

From Biscayne NP

The Park's Hewlett-Packard 9825T computer with 68K user available RAM memory was purchased by the Southeast Region in 1979 as part of a Hydrolab water quality monitoring system and was updated in 1982. This computer is used to edit, compute values and store bay and reef tract water quality data. In 1984 it will be used for statistical analysis of the 10 year bay water quality data base.

The Hewlett-Packard computer also is used to compute and store monthly visitor use data and produce yearly cumulative totals. Other uses include storing addresses, printing mailing labels for public service announcements, programs to list and locate dive equipment, training and program needs, and dive logs for park divers.

Currently our sport and commercial fishing creel survey data base, begun in 1976, is stored on the Wang computer at Everglades NP (EVER) South Florida Research Center, where weekly, quarterly

and yearly statistical analysis of recreational and commercial fishing is done. Analysis of the first five year data base is in progress.

The Park purchased an IBM Personal Computer (PC) with 640K memory in September 1983. Initially, communication with the EVER computer to store fisheries data is planned to save time spent in transportation of personnel to and from the Wang. Eventually, this data base may be transferred to the IBM-PC. Due to increased memory capability of the IBM-PC, the water quality data base stored on the Hewlett-Packard computer may be transferred to the IBM-PC. Storage of exotic plant control data is planned to summarize work reports, evaluate herbicide efficacy, and schedule follow-up treatment.

We hope to develop a multi-dimensional data base information retrieval system which would catalog and make retrievable all information, utilizing a coordinate base grid system developed in such a way that data could be input and verified by the user on an individual data point, data set, or subset basis. This system is particularly attractive since all data bases would not have to be placed on the computer at one time. The result would be that different types of data or data sets could be compared or evaluated separately. Access to other agency data bases also may be possible.

Other park uses of the IBM-PC include programs for tracking park administration inventory, personnel, budgets and training needs, Ranger case incident reports and as an aid in interpretive program planning and statistics.

Past problems with the park computer include lack of interest and fear of the computer, lack of knowledge of computer capabilities, inability to use or program the computer, and the press of other critical duties on personnel with computer knowledge. Training of all personnel who will directly or indirectly be affected by computer capabilities and use is needed. The park needs employees hired specifically to schedule computer use, determine and define needs, write programs, put data on the computer, and train in-house employees on capability and use.

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