHN Elemental Analyzer. Precision for the C/N content is within 5%.

### Pigment analysis

The glass fiber filter was transferred into a 15 mL polypropylene centrifuge tube, to which 3 mL acetone was added for pigment extraction (Sun et al., 1991). The mixture was sonicated for 15 minutes, and then centrifuged for another 10 minutes. The acetone extract was filtered with a syringe filter (0.2 µm Nylon filter) and the procedure was repeated on the GF/F using fresh acetone. The two extracts were then combined before the high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis. Quantitative analysis of all pigments was conducted using a Shimadzu HPLC system with a reverse phase column (Agilent Eclipse XDB-C8, 3.5 µm particle size, 150-mm length × 4.6-mm diameter).

### Dissolved Nutrients

Nutrient analyses (Phosphorous, Ammonia, Nitrate+Nitrite) were performed on Lachat QuikChem 8500.

## Data Processing Description

### BCO-DMO processing:

- Added a conventional header with dataset name, PI names, version date
- Adjusted parameter names to comply with database requirements
- Units removed and added to Parameter Description metadata section

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]

---

## Data Files

| File  |
|---|
| <b>water.csv</b> (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 51.85 KB)<br>MD5:a63777d02f53ff254d6f156229f28695<br>Primary data file for dataset ID 839385 |

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]

---

## Related Publications

Hedges, J. I., & Stern, J. H. (1984). Carbon and nitrogen determinations of carbonate-containing solids. *Limnology and Oceanography*, 29(3), 657–663. [doi:10.4319/lo.1984.29.3.0657](https://doi.org/10.4319/lo.1984.29.3.0657)  
*Methods*

Lee, C., Wakeham, S. G., & I. Hedges, J. (2000). Composition and flux of particulate amino acids and chloropigments in equatorial Pacific seawater and sediments. *Deep Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*, 47(8), 1535–1568. doi:10.1016/s0967-0637(99)00116-8 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0967-0637\(99\)00116-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0967-0637(99)00116-8)  
*Methods*

Sun, M., Aller, R. C., & Lee, C. (1991). Early diagenesis of chlorophyll-a in Long Island Sound sediments: A measure of carbon flux and particle reworking. *Journal of Marine Research*, 49(2), 379–401. doi:[10.1357/002224091784995927](https://doi.org/10.1357/002224091784995927)  
*Methods*

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]

---

## Related Datasets

### IsRelatedTo

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]

## Parameters

| Parameter | Description   | Units                                      |
|-----------|---|--|
| Estuary   | National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) estuary name | unitless                                   |
| Station   | Station Name  | unitless                                   |
| ISO_Date  | Sampling Date (yyyy-mm-dd)                              | unitless                                   |
| Latitude  | Latitude  | decimal degrees                            |
| Longitude | Longitude (West is negative)                            | decimal degrees                            |
| Depth     | Sampling Depth  | meters (m)                                 |
| Temp      | Temperature   | degrees Celsius (°C)                       |
| Sal       | Salinity  | parts per thousand (ppt)                   |
| DOPCT     | DO saturation   | percent (%)                                |
| DO        | DO concentration  | milligrams per liter (mg/L)                |
| pH        | pH  | unitless                                   |
| NH4       | Ammonium  | micromolar nitrogen ( $\mu\text{M N}$ )    |
| NOx       | NO <sub>3</sub> +NO <sub>2</sub>                        | micromolar nitrogen ( $\mu\text{M N}$ )    |
| PO4       | Phosphate   | micromolar phosphorous ( $\mu\text{M P}$ ) |
| NO2       | Nitrite   | micromolar nitrogen ( $\mu\text{M N}$ )    |
|           |   |  |

|                |                                |   |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| NPOC           | Non-Particulate Organic Carbon | micromolar carbon ( $\mu\text{M C}$ )   |
| TDN            | Total Dissolved Nitrogen       | micromolar nitrogen ( $\mu\text{M N}$ ) |
| Chlc2          | Chlorophyll c2                 | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Chlb           | Chlorophyll b                  | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| DivChla        | Divinyl Chlorophyll a          | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Chla           | Chlorophyll a                  | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Peridinin      | Peridinin                      | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Nineteen_but   | 19'-but-fucoxanthin            | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Fuco           | Fucoxanthin                    | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Prasin         | Prasinoxanthin                 | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Nineteen_hex   | 19'-hex fucoxanthin            | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Diadinoxanthin | Diadinoxanthin                 | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Alloxanthin    | Alloxanthin                    | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Zeaxanthin     | Zeaxanthin                     | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |
| Lutein         | Lutein                         | nanograms per liter (ng/L)              |

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]

---

## Instruments

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b> | Thermo FLASH 2000 CHN Elemental Analyzer  |
| <b>Generic Instrument Name</b>          | CHN Elemental Analyzer  |
| <b>Dataset-specific Description</b>     | The organic carbon and nitrogen content of the samples was measured using a Thermo FLASH 2000 CHN Elemental Analyzer. Precision for the C/N content is within 5%.                                   |
| <b>Generic Instrument Description</b>   | A CHN Elemental Analyzer is used for the determination of carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen content in organic and other types of materials, including solids, liquids, volatile, and viscous samples. |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b> | Shimadzu HPLC system   |
| <b>Generic Instrument Name</b>          | High-Performance Liquid Chromatograph  |
| <b>Dataset-specific Description</b>     | Shimadzu HPLC with reverse phase column was used for pigment analysis. Reverse phase column was Agilent Eclipse XDB-C8, 3.5 $\mu$ m particle size, 150-mm length $\times$ 4.6-mm diameter  |
| <b>Generic Instrument Description</b>   | A High-performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) is a type of liquid chromatography used to separate compounds that are dissolved in solution. HPLC instruments consist of a reservoir of the mobile phase, a pump, an injector, a separation column, and a detector. Compounds are separated by high pressure pumping of the sample mixture onto a column packed with microspheres coated with the stationary phase. The different components in the mixture pass through the column at different rates due to differences in their partitioning behavior between the mobile liquid phase and the stationary phase. |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b> | Thermo Delta V Plus isotope ratio mass spectrometer   |
| <b>Generic Instrument Name</b>          | Isotope-ratio Mass Spectrometer   |
| <b>Dataset-specific Description</b>     | Stable carbon isotopes were measured with a Thermo Delta V Plus isotope ratio mass spectrometer (coupled from a Thermo FLASH 2000 CHN Elemental Analyzer). The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values were expressed relative to Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite standard, with precision within 0.2%. |
| <b>Generic Instrument Description</b>   | The Isotope-ratio Mass Spectrometer is a particular type of mass spectrometer used to measure the relative abundance of isotopes in a given sample (e.g. VG Prism II Isotope Ratio Mass-Spectrometer).  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b> | Lachat QuikChem 8500  |
| <b>Generic Instrument Name</b>          | Nutrient Autoanalyzer   |
| <b>Generic Instrument Description</b>   | Nutrient Autoanalyzer is a generic term used when specific type, make and model were not specified. In general, a Nutrient Autoanalyzer is an automated flow-thru system for doing nutrient analysis (nitrate, ammonium, orthophosphate, and silicate) on seawater samples. |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b> | YSI 600XLM Sonde  |
| <b>Generic Instrument Name</b>          | YSI Sonde 6-Series  |
| <b>Dataset-specific Description</b>     | The YSI 600XLM is an economical logging system for long-term, in situ monitoring and profiling that measures eleven parameters simultaneously: DO (% and mg/L), ORP, Temperature, Depth or Level, Conductivity, Total Dissolved Solids, Specific Conductance, Resistivity, Salinity, and pH.  |
| <b>Generic Instrument Description</b>   | YSI 6-Series water quality sondes and sensors are instruments for environmental monitoring and long-term deployments. YSI datasondes accept multiple water quality sensors (i.e., they are multiparameter sondes). Sondes can measure temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, depth, turbidity, and other water quality parameters. The 6-Series includes several models. More from YSI. |

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]

---

## Project Information

### **RAPID: The impact of Hurricane Harvey on water column and sediment biogeochemistry of the Mission-Aransas Estuary in south Texas (Hurricane Harvey Biogeochemistry)**

**Coverage:** Mission-Aransas Estuary 28N 97W

NSF Award Abstract:

This project involves rapid-response research into the effects of Hurricane Harvey on the Mission-Aransas estuary system in south Texas. Hurricane Harvey passed directly over this region on August 25-26, 2017. Because these waters are the site of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MANERR), the investigators have a history of data from before the storm with which to compare the data they will collect. They proposed to investigate the effect of the passage of the storm on carbon and nitrogen cycling, and thus the ecosystem, in the waters and sediments of Copano Bay and Aransas Bay. Their results will be important to understanding coastal processes both in general and in response to extreme events.

The investigators pose two hypotheses, which can be summarized broadly as 1) inputs of nutrients from river flooding will stimulate algal blooms in the estuary and 2) changes in sediment grain size distribution will affect sediment nitrogen cycling. They will collect water samples for nutrients, pigments, lipids, bulk carbon, and carbon isotope analyses, together with standard water quality parameters using a YSI Sonde (salinity, temperature, pH, chlorophyll a, dissolved oxygen and turbidity) at the five System Wide Monitoring Program sites of the MANERR on a biweekly to monthly basis. Sediment samples will be collected at all sites in the fall of 2017 and examined for grain size, pigments, carbon and nitrogen content, carbon isotopes, pigments, and lipids. The results will be used, in combination from data collected earlier this year, to examine physical, chemical, and biological responses to this major event. The project will support a graduate student research assistant and three undergraduate student researchers. Communication with the public will occur through well-established and effective programs at the Mission-Aransas NERR and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute.

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]

---

## Funding

| Funding Source   | Award                       |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a> | <a href="#">OCE-1763167</a> |

[ [table of contents](#) | [back to top](#) ]