



Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

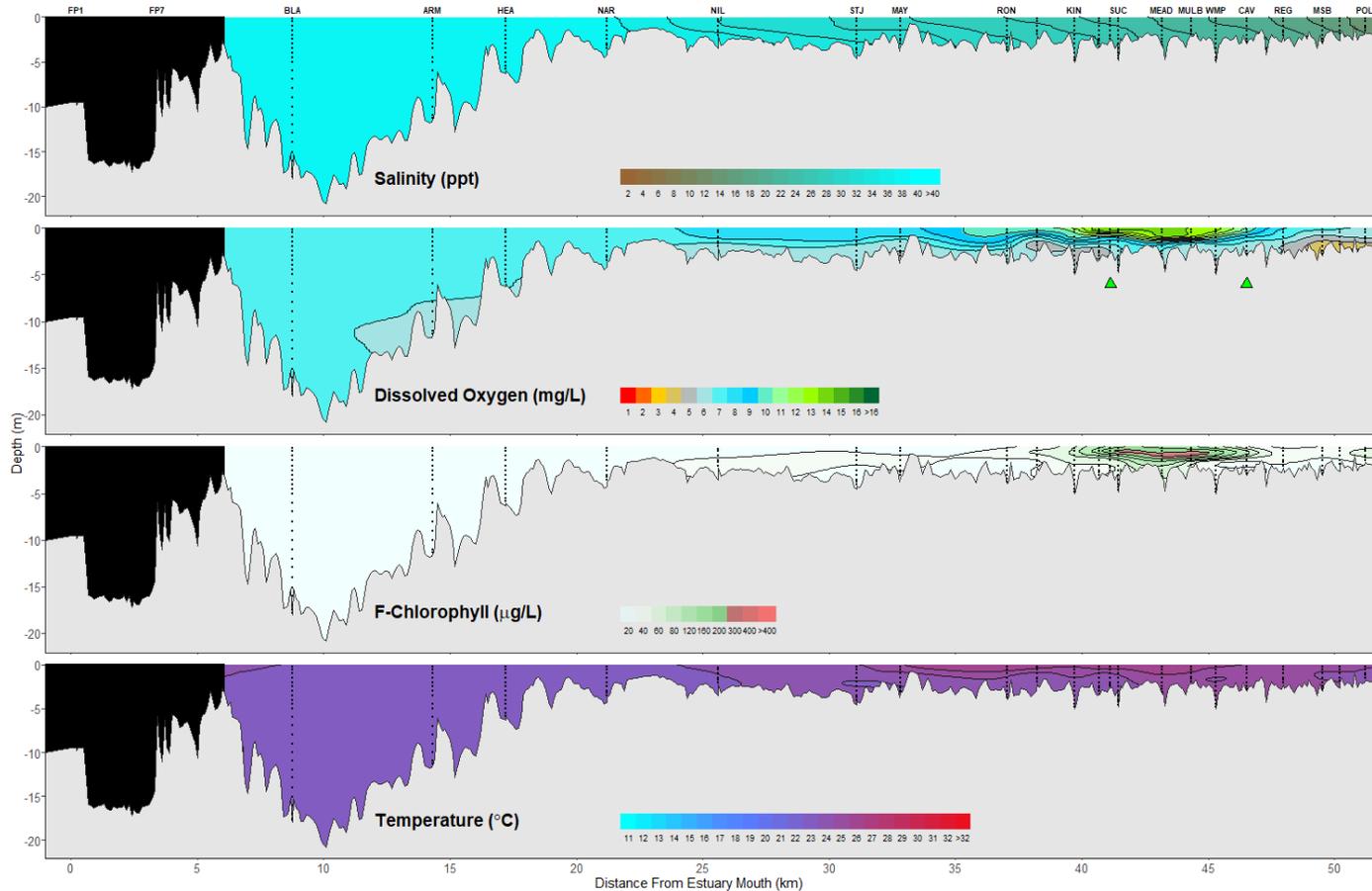
Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary

16 March 2026

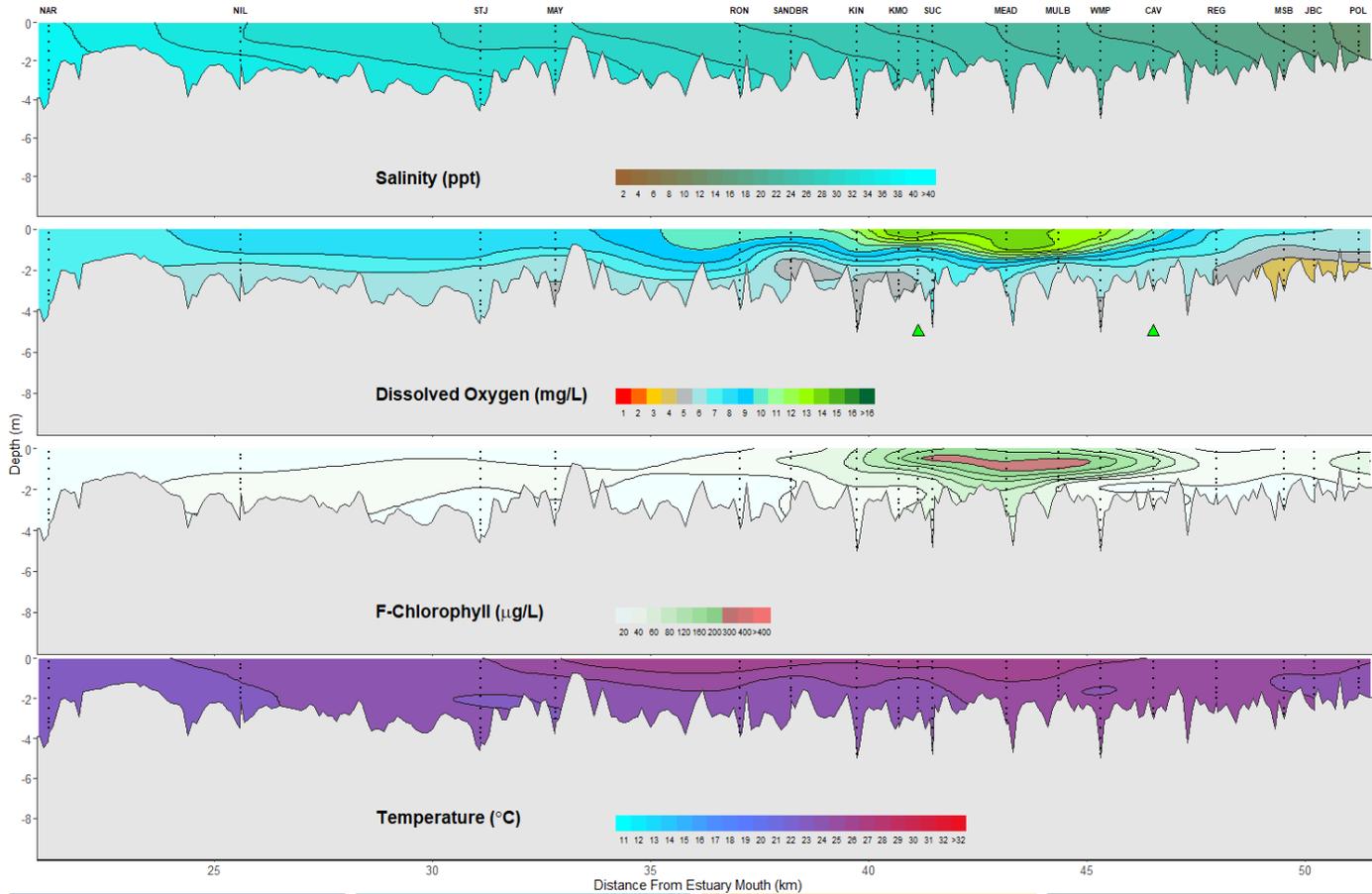
Prepared by

Rivers and Estuaries Science
Biodiversity and Conservation Science
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Swan Canning Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 16 March 2026



Middle and Upper Swan Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 16 March 2026



Date: 16 March 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were cloudy with easterly winds up to 9.2 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 0.67 m at 6:37 am (low tide) and 1.15 m at 10:00 pm (high tide). Perth recorded no rainfall in the week prior to sampling (Bureau of Meteorology).

Oxygenation: The Guildford and Caversham oxygenation plants were operable and triggered to provide oxygen in the 24 hours prior to sampling.

Lower Swan Canning Estuary (FP1 to NAR): The Lower Swan Canning Estuary was hypersaline and waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low and water temperatures ranged from 22.3 to 23 °C.

Middle Swan Estuary (NIL to RON): The Middle Swan Estuary was saline throughout. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated and chlorophyll fluorescence was low. Water temperatures ranged from 22.9 to 25.7 °C.

Upper Swan Estuary (SANDBR to POL): The Upper Swan Estuary was saline at SANDBR, brackish over saline from KIN to SUC, and brackish from MEAD to POL. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, except for low oxygen bottom waters at MSB and JBC. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low to moderate across most sites, with high levels detected in surface waters from KMO to WMP. Water temperatures ranged from 23.4 to 25.9 °C.

NB: Profile plots are visual interpolations of measured parameters only. Detailed data are available at wir.water.wa.gov.au.

Oxygenation Plant Operational Status:

- ▲ Operating for part or all of the 24 hours prior to sampling
- ▲ Operable but not triggered to operate in the 24 hours prior to sampling
- ▲ Inoperable for part or all of the 24 hours prior to sampling

Definitions:

Salinity – fresh <5, brackish 5-25, saline 25-35, hypersaline >36 ppt
Dissolved oxygen – well-oxygenated >6 mg L⁻¹, oxygenated >4-6 mg L⁻¹, low oxygen >2-4 mg L⁻¹, hypoxic 0.5-2 mg L⁻¹, anoxic <0.5 mg L⁻¹
Chlorophyll fluorescence (low flow): low < 50 µg L⁻¹, moderate 50-150 µg L⁻¹, high 150-400 µg L⁻¹, extreme > 400 µg L⁻¹

Recommended reference: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2026. *Swan Canning Estuary water quality profile report, Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary 16 March 2026*. Rivers and Estuaries Science (<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark>)