
Question 25 (5 marks)

What is the relationship between dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand and why is it important to monitor both in natural ways?

5

Dissolved oxygen is the amount of oxygen that has been dissolved into a body of water. Biochemical oxygen demand is when a sample of water is tested for dissolved oxygen, left in a dark place for five days and then retested for dissolved oxygen. BOD is the difference between the ~~two~~ two measurements. It is important to ~~measure~~ ^{monitor} both in natural water ways as dissolved oxygen is essential for the survival of aquatic organisms such as fish. A high biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) can be a sign of pollution in a waterway. This would mean that there is less dissolved oxygen available to these organisms & also there could be the presence of other potentially harmful chemicals which would affect their health. Hence, to maintain biodiversity & a healthy water system, dissolved oxygen & BOD must be monitored & kept in a healthy range.