

How we Interpret our Data

Interpretation Key	
	VERY GOOD
	GOOD
	FAIR
	POOR
	VERY POOR

Freshwater Sites

Use the table below to interpret results for sites B1, B2, B2.1, B3, B4, B5, B6, NN1, NN1.1, NN1.2, NN1.3, NN2, R1, K1, K1.1, K1.2, K1.3, K1.4, K2, K3.

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
pH (pH units)	6.5-8.5	6-<6.5 or >8.5 - 9	5.5-<6 or >9-9.5	4.5-<5.5 or >9.5-10	<4.5 or >10
EC (µS/cm)	≤200	>200-≤250	>250-≤300	>300-≤350	>350
DO (% sat)	85-110	63.75-<85 or >110-137.5	42.5-<63.75 or >137.5-165	21.25-<42.5 or >165-192.5	<21.25 or >192.5
Turbidity (NTU)	≤6	>6-≤7.5	>7.5-≤9	>9-≤10.5	>10.5
P [^] (mg/L)	≤0.02	>0.02-≤0.025	>0.025-≤0.03	>0.03≤0.035	>0.035

Estuarine Sites

Use the table below - interpret results for sites B7, B8, B8.1, K4, S1.

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
pH (pH units)	7-8.5	6.5-<7 or >8.5-9	5.5-<6.5 or >9-9.5	5-<5.5 or >9.5-10	<5 or >10
EC (µS/cm)	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
DO (% sat)	80-110	60-<80 or >110-137.5	40-<60 or >137.5-165	20-<40 or >165-192.5	<20 or >192.5
Turbidity (NTU)	≤2.8	>2.8-≤3.5	>3.5-≤4.2	>4.2-≤5.6	>5.6
P [^] (mg/L)	≤0.05	>0.05-≤0.0625	>0.0625-≤0.075	>0.075≤0.0875	>0.0875

[^] Available Phosphate as P is calculated by dividing the Available Phosphate result by 3.06 to reach Phosphorus (P) result.

* There is no estuarine guideline for EC as it can vary from fresh to sea water depending on the stream flow, tidal extent and depth of measurement. Bellingham Riverwatch (BR) volunteers still collect and BR partners analyse EC data for our estuarine sites behind the scenes as it is helpful to understand the tidal influence, especially at B7 and K4, which are at the upper limit of tidal influence. However, EC data for estuarine sites is not able to be interpreted for public data communication through the guidelines so it is omitted from our data reporting).

Note - We have removed the turbidity scores and grades for our estuarine sites across both catchments as our testing equipment cannot take turbidity readings low enough to be able to quantify scores and grades for this data.