Halifax Harbour Water Quality Monitoring Project Weekly Summary #81

Survey Date: Nature of Survey: Report File (this document): Data File:

Data Return:

Overall:	100%
Chemical:	100%
Bacteria:	100%
Profile:	100%

Sample Notes:

N/A

Chemical Ana QA/QC	lysis	D2-1m		D2-10m		G2-1m	
Detectable		Ref		Ref		Ref	
Parameter	units	Samp	Dup	Samp	Dup	Samp	QAQC
Ammonia (as N)	mg/L	0.05		0.08		0.08	0.06
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	7	7	4	4	9	10

03 Jan 2006

Complete Survey

HHWQMP report081 060103.doc

HHWQMP data081 060103.xls

Fecal Coliform QA/QC (CFU/100ml)

Site	C3-1m	E3-1m	H3-10m	G2-1m
Reference	240	720	360	260
QA/QC	400	810	560	120

Comments:

General: Overall the Harbour has a higher freshwater content than last week. There has been 21 mm of precipitation 4 days before the survey, but no precipitation since. A freshwater signal in the Basin extends through the Narrows, though the stratification is still very modest. South of the Narrows the water column remains quite well mixed, but on average is slightly fresher than last week. By B2 salinity is essentially uniform vertically. The temperature is quite uniform everywhere with all temperatures being within about a degree of 3.6 °C. Consistent with seasonal cooling, the surface water is coolest in the Basin and the isolated Basin bottom water is warmer, for an overall vertical difference of almost 2°C. As with the salinity, by B2 the temperature is virtually uniform with depth. The fecal coliform values are relatively high everywhere, with a value greater than the swimming limit at one or both samples at each site except AYC and the "control" site B2, although there are detectable levels at this site as well. The winds during sampling were very light. This looks like a time of relatively low flushing, when bacteria concentrations build up. In addition the water is cold, daylight is short and the skies have been cloudy or mostly cloudy, leading to low bacteria die off rates. The 1024 kg/m³ density contour occurs at about 10m throughout the entire harbour (1024.1 kg/m³ top to bottom at B2). This implies that any estuarine circulation in the Basin is occurring above this depth. The observed elevated bacteria levels are virtually all associated with this 1023-1024 kg/m³ water mass. There is an indication of a layer of less dense (<1023 kg/m³), less contaminated water at the western side of the southern Basin (Section F). What appears to be the same layer in the northern Basin has relatively high coliform values, only slightly lower than the underlying water. This might be explained by locally enhanced vertical entrainment in the Sackville River plume. The lower values in this water mass at the F section would then probably have to be explained by bacteria die off.

Chlorophyll: The profile maximum fluorescence levels vary only slightly, from $1 - 3 \text{ mg/m}^3$ throughout the Harbour. This is somewhat lower and more uniform than last week and is near typical winter "background" levels in the Harbour.

Dissolved Oxygen: The dissolved oxygen levels have again, on average, increased slightly everywhere. The exception is the Basin bottom waters which have dropped to just under 5 mg/L. This deep water represents the only values below the applicable use specific guidelines this week. The DO data is not ground-truthed and absolute values are questionable (see DO discussion in QR#1).







Halifax Harbour Water Level - Jan03

Harbour Water Quality Monitoring Program



Yacht Clubs











