

Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 4

2006 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
MAS602	Willunga PS	Maslin Creek on Linear Park near PS at footbridge
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



Back to a yellow fish this month...
Increased nutrient and salinity levels have helped push the overall rating away from last month's good rating.



Catchment overview

Salinity

Salinity levels this month have increased since the previous Snapshot - though they are not as high as they were during Snapshot 2. Only one site PED700 had a salinity level low enough to be considered 'good'.



pH

All sites recorded a pH level within the acceptable range.

Nutrients

The level of nutrients (nitrates, phosphates) recorded this Snapshot are the highest that have been recorded this year. However, having said that the levels recorded are still less than half of what is required to warrant a 'poor' red fish rating.



Turbidity

The turbidity levels this snapshot were very similar to the previous Snapshot.. All but one site had turbidity readings in the very good category.

What does your fish mean?



Good water quality



Possible problems



Poor quality water



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Frogs heard:



- Common froglet:: PED700 (and seen)
- Spotted grass frog: -
- Brown tree frog: -
- Banjo frog: -
- Bibron's Toadlet: -
- Painted frog: -
- Unspecified frog species:

Macroinvertebrates:

Samples collected at MAS470 & MAS480

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

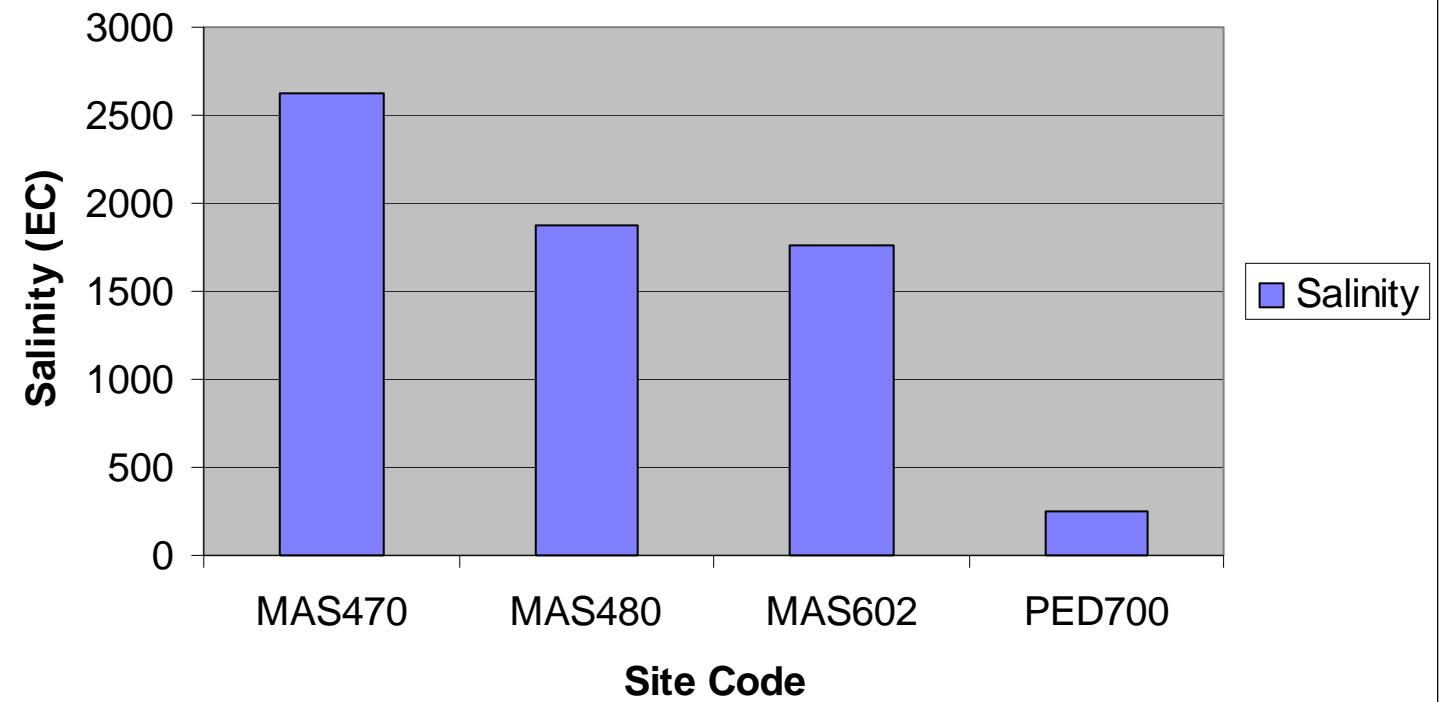


Table of results August 2006

Code	Date	EC (uS/cm)	Nitrate (mg/l)	pH (Units)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate (mg/l)	Turbidity (NTU)
MAS470	2/08/2006	2620	0.05	7.5	18.3	0.4	10
MAS480	2/08/2006	1870	0.4	7.5	18.7	0.2	20
MAS602	3/08/2006	1760	0.2	8.0	11.0	0.025	15
PED700	1/08/2006	250	0.2	7.0	13.0	0.05	40
STM200	4/08/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0

<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
<p>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.</p>			

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