

# Real Time Water Quality Report Southwest Brook below Southwest Pond

Deployment Period 2011-09-13 to 2011-10-23

2011-11-21



Government of Newfoundland & Labrador  
Department of Environment and  
Conservation  
Water Resources Management Division

## General

- This station is operated cooperatively with the Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River) as a Pilot Project for Drinking Water Source Monitoring. This is the only known application of Real Time Water Quality Monitoring for a drinking water source for any First Nations community in Canada.
- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) staff monitors the real-time web page on a daily basis. Any unusual observations are investigated, with site visits being carried out as warranted.
- Operators at Conne River are informed of any significant water quality events or instrumentation problems by WRMD.
- Site visits for QA/QC purposes are conducted by WRMD approximately four times per year.
- Monthly calibration and maintenance is undertaken by Cyrus Lambert at the Conne River Water Treatment Plant.

## Maintenance and Calibration of Instrumentation

- After being cleaned and freshly calibrated the regular **DataSonde**<sup>®</sup> (s/n 44422) was installed on September 13, 2011, and remained deployed continuously until October 23, 2011, a 40 day period.

## Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Measures

- As part of the QA/QC protocol, 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. See **Table 1**.

Parameter	Rank				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Marginal	Poor
Temperature (oC)	<=+/-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)	<=+/-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

**Table 1**

- Upon deployment and removal, a QA/QC **MiniSonde**<sup>®</sup> is temporarily deployed along side the Field **DataSonde**<sup>®</sup>. Values for each recorded parameter are compared between the two instruments. Based on the difference between parameters recorded by the Field **DataSonde**<sup>®</sup> and QA/QC **MiniSonde**<sup>®</sup> a qualitative statement (Ranking) is usually made on the data.
- The ranking at the beginning and end of the deployment period are shown in **Table 2**.

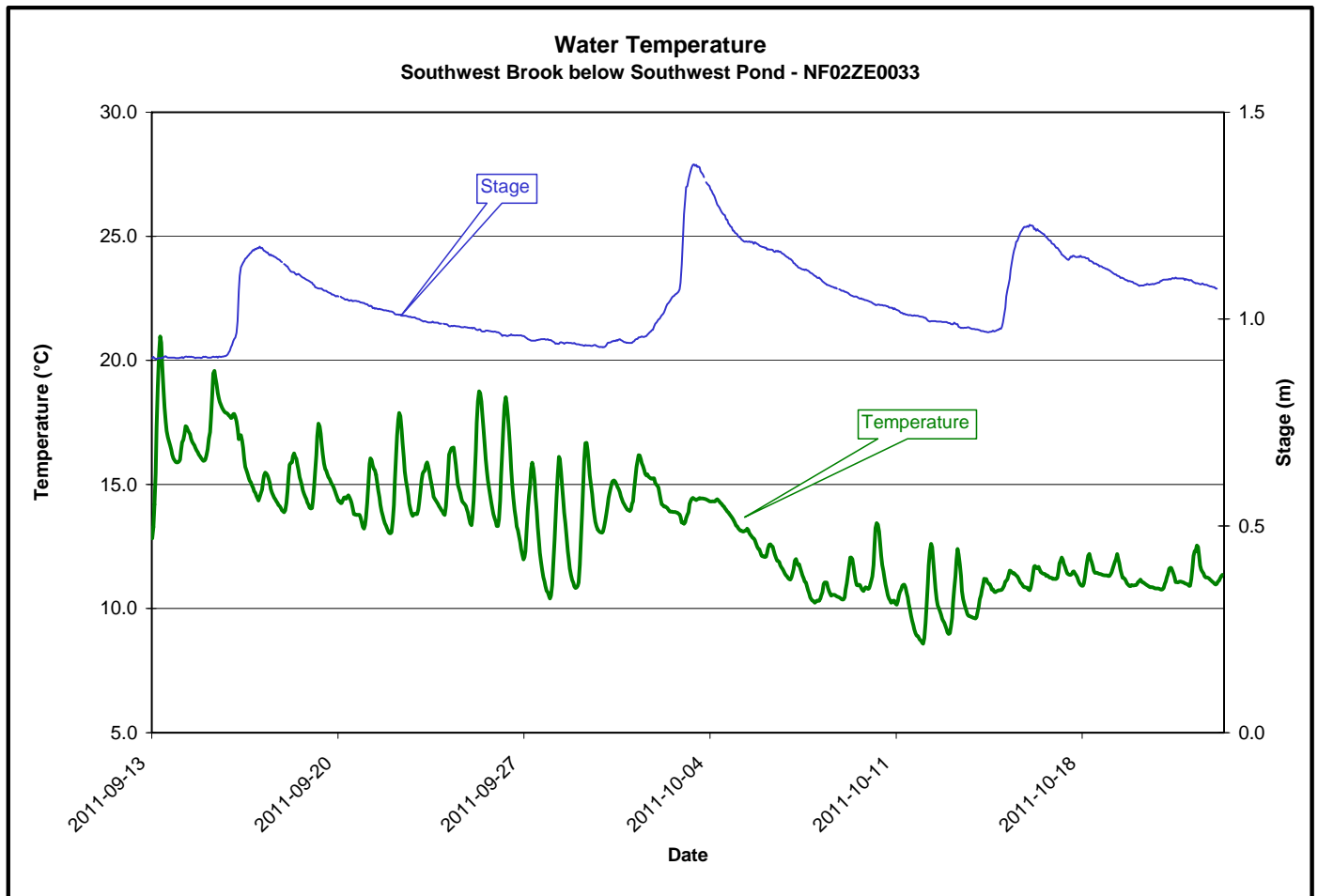
- With the exception of water quantity data (Stage and Flow), all data used in the preparation of the graphs and subsequent discussion below adhere to this stringent QA/QC protocol. Water Survey of Canada is responsible for QA/QC of water quantity data. Corrected data can be obtained upon request.

<b>Southwest Brook below Southwest Pond (NF02ZE0033)</b>		
<b>Date (yyyy-mm-dd)</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
2011-09-13 Deployment	Temp (°C)	Good
	pH (units)	Excellent
	Sp. Conductivity (uS/cm)	Excellent
	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Excellent
	Turbidity (NTU)	Excellent
2011-10-23 Removal	Temp (°C)	Excellent
	pH (units)	Excellent
	Sp. Conductivity (uS/cm)	Excellent
	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Excellent
	Turbidity (NTU)	Excellent

**Table 2**

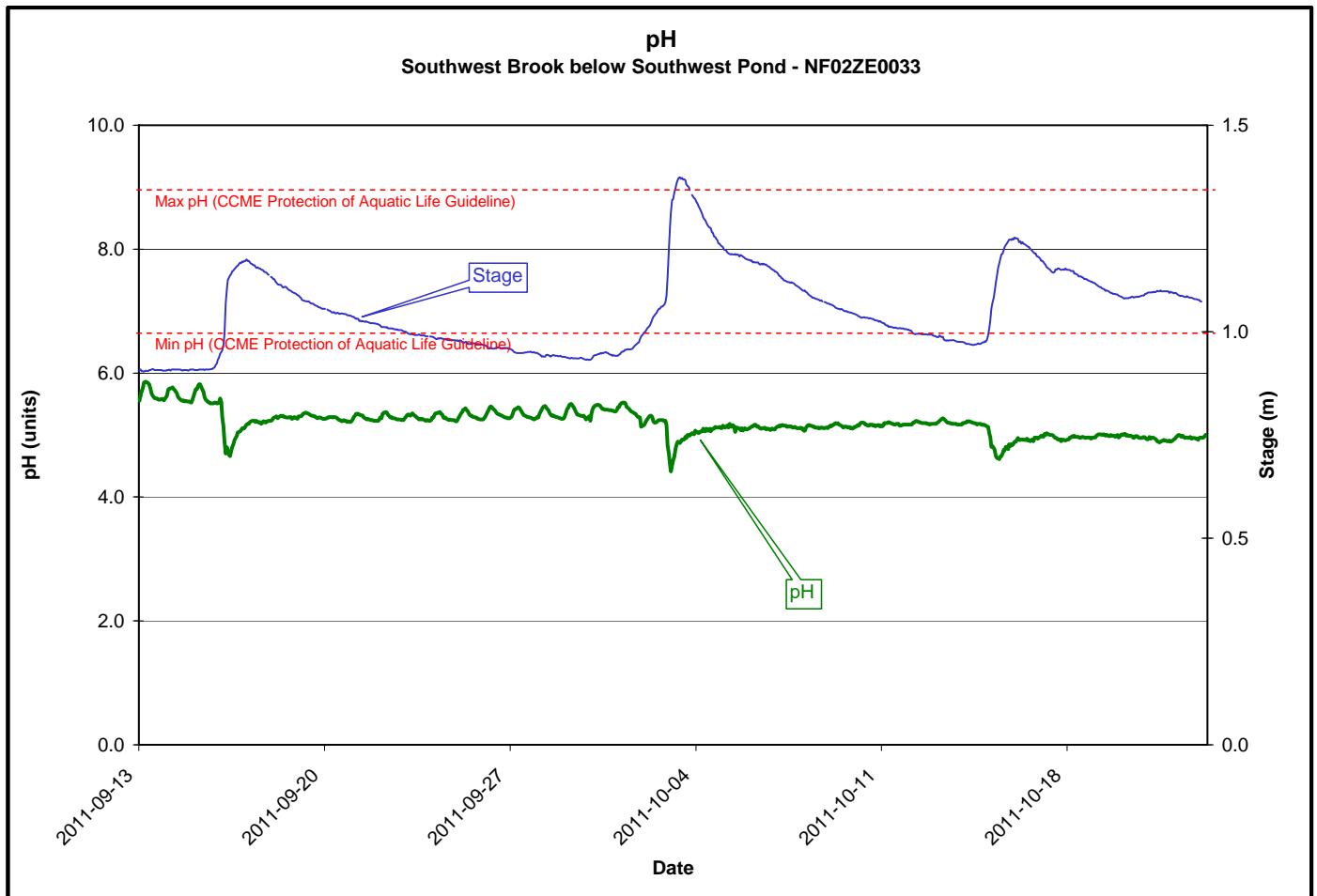
### Data Interpretation

- The water temperature (**Figure 1**) ranged from a minimum of 8.58 °C to a maximum of 20.97 °C, with temperature generally decreasing over the deployment period.
- While there appears to be little correlation with stage, there was noticeably less diurnal temperature variation during periods of increased stage or runoff, presumably due to precipitation, cloud cover and lower daytime ambient air temperatures.



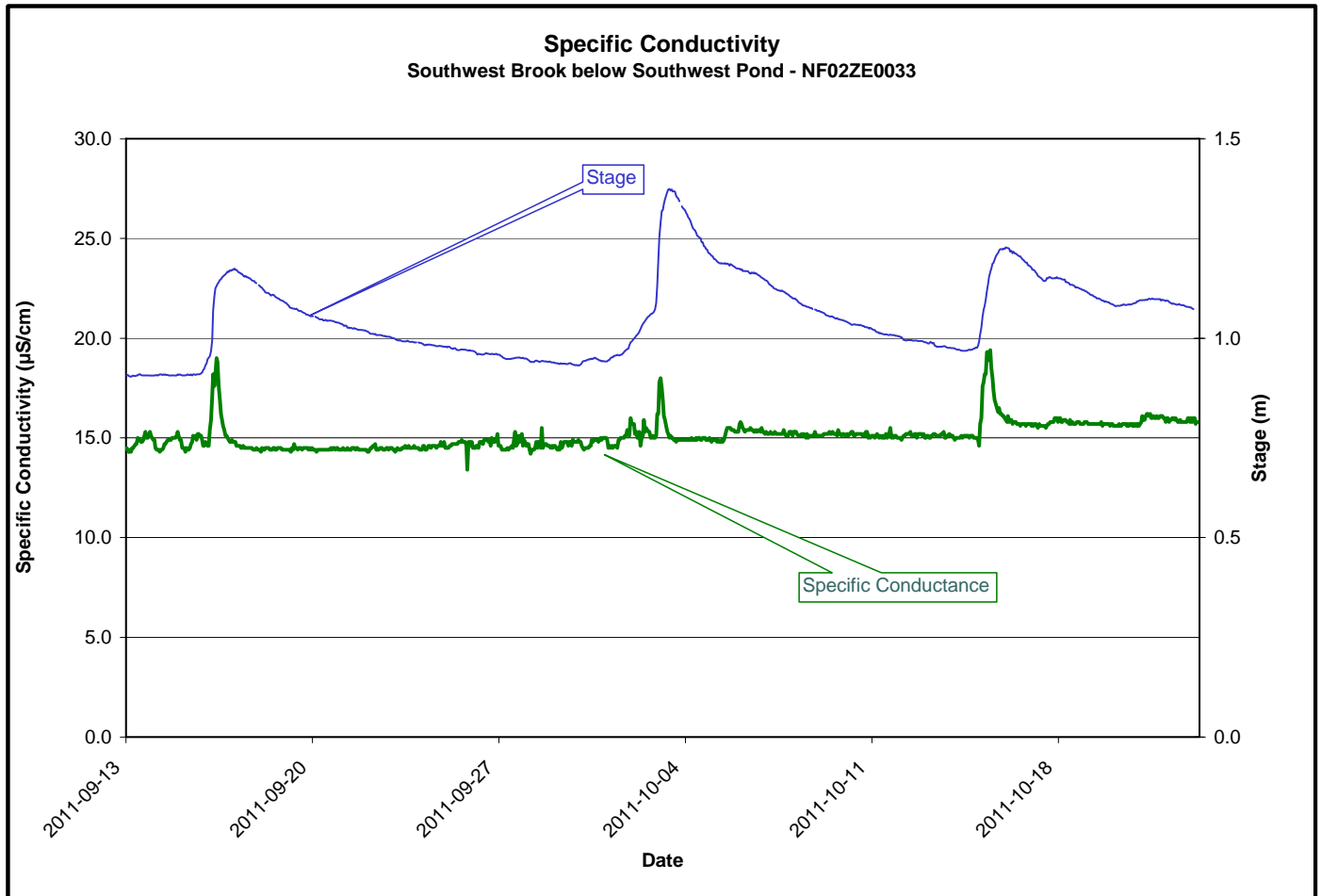
**Figure 1**

- Throughout the deployment period pH values (**Figure 2**) ranged from a minimum of 4.41 to a maximum of 5.86 with all the values falling well below the recommended range (6.5 – 9.0) for the CCME *Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life*.
- The background pH of this stream is normally lower than the lower limit of the recommended range.
- There appears to be an inverse correlation with stage, with the pH dropping rapidly during the rising leg of the hydrograph. Three distinct examples are evident in the graph below.



**Figure 2**

- The specific conductivity (**Figure 3**) ranged from a minimum of 13.4  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  to a maximum of 19.4  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  over the deployment period.
- Specific conductivity appears to be correlated with increases in stage.
- In the graph below three distinct examples are evident where specific conductivity spikes slightly during the rising leg of the hydrograph.
- Otherwise, there is little variation in the specific conductivity throughout the deployment period.



**Figure 3**

- The dissolved oxygen (**Figure 4**) values ranged from a minimum of 8.56 mg/L to a maximum of 11.26 mg/L over the deployment period. With the percent saturation ranging between 88.8 and 105.8.
- Dissolved oxygen (mg/L) is generally inversely proportional to water temperature.
- For the first few days of the deployment period dissolved oxygen values fell below the upper limit recommended by CCME *Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life* (cold water/other life stages – above 6.5 mg/L; cold water/early life stages – above 9.5 mg/L).
- Lower dissolved oxygen values (mg/L) are considered to be solely a function of the naturally warmer water temperatures.
- Based upon the fact that Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation had minimal change over the deployment period, we can be confident that the Dissolved Oxygen mg/L values are accurate.

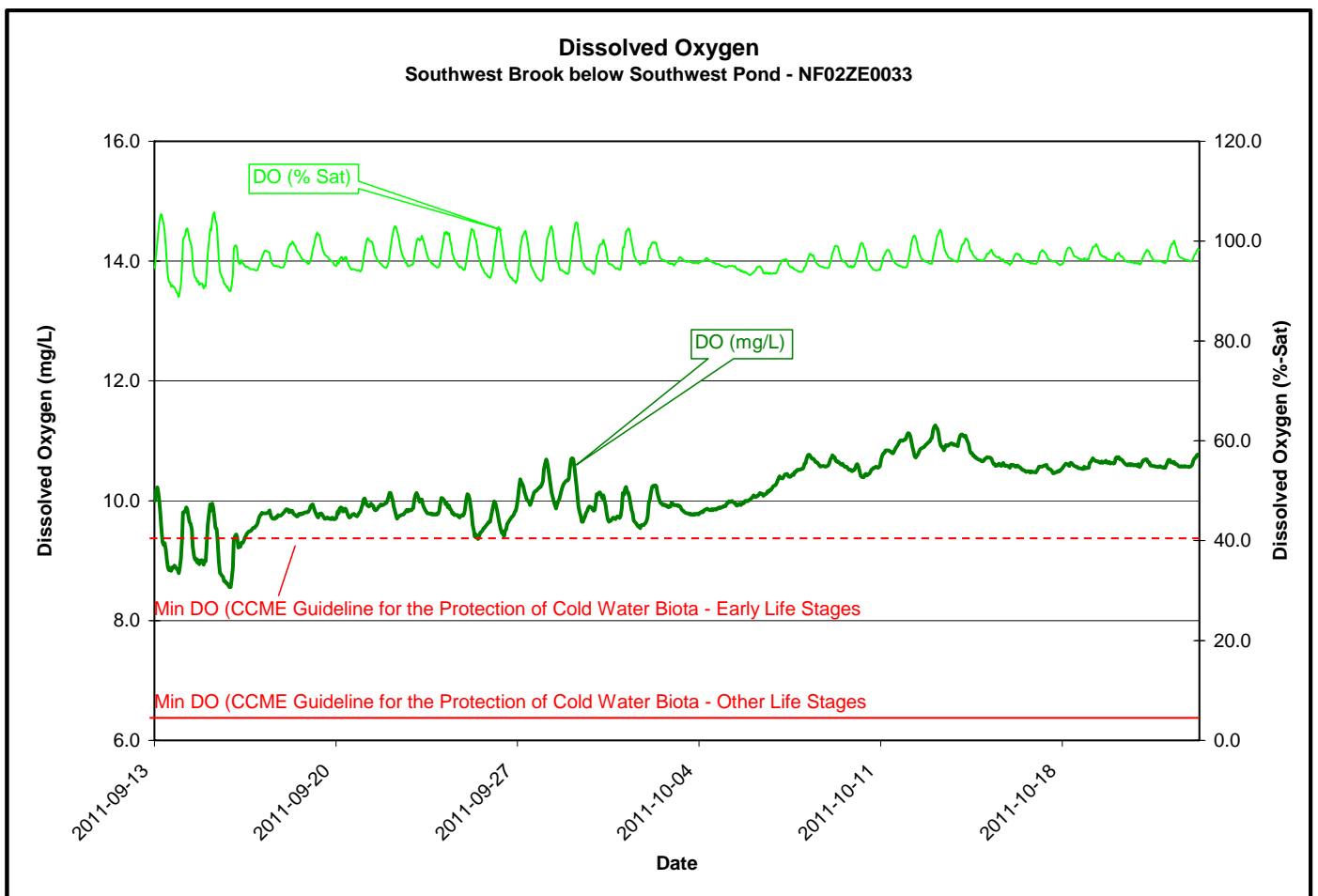
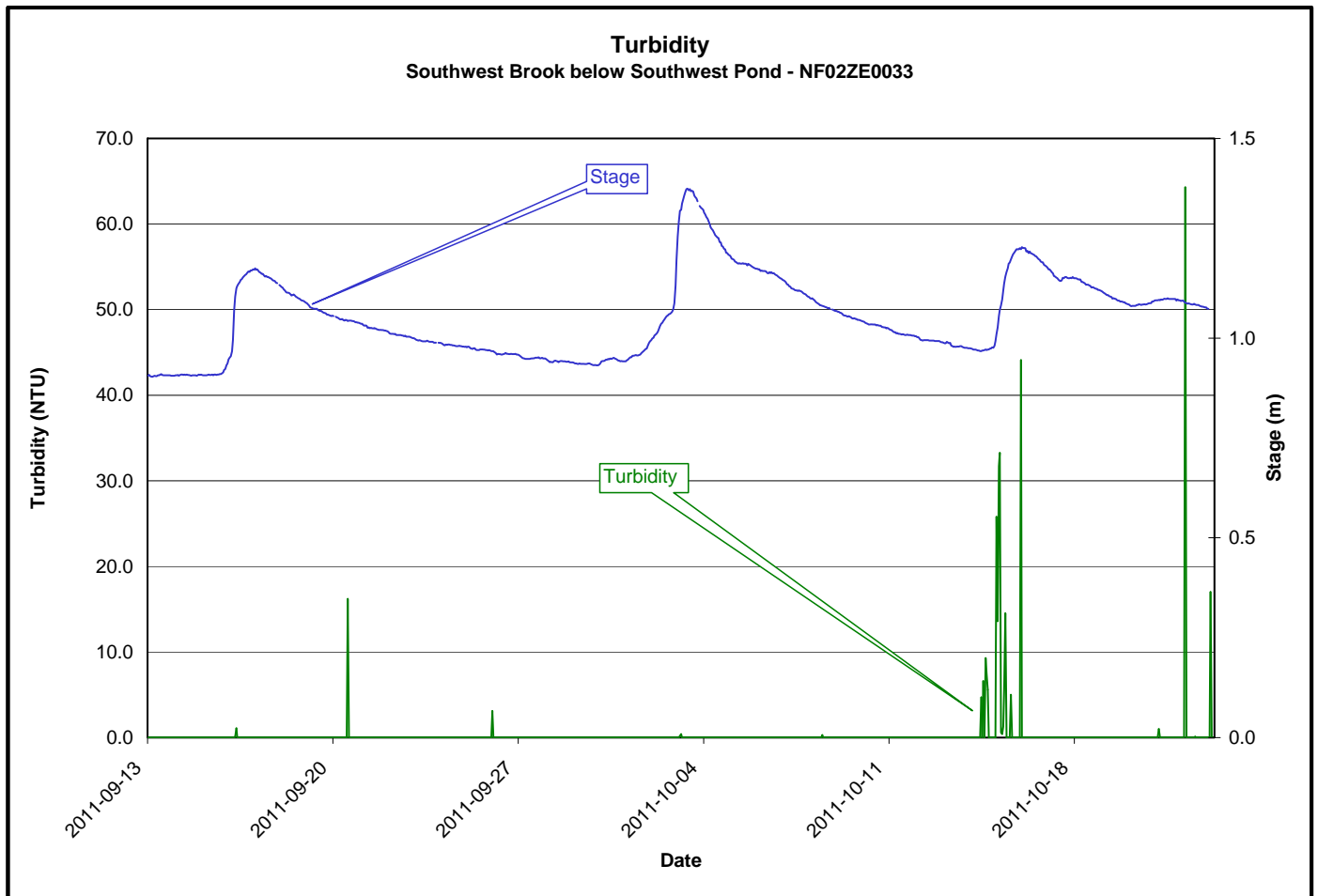


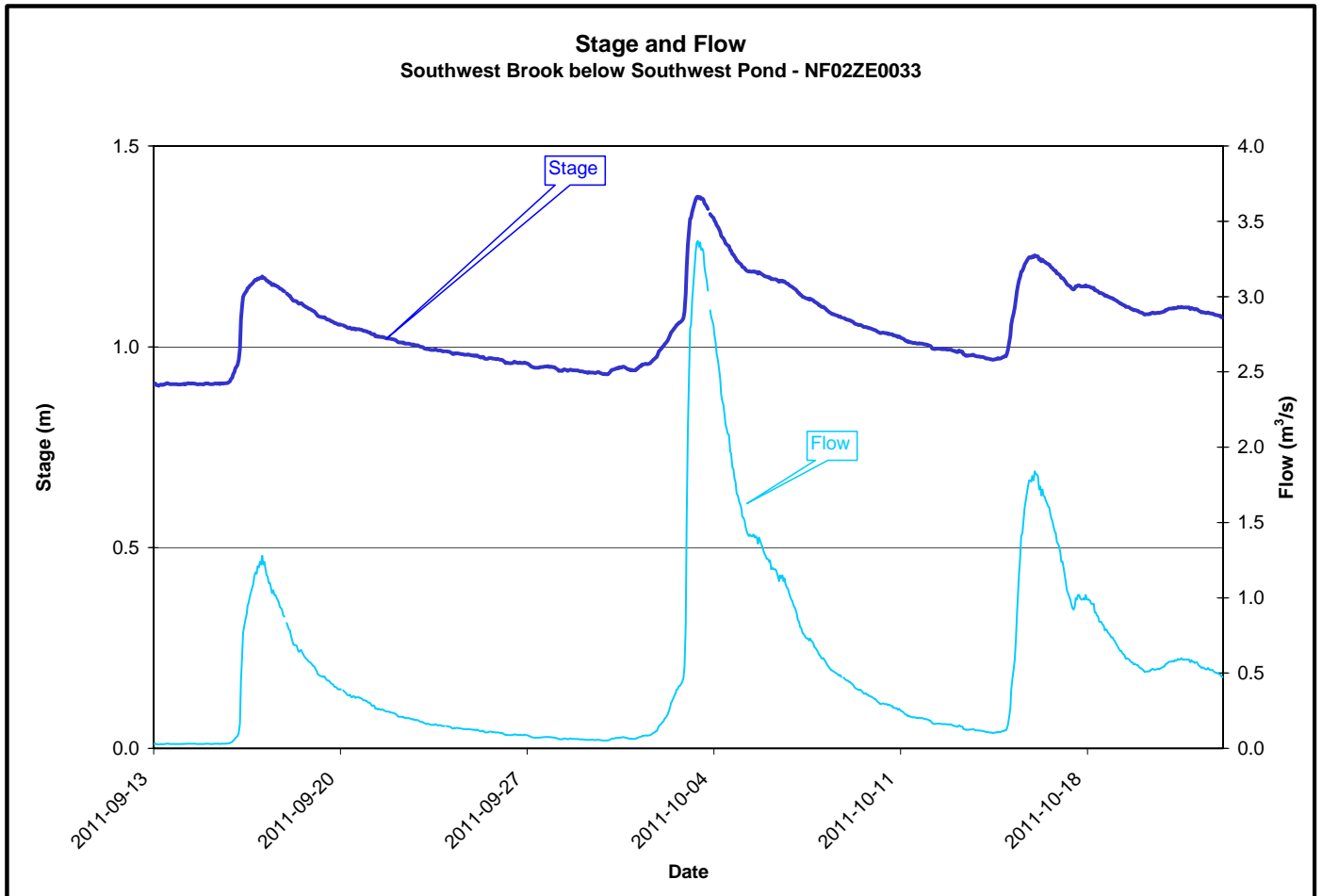
Figure 4

- The turbidity values (**Figure 5**) ranged from a minimum of 0.0 NTU to a maximum of 64.3 NTU.
- During this deployment period, an effort was made to place the instrument away from the plunge pool and the influences of turbulent water.
- Some sustained increases in turbidity are evident from October 14, 2011 to October 16, 2011. This corresponds with an increase in stage. As no grab sample data is available, it is uncertain if this is an actual turbidity event, or the result of air entrainment from the increased flow.
- The individual spikes in turbidity are insignificant short term events when natural stream debris and/or air bubbles from turbulent flow passed near the sensor.

**Figure 5**



- The stage or water level ranged from a minimum of 0.90 m to a maximum of 1.37 m. The flow or discharge ranged from a minimum of 0.03 m<sup>3</sup>/s to a maximum of 3.37 m<sup>3</sup>/s (**Figure 6**).
- The increase in stage and flow is resultant from precipitation events.
- Stream flow and discharge are within normal range.



**Figure 6**

Prepared by:

Robert Wight  
Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Management Division  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
Tel: 709-292-4280  
Fax: 709-292-4365  
e-mail: [robertwight@gov.nl.ca](mailto:robertwight@gov.nl.ca)