

## Water Quality Parameter Guidelines

Parameter	Definition	Guidelines
<b>Temperature</b>	Measure of the average heat or thermal energy of the particles in a substance (°C).	-Human activities should not change water temperature by more than +/- 1 °C. -Any temperature change due to human activities should not be more than 0.5 °C per hour.
<b>Dissolved Oxygen (DO)</b>	The amount of oxygen in water available for aquatic organisms to breathe	-5.5 mg/L to 9.0 mg/L -Minimum of 5.0 mg/L to support aquatic life - 2.0 mg/L does not support fish at all
<b>pH</b>	A measure of how acidic or basic water is (0-14). 0=Acidic, 7=Neutral, 14=Basic	-6.5-8.5 pH units -Human activities should not change natural pH of water by more than 0.2 pH units.
<b>Conductivity</b>	Ability of a substance to conduct electrical current. A measure of the conductive material in a sample (µS/cm).	-No CCME guidelines -Conductivity is roughly ½ of TDS. -TDS guideline=usually do not exceed 500 mg/L - Conductivity should be no greater than 250 µS/cm
<b>Turbidity</b>	Relative measure of clarity of suspended material in a water sample.	-Secchi Disk- Less than 1 meter means there is high amounts of suspended materials -Turbidity meter- CCME= should not exceed 1500 NTUs -Change should not exceed 8 NTU where background is < 80 NTU -Change should not increase by > 10% where background is equal or greater than 80 NTU. -NTU of 0-10 is considered normal

CCME = Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Water quality guidelines put forth by the CCME are industry standard. For more information, the website can be viewed at: [http://www.ccme.ca/ourwork/water.html?category\\_id=41](http://www.ccme.ca/ourwork/water.html?category_id=41)