

Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 4

2006 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.
ONK411	Arbury Park Outdoor School	From outflow pipe at bottom of APOS wetlands
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
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 Pirallilla 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 Rd
ONK486	Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary	Ponding pond
ONK487	Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary	The Swamp run-in
ONK488	Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary	The Swamp run-out
ONK489	Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary	Blackwater Lake run-in
ONK490	Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary	Blackwater Lake decking
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



What does your fish mean?

Good water quality	Possible problems	Poor quality water

A blue fish this month....
Salinity levels have improved since last Snapshot. Most of the other parameters were within the 'good' category, however nitrates and some salinity levels are still of concern.



Catchment overview

Salinity

Salinity levels this month have decreased since the last Snapshot. The majority of sites have levels low enough to be considered very healthy. Only two sites had salinity levels that could be considered poor, but they were far outnumbered by the good sites.

pH

All sites recorded a pH level within the acceptable range.

Nutrients

As has been the trend, it is the nitrates that are the main concern. Almost every site has levels that indicate possible problems, including one site (ONK235) that has levels well into the poor rating! Phosphate levels are not as high as the nitrates, infact only a handful of sites have levels that are elevated enough to sneak into the possible concern category. The majority of results are considered good.

Turbidity

Turbidity levels were excellent this month. Virtually every site recorded turbidity levels of either 10 or <10! It is easily the clearest water that has been recorded at any Snapshot this year.



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Frogs heard:



Common froglet: ONK235, ONK330, ONK411, ONK535, ONK536

Spotted grass frog: ONK411

Brown tree frog: ONK382

Banjo frog: -

Bibron's Toadlet: -

Painted frog: -

Macroinvertebrates:

No samples collected this snapshot

Macro of the month:

Water scorpions

Water scorpions have a broad leaf-like body, pincer-like forelegs adapted for seizing prey, a beak-like mouth part for piercing prey, and a long, thin breathing tube. They look like a piece of vegetation and rely on being inconspicuous. Regularly swimming to the surface would reveal their camouflage, therefore they use the breathing tube like a snorkel so that they can stay in the one place.



Water Scorpions crawl around slowly and are poor swimmers, but if they are disturbed, they can slowly paddle through the water. The adults are able to fly and migrate to other water bodies. Despite their size and cumbersome appearance, they are surprisingly quick to colonise new water bodies, and are sometimes found in roadside ditches and temporary ponds after flooding. They are not very common in SA and are sensitive to pollution.

Source EPA Critter Catalogue & The Waterbug Book

Salinity Comparison August 2006

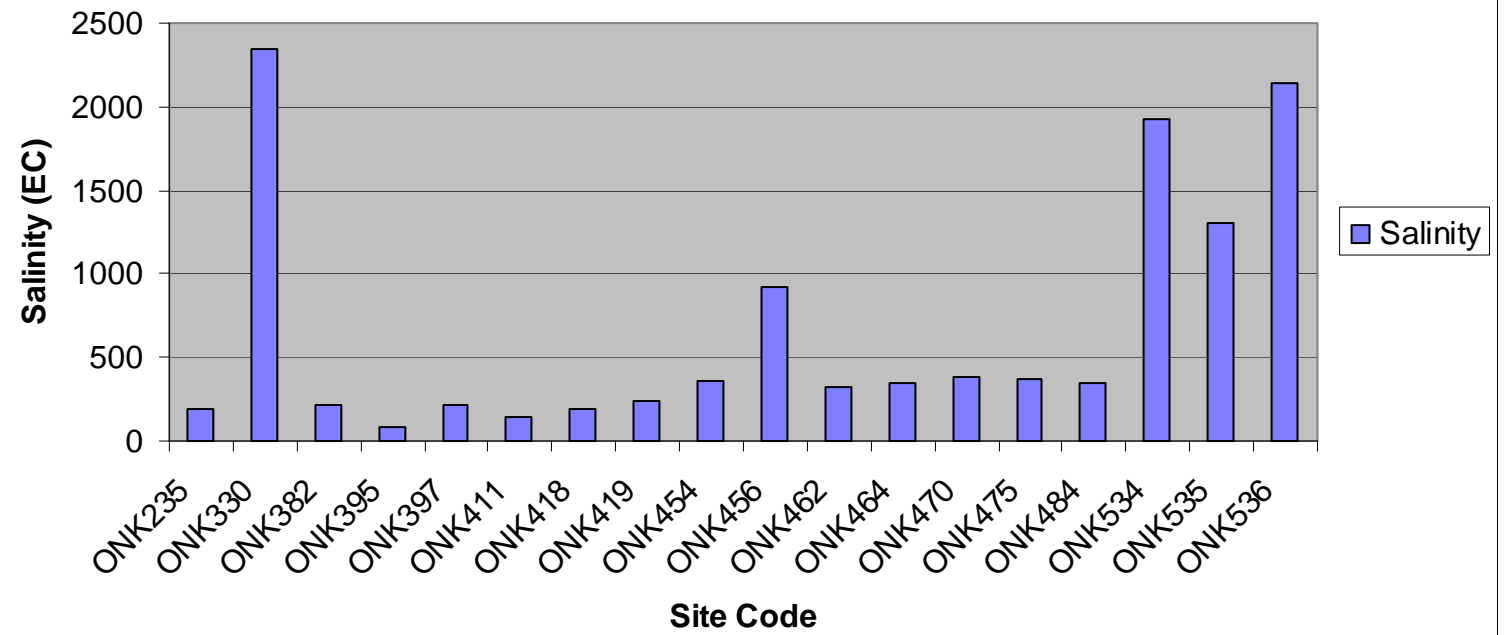


Table of Results August 2006

Code	Date	EC (uS/cm)	Nitrate (mg/l)	pH (Units)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate (mg/l)	Turbidity (NTU)
ONK235	3/08/2006	190	4.	7.5	9.0	0.2	<10
ONK330	4/08/2006	2350	0.44	8.1	1.0	0.077	<10
ONK382	1/08/2006	210	0.5	7.3	9.0	0.05	<10
ONK395	1/08/2006	80	0.05	7.0	9.8	0.025	15
ONK397	1/08/2006	210	1.	7.0	9.0	0.1	<10
ONK411	1/08/2006	140	0.1	6.5	9.5	0.025	<10
ONK418	1/08/2006	190	0.4	7.0	9.2	0.1	<10
ONK419	1/08/2006	240	1.	7.5	9.1	0.05	<10
ONK454	31/07/2006	360	0.4	6.5	9.0	0.1	<10
ONK456	31/07/2006	920	<0.05	6.5	8.0	0.025	<10
ONK462	1/08/2006	320	0.3	6.0	8.3	0.4	<10
ONK464	4/08/2006	350	0.4	6.5	8.7	0.025	10
ONK470	4/08/2006	380	0.4	6.5	8.8	0.025	10
ONK475	1/08/2006	370	0.8	6.0	8.3	0.1	<10
ONK484	1/08/2006	350	0.4	6.0	8.6	0.2	<10
ONK534	1/08/2006	1930	0.05	6.5	7.1	0.025	15
ONK535	1/08/2006	1300	0.05	6.0	5.7	0.025	10
ONK536	1/08/2006	2140	0.2	7.0	8.4	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.