

Onkaparinga Waterwatch Snapshot 6

2006 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.
ONK003	New Springs Landcare Group	NSLC site No. 4, Up the creek, school site
ONK008	New Springs Landcare Group	Bridge area in school on creek draining hills to East
ONK012	New Springs Landcare Group	Site No. 2 Springhead rd - 1st creek heading east
ONK014	Lobethal Lutheran P.S.	Onkaparinga Valley Rd on Eastern side of EWS platform
ONK018	New Springs Landcare Group	Site 1: Bridge halfway b/w Jungfer & Springhead Rd
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



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

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A blue fish this month...
Salinity levels at most sites remain elevated and a handful of sites have phosphate levels of concern but most of the other results are fine.



Catchment overview

Salinity

Salinity levels at all monitored sites this month have increased slightly since the previous snapshot. As with last time not a single site recorded salinity levels that could be considered 'good'. The reason for the overall 'yellow fish', as opposed to last time's 'red fish' is that some of the sites from the previous snapshot that had high readings were not measured this time. Hence dragging down the overall average to 'yellow'.



pH

All sites recorded a pH level within the acceptable range.



Nutrients

A blue fish, but almost a yellow. Nutrient levels this month are quite mixed. Nitrate levels are exceptionally good with all but one site having levels lower than the detectable limit. Phosphate levels on the other hand have increased since the previous snapshot. A handful of sites recording levels that could indicate possible problems. ONK021 in particular having levels just a whisker away from being considered poor.



Turbidity

Turbidity results this month for all but one site are excellent. ONK076 being the exception. It recorded a very poor 150NTU reading - well in excess of what is considered acceptable. This site has had extremely high results in the past that have been a result of building development just upstream!



Frogs heard:



Common froglet: ONK105

Spotted grass frog: -

Brown tree frog: -

Banjo frog: -

Bibron's Toadlet: -

Painted frog: -

Unspecified frog species: ONK014, ONK021, ONK023

Macroinvertebrates:

No samples collected this snapshot

Macro of the month:

Freshwater mites

Water mites are found in almost every aquatic habitat, but are more common in still waters than they are in running water. Mites can often be found among aquatic vegetation. They tend to be absent from extremely polluted or saline waters.



Aquatic mites vary in shape and colour. They have eight legs and most have spherical bodies. Many of these mites are brightly coloured-sometimes red, blue or green. Larger aquatic mites grow to 2.5 mm long and may be seen with the naked eye, but many species are smaller and may go unnoticed without the aid of a microscope.

Many mites parasitise larval or pupal insects that have terrestrial adult life stages, staying inside the insect as it pupates to the adult, and then travelling to other water bodies with the unsuspecting winged insect. This enables mites to colonise new water bodies.

Source: EPA Critter Catalogue & The Waterbug Book

Turbidity Comparison October 2006

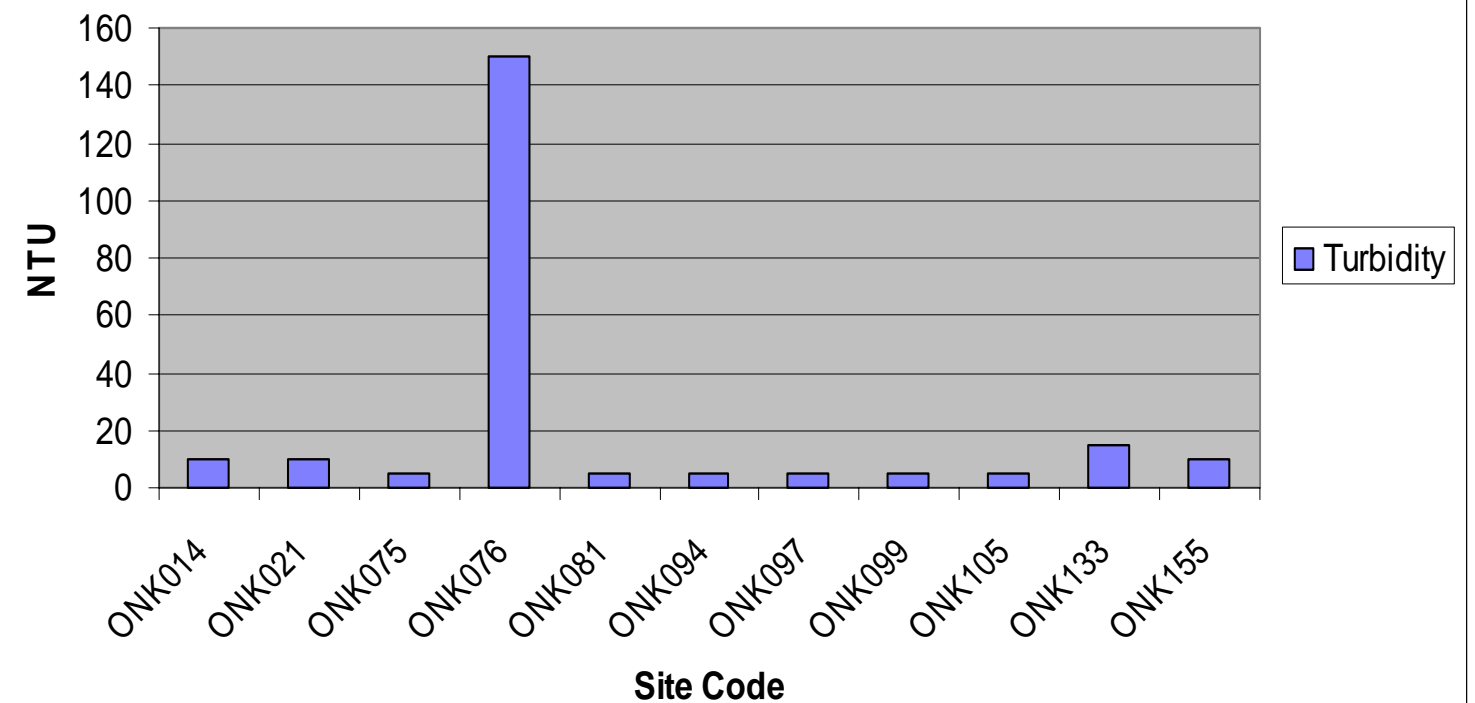


Table of results October 2006

Code	Date	EC (uS/cm)	Nitrate-N (mg/l N)	pH (Units)	Temp (Degrees C)	Phosphate-P (mg/l P)	Turbidity (NTU)
ONK002	23/10/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK014	23/10/2006	2980	<0.05	7.5	17.0	0.05	10
ONK021	23/10/2006	2380	0.05	7.5	14.7	1.	10
ONK023	23/10/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK075	23/10/2006		<0.05	7.0	11.0	0.05	<10
ONK076	23/10/2006		<0.05	7.0	13.0	>0.4	150
ONK081	25/10/2006	1370	<0.05	7.5	14.0	0.1	<10
ONK094	25/10/2006	1630	<0.05	7.5	13.6	0.1	<10
ONK097	25/10/2006	1870	<0.05	7.5	13.8	0.1	<10
ONK099	23/10/2006		<0.05	7.0	14.0	0.025	<10
ONK105	23/10/2006		<0.05	7.0	13.0	0.025	<10
ONK107	23/10/2006	0	0.	0.0	0.0	0.	0
ONK133	23/10/2006	1210	<0.05	7.5	14.6	0.1	15
ONK155	23/10/2006		<0.05	7.0	12.0	<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.