



Swan Canning Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Project

Weekly Water Quality Report

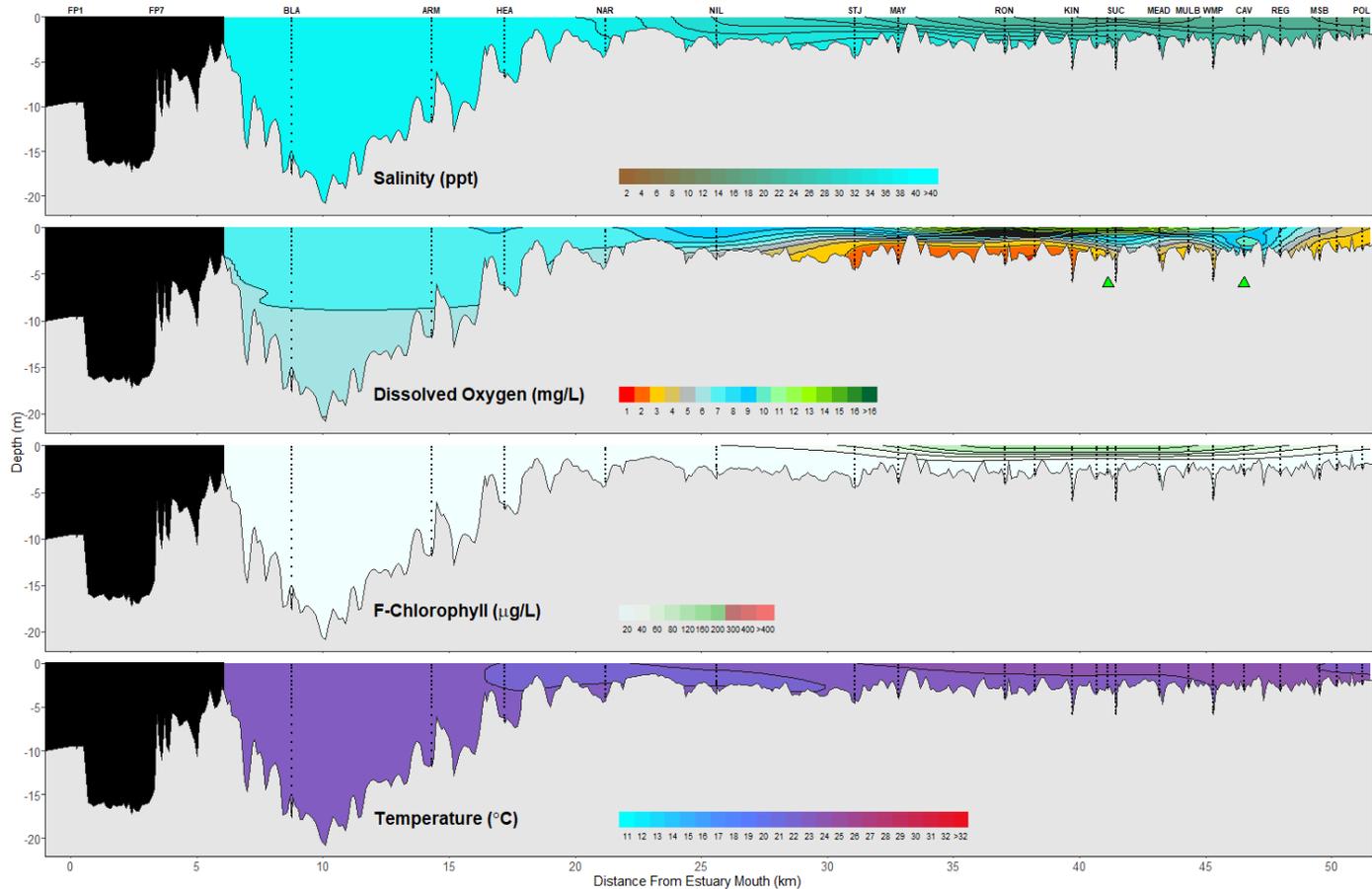
Lower Swan Canning Estuary to Upper Swan Estuary

30 March 2026

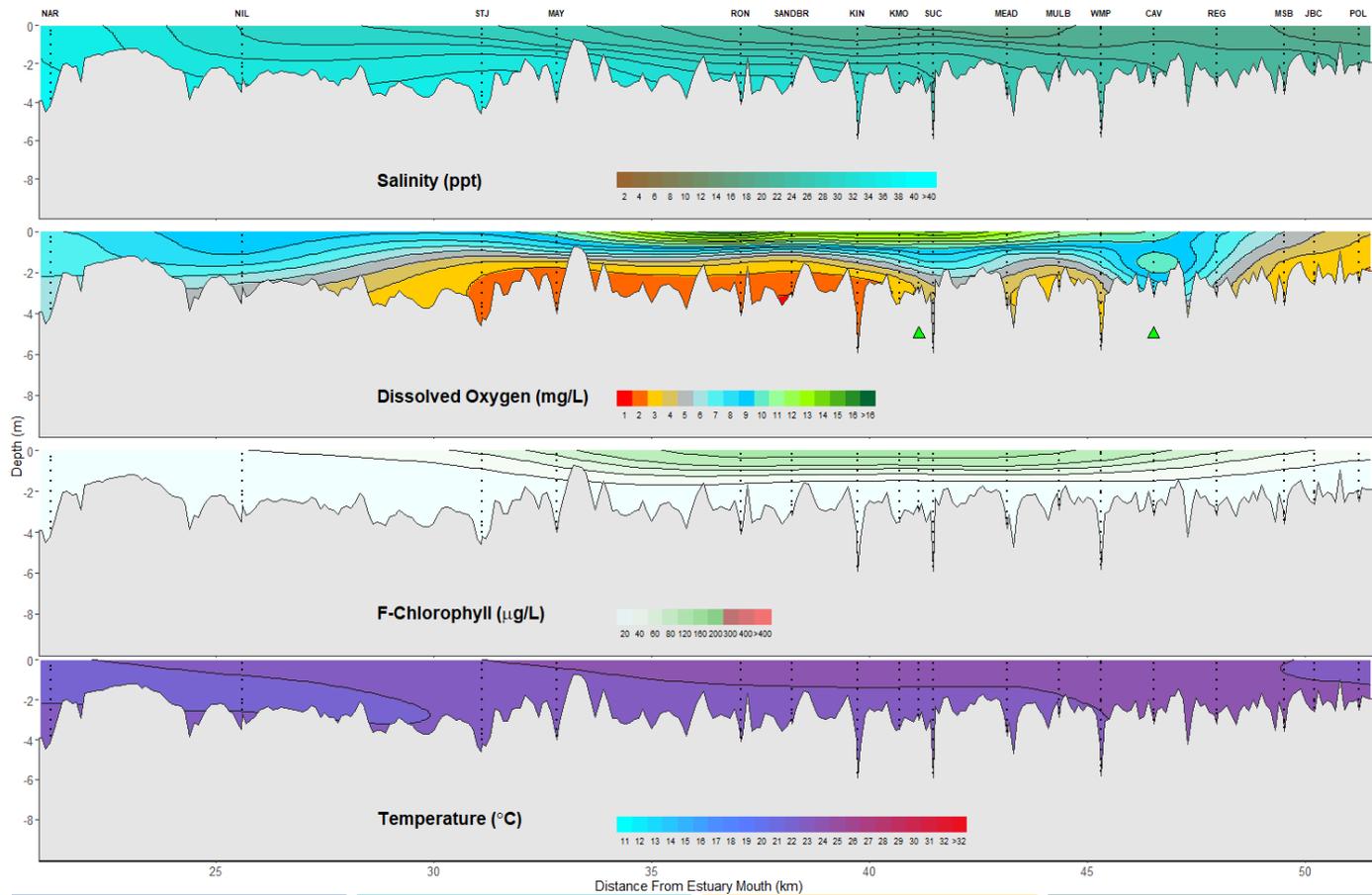
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Swan Canning Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 30 March 2026



Middle and Upper Swan Estuary - Water Quality Profiles – 30 March 2026



Date: 30 March 2026

Weather & tide conditions: Conditions were partly cloudy with westerly winds up to 10.5 knots. The predicted tides at Barrack St were 0.73 m at 6:00 am (low tide), 0.94 m at 12:32 pm (high tide) and 0.91 m at 3:53 pm (second low tide). Perth recorded 72 mm of 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 (BLA to NAR): The Lower Swan Canning Estuary was hypersaline with saline surface waters at NAR. Waters were well-oxygenated throughout. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low and water temperatures ranged from 21.9 to 22.3 °C.

Middle Swan Estuary (NIL to RON): The Middle Swan Estuary was saline with brackish surface waters at RON. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated, except for hypoxic bottom waters between STJ and RON. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low, with moderate to high levels detected in surface waters at MAY and RON. Water temperatures ranged from 21.6 to 24 °C.

Upper Swan Estuary (SANDBR to POL): The Upper Swan Estuary was brackish over saline from SANDBR to SUC and brackish from MEAD to POL. Waters were oxygenated to well-oxygenated except for hypoxic and low oxygen bottom waters at most sites, and throughout the water column at JBC and POL. Chlorophyll fluorescence was low to moderate, with high levels detected at MEAD and SUC. Water temperatures ranged from 22.4 to 24 °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 30 March 2026*. Rivers and Estuaries Science (<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/swan-canning-riverpark>)