

Seasonal Water Temperature Changes

Water temperatures have been recorded beneath Busselton Jetty since 2001. This program is one of the longest continuous water temperature data logs in Western Australia. Scientists use the temperature of the water to help them understand behaviours and changes they have observed in the environment.

The water temperature changes through the seasons over a year as it is influenced by ocean currents, wind and sunshine. A change of temperature by just 1°C can have a large impact in the ocean.

- Using graph paper, plot the monthly water temperatures below on a line graph. Firstly draw up the X and Y axis and name them. Remember that “time” (months) always goes on the X axis.

| Month | Average Monthly Temp °C |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| January | 22.6 |
| February | 22.6 |
| March | 22 |
| April | 20.5 |
| May | 19.1 |
| June | 16.1 |
| July | 14.9 |
| August | 15.8 |
| September | 17.2 |
| October | 19.2 |
| November | 19.9 |
| December | 20.5 |

- What is the warmest water temperature? In which month/s does it occur?

- What is the coldest water temperature? In which month does it occur?

