

We highly appreciate the reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions. Below, we have included our response (in blue color).

### **Response to reviewer 1**

River inputs are critical for studies of the coastal ecosystem. Specifically, the regional modeling community needs standardized data input for both streamflow and water quality. We used Mississippi as an example and examined the data to find it is generally consistent with the river inputs we have composed based on USGS measurements regarding river discharge, nutrient, and carbonate variables. My only suggestion is that currently, the data stop in 2020, and I would encourage the authors to continuously extend the database in an up-to-date mode.

Following the reviewer suggestion, we will provide an updated database until 2022. We will also continue updating the NCEI archive database in the future on an annual basis.

### **Response to reviewer 2**

The RC4USCoast package is a useful compilation of river carbonate chemistry and discharge data for coastal ocean modeling purposes. The manuscript is clearly written and the data quality is excellent based on the best available USGS results.

A few minor comments:

P3 L63-64, the expression is confusing, you really meant that using TA and pH to estimate DIC may overestimate the latter because of the inclusion of non-carbonate alkalinity. Actually, non-carbonate alkalinity itself is not precise, borate isn't a part of carbonate alkalinity as well.

We agree that the expression was confusing. We also recognize that it is more appropriate to use the term organic alkalinity instead of non-carbonate alkalinity. Therefore, we have made a few changes to make the point clearer:

Following Stets and Striegl (2012), we assumed that (i) particulate inorganic carbon is small; thus, filtered and unfiltered measurements of alkalinity are nearly the same, and (ii) organic alkalinity represents a small fraction of total alkalinity. A comparison between filtered and unfiltered measurements of alkalinity does not show significant differences (Fig. 2a); thus, biases associated with the first assumption are negligible. The second assumption is required because including the organic alkalinity fraction in the total alkalinity term used to derive DIC lead to some DIC overestimation. This could be a problem in low alkalinity rivers with high concentration of organic matter, as the latter contains anionic functional groups that can contribute to alkalinity (Hunt et al., 2011). Stets and Striegl (2012) discussed this issue further and showed that organic alkalinity usually represents less than 10% of total alkalinity in U.S. rivers, not producing important biases in the DIC calculations. Consistently, a comparison between measured DIC and the calculated DIC reveals a good agreement, with no evident bias in the residuals of the least square model (Fig. 2b).

Throughout the text, please change carbon chemistry to carbonate chemistry, please be precise.

We changed the term as suggested.

Table 1, the variable DIC should have both measured (a small fraction) and calculated, need to be complete.

We did not include the observed DIC in the original RC4USCoast version. But following the reviewer observation, we will include it in the updated database (and add it to Table 1).

P6 L116, DIC:Alk = 3.5 as cutoff for throwing out outliers, please explain.

Given the uncertainty associated with the DIC calculation, with a potential of DIC overestimation in low alkalinity rivers, we set an upper limit to the DIC:Alk ratio, based on ranges reported by Moore-Maley et al. (2018). The calculated DIC records greater than 3.5 times alkalinity were then removed from the database. The removed records correspond to a very minor fraction of the total monthly records (3.7%), mainly associated with the rivers, Toms, Satilla, St. Marys, and Blackwater. We will provide these details in the updated manuscript version.

P9 L144, "Blackwater". it seems that there are more than one Blackwater Rivers in the US, please specify its location. In viewing the data, this is a very small tributary in Alabama to another small river, not into the coast directly. Please reexamine the listed rivers and make sure they actually contribute to the coastal ocean.

We are referring to the Blackwater River in the Florida Panhandle, which discharges into Blackwater Bay (close to Pensacola Bay). We have updated Supplementary Table S1, providing a more accurate location for the Blackwater and Yellow mouth locations.

There are eight different parameters that can be interpreted as alkalinity more or less. For cases that these results do not agree (which occurs actually quite often), please explain how you merged the data.

Following a similar approach used in previous studies (e.g., Raymond et al, 2008; Stets and Striegl, 2012; Kaushal et al., 2013; Stets et al., 2014), we merged different USGS parameters for alkalinity to derive the monthly alkalinity series and climatologies. Although some discrepancies between parameters could be found, overall, the differences were minor. This can be seen in the comparison between the monthly alkalinity derived from parameter 00440 (A<sub>00440</sub>: Acid neutralizing capacity, unfiltered, field), which was the most abundant in the database, and the other alkalinity parameters (Figure A1; Table A1). We will provide this comparison in the updated manuscript version.

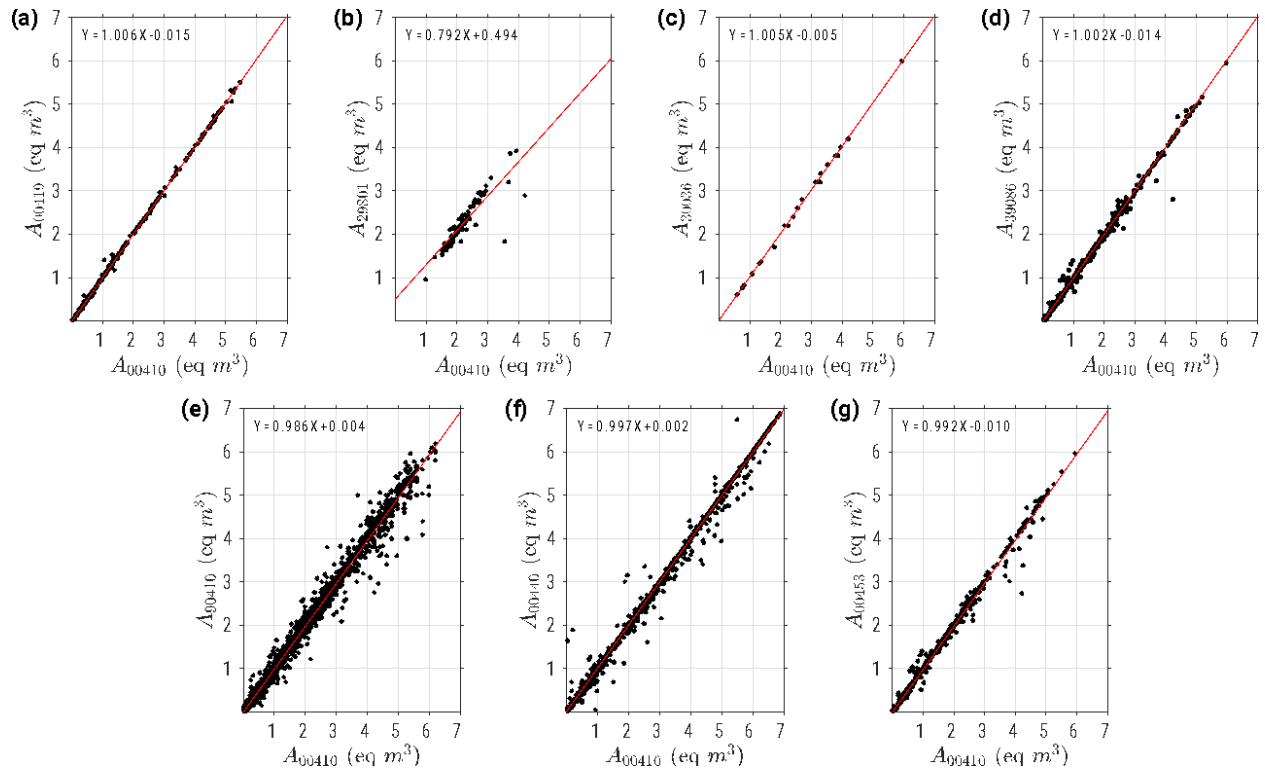


Figure A1. Scatterplots showing the association between the alkalinity parameter 00410 ( $A_{00410}$ ; x-axis) and other alkalinity parameters (y-axis) in the USGS database: (a)  $A_{00419}$ , (b)  $A_{29801}$ , (c)  $A_{39036}$ , (d)  $A_{39086}$ , (e)  $A_{90410}$ , (f)  $A_{00440}$ , (g)  $A_{00453}$ .

Table A1. Comparison between the alkalinity parameter 00410 ( $A_{00410}$ ) and other alkalinity parameters ( $A_{00419}$ ,  $A_{29801}$ ,  $A_{39036}$ ,  $A_{39086}$ ,  $A_{90410}$ ,  $A_{00440}$ ,  $A_{00453}$ ) in the USGS water quality database. The mean difference and its standard deviation (in parenthesis) are expressed in terms of  $\text{meq m}^{-3}$ .

	$A_{00419}$	$A_{29801}$	$A_{39036}$	$A_{39086}$	$A_{90410}$	$A_{00440}$	$A_{00453}$
Mean and SD of the difference ( $A_N - A_{00410}$ )	-4 (44)	25 (282)	8 (51)	-11 (76)	-16 (146)	-2 (56)	-20 (94)
Mean ratio ( $A_N:A_{00410}$ )	0.975	1.021	1.002	0.947	0.998	1.010	0.942

## References

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