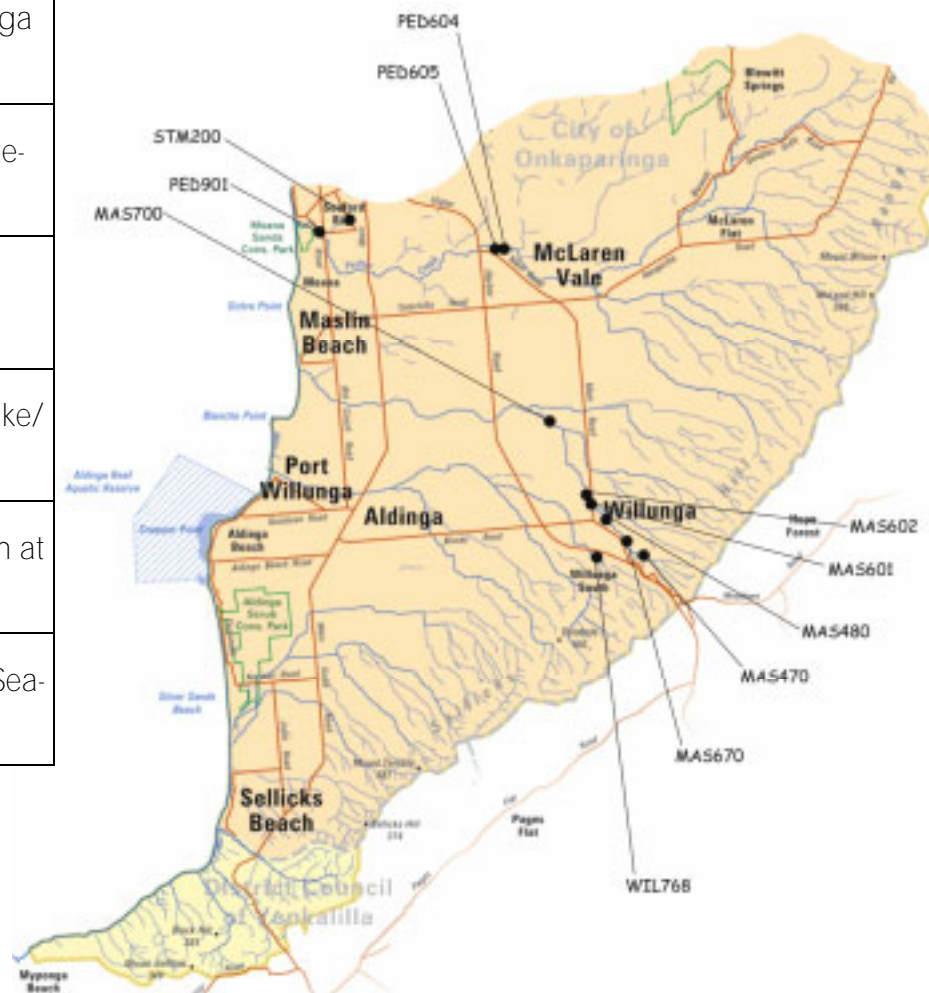


# Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 2

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 once again... turbidity and pH levels have improved slightly since last month, however salinity levels are a lot more of a concern - mainly due to the inclusion of the Maslin Creek sites



### Catchment overview

#### Salinity

Now that more sites have had salinity levels recorded, the overall salinity score has become poorer since last snapshot. Although PED700 and STM200 have recorded very good salinity levels, the salinity at the sites in the Maslin Creek catchment are very high, with the sites recording over 2000ECUs.



#### pH

All sites recorded a pH level within the acceptable range.

#### Nutrients

Three of the four sites recorded very low nutrient levels. However MAS480 had both Nitrate and Phosphate levels that potentially be a problem. Particularly the Phosphate levels with were >0.4mg/l



#### Turbidity

Turbidity levels have improved at all sites this month. With almost all sites being in the 'good' quality category. Only two sites recorded turbidity levels that might be of concern, however they were at the lower end of the 'possible problem' category range.



### What does your fish mean?



Good water quality



Possible problems



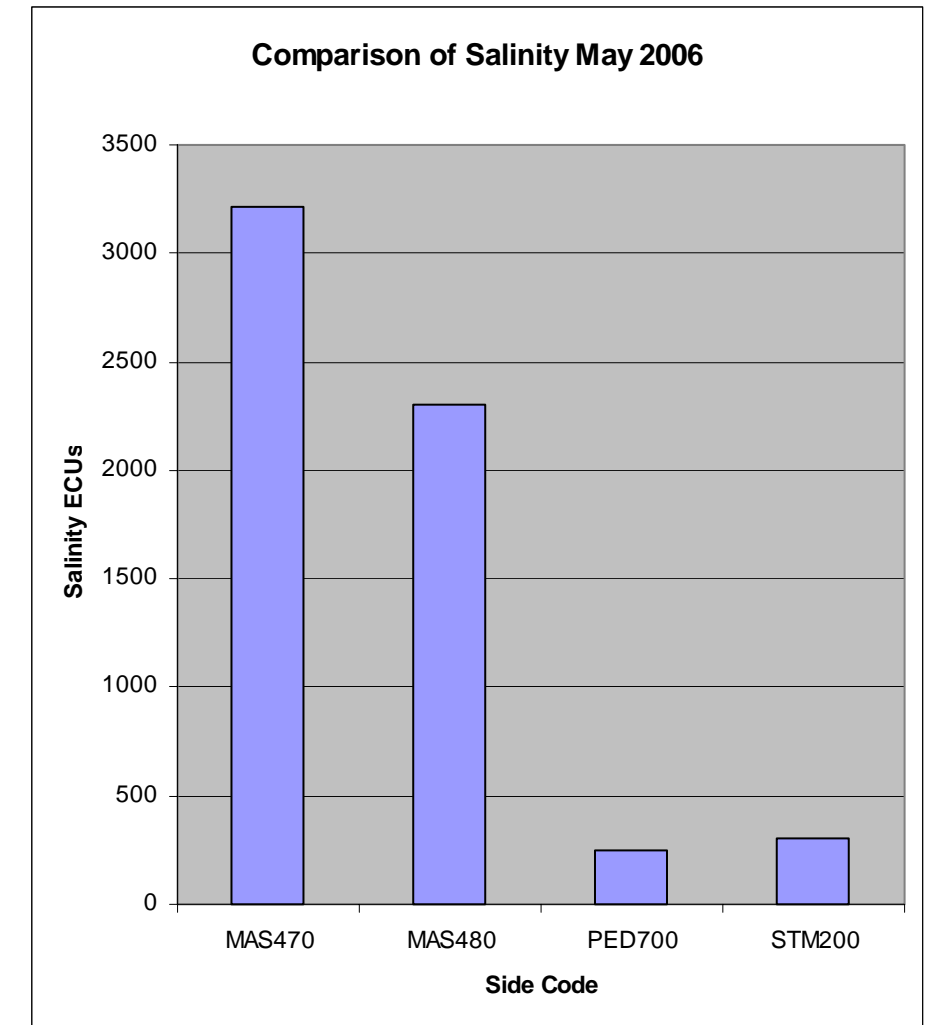
Poor quality water

## Table of Results May 2006

Code	Date	EC (uS/cm)	Nitrate (mg/l)	pH (Units)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate (mg/l)	Turbidity (NTU)
MAS470	10/05/2006	3210	0.04	8.0	19.6	0.05	<10
MAS480	10/05/2006	2300	0.2	7.5	19.8	>0.4	30
PED700	10/05/2006	250	<0.05	7.0		0.	30
STM200	10/05/2006	300	0.05	7.0	18.5	0.05	10

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


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



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
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.

**Frogs heard: ✓**



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

**Macroinvertebrates:**



One sample collected: at site

**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

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.