

# Total dissolved nitrogen (TDN) and total dissolved phosphorus (TDP) of samples collected from rivers draining onto the West Florida Shelf and submarine groundwater wells on the Western coast of Florida from Nov 2022 to Mar 2024

**Website:** <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/989225>

**Data Type:** Other Field Results

**Version:** 1

**Version Date:** 2025-12-12

## Project

» [Collaborative Research: Linking iron and nitrogen sources in an oligotrophic coastal margin: Nitrogen fixation and the role of boundary fluxes](#) (West Florida Shelf DON and Fe)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
<a href="#">Knapp, Angela N.</a>	Florida State University (FSU)	Principal Investigator
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## Abstract

The West Florida Shelf (WFS) is oligotrophic, with inorganic N and P concentrations typically at or below detection limits, and yet significant rates of primary productivity, including blooms of the cyanobacterial diazotroph *Trichodesmium* spp. as well as the harmful algal species *Karenia brevis*, are observed there. Consequently, dissolved organic nitrogen (DON) and dissolved organic phosphorus (DOP) are thought to be the primary sources of assimilative nutrients on the WFS. Here we report measurements of total dissolved nitrogen (TDN) and total dissolved phosphorus (TDP) concentrations made on samples collected quarterly from rivers draining onto the WFS as well as from submarine groundwater wells on three transects extending from the Florida Nature Coast in the north to Venice Headland in the south. Elevated concentrations of TDN ( $>12 \mu\text{M}$ ) and TDP ( $>0.5 \mu\text{M}$ ) were observed in riverine and groundwater samples, as well as in the shallow, nearshore region, while to the west concentrations of both TDN and TDP decreased to values typically associated with oligotrophic North Atlantic waters (4 to 5  $\mu\text{M}$  TDN and 0.05 to 0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  TDP).

## Table of Contents

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

## Coverage

**Location:** West Florida Shelf

**Spatial Extent:** N:28.7669 E:-81.8474 S:26.3874 W:-83.0012

**Temporal Extent:** 2022-11-14 - 2024-03-08

## Methods & Sampling

Riverine and estuarine samples were collected on land. Submarine groundwater samples collected on various shore boats by Co-PI Christopher Smith. Riverine, estuarine and submarine groundwater well samples were

collected between November 2022 and March 2024 using a trace metal clean pump and filtered through a 0.2 µm Pall Acropak Super membrane filter capsule, collected into 60 mL HDPE bottles and frozen at -20 C until analysis on land.

TDP concentrations were measured using a Shimadzu UV-1800 and a Shimadzu UV-1900i. All reagents were prepared in dedicated labware with high purity Milli-Q (>18.2 MΩ cm) water. Samples were calibrated using a 6 point calibration curve with concentrations that bracketed sample concentrations. Each run included multiple Milli-Q water and reagent blanks, as well as three internal standards including adenosine triphosphate, a polyphosphate compound, glyphosate, a polyphosphonate compound, and 0.2 µm filtered oligotrophic surface water from the Gulf to check the consistency of the TDP concentration analysis over time.

TDN concentrations were measured using a Thermo 42i NOx analyzer and a Teledyne T200 NOx analyzer and were calibrated with standards that bracketed the concentration range of samples. Additionally, as an internal check on the completeness of the persulfate oxidation method, DON standards were included as “unknowns” in each set of persulfate oxidation, in this case USGS 40 (L-glutamic acid) and IAEA600 (caffeine).

The detection limit for TDN concentration analysis is 0.1 µM, and detection limit for TDP concentration analysis is 0.025 µM.

## Data Processing Description

Data were flagged using the SeaDataNet quality flag scheme recommended by GEOTRACES (<https://www.geotraces.org/geotraces-quality-flag-policy/>) and described below. Notes specific to the application of these flags to this dataset are noted in brackets [...].

0: No Quality Control: No quality control procedures have been applied to the data value. This is the initial status for all data values entering the working archive. [Not used].

1: Good Value: Good quality data value that is not part of any identified malfunction and has been verified as consistent with real phenomena during the quality control process.

2: Probably Good Value: Data value that is probably consistent with real phenomena, but this is unconfirmed or data value forming part of a malfunction that is considered too small to affect the overall quality of the data object of which it is a part. [Used when no replicate measurements were available to check the quality of the data].

3: Probably Bad Value: Data value recognized as unusual during quality control that forms part of a feature that is probably inconsistent with real phenomena. [Used when all replicate measurements were too high to be consistent with real phenomena].

4: Bad Value: An obviously erroneous data value. [Not used].

5: Changed Value: Data value adjusted during quality control. Best practice strongly recommends that the value before the change be preserved in the data or its accompanying metadata. [Not used].

6: Value Below Detection Limit: The level of the measured phenomenon was less than the limit of detection (LOD) for the method employed to measure it. The accompanying value is the detection limit for the technique or zero if that value is unknown. [Values below detection are reported as 0.00 µM in the data file. Detection limits for each parameter are listed in the “methods and sampling” section of this form].

7: Value in Excess: The level of the measured phenomenon was too large to be quantified by the technique employed to measure it. The accompanying value is the measurement limit for the technique. [Not used].

8: Interpolated Value: This value has been derived by interpolation from other values in the data object. [Not used].

9: Missing Value: The data value is missing. Any accompanying value will be a magic number representing absent data [When sample was not collected the notation ‘na’ for ‘not applicable’ was used; when sample collected but there is no result for this parameter, the notation ‘NDA’ for ‘no data available’ was used].

A: Value Phenomenon Uncertain: There is uncertainty in the description of the measured phenomenon associated with the value such as chemical species or biological entity. [Not used].

## BCO-DMO Processing Description

- Opened "BCO-DMO\_STING\_LandSampling\_TDN\_TDP\_Conc\_v3.xlsx" in Excel and replaced #REF errors with intended sample ID
- Saved file as "BCO-DMO\_STING\_LandSampling\_TDN\_TDP\_Conc\_v3\_DM.xlsx" and uploaded the file again to the submission
- Imported "BCO-DMO\_STING\_LandSampling\_TDN\_TDP\_Conc\_v3\_DM.xlsx" into the BCO-DMO system
- Exported file as "989225\_v1\_sting\_land\_tdn\_tdp.csv"

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

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## Data Files

File
<b>989225_v1_sting_land_tdn_tdp.csv</b> (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 20.63 KB) MD5:5d6641be6cd183be888b1c15037b67a6
Primary data file for dataset ID 989225, version 1

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

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## Related Publications

Knapp, A. N., Sigman, D. M., & Lipschultz, F. (2005). N isotopic composition of dissolved organic nitrogen and nitrate at the Bermuda Atlantic Time-series Study site. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 19(1).

doi:[10.1029/2004gb002320](https://doi.org/10.1029/2004gb002320)

*Methods*

Liang, Z., McCabe, K., Fawcett, S. E., Forrer, H. J., Hashihama, F., Jeandel, C., Marconi, D., Planquette, H., Saito, M. A., Sohm, J. A., Thomas, R. K., Letscher, R. T., & Knapp, A. N. (2022). A global ocean dissolved organic phosphorus concentration database (DOPv2021). *Scientific Data*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01873-7>

*Methods*

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

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## Related Datasets

### IsRelatedTo

Buck, K. N., Parente, C. E., Caprara, S., Boiteau, R. M., Chappell, P. D., Conway, T. M., Knapp, A. N., Smith, C., Tamborski, J. (2024) **Dissolved Macronutrient Concentrations from Depth Profiles and Incubation Experiments from STING I Cruise AE2305 on R/V Atlantic Explorer in the Gulf of Mexico from February to March 2023**. Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO). (Version 1) Version Date 2024-06-25 doi:10.26008/1912/bco-dmo.929305.1 [[view at BCO-DMO](#)]

*Relationship Description: These data are part of the same cruise and project.*

Chappell, P. D., Confesor, K. (2024) **Chlorophyll a and pheophytin from two cruises performed as part of the STING project from R/V Atlantic Explorer AE2305 (Sting I cruise) and R/V Endeavor EN704 (Sting II cruise) in the Gulf of Mexico near Florida from February to July 2023**. Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO). (Version 1) Version Date 2024-05-28 doi:10.26008/1912/bco-dmo.928980.1 [[view at BCO-DMO](#)]

*Relationship Description: These data are part of the same cruise and project.*

Tamborski, J., Lindgren, A., Alorda-Kleinglass, A., Buck, K. N., Boiteau, R. M., Chappell, P. D., Conway, T. M., Smith, C., Knapp, A. N. (2025) **Dissolved radium from STING I Cruise AE2305 on R/V Atlantic Explorer and STING II Cruise EN704 on R/V Endeavor and U.S. Geological Survey small boat surveys in the**

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

## Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
TYPE	Type of land based sampling: submarine groundwater well (WELL), river (RIVER), or seawater (SW).	unitless
SAMPLE_ID	Land-based sample identifier	unitless
STING_ID	Unique number assigned to each sampling event in STING project	unitless
DATE	Date the sample was collected; 'NDA' for 'no data available' or missing information	unitless
STATION	USGS station identifier for submarine ground water well samples, and station name for river and estuary samples; 'VH' = Venice Headlands transect; 'IRB' = Indian Rocks Beach transect; 'NC' = Nature Coast transect	unitless
SAMPLE	Type of sample, where 'SW' stands for 'surface water sample collected over a submarine groundwater well'; 'BW' stands for 'water collected just above the sediment/water interface about a submarine groundwater well', and 'GD' and 'GS' stand for 'water collected from a submarine groundwater well'; 'BW Fe' and 'SW Fe' indicate these were either 'Bottom Water' (BW) or 'Surface water' (SW) seawater samples that were collected using the same methods as samples collected for iron (Fe) and other trace metal analysis	unitless
LATITUDE	Position when sample was collected in decimal degrees; a positive value indicates a Northern coordinate; 'NDA' for 'no data available' or missing information	decimal degrees
LONGITUDE	Position when sample was collected in decimal degrees; a negative value indicates a Western coordinate; 'NDA' for 'no data available' or missing information	decimal degrees
TDP	Concentrations of total dissolved phosphorus	micromoles per liter ( $\mu\text{M}$ )
TDP_STDEV	Standard deviation of replication total dissolved phosphorus measurements. If only 2 replicates, the difference about the mean was used to calculate error	micromoles per liter ( $\mu\text{M}$ )
TDP_COUNT	Number of TDP analytical replicates performed	unitless
TDP_FLAG	Quality flag for TDP measurements. See the 'Data Processing Description' section of the BCO-DMO metadata page for this dataset for full data quality flag details	unitless

TDN	Concentrations of total dissolved nitrogen	micromoles per liter ( $\mu\text{M}$ )
TDN_STDEV	Standard deviation of replication total dissolved nitrogen measurements. If only 2 replicates, the difference about the mean was used to calculate error	micromoles per liter ( $\mu\text{M}$ )
TDN_COUNT	Number of TDN analytical replicates performed	unitless
TDN_FLAG	Quality flag for TDN measurements. See the 'Data Processing Description' section of the BCO-DMO metadata page for this dataset for full data quality flag details	unitless

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

## Instruments

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Thermo 42i NOx analyzer
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Chemiluminescence NOx Analyzer
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	TDN concentrations were measured using a Thermo 42i NOx analyzer and a Teledyne T200 NOx analyzer and were calibrated with standards that bracketed the concentration range of samples.
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The chemiluminescence method for gas analysis of oxides of nitrogen relies on the measurement of light produced by the gas-phase titration of nitric oxide and ozone. A chemiluminescence analyzer can measure the concentration of NO/NO <sub>2</sub> /NO <sub>x</sub> . One example is the Teledyne Model T200: <a href="https://www.teledyne-api.com/products/nitrogen-compound-instruments/t200">https://www.teledyne-api.com/products/nitrogen-compound-instruments/t200</a>

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Teledyne T200 NOx analyzer
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Chemiluminescence NOx Analyzer
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	TDN concentrations were measured using a Thermo 42i NOx analyzer and a Teledyne T200 NOx analyzer and were calibrated with standards that bracketed the concentration range of samples.
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The chemiluminescence method for gas analysis of oxides of nitrogen relies on the measurement of light produced by the gas-phase titration of nitric oxide and ozone. A chemiluminescence analyzer can measure the concentration of NO/NO <sub>2</sub> /NO <sub>x</sub> . One example is the Teledyne Model T200: <a href="https://www.teledyne-api.com/products/nitrogen-compound-instruments/t200">https://www.teledyne-api.com/products/nitrogen-compound-instruments/t200</a>

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Trace metal clean pump
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Pump
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Riverine, estuarine and submarine groundwater well samples were collected using a trace metal clean pump and filtered through a 0.2 µm Pall Acropak Super membrane filter capsule, collected into 60 mL HDPE bottles and frozen at -20 C until analysis on land.
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	A pump is a device that moves fluids (liquids or gases), or sometimes slurries, by mechanical action. Pumps can be classified into three major groups according to the method they use to move the fluid: direct lift, displacement, and gravity pumps

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Shimadzu UV-1800
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	UV Spectrophotometer-Shimadzu
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	TDP concentrations were measured using a Shimadzu UV-1800 and a Shimadzu UV-1900i.
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The Shimadzu UV Spectrophotometer is manufactured by Shimadzu Scientific Instruments (ssi.shimadzu.com). Shimadzu manufacturers several models of spectrophotometer; refer to dataset for make/model information.

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Shimadzu UV-1900i
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	UV Spectrophotometer-Shimadzu
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	TDP concentrations were measured using a Shimadzu UV-1800 and a Shimadzu UV-1900i.
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The Shimadzu UV Spectrophotometer is manufactured by Shimadzu Scientific Instruments (ssi.shimadzu.com). Shimadzu manufacturers several models of spectrophotometer; refer to dataset for make/model information.

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

## Project Information

### Collaborative Research: Linking iron and nitrogen sources in an oligotrophic coastal margin: Nitrogen fixation and the role of boundary fluxes (West Florida Shelf DON and Fe)

**Coverage:** Gulf of Mexico/America, West Florida Shelf

#### NSF Award Abstract:

This project will investigate how groundwater discharge delivers important nutrients to the coastal ecosystems of the West Florida Shelf. Preliminary studies indicate that groundwater may supply both dissolved organic

nitrogen (DON) and iron in this region. In coastal ecosystems like the West Florida Shelf that have very low nitrate and ammonium concentrations, DON is the main form of nitrogen available to organisms. Nitrogen cycling is strongly affected by iron availability because iron is essential for both photosynthesis and for nitrogen fixation. This study will investigate the sources and composition of DON and iron, and their influence on the coastal ecosystem. The team will sample offshore groundwater wells, river and estuarine waters, and conduct two expeditions across the West Florida Shelf in winter and summer. Investigators will participate in K-12 and outreach activities to increase awareness of the project and related science. The project will fund the work of six graduate and eight undergraduate students across five institutions, furthering NSF's goals of education and training.

Motivated by preliminary observations of unexplained, tightly-correlated DON and dissolved iron concentrations across the West Florida Shelf (WFS), the proposed work will quantify the flux and isotopic signatures of submarine groundwater discharge (SGD)-derived DON and iron to the WFS, and evaluate the bioavailability of this temporally-variable source using four seasonal near-shore campaigns sampling offshore groundwater wells, estuarine, and riverine endmembers and two cross-shelf cruises. The work will evaluate whether SGD stimulates nitrogen fixation on the WFS, and the potential for the stimulated nitrogen fixation to further modify the chemistry of DON and dissolved iron in the region. The cross-shelf cruises will investigate hypothesized periods of maximum SGD and *Trichodesmium* abundance (June), and reduced river discharge and SGD (February), thus comparing two distinct biogeochemical regimes. The concentrations and isotopic compositions of DON and dissolved iron, molecular composition of DON, and the concentration and composition of iron-binding ligands will be characterized. Nitrogen fixation rates and *Trichodesmium* spp. abundance and expression of iron stress genes will be measured. Fluxes of DON and iron from SGD and rivers will be quantified with radium isotope mass balances. The impacts of SGD on nitrogen fixation and DON/ligand production will be constrained with incubations of natural phytoplankton communities with submarine groundwater amendments. Two hypotheses will be tested: 1) SGD is the dominant source of bioavailable DON and dissolved iron on the WFS, and 2) SGD-alleviation of iron stress changes the dominant *Trichodesmium* species on the WFS, increases nitrogen fixation rates and modifies DON and iron composition. Overall, the work will establish connections between marine nitrogen and iron cycling and evaluate the potential for coastal inputs to modify water along the WFS before export to the Atlantic Ocean. This study will thus provide a framework to consider these boundary fluxes in oligotrophic coastal systems and the relative importance of rivers and SGD as sources of nitrogen and iron in other analogous locations, such as coastal systems in Australia, India, and Africa, where nitrogen fixation and SGD have also been documented.

This award reflects NSF's statutory mission and has been deemed worthy of support through evaluation using the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts review criteria.

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

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## Funding

Funding Source	Award
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-2148989</a>
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-2506248</a>

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