

Real-Time Water Quality Report

Canada Fluorspar (NL) Inc, Real-Time Water Quality Stations

Deployment Period
August 22nd, 2023 to September 21nd, 2023



Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
Department of Environment & Climate Change
Water Resources Management Division

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General

The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) maintain real-time water quality and water quantity monitoring stations in John Fitzpatrick Pond and on Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond, that are within the site of Canada Fluorspar (NL) Inc, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland & Labrador.

Decommission of Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond

Due to a change in the water supply for Outflow to Grebes Nest Pond station, it was determined that this brook would not provide consistent water supply to remain a monitoring station. It was decided to decommission Outflow to Grebes Nest station May 2022. In replacement, a new site was selected and the hut and all the water quality instrumentation was relocated to an area that has a consistent water supply and the capability to provide an overview of the water quality conditions (Figure 1). The new site was named John Fitzpatrick Pond and this report will cover the water quality data recorded at John Fitzpatrick Pond station.

John Fitzpatrick Pond

John Fitzpatrick station was established May 2022. The site was selected based on the location and consistent water supply throughout the year. Despite an expected small decrease in water level during the summer, this station will provide stable and beneficial water quality data for this site (Figure 1).

The Real Time station is established on the North West bank of John Fitzpatrick Pond, close to the only outflow from the pond. This pond is surrounded by natural habitat on the North East side, and on the south west side bordered by the CFI mine (Figure 1). There are two small brooks that periodically flow into this pond. This station will monitor the water quality and the stage level of the pond. The instrument is deployed, at a depth of approximately 1.0 meters. The GPS coordinates for this site are as follows: N 46° 54' 47.95" W 055° 27' 46.97" (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Real-Time Station at John Fitzpatrick Pond. Station hut (left) and instrument deployed in pond (right)

Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

The Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond is established downstream of the Tailings Management Facility (TMF). This station will provide near real-time water quality and quantity data to ensure emerging issues associated with the TMF are detected, to allow the appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented in a timely manner, thus reducing any adverse effect on the downstream systems.

The location of Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond was selected due to accessibility to the brook and the sufficient pool available to place the water quality and quantity instruments (See Figure 2). The stream originates from a small unnamed pond and meanders through a marsh environment alongside the TMF. The stream is approximately 1.0 to 2.0 meters wide. Where the instrument is deployed, there is a depth of approximately 1.0 to 1.5 meters. The GPS coordinates for this site are as follows: **N46° 54' 14.1" W055° 26' 37.5"**. The station hut was placed on the right bank looking downstream approximately 8 meters from the stream (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Real-Time Water Quality and Quantity Station at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond. Station hut (left) and instrument deployed in brook (right).

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

WRMD staff are responsible for maintenance of the real-time water quality monitoring equipment, as well as recording and managing the water quality data. As part of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control protocol (QA/QC), an assessment of the reliability of data recorded by an instrument is made at the beginning and end of the deployment period. The procedure is based on the approach used by the United States Geological Survey. At deployment and removal, a QA/QC Sonde is temporarily deployed adjacent to the Field Sonde. Values for temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity are compared between the two instruments. Based on the degree of difference between the parameters on the Field Sonde and QA/QC Sonde at deployment and at removal, a qualitative statement is made on the data quality (Table 1).

Table 1: Instrument Performance Ranking classifications for deployment and removal

Parameter	Rank				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Marginal	Poor
Temperature (°C)	<=+/-0.2	>+/-0.2 to 0.5	>+/-0.5 to 0.8	>+/-0.8 to 1	<+/-1
pH (unit)	<=+/-0.2	>+/-0.2 to 0.5	>+/-0.5 to 0.8	>+/-0.8 to 1	>+/-1
Sp. Conductance (µS/cm)	<=+/-3	>+/-3 to 10	>+/-10 to 15	>+/-15 to 20	>+/-20
Sp. Conductance > 35 µS/cm (%)	<=+/-3	>+/-3 to 10	>+/-10 to 15	>+/-15 to 20	>+/-20
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) (% Sat)	<=+/-0.3	>+/-0.3 to 0.5	>+/-0.5 to 0.8	>+/-0.8 to 1	>+/-1
Turbidity <40 NTU (NTU)	<=+/-2	>+/-2 to 5	>+/-5 to 8	>+/-8 to 10	>+/-10
Turbidity > 40 NTU (%)	<=+/-5	>+/-5 to 10	>+/-10 to 15	>+/-15 to 20	>+/-20

It should be noted that the temperature sensor on any sonde is the most important. All other parameters can be divided into subgroups of temperature dependent, temperature compensated and temperature independent. Due to the temperature sensor's location on the sonde, the entire sonde must be at a constant temperature before the temperature sensor will stabilize. The values may take some time to climb to the appropriate reading; if a reading is taken too soon it may not accurately portray the water body.

Table 2: Instrument performance rankings

Station	Date	Action	Comparison Ranking				
			Temperature	pH	Conductivity	Dissolved Oxygen	Turbidity
John Fitzpatrick	Aug. 22 nd , 2023	Deployment	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	N/A	N/A
	Sept. 21 st , 2023	Removal	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	N/A	N/A
Unnamed Pond	Aug. 22 nd , 2023	Deployment	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Sept. 21 st , 2023	Removal	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good

When compared to the QAQC instrument data, both stations ranked Excellent or Good for all parameters upon deployment and removal.

Issues during the August 22nd to September 21st Deployment Period

Unfortunately, the Dissolved Oxygen sensor and turbidity sensor failed upon deployment of the instrument at the John Fitzpatrick Pond Station therefore there is no data for those parameters in this report.

John Fitzpatrick Pond

Water Temperature

Water temperature ranged from 17.12 °C to 21.82°C during the deployment period (Figure 3). The average water temperature for this deployment is 28.75°C. Water temperature displayed a natural diurnal pattern. Water temperatures will be warmer during the daylight hours and then lower during the nighttime (Figure 3).

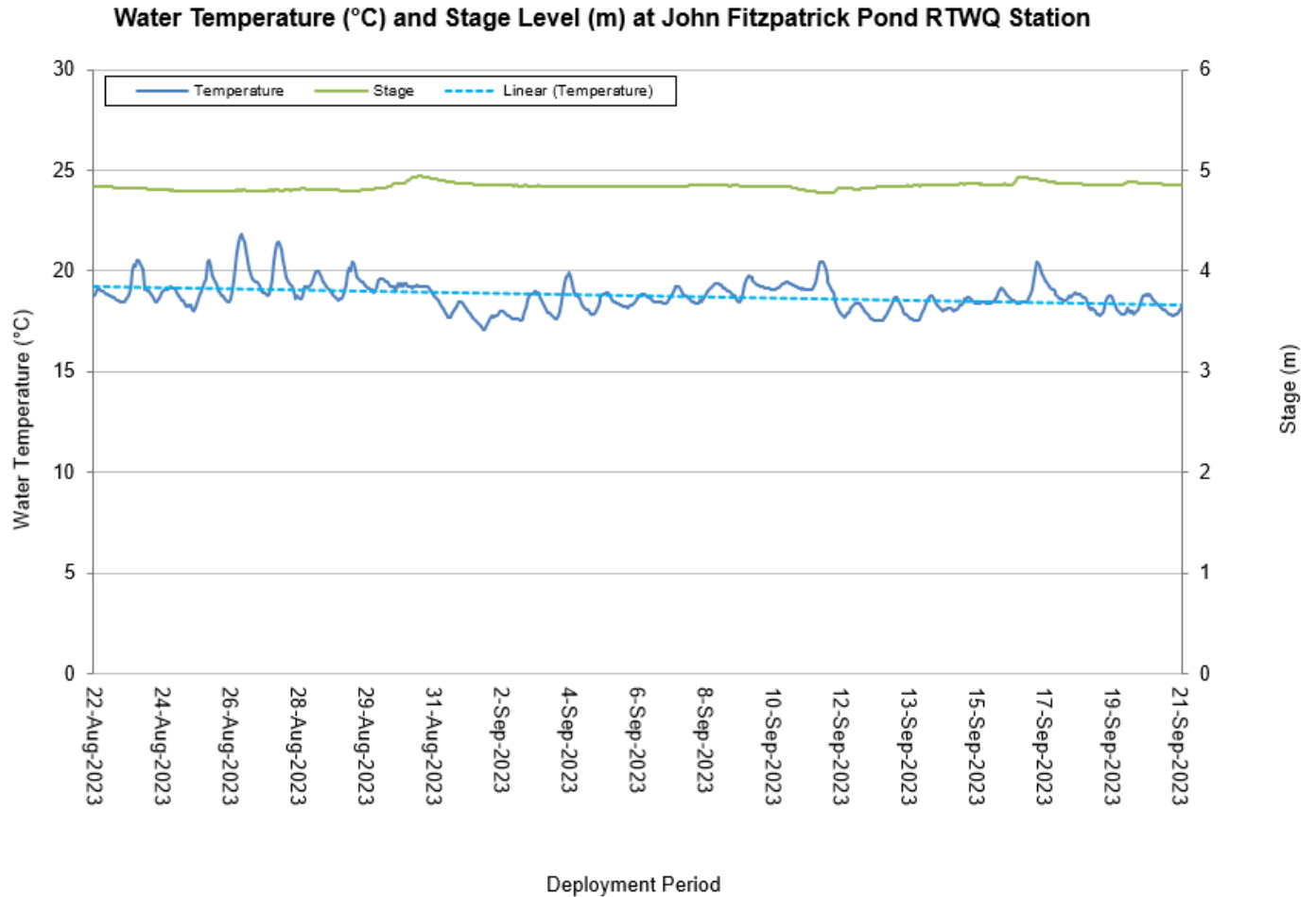


Figure 3: Water temperature at John Fitzpatrick Pond RTWQ Station (°C)

pH

Throughout the deployment period, pH values ranged between 7.20 pH units to 7.92 pH units with an average of 7.70 and remained stable other than small fluctuations (Figure 4).

A pH sensor measures the acidity or alkalinity of a water body. pH is a critical parameter because it influences the solubility of minerals and chemicals, the availability of nutrients, and the biological processes that occur in aquatic ecosystems. Most aquatic organisms have a preferred pH range for optimal growth and survival, and deviations from this range can have significant ecological implications. The pH data at John Fitzpatrick Pond remained within the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) guidelines of 6.5-9.0 pH units for the protection of aquatic life for the duration of the deployment (Figure 4).

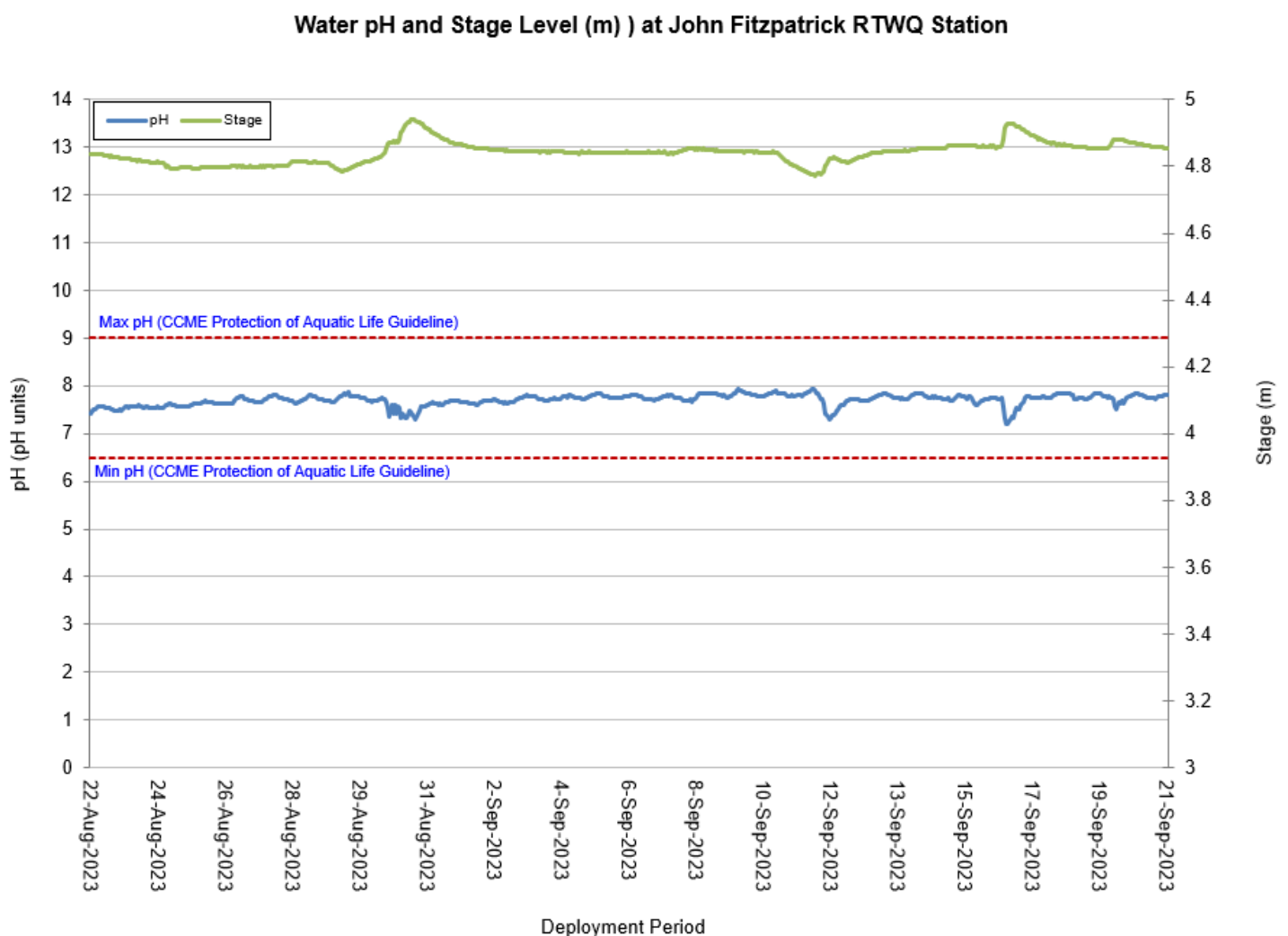


Figure 4: pH (pH units) values at John Fitzpatrick Pond RTWQ Station

Specific Conductivity

The conductivity levels were within 147.3 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and 223.4 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ during this deployment period, with an average of 182.2 (Figure 5). Specific conductivity is commonly used as an indicator of the concentration of dissolved ions in water. These ions can include electrolytes like salts, acids, and bases. The higher the concentration of dissolved ions, the higher the specific conductivity of the water.

Conductivity in John Fitzpatrick Pond will fluctuate with the changes in water level and during rainfall events. Conductivity increased throughout the deployment period and was slightly erratic as pit dewatering continues. There were several small dips that were likely a result of the rainfall (Appendix I) that was recorded by the weather station in St. Lawrence.

Specific Conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) and Stage Level (m)) at John Fitzpatrick RTWQ Station

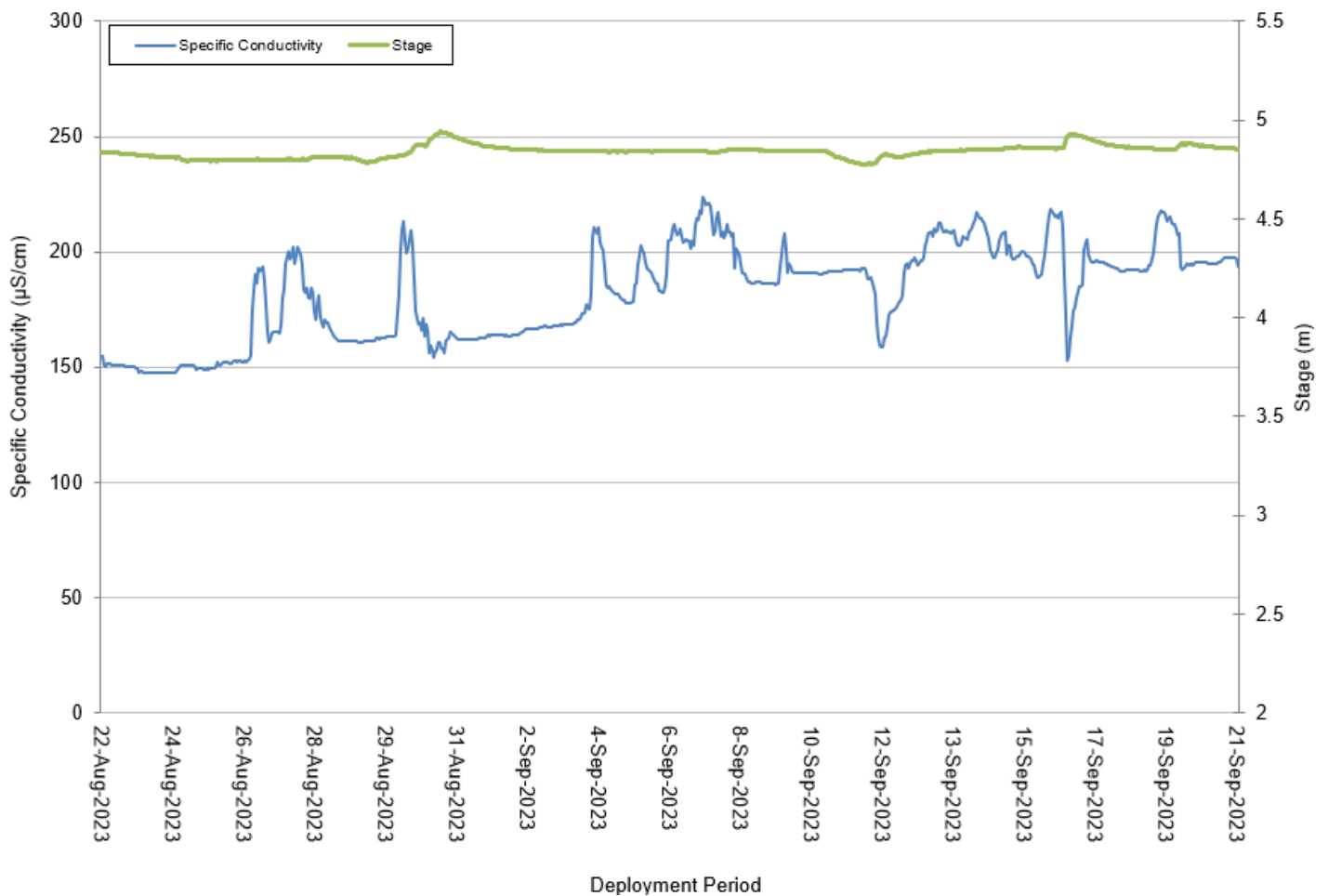


Figure 5: Specific conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) values at John Fitzpatrick Pond RTWQ Station

Dissolved Oxygen

Due to sensor failure, there is no dissolved oxygen data for this station during this deployment period.

Turbidity

Due to sensor malfunction, there is no turbidity data available for this station during the deployment period.

Daily Averaged Stage Level and Total Precipitation

Stage is an estimation of water level at the station and can explain some differences occurring with water quality parameters (i.e. Specific Conductivity, DO, turbidity). Stage ranged between 4.77m to 4.94m during the deployment. Large peaks in stage correspond with the total precipitation events as noted on Figure 6. Total Precipitation data was obtained from Environment Canada’s St. Lawrence weather station.

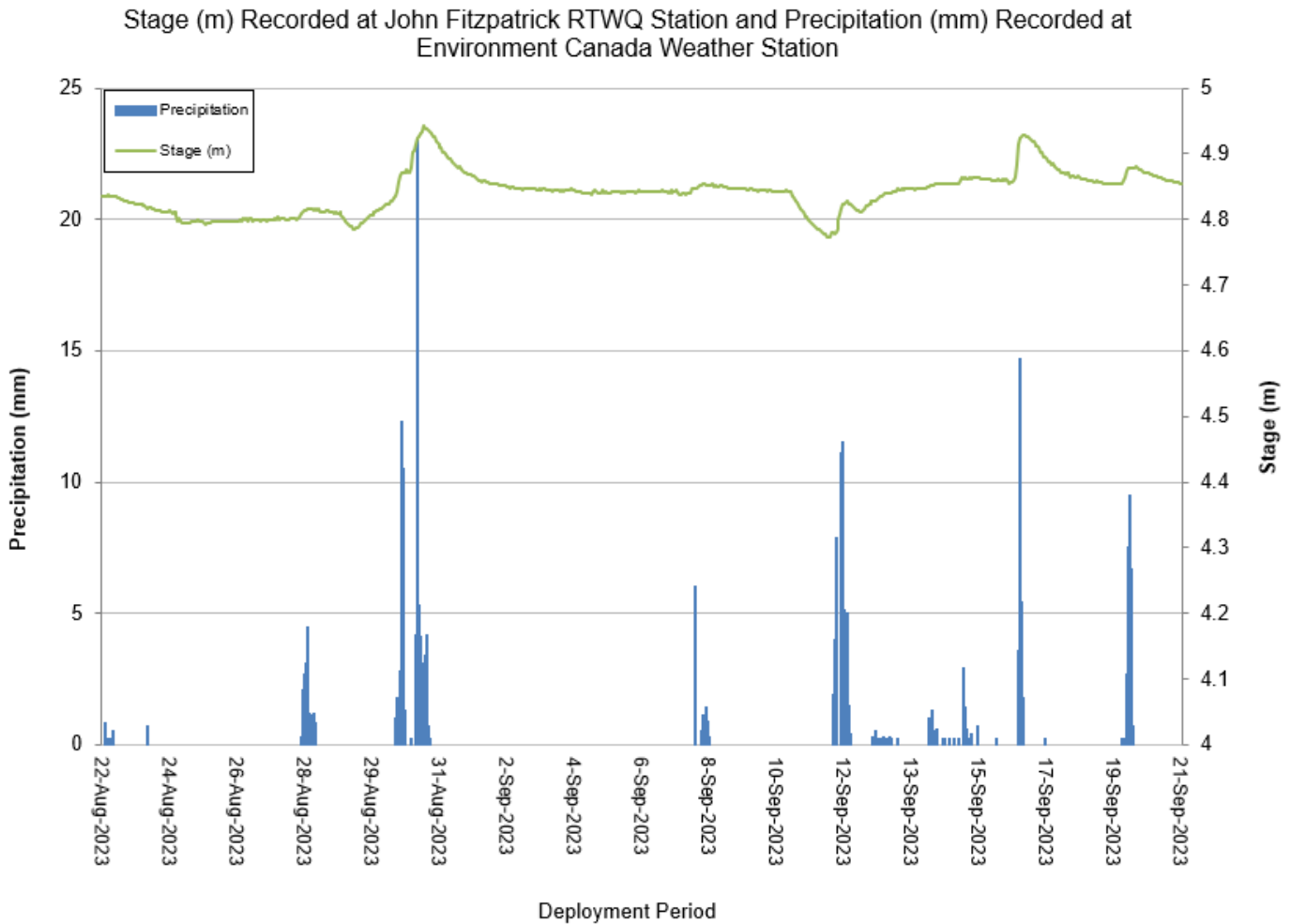


Figure 6: Stage values at John Fitzpatrick Pond RTWQ Station and total precipitation.

Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Water Temperature

Water temperature ranged from 13.08°C to 23.74°C during the deployment period, with an average of 18.71 °C (Figure 7). Decreases in water temperature correspond with higher stage, likely due to increased precipitation run-off.

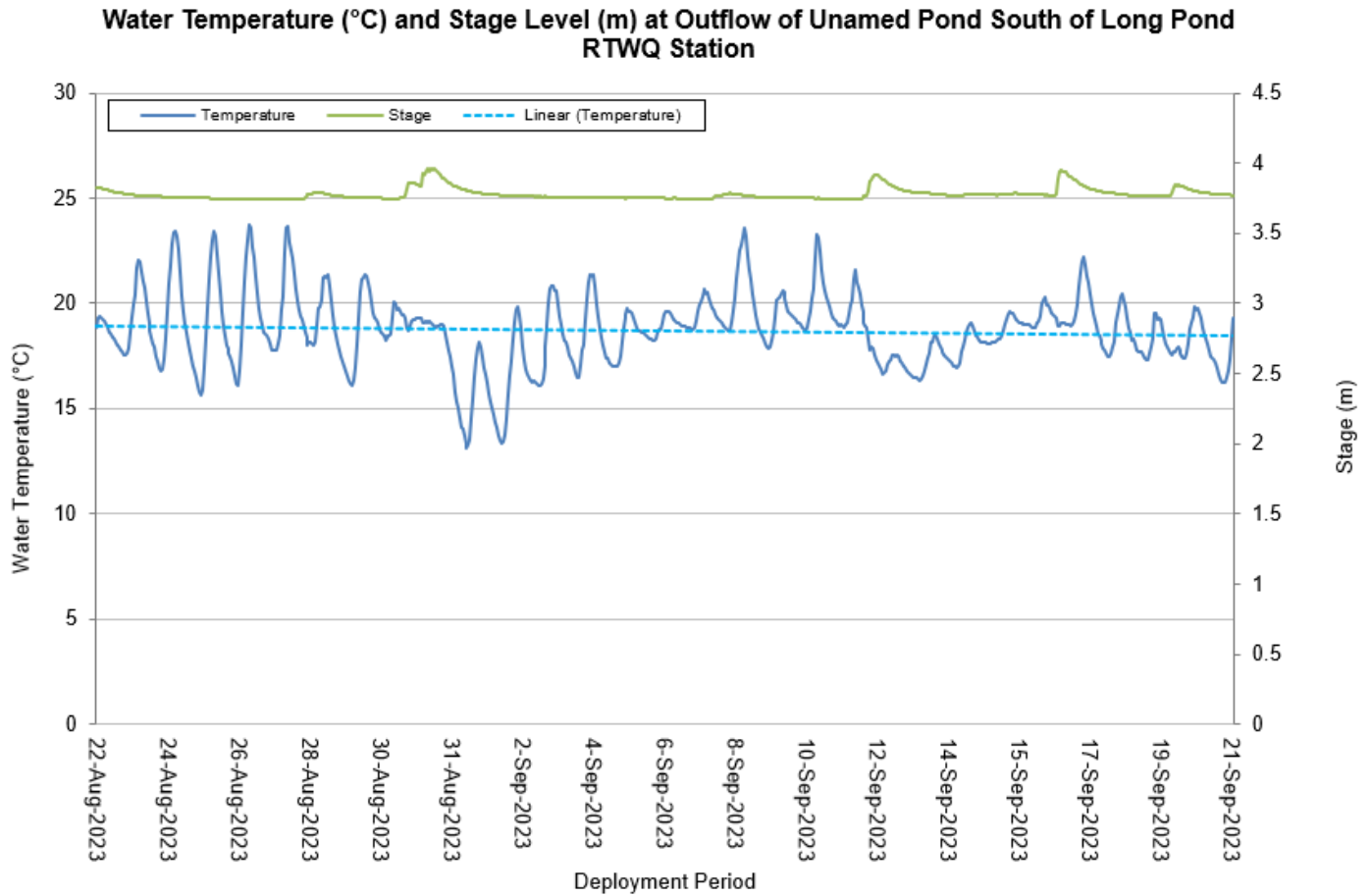


Figure 7: Water temperature (°C) values at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

pH

Throughout this deployment period, pH values ranged within 6.78 pH units and 7.75 pH units with an average of 7.53 pH units (Figure 8), remaining within the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Guidelines for aquatic life of 6.5-9.0 pH units.

Small decreases in pH during stage peaks are evident on Figure 8. pH does return to background levels after each event, and overall, the pH data was consistent across deployment.

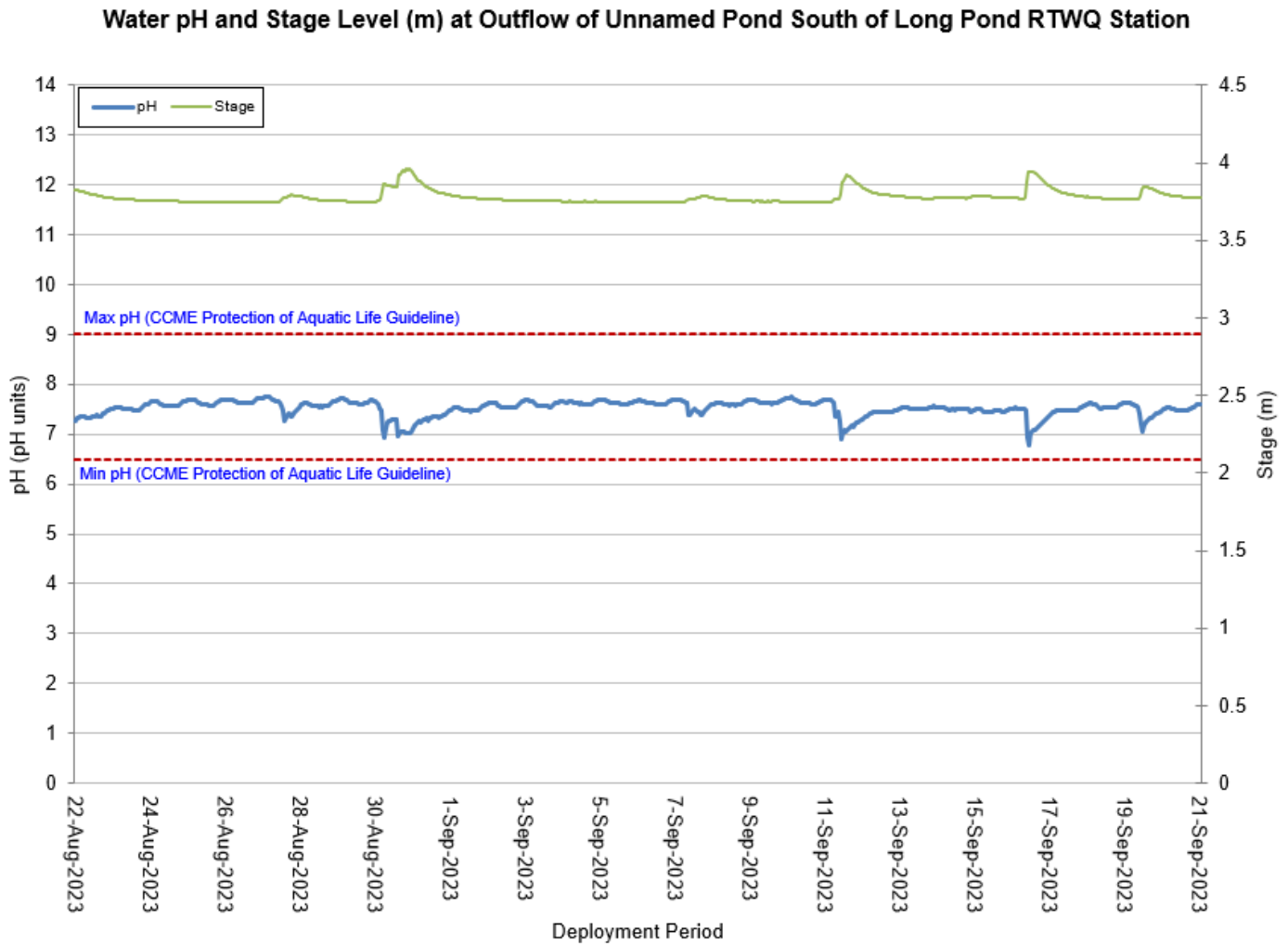


Figure 8: pH (pH units) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Specific Conductivity

The conductivity levels ranged between 88.9 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and 242.5 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, with an average of 191.9 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ during deployment (Figure 9).

Variations in stage level, as depicted in the graph below, have a notable impact on conductivity data. This is evident in instances such as September 12th to September 17th, as highlighted below in the red box (Figure 9). When the water stage rises, often in response to precipitation events, conductivity tends to decrease. However, it generally returns to normal levels within a few days to weeks.

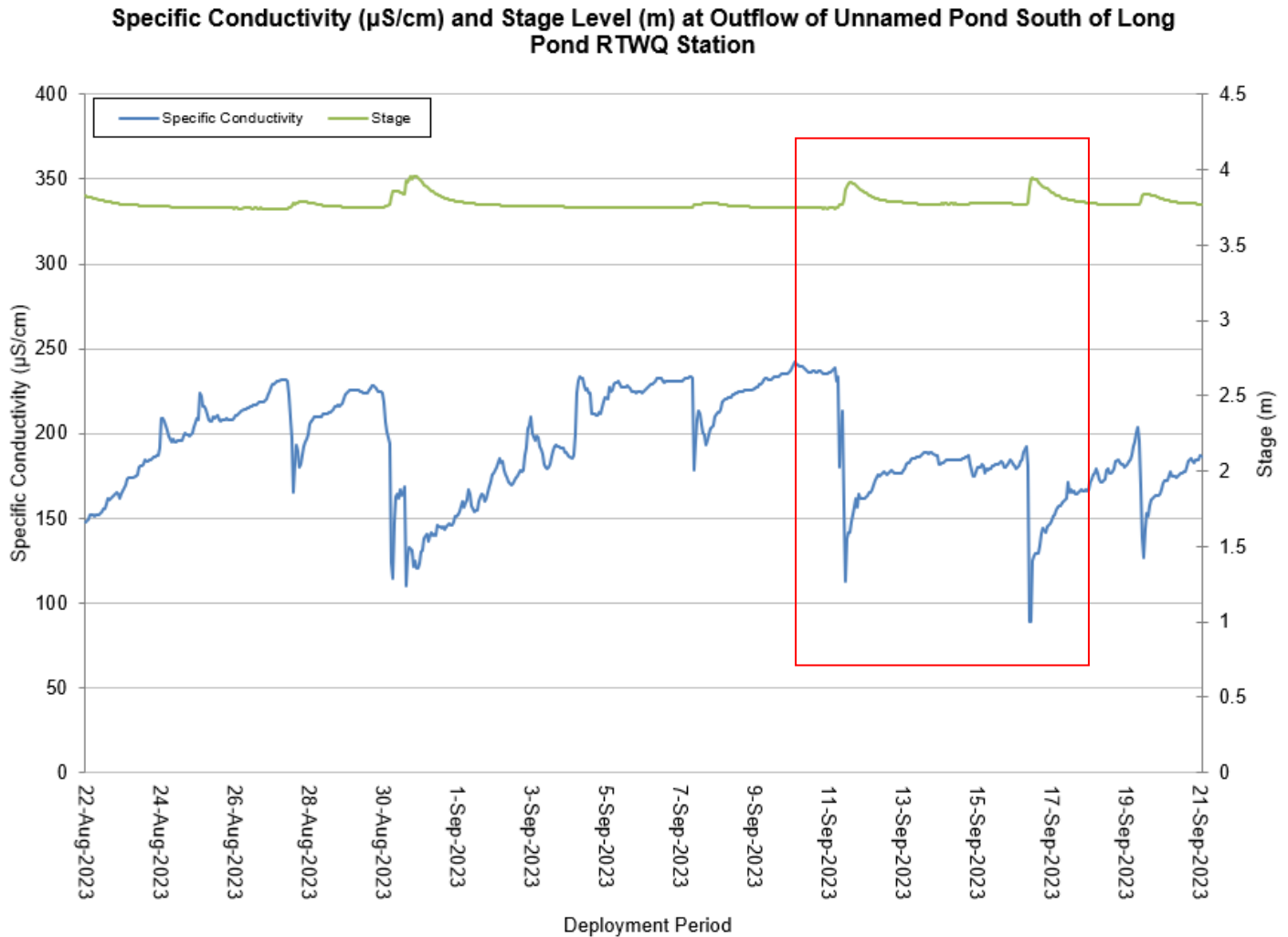


Figure 9: Specific conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Dissolved Oxygen

During this deployment, the dissolved oxygen levels ranged within 8.42 mg/L and 10.27 mg/L for concentration and 92.4 % and 101.9 % for percent saturation. DO concentration levels remained mostly within the CCME Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life.

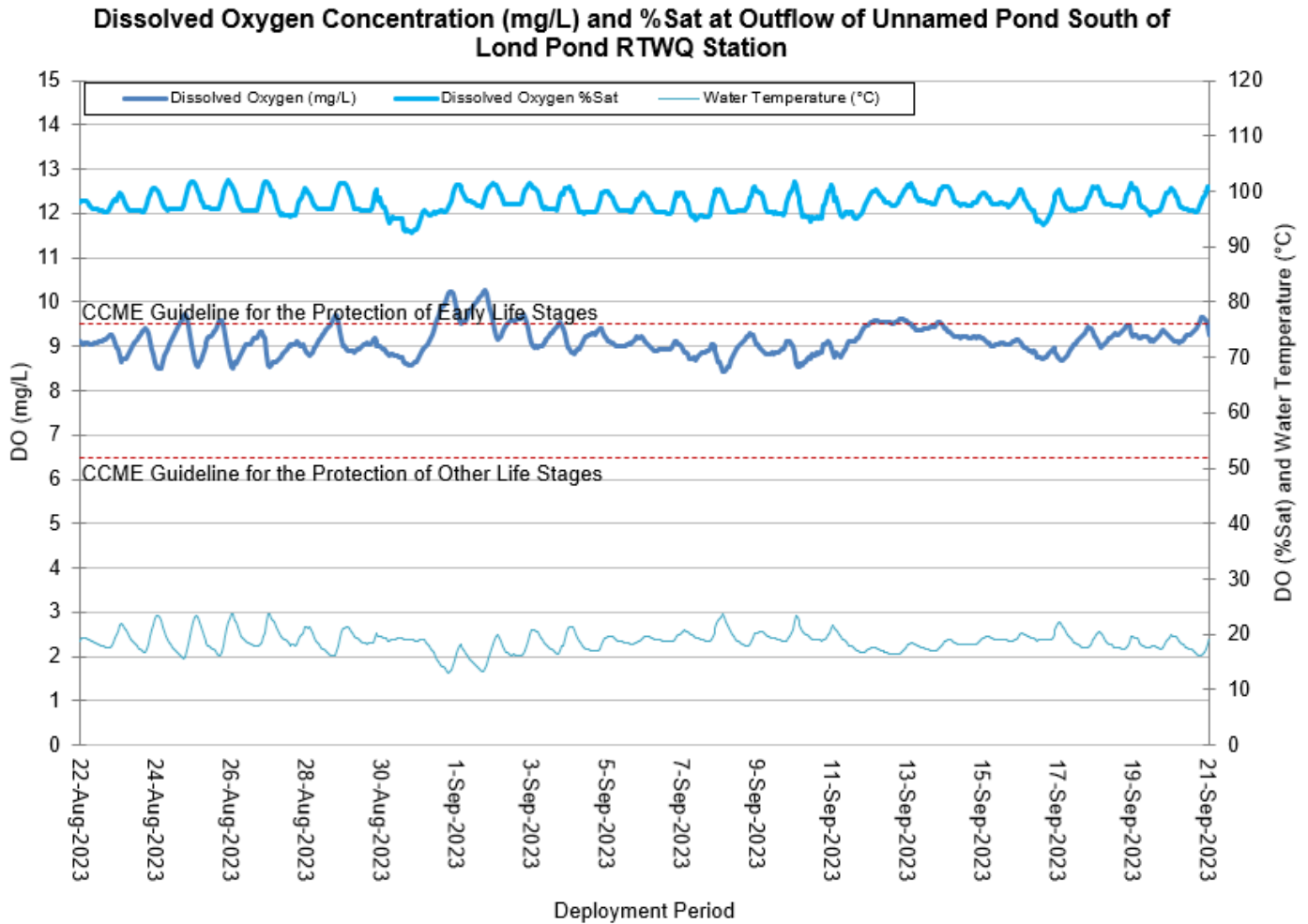


Figure 10: Dissolved Oxygen (%Sat & mg/L) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Turbidity

Turbidity levels during the deployment ranged within 0.8 NTU and 12.8 NTU, with an average of 2.9 NTU (Figure 11). Turbidity remained relatively low throughout the deployment period with some noticeable spikes that coincide with stage increases, like September 12th and September 17th. Although turbidity typically increases during stage increases/precipitation events, it typically returns to background levels within days-weeks.

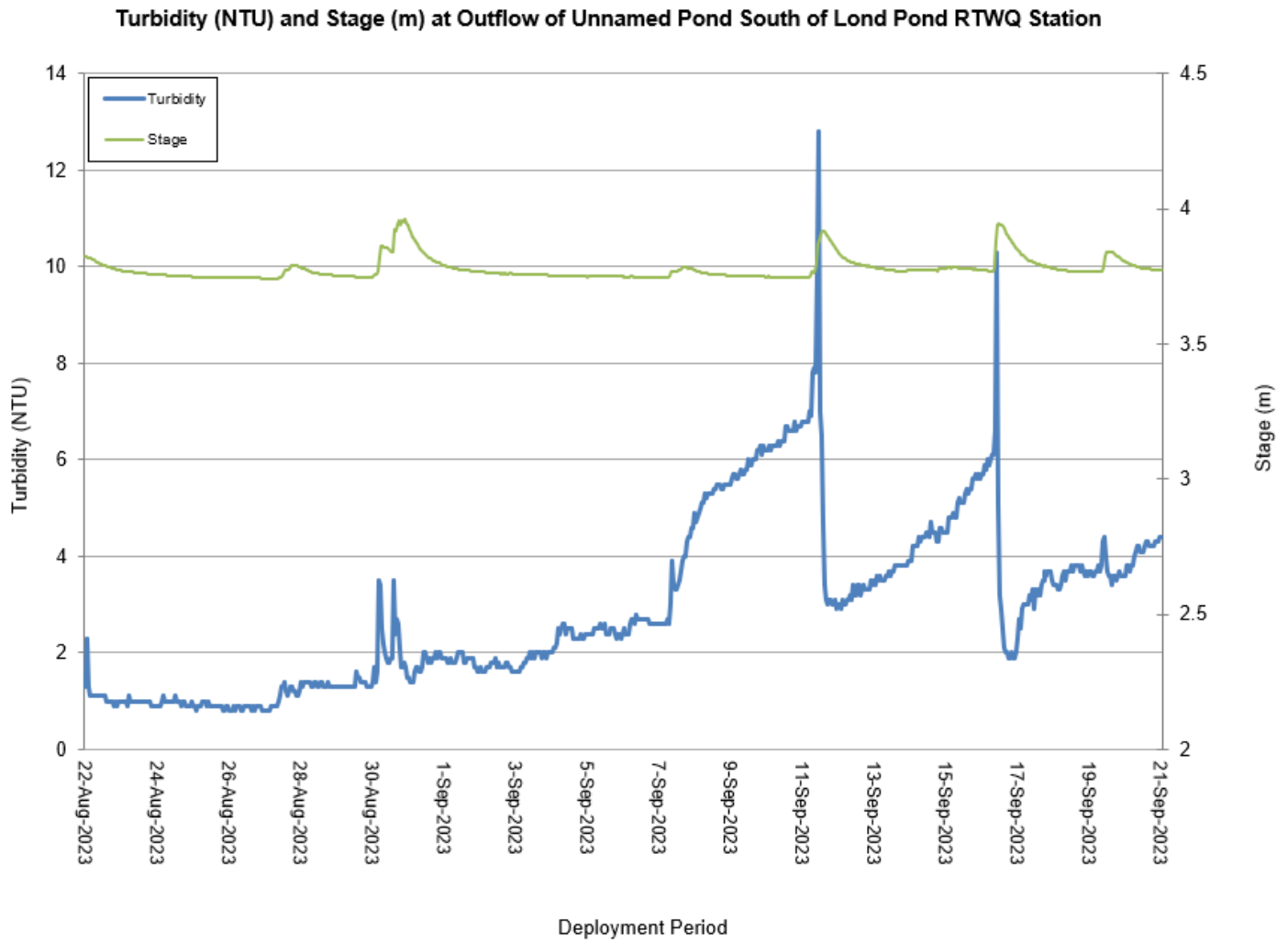


Figure 11: Turbidity (NTU) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Daily Averaged Stage Level and Total Precipitation

Stage is an estimation of water level at the station and can explain fluctuations occurring with other parameters (i.e. Specific Conductivity, DO, turbidity). Stage ranged between 3.74 m to 3.96m during the deployment. Large peaks in stage correspond with the total precipitation events as noted on Figure 12. Total Precipitation data was obtained from Environment Canada’s St. Lawrence weather station (Appendix I).

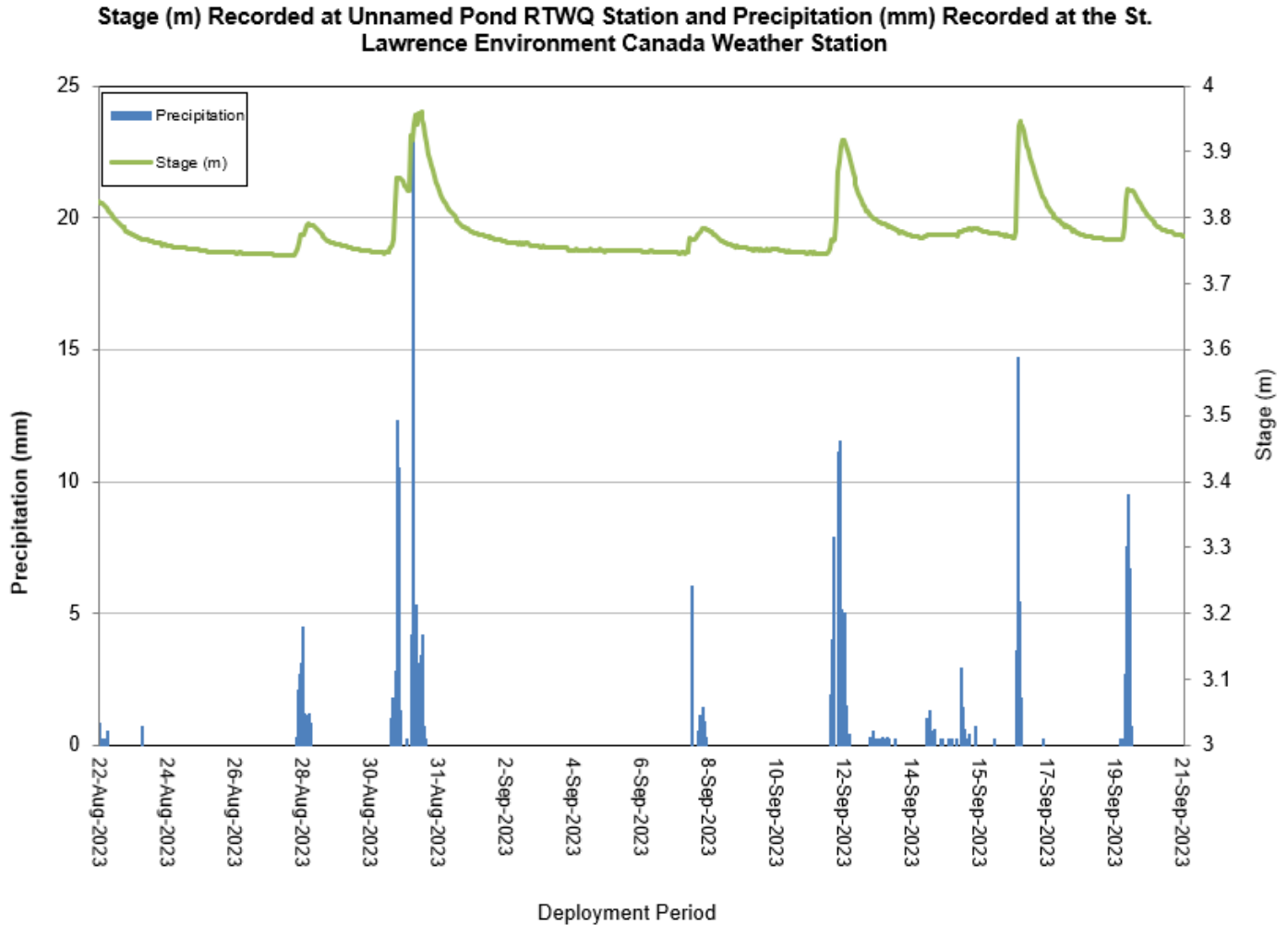


Figure 12: Daily averaged stage values and total precipitation.

APPENDIX I

Total Precipitation recorded at Environment Canada, St. Lawrence Weather Station

Parameter statistics for each RTWQ Station

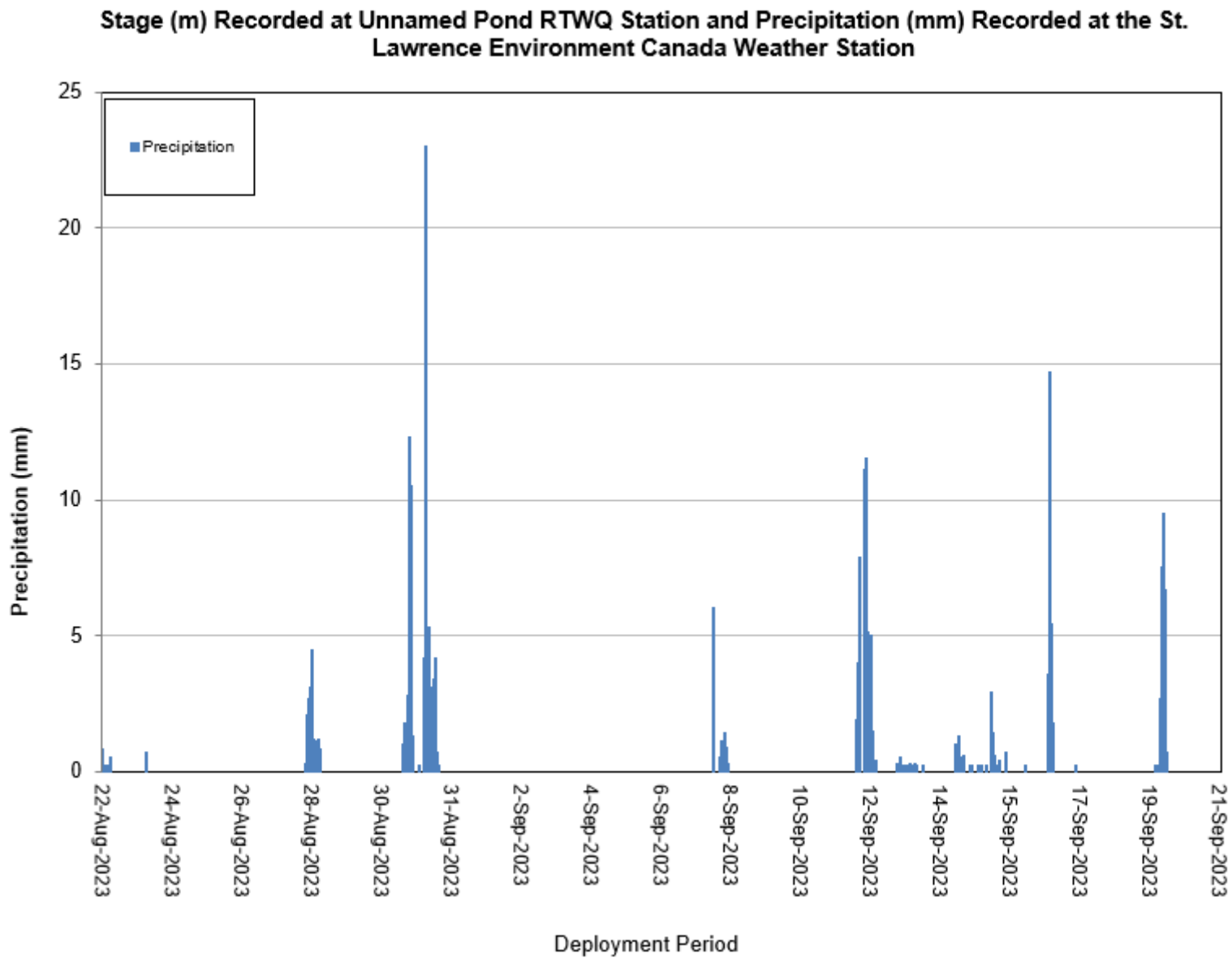


Figure 13v : Precipitation recorded at Environment Canada Weather Station during the deployment period.

Parameter Statistics for CFI RTWQ Stations

John Fitzpatrick Pond RTWQ Station

Parameter	Max.	Min.	Median	Mean
Temperature(°C)	21.82	17.12	18.70	18.75
pH	7.92	7.20	7.73	7.70
Specific Conductivity (µS/cm)	223.42	147.25	186.72	182.24
TDS (g/mL)	0.15	0.10	0.12	0.12
Dissolved Oxygen (%Sat)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Turbidity (NTU)	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40
Stage (m)	4.94	4.77	4.84	4.84

Table 3: John Fitzpatrick Pond RTWQ station Aug. 22nd – Sept. 21st deployment period parameter statistics

Outflow of Unnamed Pond South of Long Pond RTWQ Station

Parameter	Max.	Min.	Median	Mean
Temperature(°C)	23.74	13.08	18.82	18.71
pH	7.75	6.78	7.56	7.53
Specific Conductivity (µS/cm)	242.54	88.88	186.84	191.87
TDS (g/mL)	0.16	0.06	0.12	0.13
Dissolved Oxygen (%Sat)	101.90	92.40	97.60	97.82
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	10.27	8.42	9.10	9.13
Turbidity (NTU)	12.80	0.80	2.50	2.92
Stage (m)	3.96	3.74	3.77	3.78
Flow	0.47	0.01	0.01	0.03

Table 4: Outflow of Unnamed Pond South of Long Pond RTWQ station Aug. 22nd – Sept. 21st deployment period parameter statistics