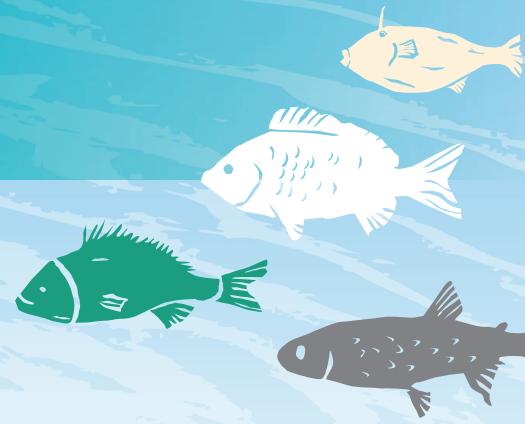


# Glossary



**Berm** – is the sand that closes the estuary entrance.

**Calibration** – A comparison between measurements – one of known magnitude or correctness made or set with one device and another measurement made in as similar a way as possible with a second device.

**Child estuary** – A smaller estuary which drains into a larger embayment such as Port Phillip Bay or Western Port.

**CMA** – Catchment Management Authority.

**Core monitoring** – The basis for EstuaryWatch monitoring program. It consists of mouth condition monitoring, physical & chemical parameter monitoring, general observations and event monitoring.

**Data** – individual facts, statistics, or items of information.

**Dissolved oxygen** – oxygen dissolved in water. Usually measured in milligrams per litre (mg/L) but can also be presented as per cent saturation (%).

**EEFAM** – Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Methodology

**EEMSS** – Estuary Entrance Management Support System

**Electrical conductivity (EC)** – is a measure of how well a material accommodates the transport of electric charge. EC is used to estimate the concentration of dissolved salts. EC is usually measured in microSiemens per centimetre ( $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ) or milliSiemens per centimetre ( $\text{mS}/\text{cm}$ ). 1 $\text{mS}/\text{cm}$  is equal to 1000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ .

**EMPs** – Estuary Management Plans

**Estuary** – semi-enclosed body of water where salt from the sea mixes with freshwater from the land.

**Furrowed** – Having long, narrow, shallow depressions (as grooves, wrinkles or ripples) in the surface of the ocean.

**Halocline** – an area of transition from lower to higher salinity with increasing depth.

**Hypersaline** – when water is more saline than seawater.

**IEC** – Index of Estuary Condition

**Monitoring** – observing what is happening to different aspects of the environment over time in a coordinated and scientific manner.

**Multi-parameter meter** – Electronic water quality meters used to measure a range of parameters for EstuaryWatch monitoring.

**NTU** – Nephelometric turbidity unit. This is the units that turbidity is measured in for EstuaryWatch.

**Parameters** – a measurable factor that can help in defining a particular system. EstuaryWatch measures water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen and temperature.

**Perched** – An estuary which consistently has water levels above mean sea level (MSL).

**pH** – The pH of water is a measure of its acidity or alkalinity. The actual component of the water being measured is its concentration of hydrogen ions ( $\text{H}^+$ ).

**Residence time** – the period of time that water spends within an estuary.

**Salt wedge** – a wedge shaped intrusion of salty ocean water beneath freshwater in an estuary.

**Stratification** – A layer of freshwater can ‘float’ on top of a layer of salt water. This occurs in poorly mixed estuaries and the boundary between the two layers is called the halocline.

# Glossary

**Sea state** – the general condition of the free surface on a large body of water – with respect to wind, waves and swell – at a certain location and moment.

**Swash** – the turbulent layer of water that washes up on the beach after an incoming wave has broken.

**Swash limit** – the upper extent of the swash, often delineated by the wet markings on the sand that waves leave behind.

**SWMS** – Safe Work Methods Statement. A simple safety tool which will assist EstuaryWatch Coordinators and volunteers to logically examine a monitoring event so that all the hazards associated with that event can be identified, assessed and documented.

**Turbidity** – an indirect measure of the suspended solids in the water. As the amount of suspended solids in the water increases, the turbidity increases, i.e. the depth that light can penetrate is reduced.