

ABSTRACT

The water quality study of the rivers in the Hartbeespoort Dam catchment as well as its outflow has been conducted over a period of 6 months (i.e. from January 2004 to July 2004). The research effort has focused on nutrient concentrations (i.e. phosphorus and nitrogen) and their load at chosen points of the catchment. The occurrence of different phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) species as well as other water quality parameters at the selected points of the catchment have been examined. Situational analysis of sources of pollution in the catchment has also been carried out. The load of P and N into the dam was estimated and compared with values computed from the chosen water quality models. Following the analysis of the data generated in the research, the Crocodile River was identified as the river contributing the highest yearly TP load measuring 316.3 t/y into the Hartbeespoort Dam. Of this load, 52% is from the Jukskei River, 47% is from Hennops River and lastly 1% is from the Upper Crocodile River catchment. The Magalies and Swartspuit contributed a small percentage of the load to the Dam. The measured total inorganic nitrogen loading from Crocodile River was 2 330.2 t/a of which 49% is from Jukskei River, 35% was from Hennops and 16% from the Upper Crocodile River Catchment. The Magalies and Swartspuit also contributed a small percentage of the load to the Dam. Natural runoff from the Dam's Catchment is approximately 50% of the total runoff and another 50% is the discharge of effluent from 10 waste water treatment plants (WWTP) situated in the Catchment. It has also been noted that a large contribution was runoff from the urban areas. Analysis of data from WWTP's reveals that most of the P and N measured in the catchment emanate from these operations in spite of the fact that most of them comply with effluent discharge standards. Wet season's runoff contributes in the nutrient load. Non-point sources have been identified as informal settlements, cultivated land, developments, urban runoff, golf courses, parks and burnt pastures.

The study concluded that despite the implementation of the stricter effluent discharge standards in the catchment the P load is still very high to maintain the likely meso-eutrophic conditions in the Dam. In order to maintain the dam in mesotrophic conditions, the annual load of TP should be kept within the range of 10 to 15 t/a. It is suggested that abatement strategies to reduce the load into Crocodile River be applied on the subcatchments.

DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted for the Degree of Master of Science in Engineering in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

.....

(Maxwell Zanooyise Dudula)

_____ Day of _____ (year)_____.

This research is dedicated
to my sisters, brothers, my son Bahle and his mother,
and my late parents.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	Page
ABSTRACT	i
DECLARATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
NOMENCLATURE	xv
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Study Objectives	2
1.2 Study Approach	3
1.3 Organisation of the Report	4
2 EUTROPHICATION OF WATER BODIES	6
2.1 The Causes and Consequences of Eutrophication	8
2.2 Sources of Pollutants and Nutrients that Cause Eutrophication	12
2.2.1 The natural sources	13
2.2.2 Anthropogenic sources of pollution	14
2.3 Water Quality Variables and their Significance to the Trophic States	16

CONTENTS	Page
2.4 Phosphorus in Aquatic Systems	17
2.5 Nitrogen in Aquatic Systems	20
2.5.1 Nitrates	21
2.5.2 Nitrites	22
2.5.3 Ammonia nitrogen	23
2.6 Other Parameters Associated with Eutrophication	24
2.6.1 Dissolved oxygen	24
2.6.2 Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD-5)	25
2.6.2 Temperature	25
2.6.4 Turbidity	26
2.6.5 Total dissolved solids	27
2.6.6 pH	27
2.6.7 Electrical conductivity	29
2.6.8 River flow rates	29
2.6.9 Total hardness	29
2.7 Phosphorus and Nitrogen Relationship in Water Sources	30
2.8 The Measurement and Prediction of Eutrophication	31
2.9 Abatement of Eutrophication	35
2.10 Water Pollution and Eutrophication in South African Conditions	36
3 THE STUDY AREA	42
3.1 Climate	44
3.2 General Geology of the Catchment	45

CONTENTS	Page
3.3 Catchment Description	46
3.3.1 Jukskei River catchment	47
3.3.2 Hennops River catchment	51
3.3.3 The Upper Crocodile River catchment	52
3.3.4 Magalies River catchment	53
3.3.5 Swartspruit catchment	54
3.4 Erosion Potential of the Soil	54
3.5 Land Use and other Activities	54
3.6 Water Use	55
3.7 Water Quality in the Catchment	55
3.8 Historical Nutrient Loading in the HBS Dam	58
4 MATERIALS AND METHODS	60
4.1 Description of Sampling Points	61
4.2 Analytical Methods	66
4.2.1 Inorganic Nitrogen Compounds	67
4.2.2 Phosphorus Analysis	69
5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	73
5.1 Phosphorus in Selected Sampling Points	73
5.2 Nitrogen Compounds and Associated Parameters	78
5.2.1 Ammonia	79
5.2.2 Nitrites	81

CONTENTS	Page
5.2.3 Nitrates	84
3.2.4 Total nitrogen	88
5.3 Observed Concentrations on other Parameters	91
5.3.1 Dissolved oxygen	91
5.3.2 Chloride	91
5.3.3 Conductivity	92
5.4 Phosphorus Loading from the Rivers to the Dam	93
5.5 Nitrogen Compounds Mass Loading	105
5.6 Mass Loading of other Parameters	107
6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	109
6.1 Conclusions	109
6.2 Recommendations	111
7 REFERENCES	114
APPENDIX A: CATCHMENT SAMPLING POINT DATA	129
APPENDIX A: CATCHMENT SAMPLING POINT DATA CONT.	130
APPENDIX B: WATER QUALITY DATA IN SAMPLING POINTS	132
APPENDIX C: GRAPHS OF OTHER WQ PARAMETERS	136
C1. Sulphate Concentrations	136

CONTENTS	Page
C2. Calcium Concentrations	137
C3. Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations	138
C4. Turbidity	139
C5. Suspended Solids	140
C6. Electrical Conductivity	141
C7. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅)	142
C8. Chloride Concentrations	143

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
2.1: The main internal dynamics of a lake and relationship between internal and external loading	8
2.2: The three levels determining the productivity of water bodies	10
2.3: The main causes of eutrophication and other trophic states	11
2.4: The phosphorus cycle	18
2.5: The association of phosphates with other chemical parameters in water	19
2.6: Nitrogen cycle in natural waters	21
2.7: Natural aeration as observed in Crocodile River about 50 metres from the out flow of the dam.	25
2.8: Relationship between the phosphorus concentration in a dam and probability of the occurrence of a given trophic state.	33
2.9: Relationships among retention time, P concentration, trophic state and chlorophyll-a concentration	34
3.1: Regional setup (A) and the river network (B) at the HBS Dam Catchment	42
4.1: CROC 1 Sampling point	63
4.2: CROC 2 Sampling point	63
4.3: CROC 3 Sampling point	64
4.4: JUKS Sampling point	64
4.5: MAG Sampling point	65
4.6: HNPS Sampling point	65
4.7: SWRT Sampling point	66
4.8: The flow chart for nitrogen compounds measurements	67

Figure	Page
4.9: The nitrate cadmium reduction columns assembled in the laboratory by the author of this report	69
4.10: Flow chart of procedures for phosphorus species measurement	70
5.1 (a): The concentration of P species at CROC 1, CROC 2 and CROC 3.	74
5.1 (b): The concentration of P species at JUKS, HNPS and MAG	75
5.1 (c): The concentration of P species at SWRT	76
5.2 (a): Ammonia concentration observed at CROC 1 and CROC 2	79
5.2 (b): Ammonia concentration observed at CROC 3, JUKS and HNPS	80
5.2 (c): Ammonia concentration observed at MAG and SWRT	81
5.3 (a): The nitrite concentrations measured at CROC 1 and CROC 2	82
5.3 (b): The nitrite concentrations measured at CROC 3, JUKS and HNPS	83
5.3 (c): The nitrite concentrations measured at MAG and SWRT	84
5.4 (a): The concentration of nitrate measured at CROC 1, CROC 2 and CROC 3	86
5.4 (b): The concentration of nitrate measured at JUKS, HNPS and MAG	87
5.4 (c): The concentration of nitrate measured at SWRT	88
5.5 (a): The total inorganic Nitrogen measured at SWRT	88
5.5 (b): The total inorganic Nitrogen measured at CROC 1, CROC 2 and CROC 3	89
5.5 (c): The total inorganic Nitrogen measured at JUKS, MAG and HNPS	90
5.6 (a): OP mass loading from the CROC 1	93
5.6 (b): TP, TDP and AHP mass loading from the CROC 1	94
5.7 (a): TP and OP mass loading at HNPS	95
5.7 (b): AHP and TDP mass loading at HNPS	96
5.7 (c): TP mass loading at JUKS	96
5.7 (d): TDP, OP and AHP mass load at JUKS	97
5.8 (a): OP mass loading at CROC 2	98
5.8 (b): TP, TDP and AHP mass loading at CROC 2	99
5.9 : The estimated average inflow of phosphorus into the dam	100
5.10: The flow of P species from the Crocodile River Catchment into the Dam	102

Figure	Page
5.11: The TP contribution of the tributaries into the Crocodile River	103
5.12: The P level prediction into the HBS Dam	104
5.13: The yearly inflow of the N compounds into the Dam from the Crocodile River	105
5.14: The flow of N compounds from the Catchment into the Dam	106
5.15: The yearly total inorganic N mass loading from the tributaries into the Crocodile River	107
5.16: The total organic carbon and potassium mass loading into the Dam	108

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1 The fraction of toxic ammonia in aqueous solutions at different pH values and temperature	23
3.1 The measurable changes of certain parameters in HBS Dam between 1985-2003	43
3.2 Mean annual rainfall for Zuurbekom (1999-2003)	44
3.3 Average mean of daily maximum and minimum temperatures (1999 to 2003)	45
3.4 Point sources in the Jukskei River subcatchment	51
3.5 Point sources upstream of the Crocodile River	53
3.6 Average mean annual concentrations of water parameters during wet season of the year 2003	57
3.7 Average mean annual concentrations of water parameters during wet season of the year 2003	57
3.8 The historical total P load of the HBS Dam	59
4.1 The description of sampling stations and associated catchment areas	61

NOMENCLATURE

AHP	Acid Hydrolysed Phosphorus
Alkal.	Alkalinity
ATP	Adenotriophosphate
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
C	Carbon
Ca ²⁺	Calcium
CaCO ₃	Calcium carbonate
Chl	Chlorophyll
Cl ⁻	Chloride
COD	Chemical oxygen Demand
CSIR	Institute of Science Research
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEAT	Department of Environmental affairs and Tourism
DOC	Dissolved Organic Carbon
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
e.g.	For example
<i>et al.</i> ;	and others
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EDTA	Ethylene diethyl tetraacetic acid
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
elec. cond.	Electrical conductivity
EMLC	Eastern Metropolitan Local Council
etc.	Etcetera
GS	Gauging stations
Hard.	Hardness
H ₂ SO ₄	Sulphuric acid
H ₂ O	Water
HBS	Hartbeespoort Dam

i.e.	That is
macrophy.	macrophytes
max.	maximum
min.	minimum
MMLC	Midrand Metropolitan Local Council
MnO ₂	Manganese oxide
N	Nitrogen
Na ⁺	Sodium
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NH ₃	ammonia
NH ₄ ⁺	Ammonium
NO ₂ ⁻	Nitrites
NO ₃ ⁻	Nitrates
NO _x	Nitrous oxides
NIWR	National Institute of Water Research
NWP DACET	North West Province Department of Agriculture Conservation Environment and Tourism
O ₂	oxygen
°C	Degrees centigrade
OECD	Organisation of Economic Co-operative Development
OP	orthophosphorus
P	Phosphorus
PO ₄	Phosphate
REGM	Rand Estate Gold Mine
SW	South West
SS	Suspended solids
t/a	tonnes per annum
TDP	Total Dissolved Phosphorus
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids

temp.	Temperature
TN	Total nitrogen
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TP	Total phosphorus
WBG	World Bank Group
WQ	Water Quality

RIVER STATIONS NOTATION

CROC 1	Crocodile River upstream before the confluence with Jukskei River
CROC 2	Crocodile River downstream before the Dam
CROC 3	Crocodile River downstream after the Dam Wall
JUKS	Jukskei River
HNPS	Hennops River
MAG	Magalies River
SWRT	Swartspruit River
A2H045	Crocodile River at Vlakfontein before confluence with Jukskei River
A2H012	Crocodile river after the confluence with Hennops River
A2R001	Crocodile River after the Dam Wall
A2H044	Jukskei River at Vlakfontein before confluence with Crocodile River
A2H074	Magalies at Hartbeespoort dam
A2H014	Hennops River at Skuwerberg before confluence with Crocodile River
A2H058	Swartspruit at Rietfontein