Appendix B
WATER QUALITY DATABASE OVERVIEW

The data used to compile the ambient nearshore water quality characterization were provided by the Southeast Environmental Research Center - Florida International University (SERC-FIU) Water Quality Monitoring Network (WQMN) which is supported by SFWMD/SERC Cooperative Agreements #C-10244 and #C-13178 as well as EPA Agreement #X994621-94-0. This monitoring program is administered by Dr. Ron Jones and Dr. Joe Boyer of the Southeastern Research Center. These time series data have been collected since 1995 at stations distributed throughout the Florida Keys and Florida Bay.

SERC has published a summary of their monitoring efforts as *Technical Report #T-327* which covered the following aspects of the monitoring program:

- Period of record from March 1995 through December 2005
- Network of 154 stations within the FKNMS including the Dry Tortugas National Park.
- Data from 42 quarterly sampling events
- Field parameters measured at each station included salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, relative fluorescence, and light attenuation.
- Water chemistry variables included
  - Dissolved nutrients nitrate, nitrite, ammonium, dissolved inorganic nitrogen, and soluble reactive phosphate (SRP).
  - Total unfiltered concentrations of nitrogen, organic nitrogen, organic carbon, phosphorus, and silicate were also measured.
- Biological parameters included chlorophyll *a* and alkaline phosphatase activity.

SERC continues to maintain a website (http://serc.fiu.edu/wqmnetwork/) where data from the FKNMS is integrated with the other parts of the SERC water quality network (Florida Bay, Whitewater Bay, Biscayne Bay, Ten Thousand Islands, and SW Florida Shelf) and displayed as downloadable contour maps, time series graphs, and interpretive reports.

The SERC data used in this project was downloaded from the SERC website and stored in two tables in the Access database. An index of monitoring stations was stored in the [FKNMS Stations] table and the individual water quality records were stored in the [TN_TP Data] table.

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