

Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 1

UPPER ONKAPARINGA sites monitored		
Code	Group Name	Site Description
ONK002	Lobethal Lutheran P.S.	3rd bridge past Hirth's Rd on Lob-Mt Torrens Rd.
ONK014	Lobethal Lutheran P.S.	Onkaparinga Valley Rd on Eastern side of EWS platform
ONK021	Lobethal Lutheran P.S.	Bridge 2 on Mt Torrens Rd, Creek crossing from North
ONK023	Lobethal Lutheran P.S.	Bridge 1 on Mt Torrens Rd, Creek crossing from North
ONK075	Woodside P.S.	Tiers Rd on western side of Woodside where main Onka River crosses
ONK076	Woodside P.S.	near school, in creek going past rec park
ONK081	Inverbrackie/Mitchell Creek Catchment Group	Site 3 New Era Bridge
ONK094	Inverbrackie/Mitchell Creek Catchment Group	Site 2 Kerber property
ONK097	Inverbrackie/Mitchell Creek Catchment Group	Site 1 Ridge Road
ONK099	Woodside P.S.	Inverbrackie Creek where it crosses Nairne Rd
ONK105	Woodside P.S.	On Onka Valley Rd 3km S of Woodside, Creek crossing from E
ONK107	Woodside P.S.	Onka Valley Rd about 3km S of Woodside. 2nd bridge
ONK133	Lobethal Lutheran P.S.	W Branch Onka River downstream of Lobethal Sewerage works
ONK155	Woodside P.S.	Onka W branch crosses Tiers Rd, 1.5 Km W of Woodside

Upper Onkaparinga catchment
 Incorporating: Charleston, Balhannah, Inverbrackie, Spoehr, Western Branch



A blue fish this month...
 Salinity levels still remain moderately high but all other parameters are very good.



Catchment overview

- Salinity**
 Salinity levels are moderately high, with all sites recording levels higher than the corresponding period last year. Only one site (ONK133) has recorded salinity levels low enough to be considered healthy. Three sites had levels in excess of 2000ECUs.
- pH**
 All sites recorded a pH level within the acceptable range.
- Nutrients**
 There were minimal nutrients (nitrates, phosphates) present at sites this month. One site recorded a 0mg/l reading for nitrate, while the remainder of the sites all had readings below 0.1mg/l. Every site therefore had good water quality.
- Turbidity**
 Turbidity levels were generally very good, with only 2 sites having turbidity readings that were slightly elevated.

What does your fish mean?		
Good water quality	Possible problems	Poor quality water



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Frogs heard:



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

None recorded at any site!

Macroinvertebrates:



No samples collected.

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

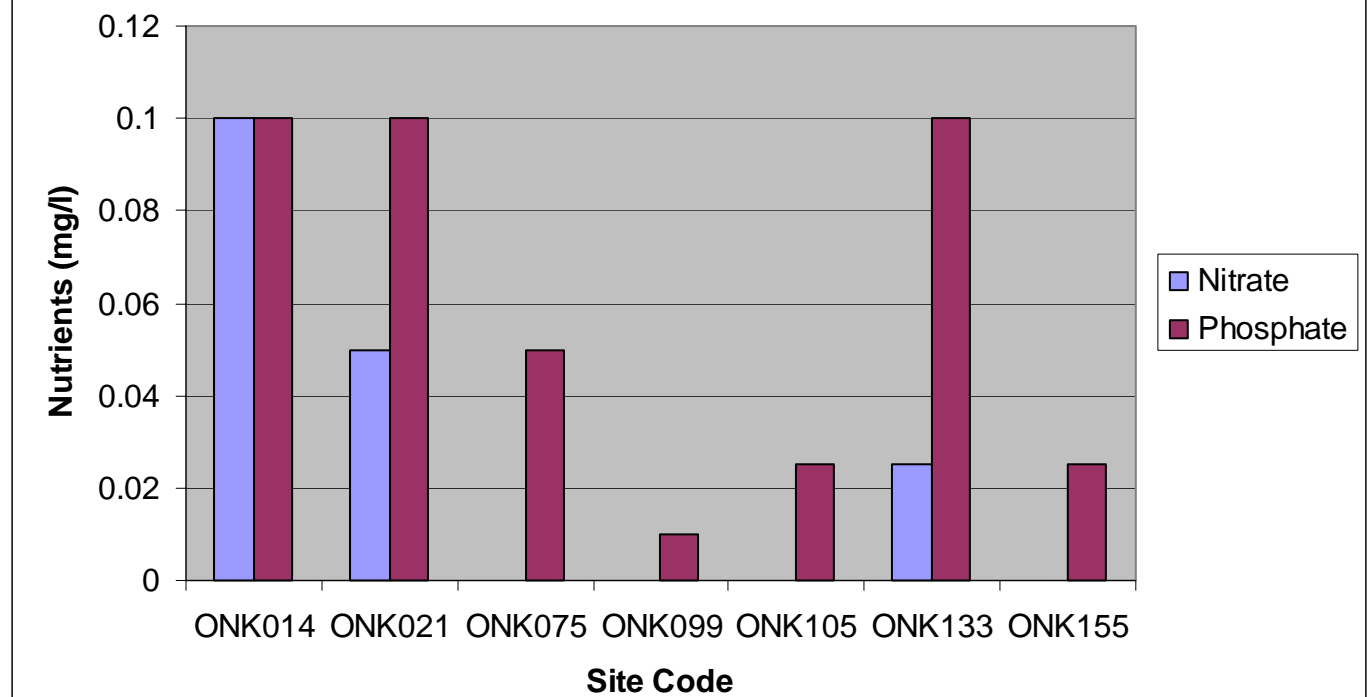


Table of results March 2006

Code	Date	EC (uS/cm)	Nitrate (mg/l)	pH (Units)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate (mg/l)	Turbidity (NTU)
ONK002	20/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK014	20/03/2006	2930	0.1	7.5	15.6	0.1	50
ONK021	20/03/2006	3130	0.05	7.0	12.5	0.1	15
ONK023	20/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK075	20/03/2006	1390	0.	7.0	14.6	0.05	<10
ONK076	20/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK081	23/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK094	23/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK097	23/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK099	20/03/2006	3550	0.	7.5	15.4	<0.025	<10
ONK105	20/03/2006	1810	0.	7.5	15.6	0.025	<10
ONK107	20/03/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK133	20/03/2006	780	<0.05	7.0	14.2	0.1	40
ONK155	20/03/2006	1980	0.	7.5	13.6	0.025	<10

<i>How healthy is your site?</i>			
	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
Phosphpate (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.

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