LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APHA : American Public Health Association
AvTD : Average Taxonomic Distinctness
BOD  : Biological Oxygen Demand
Chl. a : Chlorophyll a
CPCB : Central Pollution Control Board
DO   : Dissolved Oxygen
EC   : Electrical Conductivity
ENVIS: Environmental Information System of the Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University
GPP  : Gross Primary Productivity
IOC  : Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
LSD  : Least Significant Difference
MDS  : Multidimensional Scaling
NPP  : Net Primary Productivity
OD   : Optical Density
ppt  : parts per trillion
PRIMER: Plymouth Routines in Multivariate Ecological Research
SD   : Standard Deviation
VarTD: Variation in Taxonomic Distinctness