

KARUK TRIBE

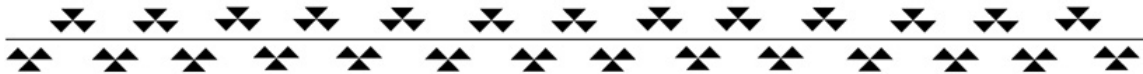
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
P.O. Box 282 * Orleans, California 95556



2014 WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



**KLAMATH RIVER, SALMON RIVER, SCOTT
RIVER, AND SHASTA RIVER**



Karuk Tribe

Water Quality Assessment Report
2014

Prepared by
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Water Quality
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1 Background

The Karuk Tribe is the second largest Tribe in California, with over 3,500 Tribal members currently enrolled. The Karuk Tribe is located along the middle Klamath River in northern California. Karuk Ancestral Territory covers over 90 miles of the mainstem Klamath River and numerous tributaries. The Klamath River system is central to the culture of the Karuk People, as it is a vital component of our religion, traditional ceremonies, and subsistence activities. Degraded water quality and quantity has resulted in massive fish kills, increased occurrences of toxic algae, and outbreaks of fish diseases. Impaired water quality conditions also apply extreme limitations and burdens to our cultural activities.

The Karuk Tribe's Department of Natural Resources has been monitoring daily water quality conditions in the Klamath River since January of 2000 and tributaries to the Klamath River since 1998. The Karuk Tribe has been collaboratively involved in maintaining water quality stations along the Klamath River and its tributaries with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Yurok Tribe, Oregon State University and PacifiCorp. The following tables summarize waters within the ancestral territory, tribal uses and goals of these waters, and impairments to these uses and goals (Tables 1-2).

Table 1 - Atlas of Tribal Waters within Ancestral Territory

Atlas of Tribal Waters Within Ancestral Territory	
Total number of Klamath River miles	90
Total number of perennial stream miles	1,900
Total number of lake acres	442
Total number of wetland acres	UNKNOWN

Table 2 - Designated uses, tribal goals and parameters measured to analyze impairments to tribal uses and goals.

Making Assessment Decisions	
Designated Beneficial Uses and Tribal Goals	Parameter(s) to be Measured to Determine Support of Use of Goal
Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE)	Temperature, DO, pH, Conductivity,
Subsistence Fishing (FISH)	Temperature, DO, pH, Conductivity
Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD)	Temperature, Turbidity
Cultural Contact Water (CUL-1)	Temperature, Phosphorus, Nitrogen
Cultural Non-Contact Water (CUL-2)	Temperature, Phosphorus, Nitrogen
Fish Consumption (FC)	Temperature, Phosphorus, Nitrogen
Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)	Temperature, Phosphorus, Nitrogen
Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2)	Temperature, Phosphorus, Nitrogen
Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN)	Temperature, DO, pH, Conductivity, Turbidity

2 Program Purpose

The overarching mission of the Karuk Tribe is to protect, promote, and preserve the cultural resources, natural resources, and ecological processes upon which the Karuk People depend. This mission requires the protection and improvement of the quality and quantity of water upstream and flowing through Karuk Ancestral Territory and Tribal trust lands.

The Karuk Tribe Water Quality Program (KTWQP) is currently evaluating the overall condition of water quality on Karuk Ancestral Territory (KAT), monitoring the extent to which water quality changes over time, and identifying impacts to beneficial uses. Data the KTWQP collects is indispensable in monitoring water quality conditions within the Klamath River Basin and providing valuable information to ongoing water quality management processes. The information produced allows the Karuk Tribe to give valuable input in land management decisions and demonstrates the Tribe’s commitment to sound resource management.

The Klamath River in California is listed as an impaired water body under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) list for temperature, nutrients, dissolved oxygen (DO), sediment, and microcystin (NCRWQCB, 2009). The mid-Klamath River can have elevated water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen levels, elevated sediment loads, loading from organic matter, and high levels of the cyanotoxin, microcystin. These detrimental conditions are caused by a variety of factors including the presence of Iron

Gate and Copco Reservoirs, hydrological modification, agricultural use, timber harvesting, mining activities, and fire suppression (NCRWQCB, 2009). Some of the beneficial uses that are important to the Karuk Tribe and impacted by poor water quality conditions are, cultural use (CUL), subsistence fishing (FISH), cold freshwater habitat (COLD), recreation (REC-1 and 2), commercial and sport fishing (COMM), shellfish harvesting (SHELL), rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE), migration of aquatic organisms (MIGR), spawning, reproduction, and/or early development (SPWN), and wildlife habitat (WILD) (NCRWQCB, 2007).

The data that the KTWQP collects is useful to Tribes, state and federal processes, and restoration efforts to assess current and past water quality conditions in the mid-Klamath River. For example, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) has developed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Klamath River and has begun implementing TMDL's in the Scott, Shasta, and Salmon Rivers. KTWQP data was used in the development of the technical portion of the TMDL's. Compliance points for tracking water quality improvements through TMDL implementation were placed at KTWQP long-term monitoring locations. On February 18, 2010, forty-eight entities signed on to the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) to remove the four lower dams of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project (KHP). For this agreement, water quality monitoring will occur to establish baseline water quality conditions before the dams are removed in 2020.

The Karuk Tribe has established water quality standards for waters within KAT. The details of these standards are outlined in the Karuk Tribe Water Quality Monitoring Plan (Karuk, 2002).

3 Collaboration and Coordination

The KTWQP has found that the key to a successful water quality program in the Klamath is to build collaborative relationships and coordinate with other entities in the basin. This adds credibility to our data sets, builds trust in our monitoring techniques, stretches water quality dollars by combining and coordinating monitoring efforts whenever feasible, and increases the Tribe's ability to conduct research and monitoring in the mid-Klamath. Our partners include: Yurok Tribe, Klamath Tribes, Hoopa Tribe, Quartz Valley Indian Community, Resighini Rancheria, Humboldt State University, Oregon State University, UC Berkeley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA Region IX, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Forest Service, U.S Geological Survey, Humboldt County, Salmon River Restoration Council, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Institute for Fisheries Resources, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and Klamath Riverkeeper.

The KTWQP participates in many collaborative workgroups. We currently attend meetings, provide constructive feedback, help set research and monitoring priorities, working in technical subgroups, looking for and providing support for others grant proposals, and conduct monitoring and research. Some of the workgroups we participate in include: the Klamath Blue Green Algae Workgroup, State Blue Green Algae

Workgroup, Klamath Basin Monitoring Program, Klamath Tribal Water Quality Workgroup, and the Klamath Fish Health Assessment Team.

4 Karuk Water Quality Program Design

The purpose of the Karuk Tribe’s water quality monitoring program is to evaluate the quality of water flowing into, through, and out of Karuk Ancestral Territory and Tribal Trust lands. We have combined the Tribe’s goals with those of our collaborators listed above to establish a network of monitoring stations. We have established monitoring stations both within and above KAT. These stations form a longitudinal profile of water quality conditions along the mid-Klamath River and associated major tributaries.

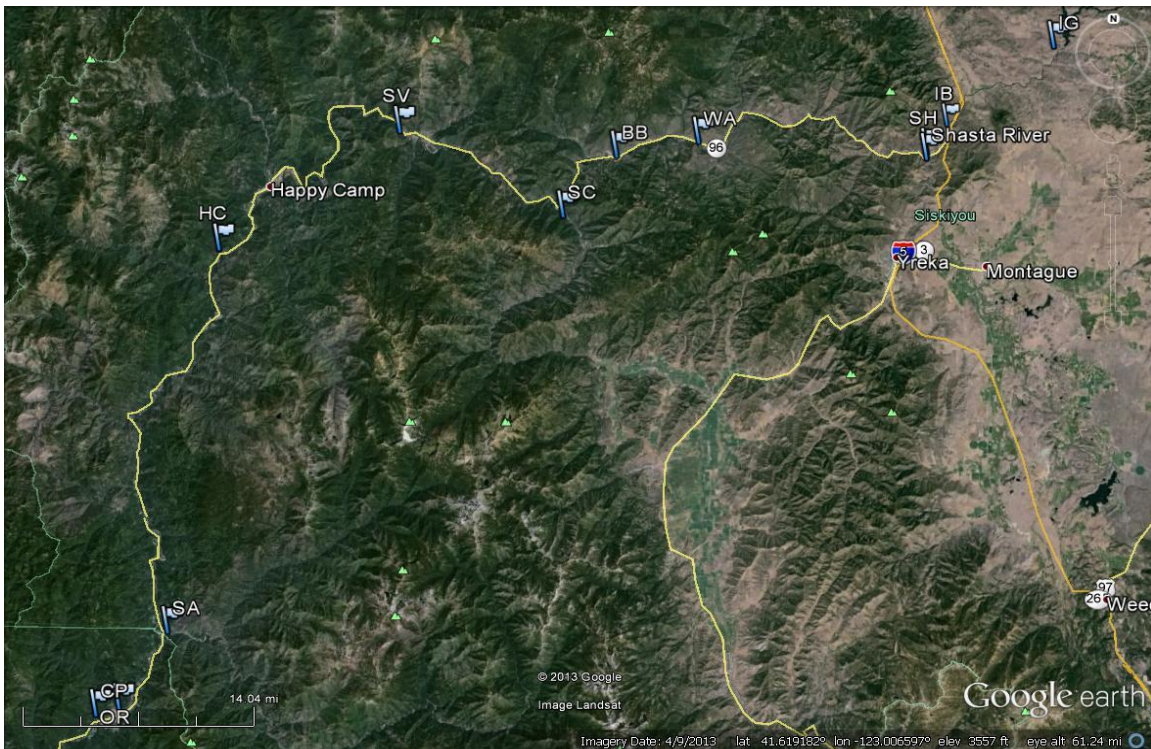


Figure 1. Overview of the Karuk Tribe’s water quality monitoring locations along the Klamath River in 2014.

Nutrient grab samples and phytoplankton are collected both in the Klamath River and the major tributaries, whereas public health monitoring for algal toxins occurs just in the mainstem (Table 3). In 2013, the KTWQP monitored at the Klamath River below Iron Gate in lieu of Camp Creek site for winter turbidity monitoring. This change was made to evaluate turnover in Iron Gate reservoir and influences on dissolved oxygen and pH, winter monitoring continued here in 2014. The Orleans (OR), Salmon River (SA), Seiad Valley (SV), Shasta River (SH), and Iron Gate (IG) continuous water quality monitoring stations are located at USGS gauging stations. This sampling focuses around the summer base flow (the growing season), which is generally from May-October. This is when

water quality impairments stress beneficial uses. However, grab sampling continues throughout the year to help establish annual baseline load conditions and turbidity monitoring occurs in the winter when impairments are typically observed.

The frequency at which sampling occurs is dependent on resources and monitoring objectives. We focus on increasing a parameters collection frequency when the dynamics are changing at the greatest rate. For example, nutrient and phytoplankton dynamics are in flux more over the growing season than during the rest of the year. Therefore, grab samples may be collected approximately bimonthly (2x/month) during the growing season (May-October) and monthly the remainder of the year. Another example is our toxic algae and toxin sampling; it is aimed at being able to inform the public of health threats and is therefore collected at an increased frequency when threats are highest, August and September (Kann and Corum 2009).

Table 3 - Site codes and locations of Karuk sampling stations for nutrients, algal toxins and Sondes. Nutrient Suite indicates collecting nutrients, algal toxins and phytoplankton. Sonde indicates real time monitoring, and public health designates surface grab sampling for phytoplankton and algal toxins.

2014 Locations and Parameters Monitored							
Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Nutrient Suite	Sonde	Public Health	Winter Turbidity	Location
OR	N 41 18.336	W 123 31.895	X	X	X		Klamath River at Orleans
SA	N 41 22.617	W 123 28.633	X	X		X	Salmon River at USGS Gage
HC	N 41 43.780	W 123 25.775	X		X		Klamath River downstream of Happy Camp
SV	N 41 50.561	W 123 13.132	X	X	X		Klamath River downstream of Seiad Valley
SC	N 41 46.100	W 123 01.567	X	X			Scott River at Johnson's Bar
BB	N 41 49.395	W 122 57.718			X		Brown Bear River Access on Klamath River
WA	N 41 50.242	W 122 51.895	X				Klamath River at Walker Bridge
SH	N 41 49.390	W 122 35.700	X	X			Shasta River at USGS Gage

IG	N 41 55.865	W 122 26.532	X	X		X	Klamath River below Iron Gate Hatchery Bridge
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Further discussion of monitoring protocols and procedures can be found in the KTWQP’s Annual Monitoring Report, formerly Water Quality Assessment Report, and the Mid-Klamath River Nutrient, Periphyton, Phytoplankton and Algal Toxin Sampling Analysis Plan, and the Karuk Tribe Quality Assurance Protocols and Procedures document (QAPP).

5 Data Interpretation and Management

The Yurok Tribe received a grant under the Environmental Information Exchange Network Program to develop the Yurok Tribe Environmental Data Storage System (YEDSS). This system has been shared with the Klamath Basin Tribal Water Quality Workgroup, which the Karuk Tribe is part of. All sonde and nutrient sampling data will be entered and stored in YEDSS. YEDSS utilizes user defined flag criteria which are automatically applied to the data set. This is very useful in Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) screening. Data entries that fall outside excepted ranges are automatically flagged for further analysis. See example in Figure 2.

The screenshot shows a software window titled "View / Edit Water Quality Flag Criteria". The window has a blue title bar with standard minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The main area has a teal background and contains the following settings:

- If Water temp is less than or greater than
- If water temp changes by Between intervals
- If conductivity changes by Between intervals
- If conductivity is less than
- If DO (mg/l) is less than or greater than
- If DO (mg/l) changes by Between intervals
- If DO CHG is less than or greater than
- If PH changes by Between intervals
- Flag DO% if DO (mg/l) is flagged
- Flag DO (mg/l) if DOCHG is flagged
- If SAL is less than or greater than
- If Turbidity is less than or greater than
- If Chl A is less than or greater than

At the bottom, it says "Settings last updated by: admin on 10/15/2012" and has a "Save Changes" button.

Figure 2. Flagging Criteria automatically applied to sonde data.

Raw data and data that have under-gone further QA/QC are automatically archived separately. Metadata associated with each data type are also stored within the system and can be easily accessed when questions arise. Phytoplankton and algal toxin data will be entered into Excel spreadsheets that are checked for accuracy by the Project Manager and backed up onto the KTWQP network, and an external hard drive system that is maintained offsite.

Data is compiled using spreadsheets and YEDDS. Graphical and statistical analyses are used to assess the current status and trends of monitored water bodies. In addition, comparisons between sites can also be made. Overall, water quality is evaluated using standards put forth in the Karuk Tribe's Water Quality Control Plan and QAPP. Assessment of data also includes the evaluation of field methodology and data quality. Data collected is then submitted electronically to EPA via their Water Quality Exchange network (WQX) and made publicly available. Data may be utilized by other Tribes, agencies, and entities to help direct water resource management actions.

The KTWQP as of December 2014 is in the process of transitioning to Aquatic Informatics AQUARIUS software to store, QA/QC, disseminate, correct, and transmit data to WQX.

6 2014 Water Quality Results

The associated Water Quality Assessment Report spreadsheet describes current impairments.

MAINSTEM KLAMATH

The sonde data presented in Figures 3-14 depicts seasonal temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH trends at mainstem Klamath River monitoring sites.

Temperature:

In 2014, Seiad Valley (SV) and Orleans (OR) monitoring locations had similar thermographs when comparing daily averages. The Iron Gate (IG) site had less variability in average temperature fluctuations than SV or OR. Iron Gate also had a lower peak average temperature during July-August (Figure 3). This trend is further emphasized when looking at the average temperature over a nine year period from 2006-2014 (Figure 4). The IG site is just downstream of Iron Gate dam (IGD). Water released from the dam has a moderating effect on water temperature, providing slightly warmer water in the fall and winter and colder water during summer peak temperatures when compared to historic conditions and upstream un-impounded tributary contributions. When comparing figure 3 and 4 there is a noticeable increase in spring temperatures as compared to the 9 year average.

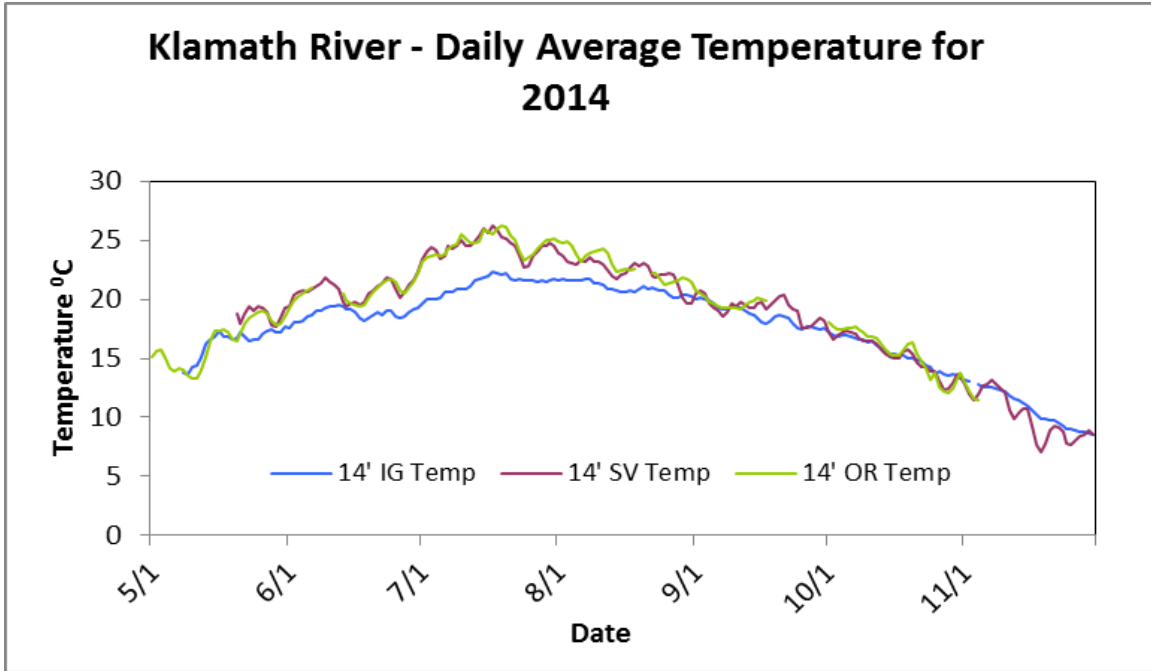


Figure 3. Daily average temperatures for 3 mainstem Klamath River sites in 2014: below Iron Gate dam (IG), Seiad Valley (SV), and Orleans (OR).

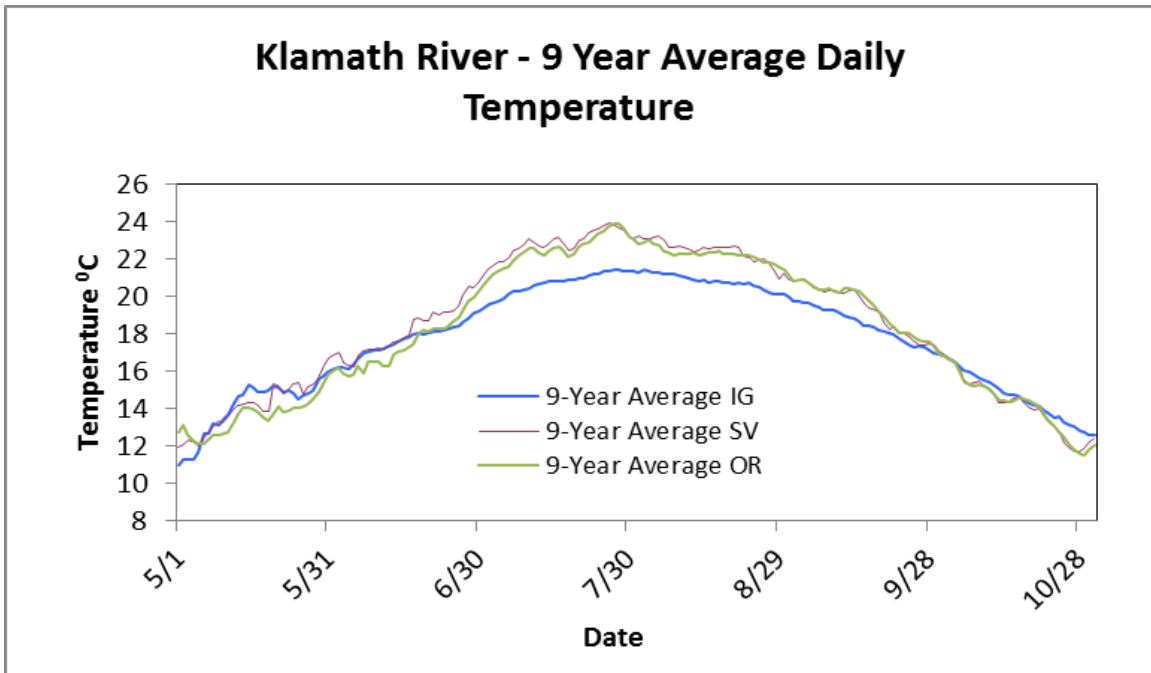


Figure 4. Averaged daily temperature from 2006-2014 at mainstem Klamath River sites: below Iron Gate dam (IG), Seiad Valley (SV), and Orleans (OR).

Dissolved Oxygen:

Instantaneous dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in 2014 were the highest at the Iron Gate site (Figure 8). Iron Gate dam has a negative impact on DO levels from mid-September

through the end of sampling in 2014. DO levels below the dam drop while increasing at all other Karuk mainstem Klamath sampling locations (Figure 5 - 8). The timing overlaps with fall-run salmonid migration and spawning and is an impairment of the beneficial use. Comparing figures 5 and 9, the below Iron Gate dam site had higher average summer time DO levels than the 9 year average and the Orleans and Seiad sites had slightly lower DO levels than the 9 year average. This is probably due in large part to the warmer water temperatures in 2014. Figure 8 shows the large diurnal swings in DO at the below Iron Gate site.

Nine-year daily averages for DO depict the annual differences between sites are less extreme in the middle of the summer when water temperatures are the highest (Figure 9).

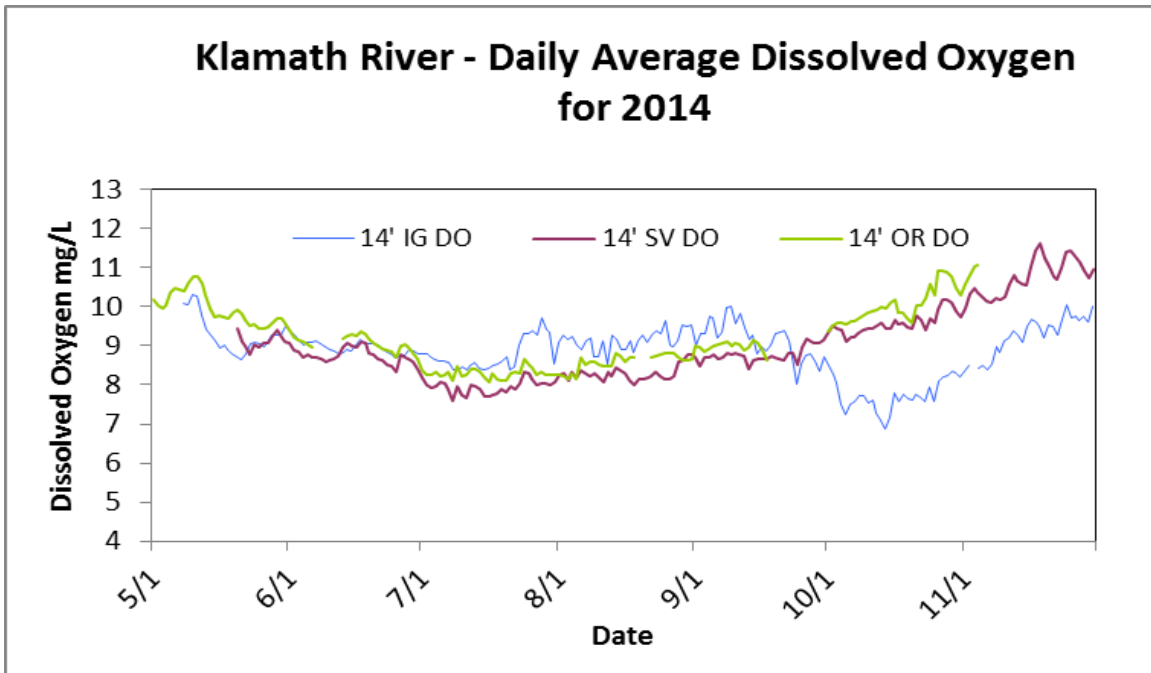


Figure 5. Daily average dissolved oxygen levels for 3 mainstem Klamath River sites in 2014: below Iron Gate dam (IG), Seiad Valley (SV), and Orleans (OR).

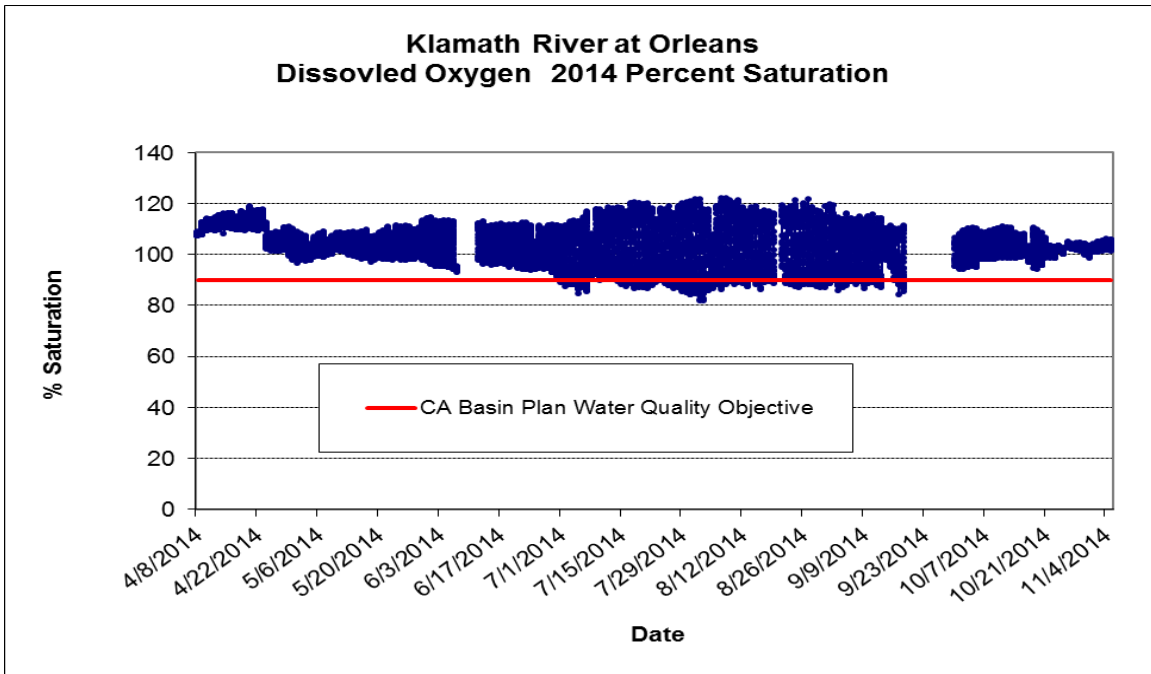


Figure 6. Percent saturation dissolved oxygen readings recorded every 30-minutes for Klamath River at Orleans (OR) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan Klamath River site specific dissolved oxygen water quality objective: from the mouth of the Scott River to Hoopa, >90% saturation year-round.

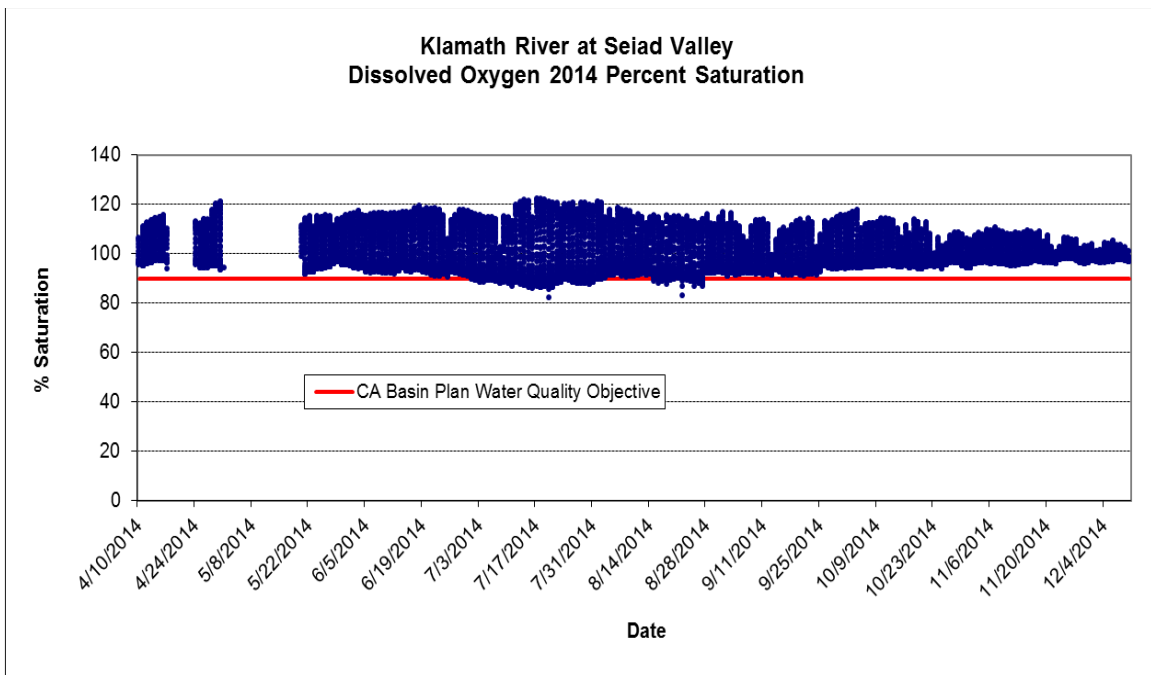


Figure 7. Percent saturation dissolved oxygen readings recorded every 30-minutes for Klamath River at Seiad Valley (SV) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan Klamath River site specific dissolved oxygen water quality objective: from the mouth of the Scott River to Hoopa, >90% saturation year-round.

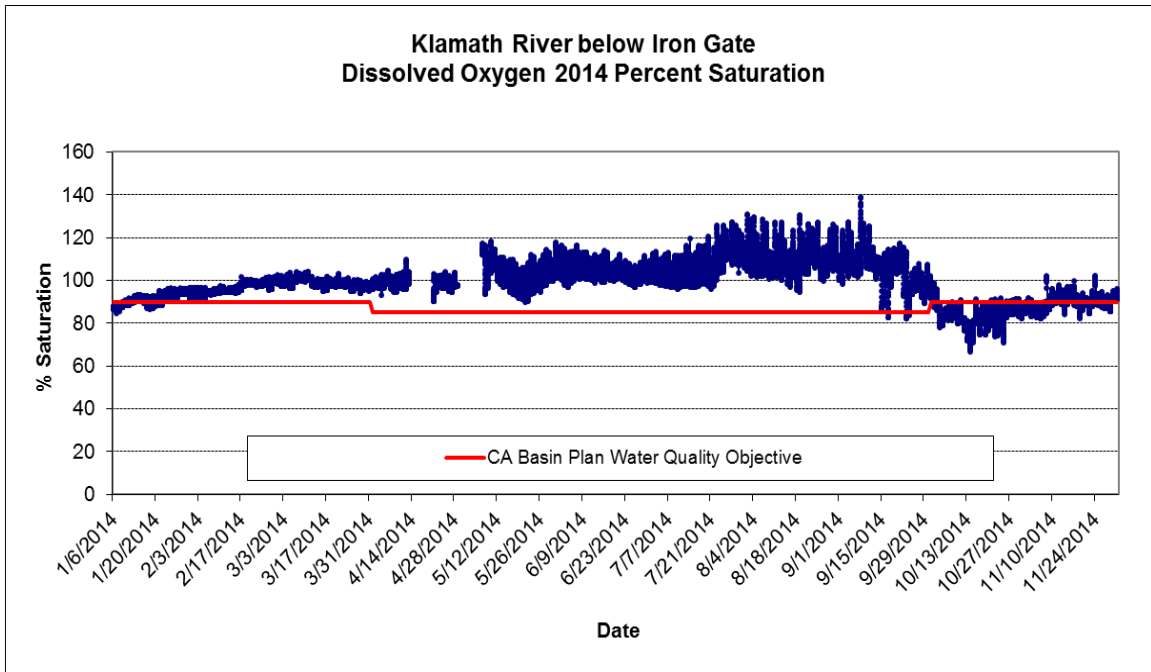


Figure 8. Percent saturation dissolved oxygen readings recorded every 30-minutes for Klamath River below Iron Gate Dam (IG) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan Klamath River site specific dissolved oxygen water quality objective from Stateline (OR/CA) to the mouth of the Scott River, >90% saturation from Oct 1- March 30 and >85% from April 1-Sept 30.

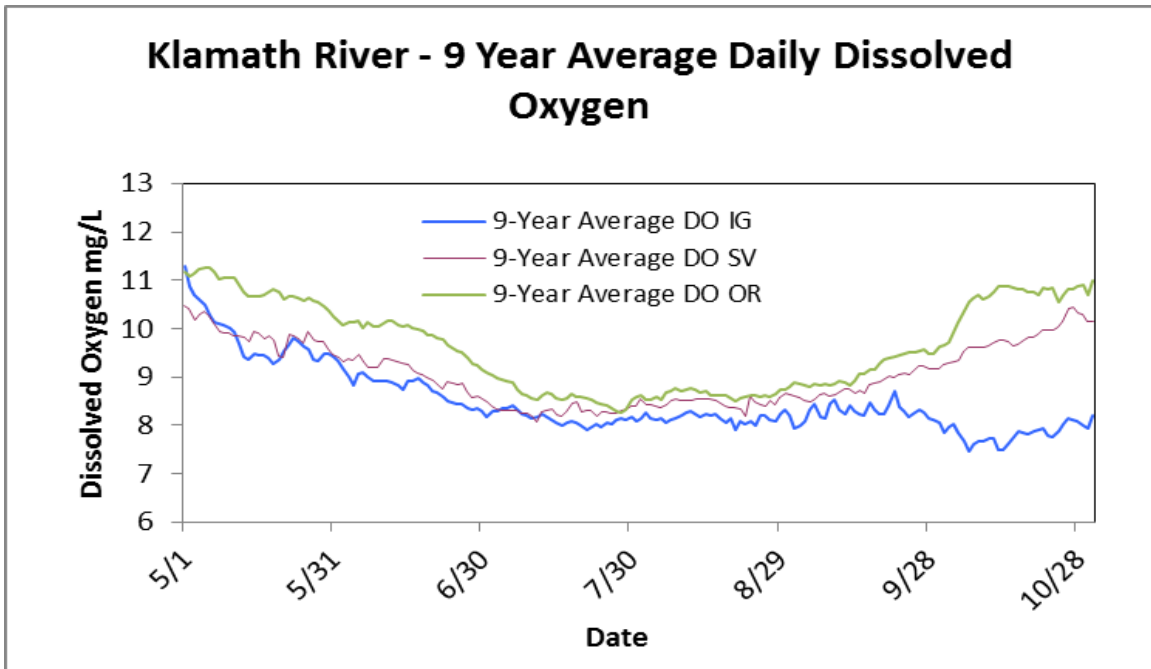


Figure 9. Average daily dissolved oxygen levels from 2006-2014 at mainstem Klamath River sites: below Iron Gate dam (IG), Seiad Valley (SV), and Orleans (OR).

pH:

Daily average and instantaneous pH trends vary between mainstem sites in 2014 (Figures 10 - 14). SV has the least seasonal variability and has an instantaneous pH diurnal swing of approximately 0.8 pH units (Figure 12). Of the Klamath mainstem sites, IG has the most instantaneous exceedances in 2014 to the NCRWQCB Basin Plan water quality objective for the Klamath River.

Nine-year trend comparison (Figure 14) depicts daily average pH peaking in late July and August, with daily average pH exceedances above 8.5 at IG from August through September.

The spike in pH occurs during the peak in river primary productivity and the lowest DO readings, indicative of water quality impairments associated with photorespiration.

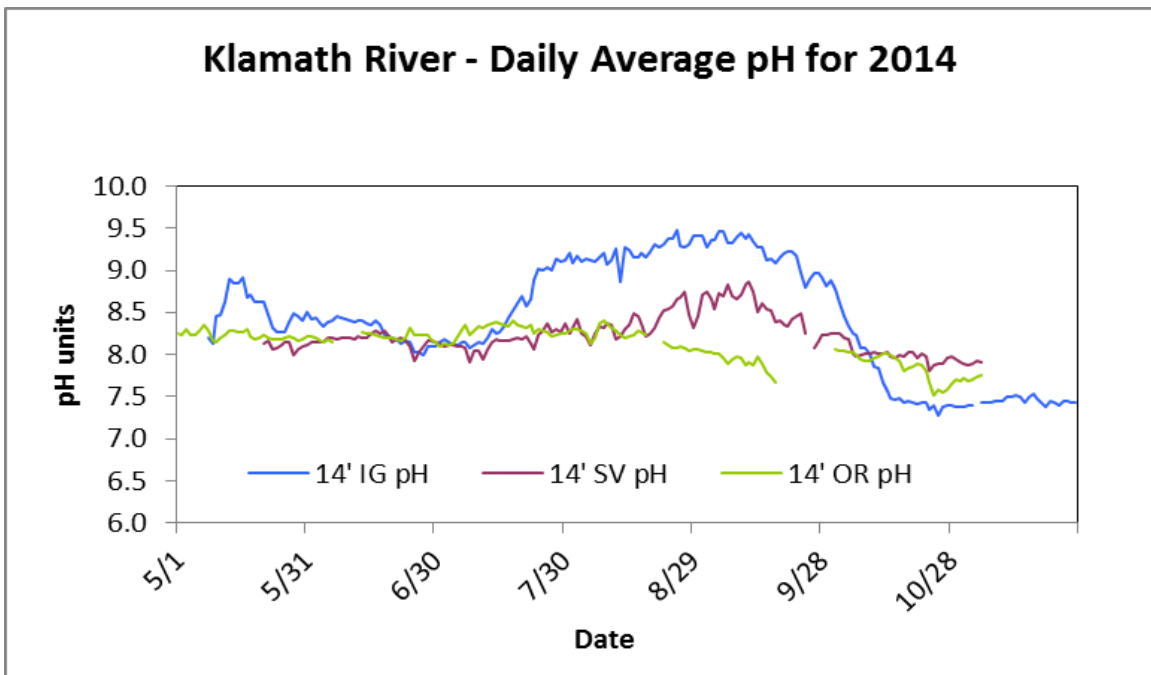


Figure 10. Daily average pH levels for 3 mainstem Klamath River sites in 2014: below Iron Gate dam (IG), Seiad Valley (SV), and Orleans (OR).

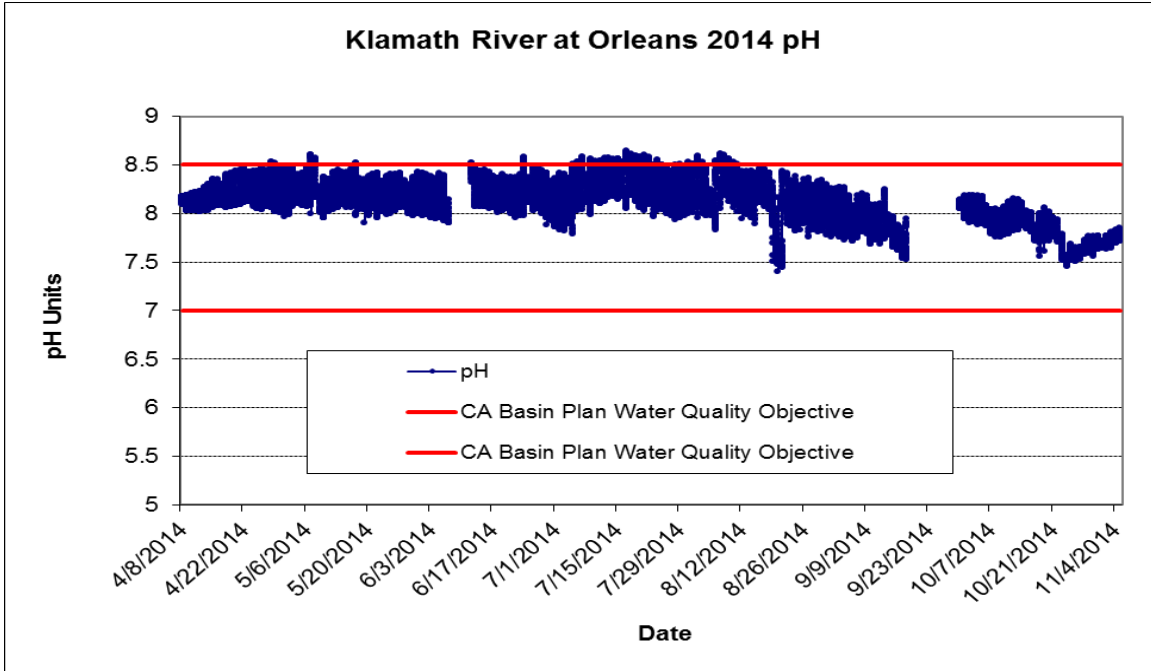


Figure 11. Instantaneous pH readings recorded every 30-minutes for Klamath River at Orleans (OR) in 2014. The red lines are the NCRWQCB Basin Plan water quality objectives for the Klamath River, $7 < X < 8.5$.

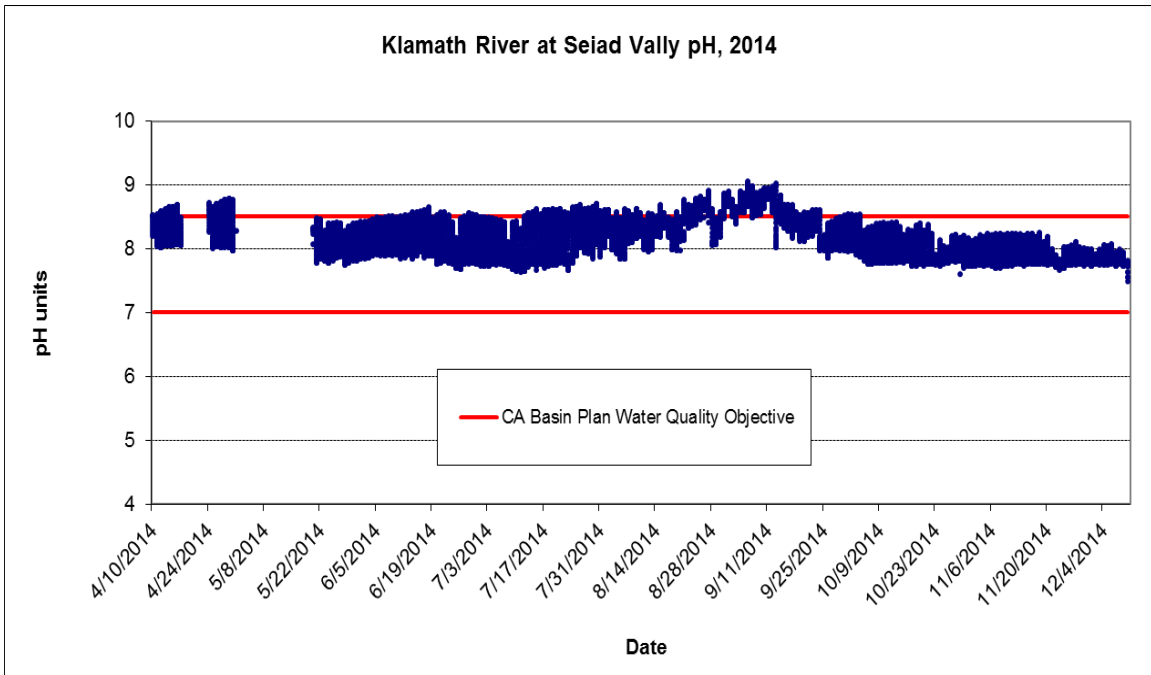


Figure 12. Instantaneous pH readings recorded every 30-minutes for Klamath River below Seiad Valley (SV) in 2014. The red lines are the NCRWQCB Basin Plan water quality objectives for the Klamath River, $7 < X < 8.5$

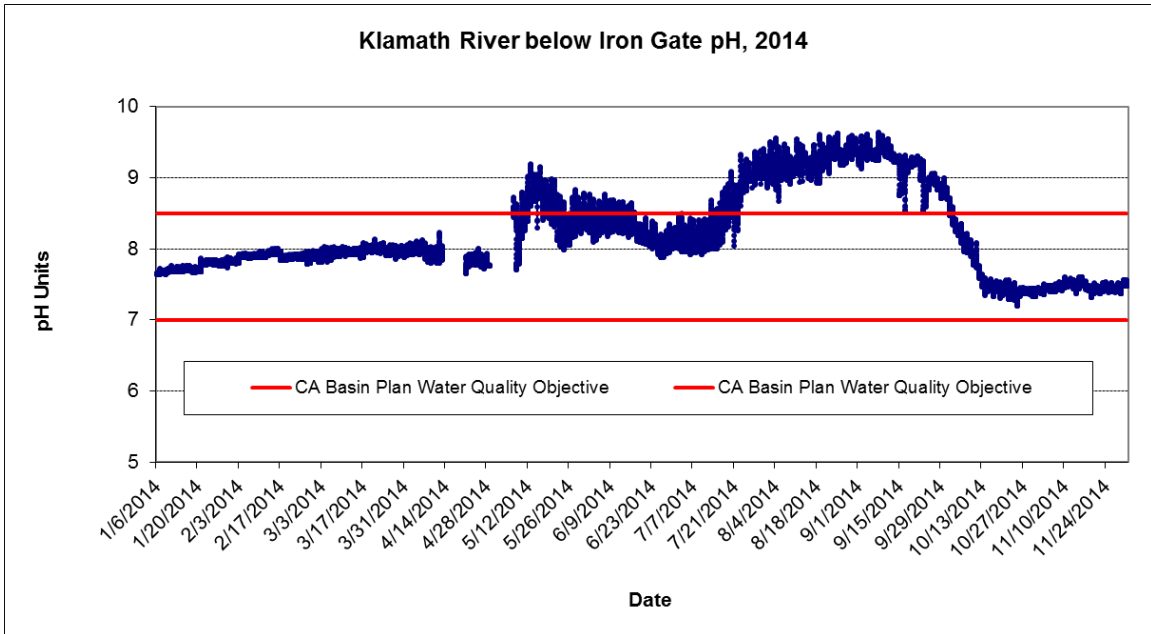


Figure 13. Instantaneous pH readings recorded every 30-minutes for Klamath River below Iron Gate (IG) in 2014. The red lines are the NCRWQCB Basin Plan water quality objectives for the Klamath River, $7 < X < 8.5$

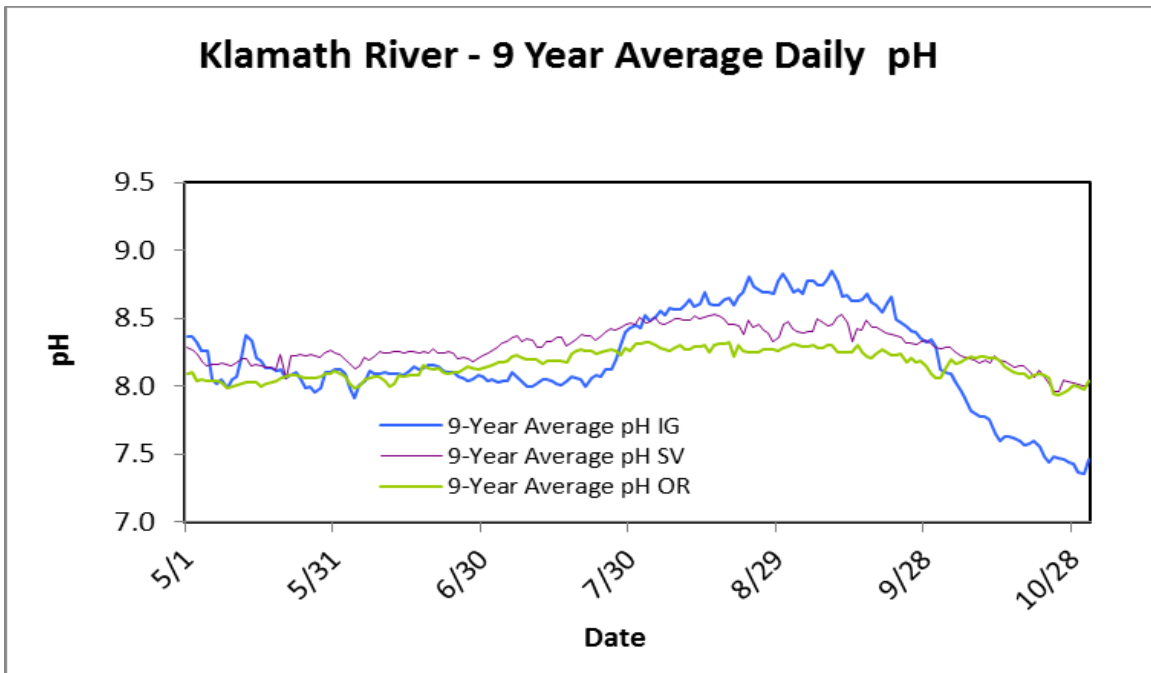


Figure 14. Daily average pH, 2006-2014 at mainstem Klamath River sites: below Iron Gate dam (IG), Seiad Valley (SV), and Orleans (OR).

TRIBUTARIES

The KTWQP have monitored three major Klamath tributaries just upstream from the confluence with the Klamath since 2006: the Shasta, Scott, and Salmon Rivers. Each of the tributaries has similar seasonal water quality trends.

Temperature:

The Shasta River experiences much warmer temperatures in the early spring. This is due, in part, to ground water influences which tend to moderate water temperature. Compare this to the very similar temperature conditions in the Scott, which is fed by a mix of groundwater and snow-melt; and the Salmon, which is a snow-melt dominated system (Figure 15).

In 2014, all monitored tributaries depict the highest daily average temperatures during July, followed by a drop in temperature around the first week of August (Figures 15 - 18). These water temperatures correlate with high ambient air temperatures in July through early August. Water temperatures in 2014 peaked earlier and were hotter than those seen in previous years (Figures 16-18) due to a 3-year drought combined with record high temperatures in California.

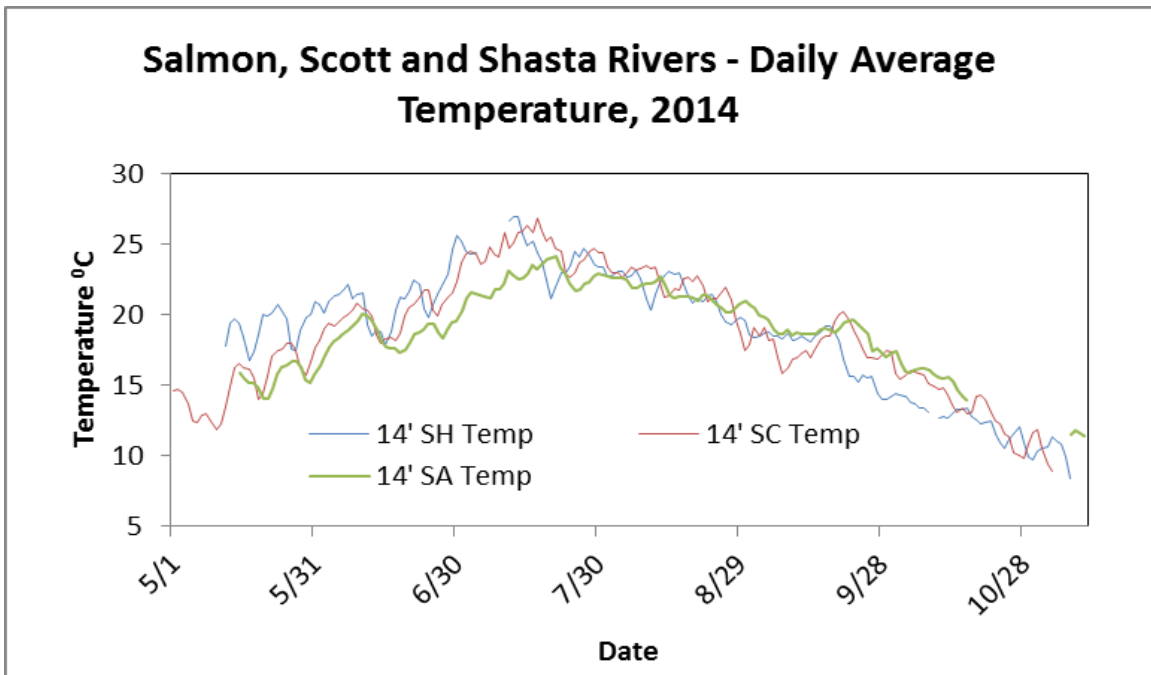


Figure 15. Daily average water temperature for Scott, Shasta, and Salmon Rivers, 2014.

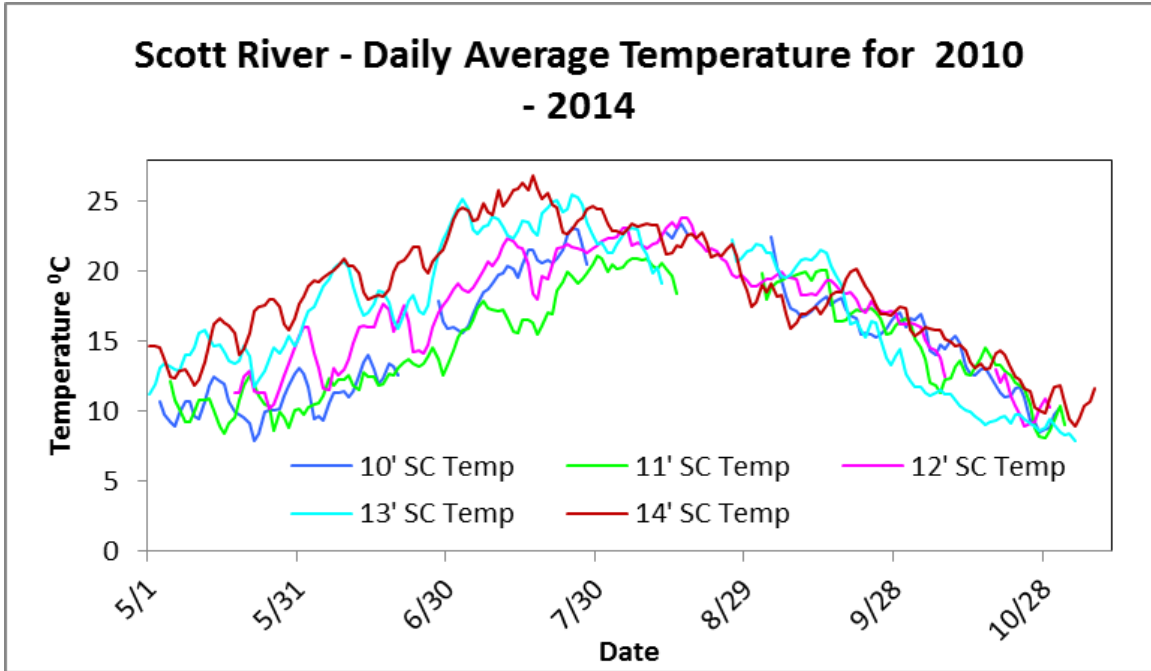


Figure 16. Daily average water temperatures for the Shasta River from 2010-2014.

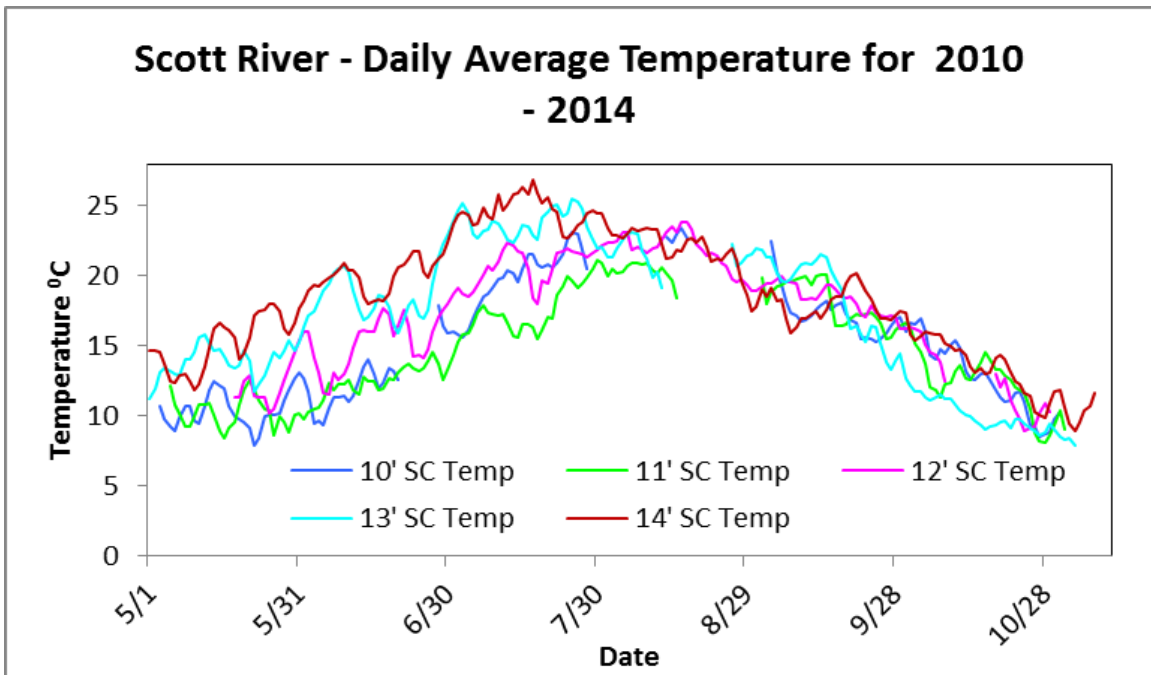


Figure 17. Daily average water temperatures for the Scott River from 2010-2014.

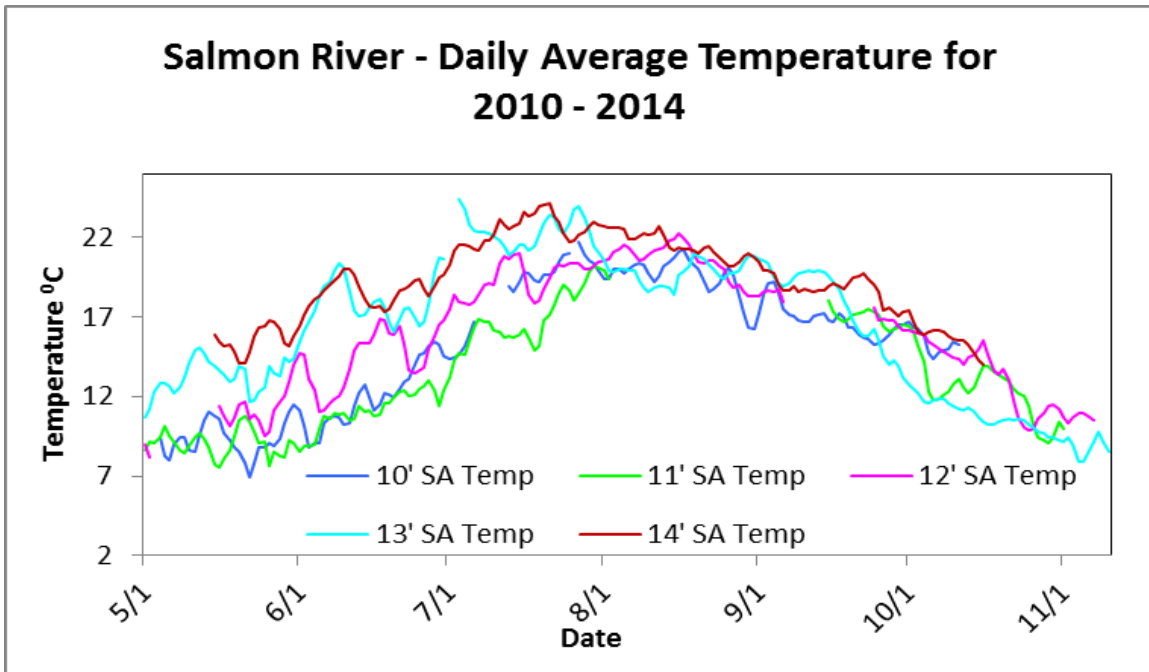


Figure 18. Daily average water temperatures for the Salmon River from 2010-2014.

Dissolved Oxygen:

Daily average dissolved oxygen for 2014 depicts the usual annual trend, Shasta River with the lowest daily averages, Scott next and the Salmon River the highest daily average DO. The lowest DO levels occurred in June to August, this is the general trend at all tributary sites from 2009-2014 (Figures 19 -25). However, 2014 spring-time DO averages were the lowest in all tributaries than we have seen in the past 6 years of monitoring. This time period corresponds with the outmigration of Coho salmon from the tributaries.

The NCRWQCB Basin Plan establishes water quality objectives for each tributary based on instantaneous readings. The Scott River did not drop below the water quality objective of ($x > 7$ mg/L). The Shasta dropped below the DO threshold ($x > 7$ mg/L) between June and August (Figure 21). The Salmon River dropped below its threshold ($x > 9$ mg/L) the longest, between early July through the end of September (Figure 25).

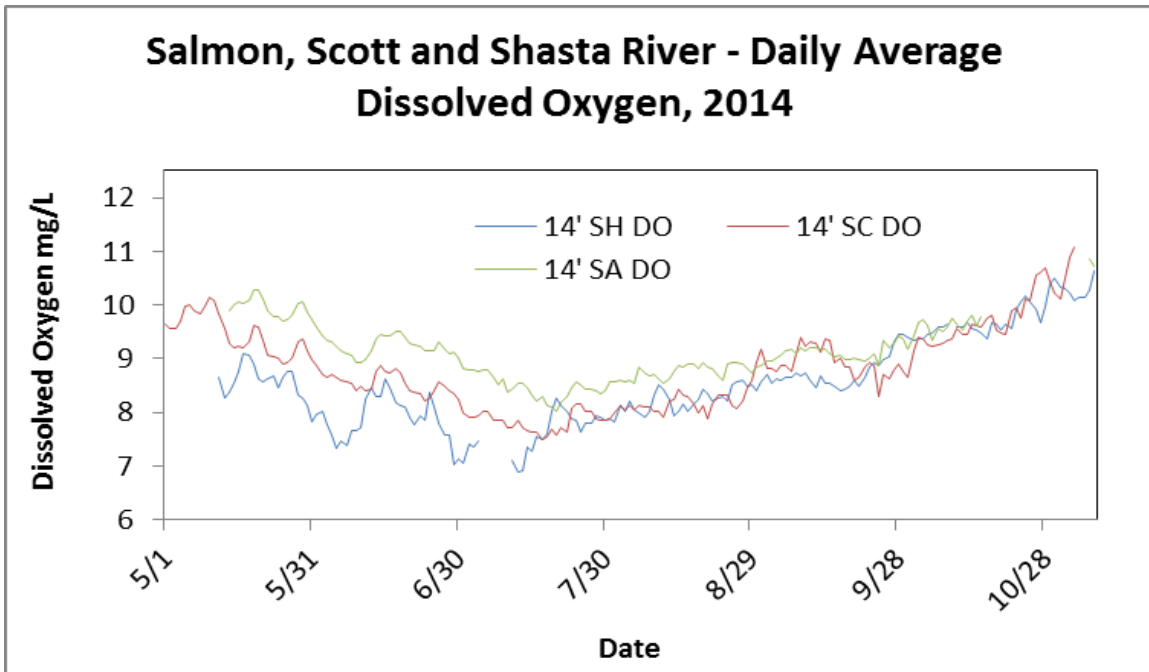


Figure 19. Daily average dissolved oxygen for Salmon, Scott and Shasta River, 2014.

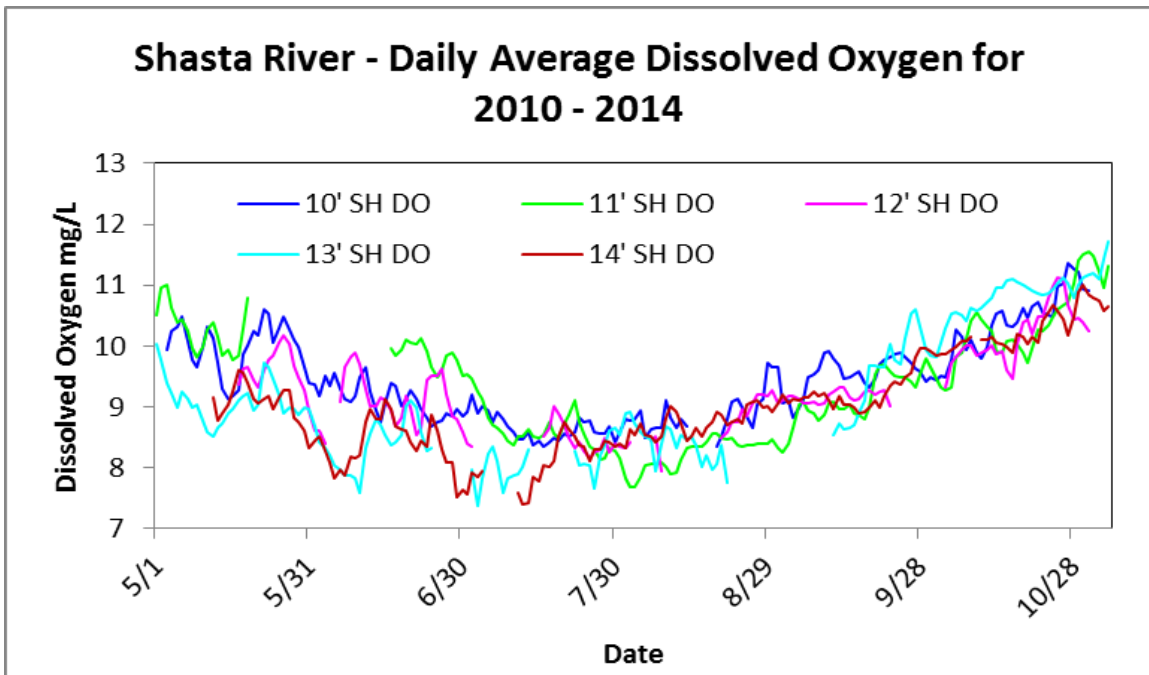


Figure 20. Daily average dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Shasta River from 2009-2013.

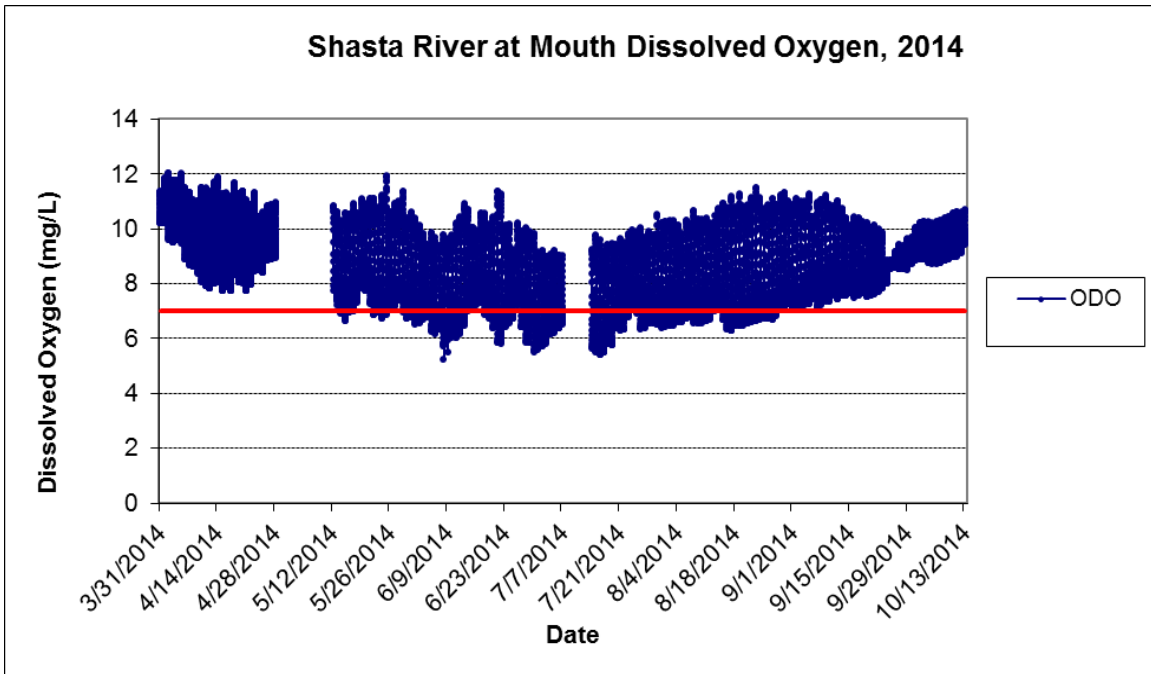


Figure 21. Instantaneous dissolved oxygen recorded every 30-minutes for the mouth of the Shasta River (SH) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan site specific dissolved oxygen water quality objective for Shasta River, >7mg/L.

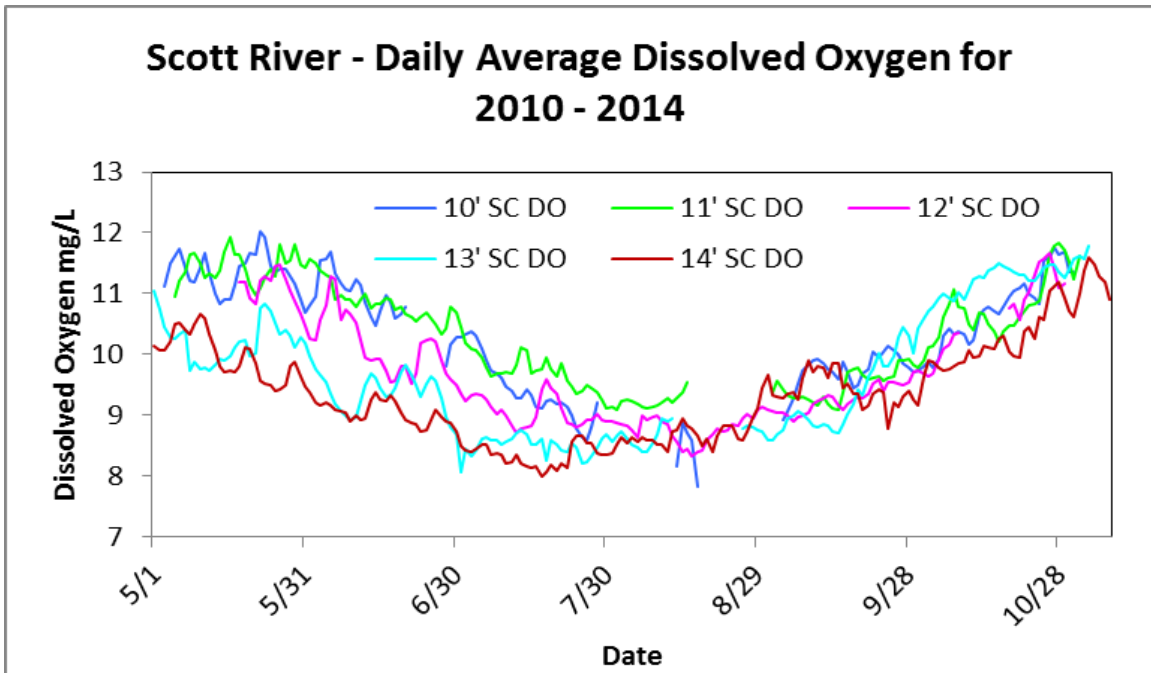


Figure 22. Daily average dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Scott River from 2010-2014.

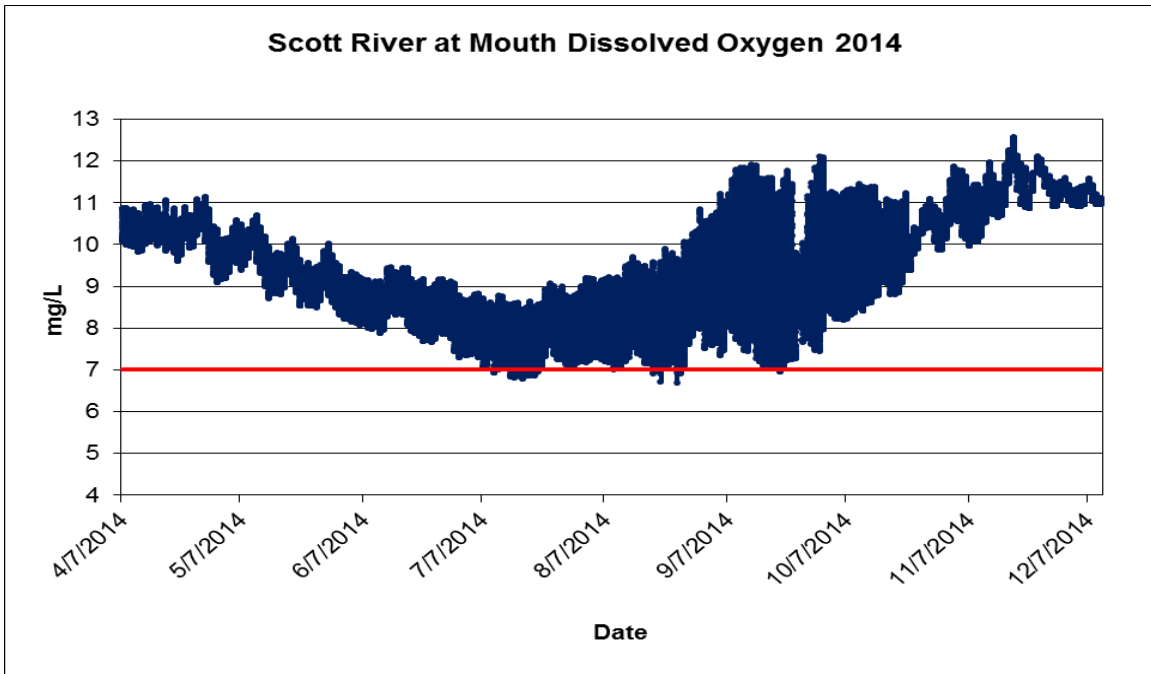


Figure 23. Instantaneous dissolved oxygen readings recorded every 30-minutes for the mouth of the Scott River (SC) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan site specific dissolved oxygen water quality objective for Scott River, >7mg/L.

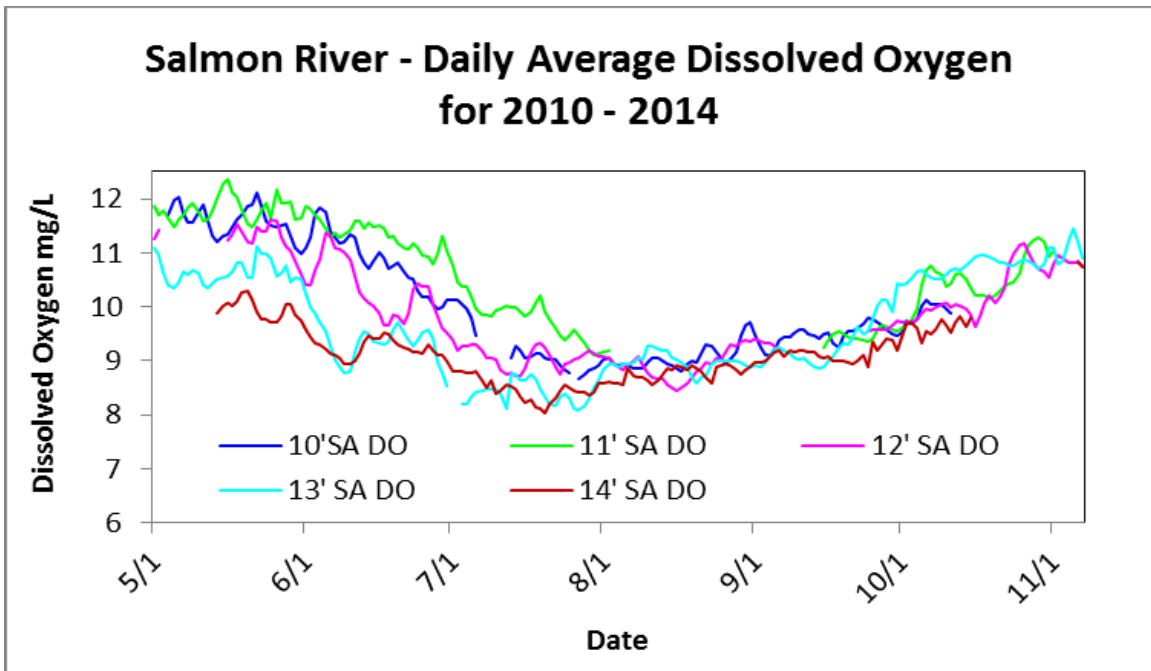


Figure 24. Daily average dissolved oxygen concentrations for the Salmon River from 2010-2014.

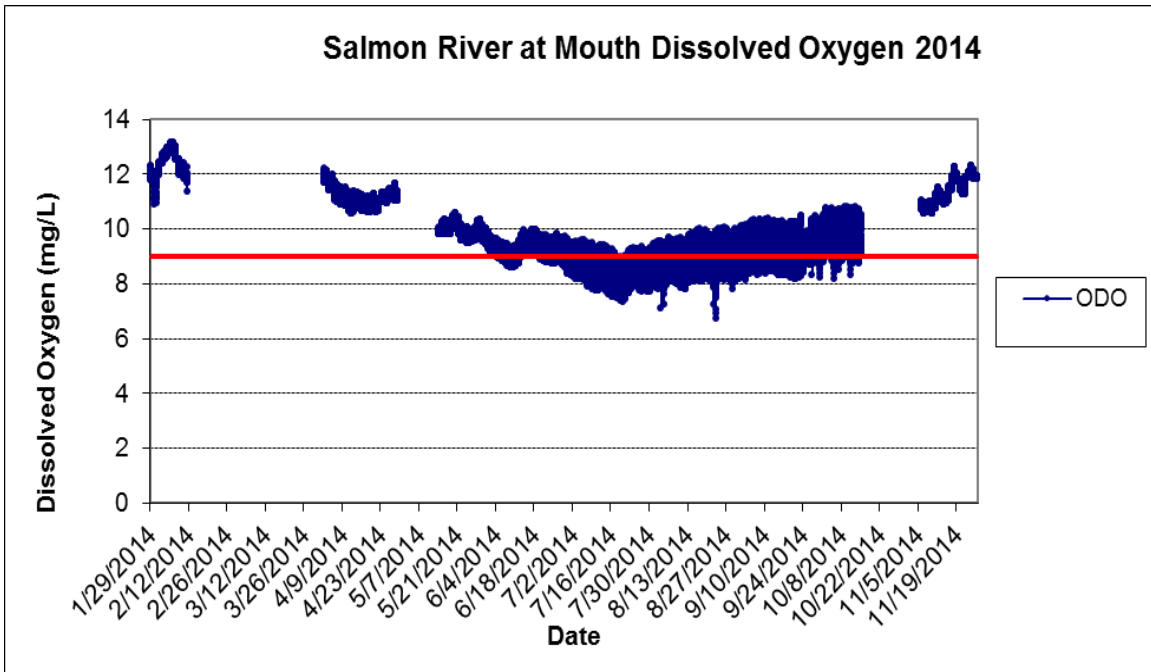


Figure 25: Instantaneous dissolved oxygen readings recorded every 30 minutes for the mouth of the Salmon River (SA) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan site specific dissolved oxygen water quality objective for Salmon River, >9mg/L.

pH:

Daily average pH in 2014 varied between tributary sites (Figure 26) but was an average year within each site for the past five years daily average comparison graphs for each tributary (Figures 27, 29 and 31).

All tributary sites exceeded the NCRWQCB Basin Plan water quality objective for pH at some point during 2014.

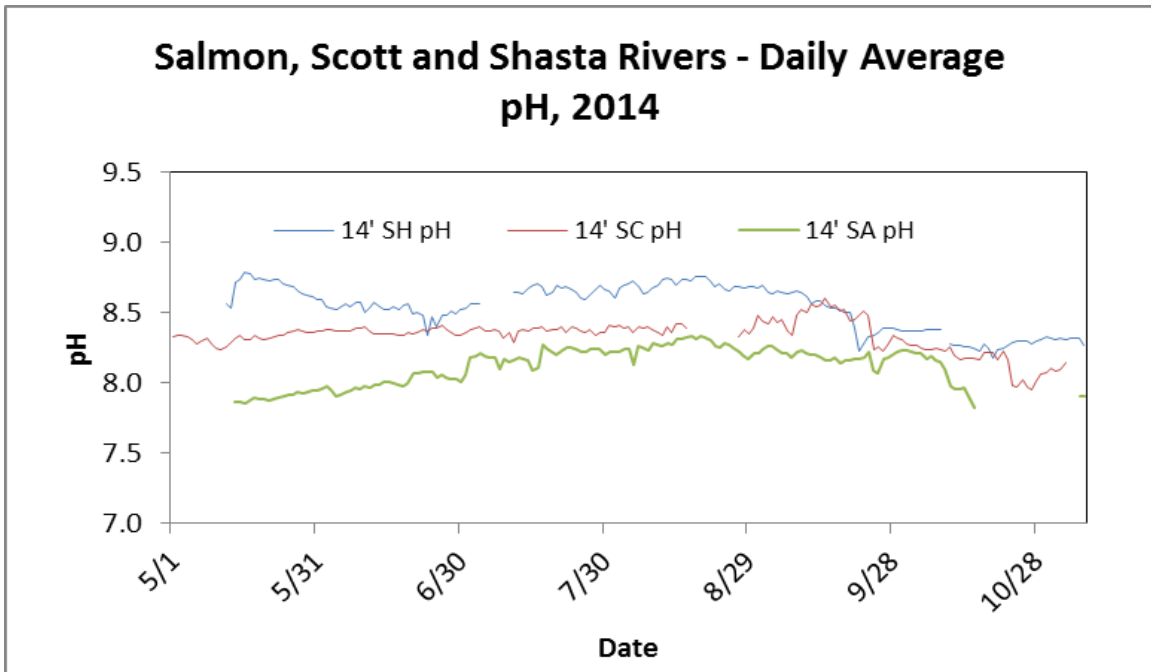


Figure 26. Daily average pH for Scott, Shasta, and Salmon Rivers, 2014.

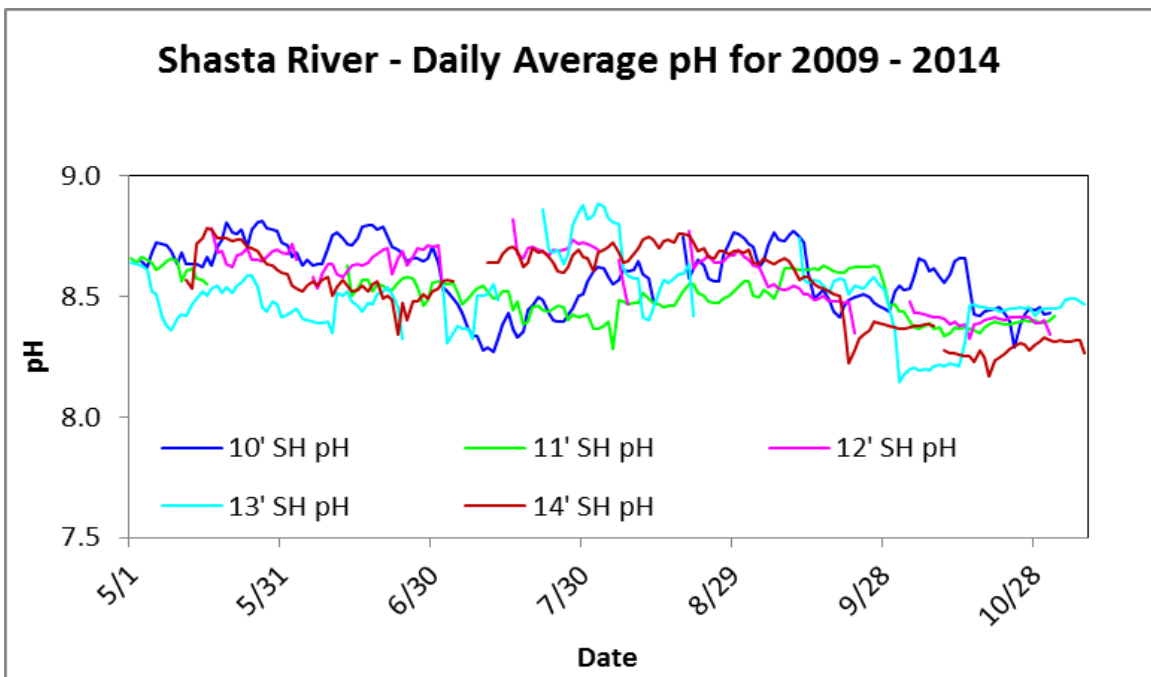


Figure 27. Daily average pH concentrations for the Shasta River from 2010-2014.

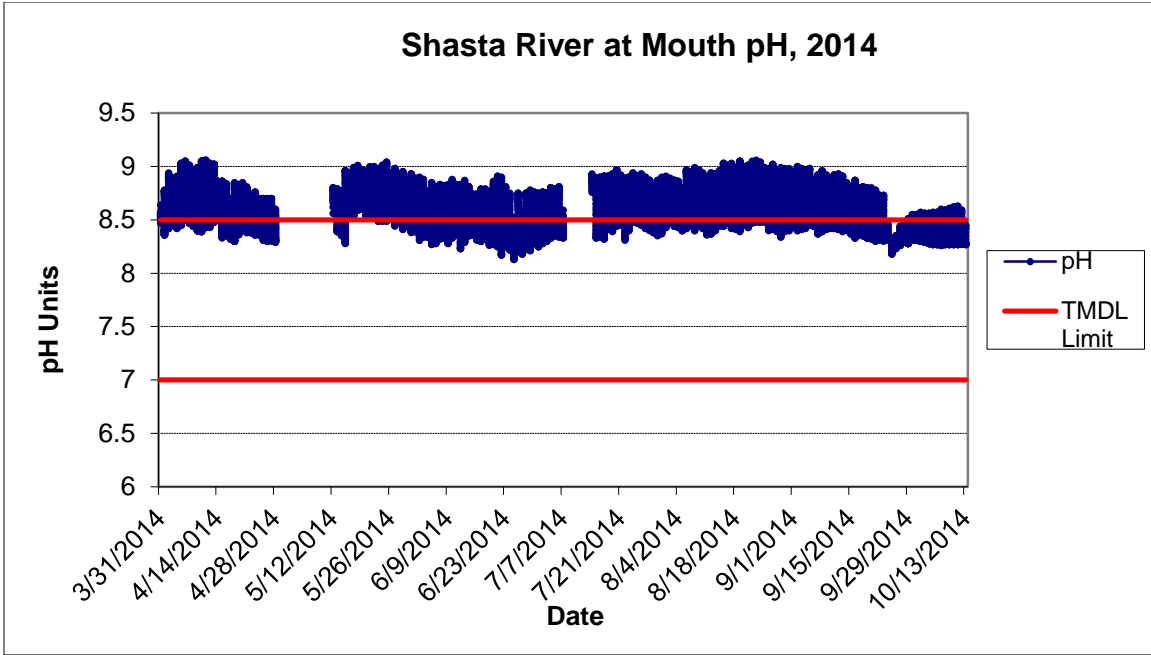


Figure 28. Instantaneous pH readings recorded every 30 minutes for the mouth of the Shasta River (SH) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan pH water quality objective for Shasta River, $7 < X < 8.5$.

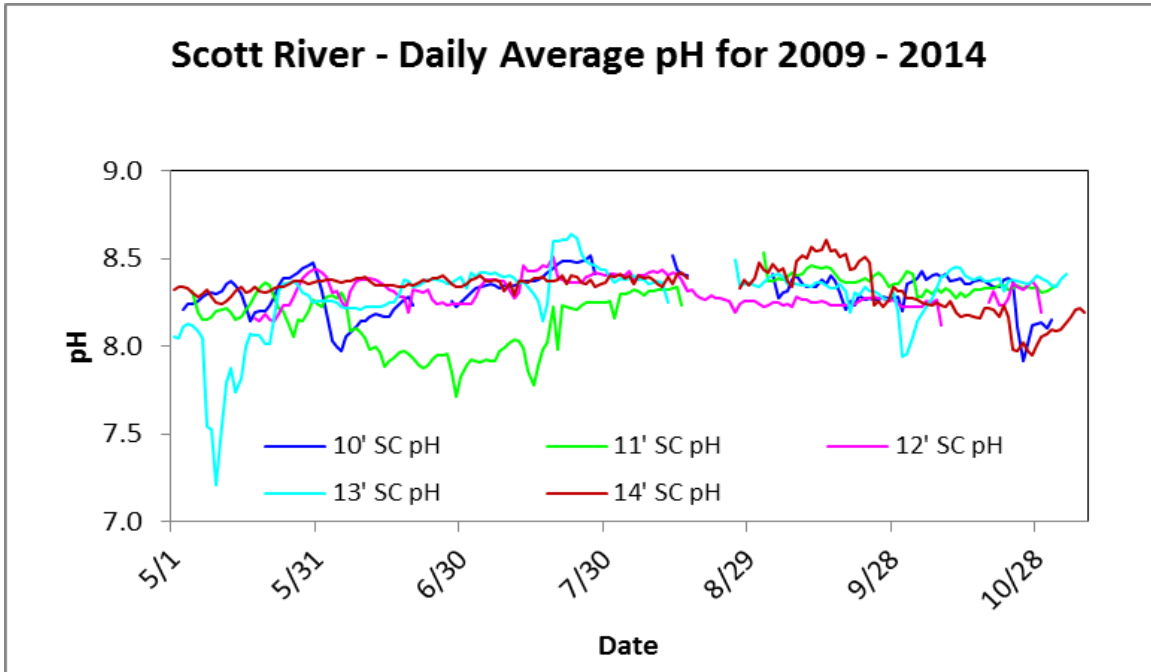


Figure 29. Daily average pH concentrations for the Scott River from 2010-2014.

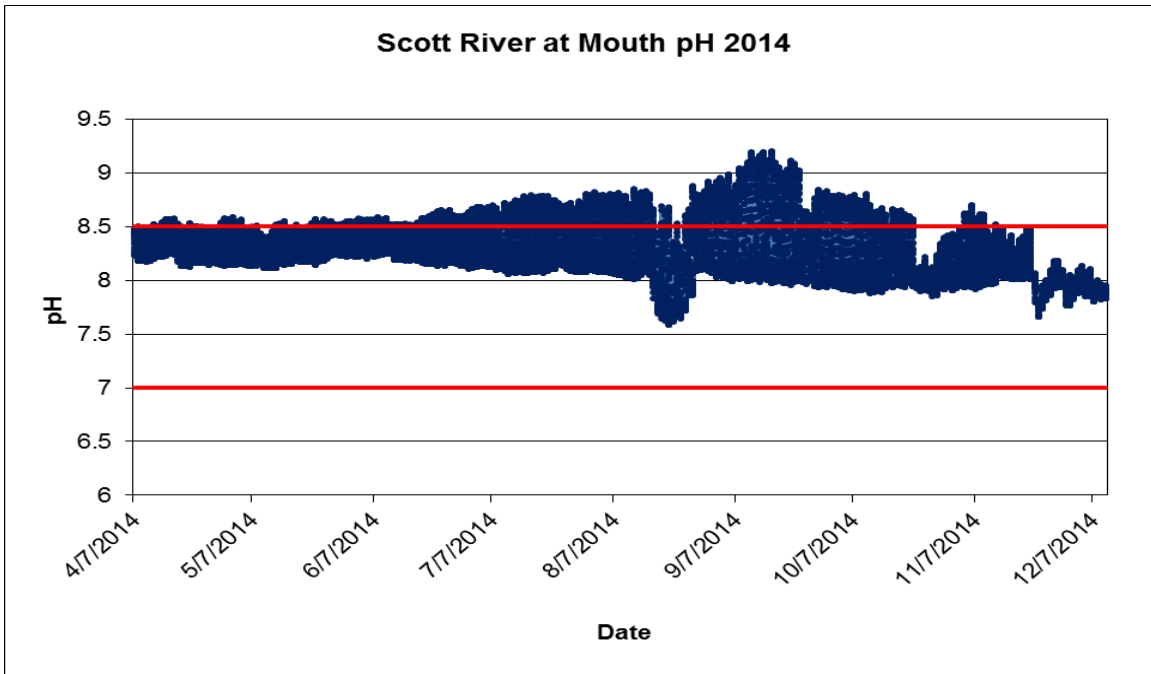


Figure 30. Instantaneous pH readings recorded every 30 minutes for the mouth of the Scott River (SC) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan pH water quality objective for Scott River, $7 < X < 8.5$.

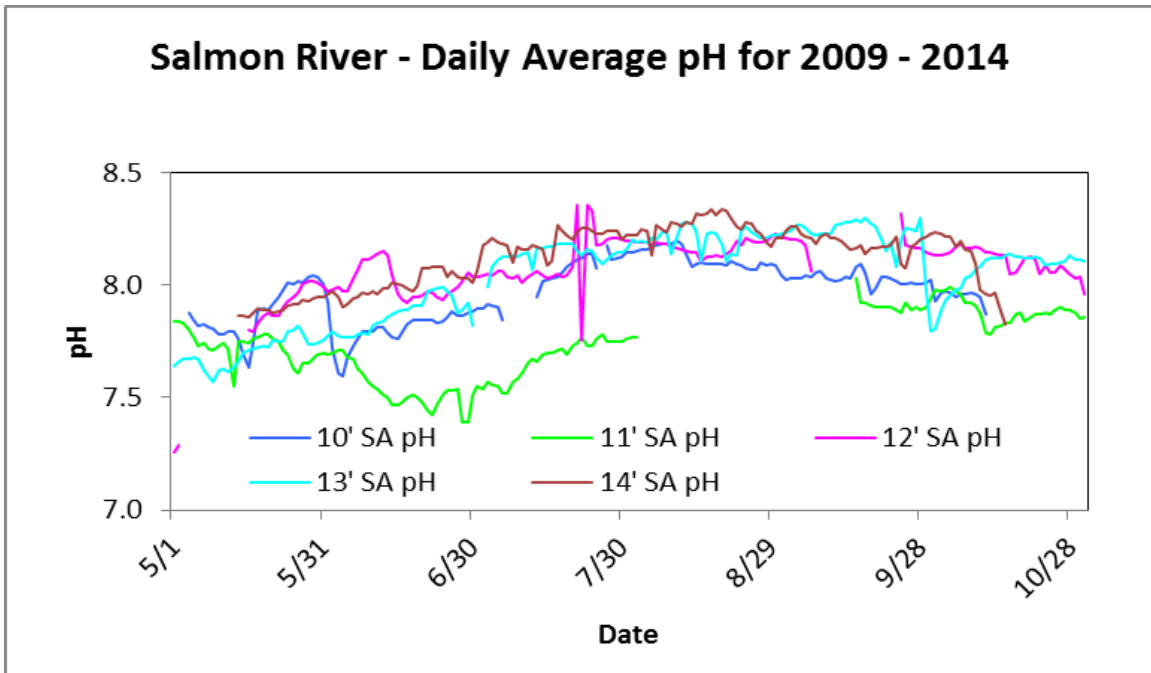


Figure 31. Daily average pH concentrations for the Salmon River from 2009-2014.

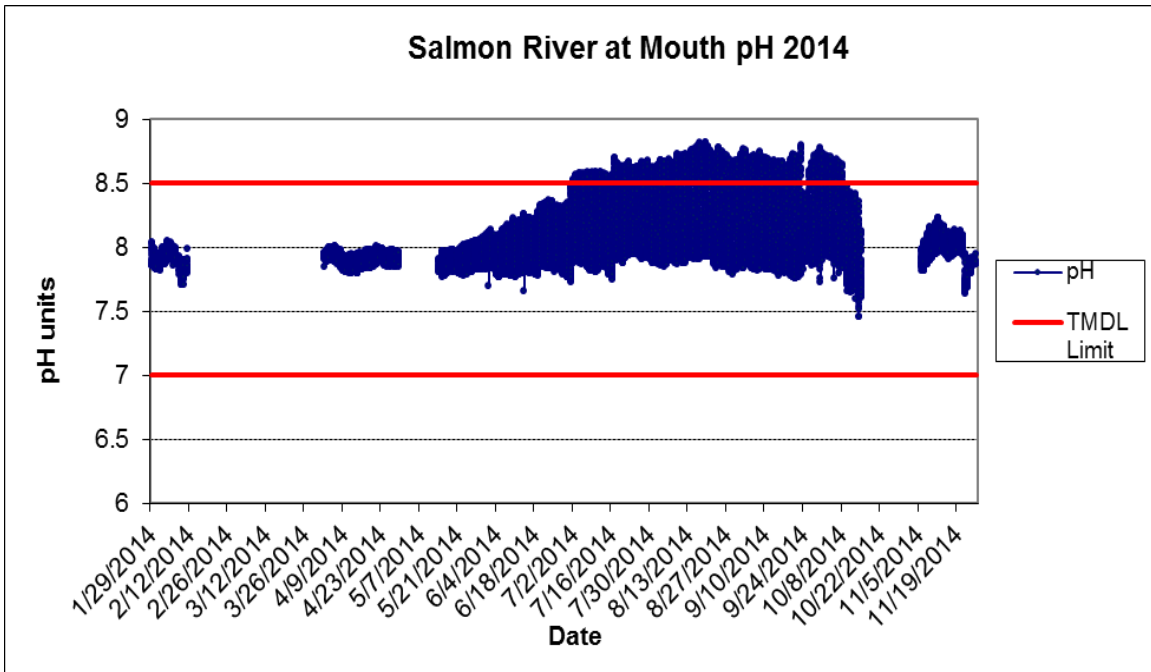


Figure 32. Instantaneous pH readings recorded every 30 minutes for the mouth of the Salmon River (SA) in 2014. The red line indicates the NCRWQCB Basin Plan pH water quality objective for Salmon River, $7 < X < 8.5$.

Turbidity:

Turbidity data gathered on the Salmon River during winter and spring depict similar trends in response to the lack of major winter rain and snowmelt events (Figures 34).

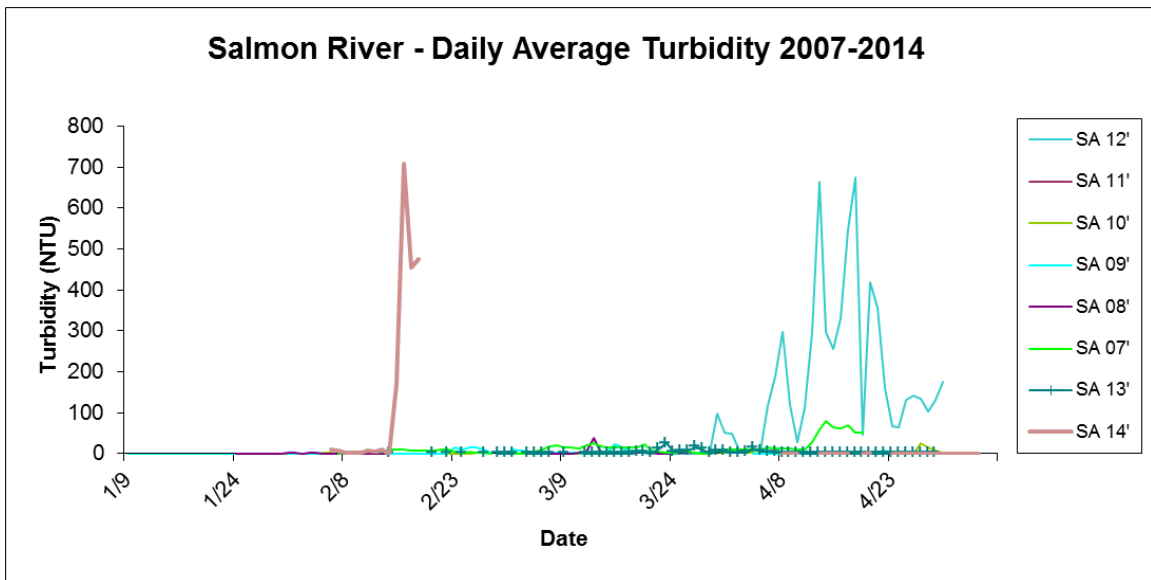


Figure 33. Daily average turbidity, winters of 2007 - 2014 on Salmon River (SA).

Major Tributary Conclusions from Datasonde Data 2014: Water temperature differed among sites during the beginning of summer more likely due to sub basin hydrology

differences (snow melt vs spring fed) and differed less once in stream flows dropped and air temperature became the dominant controlling factor. This trend has been recorded annually for the past five years. Dissolved oxygen levels in the lower Salmon were the worst recorded among the three major tributaries for 2014, this drop corresponds with the Salmon's highest water temperature readings indicating the rivers decreased ability to hold oxygen with increased water temperature. Dissolved oxygen levels in the lower Salmon did not meet the Salmon River Basin Plan water quality objective of 9mg/L for a large portion of the sampling season, July through September. This timeframe corresponds with large diurnal pH swings indicating photo-respiration was impacting water quality in 2014. The pH in the Shasta, Salmon and Scott River were high in 2014 compared to their own six year trends.

MAINSTEM AND TRIBUTARIES

Nutrients:

Nutrient samples were collected by the KTWQP in 2014 from the mainstem Klamath and major tributaries.

Total phosphorus (TP) results for 2014 from the mainstem Klamath and major tributaries depict Iron Gate (IG), Walker Bridge (WA) and Shasta River (SH) as the highest levels (Figure 35). TP levels decrease at all monitoring sites longitudinally downstream from IG. The 2007-2014 (Figure 36) data depicts the same trend. The Shasta River had the highest TP concentration among all sites sampled from 2007-2014, Scott and Salmon Rivers the lowest.

Total nitrogen (TN) mainstem concentrations were highest at the most upriver sites (IG and WA) (Figures 37 and 38). TN concentrations increased throughout the season, doubling between May and October in 2013 (Figure 37). The Shasta River had the highest TN, compared to other major tributaries, which supports the nutrient enrichment TMDL impairment listing of dissolved oxygen and temperature.

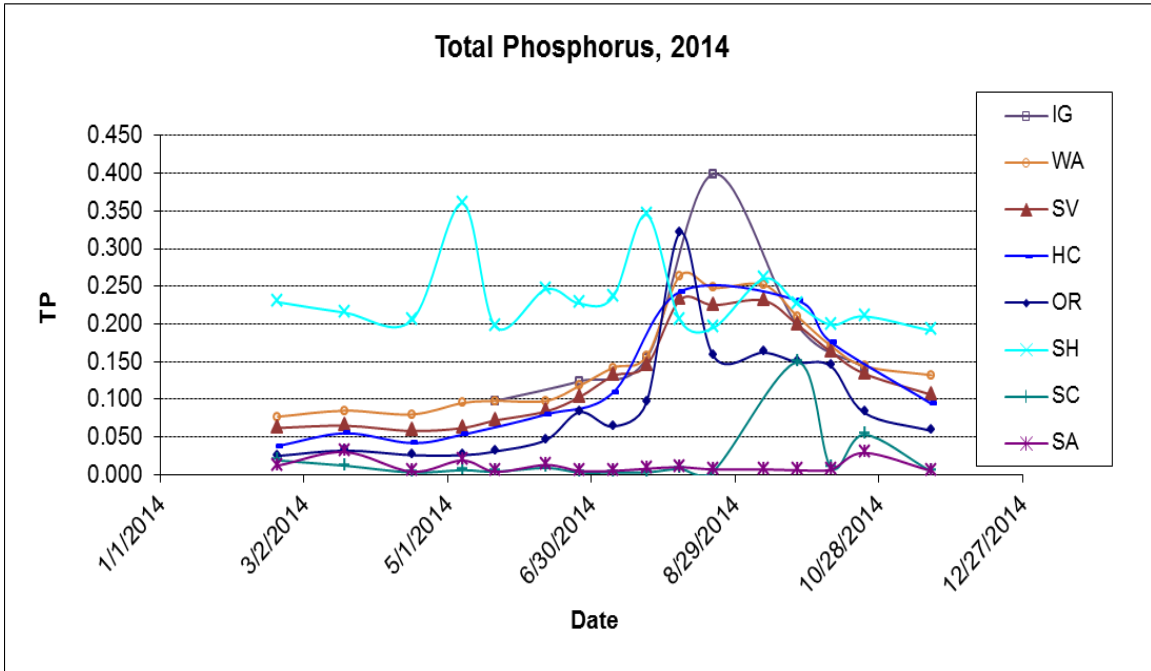


Figure 34. Total Phosphorus measured in mg/L for all monitored sites during 2014.

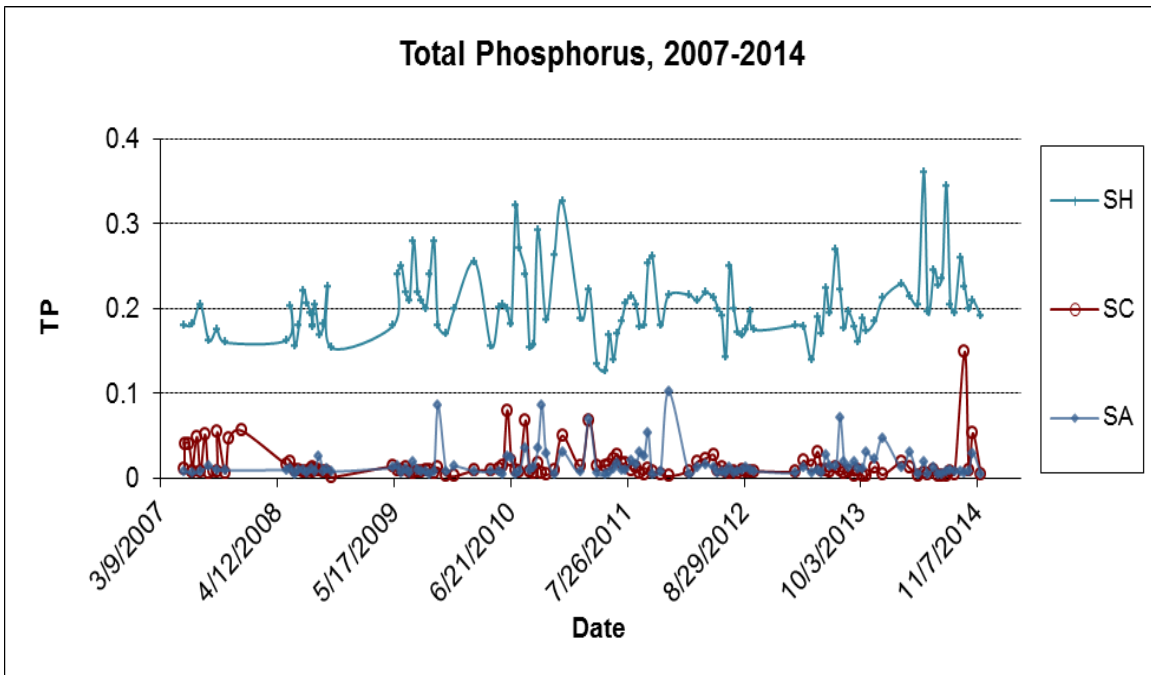


Figure 35. Total Phosphorus measured in mg/L for Salmon, Scott and Shasta Rivers sites during 2007-2014.

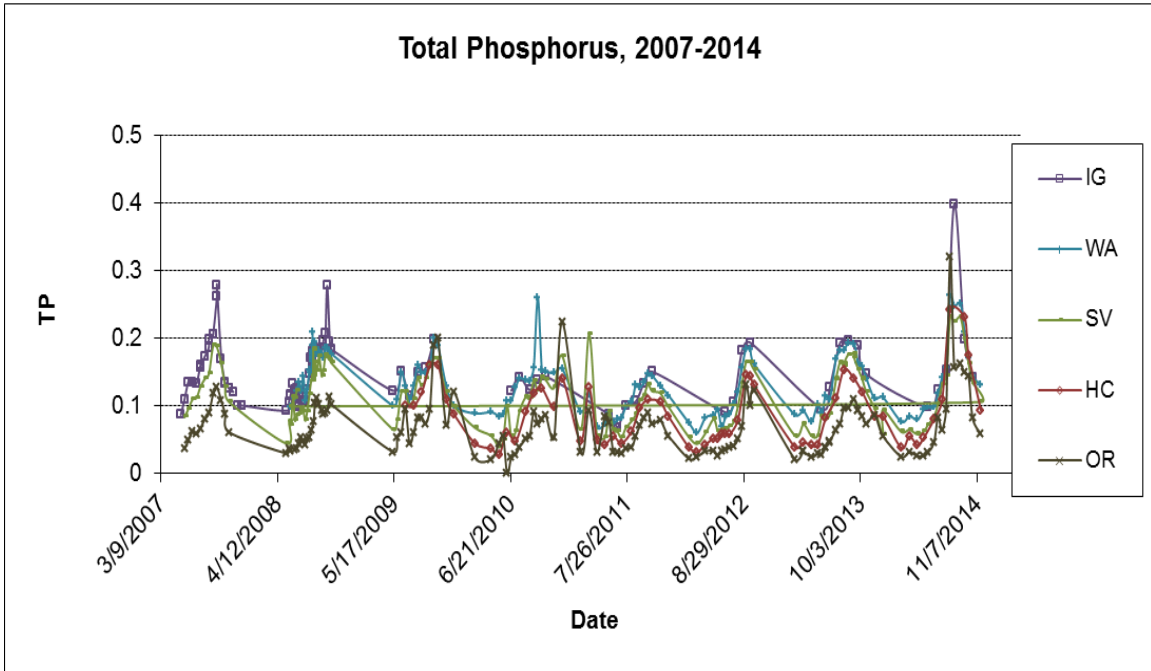


Figure 36. Total Phosphorus measured in mg/L for Klamath River sites during 2007-2014.

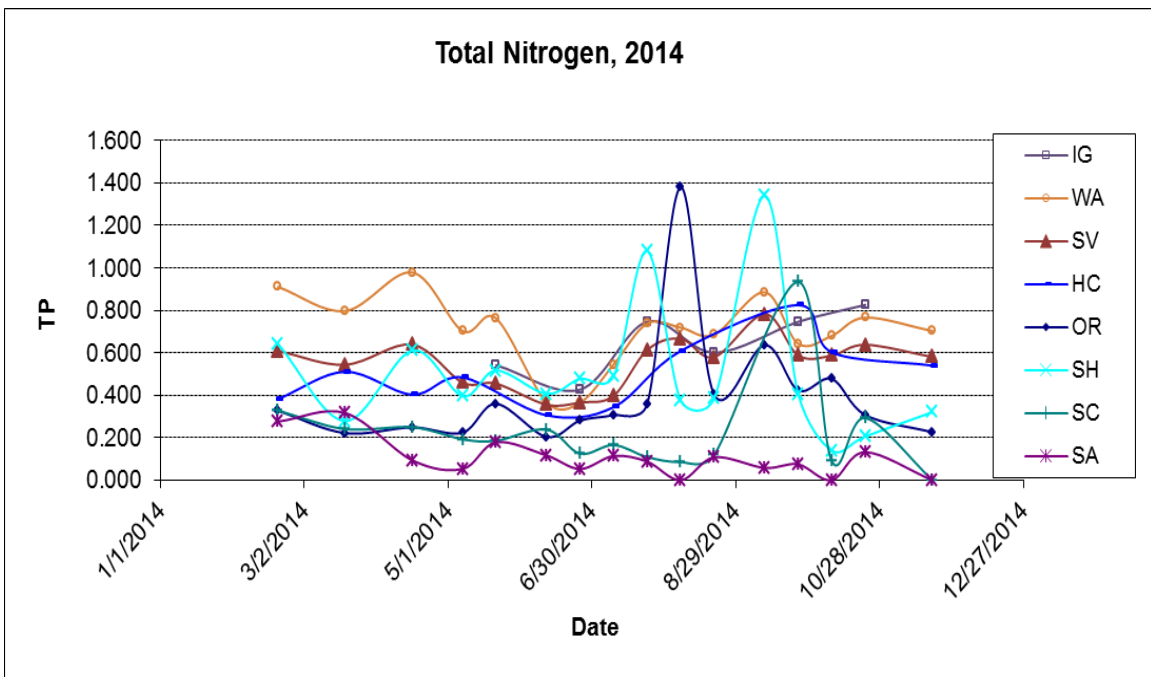


Figure 37. Total Nitrogen measured in mg/L for all monitored sites during 2013.

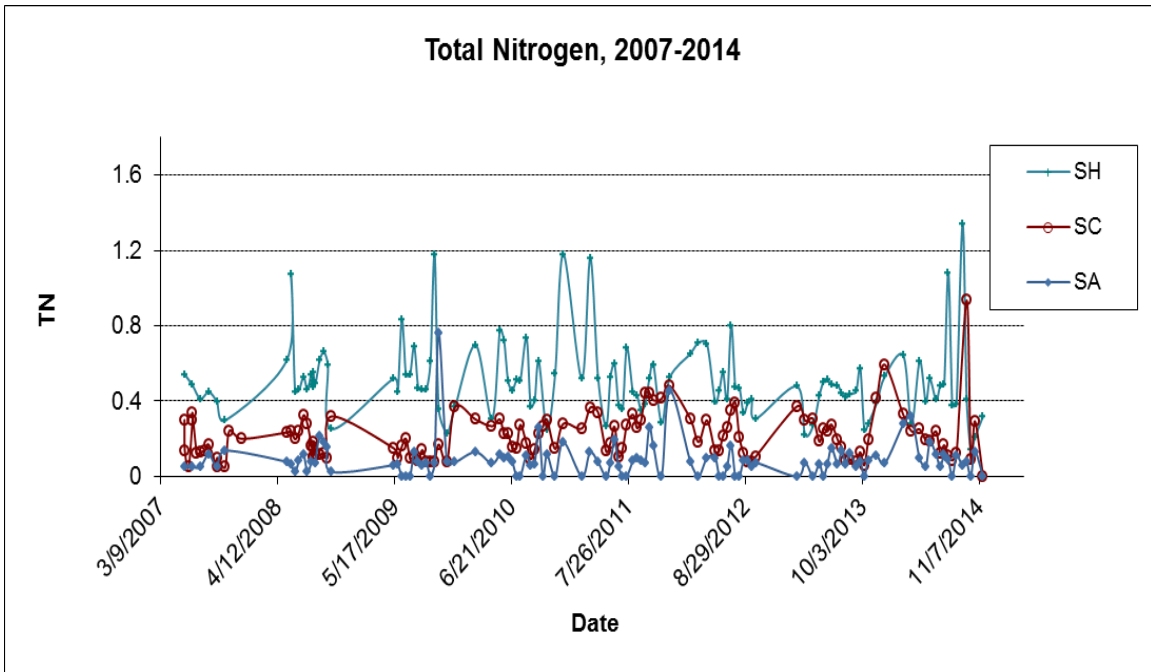


Figure 38. Total Nitrogen measured in mg/L for Salmon, Scott and Shasta Rivers during 2007-2014.

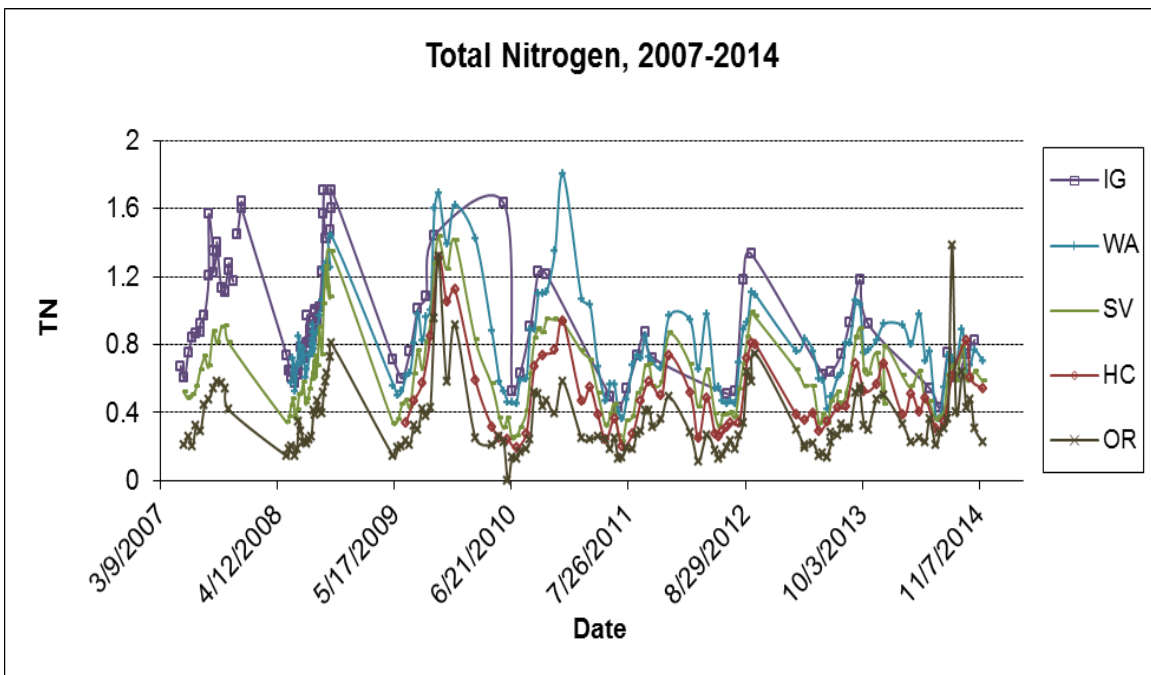


Figure 39. Total Nitrogen measured in mg/L for Klamath River during 2007-2014.

Mainstem and Tributary Nutrient Conclusions: Agricultural land uses in the upper Klamath Basin and major tributaries of Shasta and Scott Rivers are the majority of nutrient contributions in the basin. Grab sample results support this land use assessment. Trends are consistent throughout the six sampling years.

7 References

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