
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

Biochemical oxygen naturally occurs in water ways. When pollutants are introduced into these water ways the amount of biochemical oxygen goes down. To combat this effect we dissolve oxygen into the water ways to bring the amount of oxygen back up to a stable state, where the ecosystem can deal with those pollutants.

~~This is important that we monitor~~
The difference between the two is one is natural and the other is introduced.

It is important that we monitor both as a lack of oxygen biochemical oxygen can harm the ecosystem, and too much dissolved oxygen can do the same.