

Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 2

MIDDLE ONKAPARINGA sites monitored		
Code	Group Name	Site Description
ONK235	Engler family	Small creek in tiny catchment East of Carey Gully
ONK236	Engler family	Creek in small catchment East of Carey Gully
ONK324	Hahndorf Landcare	Below Hahndorf golf course on private property
ONK330	Hahndorf Landcare	Hahn Creek just downstream of landcare site at carpark
ONK382	Arbury Park Outdoor School	Cox Creek just u/stm of new Dav bridge in Mt George CP
ONK395	Arbury Park Outdoor School	Wetland in Mt George Picnic ground, up northern end
ONK397	Arbury Park Outdoor School	Cox Ck from Ford at Tiersmens Bridge in Mt George C.P.
ONK418	Arbury Park Outdoor School	Johnson's Creek just before enters Cox Creek in Dean Res.
ONK419	Arbury Park Outdoor School	Cox Creek on d/stm side of Dean. Bridge in Dean. Res.
ONK423	Hills Montessori School	Kain Ave tributary in middle of Carripook Park
ONK423	Friends of Rubida Grove	Kain Ave tributary in middle of Carripook Park
ONK454	Friends of Stirling Linear Park	Stirling Park Creek just before Woorabinda Dam water joins
ONK456	Friends of Stirling Linear Park	Woorabinda Dam before outlet
ONK462	Aldgate P.S.	At net court before Madurta branch joins main creek
ONK464	Stirling East P.S.	Creek enter from W before Snows Rd bridge, next to Kindy
ONK470	Stirling East P.S.	Before Creek crosses under Pirallila Place just off Snows Rd
ONK475	Aldgate P.S.	Below Aldgate township at Arundel Rd bridge
ONK484	Aldgate P.S.	Aldgate Creek near Blackwood Lane on Aldgate Valley Road
ONK534	Jurlique	Mylor Herb Farm - Property Entrance
ONK535	Jurlique	Mylor Herb Farm - Chook Shed Gully
ONK536	Jurlique	Mylor Herb Farm - Property Exit

Middle Onkaparinga catchment Incorporating: Scott Creek, Cox Creek, Aldgate Creek



A yellow fish this month....although salinity levels have improved since last snapshot, nitrates, phosphates and turbidity have become an area of concern at some sites.



Catchment overview

Salinity

Overall the majority of sites had salinity levels that were lower than in snapshot #1 back in March. The salinity at most sites is very low, however there are a handful of exceptions where salinity levels are considered moderately high,



pH

All sites recorded a pH level within the acceptable range.



Nutrients

Nutrient levels have increased dramatically since snapshot #1. Roughly half the sites had Phosphate levels that may be of concern. The situation with Nitrate levels is slightly worse with 3 sites having Nitrate readings of 4.0mg/l (equal highest with any site throughout the entire monitoring program)






Turbidity

Turbidity levels also have increased since last snapshot. There is quite an even spread of results with one third of sites having good water quality, one third moderate water quality, and one third having turbidity levels high enough to be considered poor.



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

Macroinvertebrates:



No samples collected.

Macro of the Month

Fly larvae (diptera)

Fly larvae have simple bodies which work "a bit like an elastic-sided garbage bag and can stretch to accommodate a large meal better than a nymph like body can." There are so many different kinds as well; some are very hardy actually prefer organically polluted sites (such as the rat-tailed maggots – Syrphidae) and some – like the non-biting midges (Chironomidae) can provide a lot of information about the surrounding environment. Source: The Waterbug Book; Gooderham and Tsyrlin © 2002 CSIRO Publishing

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.

Saltwatch (salinity) Results
-in Electrical Conductivity
(EC) Units-

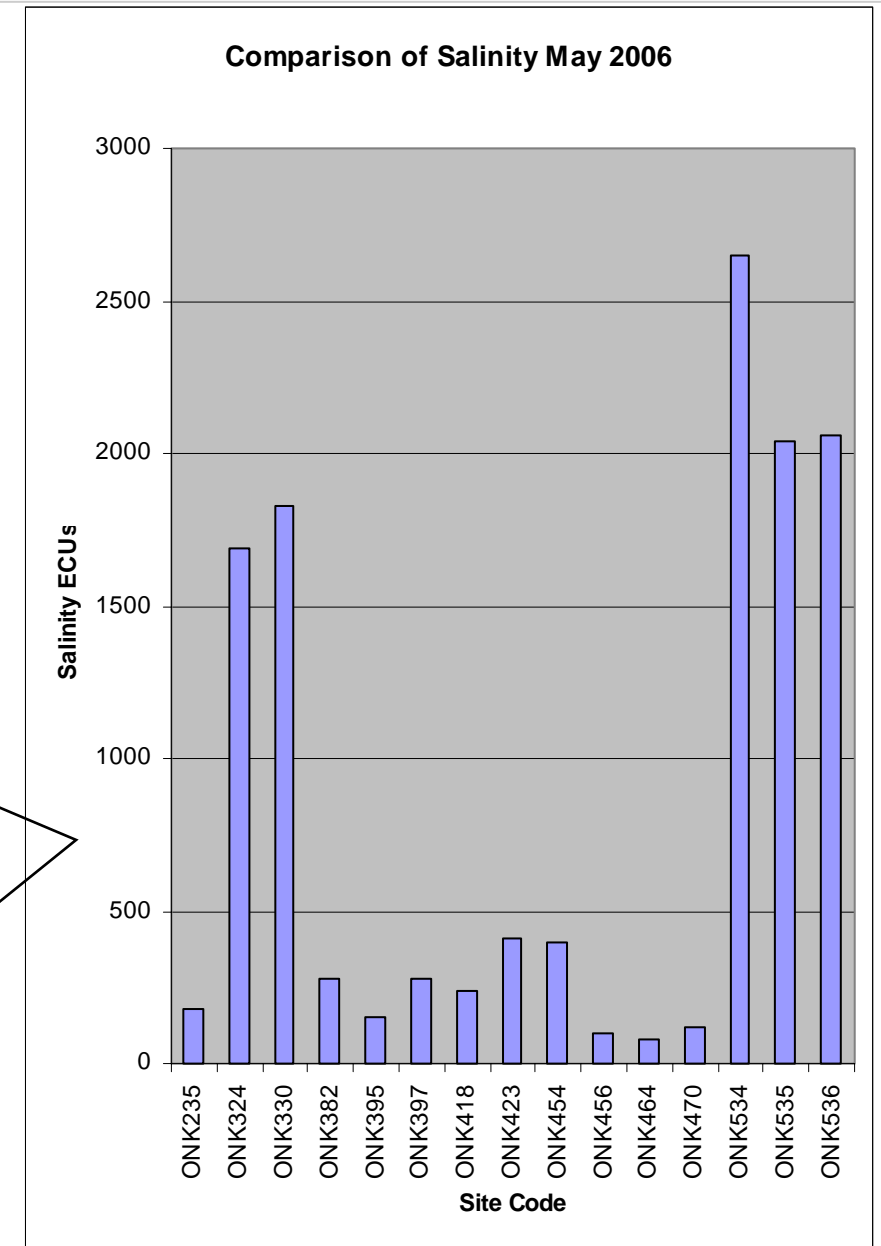


Table of Results May 2006

Code	Date	EC (uS/cm)	Nitrate (mg/l)	pH (Units)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate (mg/l)	Turbidity (NTU)
ONK235	12/05/2006	180	2.0	7.5	12.3	0.2	70
ONK324	12/05/2006	1690	0.05	7.5	12.3	0.4	
ONK330	12/05/2006	1830	0.05	7.5	12.6	0.05	10
ONK382	3/05/2006	280	4.0	7.5	14.0	0.2	120
ONK395	3/05/2006	150	0.05	7.5	15.2	0.025	25
ONK397	3/05/2006	280	4.0	7.5	14.0	0.2	120
ONK418	3/05/2006	240	4.0	7.5	14.0	0.2	120
ONK423	8/05/2006	410	0.8	6.5	13.2	0.025	15
ONK454	8/05/2006	400	0.8	7.0	12.5	0.	<10
ONK456	8/05/2006	100	<0.05	6.5	13.4	0.05	15
ONK464	9/05/2006	80	0.2	6.5	13.6	0.05	50
ONK470	9/05/2006	120	0.2	6.5	13.2	0.1	40
ONK534	11/05/2006	2650	0.2	7.5	13.0	0.05	30
ONK535	11/05/2006	2040	0.05	6.0	13.3	0.1	15
ONK536	11/05/2006	2060	0.05	7.5	13.6	0.025	30

The salinity data collected during the May Snapshot Week has been used in **Saltwatch**. It can be used by scientists and government agencies to track the spread of salinity throughout the State.

Salinity data is important for local communities as elevated salinity levels affect not only aquatic ecosystems, but can also have adverse impacts on human activities relating to irrigation of crops, and provision of water supplies for people and stock.

Data collected from previous years indicates that salinity across the State is highly variable, with the highest salinity readings found in the Broughton and Wakefield, South East and Lower Murray Catchments. Lower readings were observed in the Riverland and Mt Lofty Ranges.

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