

Rookery Bay Reserve *Finding Solutions*



System Wide Monitoring Program

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is part of a national network of 28 reserves that are representative of a variety of biogeographically important estuarine ecosystems throughout the coastal U.S. Collectively, these NERR sites provide unique opportunities to

address research questions and coastal issues on a national scale. The reserves are united in their research efforts through the System Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP). SWMP was developed to nationally standardize long-term monitoring programs across all reserves. Currently the standardized long-term

environmental monitoring efforts include water quality, water nutrients, and meteorology. Data collection, data quality assurance and control, and data archival are all standardized methods. Data are available at

<http://cdmo.baruch.edu>

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Funding
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Project Dates
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Research

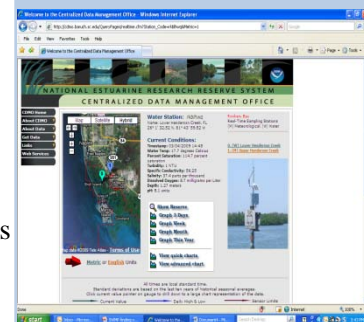
Rookery Bay is continuously conducting long-term environmental monitoring to better understand natural processes and human impacts within estuaries. By monitoring water quality and nutrients and weather, researchers can track short-term variability and long-term changes in environmental conditions. Water quality (at 4 sites) and weather (at 1 site) data are recorded every 15

minutes using specialized equipment for extended deployment. Water nutrients are sampled on a monthly basis using a “grab” method at the 4 water quality sites and a diel method at 1 of the water quality sites.

Regional Application: Results from long-term environmental data collection provide essential information to improve water management policies

and to guide restoration plans. Additionally data can be linked with other long-term biological monitoring projects or short-term research projects within the reserve.

National Application: Collectively, the NERR SWMP data can be used to investigate the effects of global warming and sea level rise on coastal systems across the U.S.



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**REAL-TIME
Water Quality and
Weather Data!**



Rookery Bay, located in southwest Florida, is recognized as one of the few remaining pristine, mangrove-forested estuaries in the U.S. As part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, it serves as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for students and scientists. For more information, visit www.rookerybay.org.

