Real-Time Water Quality Report

Leary's Brook at Prince Philip Drive

Deployment Period
February 28, 2017 to April 5, 2017

Newfoundland Labrador

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

Leary's Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador

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General

- The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD), in partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), maintains a real-time water quality and water quantity monitoring station at Leary's Brook adjacent to Prince Phillip Parkway.
- The real-time station allows for assessment and management of the water body. This deployment report discusses water quality related events occurring at the Leary's Brook station.
- The purpose of this real-time station is to monitor, process and publish hydrometric (water quantity) and real-time water quality data at the real-time station. Leary's Brook is an urban stream that flows through industrial and commercial areas and adjacent to a major roadway.
- This report covers the period between the deployment on February 28, 2017 and removal on April 5, 2017.

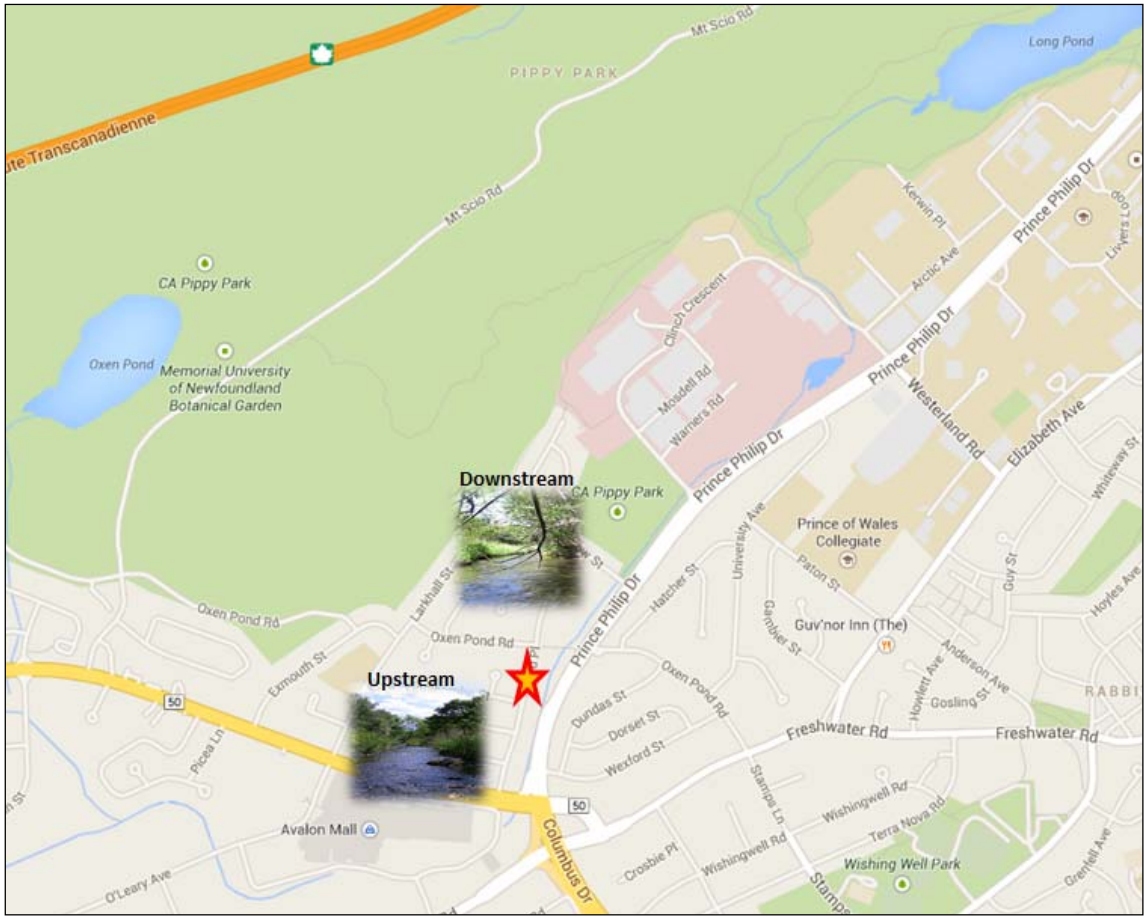

Figure 1: Leary's Brook Real-Time Water Quality and Quantity Station.

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).

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

- The temperature sensor on any sonde is the most important. All other parameters can be divided into subgroups of: temperature dependent, 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.
- Deployment and removal instrument performance rankings for **Leary's Brook** for the period of February 28, 2017 to April 5, 2017 are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Instrument performance rankings for Leary's Brook

Station	**Date**	**Action**	**Comparison Ranking**				
			Temperature	**pH**	**Conductivity**	**Dissolved Oxygen**	**Turbidity**
Leary's Brook	**February 28, 2017**	**Deployment**	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	April 5, 2017	**Removal**	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good

- At the Leary's Brook station at the time of deployment, temperature and pH readings ranked as "Good". Conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity ranked as "Excellent".
- At the time of removal, temperature, pH, conductivity and dissolved oxygen readings ranked as "Excellent". Turbidity ranked as "Good".

Data Interpretation

- The following graphs and discussion illustrate water quality-related events from February 28, 2017 to April 5, 2017 at the Leary's Brook station.
- With the exception of water quantity data (stage), all data used in the preparation of the graphs and subsequent discussion below adhere to this stringent QA/QC protocol. Water Survey of Canada (WSC) is responsible for QA/QC of water quantity data. Corrected and finalized data may be retrieved from the WSC website (http://www.ec.gc.ca/rhc-wsc/)
- Precipitation data from the deployment period was retrieved from the ECCC weather station at St. John's International Airport.
- A number of interruptions in data transmission occurred during this deployment period, which is not unusual at this station. These were likely the result of local power outages.

Leary's Brook

Water Temperature

- Water temperature ranged from -0.46 °C to 3.53 °C during this deployment period (Figure 2).
- Water temperature at Leary's Brook displays a typical variation over the deployment period. Water temperature is influenced by air temperature.
- The water temperature data displayed on Figure 2 is typical of shallow streams and ponds. Shallow water bodies are highly influenced by variations in ambient air temperatures. Water temperature also falls overnight and rises during daylight hours.
- Please note the stage data is raw data that is published on the ECCC 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.

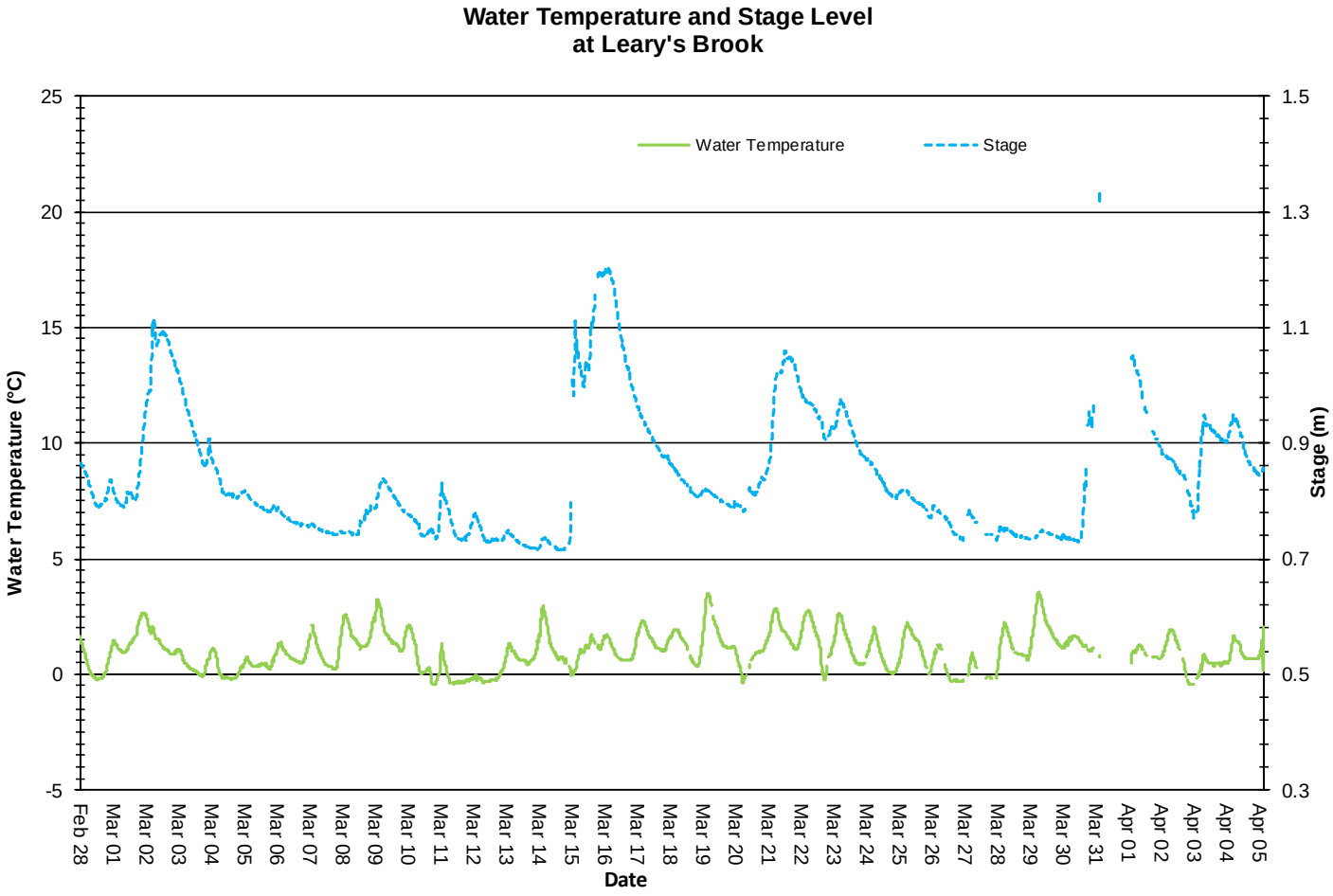

Figure 2: Water Temperature and Stage Level at Leary's Brook

pH

- Throughout this deployment period pH values ranged between 6.57 pH units and 7.04 pH units (Figure 3).
- The CCME guideline provides a basis by which to judge the overall health of the brook. Naturally, all streams and brooks are different. Leary's Brook pH median was 6.86 (pH units) for this deployment period. All pH values recorded during this deployment period fell within the recommended CCME guidelines for pH.
- As illustrated below, pH typically falls slightly in Leary's Brook (the water becomes more acidic) at the same time as stage and flow are increasing. In general, precipitation entering Leary's Brook has a lower pH than local surface water and this causes a reduction in the pH of the brook.
- Please note the stage data is raw data that is published on the ECCC 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.

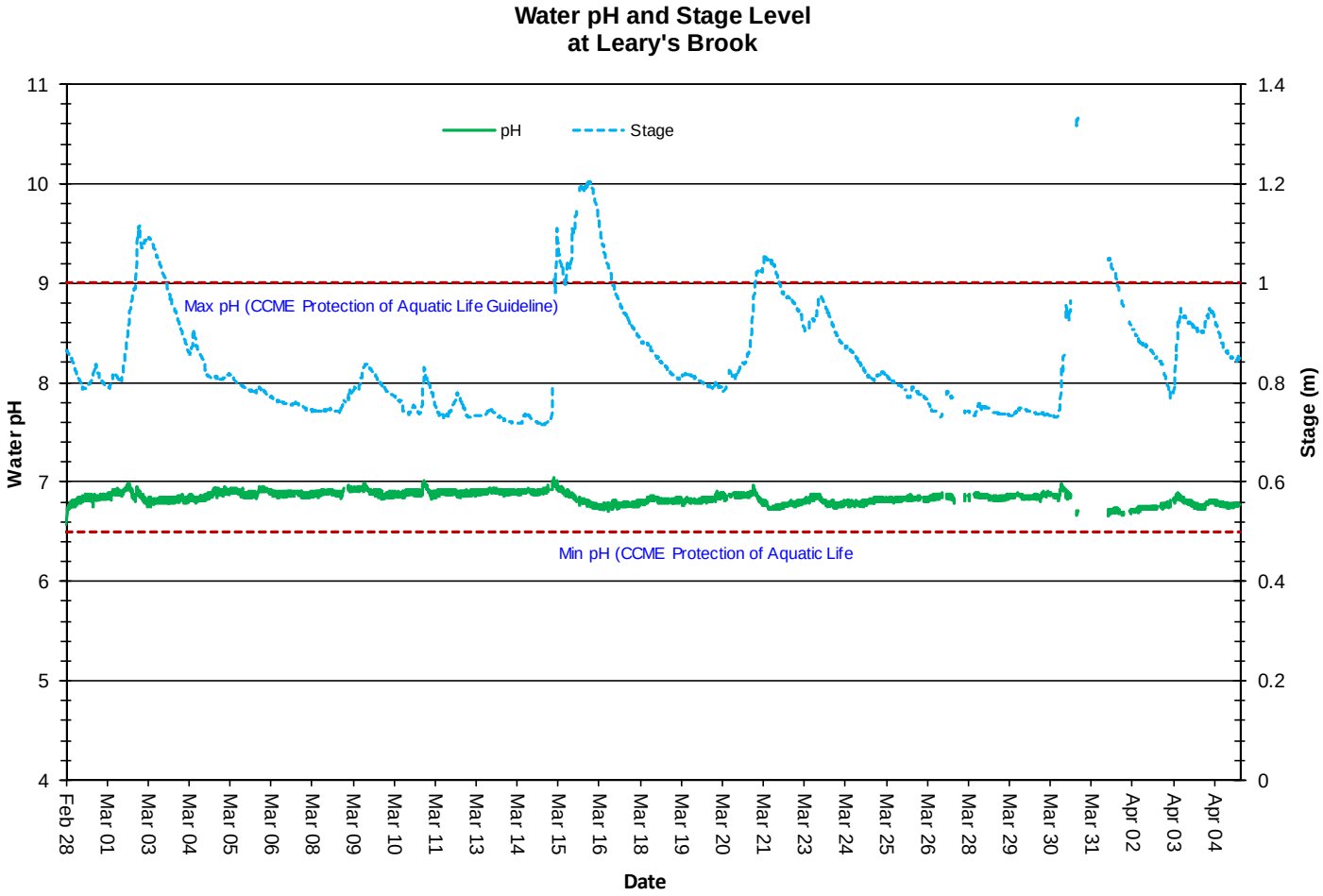

Figure 3: Water pH (pH units) values at Leary's Brook Station

Specific Conductivity

- The conductivity levels ranged between 671.0 µS/cm and 6600.9 µS/cm during this deployment period. The median was 1144.0 µS/cm. TDS ranged from 0.4300 g/ml to 4.2200 g/ml. (Figure 4)
- In general, increases in conductivity seen during this deployment period are associated with precipitation runoff and rising stage. This is typical for this time of the year as runoff from precipitation carries road salts into the brook.
- Please note the stage data is raw data that is published on the ECCC 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.

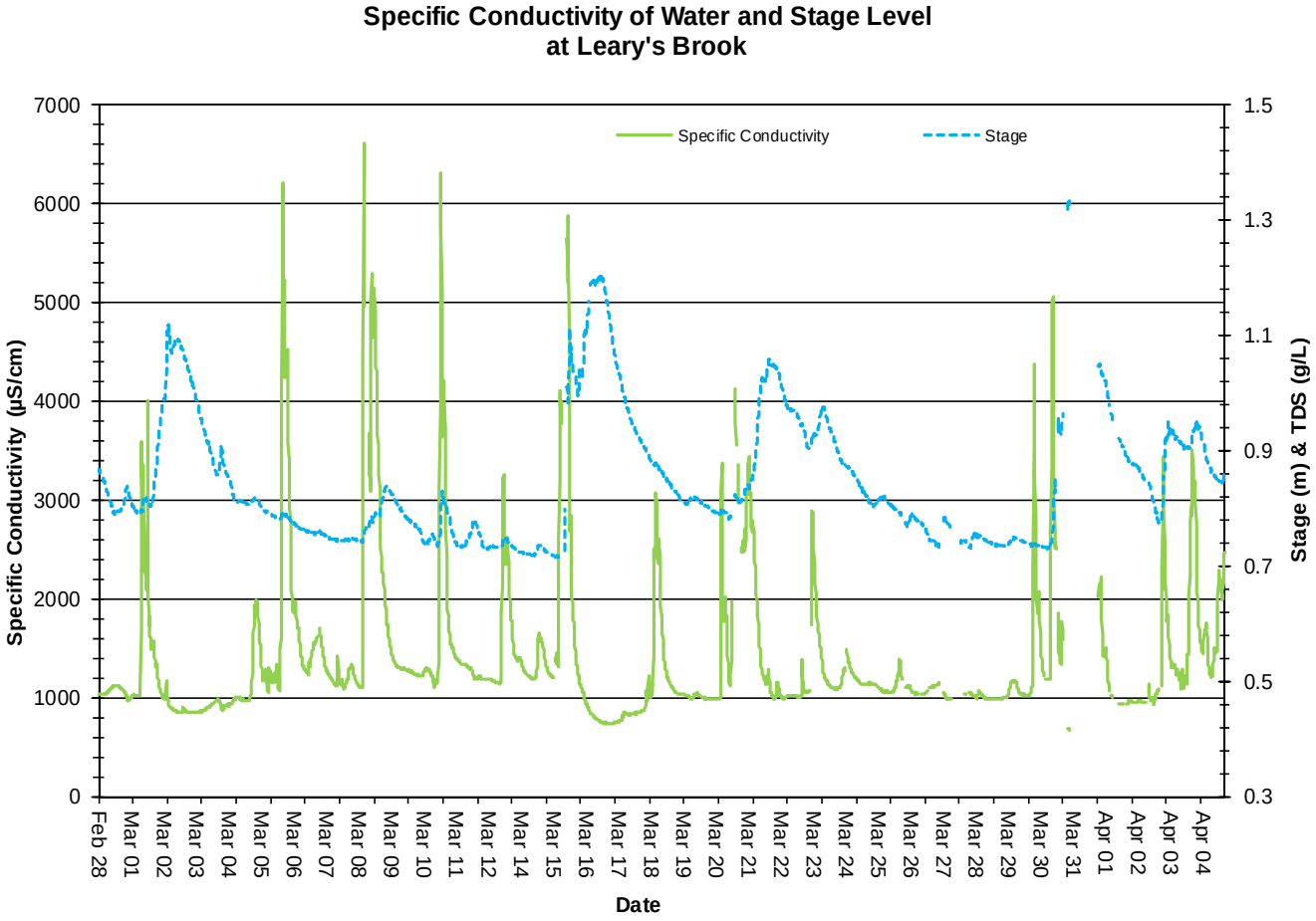

Figure 4: Specific conductivity (µS/cm), TDS (g/L) and stage (m) values at Leary's Brook Station

Dissolved Oxygen

- The instrument measures dissolved oxygen (mg/L) and then calculates the percent saturation (% Sat.).
- The Dissolved Oxygen % Sat levels within this deployment period were between 95.4 % Sat and 102.5 % Sat. Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) measured between 13.02 mg/L and 14.91 mg/L. (Figure 5)
- The DO mg/L values were above the minimum DO CCME guideline for the protection of early life stages during this deployment period (Figure 5).
- Small dips in mg/L values are associated with increases in water temperature. Cool water can hold more dissolved oxygen than warmer water.

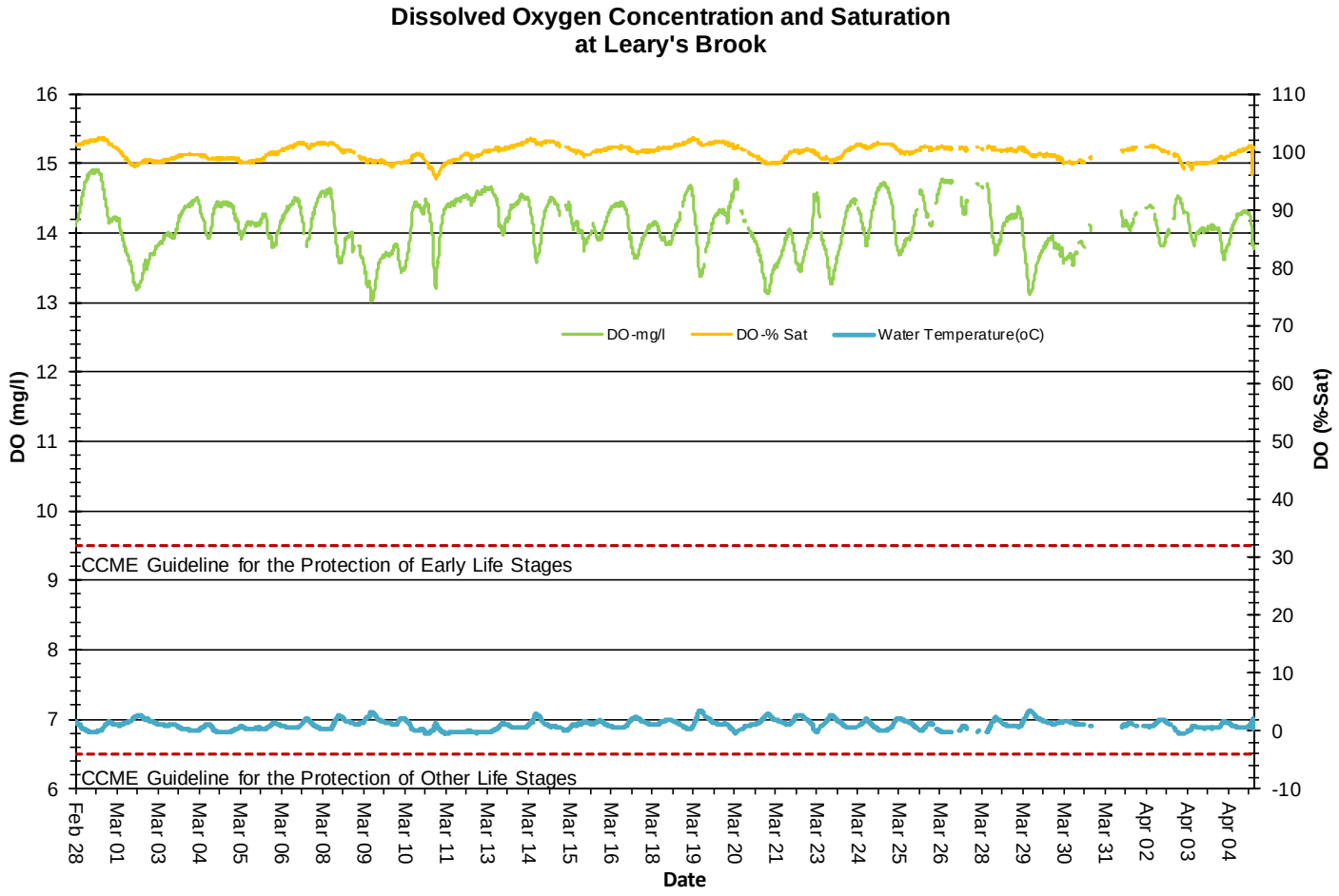

Figure 5: Dissolved oxygen (mg/L & % sat) and water temperature (°C) values at Leary's Brook Station

Turbidity

- The turbidity sensor records values between 0 NTU and 3000 NTU. A turbidity reading of 3000 NTU is identified as an error and is not a true value. Readings of 3000 NTU should not be included in any statistical analysis.
- The turbidity readings during this deployment ranged between 0.0 NTU to 170.5 NTU (Figure 6).
- Highest turbidity values usually correspond with the early stage of precipitation events and elevated river stage and runoff. Rainfall and subsequent runoff along with increased flow carries road salts, sediment and other material into the brook which is captured by the turbidity sensor. This is typical of an urban stream where significant sediment loading is associated with even minor precipitation events.
- Please note the stage data is raw data that is published on the ECCC 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.

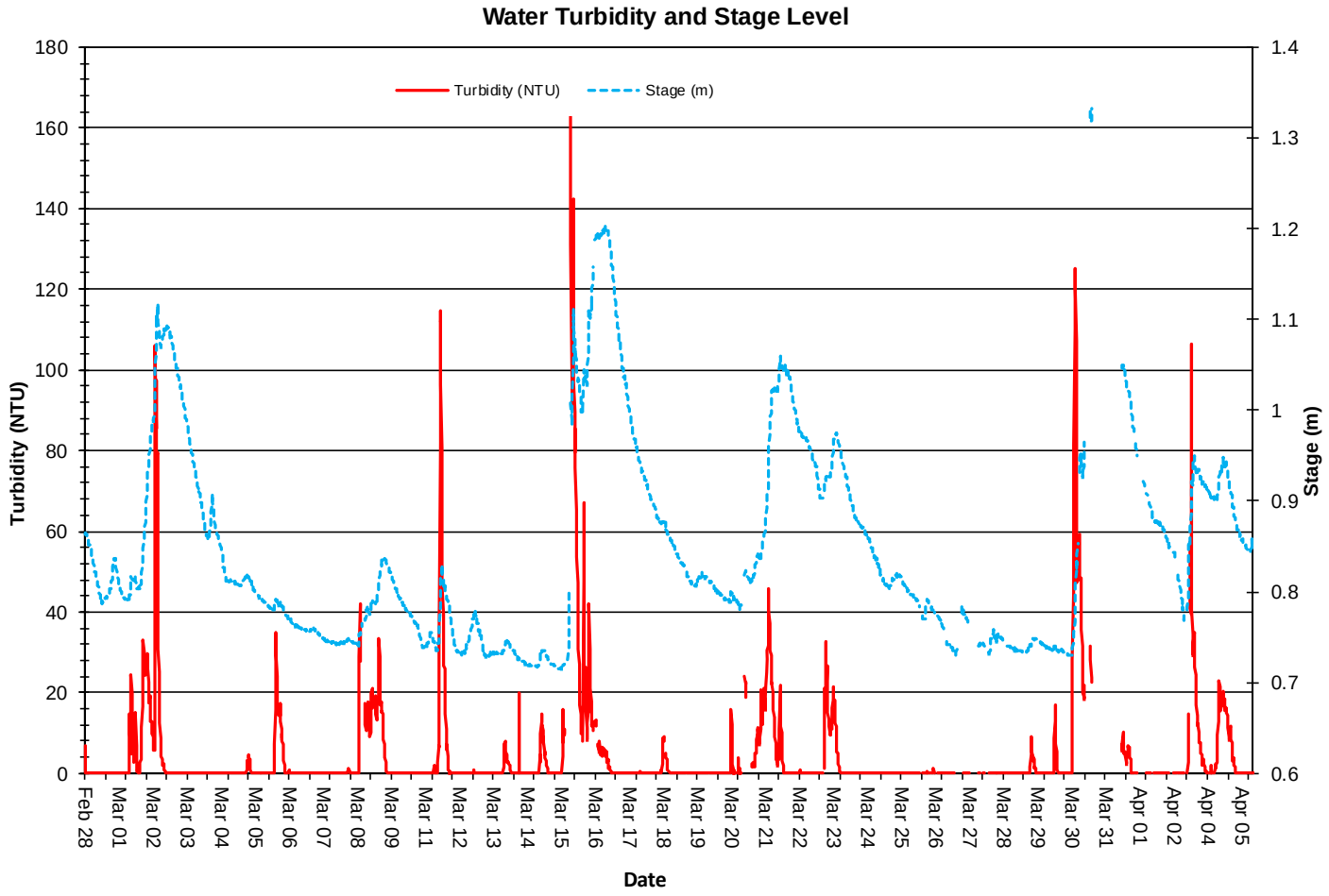

Figure 6: Turbidity (NTU) values at Leary's Brook Station

Stage and Total Precipitation

- The below graph includes daily total precipitation data from St. John's International Airport weather station and the daily average stage(Figure 7). Please note that the stage data in this report 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 (and streamflow) usually varies significantly throughout a deployment period in Leary's Brook. During cold weather, stage is directly influenced by precipitation and subsequent runoff from the surrounding environment only when temperatures are above freezing and precipitation falls as rain. Precipitation in the form of snow does not cause a corresponding rise in stage or flow. This can be seen in the areas highlighted in the graph below.

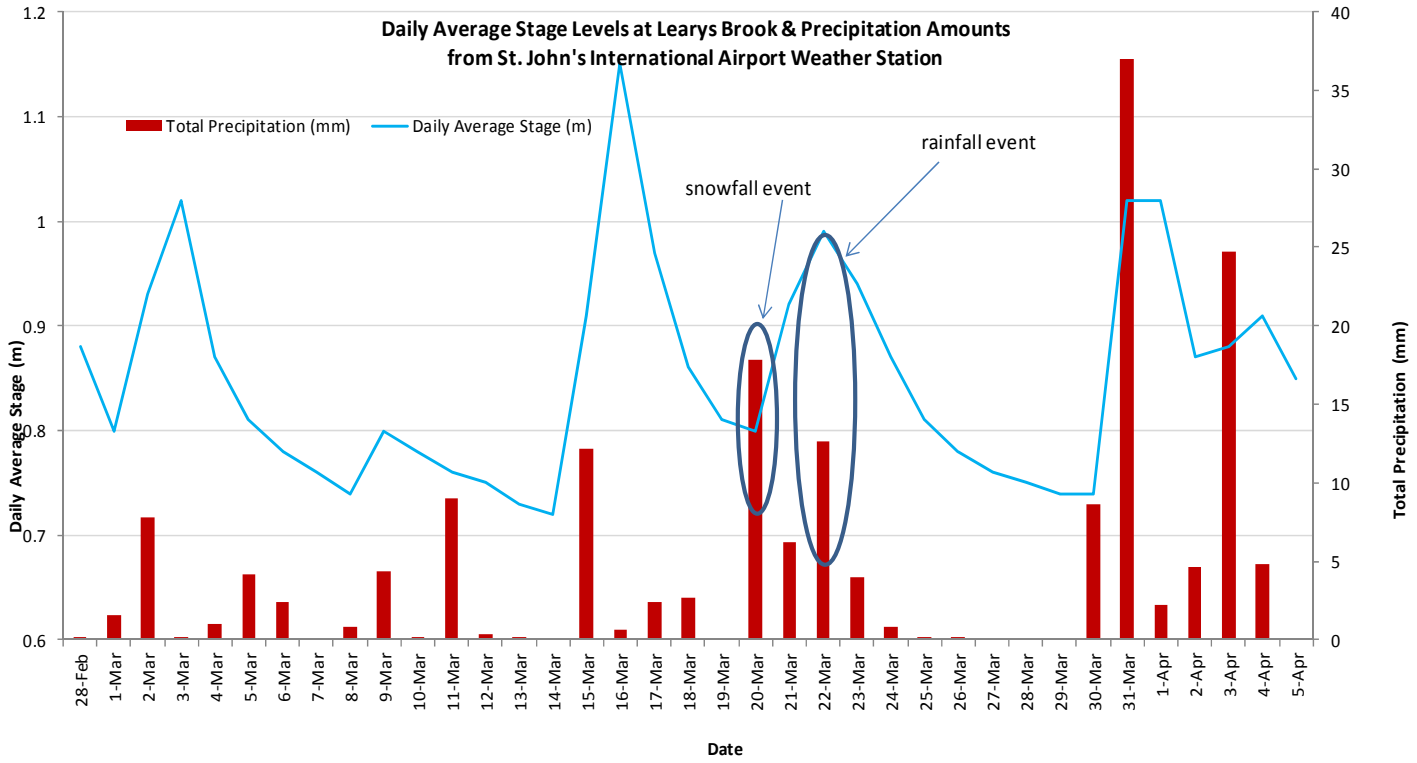

Figure 7: Daily average stage values (m) from Leary's Brook Station and daily total precipitation values (mm) from St. John's International Airport.

Conclusions

Generally in both natural and urban environments, climate and weather conditions can contribute in large part to variations in water quality. During this deployment it was evident that many of the changes in Leary's Brook water quality are related to intermittent precipitation events and small climatic changes of the seasons.

Precipitation and runoff events during the deployment period led to related increases in stage, which thus influenced the values of turbidity, pH, specific conductance, and TDS.

During this deployment period the median water temperature at the Leary's Brook station was 1.02°C.

The median pH value for Leary's Brook Station was 6.86 (pH units). The pH level for the most part, falls at this station during rainfall events and increases during dry periods.

Conductivity had a median value of 1144.0 µS/cm. The maximum conductivity was 6600.9 µS/cm. Conductivity usually peaked during the early stages of increased runoff as road salts were flushed into the brook. This is typical at this time of year.

Dissolved Oxygen at Leary's Brook had a median of 100.1 %Sat and 14.12 mg/L during the deployment period. Episodic small reductions in DO (mg/L and % Sat) correspond with increases in water temperatures.

The turbidity median value at Leary's Brook during deployment was 0.81 NTU. Increases in stage level can explain most, though not all, of the peaks in the turbidity values during the deployment period. As organic matter and sediments are washed into the brook, the suspended matter in the water column will increase and the turbidity sensor will detect an increase in water cloudiness.