



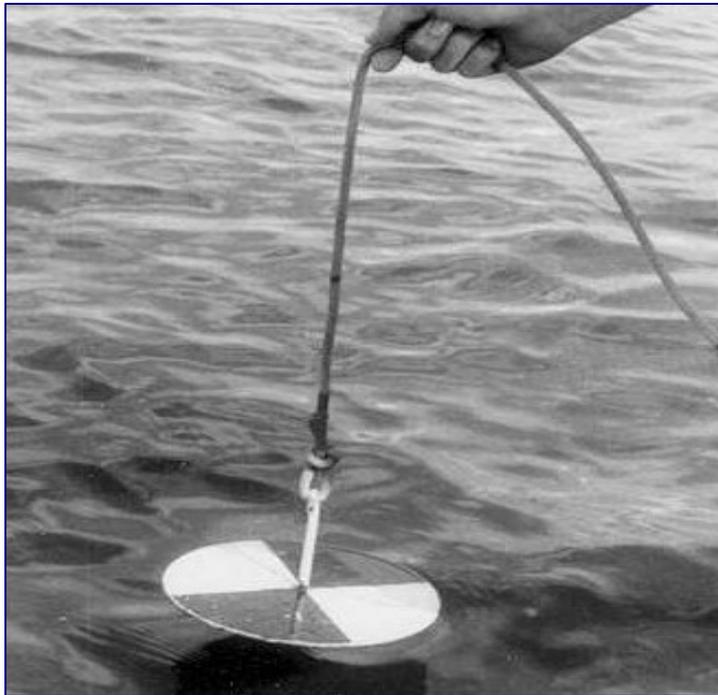
Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the clarity of a water body and is related to erosion and sedimentation which impacts streams and lakes. Turbidity can affect the oxygen content and light penetration of the water while sedimentation can change the physical structure of habitats, stress organisms within the water body and smother macroinvertebrates. Causes of high turbidity include: soil erosion, wastewater discharges, urban runoff, farming and forestry practices, eroding stream banks, and excessive algae growth.



Suspended materials in a stream at Tuolumne Me-Wuk.

Understanding the Impact of Turbidity: A turbidity measurement is actually a measurement of the amount of suspended particles in the water body. The suspended particles absorb more heat which can raise water temperature and affect the oxygen content of water. When the suspended materials settle at the bottom of a water body they can clog fish gills and smother fish eggs, along with other organisms. Check tribal, state, or federal standards to determine an acceptable range for turbidity in your water body of interest.



Secchi Disk

Monitoring Equipment: The following is a list of the types of monitoring equipment commonly used to measure turbidity in surface water bodies. All options can be found in laboratory supply stores. Contract laboratories may also be used if necessary.

Lakes and Reservoirs:

- Secchi disc
- Kits
- Meters
- Multiparameter probes

Streams:

- Turbidity tube
- Kits
- Meters
- Multiparameter probes

For additional information:

www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/volunteer/stream