1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What does the AUSRIVAS physical and chemical reporting software do?

The AUSRIVAS physical and chemical software reports the physical and chemical character of a test site in relation to the physical and chemical character of reference sites. The user enters test site physical and chemical data into the program (see Parts 3 and 4). This information is then compared against reference site data from the corresponding AUSRIVAS model. The outputs are graphical or tabular summaries of the range of reference site values for each physical and chemical variable, and the value of a test site is overlain onto this graphical or tabular summary (see Part 5). The AUSRIVAS physical and chemical reporting software is able to utilise continuous or categorical data.

Basically, the AUSRIVAS physical and chemical reporting software is a tool for electronic comparison and reporting of test data (Figure 1.1). Unlike the O/E scores produced by the AUSRIVAS biological models, the AUSRIVAS physical and chemical reporting software does not produce a quantitative assessment of condition. Rather, for any individual test site, the software allows the user to flag physical and chemical variables that have a measured value that sits outside the range of values found at corresponding reference sites. These variables can then be considered alongside AUSRIVAS O/E scores to provide an indication of the specific physical and chemical factors that may be contributing to biological degradation at a test site (see Part 6).

1.2 Mechanics of the physical and chemical reporting software

The software is available via the existing AUSRIVAS website and is accessed in the same manner as the AUSRIVAS biological models (Figure 1.1). Users download the software from the website and install the software locally (see Part 2). Test site data are entered via the terminal (see Part 3) and submitted to the central server for comparison

against reference site data (see Part 4). For each desired variable, the user receives outputs that summarise the value of that variable in comparison to reference sites. Access to the software is password controlled.

Figure 1.1 Mechanics of the AUSRIVAS physical and chemical reporting software.

Users download and install software onto their PC

PART 2 of this manual

Users enter test data and submit it for analysis via the internet

PARTS 3 and 4 of this manual

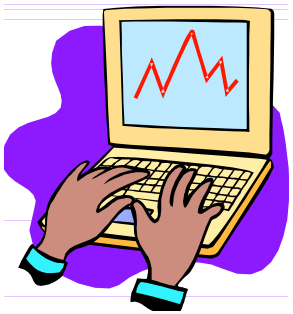
Test data are compared against reference data that are stored centrally on the AUSRIVAS server

PART 7 of this manual

Summary data are calculated for each test site and variable selected. The summary data consists of:

- Graphs of continuous variables
- Frequency counts of categorical variables
- Comparison of test value against reference value
- Count of missing data

PART 5 of this manual



Summary data are transmitted back to the user. The user views and saves outputs.

PART 5 of this manual

The user interprets physical and chemical outputs and examines results alongside AUSRIVAS O/E scores

PART 6 of this manual