



Real-Time Water Quality Report

Waterford River at Kilbride

Deployment Period
June 2, 2015 to August 20, 2015



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

Prepared by:

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General

The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD), in partnership with Water Survey of Canada - Environment Canada (WSC-EC), maintain a real-time water quality and water quantity monitoring station on Waterford River at Kilbride.

This deployment report discusses water quality related events occurring at this station.

The purpose of the real-time water quality station is to monitor process and publish real-time water quality data.

This report covers the period from deployment on June 2, 2015 until removal on August 20, 2015.



Figure 1: Waterford River at Kilbride Real-Time Water Quality and Quantity Station.

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 alongside 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 of Environment and Conservation (ENVC) is responsible for maintenance of the real-time water quality monitoring equipment, as well as recording and managing the water quality data. Tara Clinton, under the supervision of Renee Paterson, is ENVC's main contact for the real-time water quality monitoring operation at Waterford River station, 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 (Environment Canada (EC)) under the management of Howie Wills, play an essential role in the data logging/communication aspect of the network and the maintenance of the water quantity monitoring equipment. WSC-EC 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 dependant, 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 for Waterford River at Kilbride

Station	Date	Action	Comparison Ranking				
			Temperature	pH	Conductivity	Dissolved Oxygen	Turbidity
Waterford	June 2 2015	Deployment	No Rankings During Deployment				
	August 20 2015	Removal	Excellent	Good	Good	Fair	Poor

- Due to a connectivity issue with the instrument used for the QAQC, there were no rankings available during the deployment between the readings for field data and the QAQC data
- At removal of the instrument, the water temperature data ranked as 'Excellent'. The conductivity and pH data ranked as 'Good' when compared to the QAQC sonde. Dissolved oxygen data ranked as 'Fair' at removal and turbidity data ranked as 'Poor'. During removal of the field sonde, it was identified that there was debris and sediment caught within the protective cage. This interference will affect the data, hence creating a 'Poor' ranking.

Waterford River at Kilbride

Water Temperature

Water temperature ranged from 6.85°C to 21.62°C during this deployment period (Figure 2). There were noticeable increases and decreases in the water temperature during this deployment period. This is consistent with ambient air temperatures over this time period, generally increasing during daylight hours and cooling overnight.

The water temperature at this station displays diurnal variations although slightly elongated due to the depth of water at this station. Deeper streams are not influenced as significantly by natural diurnal variations in the surrounding air temperatures (Appendix I).

As the deployment period continued the water temperature steadily increased.

Please note, the stage data is raw data that is published on the ENVC web page. 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.

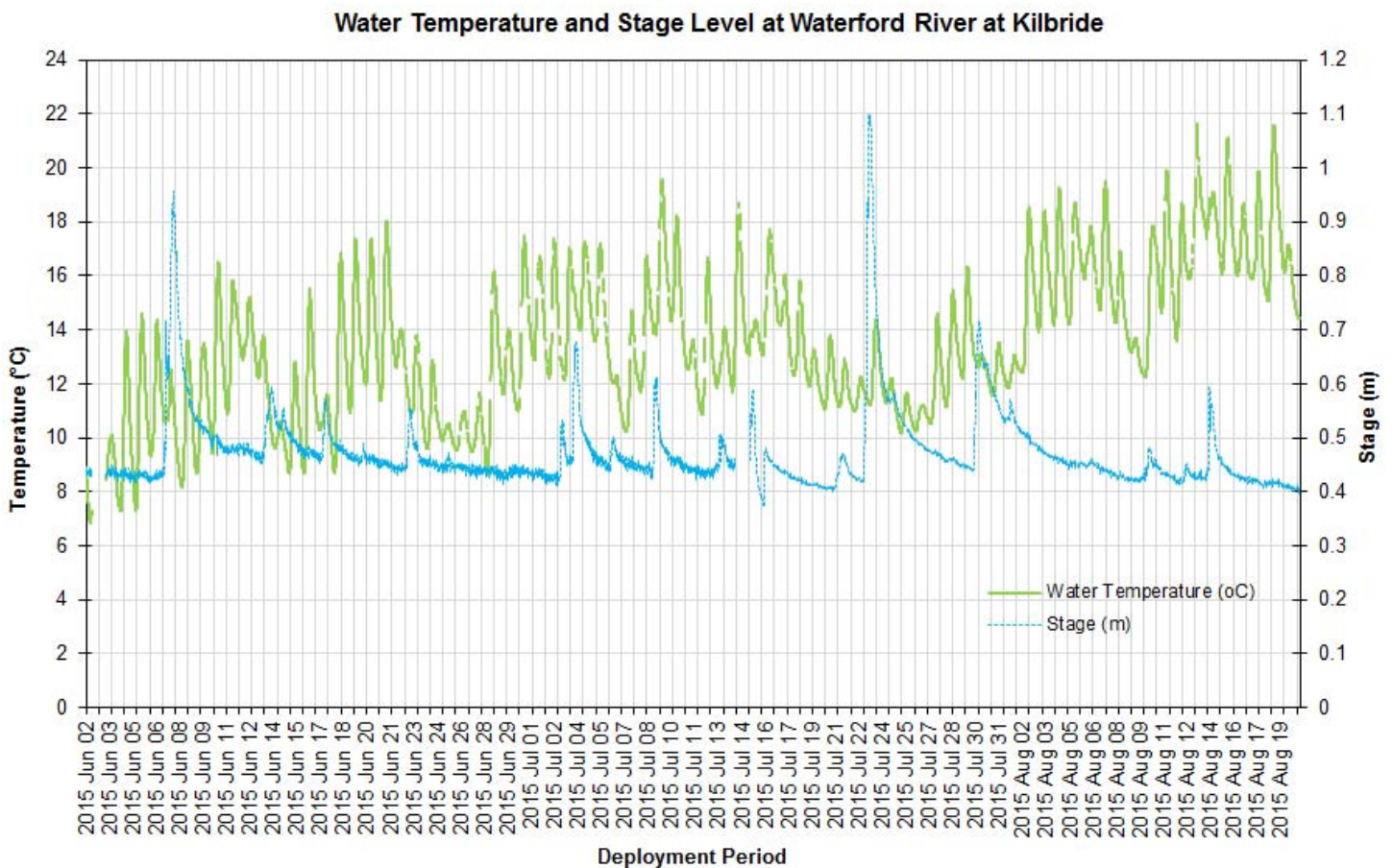


Figure 2: Water temperature (°C) and Stage (m) values at Waterford River at Kilbride

pH

Throughout the deployment period, pH values ranged between 6.99 pH units and 8.51 pH units (Figure 3).

During this deployment, the pH data was reasonably consistent. The pH values at this station were above the minimum CCME Guideline for the Protection of Aquatic Life (above 6.5 pH units). There were some unusual pH values at the beginning of the deployment. It is not clear what may have influenced the pH to higher values at that time. Although it does appear that the increase in stage may have adjusted the pH levels.

The CCME guideline provides a basis by which to judge the overall health of the brook. Naturally, all streams and brooks are different. During the deployment period the median pH level was 7.29 pH units.

During the higher stage periods the pH values only dipped very slightly. Please note the stage data is raw data that is published on the ENVC web page. 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.

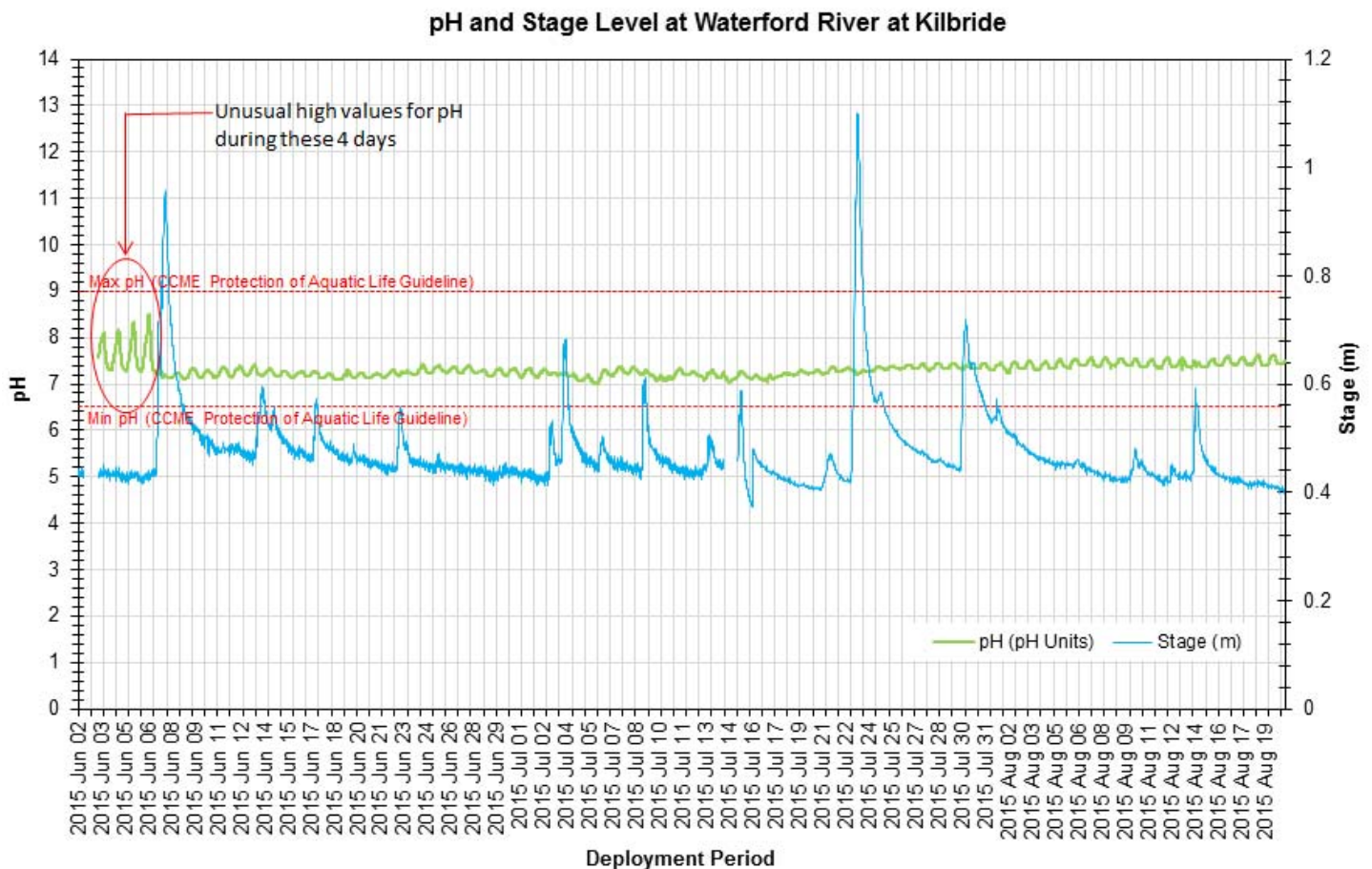


Figure 3: pH (pH units) and stage level (m) values at Waterford River at Kilbride

Specific Conductivity & Total Dissolved Solids

The conductivity levels were within 186 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and 674 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ during this deployment period. TDS (a calculated value) ranged from 0.1210 g/L to 0.4380 g/L.

Commonly the relationship between conductivity and stage level is inverted. When stage levels rise, the specific conductance levels drop in response as the increased amount of water in the river system dilutes the solids that are present. This relationship is evident in this deployment period. At several times the conductivity levels decreased with high stage levels (Figure 4).

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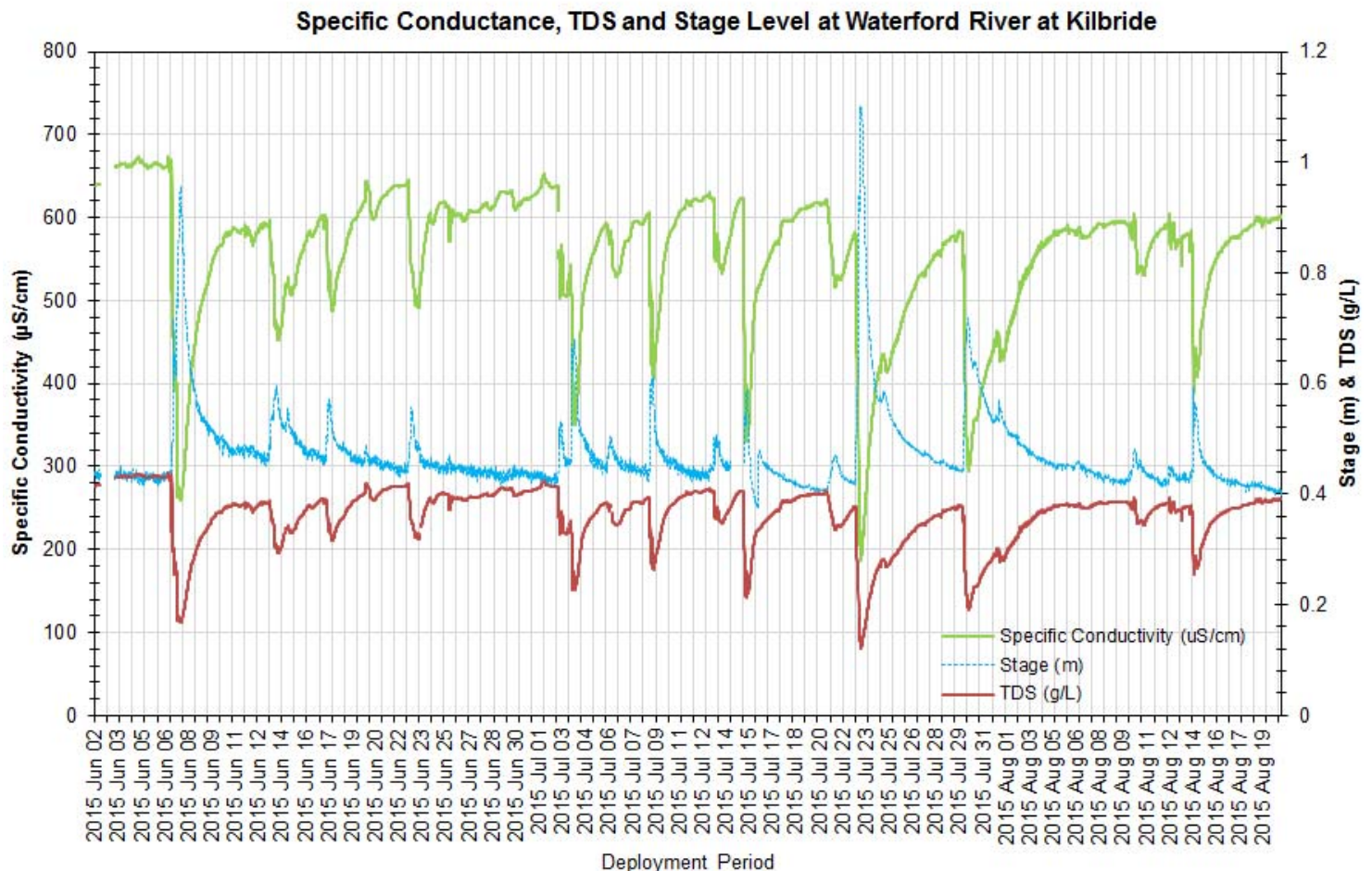


Figure 4: Specific conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$), TDS (g/L) and stage (m) values at Waterford River at Kilbride.

Dissolved Oxygen

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

During the deployment the dissolved oxygen concentration levels ranged within a minimum of 9.04mg/L to a maximum of 13.08mg/L. The percent saturation levels for dissolved oxygen ranged within 96.1 %Sat to 115.4 %Sat (Figure 5).

The dips in dissolved oxygen were likely a result of the warmer water temperatures during those time frames. Some of the lower dissolved oxygen values reached below the CCME guideline for the Protection of Early Life Stages for a short period of time.

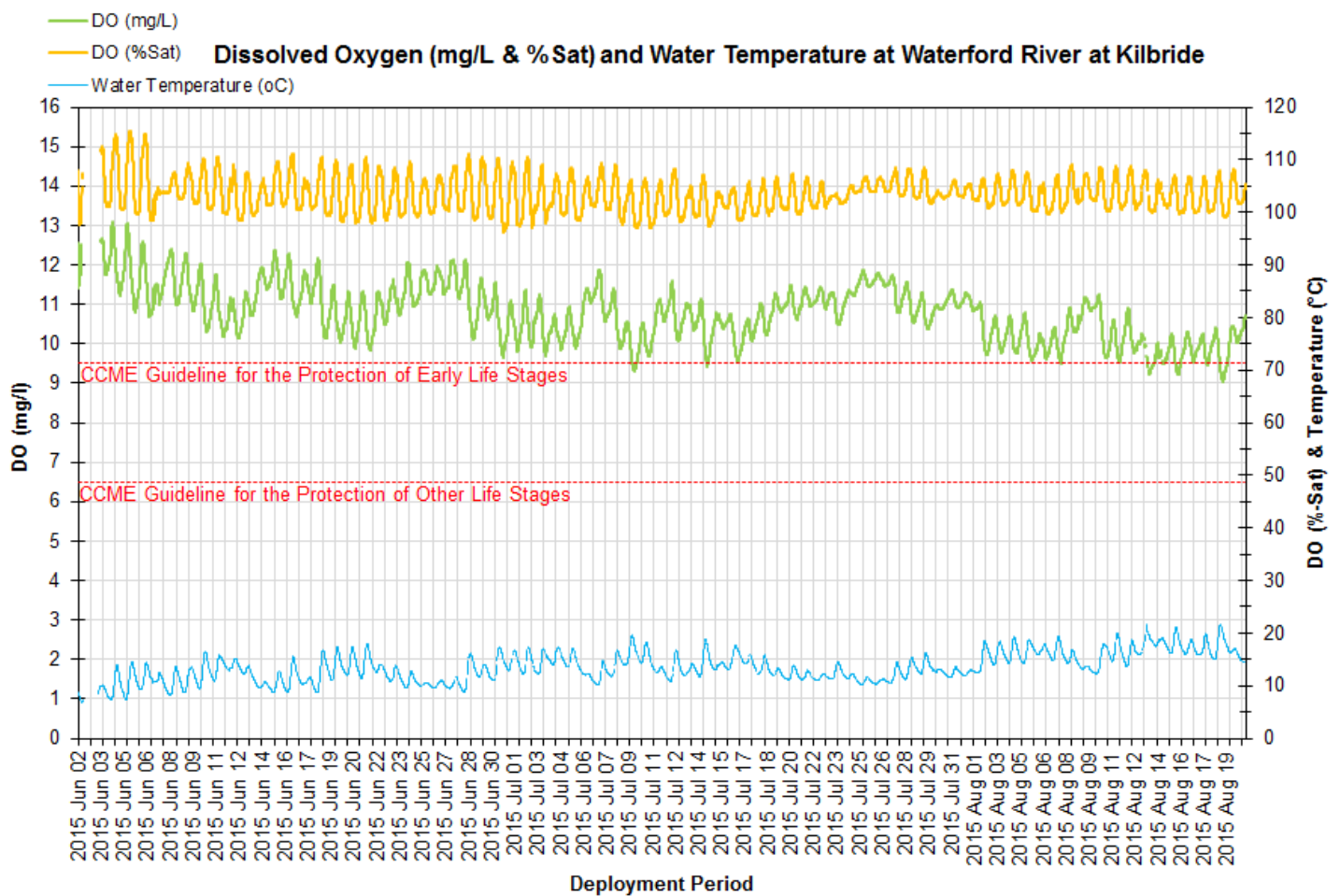


Figure 5: Dissolved oxygen (mg/L and Percent Saturation) and Water Temperature (°C) values at Waterford River at Kilbride.

Turbidity

Turbidity levels during the deployment ranged within 0.0 NTU and 815.4 NTU (Figure 6). The deployment data had a median of 30.3 NTU.

The turbidity sensor on this instrument has the ability to read turbidity values between 0 NTU and 3000 NTU. However a turbidity reading of 3000 NTU is always identified as an error reading and should not be used as a valid reading or included in any statistical analysis.

The turbidity spike on July 30th and July 31st 2015 was likely a result of the spike in stage level. As the stage level decreased the turbidity data also dropped to a lower level.

The majority of the turbidity events in the deployment period correlate with increases in stage potentially from precipitation. Precipitation can increase the presence of suspended material in water. Please note the stage data is raw data that is published on the ENVC web page. 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.

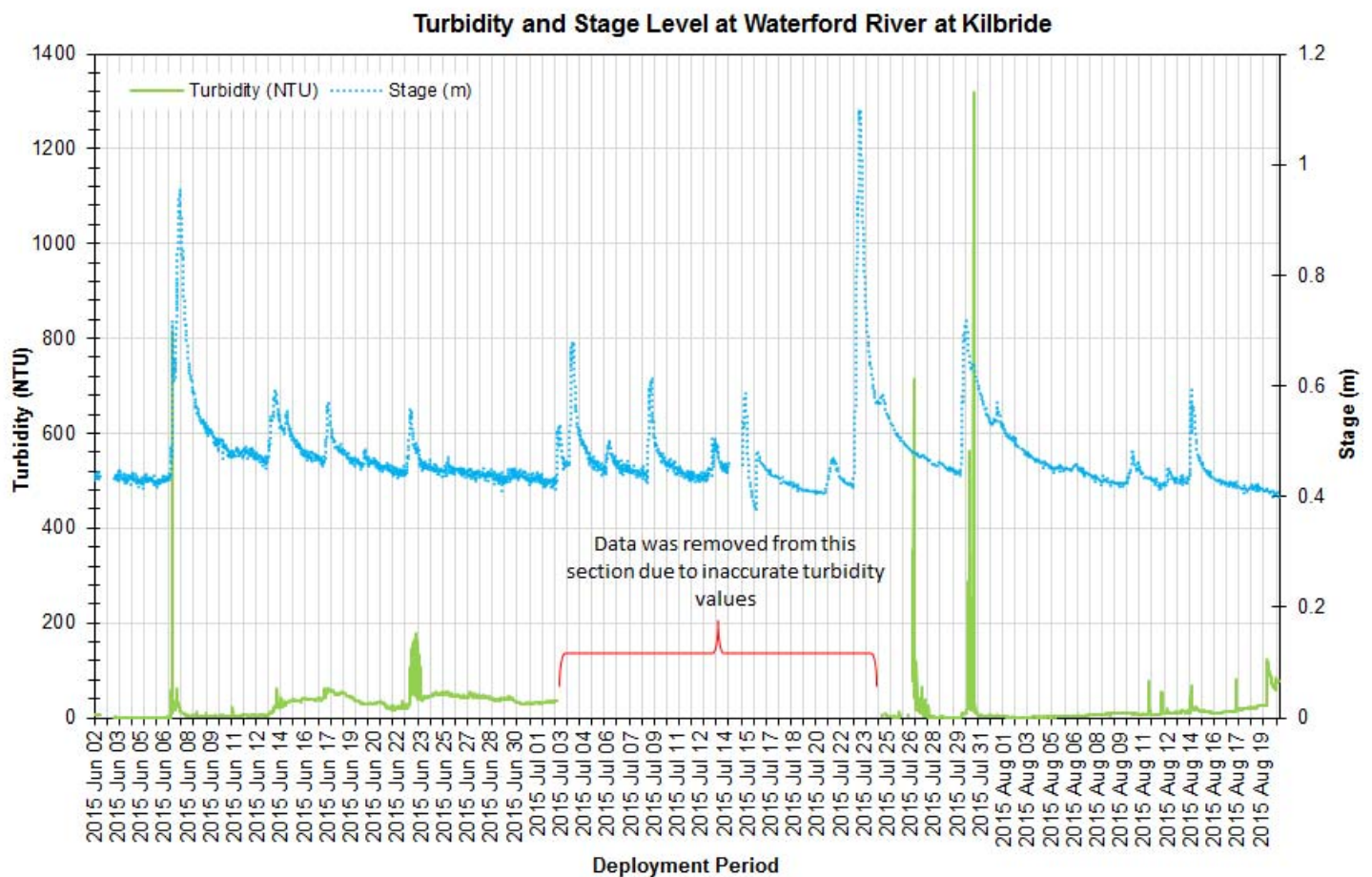


Figure 6: Turbidity (NTU) and stage level (m) values at Waterford River at Kilbride.

Stage and Precipitation

Please note the stage data graphed 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 important to display as it provides an estimation of water level at the station and can explain some of the events that are occurring with other parameters (i.e. Specific Conductivity, DO, turbidity). Stage will increase during rainfall events (Figure 7) and during any surrounding snow or ice melt as runoff will collect in the brooks. However, direct snowfall will not cause them to rise significantly.

During the deployment period, the stage values ranged from 0.37m to 1.10m. The larger peaks in stage do correspond with substantial rainfall events as noted on Figure 7.

Precipitation data was obtained from Environment Canada's St. John's Airport weather station. Precipitation ranges for the deployment period were a minimum of 0.0 mm and a maximum of 37.2 mm.

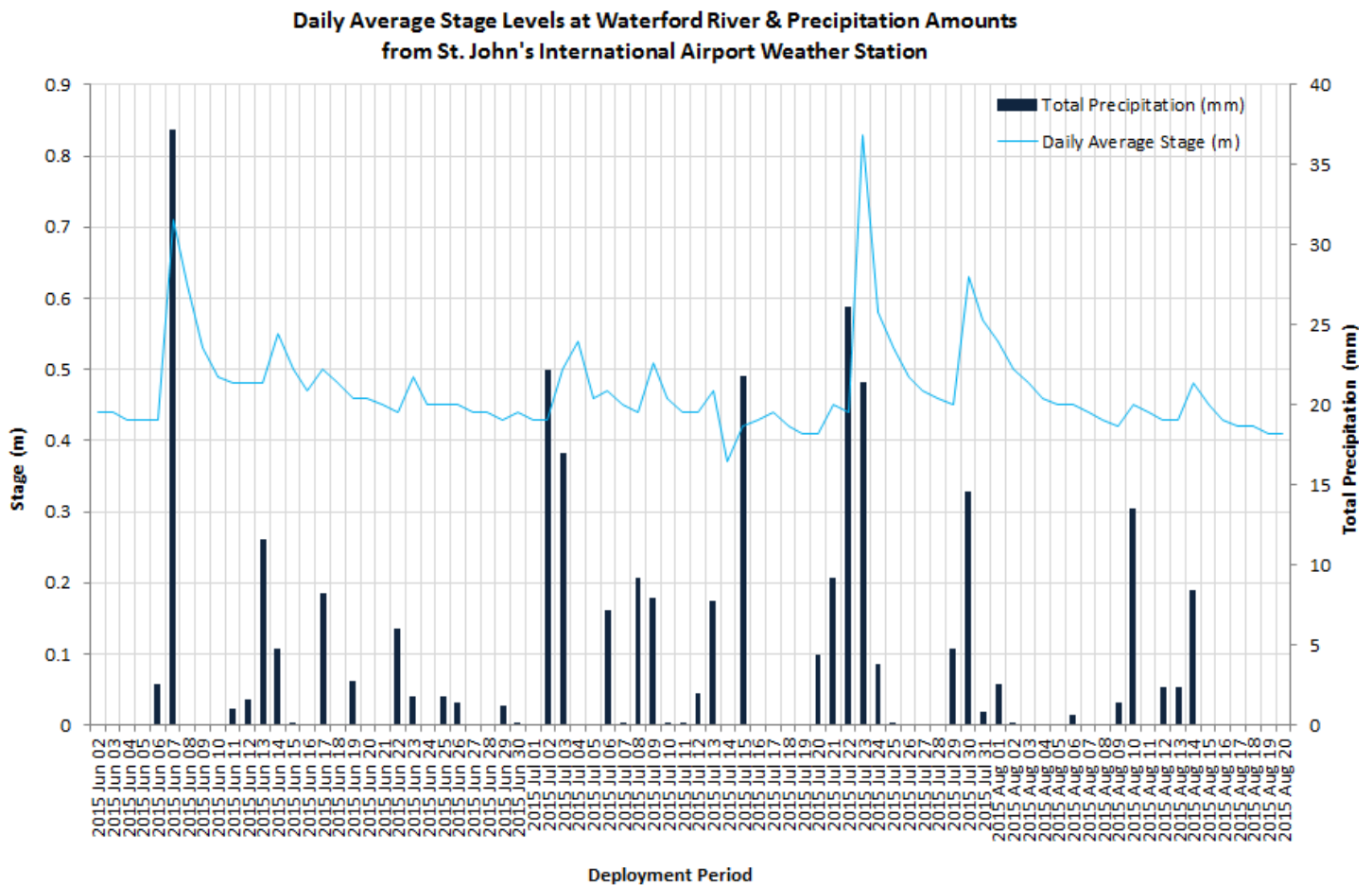


Figure 7: Daily average stage values at Waterford River at Kilbride and daily total precipitation from St. John's Airport Weather Station.

Conclusion

- As with many urban brooks and streams, precipitation and runoff events play a role in influencing the water quality within the water body. This Waterford River flows through significant developed areas, including residential and industrial zones, the brook can also be found along the boundaries of heavily used road ways, all these factors can influence the parameters that are recorded by the water quality instrument.
- It is evident by the recorded data that precipitation events have influenced fluctuations in stage and streamflow. When reviewing the graphs as a whole it is evident that the larger precipitation events did create varying effects with the water quality parameters.
- The cooler ambient air temperatures in the evening hours and the warmer temperatures throughout the day time hours (Appendix I) influenced the water temperature at Waterford River station. Throughout the deployment dissolved oxygen levels remained consistent for an urban brook environment.
- Overall the water quality parameters recorded at Waterford River at Kilbride displayed natural events expected of a brook in an urbanized environment.

APPENDIX I

Daily Averaged Water Temperatures (oC) at Waterford River and Mean Air Temperatures recorded at St. John's Airport Weather Station

