

Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 1

Southern Coastal sites monitored		
Code	Group Name	Site Description
MAS470	National Trust of SA - Willunga Branch	Maslin Creek before it enters Willunga in Govt House Grounds
MAS480	Willunga Trees for Life	Maslin Creek in Willunga Wirra, St Peters Tce
PED604	McLaren Vale PS	Pedler Creek behind McLaren Vale information centre
PED605	McLaren Vale PS	McLaren Vale Information Centre lake/dam
PED700	Tatachilla Lutheran College	Pedler Creek tributary Eco-classroom at Tatachilla
STM200	All Saints Catholic P.S.	Drain behind school, flows thru to Seaford/Commercial Roads

Southern Coastal Catchments Incorporating Pedler Creek and Maslin Creek



A yellow fish this month....
Salinity levels were acceptable however some of the remaining parameters recorded either poor results or were high enough to be of concern.



Catchment overview

Salinity
Salinity levels this month are very good indeed. Well within the acceptable range to qualify for a blue fish. It needs to be noted however that all but one site was either dry or no salinity reading was taken. We will wait to see what happens throughout the rest of the year as the other sites start to get readings, especially the historically high levels in the Maslin Creek catchment.

pH
Of the 3 sites that were able to record a pH reading, two of them were within the acceptable range for pH, while one (PED700) had a pH higher than is considered acceptable.

Nutrients
There were minimal nutrients (nitrates, phosphates) present at sites this month. PED700 however recorded a Phosphate reading of 0.4mg/l which just pushed the overall results up into the 'possible problem' category.

Turbidity
Generally the turbidity levels this snapshot were quite poor. PED700 had an extremely poor result with a turbidity of 150 NTU's. MAS 602 with it's result of 40 was getting close to being a poor rating also.

What does your fish mean?



Good water quality



Possible problems



Poor quality water

Frogs heard:



- Common froglet ✓
- Spotted grass frog
- Brown tree frog
- Banjo frog
- Bibron's Toadlet
- Painted frog

Macroinvertebrates:



No samples collected: at sites

Macro of the month:

Scuds (amphipods)

"Most Australian amphipods are found in still to slow-moving waters. They are omnivorous, feeding on decaying vegetation though they will sometimes feed on other animals. Male amphipods guard their mates closely"! Source: The Waterbug Book: Gooderham and Tsyrlin © 2002 CSIRO Publishing

Nutrient Comparison March 2006

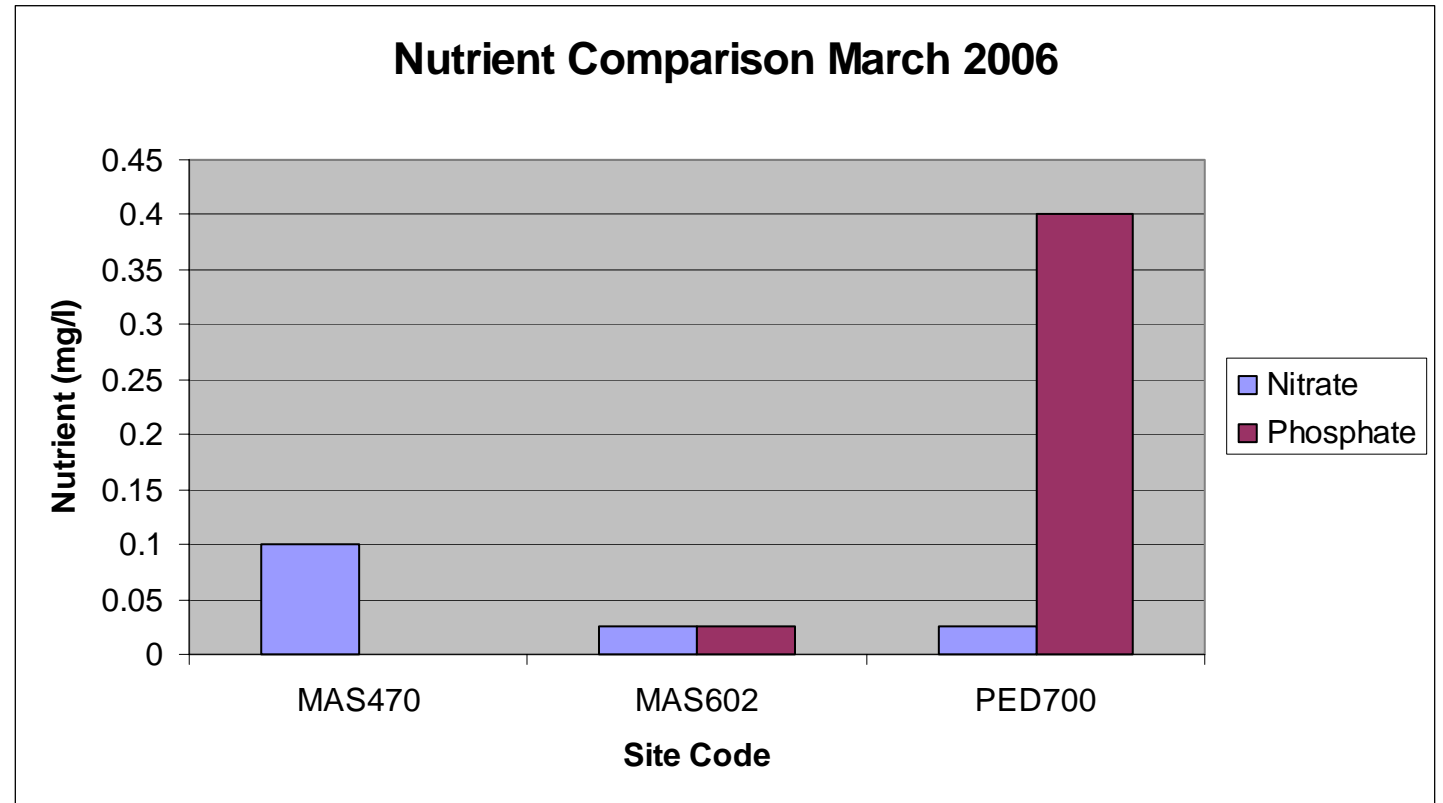


Table of results March 2006

Code	Date	EC (uS/cm)	Nitrate (mg/l)	pH (Units)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate (mg/l)	Turbidity (NTU)
MAS470	24/03/2006		0.1	7.5	17.0		<10
MAS602	23/03/2006		<0.05	8.0	18.0	0.025	40
PED604	24/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
PED605	24/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
PED700	22/03/2006	530	<0.05	9.0		0.4	150
STM200	24/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0

Sites with a '0' reading for all parameters were dry this month. * indicates an estuarine site.

How healthy is your site?

	Good	Possible problems	Poor
pH	6 - 8.5		<6 or >8.5
Salinity (ECUs)	<1000	1000-2000	>2000
Turbidity (NTU's)	<20	20-50	>50
Nitrate (mg/L)	<0.1	0.1-1.0	>1.0
Phosphate (mg/L)	<0.1	0.1-1.0	>1.0

This table is based on water quality criteria as recommended by the SA EPA (1998). This table should only be used as a guide to water quality. There are many substances and organisms which have not been tested for which may or may not be present in the water and which can have effects on the ecosystems.