

CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA	8
3. PHYSICOCHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF WATER	
3.1 INTRODUCTION	14
3.2 MATERIALS AND METHODS	20
3.3 RESULTS	
3.3.1 Temperature	29
3.3.2 pH	33
3.3.3 Salinity	34
3.3.4 Dissolved oxygen	36
3.3.5 CO ₂	38
3.3.6 BOD	40
3.3.7 Bicarbonate	41
3.3.8 EC	43
3.3.9 Calcium	45
3.3.10 Magnesium	47
3.3.11 Silicate	48
3.3.12 Phosphate	50
3.3.13 Nitrite	52
3.3.14 Nitrate	54
3.3.15 Ammonia	56
3.3.16 Sulphate	57
3.3.17 Manganese	59
3.3.18 Zinc	61
3.3.19 Copper	63
3.3.20 Iron	65

3.4 DISCUSSION	67
4. SEDIMENT ANALYSIS	
4.1 INTRODUCTION	91
4.2 MATERIALS AND METHODS	97
4.3 RESULTS	
4.3.1 pH	104
4.3.2 EC	105
4.3.3 Nitrogen	107
4.3.4 Phosphorus	109
4.3.5 Potassium	110
4.3.6 Organic carbon	112
4.3.7 Copper	114
4.3.8 Zinc	115
4.3.10 Manganese	117
4.3.10 Iron	118
4.4 DISCUSSION	121
5. DENITRIFYING BACTERIAL POPULATION ANALYSIS	
5.1 INTRODUCTION	133
5.2 MATERIALS AND METHODS	138
5.3 RESULTS	143
5.4 DISCUSSION	156
6. SUMMARY	167
7. REFERENCES	183