

Increased Capabilities for Community-Based, Water Data Analysis and Outreach

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Biographical Sketches of Authors

Sergio is a marine biologist who has worked in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University since 1994. He has been a Data Quality Coordinator for Alabama Water Watch since April 2001, maintaining the statewide database and creating data reports. In addition to AWW responsibilities, he collaborates in the design and developing of a database for Global Water Watch projects and works with the Ecuador Water Watch group through AU's International Center for Aquaculture and Aquatic Environments.

Bill Deutsch has been a Research Fellow in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University for 16 years. Prior to that, he worked 11 years as a Research Biologist and Director of Aquatic Research for private environmental consultants in Pennsylvania. He has been the Program Manager for Alabama Water Watch since it began in 1992, and directs Global Water Watch through AU's International Center for Aquaculture and Aquatic Environments.

Abstract

Alabama Water Watch (AWW) is a citizen volunteer water quality-monitoring program coordinated from Auburn University. Since 1993, more than 800 training workshops have been conducted, resulting in 6,200 certifications for physicochemical and biological testing of water. More than two hundred monitoring groups have participated in AWW and 80 are currently active. About 1,600 sites have been monitored from almost 600 waterbodies, and over 35,000 data records have been submitted. A relational database has been developed to effectively store and manage these data, and includes the capacity for online data entry, statistical analyses and public access to summary graphs. Interactive mapping and links to other databases enhance its capabilities to document multi-year trends in water quality caused by both natural and anthropogenic influences. AWW data are becoming one of the most comprehensive sources of water information in the state and are increasingly being used by water professionals and the public in general for the improvement of water quality and policy.