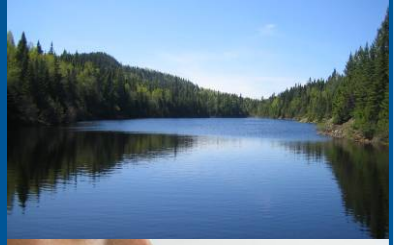







Real-Time Water Quality Report

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

Deployment Period
July 27, 2021 to August 23, 2021

Newfoundland Labrador

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

Prepared by:

Tara Clinton
Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Management Division
Department of Environment & Climate Change
4th Floor, Confederation Building, West Block
PO Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6
taraclinton@gov.nl.ca

General

The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD), in partnership with Water Survey of Canada (WSC) -Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), maintain real-time water quality and water quantity monitoring stations on Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond and Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond, brooks that are within the site of Canada Fluorspar (NL) Inc, St. Lawrence, Newfoundland & Labrador.

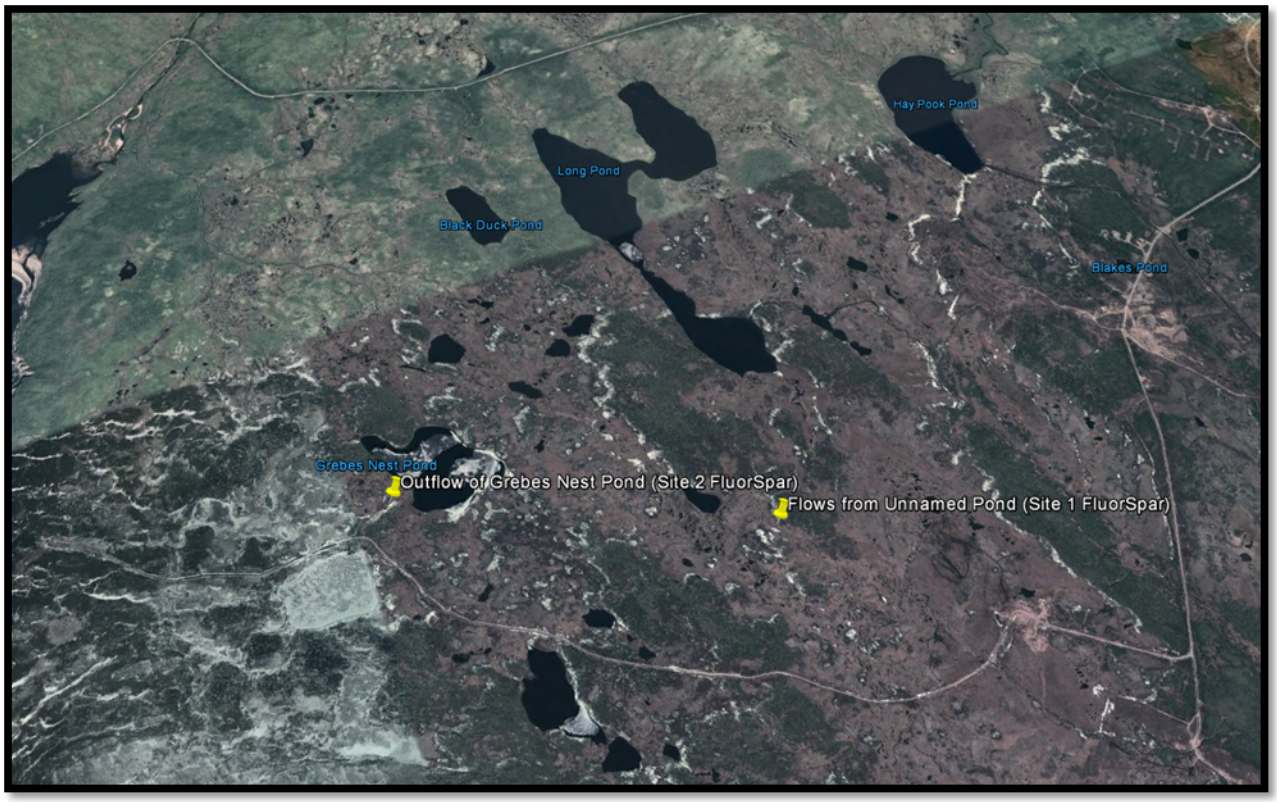

Figure 1: Real-Time Water Quality and Quantity Stations at Canada Fluorspar Inc

Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond

The Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond station is established downstream of the pit dewatering effluent outfall and upstream of John Fitzpatrick Pond. The stream is approximately 1.0 to 2.0 meters wide and sustains a sufficient pool for the instrumentation to be placed in (Figure 2). The pool depth is approximately 0.5 to 1.0 metres. The GPS coordinates for this site are as follows**: N46° 54' 35.9" W055° 27' 45.6"**.

The station hut was placed on the north bank looking downstream approximately 5 metres from the stream. This station will provide real-time water quality and quantity data to ensure emerging issues associated with the open pit (from both the construction and operational phases)are detected, to allow the appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented in a timely manner, thus reducing any adverse effect on the downstream systems.

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 3). 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 3).

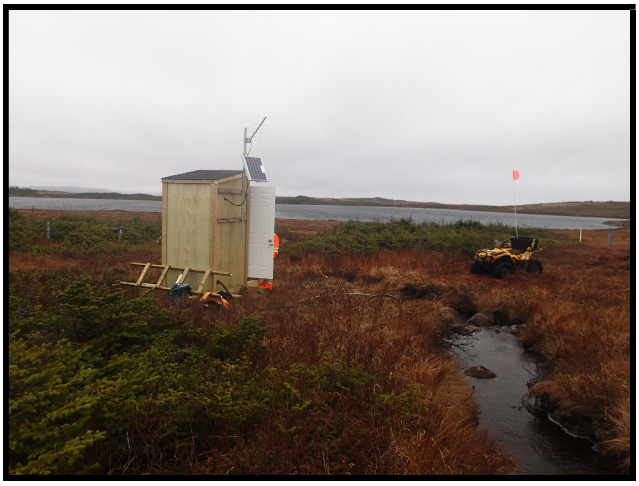

Figure 2: Real-Time Water Quality and Quantity Station at Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond.

Figure 3: Real-Time Water Quality and Quantity Station at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control

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).

WRMD staff (Environment & Climate Change (ECC)) are responsible for maintenance of the real-time water quality monitoring equipment, as well as recording and managing the water quality data. Tara Clinton is ECC's main contact for the real-time water quality monitoring operation at Canada Fluorspar (NL) Inc, and is responsible for maintaining and calibrating the water quality instrument, as well as grooming, analyzing and reporting on water quality data recorded at the station.

WSC staff have an essential role in the data logging/communication aspect of the network and the maintenance of the water quantity monitoring equipment. WSC staff visit the site regularly to ensure the data logging and data transmitting equipment are working properly. WSC is responsible for handling stage and streamflow issues. The quantity data is raw data that is transmitted via satellite and published online along with the water quality data on the Real-Time Stations website. Quantity data has not been corrected or groomed when published online or used in the monthly reports for the stations. WSC is responsible for QA/QC of water quantity data. Corrected stage and streamflow data can be obtained upon request to WSC.

Table 1: Instrument Performance Ranking classifications for deployment and removal

	Rank				
Parameter	**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
Grebes Nest Pond	July 27	Deployment	Excellent	Good	Marginal	Excellent	Poor
	August 23	Removal	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Unnamed Pond	July 27	Deployment	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good
	August 23	Removal	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent

At deployment of the field instrument at Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond site, the water temperature, pH, specific conductivity and dissolved oxygen ranked 'Excellent' to 'Good' to 'Marginal' against the QA sonde data. Turbidity was ranked as 'Poor'. At the time of deployment of the instrument there was a lot of silt disturbed in the brook, which may have contributed to the parameters values. During removal of the instrument, the ranking for water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity ranked from 'Excellent' to 'Good'.

When compared to the QAQC instrument at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond, the field instrument data ranked 'Excellent' or 'Good' for all of the water quality parameters at the start of deployment and at removal.

Concerns or Issues during the Deployment Period

The water supply for Outflow to Grebes Nest Pond station originates at the bottom of an open pit mine. There is also a small influence from runoff and precipitation. The pit water is pumped from the open mine pit directly into Outflow to Grebes Nest Pond. If the sedimentation or the turbidity levels in the water increase, the pit water will be redirected into a geo bag before being released into Grebes Nest brook. The water supply is intermittent as the pit water is pumped when water levels reach a certain height in the open pit mine. The lack of consistent flow can result in significant stage level fluctuation across a deployment and have an effect on water quality.

Please note that the stage data in this document is raw data. It has not been corrected for backwater effect. WSC is responsible for QA/QC of water quantity data. Corrected data can be obtained upon request to WSC.

Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond

Water Temperature

Water temperature ranged from 12.07 °C to 19.08 °C during the deployment period (Figure 4). The average water temperature for the deployment is 14.15 °C. Outflow to Grebes Nest Pond station does not have consistent flow, thus the stage data can fluctuate significantly.

Water temperature displayed the natural diurnal pattern representing the influence of air temperature on the brook, with the high temperatures during the daylight hours and the low temperatures representing the nighttime hours (Figure 5).

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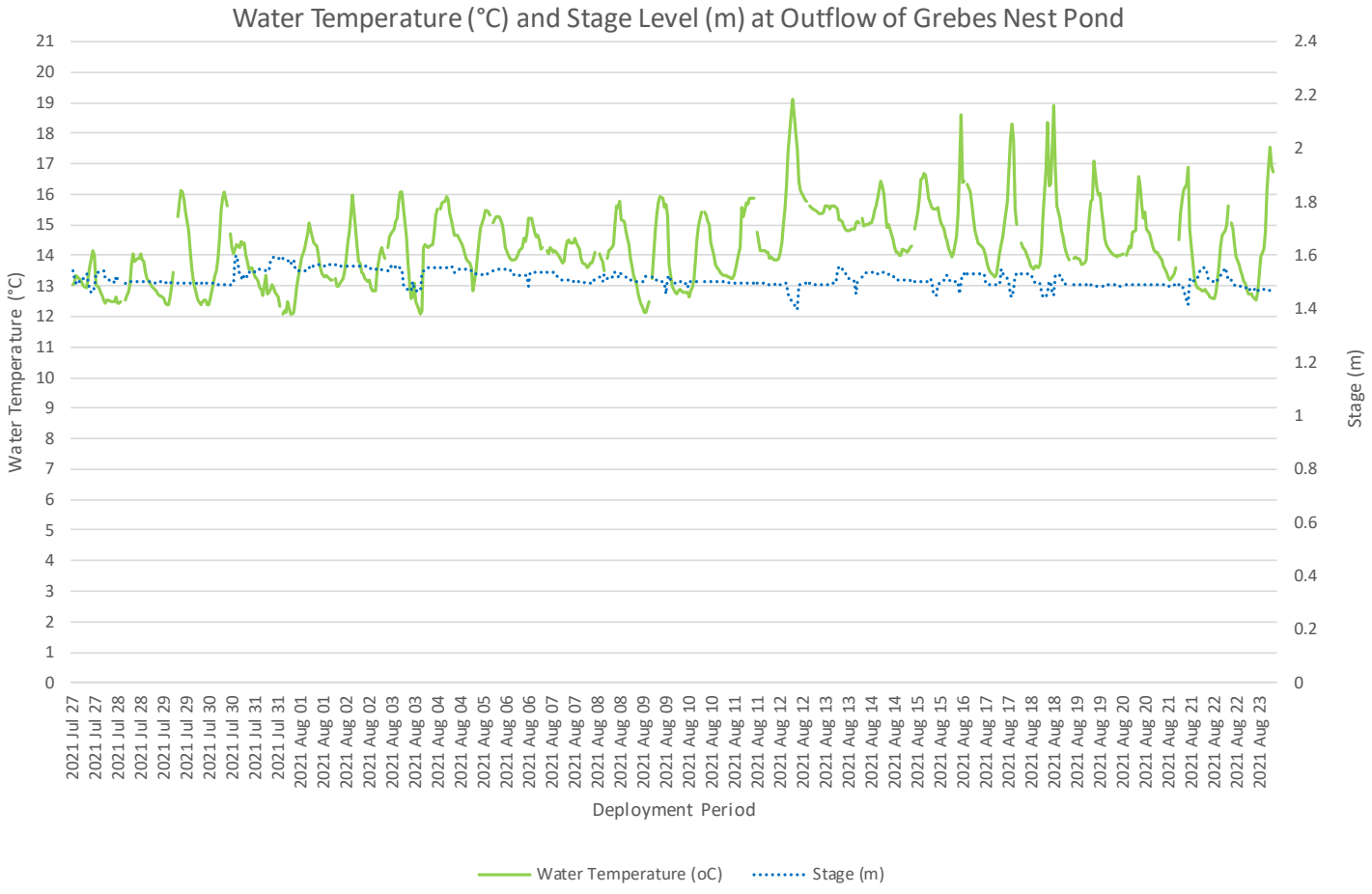

Figure 4: Water temperature (°C) values at Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond

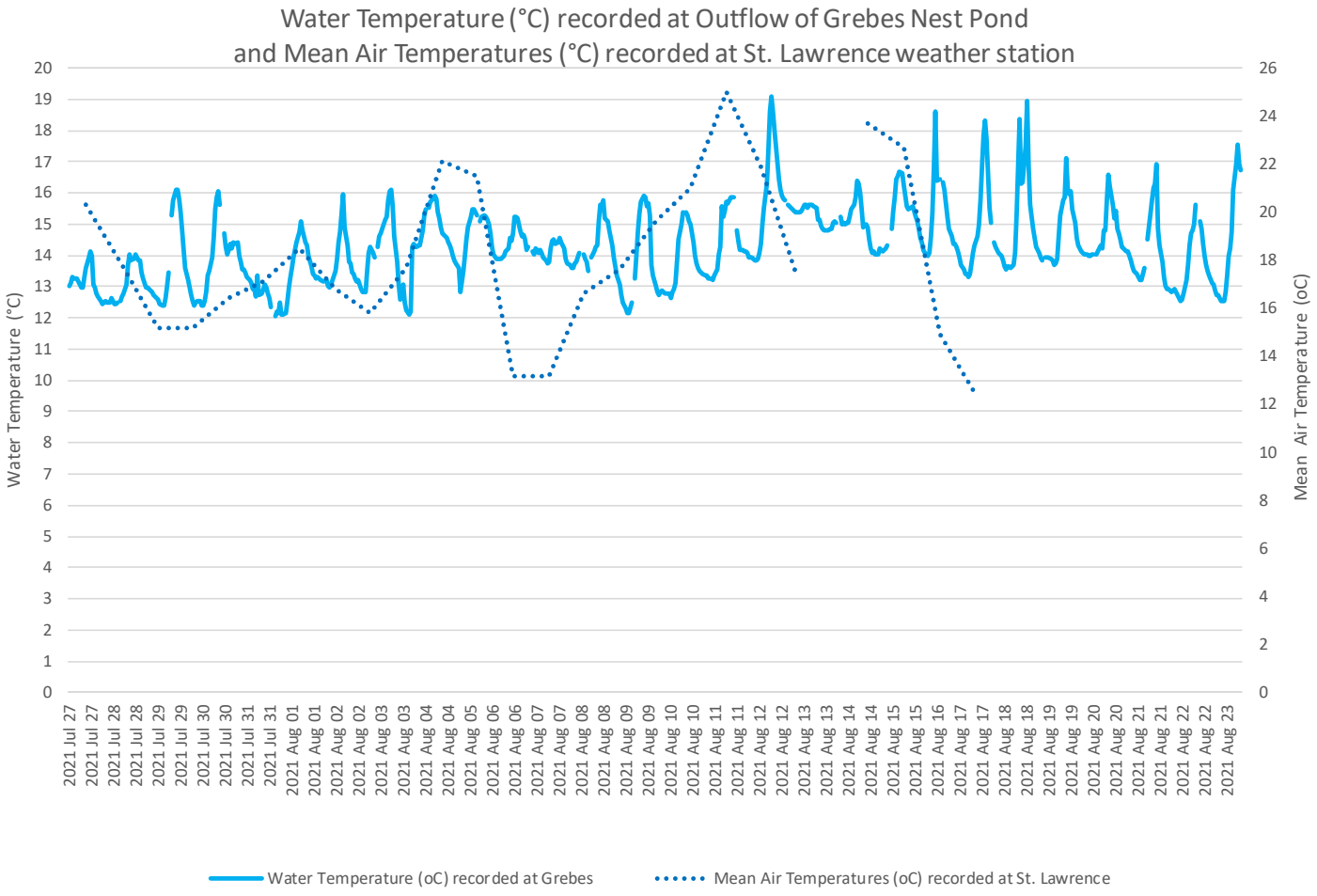

Figure 5: Water temperature (°C) and Mean Air Temperature (°C) at Outflow of Grebes Nest Pond

pH

Throughout the deployment period, pH values ranged between 7.28 pH units and 8.05 pH units. The pH data remained within the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) guidelines for the protection of aquatic life for the duration of the deployment.

The small increases (circled) early in this deployment are likely a result of intermittent stage level (Figure 6). As the stage decreases the pH level dips for a short period of time. For the remainder of the deployment the pH levels are consistent.

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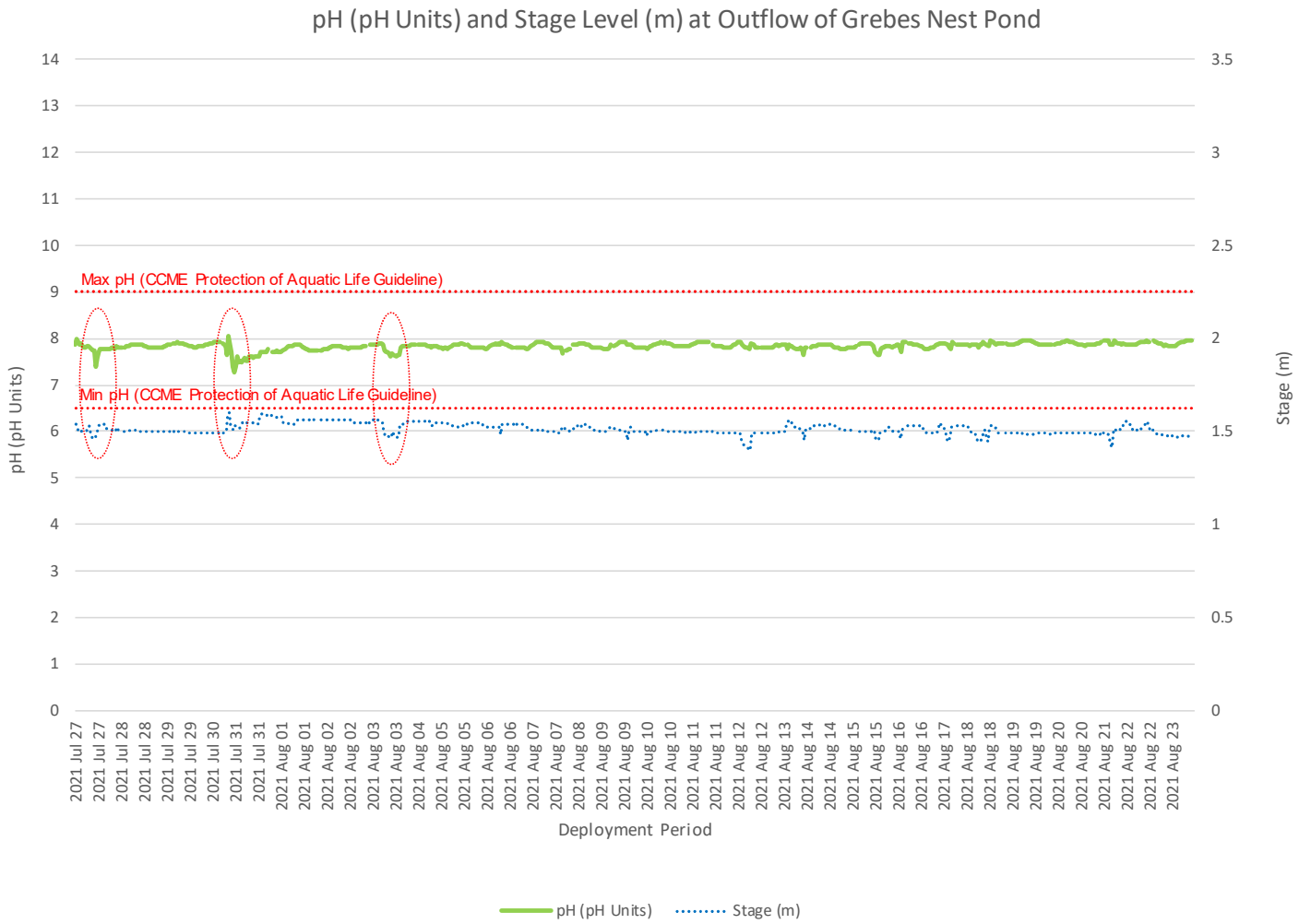

Figure 6: pH (pH units) values

Specific Conductivity

The conductivity levels were within 186.11 µS/cm and 454.45 µS/cm during this deployment period (Figure 7). The specific conductivity probe measured the diluted salts and inorganic materials present in the brook.

Across the deployment period, the conductivity in Grebes Nest fluctuated with the changes in stage level. The biggest spikes were recorded on August 3 and August 4, 2021. During periods of low to no stage increases, diluted salts and inorganic material will accumulate in the brook, slowly contributing to higher conductivity (Figure 7). The largest drop coincides with a stage increase on July 30.

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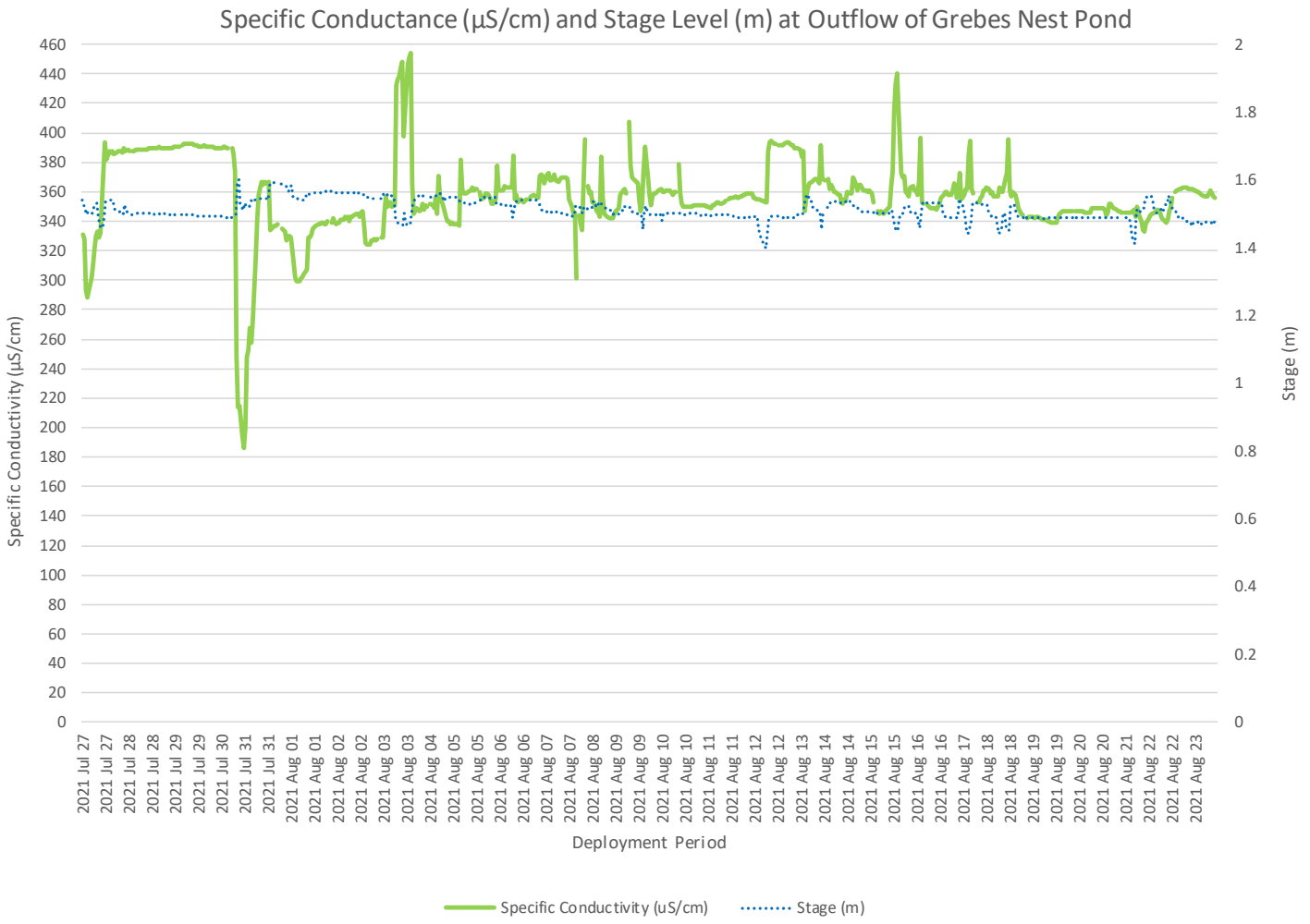

Figure 7: Specific conductivity (µS/cm) values

Dissolved Oxygen

The water quality instrument directly measures dissolved oxygen (mg/L) with the dissolved oxygen probe. The instrument then calculates percent saturation (% Sat) taking into account the water temperature.

During the deployment, the dissolved oxygen concentration levels ranged within a minimum of 9.07 mg/L to a maximum of 10.81 mg/L. The percent saturation levels for dissolved oxygen ranged within 88.8% Saturation to 104% Saturation (Figure 8).

Due to the intermittent stream flow at this brook, dissolved oxygen concentration does not always display the expected diurnal pattern that accompanies natural ambient waterways. Water temperature is included alongside dissolved oxygen as it directly influences the water column's ability to store dissolved oxygen.

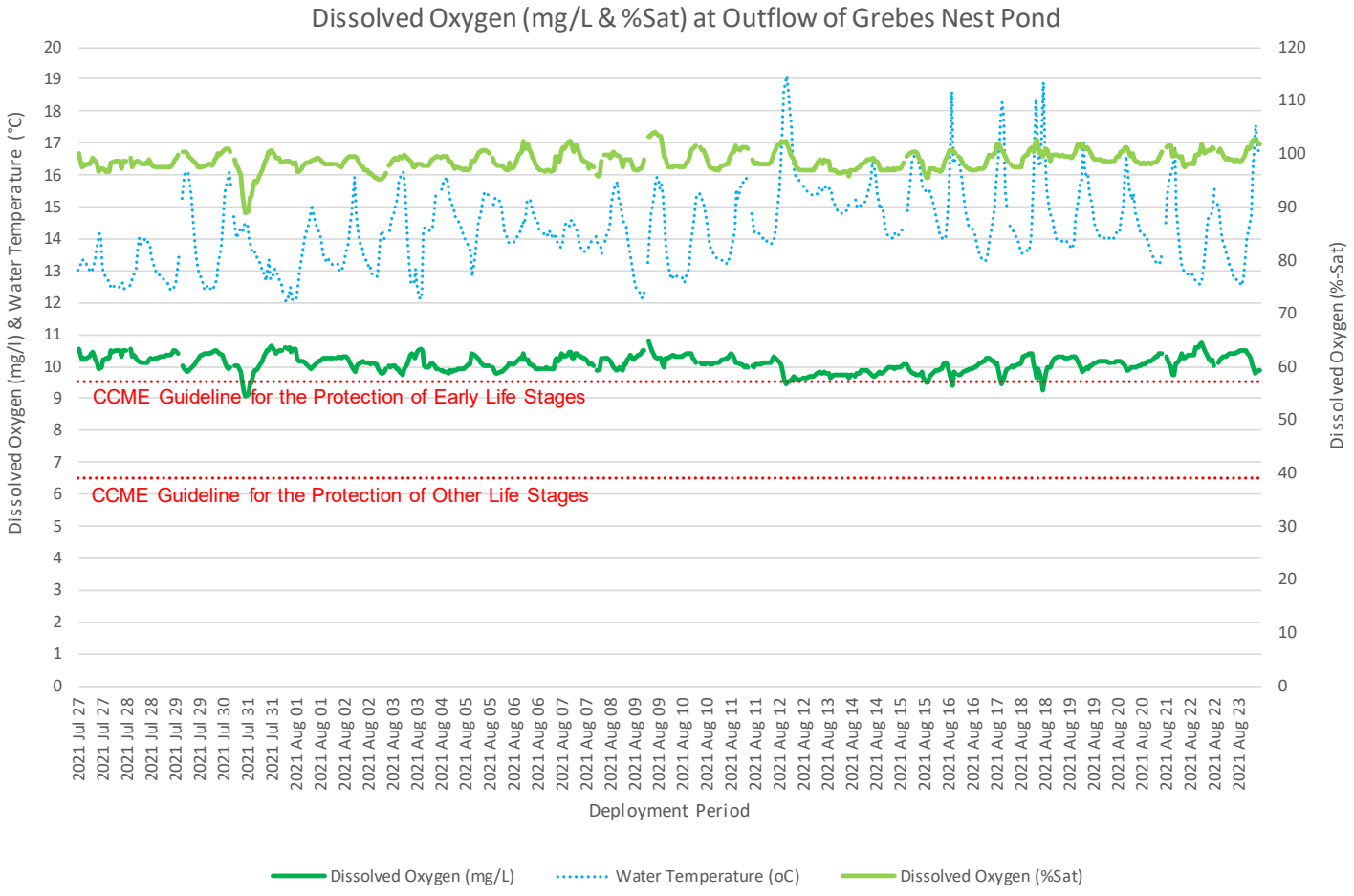

Figure 8: Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L & Percent Saturation) values and Water Temperature (°C)

Turbidity

Turbidity levels during the deployment ranged within 2.6 NTU and 3625.7 NTU (Figure 9). The deployment data had a median of 13.7 NTU.

Outflow to Grebes Nest Brook is fed via a sump pump from a mine pit. The pit water is fed into the brook via a large pipe and it gravity flows into the Outflow of Grebes Nest Brook. Based on the nature of the water pumped into the brook, it would be expected for the turbidity at this site to fluctuate throughout the deployment. Turbidity can also increase in the water column through evaporation. If the brook is not replenished with rainfall or pumped water, the water can become stagnant. Evaporation decreases the water level concentrating sediment particles in the remaining water.

Please note the stage data on the graph below, is raw data. It has not been corrected for backwater effect. WSC is responsible for QA/QC of water quantity data. Corrected data can be obtained upon request to WSC.

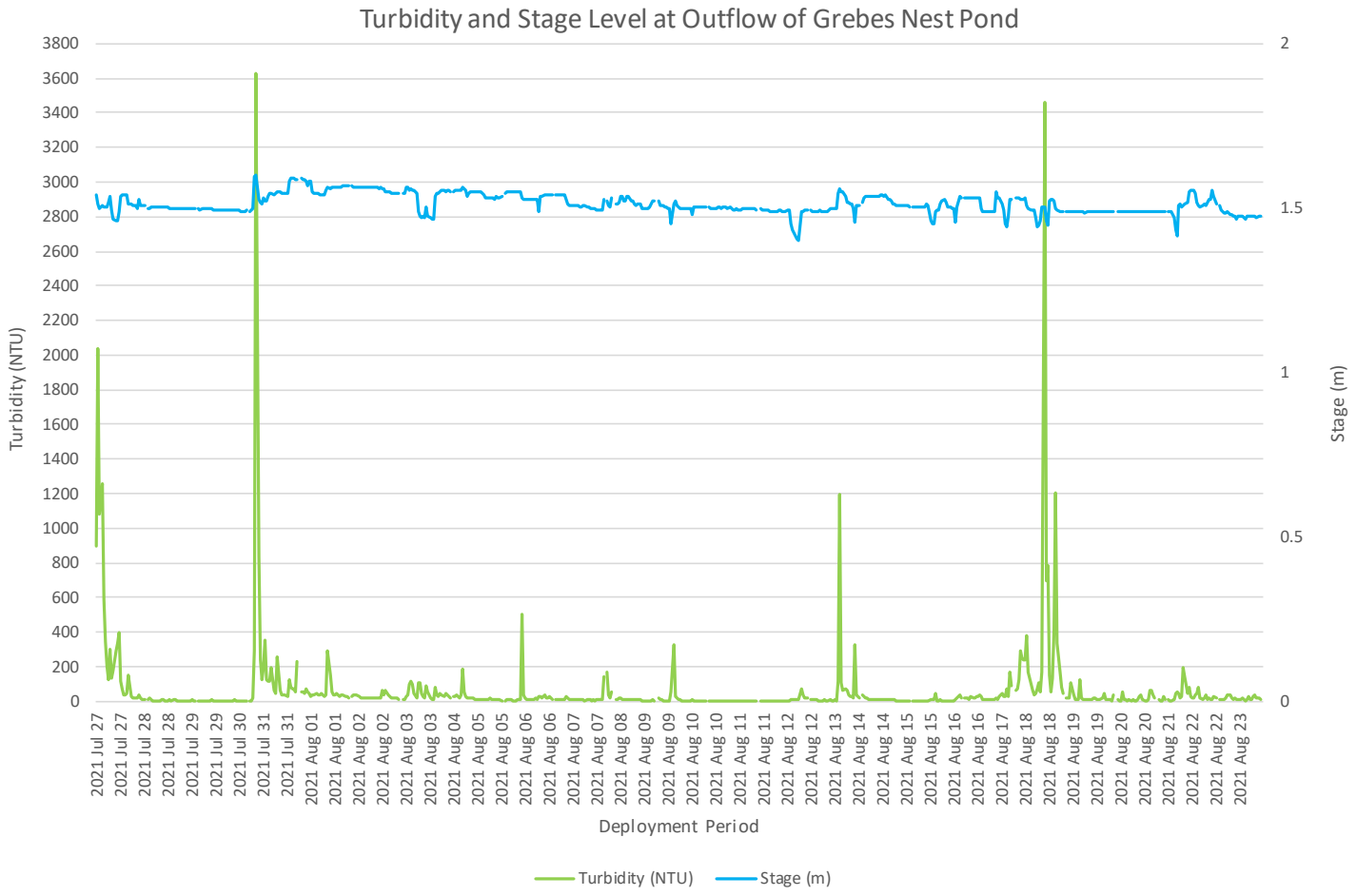

Figure 9: Turbidity (NTU) values.

Daily Averaged Stage Level and Total Precipitation

Please note the stage data on the graph below is raw data. It has not been corrected for backwater effect. WSC is responsible for QA/QC of water quantity data. Corrected data can be obtained upon request to WSC.

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 will increase during rainfall events (Figure 10) and during any surrounding snow or ice melt. However, direct snowfall will not cause stage to rise significantly.

Large peaks in stage correspond with precipitation events as noted on Figure 10. Daily Total Precipitation data was obtained from Environment Canada's St. Lawrence weather station. The highest total precipitation was recorded on August 2nd, 2021 at 17 mm, this event also corresponded with a stage increase.

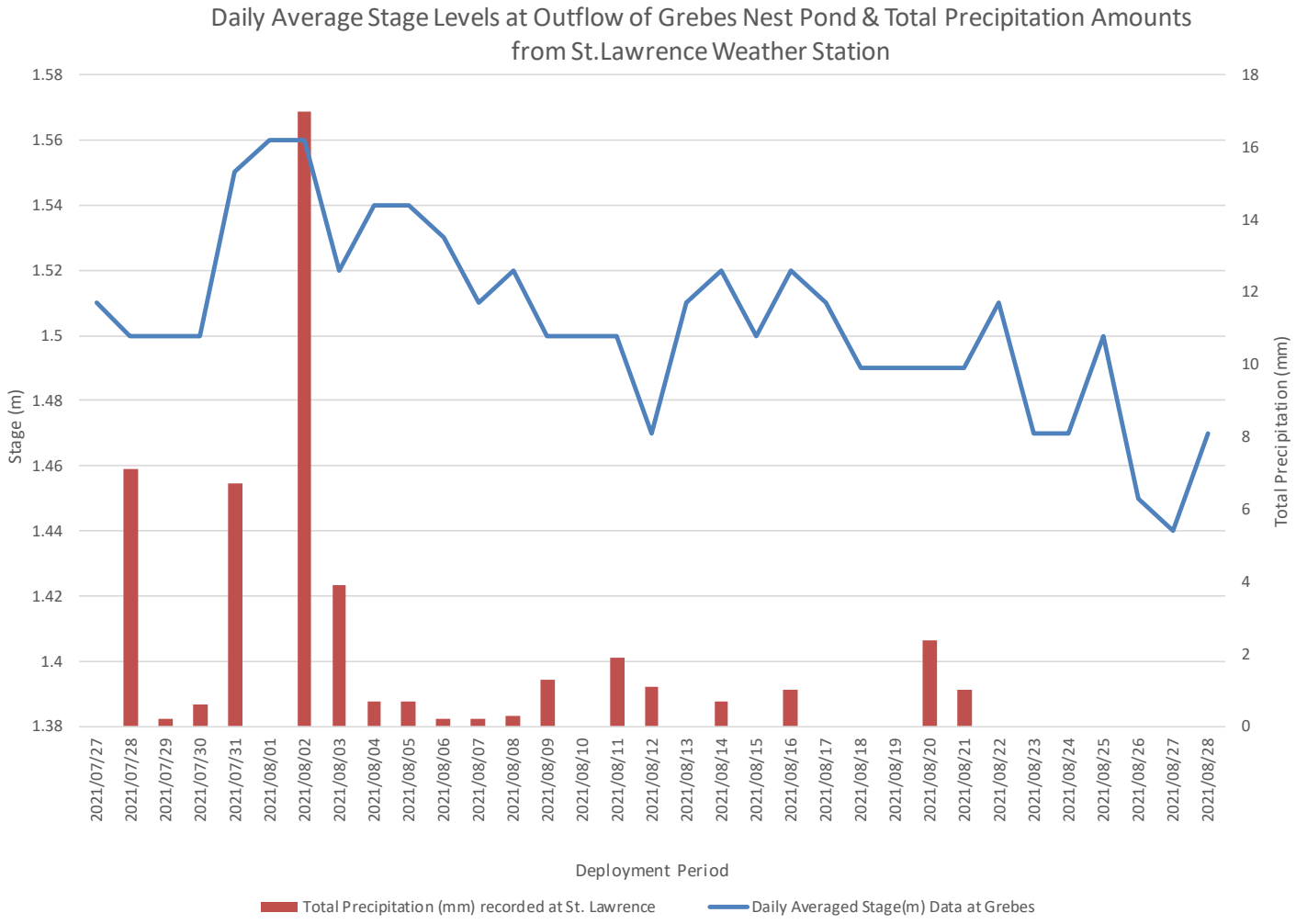

Figure 10: Daily averaged stage values and total precipitation.

Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Water Temperature

Water temperature ranged from 12.93°C to 27.28°C during the deployment period (Figure 11).

Water temperature displayed the natural diurnal pattern representing the influence of air temperature on the brook, with the high temperatures during the daylight hours and the low temperatures representing the nighttime hours (Figure 12).

Outside of the diurnal movement of the water temperature, the data does indicate small influences from the stage changes. As stage increases there is a slight decrease in the water temperature for a short period of time. These event could be the results of cool, moist weather systems bringing in precipitation which is cooler than the surrounding air and water.

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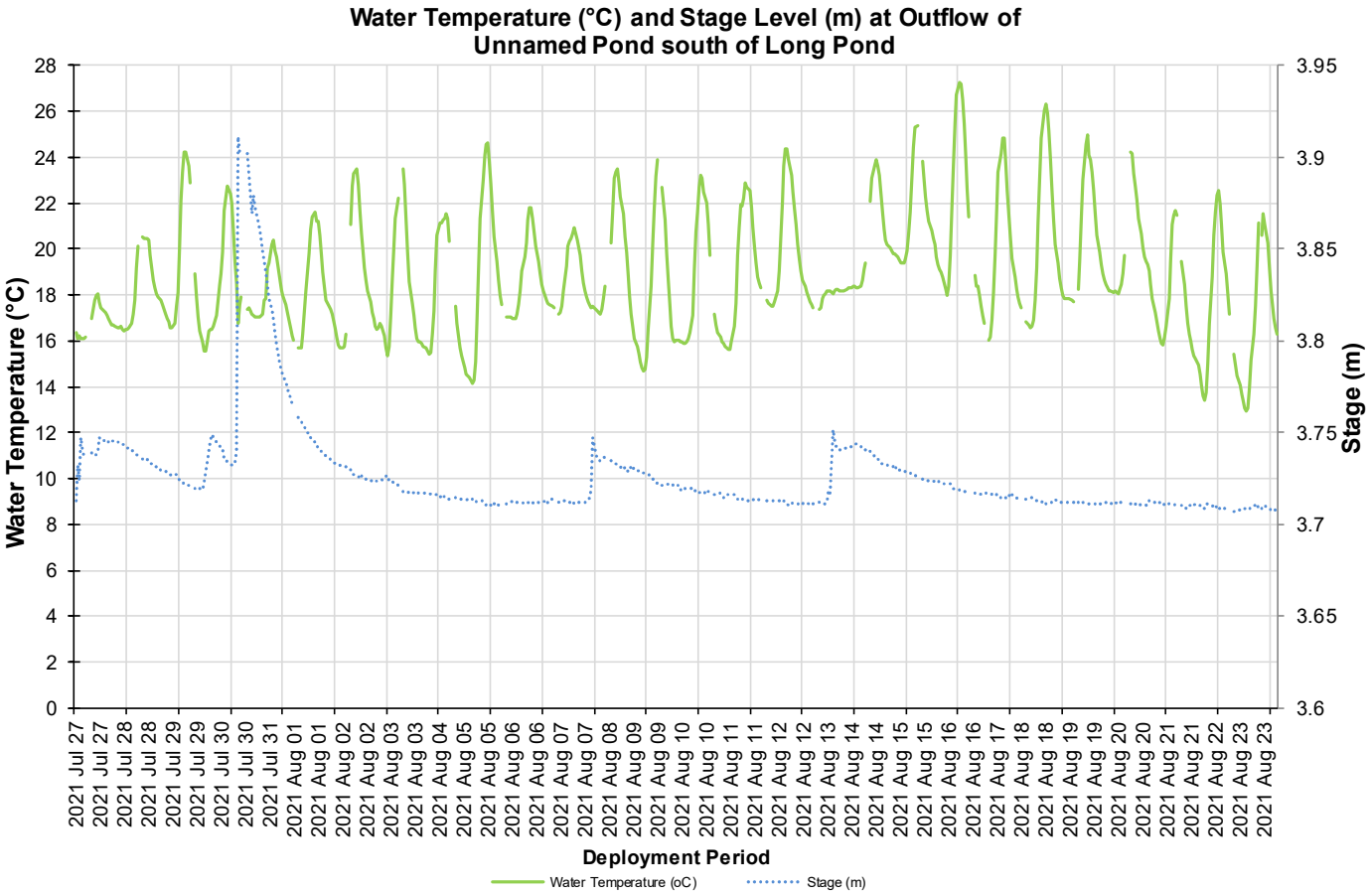

Figure 11: Water temperature (°C) values at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

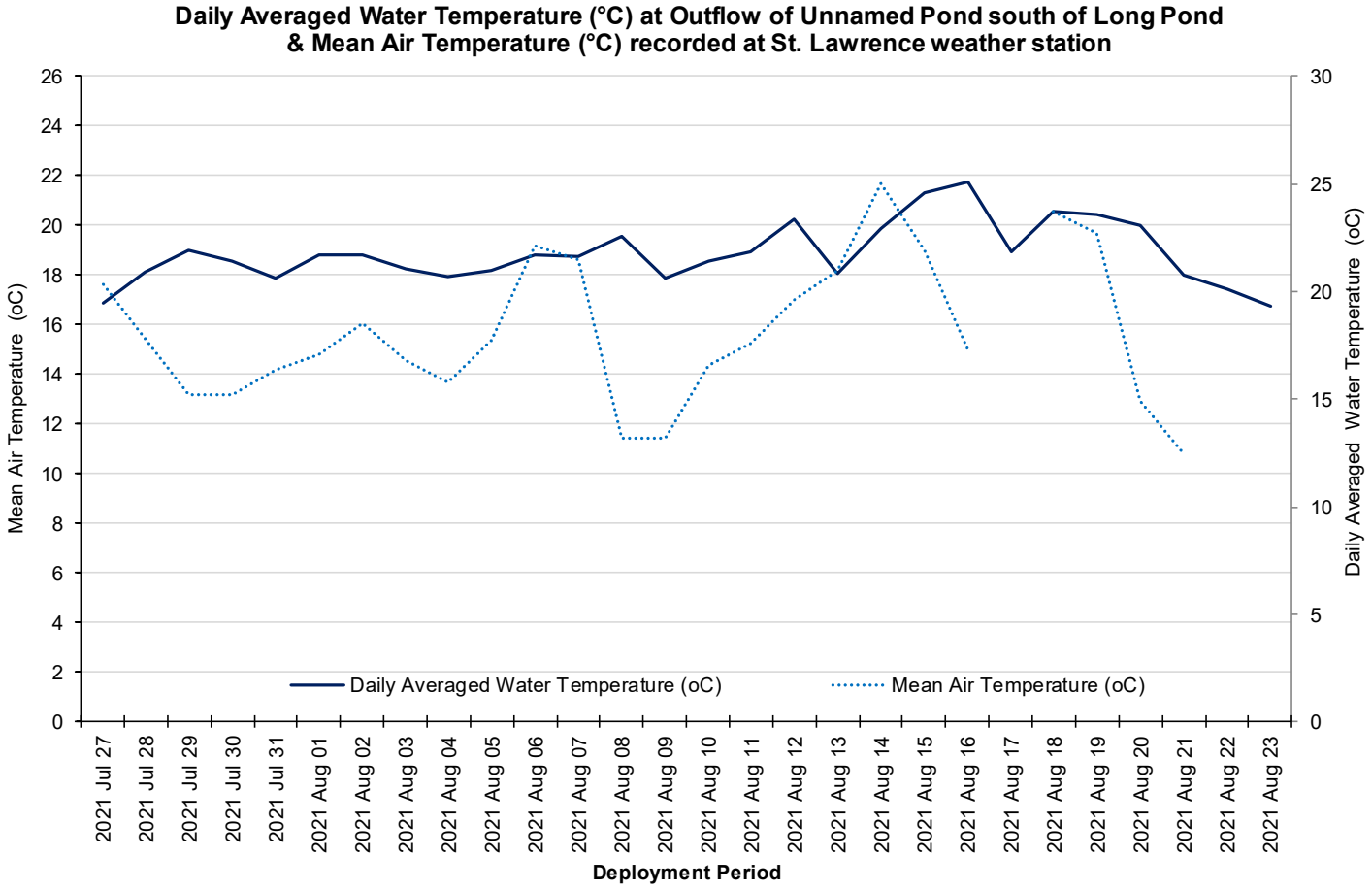

Figure 12: Mean Air Temperature (°C) recorded at St. Lawrence Weather Station

pH

Throughout this deployment period, pH values ranged within 6.66 pH units and 7.84 pH units (Figure 13), remaining within the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) guidelines for aquatic life. The guidelines provide the overall range for the protection of aquatic life across all waterways in Canada. Every brook is different with its own specific natural background range.

Small decreases in pH during stage peaks are evident on Figure 13 on July 30th, August 7th and again on August 13th, 2021. The pH values returned to background levels shortly after each event, and overall the pH data was consistent across deployment. Natural processes such as rainfall, snowmelt and surrounding runoff will alter the pH of a brook for a period; however, it is the persistent long-term changes in pH that create the most damage to the natural aquatic environment.

Please note the daily averaged stage data on the graph below, is raw data. It has not been corrected for backwater effect. WSC is responsible for QA/QC of water quantity data. Corrected data can be obtained upon request to WSC.

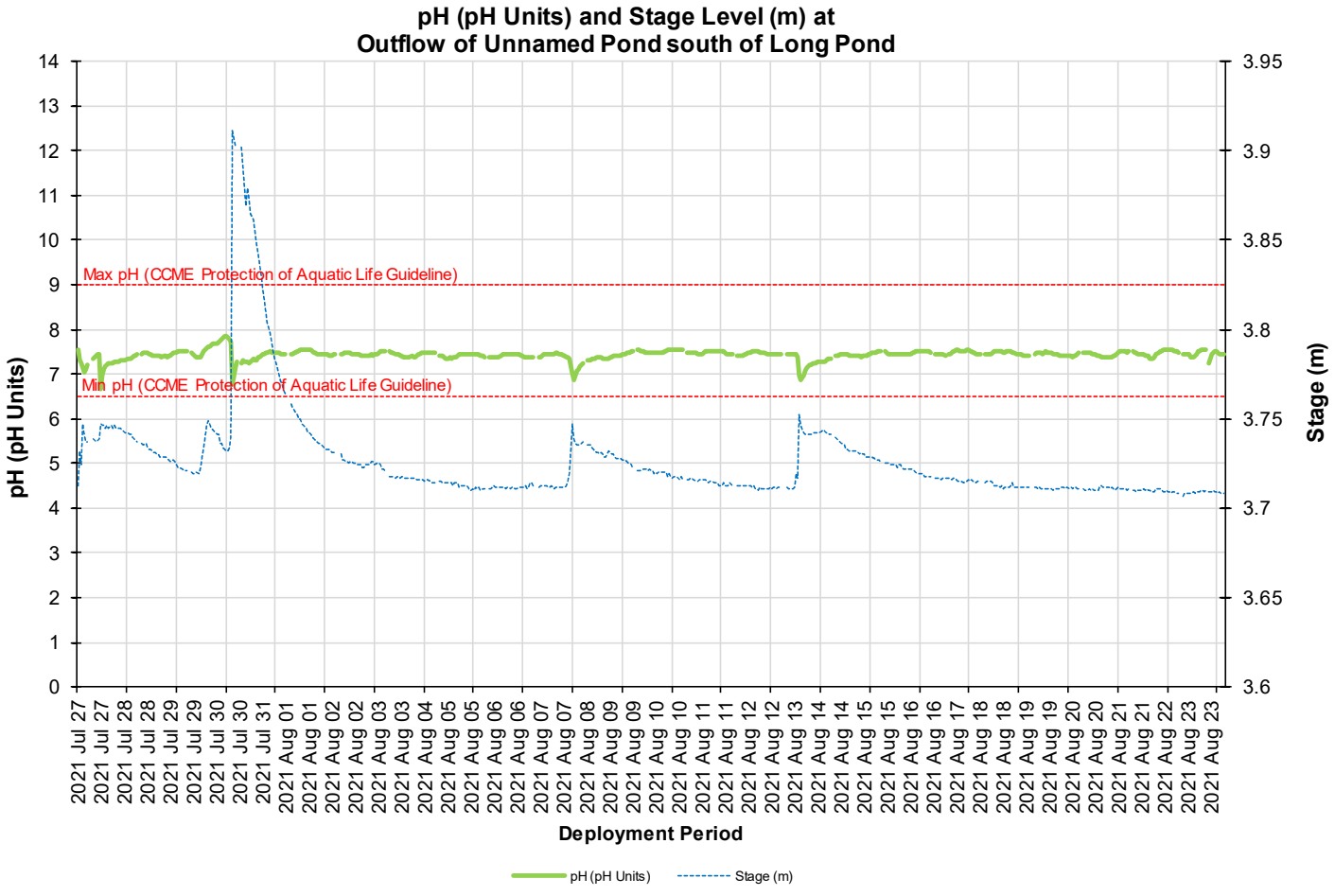

Figure 13: pH (pH units) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Specific Conductivity

The conductivity levels ranged between 76.08 µS/cm and 262.68 µS/cm during deployment (Figure 14). The deployment period had a median of 177.88 µS/cm.

Changes in stage will influence the conductivity data (Figure 14). The extra volume of water during a stage increase will dilute the particulate matter present in a water column. This relationship between stage and conductivity can be noted on Figure 14, on July 30th, August 7th, and again on August 13th 2021. The conductivity levels dropped for a short period before returning to previous level.

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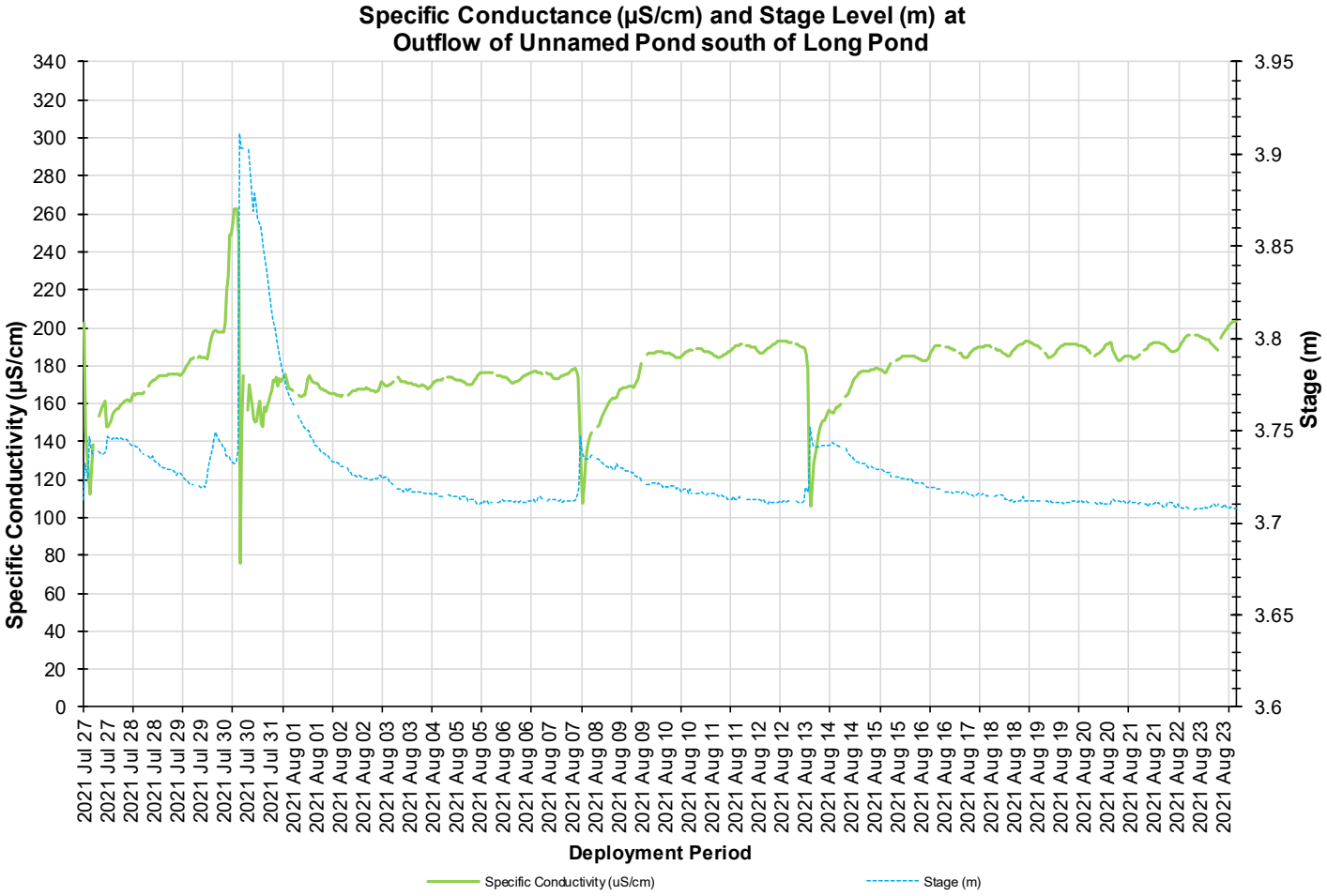

Figure 14: Specific conductivity (µS/cm) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Dissolved Oxygen

The water quality instrument directly measures dissolved oxygen (mg/L) with the dissolved oxygen probe. The instrument then calculates percent saturation (% Sat) taking into account the water temperature. During this deployment, the dissolved oxygen levels where within 7.98 mg/L and 10.32 mg/L for concentration and 89.3 % Saturation and 111.1 % Saturation for percent saturation.

There is a natural diurnal pattern present in aquatic environments with dissolved oxygen. Oxygen concentration levels will fluctuate throughout night and day. Cooler night temperatures influence higher dissolved oxygen concentrations and warmer day light temperature influence lower concentrations. The movement in the diurnal pattern is evident on Figure 15. All other prominent dips/peaks - outside of the diurnal pattern - are a result of fluxes in water temperature or influences from rainfall/runoff.

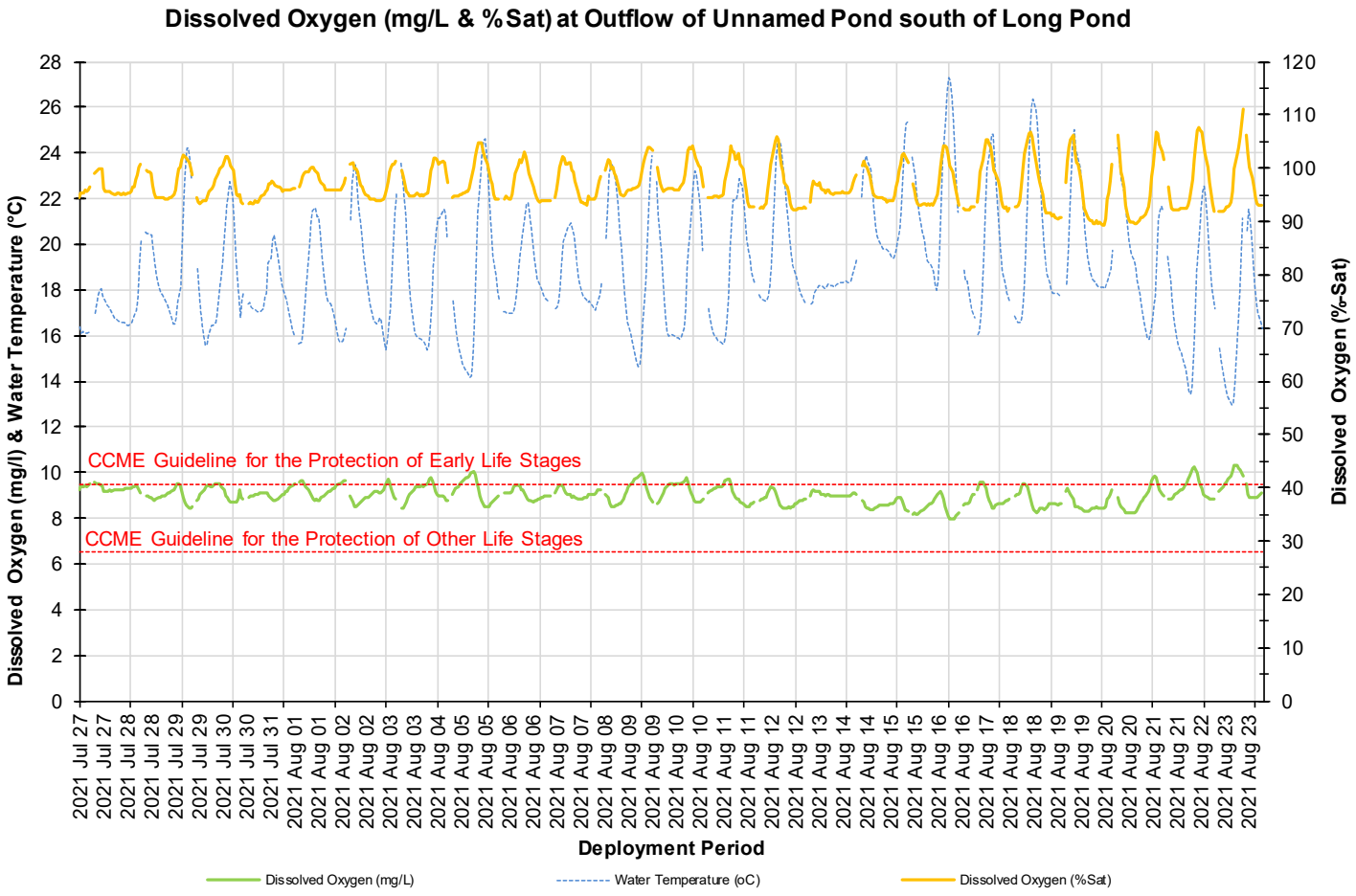

Figure 15: Dissolved Oxygen (%Sat & mg/L) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Turbidity

Turbidity levels during the deployment ranged within 3.7 NTU and 196.5 NTU (Figure 16). The deployment data had a median of 23.9 NTU.

Turbidity remained below 200 NTU, throughout the deployment. Until July 30th, turbidity was below 10NTU. After this, there was a short duration spike to 196.5 NTU. After July 30th, turbidity steadily decline for the remainder of the deployment, but never to the levels recorded before the stage event. This indicates that the event may have caused sediment to build up in the river or around the sensor as it never reached the low background levels again.

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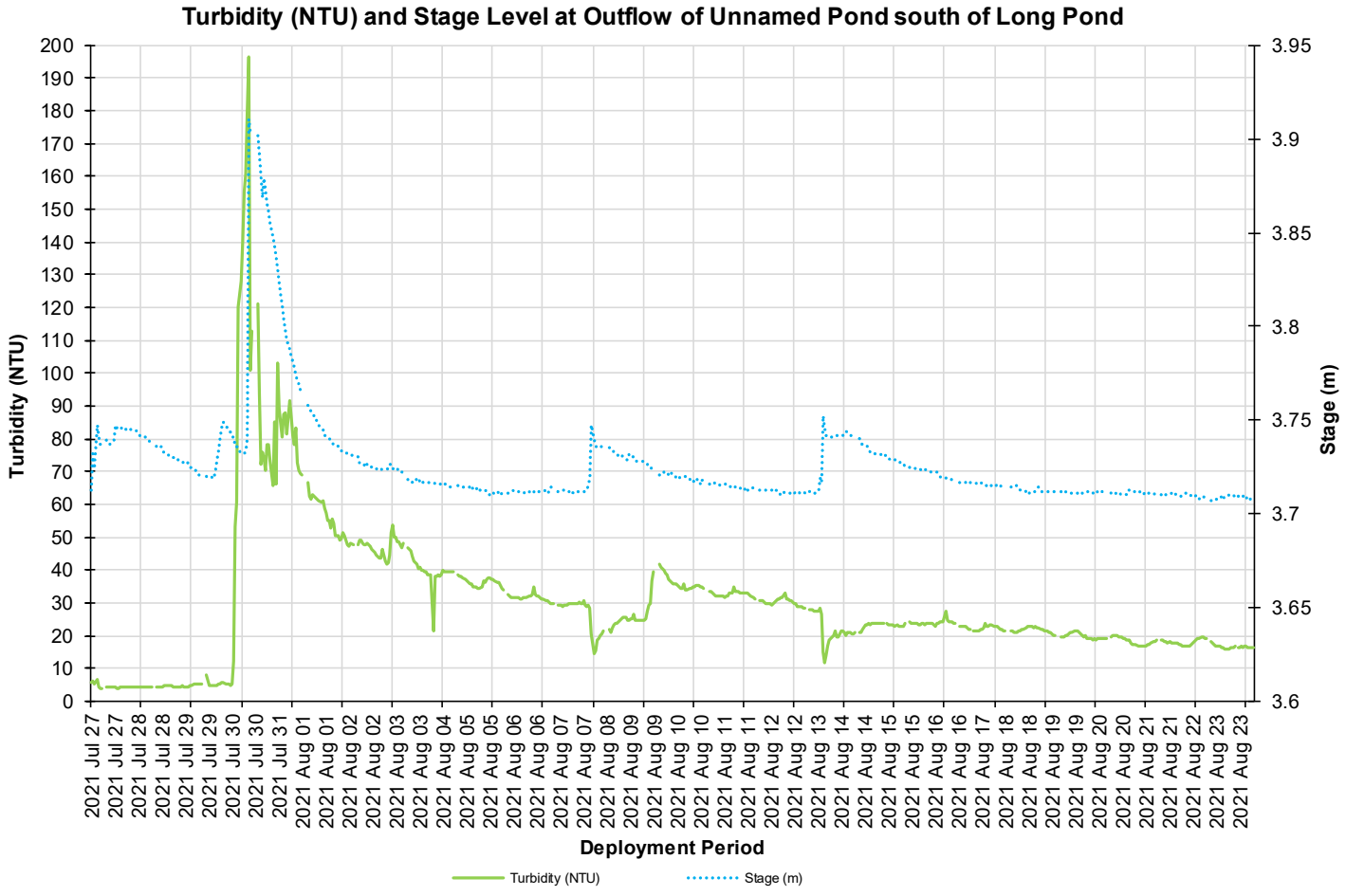

Figure 16: Turbidity (NTU) at Outflow of Unnamed Pond south of Long Pond

Daily Averaged Stage Level and Total Precipitation

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Large peaks in stage correspond with precipitation events as noted on Figure 17. Daily Total Precipitation data was obtained from Environment Canada's St. Lawrence weather station. The highest total precipitation was recorded on August 2nd, 2021 at 17 mm, this event also corresponded with a stage increase.

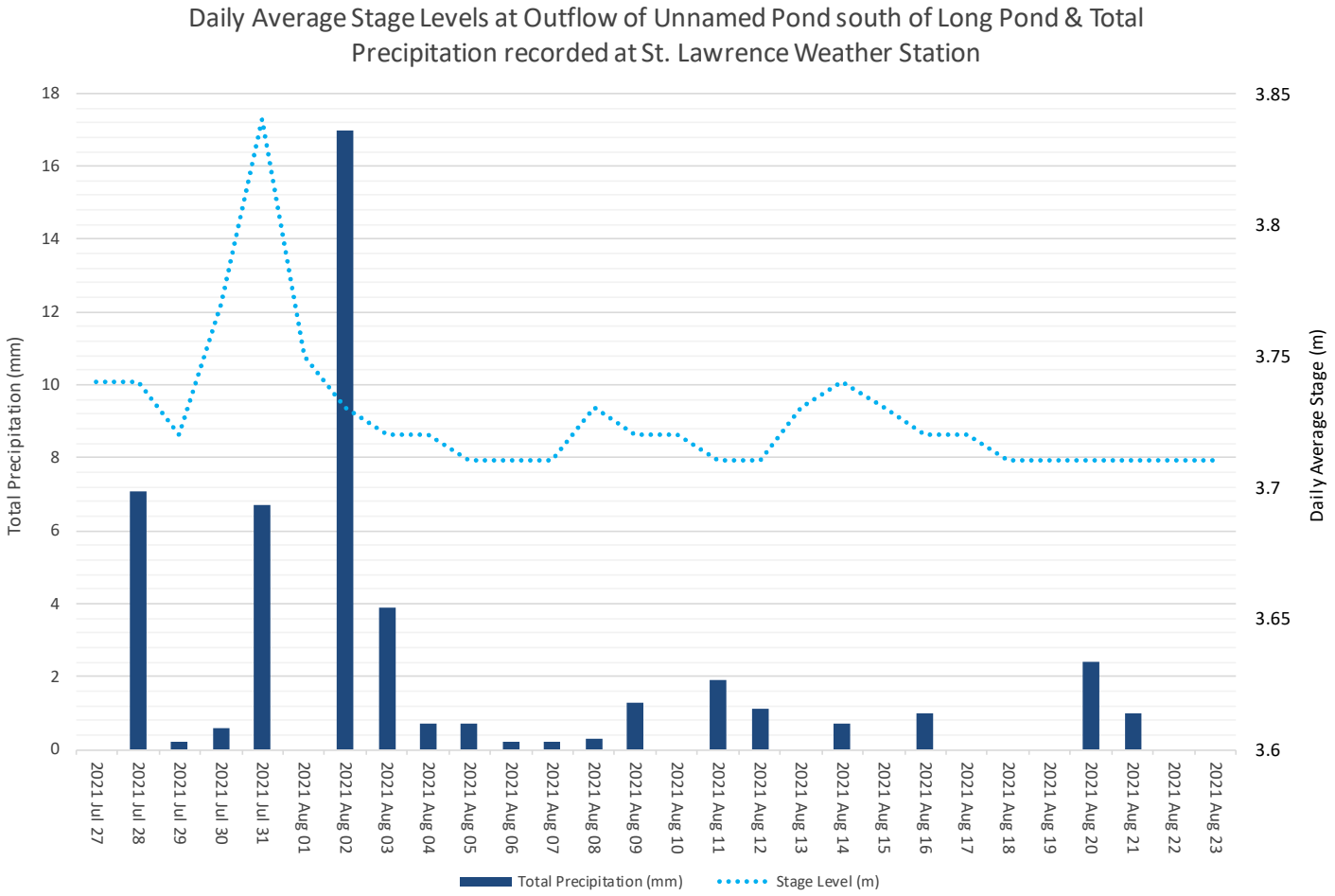

Figure 17: Daily averaged stage values and total precipitation.

Canada Fluorspar (NL) Inc, Newfoundland and Labrador