

Metadata unit conversion for the samples from OSD 2018 and 2019

1. Seawater optical property (downward PAR)

PAR = Photosynthetic Active Radiation

Handbook standard = $\text{mE/m}^2/\text{s}$, where

E = Einstein = energy of 1 mole of photons / m^2/s

Photon Flux = $1\mu\text{E}$

Normally, for visible light, wavelength $\lambda = 400\text{-}700\text{nm}$

PAR is in the range $0 - 2000\mu\text{E/m}^2/\text{s} = 0 - 2\text{mE/m}^2/\text{s}$

Conversion from actual samples

Received samples marked with photons/ m^2/s :

Believe it means Photon Flux, $\mu\text{mol photons/m}^2/\text{s} = \mu\text{E/m}^2/\text{s}$

So, to convert, divide it by 1000 to get $\text{mE/m}^2/\text{s}$

2. Seawater nutrient concentrations, handbook standard = $\mu\text{mol/L}$

$\mu\text{mol/L}$ is the conventional unit, while mg/l is an old-fashion unit

We need to know the molar mass of each nutrient in order to convert:

Nitrate $\text{NO}_3^- = 62.01 \text{ g/mol}$

Nitrite $\text{NO}_2^- = 46.005 \text{ g/mol}$

Phosphate $\text{PO}_4 = 94.97 \text{ g/mol}$

Silicate $\text{SiO}_3^{2-} = 76.083 \text{ g/mol}$

Conversion from actual samples

$\mu\text{mol/L} = \text{sample weight (mg/l)} / (\text{Molar mass (g/mol)} * 1000)$, or

$= \text{sample weight } (\mu\text{g/l}) / (\text{Molar mass (g/mol)} * 10^6)$

3. Dissolved oxygen concentration, handbook standard = $\mu\text{mol/Kg}$

Molecular weight: $1\mu\text{mol dissolved O}_2 = 0.022391 \text{ mg O}_2$

Density of seawater at $T=25^\circ\text{C}$, salinity at $35\text{g/Kg} = 1023.6 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Guideline for interpretation of Dissolved Oxygen:

- $0\text{-}2 \text{ mg/L} =$ not enough oxygen to support life
- $2\text{-}4 \text{ mg/L} =$ only a few kinds of fishes and insects can survive
- $4\text{-}7 \text{ mg/L} =$ acceptable for warm water fish
- $7\text{-}11 \text{ mg/L} =$ very good for most stream fish including cold water fish

Conversion from actual samples:

$1 \text{ mg/l} = 43.6311 \mu\text{mol/kg (dissolved O}_2)$

Others conversions:

- $1 \text{ ml/l} = 1 \text{ mg/l}$
- $1 \% = 0.1 \text{ mg/l}$
- $1 \text{ mol/m}^3 = 1 \mu\text{mol/kg}$

4. Seawater optical properties – Turbidity, handbook unit = NTU or FTU; sample unit = FNU
- NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units, measured with white light scattered at 90°, according to USEPA Method 180.1. For OSD 2018 4 stations recorded values in this unit.
 - FNU = Formazin Nephelometric Units, measured with infrared light scattered at 90°, according to ISO7027. No stations recorded values in this unit.
 - FTU = Formazin Turbidity Units, do not specify how the instrument measure the sample. For OSD2019 all 6 stations recorded values in this unit. For OSD2018, 3 stations recorded in this unit.

Because suspended particles scatter light of different wavelengths with varying efficiency, turbidity data collected with infrared light sources are not directly comparable to turbidity data collected with white light sources. (<https://or.water.usgs.gov/grapher/fnu.html>)

Conversion from actual samples: *No comparable conversion between FNU and NTU. Since FTU is the most commonly-reported unit and matches OSD 2014, that one will be adopted and values in other units will be discarded.*

5. Dissolved Organic Nitrogen DON, handbook unit = mg/L; sample unit = micromolar μM (10^{-6}mol/L)

DON includes all nitrogenous compounds in living organisms: proteins, free amino acids, amino sugars, nucleic acids (DNA / RNA), etc

DON is usually calculated as:

$$\text{DON} = \text{TDN} - \text{DIN}$$

TDN = Total Dissolved Nitrogen

DIN = Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen = (nitrite + nitrate + ammonia)

Conversion from actual samples:

μM cannot be converted to mg/L because exact chemical composition of DON is not known → measurements discarded