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# Characterisation and controls on mineral-sorbed organic matter from a variety of groundwater environments.

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## Abstract

Detailed investigations into natural groundwater organic matter (OM) as carbon sources or sinks in the natural carbon cycle are generally limited. Groundwater OM concentration and composition is altered by biodegradation and sorption to minerals. In the saturated zone of an aquifer, dissolved organic matter (DOM) may represent a significant fraction of the natural groundwater dissolved organic carbon (DOC) pool, therefore understanding how mineral sorption influences OM will contribute to our understanding of how DOC is processed in groundwater. In this study we investigate the dominant fractions of natural DOC in groundwater and the extent of sorption on three common minerals found in the environment: iron-oxide coated sand, calcite and quartz sand. DOM sorption on these minerals was studied using groundwaters from three different geological environments in New South Wales, Australia: Anna Bay (quartz-sand coastal aquifer); Maules Creek (alluvial gravel and clay aquifer); and Wellington (alluvial karst limestone aquifer). Each groundwater and surface sample were characterised before and after sorption using size exclusion liquid chromatography with organic carbon detection (LC-OCD). Analysis revealed that humic substances (HS) are the dominant (13 – 70%) fraction of natural groundwater DOC. HS sorption on iron-oxide coated sand was higher than that on calcite and quartz sand, respectively while sorption on the calcite was also higher than on quartz sand. In shallow-sandy aquifer groundwater, due to less DOC sorption in sandy environment (Anna Bay), DOC concentration was found to be the highest compared to that from karst and other alluvial boreholes from Maules Creek and Wellington. HS sorption increases with the mineral mass and DOC concentration indicating that DOC sorption to the mineral surface did not reach saturation under the study conditions. Only the high-DOC alluvial groundwater produced significant sorption to each mineral phase and of the chemical fractions present (85% of 72 batch systems that HS sorption was found).

Multiple linear regression showed that mineral mass, mineral type, depth of groundwater sample, DOC concentration, aqueous $Fe^{2+}$ concentration and DOM aromaticity are the controlling factors of DOC sorption in the various groundwater environments. The regression analysis showed sorption decreases with depth, which could be because of DOC sorption along the groundwater flow path, resulting in less DOC at depth. The multiple linear

regression predicts less DOC (HS) sorption in quartz sand system, agreeing with laboratory sorption results. HS sorption also correlated with aromaticity suggesting the chemical character of HS will control the degree of mineral sorption. The model also indicated that DOC sorption is negatively correlated with dissolved $Fe^{2+}$ concentration in water samples presumably due to redox condition which is under anoxic environment iron oxide became electron acceptors under the process of DOC biodegradation leaving higher $Fe^{2+}$ concentration and less available DOC for sorption.

## 1. Introduction

The dynamics of groundwater OM can be influenced by biological processing and mineral sorption. Rivers are physically and chemically connected to aquifers (Sophocleous, 2002, Kumar et al., 2009, Krause et al., 2007). Despite their interaction, natural organic matter (NOM) concentration in groundwater is much lower compared to rivers. The global median groundwater dissolved organic carbon (DOC) is only 1.0 mg C $L^{-1}$ (McDonough et al., 2020a). This leads to questions such as where does the missing fraction go? and could sorption be responsible for this decrease in concentration? The ability of DOC to sorb onto minerals has been investigated in many studies including sorption on spodosol (Ussiri and Johnson, 2004), clay (Kahle et al., 2003), iron coated pumice (Kitis et al., 2007), calcium carbonate (Suess, 1970, Suess, 1973), clay and sesquioxides (Singh et al., 2016), iron (Gu et al., 1995), hydrous iron oxide coated minerals (Saidy et al., 2015), iron coated material (Kim et al., 2009, Lai and Chen, 2001), aluminium oxide (Ochs et al., 1994). Some studies have found sorption over a range of minerals is different. For example, higher humic substances (HS) sorption was observed in iron coated sand than pure quartz sand (Kim et al., 2009). Chang et al. (1997) discovered that DOC sorption found on iron coated sand was higher than that on silica. DOC occurring naturally in groundwater is composed of a variety of organic compounds with different physiochemical characteristics. Many studies have tested DOC based on its physiochemical subgroups to assess relative DOC sorption. Gu et al. (1995) used 3000 Dalton and hydrophobic and hydrophilic properties as the cut-off and found that hydrophobic DOC contained about 1.34 times more C than the C count in hydrophilic DOC and because of this larger size hydrophobic DOC had higher sorption extent than that of lower size hydrophilic DOC due to the fact that this larger size hydrophobic fraction had a higher adsorption affinity and capacity. However, based on elemental composition, hydrophobic contains about 0.82 times less O than hydrophilic fraction and if sorption is calculated based on the amount of O sorbed, more hydrophilic fraction was adsorbed than Hydrophobic. Kaštelan-Macan and Petrovic (1995) investigate HS which is one type of DOC fraction. They analysed HS competition for particulate sand, calcite, bentonite and iron oxide sorption site and found that higher sorption extent was observed on iron oxide followed by calcite, bentonite and sand. One observation from this study is that HS sorption increases with molecular weight. Several mechanisms have been used to explain DOC sorption. For example Gu et al. (1995) found that surface complexation-ligand exchange is the main mechanism used to explain sorption. This mechanism is aided by carboxyl and hydroxyl functional groups of DOC (Gu et al., 1994), in which their steric arrangement was assumed to be controlling on the amount and fraction that is sorbed (Gu et al., 1995). DOC sorption can be affected by environmental conditions. For example, DOC sorption to montmorillonite was enhanced by temperature and the ionic strength of the solution (Arnarson and Keil, 2000, Kim et al., 2009). Sorption of DOC decreased with increased pH (Gu et al., 1995, Gu et al., 1994, Kim et al., 2009). Vermeer et al. (1998) used electrostatic interactions to describe humic acid sorption on hematite with

variations in pH and salt concentration. In the presence of hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium, the mechanisms contributing to the DOC sorption on iron coated sand is hydrophobic interaction followed by ligand exchange (Ding et al., 2010). Organic matter processes have been intensively studied as they play an important role in the global carbon cycle (Falkowski et al., 2000, Brown and Lugo, 1982, Santín et al., 2015), degraded water quality (Li et al., 2013, Delpla et al., 2009), affected water treatment efficiency (Paria, 2008, Wang et al., 2007, Rosenberger et al., 2006), modified water chemistry such as acidity environment (Delpla et al., 2009, Evans et al., 2005)  and affect the heterogenous and complex nature of OM (Middelburg and Herman, 2007). Recently, groundwater DOC has been of interest to numerous investigators for identifying climate change and urbanization on altering global groundwater organic carbon (McDonough et al., 2020a), examining how different sources and processes influence shallow coastal groundwater DOC (Meredith et al., 2020), investigating changes in groundwater DOC after rainfall (McDonough et al., 2020b). However, the existing studies focused on natural DOC processing in groundwater are limited.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to characterise groundwater DOM from a range of environments using size exclusion liquid chromatography with organic carbon detection (LC-OCD) and specifically relate the DOM composition to sorption on different minerals. Data from LC-OCD techniques can be used to measure the concentrations of groundwater DOC fractions, identify the dominant fraction in natural DOC, investigate DOC fractions that sorb, estimate the sorption on selected common mineral phases and show the factors controlling DOC sorption from groundwater.

## 2. Methodology
### 2.1 Sampling sites

We collected a total of 24 water samples, including 21 groundwater and 3 adjacent surface water samples from three different sampling locations in New South Wales (UNSW), Australia see Figure 1. Bore screen depths and GPS coordinate are provided in Supplementary Table 1.

### 2.1.1 Anna Bay, New South Wales.

Extensive site description for Anna Bay is provided in Meredith et al. (2020), Andersen et al. (2012) and McDonough et al. (2020b). In brief, the site is located on the coastal environment of Samurai Beach to the north east of Anna Bay, New South Wales, Australia. We sampled groundwater from 8 bores located along a transect in Holocene aeolian and marine sands stretching from the coast to a freshwater wetland Meredith et al. (2020) located approximately 800 m from the shoreline. Three shallow porewater boreholes (MLSA, MLSB and MLSD) located between 0 − 2 m from the wetlands (McDonough et al., 2020b) with depths from 0.4 to 1.2 m below ground (Figure 1:C).  The other 5 boreholes: S1_S, S1_M, S1_D, S2_D and S4_S (S: shallow, M: meddle, D: deep) are located further away up to 30 m from the wetlands (McDonough et al., 2020b) with the depth from 3.50 to 17.30 m below ground (Figure 1:D). The lithology of the area consists of unconsolidated sand and silt deposits, peat layers and a clay unit close to the shoreline  (Andersen et al., 2012, McDonough et al., 2020b, Meredith et al., 2020).  Wetland, rainwater and regional groundwater sources were identified in the aquifer (Clément, 2018, Meredith et al., 2020).

### 2.1.2. Maules Creek, New South Wales.

The site description has been summarized previously (McCallum et al., 2009, Giambastiani et al., 2012, Andersen et al., 2012, Andersen and Acworth, 2009, McCallum et al., 2014). In brief, Maules Creek catchment covers an area of approximately 1100 km$^2$ and is characterized as a semi-arid region of north-western New South Wales, Australia. It is a sub-catchment of the considerably larger Namoi Valley (McCallum et al., 2009). The upper part of this site receives a large portion of groundwater recharge from ephemeral streams (NCRIS, 2014, Rau et al., 2017, Cuthbert et al., 2016). The alluvial aquifer of Maules Creek (Figure 1:B) is filled with heterogenous valley deposits in which the sediment has been subdivided into two main alluvial formations (Gates, 1980). The uppermost Narrabri formation consists of extensive overbank clays with minor sand and gravel beds deposited (from 10 to 30 m in thickness) by levied meandering streams (Giambastiani et al., 2012). Another is the Gunnedah Formation of Pliocene to Early Pleistocene age (Gates and Ross, 1980). It consists of fluvio-lacustrine sediment with predominant sand and gravel (Giambastiani et al., 2012). The cross section in Figure 2:B illustrates the lithology information taken from 7 bore samples and Elfin Crossing surface sample (Creek). Two bore samples were from bores located near Middle Creek (BH 18-2 and BH 19-2) which is intermittent (Rau et al., 2017). One surface sample (Elfin Crossing) and 5 bore samples (EC07, EC06, EC03, EC31 and BH 12-4 were collected at Elfin Crossing where Maules Creek and Horsearm Creek converge (around 11 km downstream from the Middle Creek sample site).

### 2.1.3. Wellington, New South Wales.

Two sampling sites at Wellington were selected, including Wellington Caves and Wellington Research Station. The lithology, screen depths and distance from surface water are shown in Figure 1:D. The Wellington Caves region is located in the Garra Formation of Early Devonian age limestone (Chatterton et al., 1979). It is about 8 km south of Wellington (NCRIS, 2014, Jex et al., 2012). The Garra Formation consists of shallow-water limestone, minor cherty and volcaniclastic sandstone, fissile shale and marly siltstone (Keshavarzi et al., 2017). One surface water (Bell river) and 3 groundwater samples (BH.Golf, BH01 and The Well: an expression of groundwater at the bottom of the cave) were collected at Wellington Caves. The area between Bell River and the caves is identified as river alluvium which overlies the Garra Formation and is comprised of fluvial channel sands and gravels mixed with overbank silt and clay deposits (Keshavarzi et al., 2017). This alluvial aquifer is characterized as an unconfined aquifer without any aquitard units. Bell River water levels and hydraulic head data from The Well suggests that Bell River recharges the groundwater at BH01 and The Well (Keshavarzi et al., 2017). Information on climatic and geological conditions at the Wellington Research Station (WRS) is explained in Graham et al. (2015b), Graham et al. (2015c) and Graham et al. (2015a). WRS is located in the central west of NSW. It is situated on Devonian fractured basalt and consolidated metasediments overlain by residual soil on the hill sides and alluvial deposits of sand, silts, clays and gravels in the valley. It is dominated by low density plant land area and grazing. One surface water (Macquarie River) and three groundwater (WRS03, WRS05 and WRS08) samples were collected at this site (Figure 1:D). Water releases from Burrendong Dam, located to the south-east of the site impacts on Macquarie River water flow and quality, and controls the interactions between the river and the downstream unconsolidated alluvial aquifer where the 3 bores are situated

### 2.2 Preparation and character of minerals used in sorption experiment

Three mineral types including quartz sand, calcite and iron coated sand. Quartz sand can represent sandy coastal Anna Bay sampling site while calcite and iron oxides represent Wellington Caves and WRS and Maules Creek samples, respectively. Commercial quartz sand (white quartz within 50-70 mesh size, Sigma Aldrich) was treated by heating to 400°C for 12 hours to remove residual organic carbon (based on Scanning Electron Microscope and Energy-Dispersive X – ray spectroscopy (SEM – EDX) results in Figure 2, no C was found after ignition at 400°C). An iron oxide coating sand procedure was adapted from Edwards and Benjamin (1989) and Thirunavukkarasu et al. (2001). It involved using 0.72 M $FeCl_3$ solution that was prepared by dissolving 116.784 g of commercial $FeCl_3$ (grade 97%, Sigma Aldrich) into 1 L of Milli-Q water. The heated quartz sand (at 400°C) was then saturated with the $FeCl_3$ solution for at least 48 hours. Excess $FeCl_3$ solution was decanted before the mixture was air dried for 12 hours. The iron coated sand was then heated for 12 hours at 400 °C before being rinsed with Milli-Q water until the decant became clear. Finally, the wet iron oxide-coated quartz sand was reheated for 12 hours at 400°C before use. Commercial $CaCO_3$ marble chips (Assay: 98.5-100.5%, Sigma Aldrich) (Meredith et al., 2020) were crushed and sieved to obtain the size range of 120-300 µm similar to the size range of commercial quartz sand and iron oxide coated sand. Before use, the grains were rinsed with Milli-Q water several times until the decant water became clear and the heated at 400 °C for 12 hours. All heated minerals were kept in a desiccator to cool down and immediately used to minimize contact time with the atmosphere. In this paper, iron-oxide coated quartz sand, CaCO3, quartz sand will be denoted as Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz, respectively.

Sub-samples of the 3 clean heated (sterile) minerals were analysed by Scanning Electron Microscope and Energy-Dispersive X–ray spectroscopy (SEM–EDX), showing the surface morphology and inorganic chemical distribution (see 2.6).

## 2.3 Sediment sampling

Two fresh sediments at Anna Bay were collected in 07 August 2018. The samples were located about 5 m (Anna 1) and 11 m (Anna 2) away bores located along a transect at the edge of the wetlands. The sediment was collected at 112 cm and 149 cm for Anna 1 (417602.00 m E, 6374462.00 m S: UTM coordinating system) and Anna 2, respectively. Almost no vegetation covering the surface area. The sediment samples were collected in acid washed glass containers and stored in esky under 4°C before sent back to the lab. Another two fresh sediments (Elfin Crossing and Middle Creek) at Maules Creek were collected in 26 September 2018. Elfin Crossing (220006.09 m E, 6622676.85 m S) was collected at about 5 m away from the Elfin Crossing bank (no flow was observed). Middle Creek sediment (220146.00 m E, 6622822.00 m S) was collected at depth 60 cm and about 6m away from Middle Creek bank (no flow was observed). Elfin Crossing and Middle Creek were sieved (2.00 mm mesh size) before being kept in acid washed 250 ml glass containers under 4°C. The samples were kept in dark to avoid photolysis.

## 2.4 Water sampling

Water sampling was conducted on 15 – 16 August 2017 (Wellington), 11 October 2017 (Maules Creek) and 13 – 14 February 2018 (Anna Bay). They were collected to analyse cations, anions, and DOC fractionation. In-situ measurements were also collected, included dissolved oxygen (DO), electrical conductivity (EC), pH and temperature.

Surface water samples at Wellington (at Macquarie River and Bell River), Maules Creek (at Elfin Crossing) and shallow aquifers at Anna Bay (MLSA, MLSB and MLSD) were collected by using a peristaltic Series II Geopump attached to a 10 mm diameter steel sampling spear with a 50 mm screen. In-situ measurements of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Electrical Conductivity (EC), pH and temperature were recorded by attaching an in-line Sheffield flow-cell to two Hach HQ40D multimeters. Before the recording, the bore was purged until stable values were achieved (ensuring no air bubbles or light penetration for DO). Deep groundwater samples were collected with a Monsoon 12 Volt Plastic Groundwater pump. Before collecting the samples, bores were purged and standing bore water levels and in-situ measurements parameters as above were recorded. Samples were filtered to 0.45 µm for field chemistry analyses and water used in sorption experiments. Sorption experiment samples were collected in 3 X 1L high density poly-ethylene (HDPE) bottles (pre-washed with 10% HCl solution overnight). Field samples were collected by 50 ml polyethylene Falcon TM tubes (no headspace was observed). Cation samples were collected in 30 ml (10% nitric acid pre-washed polyethylene vials). These samples were acidified using 1% of 65% Suprapur® nitric acid. All samples were kept in dark and refrigerated before analysis.

## 2.5 Sorption experimental set up

A batch system was set up by mixing 40 ml of the field water samples with a range of clean mineral mass (1, 2.5, 5, 7.5 and 10 g) in 50 ml pre-acid washed (10% HCl) falcon tubes on a rotator (2.5 rpm) in a dark and temperature-controlled ($20^{\circ}$C ± $1^{\circ}$C) room. Samples were collected after 1 h (Neil et al., 2016) for DOC analysis by LC-OCD. The concentration of each DOC fraction is recorded after control correction and the sorbed amount were quantified by using the concentration after correction multiplied by volume of the samples used.

## 2.6 Instrumental analysis

### 2.6.1 Liquid Chromatography-Organic Carbon Detection (LC-OCD)
To quantify and characterize DOC, liquid Chromatography-Organic Carbon Detection (LC-OCD) equipped with ChromCALC, DOC-LABOR, Karlsruhe (Germany) was used. The principle of the system and its physical description was described by Huber et al. (2011b). Total DOC concentration was obtained from the bypass while chromatographable dissolved organic carbon (CDOC, hydrophilic DOC) was derived and separated into 5 fractions: Biopolymers (BP), Humic substances (HS), Building Blocks (BB), Low Molecular Weight Acids (LMWA) and Low Molecular Weight Neutral (LMWN) with the size of >> 20,000, ~ 1000, 300-350, <350 and <350 g mol-1, respectively . Hydrophobic DOC (HOC) is the retaining fraction in the resin inside the chromatography column. Thereby, it is the difference of total DOC and CDOC. Furthermore, HS fraction is also analysed for its aromaticity and molecular weight. The ChromCALC, DOC-LABOR is programmed to provide HS aromaticity and molecular weight. By using UVD detector at 254 nm, LC-OCD technique is not only able to detect aromatic HS, but also BB, LMWN and inorganic carbon. However, for these two DOC fractions, the aromatic BB and LMWN were reported in terms of Spectrum Absorbance Coefficients (SAC) with the unit of m-1. No SAC for BP and LMWA were detected due to they do not have aromaticity property (Huber et al., 2011a) and aromaticity of inorganic carbon was not included in this study.

### 2.6.2 Scanning Electron Microscope and Energy-Dispersive X – ray spectroscopy (SEM – EDX)
The surface morphology and chemical distribution on the 3 heated (sterile) minerals was analysed by Scanning Electron Microscope and Energy-Dispersive X – ray spectroscopy (SEM

– EDX). SEM-EDX was described extensively in Brodowski et al. (2005). This chemical microanalysis techniques equipped with SEM allow X-ray emitted from sample to be detected during the bombardment by an electron beam, which results in that the elemental composition of the target analytes can be characterized. With this technique 6 dominant (Fe, O, Al, Si, Ca, C) atoms were analysed in percentage of coverage on mineral surface (Figure 1: a-c).

### 2.6.3 X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy

Two sediment from Anna Bay and Maules Creek sampling sites were analysed by XRF for the elemental composition of the sediment in percentage. Techniques and instrument was described in Shackley (2010) and Shackley (2011). In brief, X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy uses an X-ray source to eject core-shell electrons from an atom to create an excited state. The emission (X-radiation/fluorescence) from excited state of electrons has a specific characteristic wavelength/energy for each element. The fluorescence of each element is quantified into concentration (part per million) and from part per million into percentage of each element. 21 elements were analysed but only the dominant elements were reported in this study.

### 2.7 Statistical Analysis

### 2.7.1 Sorption of DOC fractions

In order to identify if any DOC fractions sorb on minerals, linear regression model in Rstudio (version 1.2.5001) was used to predict the sorption of the 6 DOC fractions over a range of mineral mass (as explanatory) of the 3 minerals. 432 systems (24 samples, 3 minerals and 6 DOC fractions) were generated. Each system has the sorption (as mean response) of a DOC fraction (it could be either HOC or BP or HS or BB or LMWN or LMWA) over a range of mineral mass for a sample. From the linear model, post-hoc tests (Lenth, 2018) on the emmeans package (Version: 1.4.2), called emmean test, was used to test whether the predicted sorption from the linear regression model was statistically significant. Statistical significance can be measured by looking at the confidence interval (with confidence level of 95%) obtained from the emmean test. Bonferroni method was used for confidence level adjustment and if any experimental systems with confidence interval (CI) range that includes zero, it can be statistically concluded that no sorption is observed.

### 2.7.2 HS aromaticity and molecular weight and field DOC concentration

In order to investigate if HS aromaticity and molecular weight and DOC concentration are correlated, a linear regression model was fitted to the field DOC concentration and HS aromaticity and molecular weight. The model is assumed to have segmented relationship in the linear predictor and to identify the segmented relationship "Segmented" package (version 1.0-0) in Rstudio (version 1.2.5001) was used. First, linear regression model was run. Then the model is fitted with segmented function to derive the "Break point" estimate with a statistical summary.

### 2.7.3 Controlling factors on HS sorption

In order to investigate the controlling factors on HS sorption, a tweedie generalized linear model (glm) was used. History graph of HS sorption (as response in the model) was found right skewed and this violates the linear assumption. To obtain the normal distribution of this

response, tweedie glm was used where tweedie function will find the optimum variance power for the model to generate normal distribution of the response. This results in that fixed effect tweedie glm was developed using 11 data set as explanatory variables including sites, mineral types (Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz) and mineral mass as well as situ data including sample depth, dissolved oxygen (DO), EC, pH, DOC concentration, dissolved $Fe^{2+}$, HS aromaticity and molecular weight.

Four variables including site, mineral type, HS aromaticity and molecular weight were treated as categorical explanatory variables while 7 variables including mineral mass, sample depth, dissolved oxygen, EC, pH, DOC concentration and dissolved $Fe^{2+}$, were treated as continuous explanatory variables.

Any negative HS sorption value was removed as the log transformation of HS sorption required positive values. Any missing value was removed by applying na.omit function in Rstudio 1.2.5001, resulting in a set of 432 data points. In order to check for the assumption of constant variance and normality, each explanatory variable was fitted to a simple linear model using HS sorption as the response variable. This resulted in residual Vs fitted, Q-Q, Scale-location and residuals Vs leverage plots for each explanatory variable.

Multicollinearity of the explanatory could directly affect the model power in prediction, therefore it is important to minimize this effect by checking and removing the collinear variables. To assess this, variance inflation factors (VIFs) value was used to detect if the variables used displays a strong correlation with any other variable which may decrease the power of the model. Some studies suggested VIF with <10 (Abollino et al., 2003). However, to reassure collinearity issue, VIF less than 4 was used and this threshold was adopted by many studies such as Nassif et al. (2012) , Aranda et al. (2012) and (Ayadi and Ellouze, 2015). Two of the input explanatories (sites and pH) were excluded because the two variables have multicollinearity with other explanatory variables. Site was first removed, followed by pH after rerunning the code. The remaining variables have VIFs less than 4.

After VIFs test, all explanatory variables were entered into an equation, called, full model, which includes the remaining 3 categorical explanatory variables (minerals types, HS aromaticity and HS molecular weight and 6 continuous explanatory variables (mineral mass, sample depth, dissolved oxygen, EC, DOC concentration and dissolved $Fe^{2)}$).

Then full model was analysed with backward selection using the drop1() function test in Rstudio (version 1.2.5001). The function identified Akaike Information Criteria or AIC value. The explanatory variable with the lowest AIC value was deleted because the function justified that the removed variable did not contribute to the overall regression equation (Rubinstein et al., 2013). In this study, based on drop1() test, no explanatory variable was removed from the full model.

The final model can be interpreted in two ways depending on categorical or continuous explanatory variables. If we predict HS sorption based on 3 minerals (Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz), we will compare HS sorption between the 3 minerals because minerals are categorized as categorical explanatory variables. For example, a 1 unit change in categorical Iron Oxide, there will be X% of HS sorption higher/lower than the HS sorption on Calcite/Quartz sand.  For continuous explanatory variable, 1 unit change in continuous variable will directly command the changes of HS sorption.
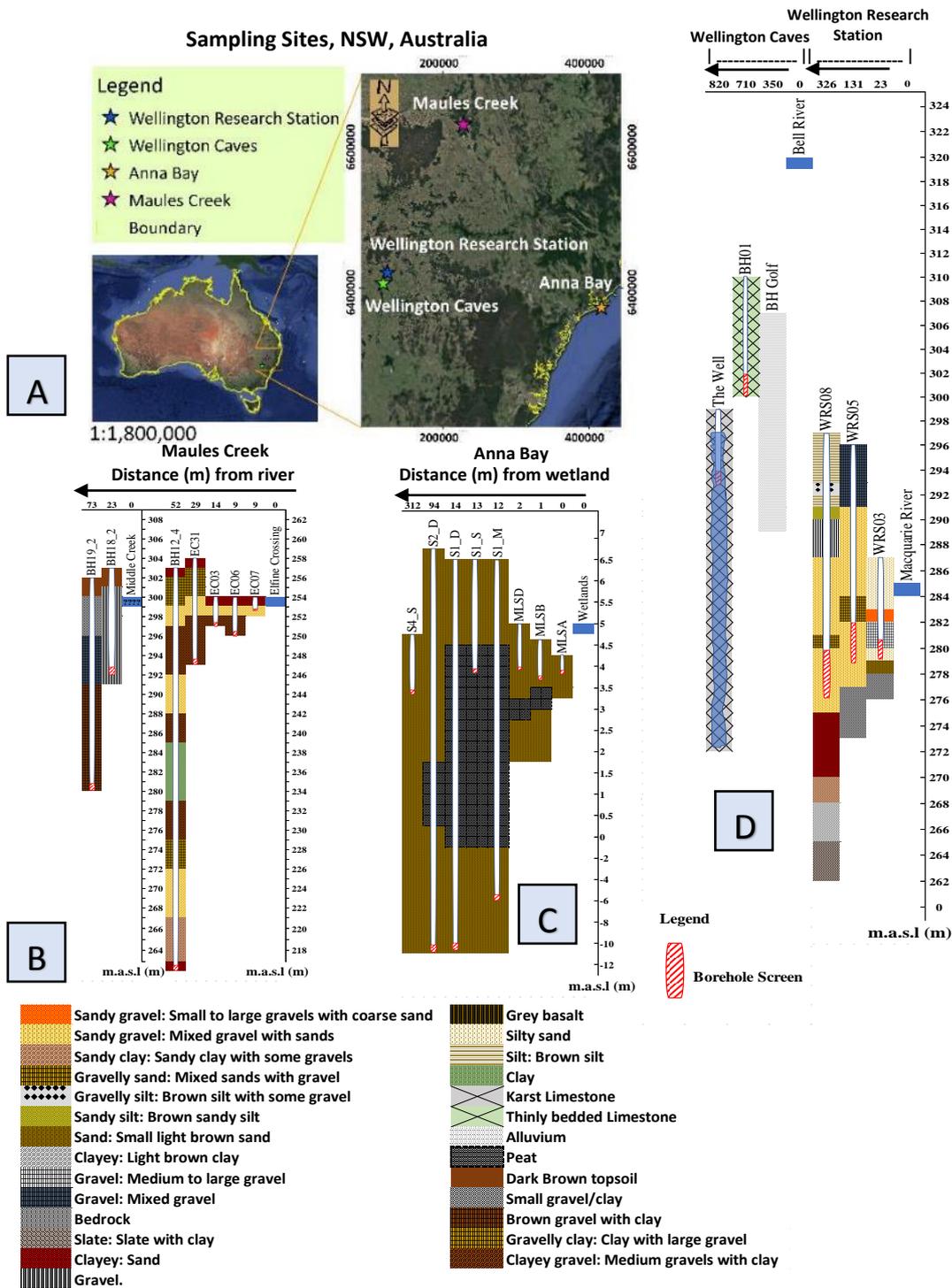
Figure 1: A: 3 Sampling sites locating in New South Wales, Australia. B, C and D: Cross Section of groundwater lithology where the samples were taken from based on the distance away from river (Elfin Crossing at Maules Creek with pink star symbol and Bell River Wellington Caves with green star and Macquarie River Wellington Research Station with blue star on the map) and wetland (Anny Bay with oranges collar on the map) and the depth in meter above sea level (m.a.s.l). Due to no lithological information, EC3, EC6, EC7 and EC31 are assumed to have similar soil composition as its nearby BH 12_4. Cross Section of groundwater lithology shows sediment composition and the borehole depth below ground surface which locates with the distance in meter away from surface river (the distance is not linear). The depth where the samples were taken were at the screen depth below ground surface except The Well, BH01 and BH.Golf which were used based on the depth of the groundwater level taken from Keshavarzi (2017). On Australia map, X and Y axis show latitude (Southward) and longitude (Eastward) coordinates respectively which is associated with Universal Transverse Mercator in Zone 55S (Maules Creek) and Zone 56S (Wellington Research Station, Wellington Caves and Anna Bay). Australia and sampling sites maps are derived from google earth 2018.

**(a) Iron oxide coated sand (Iron oxides)**
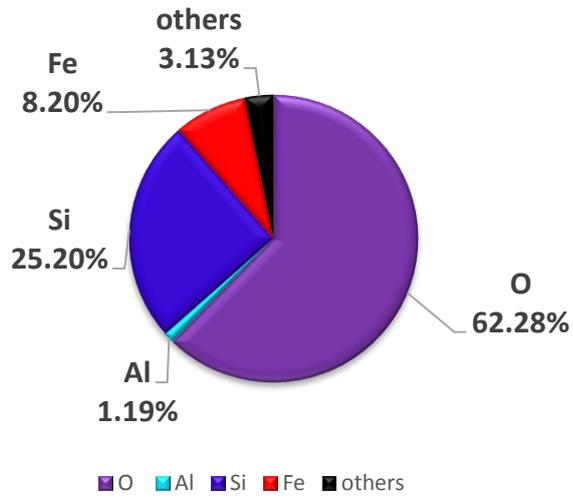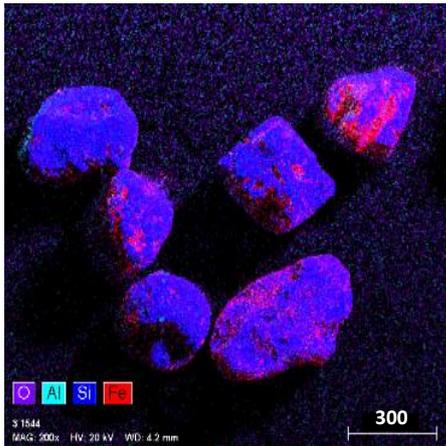


**(b) Calcium carbonate (Calcite)**
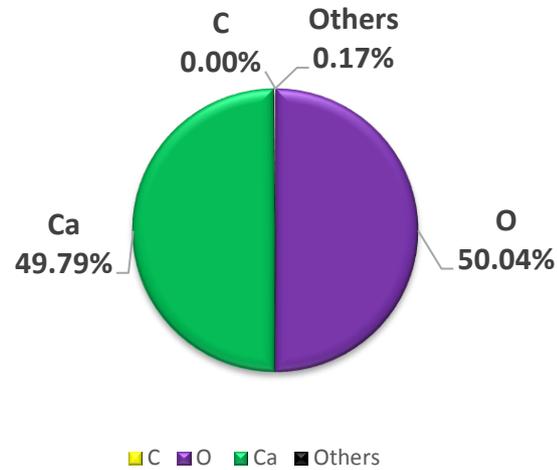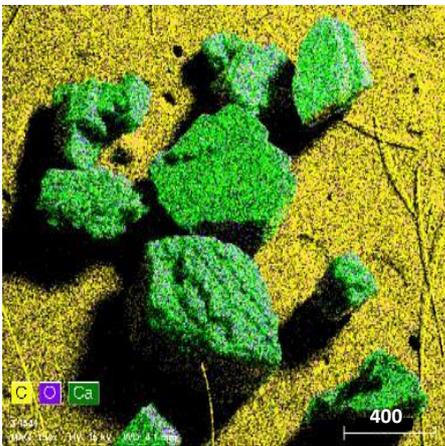


**(C) Quartz sand (Quartz)**
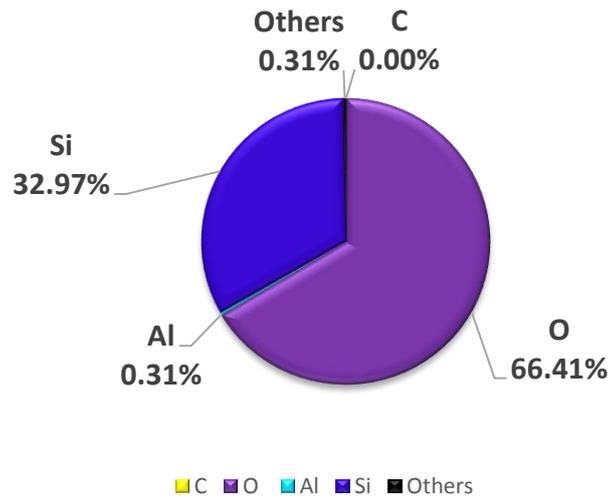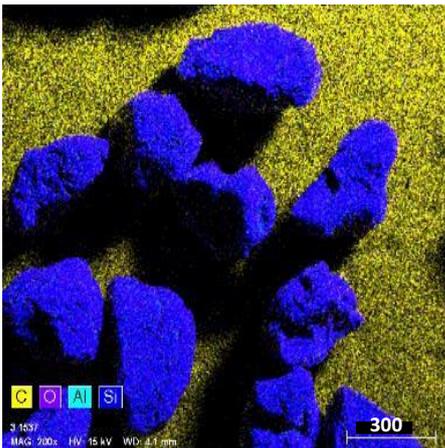


Figure 2: (a-c) Scanning Electron Microscope and Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDX) images of mineral particles used in this study showing surface morphology and inorganic chemical distribution on iron oxide coated sand, calcium carbonate and quartz (In this paper, these minerals are referred as a) Iron Oxides; b) Calcite and c) Quartz, respectively). The pie chart next to the images are corresponding to the percentage coverage of elements appearing on mineral surface.

## Results

### 2.8 Mineral characterization and chemical composition (XPS)

Table 1 below indicated that oxygen is the highest fractions of the total elemental composition. It was found that oxygen and Si on Quartz decreases after being coated with iron. After submerging iron oxide solution to QS, the surface of QS is about 8% covered by Fe. No C was detected on the surface of the 3 minerals.

**Table 1: Summary of the percentage elemental composition on the 3 mineral surfaces by SEM – EDM.**

|  | O | Al | Si | Fe | C | Ca | Others | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Iron Oxides** | 62.28 | 1.19 | 25.2 | 8.2 | 0 | 0 | 3.13 | 100 |
| **Calcite** | 50.04 | 0.16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 49.79 | 0 | 100 |
| **Quartz** | 66.62 | 0.31 | 33.08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |

### 2.9 X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy reported that the dominant elemental fraction at Anna Bay and Maules Creek are $SiO_2$ (mean percentage is around 94 and 72 %, respectively). Elements at Maules Creek are more heterogenous (in terms percentage fractions) than Anna Bay. At Maules Creek, higher mean percentage of $Fe_2O_3$ than that of Anna Bay (around 3.15% and 0.20%, respectively). See Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Showing the elemental composition (percentage) found in sediments from Maules Creek and Anna Bay sampling sites. Only 5 elements (percentage) were included as other elements were not dominants.**

| Sample | $Na_2O$ | $Al_2O_3$ | $SiO_2$ | $Fe_2O_3$ | $K_2O$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Elfin | 3.42 | 12.31 | 72.13 | 3.04 | 3.51 |
| Middle Creek | 3.19 | 12.28 | 71.84 | 3.26 | 3.68 |
| Anna 1 | 0.24 | 1.22 | 93.79 | 0.20 | 0.45 |
| Anna 2 | 0.23 | 1.31 | 93.69 | 0.20 | 0.49 |

### 2.10 Groundwater DOC fraction concentration

Field sample DOC concentration (Supplementary Table 2) varies among the 3 sites with a range of approximately $0.35 – 15.63$ mg $L^{-1}$(Table 3 ), in which Anna Bay samples were found to have highest mean DOC concentration ($7.87 \pm 4.26$ mg $L^{-1}$) followed by samples from Wellington ($2.01 \pm 2.71$ mg $L^{-1}$) and from Maules Creek ($0.97 \pm 0.30$ mg $L^{-1}$).

DOC concentration at Macquarie river ($8.53$ mg $L^{-1}$) was found to be the highest of all surface water samples (Elfin Crossing and Bell river with DOC of 1.42 and 1.74 mg $L^{-1}$ , respectively) and higher than adjacent aquifers DOC, WRS03 and WRS05, presumed to be affected by Macquarie river recharge (Graham et al., 2015d). The samples with low DOC concentration were found from the Kast aquifers (at Wellington) including BH.Golf and BH01 (1.42 and 1.74 mg $L^{-1}$) and BH12_4 and BH19_2, fracture rock and alluvial aquifers at Maules Creek, were found to be quite low (0.66 and 0.60 mg $L^{-1}$, respectively).

The hydrophilic fraction (CDOC) was the dominant DOC fraction ($62 – 97\%$) compared to HOC. While HS alone comprises 13-70% of total DOC, no LMWA was found in the samples.

**Table 3: Summary of groundwater DOC fraction concentration (as a percentage and concentration in mg L$^{-1}$). DOC = HOC + CDOC and CDOC = BP + HS BB + LMWA + LMWN**

| No | Variable | Min (mg L$^{-1}$) | Max (mg L$^{-1}$) | Mean (mg L$^{-1}$) | Median (mg L$^{-1}$) | SD (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|----|----------|------|------|------|--------|------|
| 1 | DOC | 0.35 | 15.63 | 3.62 | 1.33 | 4.12 |
| 2 | HOC | 0.05 | 2.41 | 0.52 | 0.22 | 0.64 |
| 3 | CDOC | 0.26 | 13.4 | 3.10 | 1.06 | 3.57 |
| 4 | BP | 0.00 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.05 |
| 5 | HS | 0.09 | 10.3 | 2.16 | 0.63 | 2.69 |
| 6 | BB | 0.03 | 1.95 | 0.49 | 0.18 | 0.57 |
| 7 | LMWA | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8 | LMWN | 0.07 | 1.13 | 0.42 | 0.25 | 0.33 |

| No | variable | Min (%) | Max (%) | Mean (%) | Median (%) | SD (%) |
|----|----------|---------|---------|----------|------------|--------|
| 1 | DOC | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| 2 | HOC | 3 | 38 | 18 | 17 | 9 |
| 3 | CDOC | 62 | 97 | 82 | 83 | 9 |
| 4 | BP | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | HS | 13 | 70 | 49 | 51 | 16 |
| 6 | BB | 6 | 25 | 14 | 13 | 4 |
| 7 | LMWA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | LMWN | 7 | 38 | 18 | 17 | 8 |

## 2.11 HS chemical characteristics and DOC of field samples

Apart from HS concentration, LC – OCD further analysed the aromaticity and molecular weight of HS. A summary in Supplementary Table 2 indicated that Anna Bay samples carried the highest HS aromaticity (3.69 – 7.08 L mg$^{-1}$ m$^{-1}$), followed by surface water aromaticity range only (2.13 – 3.47 L mg$^{-1}$ m$^{-1}$). Groundwater samples located close to surface water including WRS03 and WRS05 (connected to Macquarie River), EC03, EC06 and EC07 (nearby Elfin Crossing) and BH18_2 (nearby Middle Creek[1]) also had higher aromaticity when compared to samples further from surface water including The Well, BH01 and BH.Golf (Bell River), EC31 and BH12_4 (Elfin Crossing) and BH19_2 (Middle Creek).

Samples from quartz sand environment at Anna Bay sampling site contain the highest HS molecular weight range (512 – 904 g mol$^{-1}$), followed by surface water samples (269 – 581 g mol$^{-1}$) of which the highest molecular weight was observed at Macquarie river. Overall, HS aromaticity increased with its molecular weight except for BH18_2.

There is a strong significant relationship between DOC concentration and HS aromaticity (p= 3.34E-16, with adjusted R$^2$ of 0.6107). We also observe a weaker linear relationship between DOC concentration and HS molecular weight (p= 2.32E-09) with adjusted R$^2$ of 0.3929 (Linear regression plot and statistical summary is in Supplementary Figure 1).

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[1] Middle Creek analysis in this study but assumed to have higher aromaticity as it locates close to Elfin Crossing.

## 2.12 Sorption of DOC fractions

A batch experiment where groundwater and surface samples were exposed to a range of minerals and masses allowed us to obtain sorbed amount of DOC fractions. By looking at only 10g mass system in Iron Oxides, the sorption indicated that HS sorption was found to be the highest, followed by BB, HOC, LMWN, BP and LMWA with the means of 2.31E-02, 4.78E-03, 2.57E-03, 1.44E-03, 7.79E-04 and 3.28E-05 mg, respectively (Supplementary Table 3).

Observed HS sorbs to different minerals to different extents. Sorption at 10 g mass systems range from about $0 - 4.4E+01\%$, $1.17E+00 - 2.1E+01\%$ and $2.65E+00 - 1.27E+01\%$ (Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz systems, respectively) to total DOC found in the samples with the mean of 1.18E+01 (SE=9.53), 8.94E+00 (SE=4.88), 5.76E+00 (SE=3.52), respectively (Supplementary Table 5).

However, in order to figure out which fraction sorbs or does not, linear regression model is used to fit the sorption for all 6 DOC fractions in all 24 samples and 3 mineral types over the mass range (0 – 10g). After the fitting, "emmeans" test is used to identify if the predicted sorption of each fraction is statistically significant by basing on the confidence interval (CI) with 95% confidence level. It is found that not all DOC fractions have sorption on to a range of mass and minerals (Figure 3). HS are the dominant fraction that sorbs for most water samples.
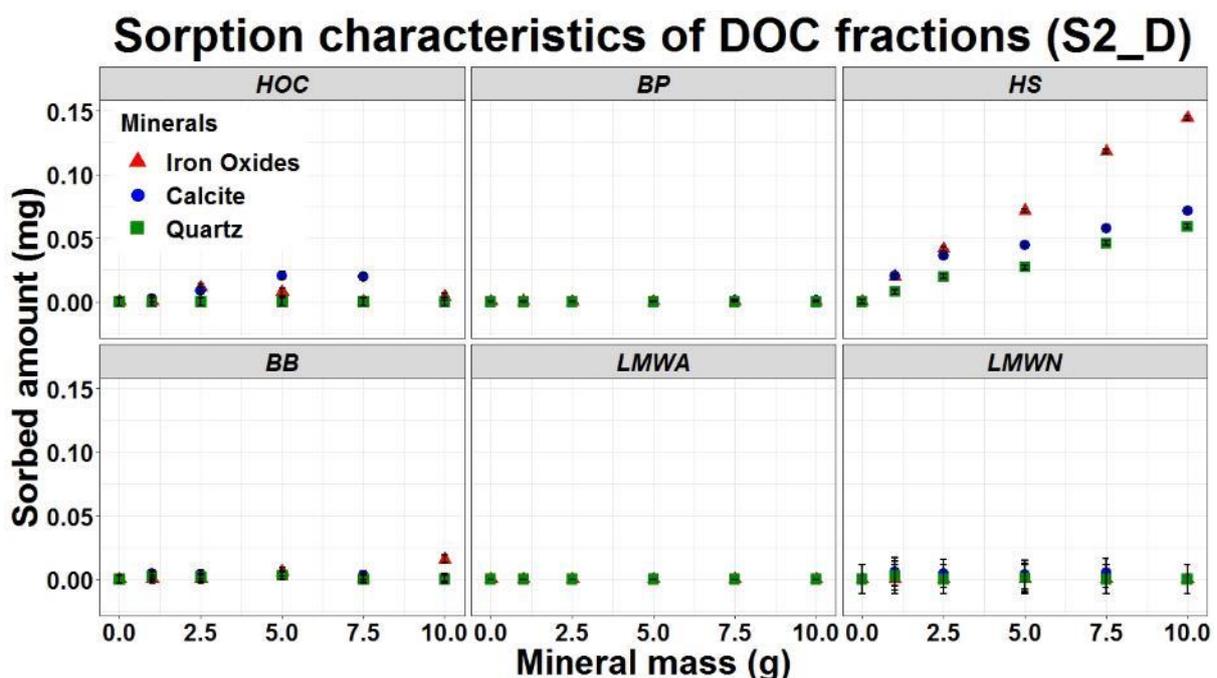


Figure 3: The comparison of sorbed amount of DOC fractions (mg) over a range of mass (g) and minerals of Anna Bay sample (S2_D). ▲●■ represents the sorbed DOC fraction in the Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz systems, respectively. Other sample plots for all other groundwater samples with DOC fractions sorption are in Supplementary Figure 2).

The summery of total sorption count of 432 systems (24 samples X 3 minerals X 6 DOC fractions) in Table 4 shows that the number of counts of HS sorption is more than twice as much as that of other fractions (Plots of DOC sorption are in Supplementary Figure 2). HOC and LMWN sorption count are the second highest (33% of sorption count).

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Table 4: The summary count of sorbing DOC fractions. The "System count" includes 3 treatments (Iron Oxides, Calcite, and Quartz) of 24 samples from sampling sites (Anna Bay, Maules Creek and Wellington). The number of "Sorbed count" is based on the estimated marginal means (lower-upper 95% confidence level) by "emmeans". If the confident interval (CI) range does not include 0, it means that the mean HS sorption (of each DOC fraction) is significantly linearly correlated to the mineral mass and sorption is observed. (Details of all "Emmean" test results for all samples and minerals is in Supplementary Table 4).

| DOC fraction | Total count | Sorbed count | Total sorbed |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| HOC | 72 | 24 | 33% |
| BP | 72 | 12 | 17% |
| HS | 72 | 61 | 85% |
| BB | 72 | 19 | 26% |
| LMWA | 72 | 1 | 1% |
| LMWN | 72 | 24 | 33% |

## 2.13   HS sorption and DOC concentration

HS is one of hydrophilic DOC fractions and HS sorption was observed to be related to the concentration of DOC found in the nature (Figure 4). HS sorption results indicated that sorbed amount of HS was observed to have a positive increase with groundwater DOC concentration (Figure 4). Adjusted $R^2$ of 0.7229 (Iron Oxides), 0.7727 (Calcite) and 0.8382 (Quartz) with p-values of 9E-08, 1E-08 and 2E-10, respectively, indicate that there is strong linear relationship fitting to the observed data shown in Figure 4 (Supplementary Table 6). Figure 4 shows that the lowest sorption was found for the BH.Golf sample and the highest sorption was found for the S2_D sample at around 1.44E-01, 7.15E-02 and 5.92E-02 mg for Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz, respectively.

Another point to note is that the sizes of the points in Figure 4 depicted that 88% of samples from Anna Bay contains the highest DOC concentrations while the lowest observed DOC concentrations were found in BH.Golf, BH01 and The Well from Wellington and BH19_2, BH12_4 and EC31 from Maules Creek.

In addition to the HS sorption limits, the sorbed amount was also found to increase with groundwater DOC concentration (Figure 4). Adjusted $R^2$ of 0.7229 (Iron Oxides), 0.7727 (Calcite) and 0.8382 (Quartz) with p-values of 9E-08, 1E-08 and 2E-10, respectively, indicate that there is strong linear relationship fitting to the observed data shown in Figure 4 (Supplementary Table 7). Figure 4 shows that the lowest sorption was found for the BH.Golf sample and the highest sorption was found for the S2_D sample at around 1.44E-01, 7.15E02 and 5.92E-02 mg for Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz, respectively.

# HS sorption and field DOC concentration relationship
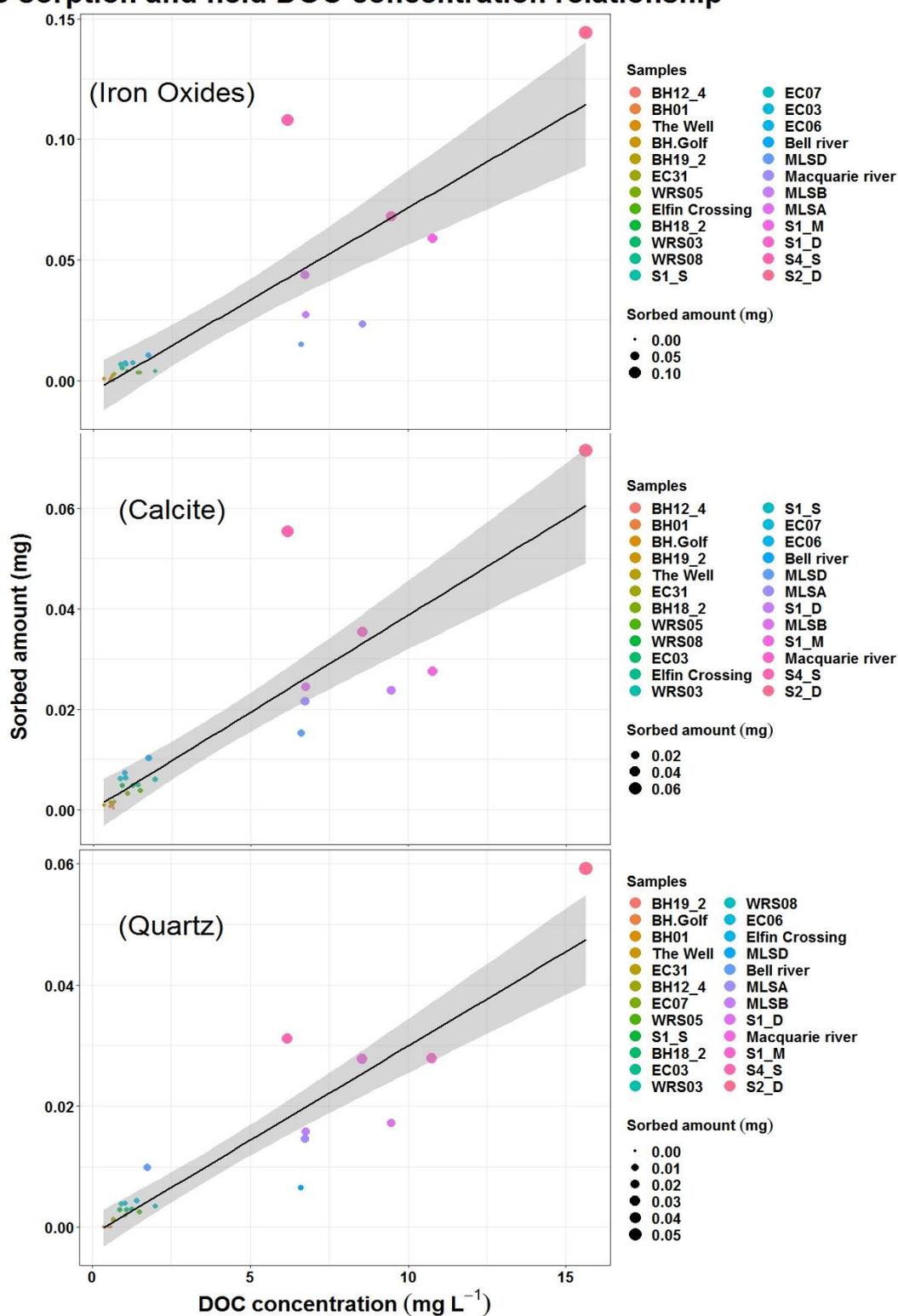


Figure 4: Linear correlation of HS sorption (mg) and DOC concentration (mg L$^{-1}$) of groundwater and surface water samples. The data from 10 g mass system was used. The linear correlation is explained by adjusted R$^2$ of 0.7229 (Iron Oxides), 0.7727 (Calcite) and 0.8382 (Quartz) with P-values of 8.76E-08, 9.65E-09 and 2.22E-10, respectively. The legend with coloured dots refers to all samples which were ordered based on the lowest to the highest sorbed amount of HS. The black dots with different size refer to the range of sorbed amount of HS (mg) which corresponding to the size of the coloured dots in the plots (larger size means larger DOC concentration).

### 3.1. HS sorption and aromaticity and molecular weight characteristics

In this study, field HS aromaticity and molecular weight ranged from 0.37-7.08 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$ and 100 – 904 g mol$^{-1}$, respectively. Based on site, samples from Anna Bay contain higher HS aromaticity (3.69 – 7.08 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$) and molecular weight (512 - 904 g mol$^{-1}$) than those found in the other groundwater and surface water samples where the aromaticity ranges around 0.37 – 3.50 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$ and molecular weight is between 110 g mol$^{-1}$ and 675 g mol$^{-1}$ (Supplementary Table 7)

At Wellington, HS sorption and its aromaticity and molecular weight decrease in groundwater samples with distance from surface water sources. The size of the coloured points on Figure 5 illustrated that Macquarie River has higher aromaticity and molecular weight than those found in the nearby boreholes (WRS03, WRS05 and WRS08). The difference is approximately 48%, 80% and 66%, respectively, for aromaticity and 33%, 170% and 61%, respectively, for molecular weight. This is also true for Bell River which has higher aromaticity and molecular weight than its nearby groundwater samples (BH.Golf, BH01 and The Well), which is about 14%, 283%, 119%, respectively, for aromaticity and 135%, 475%,nd 73.4%, respectively for molecular weight higher.

Elfin Crossing surface water also has higher aromaticity than what was found in the adjacent bores, EC07, EC06 and EC03 which is approximately 14%, 15%, 24% higher, respectively. Deeper samples including BH12_4 (0.67 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$), BH19_2 (0.87 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$) and EC31 (L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$) which are further away from surface water have low aromaticity when compared to shallow and river-adjacent samples. Other samples have similar aromaticity (1.6 - 1.83 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$). BH12_4, BH19_2 and EC31 have the lowest molecular weight, whilst the molecular weight of Elfin Crossing is more than half to 3 times lower than the molecular weight of HS in nearby bores.

When aromaticity and molecular weight are plotted against HS sorption extent, they rule out a linear correlation and show a threshold reponse (Figure 5). By assuming that the two variables are linearly correlated, segmented linear regression of HS sorption was used for fitting. The correlation rules out a positive linear correlation of HS sorption on both aromaticity molecular weight for all mineral types. When applying this statistical function, it provides a break point to this relationship. For aromaticity, it is 3.06 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$ (Iron Oxides), 2.07 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$ (Calcite) and 1.976 L mg$^{-1}$ L$^{-1}$ (Quartz) and 410 g mol$^{-1}$ (Iron Oxides), 389 g mol$^{-1}$ (Calcite) and 364 g mol$^{-1}$ (Quartz) for molecular weight.

Coastal sand and surface water samples with higher aromaticity and molecular weight showed higher HS sorption. Sorption break point and slope in iron oxide experiments are found to be higher than those found in calcite and quartz experiments (statistical summary is provided in supplementary Table 8). However, the overall $R^2$ values reveals stronger correlation for aromaticity compared to molecular weight.
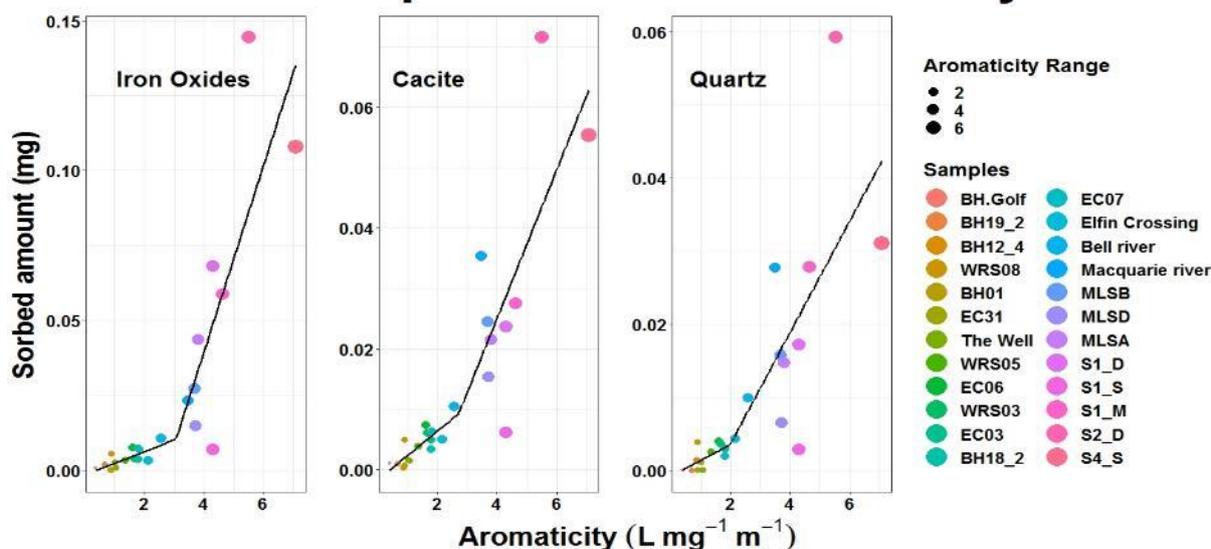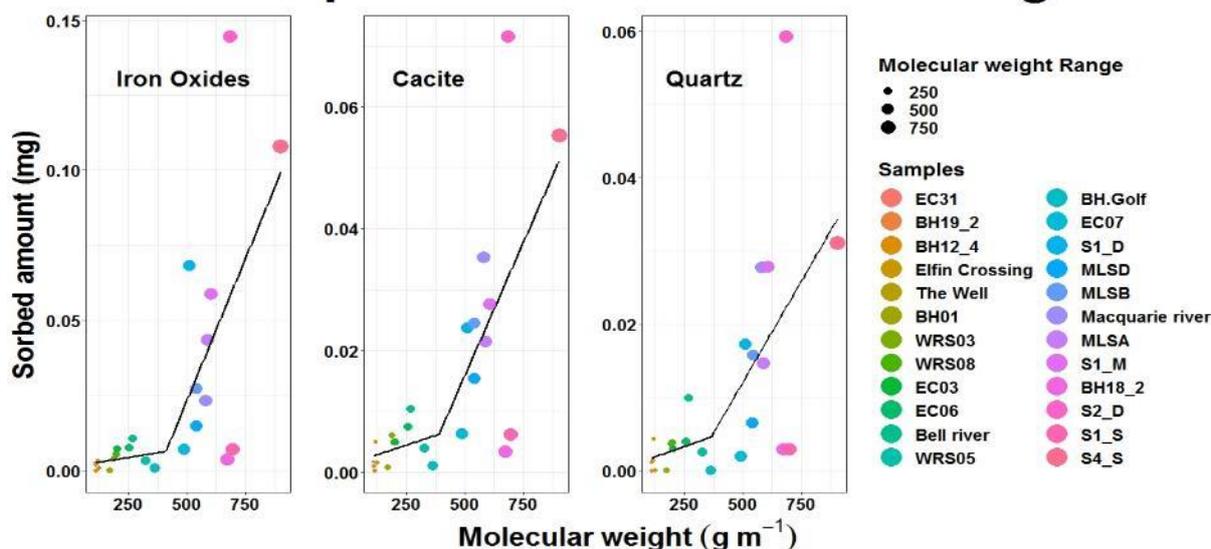
Figure 5: Comparing of HS sorption (mg) and HS characteristics in the samples from the 3 sampling sites. With degree of freedom of 20, 76 (Iron Oxides), 74 (Calcite), 60 (Quartz) and 42 (Iron Oxides), 47 (Calcite), 34% (Quartz) explaining the relationship of sorbed HS and aromaticity and molecular weight, respectively. The samples listed in the legend were arranged in the order of how aromaticity the samples have. It starts from the lowest aromaticity at BH.Golf and increases to the highest found in S4_S. Like aromaticity legend, the molecular weight legend indicates that the molecular weight starts from the lowest at EC31 and increases to the highest found in S4_S. Black dots refer to the range of aromaticity (in aromaticity legend) and molecular weight (in molecular weight legend) which corresponding to the size of the dot in the plots.

The Ultraviolet Detector (UVD) analysis by LC-OCD provided the Spectral Absorbance Coefficients (SAC) information of HS, BB and LMWN. This information refers to the aromaticity of BB and LMWN. From 24 water samples, the mean SAC of HS (4.70E+01) was found to be higher than that of BB (1.34E+01) and LMWN (2.50E+01) see Supplementary Table 9).

## 3.2.    Factor controlling natural HS sorption

It has been found that HS are the dominant sorbing fraction on to the 3 minerals but the driving factors on such sorption are also important to know. By accounting how nature drives

this sorption, multiple linear regression is used to identify how HS sorption response to natural variables. The obtained model was tested for goodness of fit by using a test called Hosmer and Lemeshow test in Rstudio (version 1.2.5001) and it was found that it fails to reject the null hypothesis as the result of P value = 1. In other words, the tweedie Generalized Linear Model (glm) used is assumed to fit well with the observed data.

Two variables, "Site" and "pH" were removed from the model due to multicollinearity. 9 explanatory variables remained in the model (Supplementary Table 10). Mineral types (Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz with P-values of 4E-17, 6E-06, 7E-06, respectively), mineral mass (6E-37), sample depth (7E-15 ) and field HS aromaticity (category A and category B with P-values of 6E-0.4 and 7E-06 ) were found to have a statistically significant positive correlation to estimated mean HS sorption. Dissolved $Fe^{2+}$ (1E-02) was statistically significant negatively correlated to predicted mean HS sorption. EC and field molecular weight (Category A and Category B) have positive correlations while DO has negative correlation to the predicted HS sorption. Even though they are not statistically significant with almost the same P-values (around 3E-01), they are kept in the model due to an overall model improvement.

## 3. Discussion
### 3.1 HS as the dominant sorbing fraction

Ko et al. (2005) found HS sorption increased with HS higher molecular weight and higher aromaticity. Gu et al. (1995) divided NOM into hydrophobic and hydrophilic fractions and compared their sorption extent onto iron oxide based on their molecular weights. They found that, at C weight basis, hydrophobic fraction sorption outweighed that of hydrophilic fraction due to higher C content resulting in larger size hydrophobic fraction causing higher adsorption affinity and capacity. However, at Oxygen derived organ matter weight basis, hydrophobic sorption was less than that of hydrophilic. They observed that NOM compounds are heterogenous and they are selectively preferred to sorb on minerals.

In this study, the hydrophilic fraction HS was found to be the dominant fraction of groundwater DOC, as well as the fraction showing the most sorption to mineral surfaces. The linear regression model exhibited a statistically significant positive correlation of HS sorption and DOC concentration. Similar correlation of HS sorption and HS aromaticity was also observed. Even though the model retains the variable HS molecular weight for explaining the prediction of HS sorption, HS molecular weight was not found to be statistically significant in explaining HS sorption. McKnight et al. (1992) conducted experiments of NOM sorption on hydrous aluminium and iron oxides and found that HS sorption extent did not only proportionally increased with its aromaticity but also increased with O/C ratio content of HS. This could imply that at C weight basis molecular weight could be one of the controlling factors of groundwater DOC sorption but DOC concentration and the aromaticity of DOC were found to be even more important in controlling the sorption.

Based on the LC-OCD technique of defining the molecular size of each DOC fraction, hydrophilic biopolymers (BP > 20,000 g $mol^{-1}$) is around 57 - 66 times bigger in molecular size than building block (300<BB<350 g $mol^{-1}$) and about 66 times bigger than low molecular weight acids neutral (LMWN<350 g $mol^{-1}$). However, BP sorption counts (72 experimental sorption systems that DOC fraction sorption were found based on "emmeans" test earlier in Table 4) was about 35% and 62% lower than BB and LMWN, respectively. In addition, Huber et al. (2011a) claimed that in most cases BP does not display a UV signal because it does not

have unsaturated hydrocarbon structure (no aromaticity). This indicates that BP sorption was driven by molecular weight while BB and LMWN sorption are caused by their aromaticity (as the result, the sorption of these two DOC fractions was found higher in percentage).

The Spectral Absorbance Coefficients (SAC) indicated the aromaticity coefficients of the hydrophilic fraction. Higher SAC of HS was found than that of BB and LMWN, which validated higher HS sorption than the two fractions. However, BH12_4, BH19_2 and EC31 (Maules Creek sampling site) and BH.Golf, BH01 and The Well (Wellington sampling site) have low SAC of HS when compared to SAC of BB and LMWN. This could mean that, based on aromaticity, HS sorption might not be found in these samples, or if there is, such sorption could be a result of molecular weight effects. As previously mentioned, no HS sorption or very limited sorbed amount was observed in these samples.
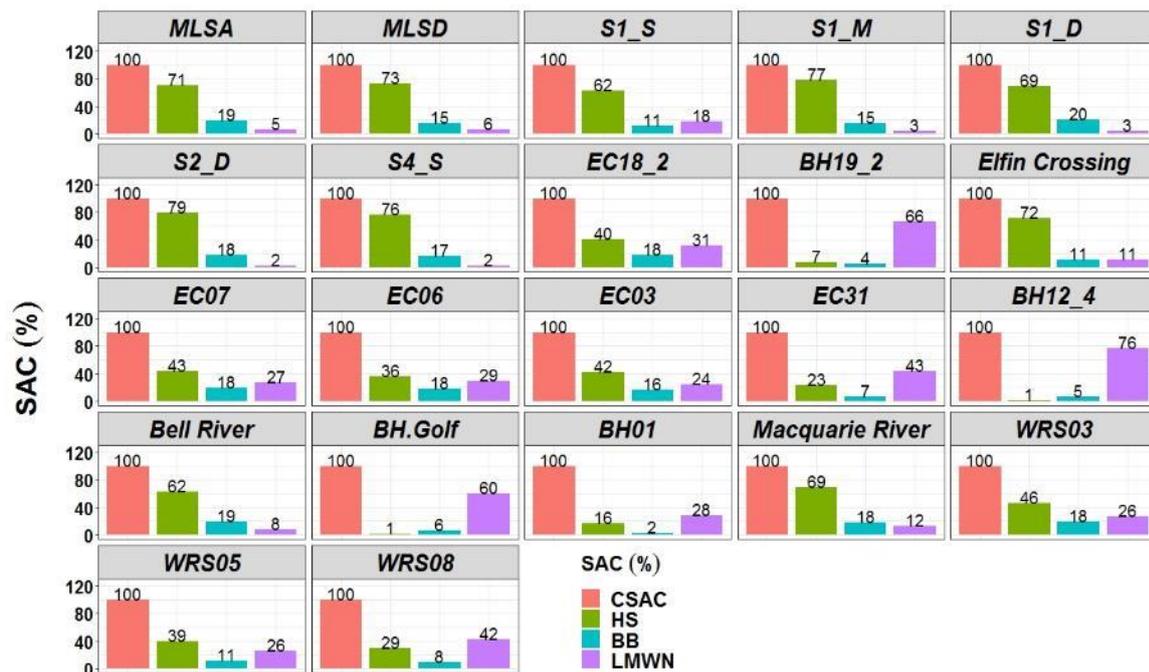


Figure 6: Showing the comparison of Spectral Absorbance Coefficients (SAC) in m$^{-1}$ by UVS in percentage. SAC of DOC = SAC of HOC + SAC of CDOC. In addition, SAC CDOC = SAC HS + SAC BB + SAC LMWN + SAC inorganic carbon. However, the plot only reported the total SAC CDOC in 100% subdivided into SAC HS, SAC BB and SAC LMWN. No SAC of inorganic carbon analysed.

In terms of LC-OCD, Huber et al. (2011a) described HOC as the composition of longer-chain aliphatic (no aromaticity) and polycyclic aromatic materials. Our model predicting that aromaticity of the DOC is more important in term of sorption than DOC molecular weight. Higher HS sorption when compared to HOC, it can be assumed that HS could have more aromaticity than HOC. It suggests that groundwater HOC is mainly composed of aliphatic molecules.

## 3.2 Factors controlling natural HS sorption

The model implies that not only the physiochemical property of HS but also the groundwater environment affects the HS sorption extent.

The model suggests that quartz sand environment could have higher HS concentration than the environment with iron coated minerals and calcium carbonate environment due to reduced HS sorption.

The model infers that, on average, HS sorption increases by 0.00086 (18%) mg for every 1 g increase in mineral mass. The mass alone might not be directly relevant to the sorption. However, mineral mass has strong link to mineral specific surface area. Bengtsson and Picado (2008) studied on the dependence of DOC sorption on mineral grain size by making 6 fractions of quartz sand sediment ranging from 0 – 2000 μm and found that size range mineral has negative correlation to SSA and DOC sorption. 0 – 63 μm mass range has almost 9 times higher in SSA and almost 8 times higher in DOC sorption than what was found from 1000 – 2000 μm mass range.

The model also implies that the environment with iron coated mineral will commands 0.0017 mg (135%) HS sorption and 0.001 mg (44%) higher than sandy and calcium carbonate environments, respectively (comparing based on 1g basis of each mineral type). Calcium carbonate environments also store HS by 0.0012 mg (61%) higher than sandy environments (comparing based on 1 g basis of each mineral type). An explanation to higher HS sorption was found in Iron Oxides system is due to the fact that under particular pH range the porous Iron Oxides carries positive charge (Kim et al., 2009) attracting negatively charged HS (Fein et al., 1999), while negatively charged sand quartz (Bai and Zhang, 2001) causes repulsive effects on HS (at neutral solution pH, HS is negatively charged due to carboxyl and phenol groups on their surface). HS sorption of iron coated and quartz sand in column test by Kim et al. (2009) showed that at pH around 7.1 – 7.3, HS sorption on iron coated sand is 7 times higher than that on quartz sand. Available surface specific area of the minerals also play an important part in DOC sorption. Chang et al. (1997) explained that the magnitude of available surface specific area (SSA) of the sorbents indicates the magnitude of adsorptive binding capacity of NOM to the sorbents and in their study higher DOC was removed from iron coated sand than non-coated sand because the surface specific area increases from 0.04 to 2.7 $m^2$ $g^{-1}$ after the coating. They found that higher NOM sorption was observed than that found in silica due to more surface structure for sorption. Saidy et al. (2012) found that coated phyllosilicate with ferrihydrite increases available surface specific area (SSA) by 7% resulting in higher DOC sorption on ferrihydrite coated phyllosilicate than that of pure phyllosilicate.

The maximum organic carbon sorption on calcite with SSA of 0.714 $m^2$ $g^{-1}$ was up to 1.5 mg C $m^{-2}$ (Suess, 1970). Thomas et al. (1993) claimed that humic acid sorption on calcite with SSA of 0.6 $m^2$ $g^{-1}$ was 1.3 mg C $m^{-2}$. Moreover, calcite surfaces become positively charged when pH is below 8-9 (Thomas et al., 1993, Al-Hashim et al., 1988) and this positively charged interface exhibited strong carboxylate adsorption on carbonate (Thomas et al., 1993). The inference for this is that organic sorption onto calcite increases with SSA and with positively charged interface.

The model in this paper elucidated that even though HS sorption by calcite is higher compared to what was found in the QS system, it is about 44% lower than observed HS sorption in ICS system. Assuming the same HS sorption mechanism, ICS might have higher SSA (by XPS analysis, 8% iron oxide coverage on QS was found) and surface charge than calcite and, thereby, higher HS sorption.

The different extent of sorption by the 3 minerals reflects on the concentration of groundwater DOC found in this study in that higher DOC concentration was found at Anna Bay site. The source of such high concentration is assumed to be from surface vegetation, mobilized particulate organic matter and in-situ peat in that sandy environment (Meredith et al.). This concentration is about 5 times higher than median global groundwater DOC

concentration (McDonough et al., 2020a). X-ray Fluorescence spectrometry (XRF) analysis show that the major chemical composition of the soil is $SiO_2$ (94%) while only 0.20% $Fe_2O_3$ is present. The quartz sand environment with low attracting capacity to groundwater DOC could result in the high DOC concentration we observed, and this infers that groundwater DOC might not be processed or less processed when compared to other sites where groundwater DOC concentration was relatively low. The lower groundwater DOC concentration at Maules creek and Wellington might be the results of higher sorption. For example, at Wellington, BH.Golf, BH01 and The Well with very low groundwater DOC are in karst environments while at Maules Creek the soil chemical composition are not only $SiO_2$ (72%) but also $Fe_2O_3$ (3.04%) and $Al_2O_3$ (12.31%).

HS sorption decreases by 0.0008 g (6%) for every meter of deeper sample depth implying that HS concentration is removed along flow-paths. NOM with greater aromaticity, carboxylic acid groups and amino acid are selectively removed as groundwater flows along a pathway (McKnight et al., 1992). In the vadose zone, extensive attenuation of surface-derived DOC concentration occurs as it moves vertically to deeper water table (Pabich et al., 2001). This suggests that due to concurrent groundwater DOC sorption and flow, less sorbing DOC fractions are available for sorption along flow-paths.

The result shows that water samples with higher groundwater DOC concentrations tend to have higher aromaticity and molecular weight. For examples, samples from Anna Bay where groundwater DOC is minimally processed (McDonough et al., 2020b) showed higher groundwater DOC concentration with higher aromaticity and molecular weight. HS sorption at Anna Bay was also found to be higher than groundwater HS sorption from other sites. It is consistent with what the model predicts in that HS sorption increases with groundwater DOC and HS aromaticity. The sorption increases by 0.0009 mg (22%) for 1 mg/L increase in groundwater DOC. At 1 L $mg^{-1}$ $m^{-1}$ change of aromaticity, HS sorption will be about 58% higher than that found in the sample with lower aromaticity (HS aromaticity lower than 3 L $mg^{-1}$ $m^{-1}$).

On the other hand, HS sorption becomes lower by 0.00008g (13%) with every 1 mg $L^{-1}$ change in dissolved $Fe^{2+}$. A possible explanation of this is that under anoxic conditions $Fe^{3+}$ is utilized as an electron acceptor during biodegradation of groundwater DOC and release $Fe^{2+}$ as a by-product (McMahon and Chapelle, 2008, Bastviken et al., 2004), resulting in less Fe-oxides surfaces for DOC sorption.

## 4. Conclusion

LC-OCD was used to characterize groundwater DOC and batch experiments were performed to quantify DOC sorption in groundwater. A multiple linear regression model was adopted to identify the statistically relevant factors that drive DOC sorption within various aquifers. The results showed that not all DOC fractions in groundwater sorb onto quartz, calcite or Fe-oxide minerals. HS is the largest fraction in DOC and the dominant sorbing fraction. These results suggest that HS can be used as an indicator of groundwater DOC sorption in aquifers. Nine explanatory variables were used in the multiple linear regression model to predict the control of groundwater DOC sorption. The model implies that, iron oxide coated sediments can store larger amounts of DOC from groundwater than in calcium carbonate and quartz-rich aquifer sediments. Unprocessed DOC in groundwater, especially contained within shallow aquifers that are influenced by surface water interaction and recharge are typically higher in DOC

concentration and aromaticity. These two factors were found to play an important role in groundwater DOC sorption. Less groundwater DOC sorption occurs within deeper aquifers due to DOC removal along the flow path which results in less DOC for further sorption. However, the model also indicates that when high DOC is found in groundwater, higher dissolved $Fe^{2+}$ is expected to be mobilized.

Finally, this model is not only useful for predicting the processes that regulate the storage of OC in aquifers, but can also be used for predicting the removal of organic contaminants from surface water and groundwater by collecting the data related the 11 explanatory into the model and the output from the model can be used for water treatment as well as for understanding more about global carbon cycle. Further research could determine whether other DOC fractions besides HS might sorb more effectively in higher DOC concentration for groundwater, such as within organic contaminated groundwater. This would confirm whether the model is universal to all groundwater environments. LC-OCD allows us to identify multiple fractions of NOM and how they are impacted by sorption. Future studies could also investigate how each fraction is processed by biodegradation.

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**Supplementary Information**

**The Supplemental Information comprises 10 tables and 2 figures**

**Supplementary Table 1:** 3. Sampling sites locating in New South Wales, Australia. Sample GPS coordinates (easting and northing) are based on WGS 1984 UTM Zone 56S zoning system in which Maules Creek and Anna Bay sample site is in Zone 56S and Wellington Research Station and Wellington Caves are in Zone 55S in Southern Hemisphere. The depth where the samples were taken were based on screen depth below ground surface taken from NCRIS (2014) except for that The Well, BH.Golf and BH01 were the groundwater depth and taken from Keshavarzi (2017).

| Samples | Easting | Northing | Depth of screen below ground surface | Distance from Surface water |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Anna Bay sampling site** | | | | |
| Wetlands | No sample | No sample | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| MLSA | 417595.37 | 6374461.24 | 0.62 | 0 |
| MLSB | 417596.84 | 6374461.23 | 1.04 | 1.03 |
| MLSD | 417597.48 | 6374461.23 | 1.19 | 2.11 |
| S1_S | 417608.39 | 6374462.72 | 3.50 | 13.02 |
| S1_M | 417607.22 | 6374462.51 | 12.50 | 11.85 |
| S1_D | 417609.72 | 6374462.56 | 16.90 | 14.35 |
| S2_D | 417688.66 | 6374441.93 | 17.30 | 93.29 |
| S4_S | 417907.13 | 6374305.2 | 4.64 | 311.76 |
| **Maules Creek sampling site** | | | | |
| Middle Creek | No sample | No sample | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| BH 18_2 | 227599.17 | 6626170.27 | 10.45 | 23.37 |
| BH 19_2 | 227555.28 | 6626196.06 | 21.93 | 72.91 |
| Elfin Crossing | 220009.56 | 6622666.4 | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| EC07 | 219998.83 | 6622667.16 | 1.51 | 8.68 |
| EC06 | 220000.11 | 6622668.67 | 4.24 | 9.16 |
| EC03 | 219995.88 | 6622672.71 | 2.83 | 14.4 |
| EC31 | 219996.85 | 6622688.86 | 11.68 | 28.66 |
| BH12_4 | 219987.99 | 6622697.93 | 39.57 | 51.55 |
| **Wellington Caves** | | | | |
| Bell River | 681035.05 | 6389078.09 | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| The Well | 681984.36 | 6389045.46 | 27.00 | 820.01 |
| BH01 | 681775.08 | 6388903.42 | 10.70 | 710.03 |
| BH.Golf | 681152.21 | 6388383.14 | 17-19 | 350.24 |
| **Wellington Research Station** | | | | |
| Macquarie River | 686892.5 | 6394261.03 | Not applicable | Not applicable |
| WRS02 | 686864.23 | 6394255.75 | 9.5-11 | 41.13 |
| WRS03 | 686883.92 | 6394221.01 | 6.5-8 | 23.73 |
| WRS05 | 686770.42 | 6394214.61 | 15-18 | 131.71 |
| WRS08 | 686574.88 | 6394215.81 | 18.5-21.5 | 326.39 |

**Supplementary Table 2:** By sampling sites, Field data DOC (DOC = HOC+ CDOC) and its fraction concentrations (CDOC = BP + HS + BB + LMWA + LMWN). bld means below detection limits. The ordering of samples is based on the distance of the bore away from surface river.

| No | Samples | DOC | HOC | CDOC | BP | HS | BB | LMWA | LMWN | HS Aromaticity | HS Molecular weight |
|----|---------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|----------------|---------------------|
| | | mg L$^{-1}$ | mg L$^{-1}$ | mg L$^{-1}$ | mg L$^{-1}$ | mg L$^{-1}$ | mg L$^{-1}$ | mg L$^{-1}$ | mg L$^{-1}$ | L mg$^{-1}$m$^{-1}$ | g mol$^{-1}$ |
| **Anna Bay sampling site** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | MLSA | 6.73 | 0.92 | 5.80 | 0.01 | 3.93 | 1.09 | bld | 0.77 | 3.81 | 588 |
| 2 | MLSB | 6.76 | 0.88 | 5.88 | 0.01 | 4.06 | 0.94 | bld | 0.87 | 3.69 | 544 |
| 3 | MLSD | 6.61 | 1.07 | 5.54 | 0.00 | 4.00 | 0.83 | bld | 0.70 | 3.72 | 542 |
| 4 | S1_S | 0.86 | 0.24 | 0.62 | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.11 | bld | 0.09 | 4.29 | 699 |
| 5 | S1_M | 10.76 | 1.20 | 9.56 | 0.09 | 6.76 | 1.58 | bld | 1.13 | 4.63 | 605 |
| 6 | S1_D | 9.46 | 2.41 | 7.05 | 0.07 | 5.37 | 0.88 | bld | 0.74 | 4.28 | 512 |
| 7 | S2_D | 15.64 | 2.25 | 13.39 | 0.01 | 10.34 | 1.95 | bld | 1.10 | 5.52 | 686 |
| 8 | S4_S | 6.18 | 0.67 | 5.51 | 0.00 | 4.30 | 0.75 | bld | 0.46 | 7.08 | 904 |
| Min | | 0.86 | 0.24 | 0.62 | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.11 | | 0.09 | 3.69 | 512 |
| Max | | 15.64 | 2.41 | 13.39 | 0.09 | 10.34 | 1.95 | | 1.13 | 7.08 | 904 |
| Mean | | 7.87 | 1.21 | 6.67 | 0.02 | 4.90 | 1.02 | | 0.73 | 4.63 | 635 |
| Median | | 6.74 | 1.00 | 5.84 | 0.01 | 4.18 | 0.91 | | 0.76 | 4.29 | 597 |
| SE | | 4.26 | 0.75 | 3.67 | 0.03 | 2.83 | 0.55 | | 0.34 | 1.16 | 128 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Maules Creek sampling site** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Middle Cree** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | BH18_2 | 1.08 | 0.23 | 0.85 | 0.01 | 0.47 | 0.19 | bld | 0.18 | 1.80 | 675 |
| 2 | BH19_2 | 0.61 | 0.23 | 0.38 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.07 | bld | 0.22 | 0.67 | 112 |
| **Elfin Crossing** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Elfin Crossing | 1.42 | 0.22 | 1.20 | 0.10 | 0.64 | 0.10 | bld | 0.36 | 2.13 | 119 |
| 4 | EC07 | 1.04 | 0.19 | 0.85 | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.21 | bld | 0.24 | 1.83 | 491 |
| 5 | EC06 | 1.02 | 0.22 | 0.80 | 0.00 | 0.47 | 0.14 | bld | 0.19 | 1.61 | 257 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | EC03 | 1.24 | 0.31 | 0.93 | 0.01 | 0.55 | 0.13 | bld | 0.23 | 1.80 | 201 |
| 7 | EC31 | 0.68 | 0.18 | 0.49 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.07 | bld | 0.25 | 1.00 | 110 |
| 8 | BH12_4 | 0.66 | 0.21 | 0.45 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.17 | bld | 0.19 | 0.87 | 113 |
| Min | | 0.61 | 0.18 | 0.38 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.07 | | 0.18 | 0.67 | 110 |
| Max | | 1.42 | 0.31 | 1.20 | 0.10 | 0.64 | 0.21 | | 0.36 | 2.13 | 675 |
| Mean | | 0.97 | 0.22 | 0.74 | 0.02 | 0.36 | 0.13 | | 0.23 | 1.46 | 260 |
| Median | | 1.03 | 0.22 | 0.83 | 0.00 | 0.43 | 0.13 | | 0.22 | 1.71 | 160 |
| SE | | 0.29 | 0.04 | 0.28 | 0.04 | 0.22 | 0.05 | | 0.06 | 0.54 | 212 |
| **Wellington Caves** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Bell River | 1.74 | 0.05 | 1.70 | 0.10 | 1.05 | 0.27 | bld | 0.28 | 2.57 | 269 |
| 2 | Golf Bore | 0.35 | 0.09 | 0.26 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.06 | bld | 0.07 | 0.37 | 364 |
| 3 | BH01 | 0.52 | 0.14 | 0.37 | 0.00 | 0.22 | 0.03 | bld | 0.12 | 0.89 | 173 |
| 4 | The Well | 0.54 | 0.12 | 0.43 | 0.01 | 0.23 | 0.07 | bld | 0.12 | 1.06 | 127 |
| **Wellington Research Station** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Macquarie River | 8.54 | 0.25 | 8.29 | 0.18 | 5.51 | 1.62 | bld | 0.98 | 3.47 | 581 |
| 6 | WRS03 | 1.98 | 0.07 | 1.90 | 0.00 | 1.32 | 0.16 | bld | 0.42 | 1.66 | 192 |
| 7 | WRS05 | 1.48 | 0.18 | 1.30 | 0.01 | 0.78 | 0.28 | bld | 0.23 | 1.33 | 325 |
| 8 | WRS08 | 0.91 | 0.05 | 0.87 | 0.01 | 0.61 | 0.08 | bld | 0.16 | 0.89 | 199 |
| Min | | 0.35 | 0.05 | 0.26 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.03 | | 0.07 | 0.37 | 127 |
| Max | | 8.54 | 0.25 | 8.29 | 0.18 | 5.51 | 1.62 | | 0.98 | 3.47 | 581 |
| Mean | | 2.01 | 0.12 | 1.89 | 0.04 | 1.23 | 0.32 | | 0.30 | 1.53 | 279 |
| Median | | 1.20 | 0.10 | 1.08 | 0.01 | 0.70 | 0.12 | | 0.20 | 1.20 | 234 |
| SE | | 2.71 | 0.07 | 2.66 | 0.07 | 1.78 | 0.53 | | 0.30 | 1.02 | 146 |

**Supplementary Table 3:** Sorbed amount of 6 DOC fractions (mg) found in 10 g Iron Oxides system.  bld means below detection limits. The ordering of samples is based on the distance of the bore away from surface river.

| No | Samples | HOC | BP | HS | BB | LMWA | LMWN |
|----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| 1 | MLSA | 4.93E-03 | bld | 4.37E-02 | 1.21E-02 | bld | bld |
| 2 | MLSB | bld | 1.03E-03 | 2.72E-02 | 3.86E-03 | 9.41E-03 | bld |
| 3 | MLSD | bld | 7.46E-05 | 1.48E-02 | 1.29E-02 | bld | bld |
| 4 | S1_S | bld | 2.38E-04 | 6.90E-03 | 1.13E-03 | bld | bld |
| 5 | S1_M | 4.87E-03 | 1.29E-03 | 5.90E-02 | 2.34E-02 | 4.31E-03 | bld |
| 6 | S1_D | 9.45E-03 | 6.15E-03 | 6.82E-02 | 2.98E-02 | 4.50E-03 | bld |
| 7 | S2_D | 3.88E-03 | bld | 1.44E-01 | 1.58E-02 | bld | bld |
| 8 | S4_S | 6.35E-03 | bld | 1.08E-01 | 1.29E-02 | 2.33E-03 | bld |
| 9 | BH18_2 | 2.11E-03 | 8.78E-05 | 3.74E-03 | 2.55E-03 | 2.25E-03 | bld |
| 10 | BH19_2 | 8.96E-03 | bld | 2.03E-03 | bld | bld | bld |
| 11 | Elfin Crossing | bld | 5.07E-03 | 3.30E-03 | 4.96E-04 | 9.98E-04 | bld |
| 12 | EC07 | 8.30E-04 | 1.76E-04 | 6.91E-03 | bld | 1.01E-03 | bld |
| 13 | EC06 | 4.53E-03 | bld | 7.45E-03 | bld | 2.23E-04 | bld |
| 14 | EC03 | 0.00E+00 | 2.80E-04 | 7.39E-03 | bld | bld | bld |
| 15 | EC31 | 2.40E-03 | bld | 2.59E-03 | bld | bld | bld |
| 16 | BH12_4 | 0.00E+00 | 1.30E-04 | bld | bld | 2.25E-04 | 4.67E-04 |
| 17 | Bell river | bld | 1.72E-03 | 1.05E-02 | bld | bld | bld |
| 18 | BH.Golf | 1.19E-03 | 3.45E-04 | 8.68E-04 | bld | bld | 1.04E-04 |
| 19 | BH01 | bld | 6.78E-05 | bld | bld | bld | bld |
| 20 | The Well | 1.01E-03 | 1.91E-05 | 6.78E-04 | bld | 7.50E-04 | bld |
| 21 | Macquarie river | bld | 9.61E-04 | 2.34E-02 | bld | 4.11E-03 | 2.17E-04 |
| 22 | WRS03 | 1.29E-03 | bld | 3.88E-03 | bld | 1.31E-04 | bld |
| 23 | WRS05 | 1.37E-03 | 1.02E-03 | 3.30E-03 | bld | 1.44E-03 | bld |
| 24 | WRS08 | 8.54E-03 | 3.83E-05 | 5.40E-03 | bld | 2.77E-03 | bld |
| | **Min** | **0.00E+00** | **1.91E-05** | **6.78E-04** | **1.13E-03** | **1.31E-04** | **1.04E-04** |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max | 9.45E-03 | 6.15E-03 | 1.44E-01 | 2.98E-02 | 9.41E-03 | 2.17E-04 |
| Mean | 3.86E-03 | 1.01E-03 | 2.62E-02 | 1.40E-02 | 2.93E-03 | 1.61E-04 |
| Median | 3.14E-03 | 2.92E-04 | 7.39E-03 | 1.29E-02 | 2.33E-03 | 1.61E-04 |
| SD | 3.11E-03 | 1.72E-03 | 3.87E-02 | 9.39E-03 | 2.66E-03 | 8.01E-05 |

**Supplementary Table 4:** A summary of Emmeans test to identify if specific DOC fractions sorbs on specific minerals (a range of Lower and Upper CL indicates HS sorption in the systems or confidence interval). If the range of Lower and upper CL include zero, it means no DOC fraction sorption in the model. 432 systems were analysed for any sorption (1 system means 1 DOC fraction sorption versus 6 mineral mass (0 – 10 g) of 1 mineral type). " N " and " Y " under "Sorb" heading in the table below refers to no DOC fraction sorption or there is DOC fraction sorption, respectively. The samples were listed in order of field DOC concentration (mg L$^{-1}$). The samples with lower DOC concentration are listed at the top.

| No | Samples | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|----|---------|-----------|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|------|------------------|
| 1 | BH.Golf | HOC | Iron Oxides | 3.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 2 | BH.Golf | HOC | Calcite | 6.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 1.E-03 | Y | 0.35 |
| 3 | BH.Golf | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 4 | BH01 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 8.E-05 | 6.E-05 | -8.E-05 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 5 | BH01 | HOC | Calcite | 4.E-04 | 7.E-05 | 2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | Y | 0.52 |
| 6 | BH01 | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 7 | The Well | HOC | Iron Oxides | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 8 | The Well | HOC | Calcite | 7.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -4.E-05 | 2.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 9 | The Well | HOC | Quartz | 9.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 4.E-05 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.54 |
| 10 | BH19_2 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 6.E-03 | Y | 0.61 |
| 11 | BH19_2 | HOC | Calcite | 3.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 12 | BH19_2 | HOC | Quartz | 3.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 13 | BH12_4 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 2.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 14 | BH12_4 | HOC | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 15 | BH12_4 | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 16 | EC31 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 9.E-05 | 8.E-04 | Y | 0.68 |
| 17 | EC31 | HOC | Calcite | 3.E-05 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 18 | EC31 | HOC | Quartz | 8.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | Y | 0.68 |
| 19 | S1_S | HOC | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 6.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 4.E-03 | Y | 0.86 |
| 20 | S1_S | HOC | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.86 |
| 21 | S1_S | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.86 |
| 22 | WRS08 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 23 | WRS08 | HOC | Calcite | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-05 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.91 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | WRS08 | HOC | Quartz | 8.E-07 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 25 | EC06 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.02 |
| 26 | EC06 | HOC | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.02 |
| 27 | EC06 | HOC | Quartz | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 28 | EC07 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 5.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 7.E-05 | 1.E-03 | Y | 1.04 |
| 29 | EC07 | HOC | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.04 |
| 30 | EC07 | HOC | Quartz | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-05 | 8.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 31 | BH18_2 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 32 | BH18_2 | HOC | Calcite | 4.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 33 | BH18_2 | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 34 | EC03 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 5.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 35 | EC03 | HOC | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.24 |
| 36 | EC03 | HOC | Quartz | 6.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 1.E-03 | Y | 1.24 |
| 37 | Elfin Crossing | HOC | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 38 | Elfin Crossing | HOC | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 39 | Elfin Crossing | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 40 | WRS05 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 41 | WRS05 | HOC | Calcite | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-05 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 42 | WRS05 | HOC | Quartz | 8.E-07 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 43 | Bell river | HOC | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 44 | Bell river | HOC | Calcite | 6.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 2.E-05 | 1.E-03 | Y | 1.74 |
| 45 | Bell river | HOC | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 8.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.74 |
| 46 | WRS03 | HOC | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 47 | WRS03 | HOC | Calcite | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-05 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 48 | WRS03 | HOC | Quartz | 8.E-07 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 49 | S4_S | HOC | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.18 |
| 50 | S4_S | HOC | Calcite | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.18 |
| 51 | S4_S | HOC | Quartz | 6.E-04 | 4.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.18 |
| 52 | MLSD | HOC | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 6.E-03 | Y | 6.61 |
| 53 | MLSD | HOC | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 6.61 |
| 54 | MLSD | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 6.61 |

| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 55 | MLSA | HOC | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 5.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 4.E-03 | Y | 6.73 |
| 56 | MLSA | HOC | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.73 |
| 57 | MLSA | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.73 |
| 58 | MLSB | HOC | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 5.E-04 | 7.E-05 | 4.E-03 | Y | 6.76 |
| 59 | MLSB | HOC | Calcite | 3.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 60 | MLSB | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 61 | Macquarie river | HOC | Iron Oxides | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 8.54 |
| 62 | Macquarie river | HOC | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 8.54 |
| 63 | Macquarie river | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 64 | S1_D | HOC | Iron Oxides | 9.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 9.46 |
| 65 | S1_D | HOC | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 9.E-04 | 5.E-04 | 7.E-03 | Y | 9.46 |
| 66 | S1_D | HOC | Quartz | 2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 9.46 |
| 67 | S1_M | HOC | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 6.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 4.E-03 | Y | 10.76 |
| 68 | S1_M | HOC | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 10.76 |
| 69 | S1_M | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 10.76 |
| 70 | S2_D | HOC | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 9.E-04 | 6.E-05 | 7.E-03 | Y | 15.64 |
| 71 | S2_D | HOC | Calcite | 4.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 9.E-04 | 1.E-02 | Y | 15.64 |
| 72 | S2_D | HOC | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 15.64 |

| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | BH.Golf | BP | Iron Oxides | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 2 | BH.Golf | BP | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 3 | BH.Golf | BP | Quartz | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 4 | BH01 | BP | Iron Oxides | 6.E-05 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 5 | BH01 | BP | Calcite | 2.E-05 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 6 | BH01 | BP | Quartz | 7.E-05 | 6.E-05 | -9.E-05 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 7 | The Well | BP | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 8 | The Well | BP | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 9 | The Well | BP | Quartz | 8.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-05 | 2.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 10 | BH19_2 | BP | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 11 | BH19_2 | BP | Calcite | 4.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.61 |

| 12 | BH19_2 | BP | Quartz | 2.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | BH12_4 | BP | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 14 | BH12_4 | BP | Calcite | 5.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 15 | BH12_4 | BP | Quartz | 6.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 1.E-03 | Y | 0.66 |
| 16 | EC31 | BP | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 17 | EC31 | BP | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 18 | EC31 | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 19 | S1_S | BP | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 0.86 |
| 20 | S1_S | BP | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 0.86 |
| 21 | S1_S | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.86 |
| 22 | WRS08 | BP | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 23 | WRS08 | BP | Calcite | 2.E-05 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 24 | WRS08 | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 25 | EC06 | BP | Iron Oxides | 2.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 26 | EC06 | BP | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 27 | EC06 | BP | Quartz | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 28 | EC07 | BP | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 29 | EC07 | BP | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 30 | EC07 | BP | Quartz | 6.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 31 | BH18_2 | BP | Iron Oxides | 8.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 32 | BH18_2 | BP | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 33 | BH18_2 | BP | Quartz | 7.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 34 | EC03 | BP | Iron Oxides | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 35 | EC03 | BP | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 36 | EC03 | BP | Quartz | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 37 | Elfin Crossing | BP | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 38 | Elfin Crossing | BP | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 39 | Elfin Crossing | BP | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 40 | WRS05 | BP | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 41 | WRS05 | BP | Calcite | 2.E-05 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 42 | WRS05 | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 43 | Bell river | BP | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.74 |
| 44 | Bell river | BP | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.74 |
| 45 | Bell river | BP | Quartz | 5.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-05 | 1.E-03 | N | 1.74 |
| 46 | WRS03 | BP | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 47 | WRS03 | BP | Calcite | 2.E-05 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 48 | WRS03 | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 49 | S4_S | BP | Iron Oxides | 3.E-06 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.18 |
| 50 | S4_S | BP | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.18 |
| 51 | S4_S | BP | Quartz | 9.E-06 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.18 |
| 52 | MLSD | BP | Iron Oxides | 3.E-05 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.61 |
| 53 | MLSD | BP | Calcite | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.61 |
| 54 | MLSD | BP | Quartz | 3.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.61 |
| 55 | MLSA | BP | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.73 |
| 56 | MLSA | BP | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.73 |
| 57 | MLSA | BP | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 6.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 5.E-03 | Y | 6.73 |
| 58 | MLSB | BP | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 59 | MLSB | BP | Calcite | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 60 | MLSB | BP | Quartz | 9.E-04 | 4.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 3.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 61 | Macquarie river | BP | Iron Oxides | 5.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 8.54 |
| 62 | Macquarie river | BP | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 8.54 |
| 63 | Macquarie river | BP | Quartz | 9.E-06 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 64 | S1_D | BP | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 9.E-03 | Y | 9.46 |
| 65 | S1_D | BP | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 6.E-03 | Y | 9.46 |
| 66 | S1_D | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 9.46 |
| 67 | S1_M | BP | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 10.76 |
| 68 | S1_M | BP | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 10.76 |
| 69 | S1_M | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 10.76 |
| 70 | S2_D | BP | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 4.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| 71 | S2_D | BP | Calcite | 3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 3.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| 72 | S2_D | BP | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 15.64 |

| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|----|----|-----------|----------|----------|-----|----------|----------|------|-------------------------|
| 1 | BH.Golf | HS | Iron Oxides | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 2 | BH.Golf | HS | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 3 | BH.Golf | HS | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 4 | BH01 | HS | Iron Oxides | 6.E-06 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 5 | BH01 | HS | Calcite | 4.E-04 | 7.E-05 | 2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | Y | 0.52 |
| 6 | BH01 | HS | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 7 | The Well | HS | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 8 | The Well | HS | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 0.54 |
| 9 | The Well | HS | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.54 |
| 10 | BH19_2 | HS | Iron Oxides | 6.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 8.E-05 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.61 |
| 11 | BH19_2 | HS | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 12 | BH19_2 | HS | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 13 | BH12_4 | HS | Iron Oxides | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 14 | BH12_4 | HS | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 15 | BH12_4 | HS | Quartz | 9.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.66 |
| 16 | EC31 | HS | Iron Oxides | 8.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | Y | 0.68 |
| 17 | EC31 | HS | Calcite | 5.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 9.E-04 | Y | 0.68 |
| 18 | EC31 | HS | Quartz | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 4.E-05 | 7.E-04 | Y | 0.68 |
| 19 | S1_S | HS | Iron Oxides | 1.E-02 | 3.E-03 | 6.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 0.86 |
| 20 | S1_S | HS | Calcite | 8.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 0.86 |
| 21 | S1_S | HS | Quartz | 7.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 0.86 |
| 22 | WRS08 | HS | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 9.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.91 |
| 23 | WRS08 | HS | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | Y | 0.91 |
| 24 | WRS08 | HS | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 8.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.91 |
| 25 | EC06 | HS | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 5.E-03 | Y | 1.02 |
| 26 | EC06 | HS | Calcite | 3.E-03 | 5.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 5.E-03 | Y | 1.02 |
| 27 | EC06 | HS | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.02 |
| 28 | EC07 | HS | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.04 |
| 29 | EC07 | HS | Calcite | 3.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.04 |

| 30 | EC07 | HS | Quartz | 8.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 1.E-03 | Y | 1.04 |
| 31 | BH18_2 | HS | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 8.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 32 | BH18_2 | HS | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 33 | BH18_2 | HS | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 34 | EC03 | HS | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.24 |
| 35 | EC03 | HS | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.24 |
| 36 | EC03 | HS | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.24 |
| 37 | Elfin Crossing | HS | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 38 | Elfin Crossing | HS | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 39 | Elfin Crossing | HS | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 8.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 40 | WRS05 | HS | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 9.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.48 |
| 41 | WRS05 | HS | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.48 |
| 42 | WRS05 | HS | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 8.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.48 |
| 43 | Bell river | HS | Iron Oxides | 4.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 7.E-03 | Y | 1.74 |
| 44 | Bell river | HS | Calcite | 4.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 8.E-03 | Y | 1.74 |
| 45 | Bell river | HS | Quartz | 4.E-03 | 7.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 6.E-03 | Y | 1.74 |
| 46 | WRS03 | HS | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 9.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.98 |
| 47 | WRS03 | HS | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.98 |
| 48 | WRS03 | HS | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 8.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.98 |
| 49 | S4_S | HS | Iron Oxides | 3.E-02 | 6.E-03 | 1.E-02 | 6.E-02 | Y | 6.18 |
| 50 | S4_S | HS | Calcite | 1.E-02 | 3.E-03 | 7.E-03 | 3.E-02 | Y | 6.18 |
| 51 | S4_S | HS | Quartz | 8.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 6.18 |
| 52 | MLSD | HS | Iron Oxides | 7.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 6.61 |
| 53 | MLSD | HS | Calcite | 4.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 8.E-03 | Y | 6.61 |
| 54 | MLSD | HS | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 6.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 4.E-03 | Y | 6.61 |
| 55 | MLSA | HS | Iron Oxides | 1.E-02 | 3.E-03 | 6.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 6.73 |
| 56 | MLSA | HS | Calcite | 7.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 6.73 |
| 57 | MLSA | HS | Quartz | 4.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 9.E-03 | Y | 6.73 |
| 58 | MLSB | HS | Iron Oxides | 9.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 6.76 |
| 59 | MLSB | HS | Calcite | 8.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 6.76 |
| 60 | MLSB | HS | Quartz | 5.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 6.76 |

| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|----|----|-----------|----------|----------|-----|----------|----------|------|-------------------------|
| 61 | Macquarie river | HS | Iron Oxides | 8.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 8.54 |
| 62 | Macquarie river | HS | Calcite | 1.E-02 | 2.E-03 | 6.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 8.54 |
| 63 | Macquarie river | HS | Quartz | 8.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 4.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 8.54 |
| 64 | S1_D | HS | Iron Oxides | 2.E-02 | 5.E-03 | 7.E-03 | 4.E-02 | Y | 9.46 |
| 65 | S1_D | HS | Calcite | 7.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 9.46 |
| 66 | S1_D | HS | Quartz | 6.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 9.46 |
| 67 | S1_M | HS | Iron Oxides | 1.E-02 | 3.E-03 | 6.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 10.76 |
| 68 | S1_M | HS | Calcite | 8.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 4.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 10.76 |
| 69 | S1_M | HS | Quartz | 7.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 10.76 |
| 70 | S2_D | HS | Iron Oxides | 3.E-02 | 1.E-02 | 1.E-02 | 8.E-02 | Y | 15.64 |
| 71 | S2_D | HS | Calcite | 2.E-02 | 7.E-03 | 8.E-03 | 6.E-02 | Y | 15.64 |
| 72 | S2_D | HS | Quartz | 1.E-02 | 5.E-03 | 5.E-03 | 4.E-02 | Y | 15.64 |
| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
| 1 | BH.Golf | BB | Iron Oxides | 5.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 2 | BH.Golf | BB | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 3 | BH.Golf | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 4 | BH01 | BB | Iron Oxides | 2.E-05 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 5 | BH01 | BB | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 6 | BH01 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 7 | The Well | BB | Iron Oxides | 5.E-05 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 0.54 |
| 8 | The Well | BB | Calcite | 9.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 7.E-05 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.54 |
| 9 | The Well | BB | Quartz | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 10 | BH19_2 | BB | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 11 | BH19_2 | BB | Calcite | 7.E-06 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 12 | BH19_2 | BB | Quartz | 3.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 13 | BH12_4 | BB | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 14 | BH12_4 | BB | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 15 | BH12_4 | BB | Quartz | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 16 | EC31 | BB | Iron Oxides | 4.E-05 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 17 | EC31 | BB | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |

| 18 | EC31 | BB | Quartz | 8.E-06 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 19 | S1_S | BB | Iron Oxides | 5.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 0.86 |
| 20 | S1_S | BB | Calcite | 5.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 0.86 |
| 21 | S1_S | BB | Quartz | 4.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 9.E-03 | Y | 0.86 |
| 22 | WRS08 | BB | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 23 | WRS08 | BB | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 24 | WRS08 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 25 | EC06 | BB | Iron Oxides | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 26 | EC06 | BB | Calcite | 5.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-05 | 1.E-03 | N | 1.02 |
| 27 | EC06 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 28 | EC07 | BB | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 29 | EC07 | BB | Calcite | 3.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 30 | EC07 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 31 | BH18_2 | BB | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 32 | BH18_2 | BB | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 33 | BH18_2 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 34 | EC03 | BB | Iron Oxides | 8.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 35 | EC03 | BB | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 36 | EC03 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 37 | Elfin Crossing | BB | Iron Oxides | 3.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 38 | Elfin Crossing | BB | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 39 | Elfin Crossing | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 40 | WRS05 | BB | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 41 | WRS05 | BB | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 42 | WRS05 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 43 | Bell river | BB | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 44 | Bell river | BB | Calcite | 7.E-05 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 45 | Bell river | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 46 | WRS03 | BB | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 47 | WRS03 | BB | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 48 | WRS03 | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |

| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|----|----|-----------|----------|----------|-----|----------|----------|------|--------------------------|
| 49 | S4_S | BB | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 8.E-04 | 6.E-03 | Y | 6.18 |
| 50 | S4_S | BB | Calcite | 9.E-04 | 4.E-04 | -2.E-05 | 3.E-03 | N | 6.18 |
| 51 | S4_S | BB | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 7.E-05 | 3.E-03 | Y | 6.18 |
| 52 | MLSD | BB | Iron Oxides | 2.E-03 | 6.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 4.E-03 | Y | 6.61 |
| 53 | MLSD | BB | Calcite | 3.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 6.E-03 | Y | 6.61 |
| 54 | MLSD | BB | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 6.61 |
| 55 | MLSA | BB | Iron Oxides | 4.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 8.E-03 | Y | 6.73 |
| 56 | MLSA | BB | Calcite | 6.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.73 |
| 57 | MLSA | BB | Quartz | 5.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.73 |
| 58 | MLSB | BB | Iron Oxides | 5.E-04 | 4.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 59 | MLSB | BB | Calcite | 3.E-05 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 60 | MLSB | BB | Quartz | 2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 61 | Macquarie river | BB | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 62 | Macquarie river | BB | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 63 | Macquarie river | BB | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 64 | S1_D | BB | Iron Oxides | 8.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 2.E-02 | Y | 9.46 |
| 65 | S1_D | BB | Calcite | 3.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 9.E-04 | 9.E-03 | Y | 9.46 |
| 66 | S1_D | BB | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 6.E-03 | Y | 9.46 |
| 67 | S1_M | BB | Iron Oxides | 5.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 10.76 |
| 68 | S1_M | BB | Calcite | 5.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 10.76 |
| 69 | S1_M | BB | Quartz | 4.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 9.E-03 | Y | 10.76 |
| 70 | S2_D | BB | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 8.E-04 | -9.E-05 | 5.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| 71 | S2_D | BB | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 7.E-03 | Y | 15.64 |
| 72 | S2_D | BB | Quartz | 9.E-04 | 6.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
| 1 | BH.Golf | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 7.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 2 | BH.Golf | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 3 | BH.Golf | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 4 | BH01 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 5 | BH01 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | BH01 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 7 | The Well | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.54 |
| 8 | The Well | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.54 |
| 9 | The Well | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.54 |
| 10 | BH19_2 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 11 | BH19_2 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 12 | BH19_2 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 13 | BH12_4 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 9.E-06 | 1.E-03 | Y | 0.66 |
| 14 | BH12_4 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 15 | BH12_4 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 16 | EC31 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 17 | EC31 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 18 | EC31 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 19 | S1_S | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.86 |
| 20 | S1_S | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.86 |
| 21 | S1_S | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.86 |
| 22 | WRS08 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 23 | WRS08 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 24 | WRS08 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 25 | EC06 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 26 | EC06 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 27 | EC06 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 28 | EC07 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 29 | EC07 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 30 | EC07 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 31 | BH18_2 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 32 | BH18_2 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 33 | BH18_2 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.08 |
| 34 | EC03 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 35 | EC03 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 36 | EC03 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.24 |

| 37 | Elfin Crossing | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | Elfin Crossing | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 39 | Elfin Crossing | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.42 |
| 40 | WRS05 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 41 | WRS05 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 42 | WRS05 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 43 | Bell river | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 44 | Bell river | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 45 | Bell river | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 46 | WRS03 | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 47 | WRS03 | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 48 | WRS03 | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 49 | S4_S | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.18 |
| 50 | S4_S | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.18 |
| 51 | S4_S | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.18 |
| 52 | MLSD | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 6.61 |
| 53 | MLSD | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 6.61 |
| 54 | MLSD | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 6.61 |
| 55 | MLSA | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.73 |
| 56 | MLSA | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.73 |
| 57 | MLSA | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.73 |
| 58 | MLSB | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 59 | MLSB | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 60 | MLSB | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 61 | Macquarie river | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 62 | Macquarie river | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 63 | Macquarie river | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 8.54 |
| 64 | S1_D | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 9.46 |
| 65 | S1_D | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 9.46 |
| 66 | S1_D | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 9.46 |
| 67 | S1_M | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 10.76 |

| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 68 | S1_M | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 10.76 |
| 69 | S1_M | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 10.76 |
| 70 | S2_D | LMWA | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| 71 | S2_D | LMWA | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| 72 | S2_D | LMWA | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| No | ID | Fractions | Minerals | Response | SE | Lower.CL | Upper.CL | Sorb | Field DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) |
| 1 | BH.Golf | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 7.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 1.E-03 | Y | 0.35 |
| 2 | BH.Golf | LMWN | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 3 | BH.Golf | LMWN | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.35 |
| 4 | BH01 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 5 | BH01 | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 6.E-05 | -3.E-05 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 6 | BH01 | LMWN | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 5.E-05 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | N | 0.52 |
| 7 | The Well | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 9.E-04 | 4.E-04 | 6.E-05 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.54 |
| 8 | The Well | LMWN | Calcite | 6.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 3.E-03 | 1.E-02 | Y | 0.54 |
| 9 | The Well | LMWN | Quartz | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 0.54 |
| 10 | BH19_2 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 3.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 0.61 |
| 11 | BH19_2 | LMWN | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 12 | BH19_2 | LMWN | Quartz | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 0.61 |
| 13 | BH12_4 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 2.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 14 | BH12_4 | LMWN | Calcite | 3.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-05 | 9.E-04 | N | 0.66 |
| 15 | BH12_4 | LMWN | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 7.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 0.66 |
| 16 | EC31 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 4.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 8.E-05 | 8.E-04 | Y | 0.68 |
| 17 | EC31 | LMWN | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 18 | EC31 | LMWN | Quartz | 2.E-05 | 8.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.68 |
| 19 | S1_S | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 7.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-05 | 2.E-03 | N | 0.86 |
| 20 | S1_S | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 0.86 |
| 21 | S1_S | LMWN | Quartz | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 0.86 |
| 22 | WRS08 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 2.E-05 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 23 | WRS08 | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 0.91 |
| 24 | WRS08 | LMWN | Quartz | 8.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 0.91 |

| 25 | EC06 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 9.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.02 |
|----|------|------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|------|
| 26 | EC06 | LMWN | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 4.E-03 | Y | 1.02 |
| 27 | EC06 | LMWN | Quartz | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 7.E-04 | N | 1.02 |
| 28 | EC07 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.04 |
| 29 | EC07 | LMWN | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 30 | EC07 | LMWN | Quartz | 4.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.04 |
| 31 | BH18_2 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 32 | BH18_2 | LMWN | Calcite | 4.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 1.E-05 | 1.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 33 | BH18_2 | LMWN | Quartz | 8.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.08 |
| 34 | EC03 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 35 | EC03 | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.24 |
| 36 | EC03 | LMWN | Quartz | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.24 |
| 37 | Elfin Crossing | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 38 | Elfin Crossing | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 39 | Elfin Crossing | LMWN | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | 3.E-03 | Y | 1.42 |
| 40 | WRS05 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 2.E-05 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 41 | WRS05 | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 42 | WRS05 | LMWN | Quartz | 8.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.48 |
| 43 | Bell river | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 44 | Bell river | LMWN | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 1.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 6.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 45 | Bell river | LMWN | Quartz | 1.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 1.74 |
| 46 | WRS03 | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 2.E-05 | 9.E-05 | -2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 47 | WRS03 | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-04 | 1.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 5.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 48 | WRS03 | LMWN | Quartz | 8.E-05 | 1.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 4.E-04 | N | 1.98 |
| 49 | S4_S | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 8.E-05 | 3.E-03 | Y | 6.18 |
| 50 | S4_S | LMWN | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.18 |
| 51 | S4_S | LMWN | Quartz | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.18 |
| 52 | MLSD | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 8.E-04 | N | 6.61 |
| 53 | MLSD | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 2.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 6.61 |
| 54 | MLSD | LMWN | Quartz | 5.E-05 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.61 |
| 55 | MLSA | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 7.E-04 | 4.E-04 | -1.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.73 |

| 56 | MLSA | LMWN | Calcite | 0.E+00 | 2.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 9.E-04 | N | 6.73 |
|----|------|------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---|------|
| 57 | MLSA | LMWN | Quartz | 6.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.73 |
| 58 | MLSB | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 8.E-03 | Y | 6.76 |
| 59 | MLSB | LMWN | Calcite | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 60 | MLSB | LMWN | Quartz | 1.E-03 | 5.E-04 | -5.E-05 | 3.E-03 | N | 6.76 |
| 61 | Macquarie river | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 3.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 8.54 |
| 62 | Macquarie river | LMWN | Calcite | 6.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -3.E-05 | 2.E-03 | N | 8.54 |
| 63 | Macquarie river | LMWN | Quartz | 3.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -3.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 8.54 |
| 64 | S1_D | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 3.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 8.E-04 | 8.E-03 | Y | 9.46 |
| 65 | S1_D | LMWN | Calcite | 2.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 9.46 |
| 66 | S1_D | LMWN | Quartz | 2.E-03 | 9.E-04 | 5.E-04 | 7.E-03 | Y | 9.46 |
| 67 | S1_M | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 7.E-04 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-05 | 2.E-03 | N | 10.76 |
| 68 | S1_M | LMWN | Calcite | 1.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-04 | 3.E-03 | Y | 10.76 |
| 69 | S1_M | LMWN | Quartz | 2.E-04 | 2.E-04 | -4.E-04 | 1.E-03 | N | 10.76 |
| 70 | S2_D | LMWN | Iron Oxides | 0.E+00 | 3.E-04 | -6.E-04 | 2.E-03 | N | 15.64 |
| 71 | S2_D | LMWN | Calcite | 2.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 2.E-04 | 8.E-03 | Y | 15.64 |
| 72 | S2_D | LMWN | Quartz | 4.E-04 | 5.E-04 | -5.E-04 | 3.E-03 | N | 15.64 |

**Supplementary Table 5:** Showing HS sorption as a percentage of the total sample DOC amount (at 10 g mass system). % refers to sorbed HS in percentage to total DOC mass (mg) in water sample. Samples are listed with the lowest % sorption (e.g. BH12_4) of HS to DOC mass to the highest % sorption (e.g. S4_S) of HS to DOC mass to the DOC. The samples listed based on the % HS sorption (lower % HS sorption is on the top).

| No | Samples | Minerals | DOC (mg L$^{-1}$) | Sorbed HS (mg L$^{-1}$) | % Sorption (total DOC) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Iron Oxides** | | | | | |
| 1 | BH12_4 | Iron Oxides | 4.30E-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | BH01 | Iron Oxides | 5.81E-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | The Well | Iron Oxides | 9.40E-01 | 1.70E-02 | 1.80E+00 |
| 8 | BH.Golf | Iron Oxides | 1.07E+00 | 2.17E-02 | 2.03E+00 |
| 3 | WRS03 | Iron Oxides | 2.14E+00 | 9.69E-02 | 4.53E+00 |
| 5 | WRS05 | Iron Oxides | 1.76E+00 | 8.25E-02 | 4.69E+00 |
| 7 | MLSD | Iron Oxides | 5.89E+00 | 3.70E-01 | 6.29E+00 |
| 6 | Macquarie river | Iron Oxides | 8.86E+00 | 5.85E-01 | 6.61E+00 |
| 9 | Elfin Crossing | Iron Oxides | 1.19E+00 | 8.26E-02 | 6.97E+00 |
| 11 | BH18_2 | Iron Oxides | 1.11E+00 | 9.34E-02 | 8.38E+00 |
| 12 | WRS08 | Iron Oxides | 1.44E+00 | 1.35E-01 | 9.37E+00 |
| 22 | BH19_2 | Iron Oxides | 5.21E-01 | 5.09E-02 | 9.76E+00 |
| 14 | EC31 | Iron Oxides | 6.46E-01 | 6.46E-02 | 1.00E+01 |
| 10 | MLSB | Iron Oxides | 6.39E+00 | 6.80E-01 | 1.07E+01 |
| 13 | S1_M | Iron Oxides | 1.10E+01 | 1.47E+00 | 1.34E+01 |
| 15 | Bell river | Iron Oxides | 1.85E+00 | 2.63E-01 | 1.43E+01 |
| 18 | EC06 | Iron Oxides | 1.22E+00 | 1.86E-01 | 1.53E+01 |
| 17 | EC07 | Iron Oxides | 1.02E+00 | 1.73E-01 | 1.69E+01 |
| 16 | MLSA | Iron Oxides | 6.38E+00 | 1.09E+00 | 1.71E+01 |
| 20 | EC03 | Iron Oxides | 1.01E+00 | 1.85E-01 | 1.84E+01 |
| 19 | S1_D | Iron Oxides | 9.13E+00 | 1.70E+00 | 1.87E+01 |
| 23 | S1_S | Iron Oxides | 8.60E-01 | 1.72E-01 | 2.00E+01 |
| 21 | S2_D | Iron Oxides | 1.55E+01 | 3.61E+00 | 2.33E+01 |
| 24 | S4_S | Iron Oxides | 6.13E+00 | 2.70E+00 | 4.40E+01 |
| | Min | | 4.30E-01 | 0 | 0 |
| | Max | | 1.55E+01 | 3.61E+00 | 4.40E+01 |
| | Mean | | 3.63E+00 | 5.76E-01 | 1.18E+01 |
| | Median | | 1.33E+00 | 1.73E-01 | 9.88E+00 |
| | SE | | 4.09E+00 | 9.28E-01 | 9.53E+00 |
| | | | | | |
| **Calcite** | | | | | |
| 25 | BH12_4 | Calcite | 4.24E-01 | 4.97E-03 | 1.17E+00 |
| 26 | BH01 | Calcite | 6.84E-01 | 1.67E-02 | 2.45E+00 |
| 32 | BH.Golf | Calcite | 9.92E-01 | 2.45E-02 | 2.47E+00 |
| 36 | The Well | Calcite | 1.13E+00 | 3.62E-02 | 3.20E+00 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | MLSD | Calcite | 6.35E+00 | 3.82E-01 | 6.02E+00 |
| 29 | WRS05 | Calcite | 1.61E+00 | 9.76E-02 | 6.05E+00 |
| 30 | S1_D | Calcite | 9.69E+00 | 5.93E-01 | 6.12E+00 |
| 27 | S1_M | Calcite | 1.10E+01 | 6.90E-01 | 6.24E+00 |
| 41 | BH19_2 | Calcite | 3.89E-01 | 2.48E-02 | 6.38E+00 |
| 31 | WRS03 | Calcite | 2.19E+00 | 1.50E-01 | 6.84E+00 |
| 35 | BH18_2 | Calcite | 1.04E+00 | 8.34E-02 | 8.02E+00 |
| 38 | EC31 | Calcite | 4.68E-01 | 3.90E-02 | 8.33E+00 |
| 34 | MLSA | Calcite | 6.36E+00 | 5.38E-01 | 8.46E+00 |
| 37 | MLSB | Calcite | 6.48E+00 | 6.11E-01 | 9.43E+00 |
| 42 | Elfin Crossing | Calcite | 1.31E+00 | 1.25E-01 | 9.58E+00 |
| 33 | Macquarie river | Calcite | 8.96E+00 | 8.84E-01 | 9.87E+00 |
| 44 | EC03 | Calcite | 1.17E+00 | 1.23E-01 | 1.05E+01 |
| 39 | S2_D | Calcite | 1.60E+01 | 1.79E+00 | 1.12E+01 |
| 40 | WRS08 | Calcite | 1.10E+00 | 1.23E-01 | 1.12E+01 |
| 43 | Bell river | Calcite | 1.99E+00 | 2.60E-01 | 1.31E+01 |
| 48 | S1_S | Calcite | 1.07E+00 | 1.54E-01 | 1.44E+01 |
| 47 | EC06 | Calcite | 1.22E+00 | 1.83E-01 | 1.51E+01 |
| 45 | EC07 | Calcite | 9.37E-01 | 1.56E-01 | 1.67E+01 |
| 46 | S4_S | Calcite | 6.32E+00 | 1.38E+00 | 2.19E+01 |
| | Min | | 3.89E-01 | 4.97E-03 | 1.17E+00 |
| | Max | | 1.60E+01 | 1.79E+00 | 2.19E+01 |
| | Mean | | 3.70E+00 | 3.53E-01 | 8.94E+00 |
| | Median | | 1.26E+00 | 1.52E-01 | 8.40E+00 |
| | SE | | 4.22E+00 | 4.56E-01 | 4.88E+00 |

**Quartz**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49 | BH19_2 | Quartz | 4.11E-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 50 | BH.Golf | Quartz | 6.74E-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 51 | BH01 | Quartz | 6.14E-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 52 | The Well | Quartz | 9.80E-01 | 0 | 0 |
| 53 | MLSD | Quartz | 6.11E+00 | 1.62E-01 | 2.65E+00 |
| 54 | WRS05 | Quartz | 1.63E+00 | 6.51E-02 | 4.00E+00 |
| 55 | WRS03 | Quartz | 2.10E+00 | 8.95E-02 | 4.26E+00 |
| 56 | S1_D | Quartz | 9.25E+00 | 4.32E-01 | 4.67E+00 |
| 57 | EC31 | Quartz | 5.21E-01 | 2.74E-02 | 5.25E+00 |
| 58 | EC07 | Quartz | 8.85E-01 | 4.87E-02 | 5.50E+00 |
| 59 | MLSA | Quartz | 6.49E+00 | 3.66E-01 | 5.64E+00 |
| 60 | BH12_4 | Quartz | 5.74E-01 | 3.38E-02 | 5.88E+00 |
| 61 | MLSB | Quartz | 6.39E+00 | 3.95E-01 | 6.18E+00 |
| 62 | S1_M | Quartz | 1.11E+01 | 6.97E-01 | 6.29E+00 |
| 63 | S1_S | Quartz | 1.13E+00 | 7.21E-02 | 6.41E+00 |
| 64 | EC03 | Quartz | 1.13E+00 | 7.48E-02 | 6.62E+00 |
| 65 | WRS08 | Quartz | 1.32E+00 | 9.65E-02 | 7.31E+00 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 66 | BH18_2 | Quartz | 9.64E-01 | 7.23E-02 | 7.50E+00 |
| 67 | Macquarie river | Quartz | 8.77E+00 | 6.94E-01 | 7.92E+00 |
| 68 | Elfin Crossing | Quartz | 1.28E+00 | 1.09E-01 | 8.52E+00 |
| 69 | EC06 | Quartz | 1.09E+00 | 9.90E-02 | 9.10E+00 |
| 70 | S2_D | Quartz | 1.56E+01 | 1.48E+00 | 9.50E+00 |
| 71 | Bell river | Quartz | 2.00E+00 | 2.47E-01 | 1.24E+01 |
| 72 | S4_S | Quartz | 6.13E+00 | 7.78E-01 | 1.27E+01 |
| | Min | | 4.11E-01 | 0.00E+00 | 0.00E+00 |
| | Max | | 1.56E+01 | 1.48E+00 | 1.27E+01 |
| | Mean | | 3.63E+00 | 2.52E-01 | 5.76E+00 |
| | Median | | 1.30E+00 | 9.30E-02 | 6.03E+00 |
| | SE | | 4.13E+00 | 3.53E-01 | 3.52E+00 |

**Supplementary Table 6:** Summary of Linear model fitting on estimated mean HS sorption and field DOC (DOC concentration in mg L$^{-1}$).

| | Estimate | SE | P_value | Adj R$^2$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Intercept) | -4.E-03 | 5.E-03 | 4.E-01 | 0.7229 |
| Iron Oxides | 8.E-03 | 1.E-03 | 9.E-08 | |
| (Intercept) | 2.E-04 | 2.E-03 | 9.E-01 | 0.7727 |
| Calcite | 4.E-03 | 4.E-04 | 1.E-08 | |
| (Intercept) | -1.E-03 | 2.E-03 | 5.E-01 | 0.8382 |
| Quartz | 3.E-03 | 3.E-04 | 2.E-10 | |

**Supplementary Table 7:** Sorbed HS and field HS aromaticity and molecular weight. Sorbed HS (mg) obtained from 3 systems (Iron Oxides, Calcite and Quartz) and field HS aromaticity (L mg$^{-1}$ m$^{-1}$) and molecular weight (g mol$^{-1}$) from 24 samples. The samples listed based on their location away from the adjacent river.

| No | Samples | HS aromaticity | HS molecular weight | Sorbed HS on Iron Oxides | Sorbed HS on Calcite | Sorbed HS on Quartz |
|----|---------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | **Anna Bay sampling sites** | | | | |
| 1 | MLSA | 3.81 | 588 | 4.37E-02 | 2.15E-02 | 1.47E-02 |
| 2 | MLSB | 3.69 | 544 | 2.72E-02 | 2.44E-02 | 1.58E-02 |
| 3 | MLSD | 3.72 | 542 | 1.48E-02 | 1.53E-02 | 6.49E-03 |
| 4 | S1_S | 4.29 | 699 | 6.90E-03 | 6.15E-03 | 2.88E-03 |
| 5 | S1_M | 4.63 | 605 | 5.90E-02 | 2.76E-02 | 2.79E-02 |
| 6 | S1_D | 4.28 | 512 | 6.82E-02 | 2.37E-02 | 1.73E-02 |
| 7 | S2_D | 5.52 | 686 | 1.44E-01 | 7.15E-02 | 5.92E-02 |
| 8 | S4_S | 7.08 | 904 | 1.08E-01 | 5.53E-02 | 3.11E-02 |
| | | **Maules Creek sampling sites** | | | | |
| 9 | BH18_2 | 1.8 | 675 | 3.74E-03 | 3.34E-03 | 2.89E-03 |
| 10 | BH19_2 | 0.67 | 112 | 2.03E-03 | 9.93E-04 | 0.00E+00 |
| 11 | Elfin Crossing | 2.13 | 119 | 3.30E-03 | 5.00E-03 | 4.35E-03 |
| 12 | EC07 | 1.83 | 491 | 6.91E-03 | 6.26E-03 | 1.95E-03 |
| 13 | EC06 | 1.61 | 257 | 7.45E-03 | 7.34E-03 | 3.96E-03 |
| 14 | EC03 | 1.8 | 201 | 7.39E-03 | 4.91E-03 | 2.99E-03 |
| 15 | EC31 | 1 | 110 | 2.59E-03 | 1.56E-03 | 1.09E-03 |
| 16 | BH12_4 | 0.87 | 113 | 0.00E+00 | 1.99E-04 | 1.35E-03 |
| | | **Wellington sampling sites** | | | | |
| 17 | Bell River | 2.57 | 269 | 1.05E-02 | 1.04E-02 | 9.90E-03 |
| 18 | BH.Golf | 0.37 | 364 | 8.68E-04 | 9.79E-04 | 0.00E+00 |
| 19 | BH01 | 0.89 | 173 | 0.00E+00 | 6.69E-04 | 0.00E+00 |
| 20 | The Well | 1.06 | 127 | 2.34E-02 | 3.54E-02 | 2.78E-02 |
| 21 | Macquarie River | 3.47 | 581 | 6.78E-04 | 1.45E-03 | 0.00E+00 |
| 22 | WRS03 | 1.66 | 192 | 3.88E-03 | 6.00E-03 | 3.58E-03 |
| 23 | WRS05 | 1.33 | 325 | 3.30E-03 | 3.90E-03 | 2.61E-03 |
| 24 | WRS08 | 0.89 | 199 | 5.40E-03 | 4.91E-03 | 3.86E-03 |

**Supplementary Table 8:** Summary of linear model of sorbed HS and HS aromaticity and molecular weight

| Aromaticity | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Confident Interval** | | **Est.** | **SE** | **Lower CI** | **Upper CI** | **Df** | **Adj R²** |
| Iron Oxides | Break point | 3.1E+00 | 6.5E-01 | 1.7E+00 | 4.4E+00 | | |
| | slope1 | 3.9E-03 | 8.0E-03 | -1.3E-02 | 2.1E-02 | 20 | 0.7598 |
| | slope2 | 2.7E-02 | 9.8E-03 | 1.9E-02 | 4.3E-02 | | |
| Calcite | Break point | 2.7E+00 | 1.0E+00 | 5.4E-01 | 4.9E+00 | | |
| | slope1 | 4.0E-03 | 4.1E-03 | -4.6E-03 | 1.3E-02 | 20 | 0.7357 |
| | slope2 | 8.2E-03 | 5.0E-03 | 6.3E-03 | 1.8E-02 | | |
| Quartz | Break point | 2.0E+00 | 1.3E+00 | -7.4E-01 | 4.7E+00 | | |
| | slope1 | 2.2E-03 | 5.3E-03 | -9.0E-03 | 1.3E-02 | 20 | 0.5952 |
| | slope2 | 5.4E-03 | 5.7E-03 | 3.2E-03 | 1.2E-02 | | |
| Molecular Weight | | | | | | | |
| **Confident Interval** | | **Est.** | **SE** | **Lower CI** | **Upper CI** | **Df** | **Adj R²** |
| Iron Oxides | Break point | 4.1E+02 | 1.6E+02 | 7.3E+01 | 7.5E+02 | | |
| | slope1 | 1.3E-05 | 9.6E-05 | -1.9E-04 | 2.1E-04 | 20 | 0.4168 |
| | slope2 | 1.8E-04 | 1.2E-04 | 2.9E-05 | 3.5E-04 | | |
| Calcite | Break point | 3.9E+02 | 1.8E+02 | 2.3E+01 | 7.6E+02 | | |
| | slope1 | 1.3E-05 | 4.5E-05 | -8.1E-05 | 1.1E-04 | 20 | 0.4722 |
| | slope2 | 7.5E-05 | 5.7E-05 | 1.3E-05 | 1.6E-04 | | |
| Quartz | Break point | 3.6E+02 | 2.6E+02 | -1.7E+02 | 9.0E+02 | | |
| | slope1 | 1.1E-05 | 3.9E-05 | -7.0E-05 | 9.3E-05 | 20 | 0.3422 |
| | slope2 | 4.4E-05 | 5.0E-05 | -9.3E-06 | 1.2E-04 | | |

**Supplementary Table 9:** Showing the comparison of Spectral Absorbance Coefficients (SAC) in m$^{-1}$ by UVS in percentage. SAC of DOC = SAC of HOC + SAC of CDOC. In addition, SAC CDOC = SAC HS + SAC BB + SAC LMWN + SAC inorganic carbon. However, the plot only reported the total SAC CDOC in 100% subdivided into SAC HS, SAC BB and SAC LMWN. No SAC of inorganic carbon analysed. The samples listed based on their location away from the adjacent river.

| Samples | CSAC | HS | BB | LMWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MLSA | 100 | 7.1E+01 | 1.9E+01 | 5.4E+00 |
| MLSD | 100 | 7.3E+01 | 1.5E+01 | 6.2E+00 |
| S1_S | 100 | 6.2E+01 | 1.1E+01 | 1.8E+01 |
| S1_M | 100 | 7.7E+01 | 1.5E+01 | 3.2E+00 |
| S1_D | 100 | 6.9E+01 | 2.0E+01 | 2.8E+00 |
| S2_D | 100 | 7.9E+01 | 1.8E+01 | 2.0E+00 |
| S4_S | 100 | 7.6E+01 | 1.7E+01 | 2.1E+00 |
| EC18_2 | 100 | 4.0E+01 | 1.8E+01 | 3.1E+01 |
| BH19_2 | 100 | 6.7E+00 | 4.3E+00 | 6.6E+01 |
| Elfin Crossing | 100 | 7.2E+01 | 1.1E+01 | 1.1E+01 |
| EC07 | 100 | 4.3E+01 | 1.8E+01 | 2.7E+01 |
| EC06 | 100 | 3.6E+01 | 1.8E+01 | 2.9E+01 |
| EC03 | 100 | 4.2E+01 | 1.6E+01 | 2.4E+01 |
| EC31 | 100 | 2.3E+01 | 6.5E+00 | 4.3E+01 |
| BH12_4 | 100 | 1.3E+00 | 5.4E+00 | 7.6E+01 |
| Bell River | 100 | 6.2E+01 | 1.9E+01 | 7.8E+00 |
| BH.Golf | 100 | 1.1E+00 | 5.9E+00 | 6.0E+01 |
| BH01 | 100 | 1.6E+01 | 2.3E+00 | 2.8E+01 |
| Macquarie River | 100 | 6.9E+01 | 1.8E+01 | 1.2E+01 |
| WRS03 | 100 | 4.6E+01 | 1.8E+01 | 2.6E+01 |
| WRS05 | 100 | 3.9E+01 | 1.1E+01 | 2.6E+01 |
| WRS08 | 100 | 2.9E+01 | 8.0E+00 | 4.2E+01 |
| | | | | |
| **Min** | **1.00E+02** | **1.11E+00** | **2.26E+00** | **2.01E+00** |
| **Max** | **1.00E+02** | **7.95E+01** | **2.04E+01** | **7.63E+01** |
| **Mean** | **1.00E+02** | **4.70E+01** | **1.34E+01** | **2.50E+01** |
| **Median** | **1.00E+02** | **4.45E+01** | **1.60E+01** | **2.52E+01** |
| **SD** | **0.00E+00** | **2.59E+01** | **5.72E+00** | **2.15E+01** |

**Supplementary Table 10:** Statistical summary of "tweedie glm" model for identifying controlling natural HS sorption fractions

| No | Explanatory variables | Coefficient | Coefficient (%) | P_value |
|----|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1 | Calcite – Quartz | 0.0011722 | 61 | 5E-128 |
| 2 | Iron Oxides – Quartz | 0.0016828 | 132 | 6E-06 |
| 3 | Iron Oxides – Calcite | 0.001 | 44 | 4E-17 |
| 4 | Mass | 0.0008556 | 18 | 6E-37 |
| 5 | Depth | -0.0007746 | -6 | 7E-15 |
| 6 | Dissolved oxygen (DO) | -0.0007473 | -3 | 3E-01 |
| 7 | EC | 0.0007264 | 0.027 | 3E-01 |
| 8 | DOC Concentration | 0.0008887 | 22 | 1E-36 |
| 9 | Dissolved $Fe^{2+}$ | -0.000833 | -13 | 1E-02 |
| 10 | HS aromaticity (B-A) | 0.0012526 | 72 | 6E-04 |
| 11 | HS molecular weight (B-A) | 0.0009253 | 27 | 3E-01 |

**Supplementary Figure 1:** Linear relationship between field DOC concentration and HS aromaticity and molecular weight. In aromaticity legend, sample list starts from the sample (BH.Golf) with the lowest aromaticity to the sample (S4_S) with the highest aromaticity. In molecular legend, the sample list starts from the sample (EC31) with lowest molecular weight to the sample (S4_S) with the highest molecular weight. The black dots show the range of field DOC concentration (mg L$^{-1}$).
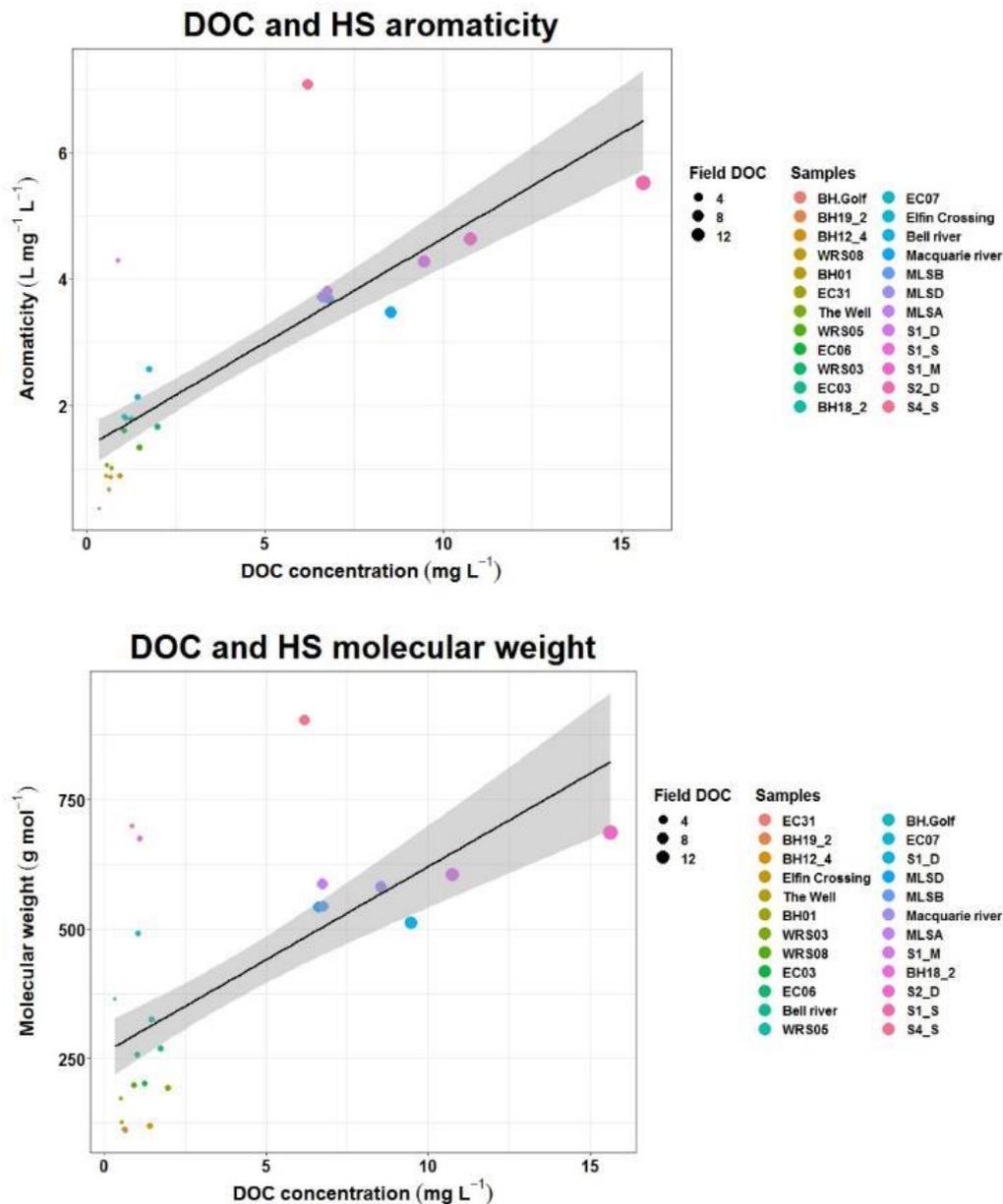


|  | Estimate | SE | P_value | Adj R-Squared |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Intercept) | 1.E+00 | 2.E-01 | 3.E-11 | |
| Aromaticity | 3.E-01 | 3.E-02 | 3.E-16 | 0.6107 |
| (Intercept) | 3.E+02 | 3.E+01 | 2.E-13 | |
| Molecular weight | 4.E+01 | 5.E+00 | 2.E-09 | 0.3929 |

**Supplementary Figure 2:** Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions over a mass and mineral range of all samples. The plots are listed with distance of samples is away from adjacent river.
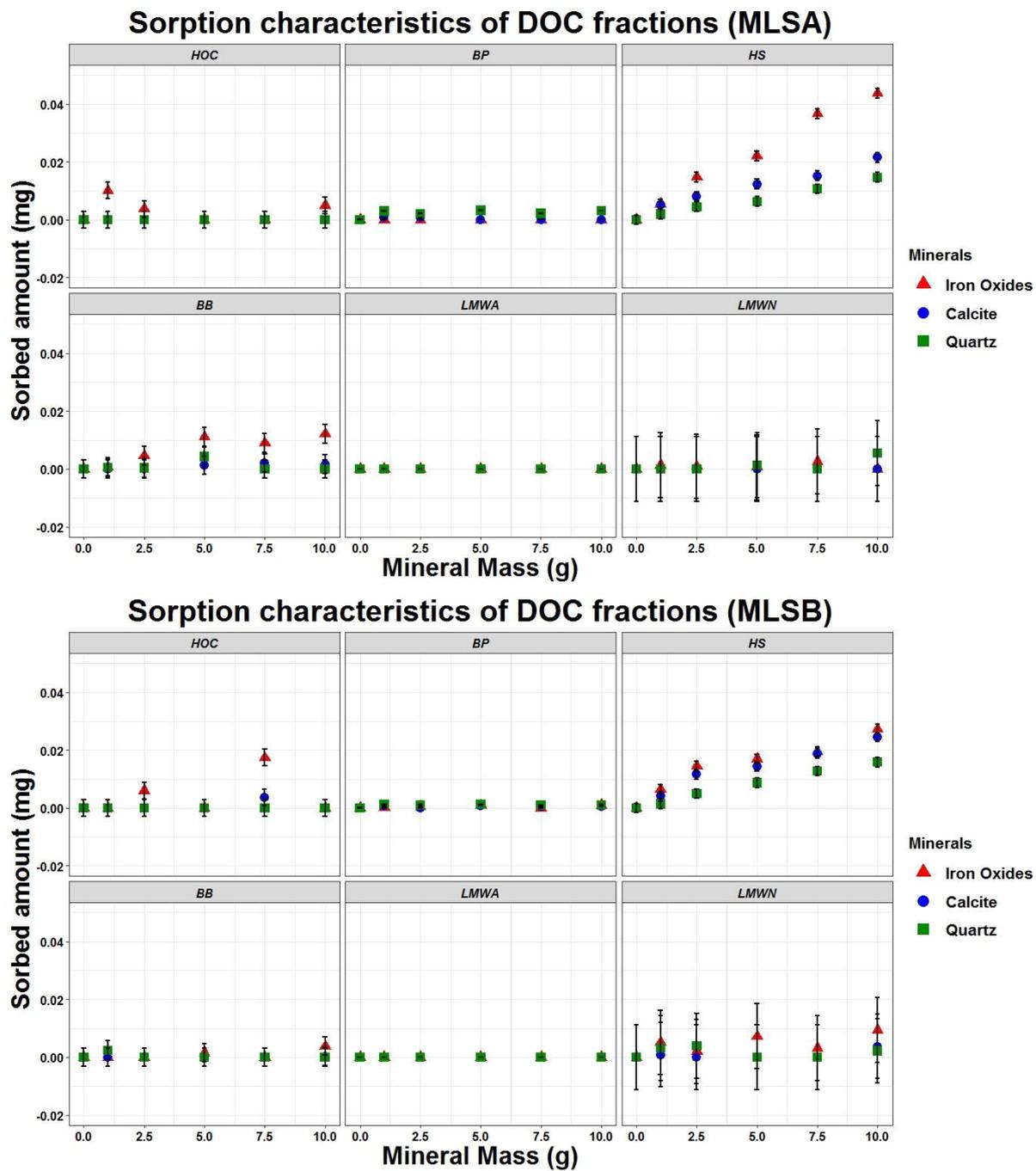
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (MLSD)
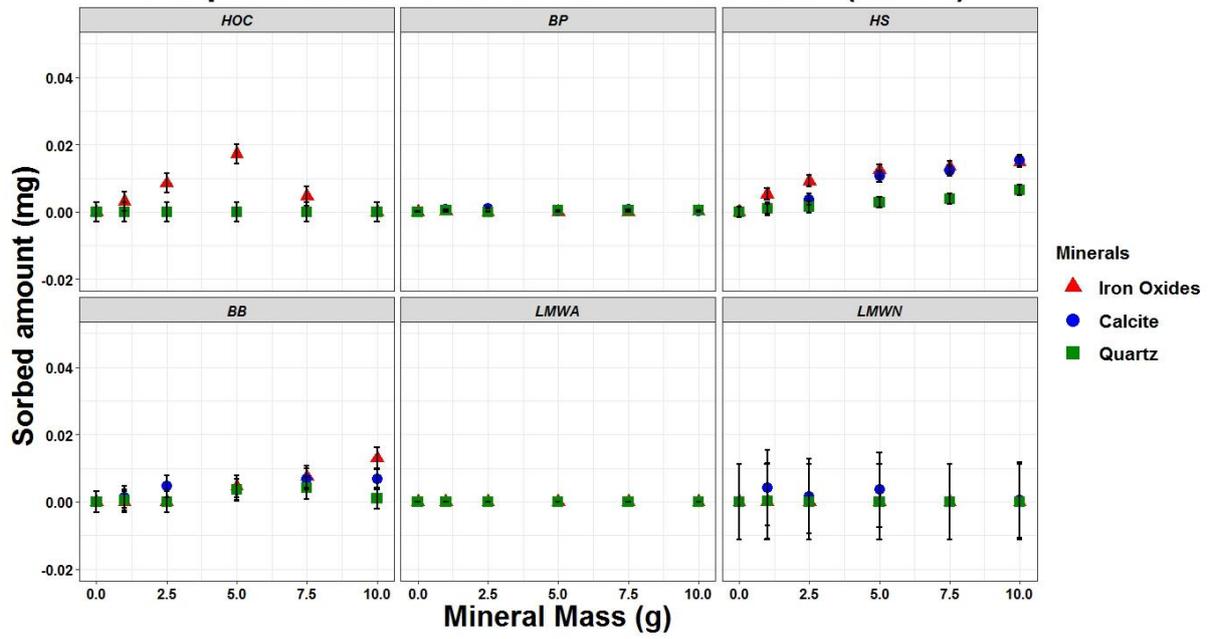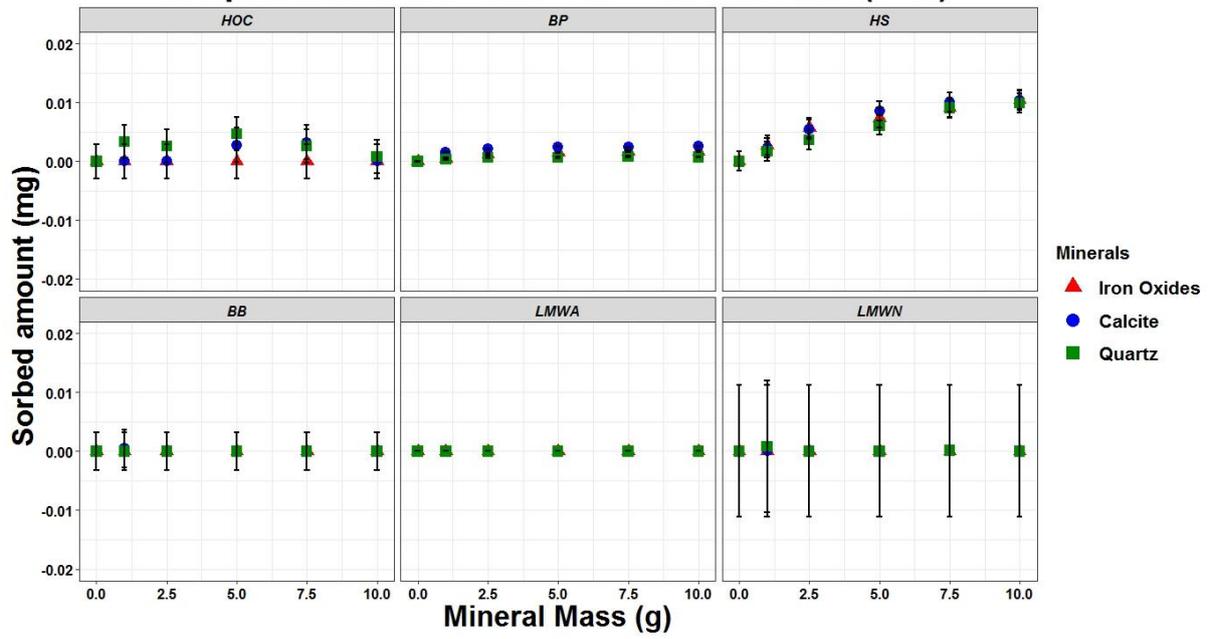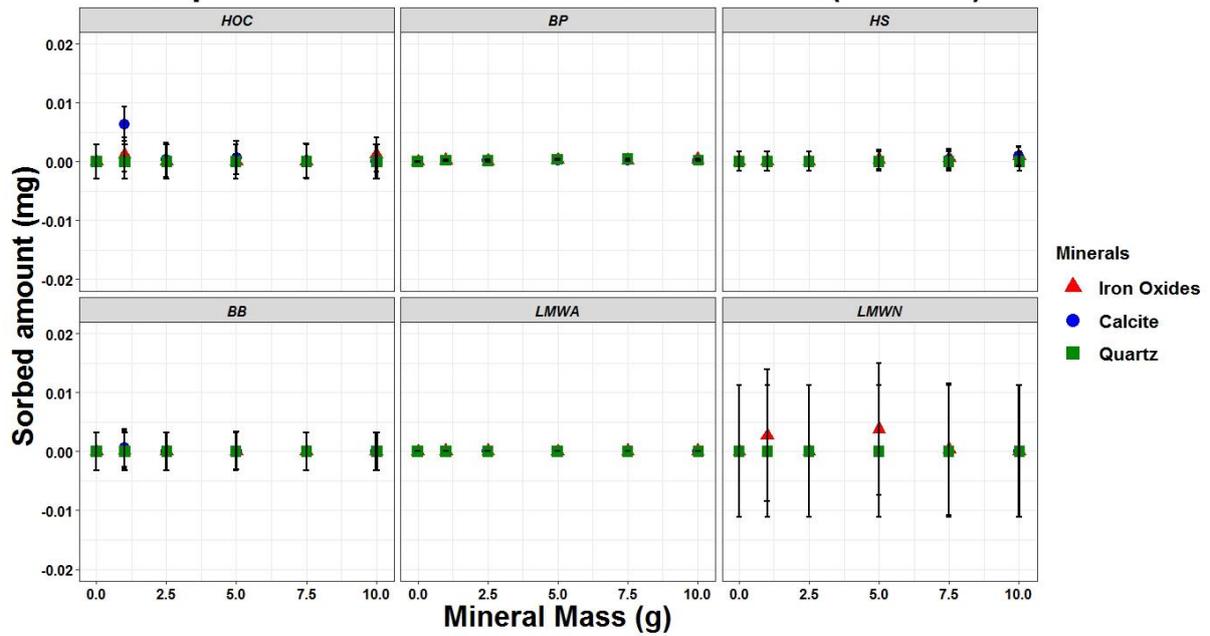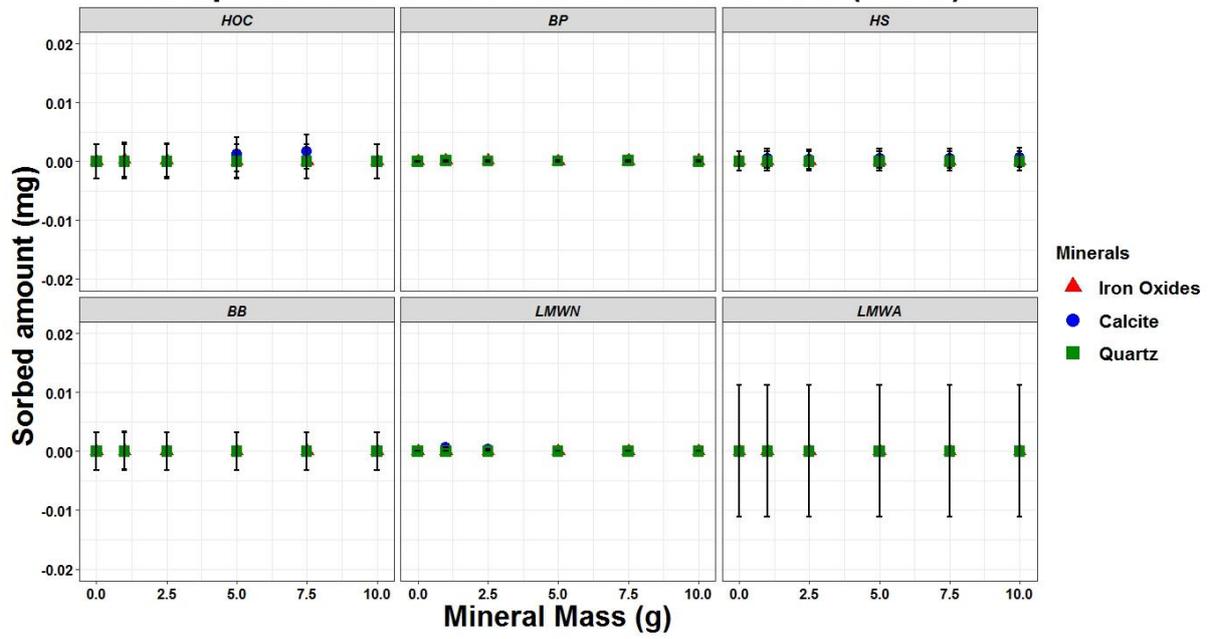


Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (S1_S)
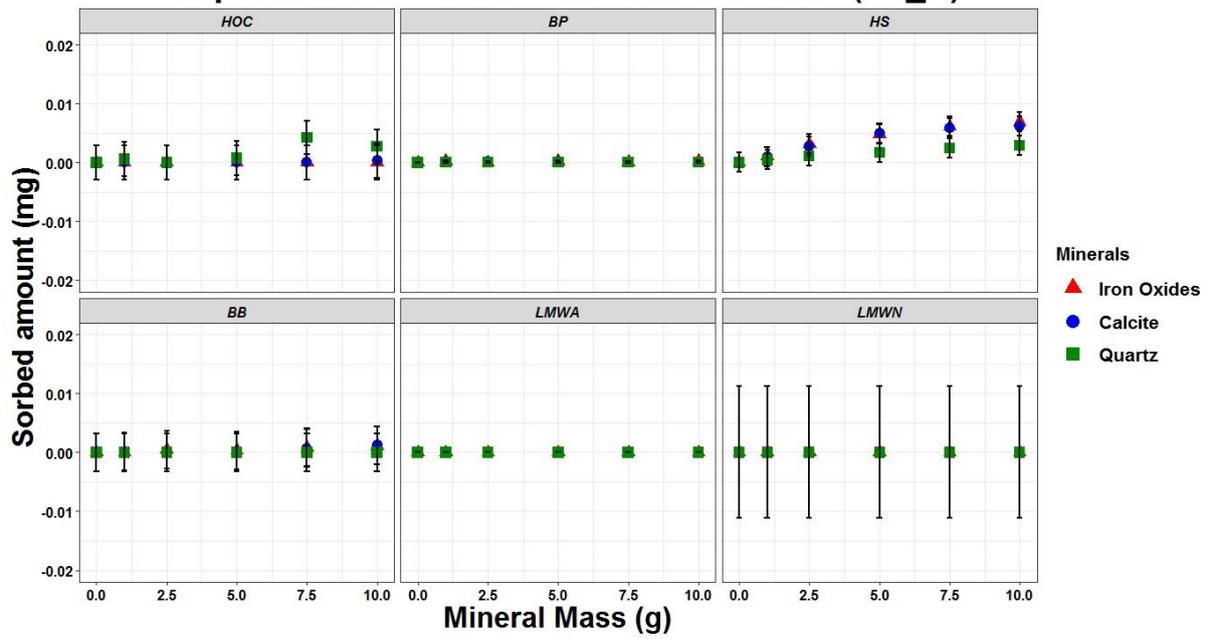
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (S1_M)
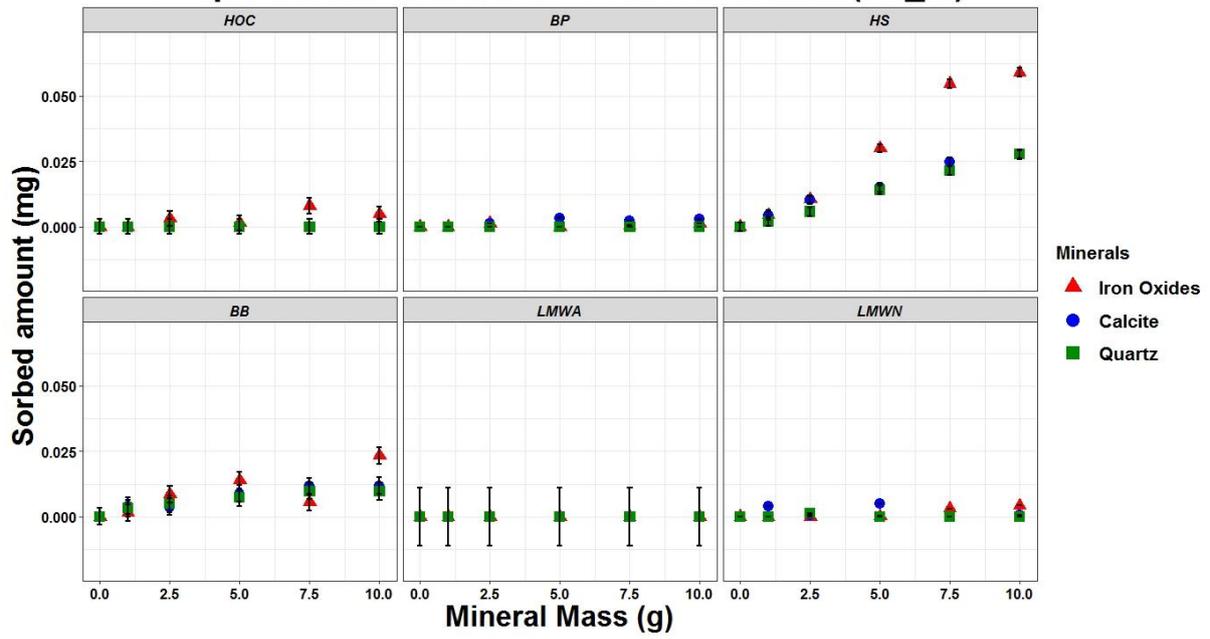


Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (S1_D)
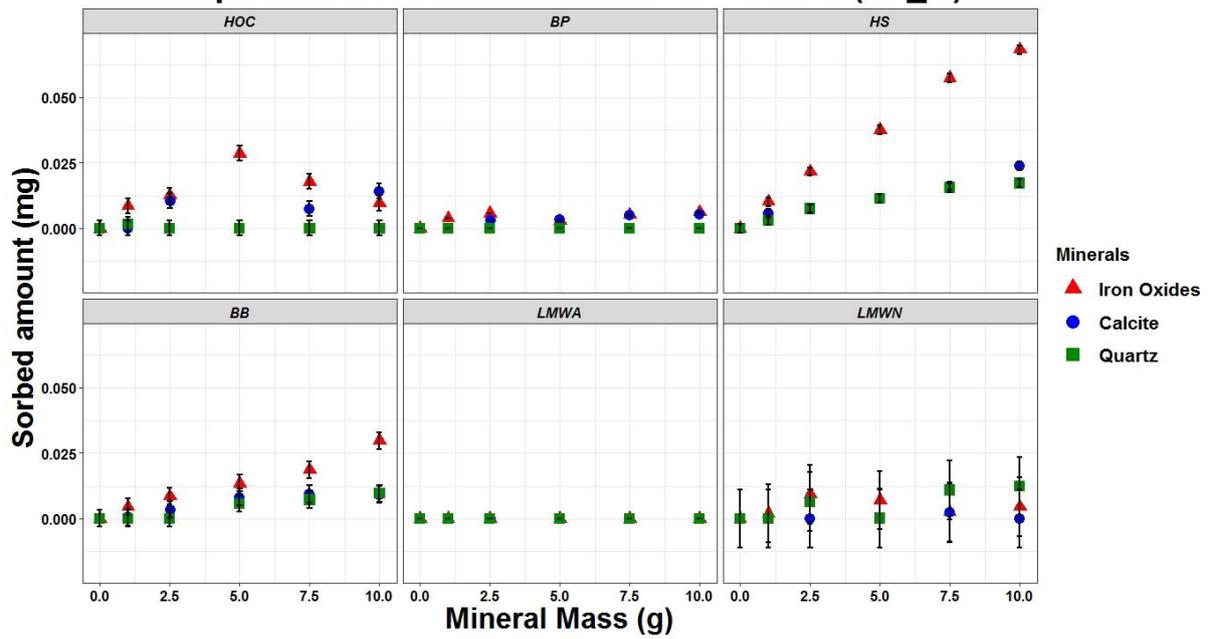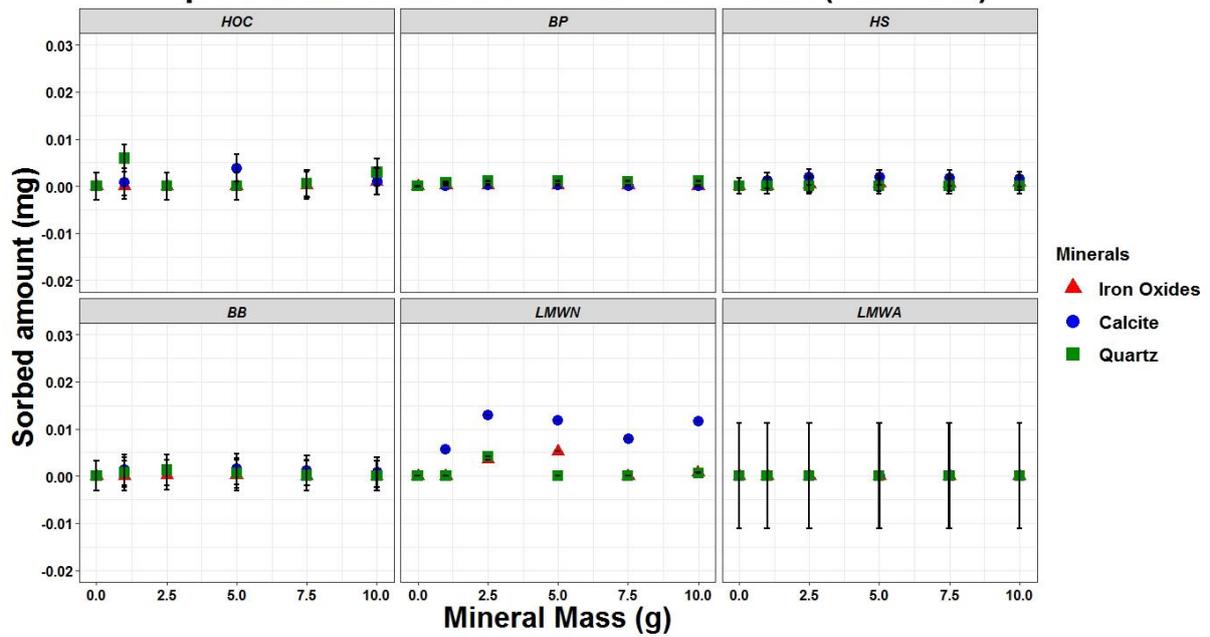
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (S2_D)
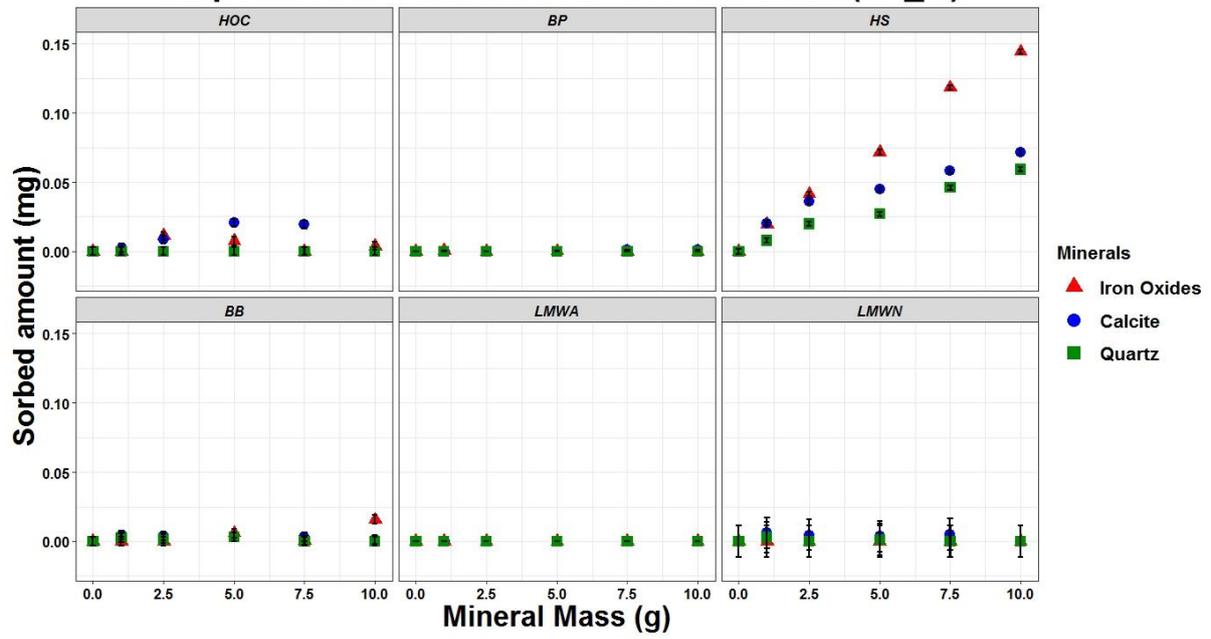


Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (S4_S)
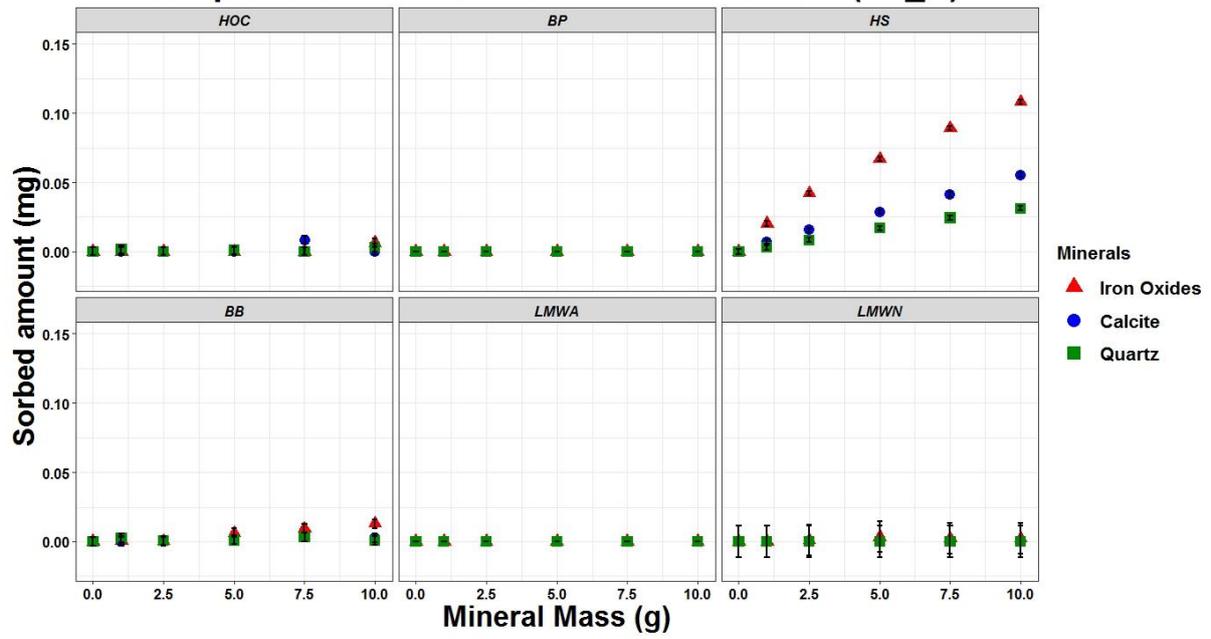
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (BH18_2)
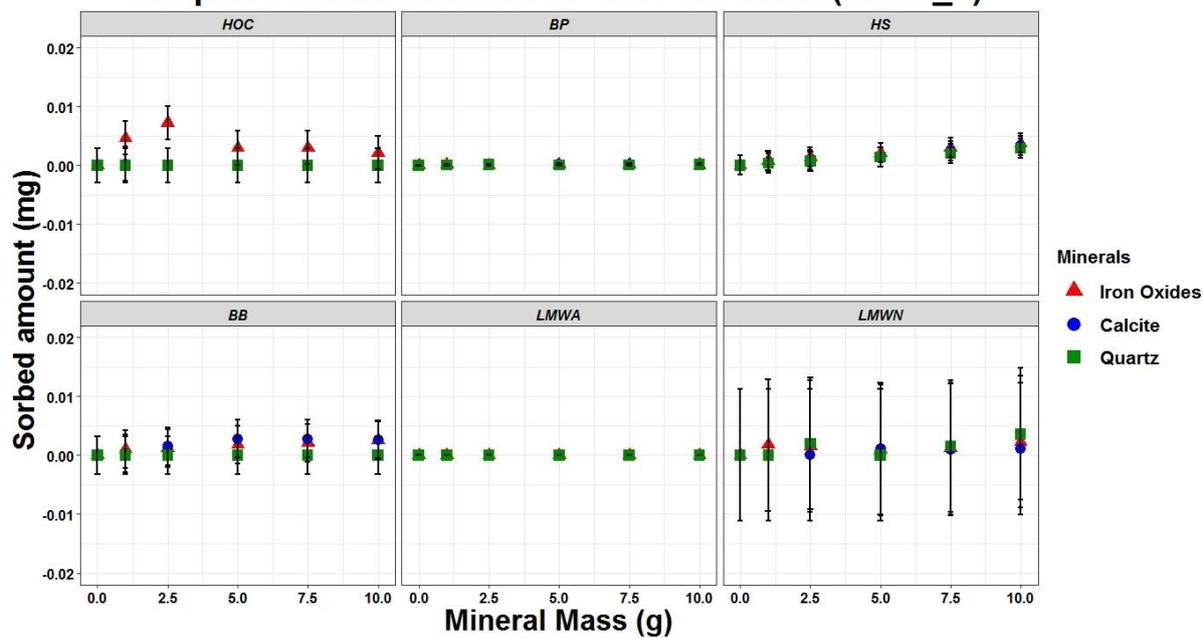


Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (BH19_2)
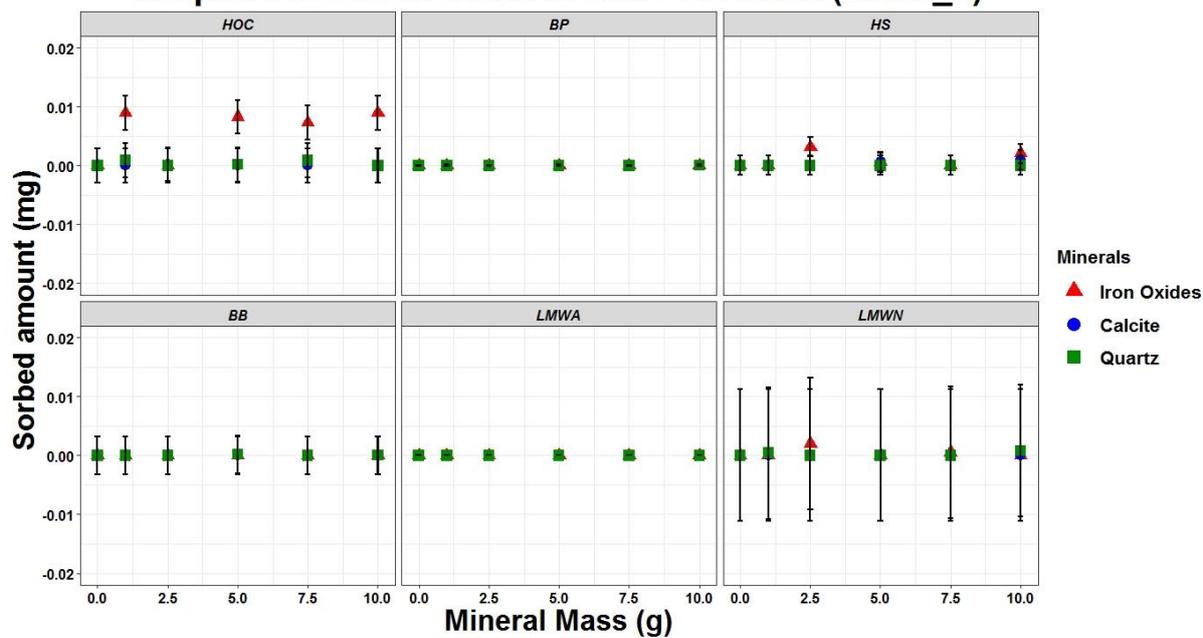
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (Elfin Crossing)
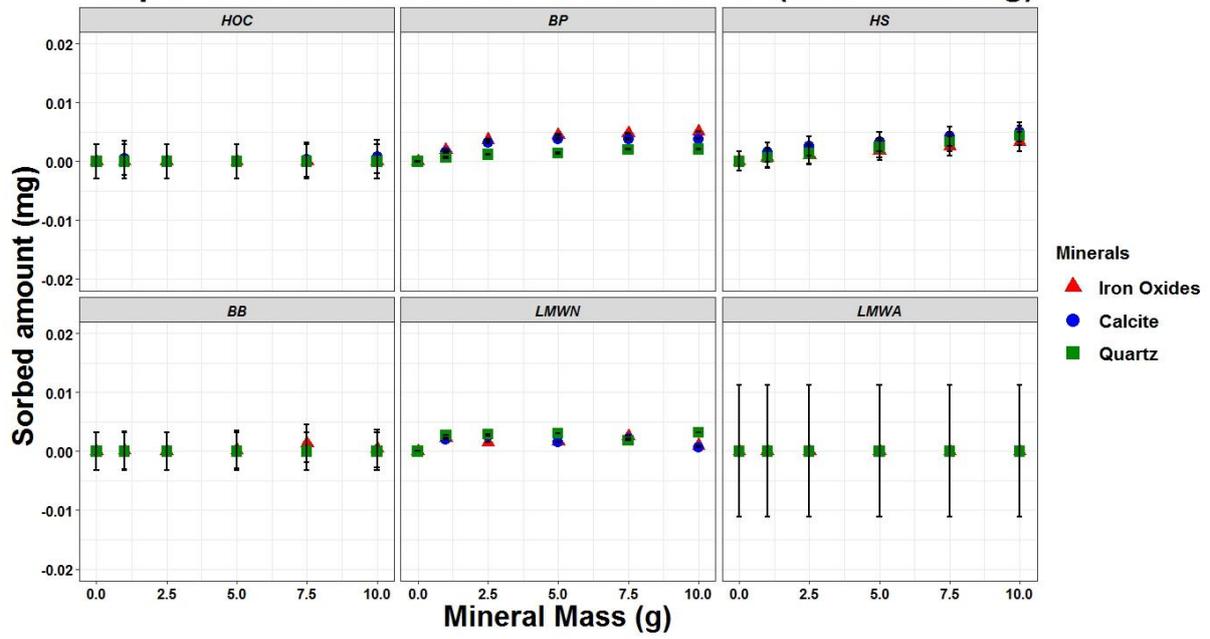


Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (EC07)
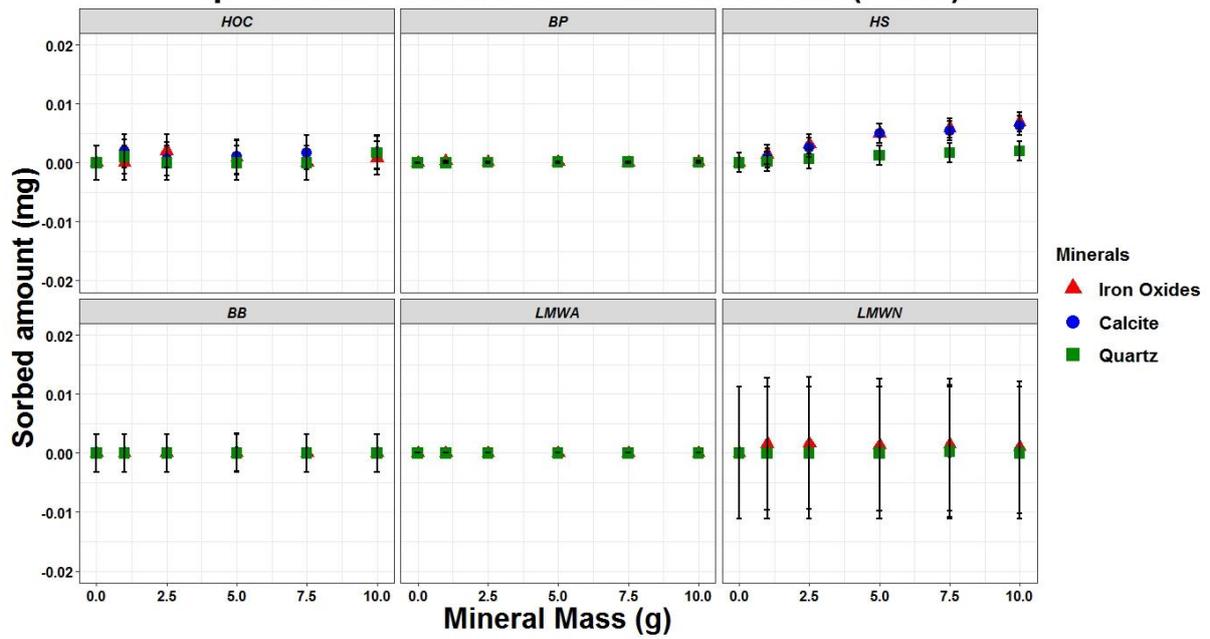
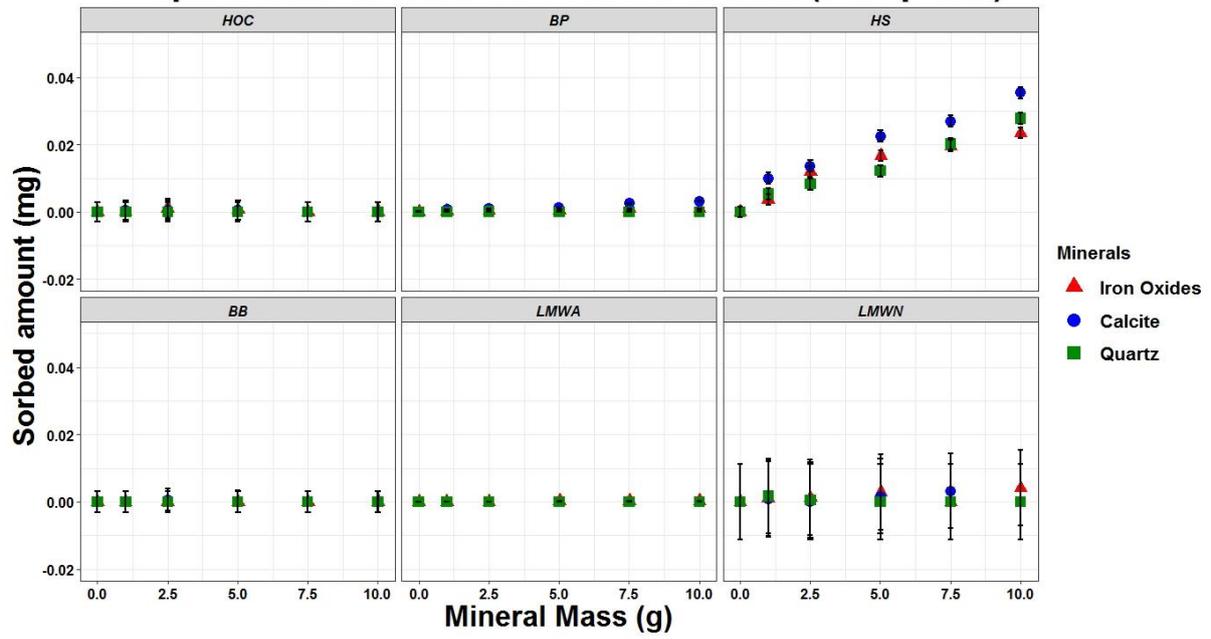# Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (EC06)
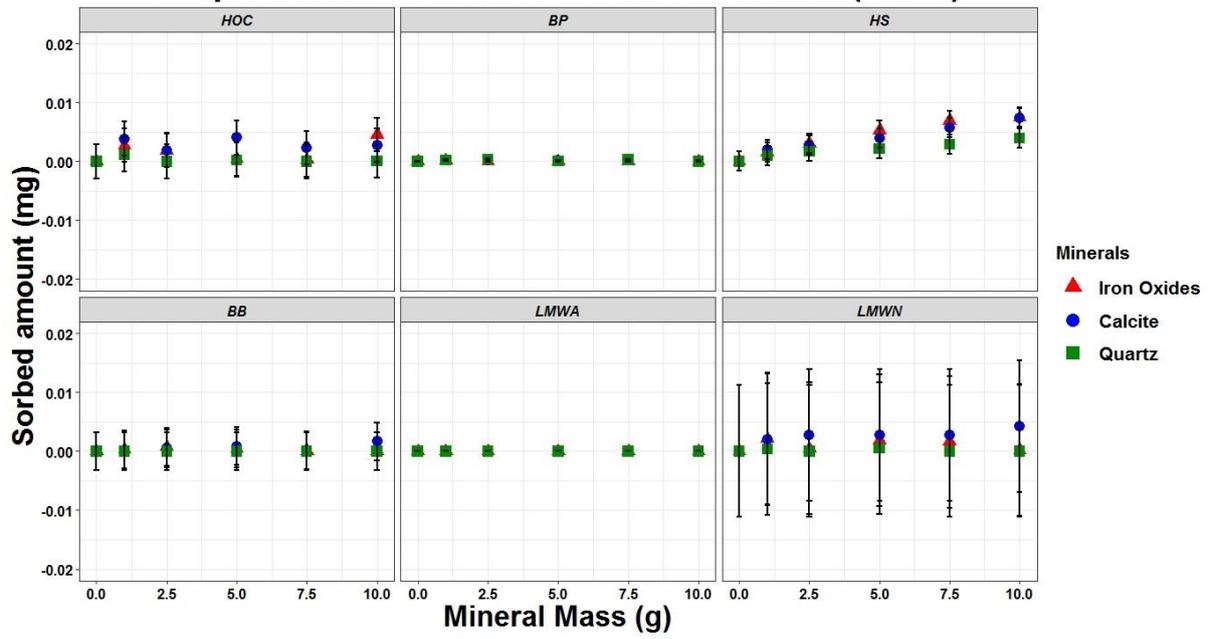


# Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (EC03)
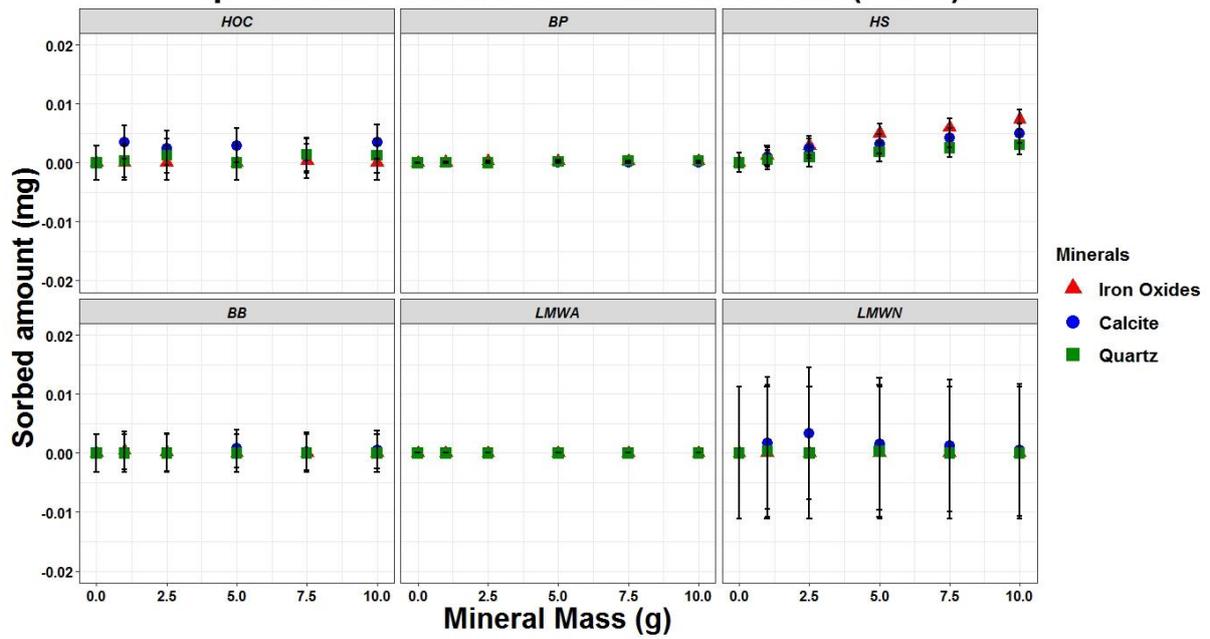
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (EC31)
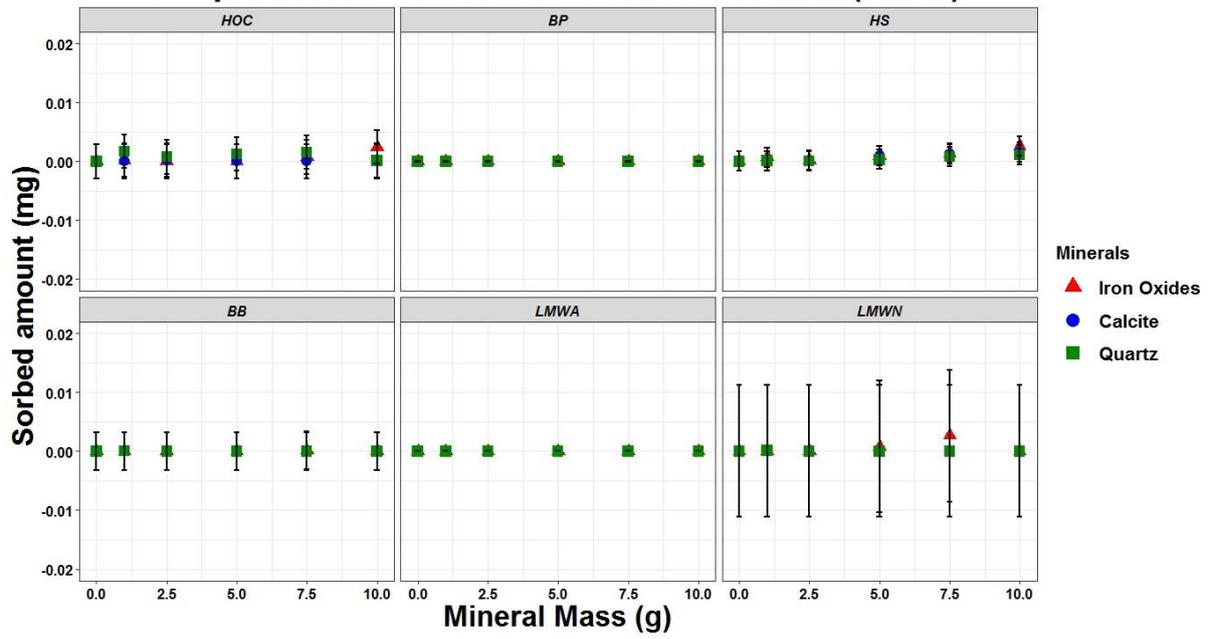


Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (BH12_4)
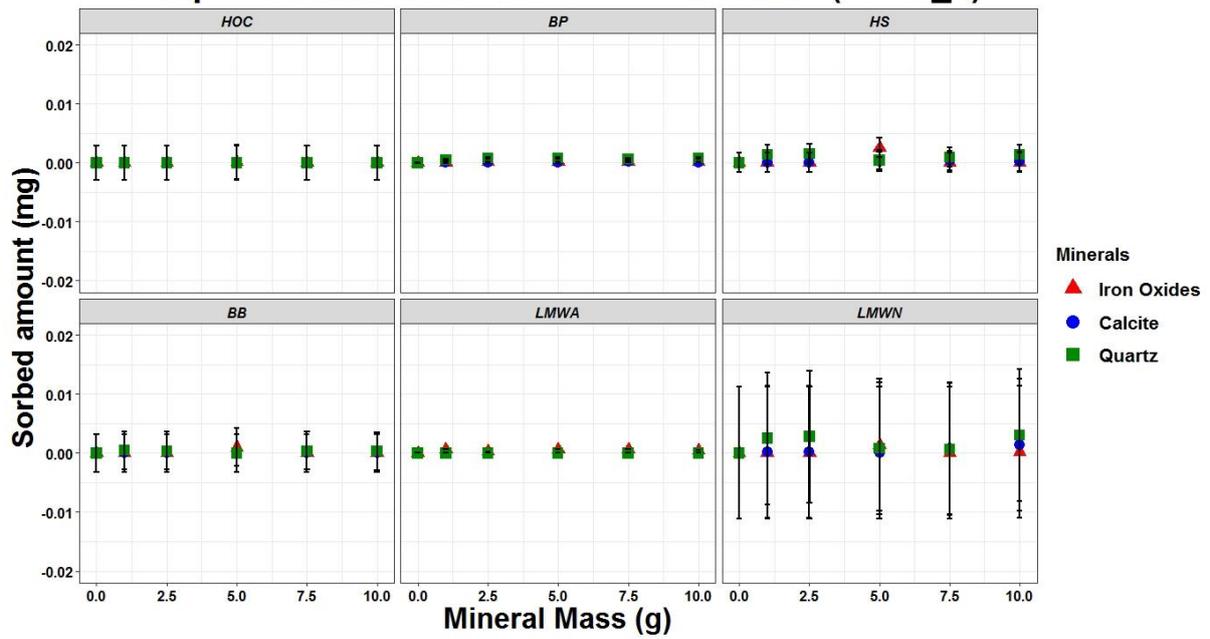
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (Bell)



Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (BH.Golf)
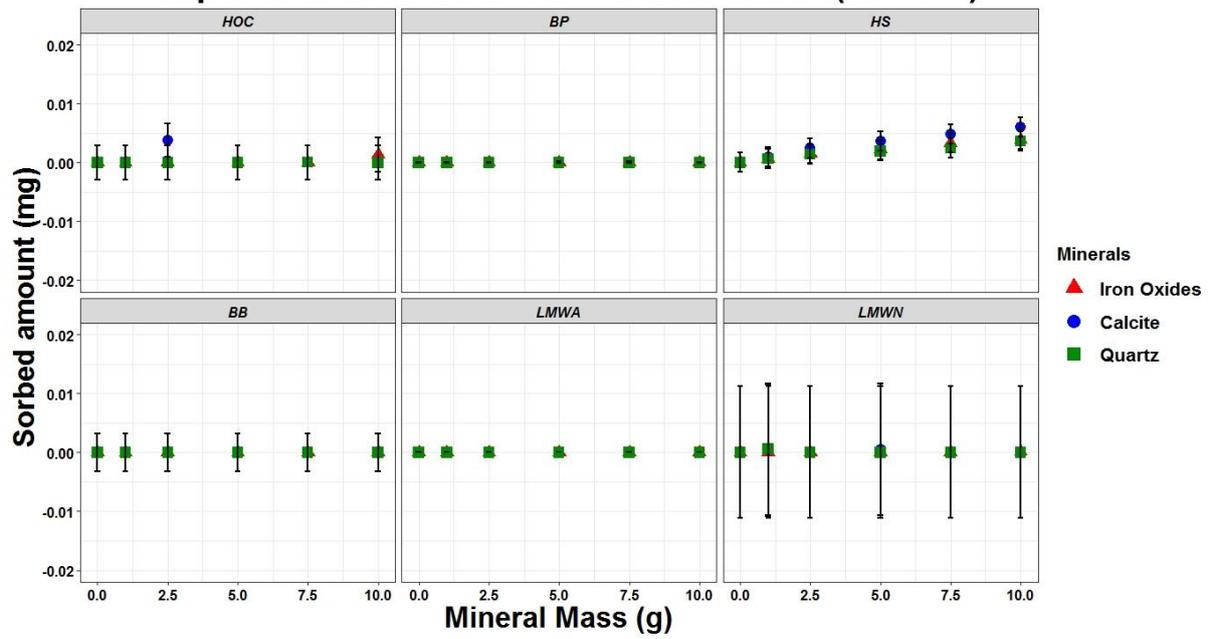
Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (BH01)



Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (The Well)

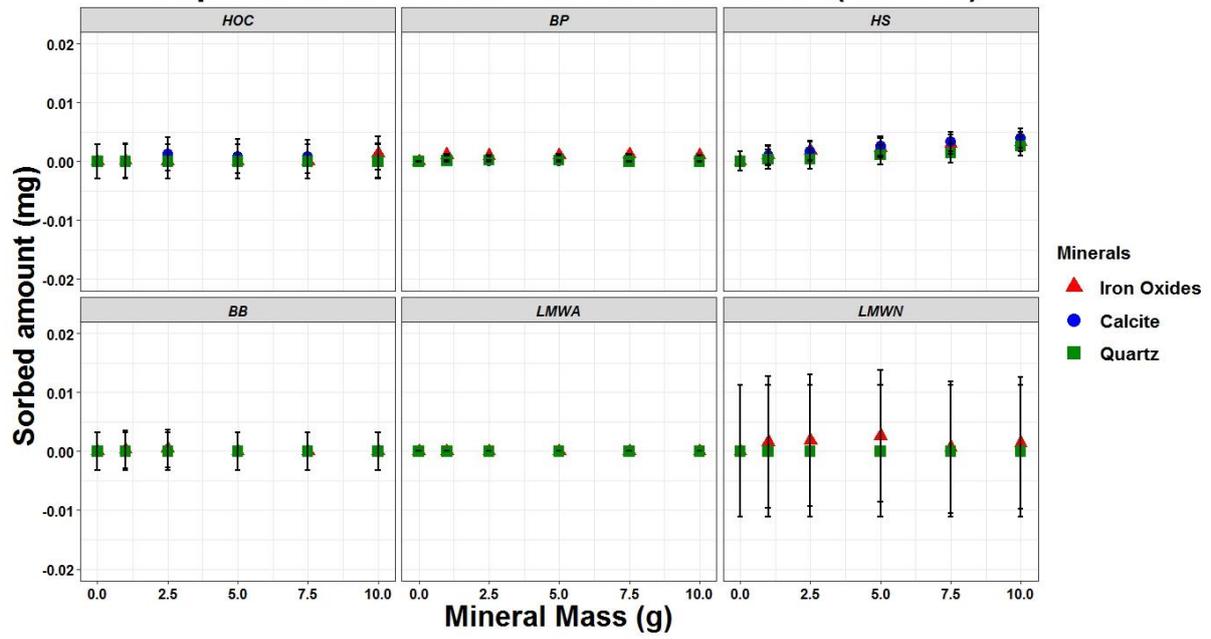Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (Macquarie)



Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (WRS03)

Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (WRS05)



Sorption characteristics of DOC fractions (WRS08)