



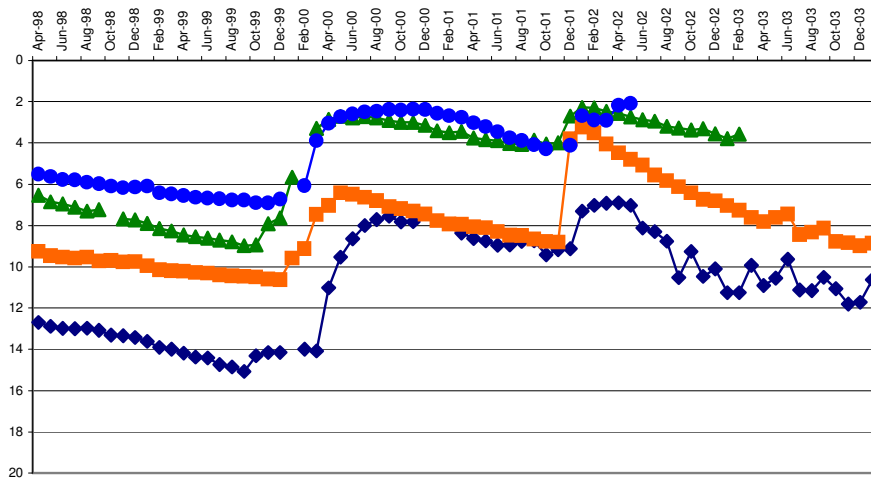
water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO REGION

DIRECTORATE WATER REGULATION AND USE

STATUS REPORT ON MONITORING & GROUNDWATER LEVEL TRENDS AUGUST 2008 – AUGUST 2009



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SEPTEMBER 2009**

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1) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Groundwater levels

In this report comparison is drawn between water level values for 1 August 2008 (corresponding time last year), 1 May 2009 (End of the past wet season) and 1 August 2009 (Midway through the current dry season). Only stations on the permanent reference network were visited and will be discussed.

- Active stations = 161
- Stations visited and included in this report = 155.
- Stations inaccessible due to wet conditions = 2
- Other access problems = 2
- Visited stations in A2 drainage not included in this report = 2

Comparison of water levels with the previous quarter: (May to August 2009)

Stations with data for the whole period available = 146/155 (94.2% of stations visited)

	No of stations	% of stations	Average
Water level down more than 1 m	12	8.22%	-1.64
Water level down less than 1m	101	69.18%	-0.32m
Water levels up more than 1m	6	4.11%	3.23
Water levels up less than 1m	27	18.49%	0.32m
No difference in water level			
Total	146	100%	

Figures presented in the table above represent the situation from the start to midway of the current dry season. The majority of stations, as can be expected for the dry season, indicate declining water levels. 113 (77.4%) of the 146 stations with data for the period indicate lower water levels with 33 (22.6%) indicating higher water levels.

Comparison of water levels with the corresponding time last year: (August 2008 to August 2009)

Stations with data for the whole period available = 136/155 (87.74% of stations visited)

	No of stations	% of stations	Average
Water level down more than 1 m	9	6.62%	-2.4m
Water level down less than 1m	58	42.65%	-0.37m
Water levels up more than 1m	25	18.38%	3.33m
Water levels up less than 1m	42	30.88%	0.33m
No difference in water level	2	1.47%	
Total	133	100%	

Water levels at 67 stations (49.3%) are lower than the same time last year. Also at 67 stations the water levels are higher. 2 Stations have the same water level. If the 2 stations, Settlers-Tuinplaas area, which recorded exceptional rises, are disregarded, the average rise is 0.04m for the remaining 134 stations.

2) STATUS OF MONITORING NETWORK

As in the previous quarter, no new stations were equipped and the Limpopo Province's Groundwater Level Monitoring Network currently still consists of 195 active monitoring stations, including 34 in the KNP. 4-5 new boreholes are planned to be equipped the next quarter as well as 1 re-drilled borehole. 2 Caved in boreholes still have to be re-drilled. **(Map 1)**

157 Stations were visited during August 2009 and the data of 155 of these were used for this report. Data for the 2 stations in the A2 drainage were not included. 4 Stations could not be accessed for various reasons.

Site preparation for the phase 2 upgrading of existing stations continued and delivering of concrete outer rings to stations was started.

Monitoring of the project stations continues (Taaibosch monitored by Head Office). **(Map 2)**

Regional and Head Office jointly service a total of 55 stations for the National Groundwater Quality Program in the Limpopo Province which is sampled bi-annually. **(Map 3)**

Sampling to verify the suitability of selected sites for extension of the National Groundwater Quality Monitoring network is still on hold due to budget constraints.

3) DATA COLLECTION, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Data was collected during August 2009 with the value for 1 August representing midway of the current dry season. Comparisons were drawn between 1 August 2008, (Corresponding period the previous year) 1 May 2009 (Start of the dry season) and 1 August 2009 (Current situation midway into the dry season) **(Maps 4 & 5)**

4) LIMPOPO WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The area consists of secondary drainage areas A4, A5, A6, A7 and A8.

4.1 A4 Drainage Area. (Matlabas, Mokolo Rivers)

The 9 equipped stations in this drainage are fairly new with limited time series data, less than 1 year, available. 2 Additional boreholes were drilled and will be equipped. 1 Existing project borehole around the town of Lephalale has been identified for equipping.

Limited recharge is indicated at some stations but levels have stabilized or started to lower slowly since the onset of the dry season **(GRAPH 1)**

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

5 Of the 6 stations with data for the period indicate slightly declining water levels. **(GRAPH 2)**

4.2 A5 Drainage Area. (Lephalale River)

There are 7 active stations of which 3 are quite new. Installation of loggers at A5N0001 as well as the 3 project boreholes around it could not be done due to outside factors and is still planned.

Groundwater levels generally declining since the start of the dry season **(GRAPH 3)**

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

All stations with data indicate a decline, relatively small at all except 1 (**GRAPH 4**)

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

All 4 stations with data indicate declining levels over the past year (**GRAPHS 5 & 6**)

4.3 A6 Drainage Area. (Nile, Sterk, Mogalakwena & Dorps Rivers)

There are 39 monitoring stations in this drainage. The caved-in borehole was re-drilled but still has to be equipped again.

Despite varying recharge the past season, water levels have generally started to decline again. (**GRAPH 7**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

Data for 36 stations were used. 27 Stations (75%) indicate lower and 9 stations (25%) higher water levels. Overall an average decline of -0.29m was recorded since the dry season started. (**GRAPHS 8 & 10**)

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

Data is available for 36 stations of which 12 Stations (33.3%) indicate lower water levels than last year and 24 stations (66.7%) indicate a rise in water levels. An overall rise of 0.28m was recorded over the past year. Good recharge was mostly indicated in the Nile River catchments the past season and account for the general better situation than last year at this point (**GRAPH 9 & 10**)

Current average water levels are almost the same as the long-term average values, 3.5m higher than the maximum average recorded and midway between that and the highest average recorded (**GRAPH 11**)

4.4 A7 Drainage Area. (Sand, Blood, Diep, Hout, Dwars & Brak Rivers)

There are 38 monitoring stations in this drainage.

Trends indicate some fluctuation in mostly the shallow water levels with stable conditions at deeper levels (**GRAPH 12**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

Data for all stations is available. 12 Stations (31.6%) indicate higher, with 26 stations (68.4%) indicating lower water levels. Overall a decline of -0.25m was recorded over this period (**GRAPHS 13&15**).

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

Data is available for 37 stations, 12 (32.4%) Indicate lower water levels, average -0.58m. 25 Stations (67.6%) indicate higher water levels, average 0.64m. Overall a rise of 0.24m was recorded for the period (**GRAPHS 14&15**).

Current average water levels are the same as the long-term average but 3.15m above the lowest average recorded (**GRAPH 16**).

4.5 A8 Drainage Area ((Nwanedzi, Nzhelele Rivers)

11 Stations are monitored in this area but as for the previous reports, the data for the artesian station is not considered in the report.

Water level trends vary from declining to stable to rising (**GRAPH 17**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

7 Stations have data for the period of which 5 indicate declining water levels, average -0.12 and 2 rising levels (**GRAPHS 18 & 20**).

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

4 Stations indicate lower and 3 higher water levels (**GRAPHS 19 & 20**).

5) LEVHUVHU-LETABA WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The area consists of secondary drainage areas A9, B8 & B9.

5.1 A9 Drainage Area. (Mutale, Levhuvhu Rivers)

This drainage has 18 monitoring stations.

Varying trends from declining to very small rises for a short time during the past rainy season and declining again since is indicated (**GRAPH 21**).

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

Data is available for all stations, 17 of which indicate lower water levels; average -0.42m (**GRAPHS 22 & 24**).

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

The pattern indicated for the past quarter is the same for the past year with 17 of the 18 stations indicating declining water levels over the whole year (**GRAPHS 23&24**).

Overall an average decline of 0.69m was recorded over the area the past year.

5.2 B8 Drainage Area. (Groot, Middel & Klein Letaba Rivers)

14 Stations are monitored in this drainage.

Water level trends indicate relative small fluctuations over the past year (**GRAPH 25**).

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

Data is available for all 14 stations. 13 Stations indicate lower water levels, average -0.32m with only 1 indicating a higher water level (**GRAPHS 26&28**)

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

9 Stations indicate lower water levels, average -0.52m with 5 indicating higher levels, overall a decline of -0.12m was recorded(**GRAPHS 27&28**)

5.3 B9 Drainage Area. (Shingwidzi, Mphongolo Rivers)

4 Stations in this drainage but one are still blocked and have to be re-drilled.

Only 1 station has indication of recharge this season but is since declining again (**GRAPH 29**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

All 3 stations are declining (**GRAPHS 30 & 32**).

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

All 3 stations have lower water levels than the same time last year, average -0.79m (**GRAPHS 31 & 32**)

6) OLIFANTS WATER MANAGEMENT AREA.

The part of this Water Management Area within the Limpopo Province mostly consists of the B3, B5 & B7 secondary drainage areas.

6.1 B3 Drainage Area. (Elands, Gotwane Rivers (Springbok flats area)

3 Stations are monitored in this area.

The water levels at B3N0001 & B3N0012 recovered very well over the past 9 months (**GRAPH 33**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

All stations indicate higher levels (**GRAPH 34**)

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

All Stations indicate higher water levels (**GRAPH 35**)

Although the water levels at B3N0001 and B3N0012, are still below long-term average, the significant rise over the past year is encouraging and levels are now well above the worst recorded (**GRAPH 36**)

6.2 B5 Drainage Area. (Olifants, Nkumpi Rivers)

7 Stations are monitored in this drainage.

Some water level fluctuations evident at all stations (**GRAPH 37**)

Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

4 Stations indicate declining water levels and 3 rising levels. The water level at B5N0055 sometimes reflects pumping effects of a nearby borehole that is sporadically used, as is the case here. (GRAPHS 38 & 39)

Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

Only 1 station indicate a lower water level than the same time last year **GRAPHS 39 & 40)**

Current average water levels compare very favorable with long-term average and the lowest average recorded at stations with long-term data (**GRAPH 41)**

6.3 B7 Drainage Area (Olifants, Selati, Klaserie, Makhutswi Rivers)

8 Stations are monitored in this drainage.

Trends generally indicate some rise the past season and declining since (**GRAPH 42)**

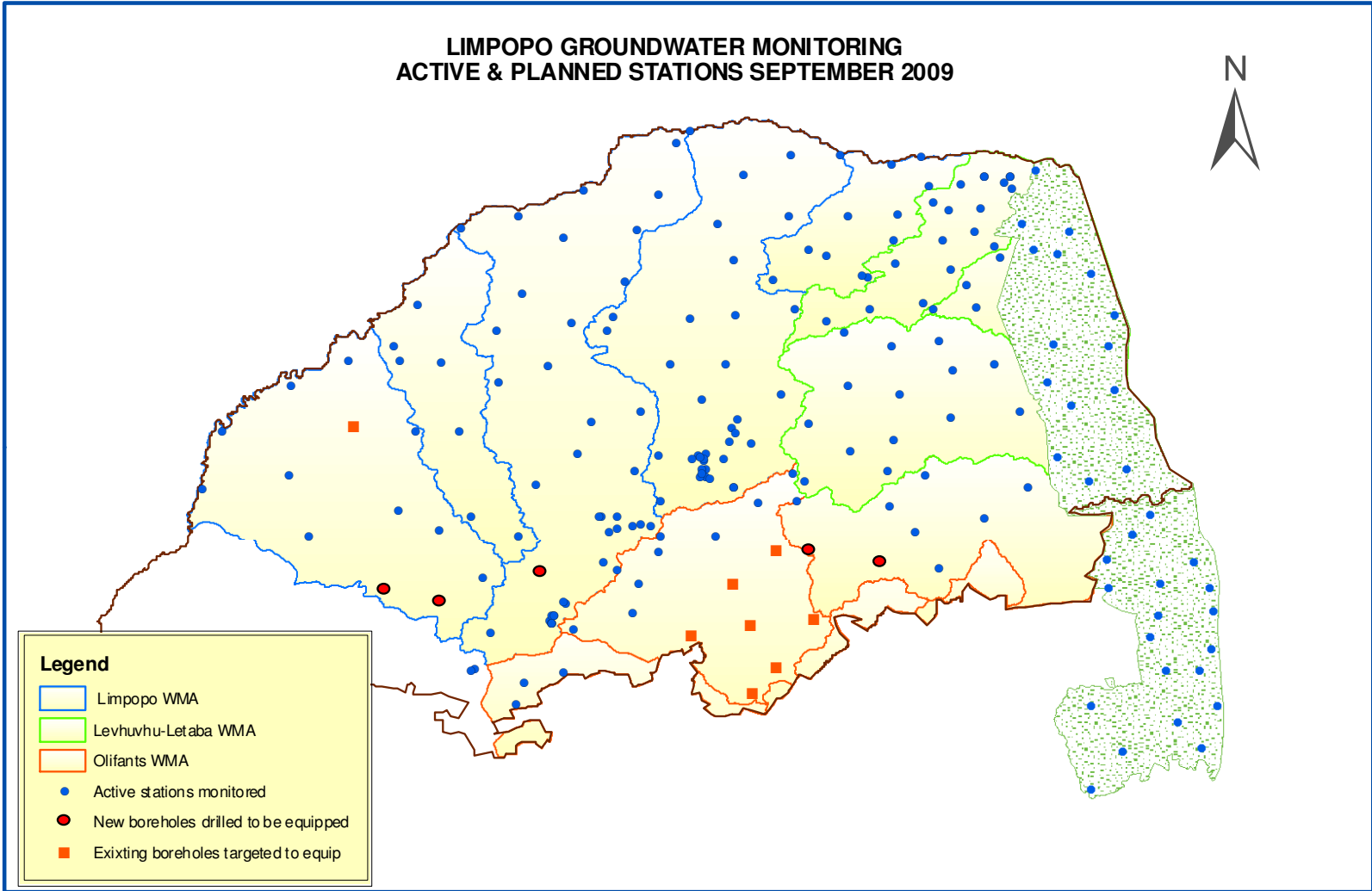
Comparison with previous levels:

Last quarter; May to August 2009 (Start to midway of the dry season)

All stations indicate lower water levels (**GRAPHS 43 & 45)**

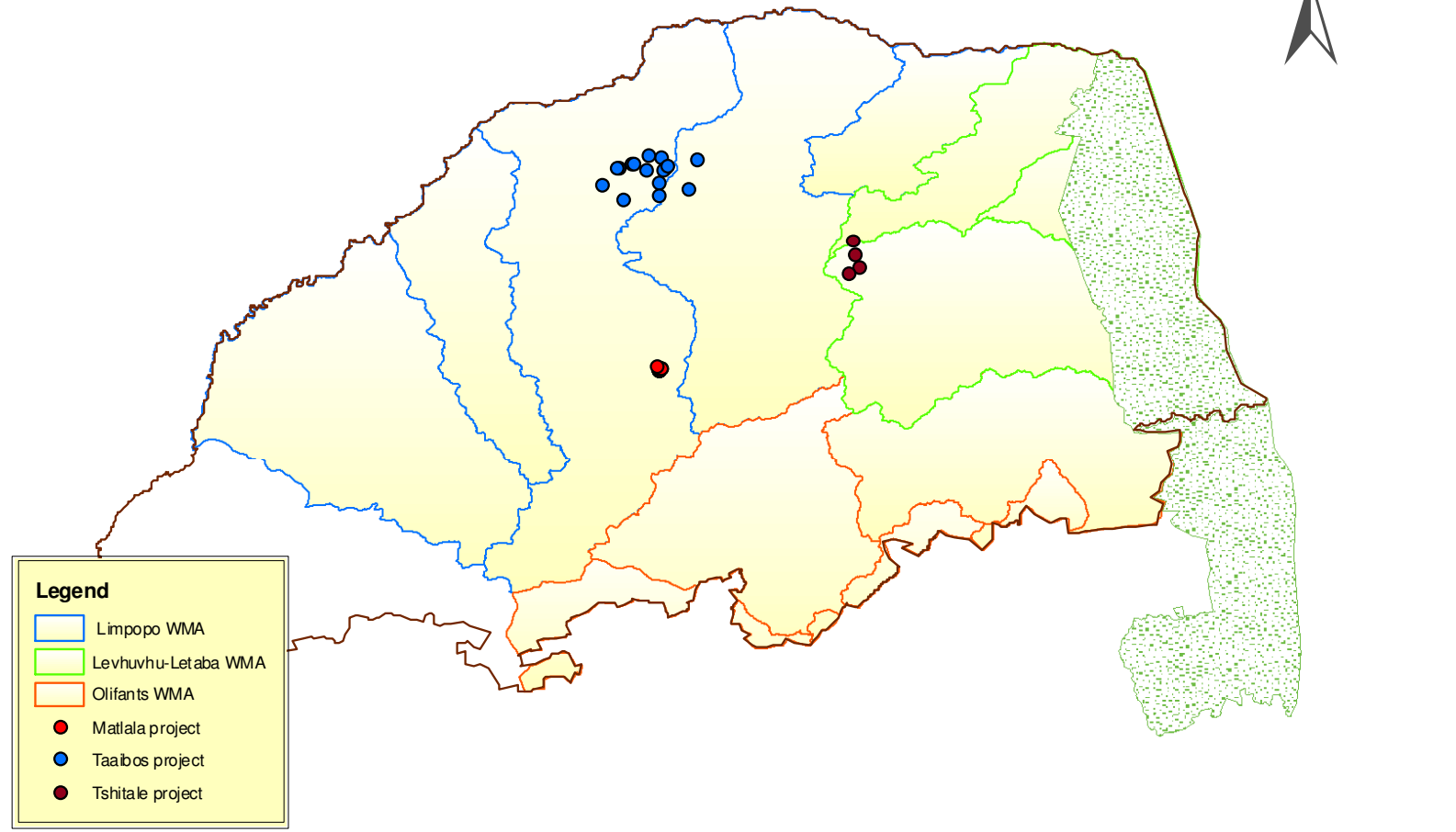
Past year; August 2008 to August 2009

Only 1 station indicates a higher water level (**GRAPHS 44 & 45).**

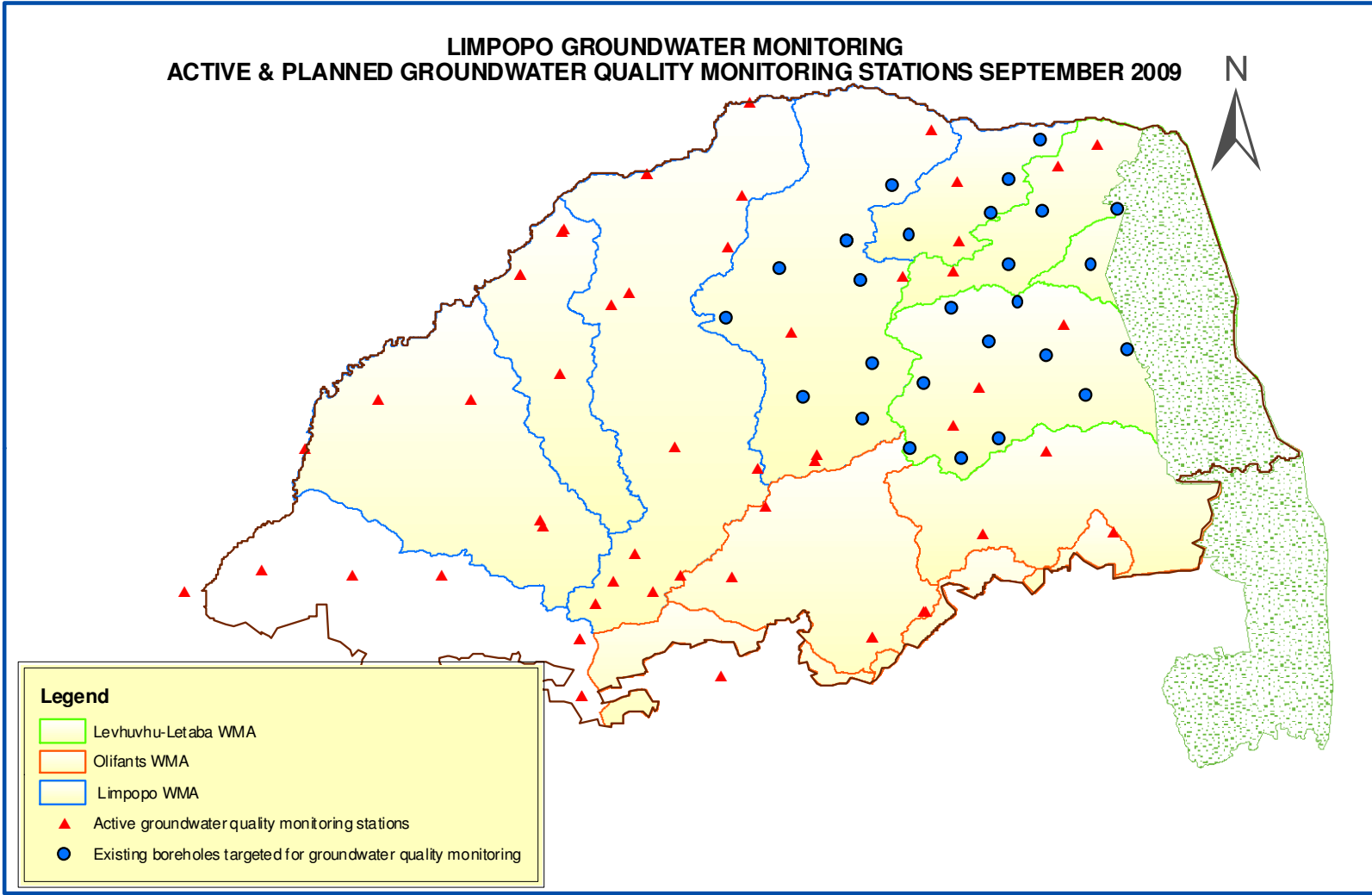


MAP 1

LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER MONITORING
PROJECT MONITORING STATIONS SEPTEMBER 2009

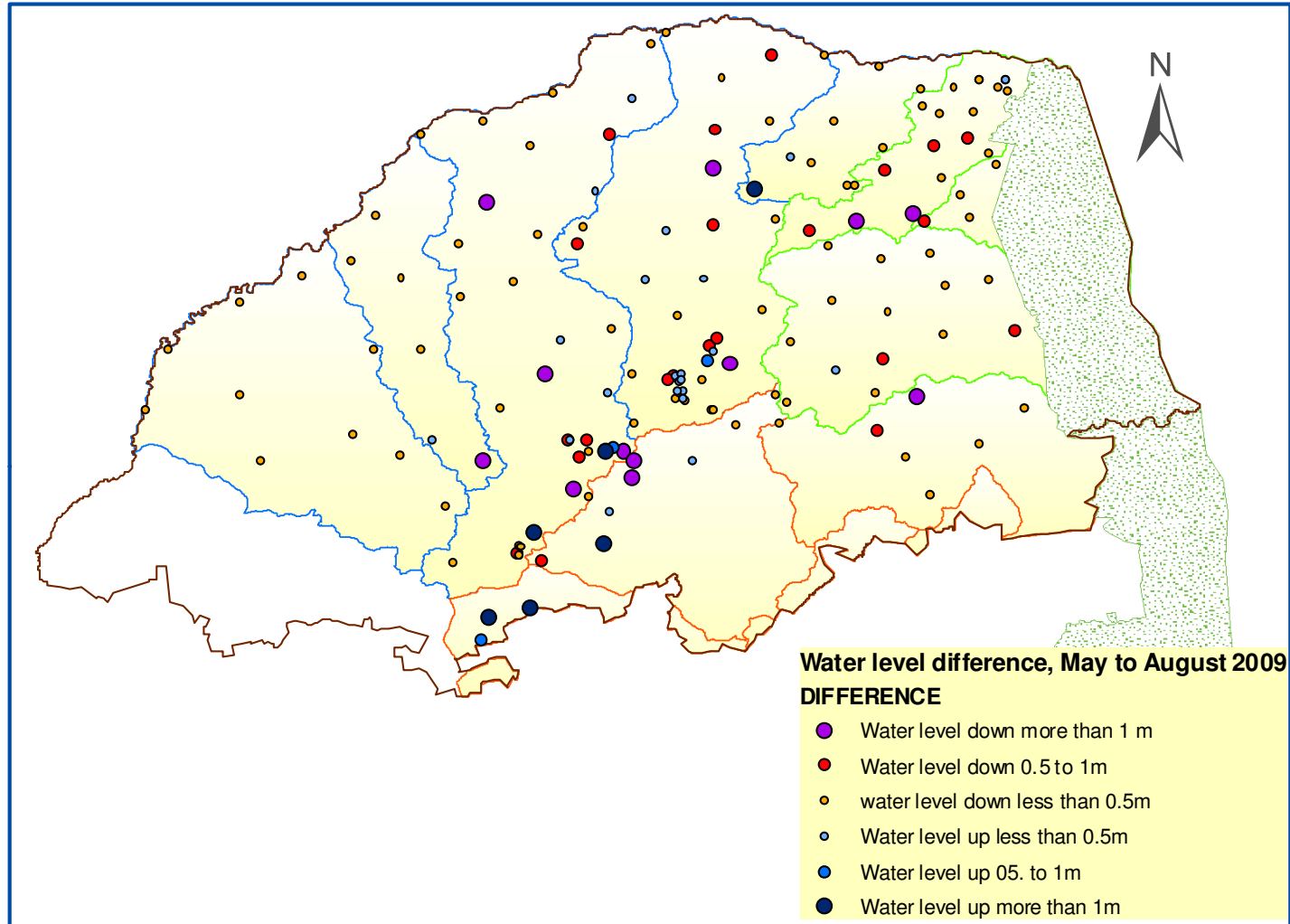


MAP 2



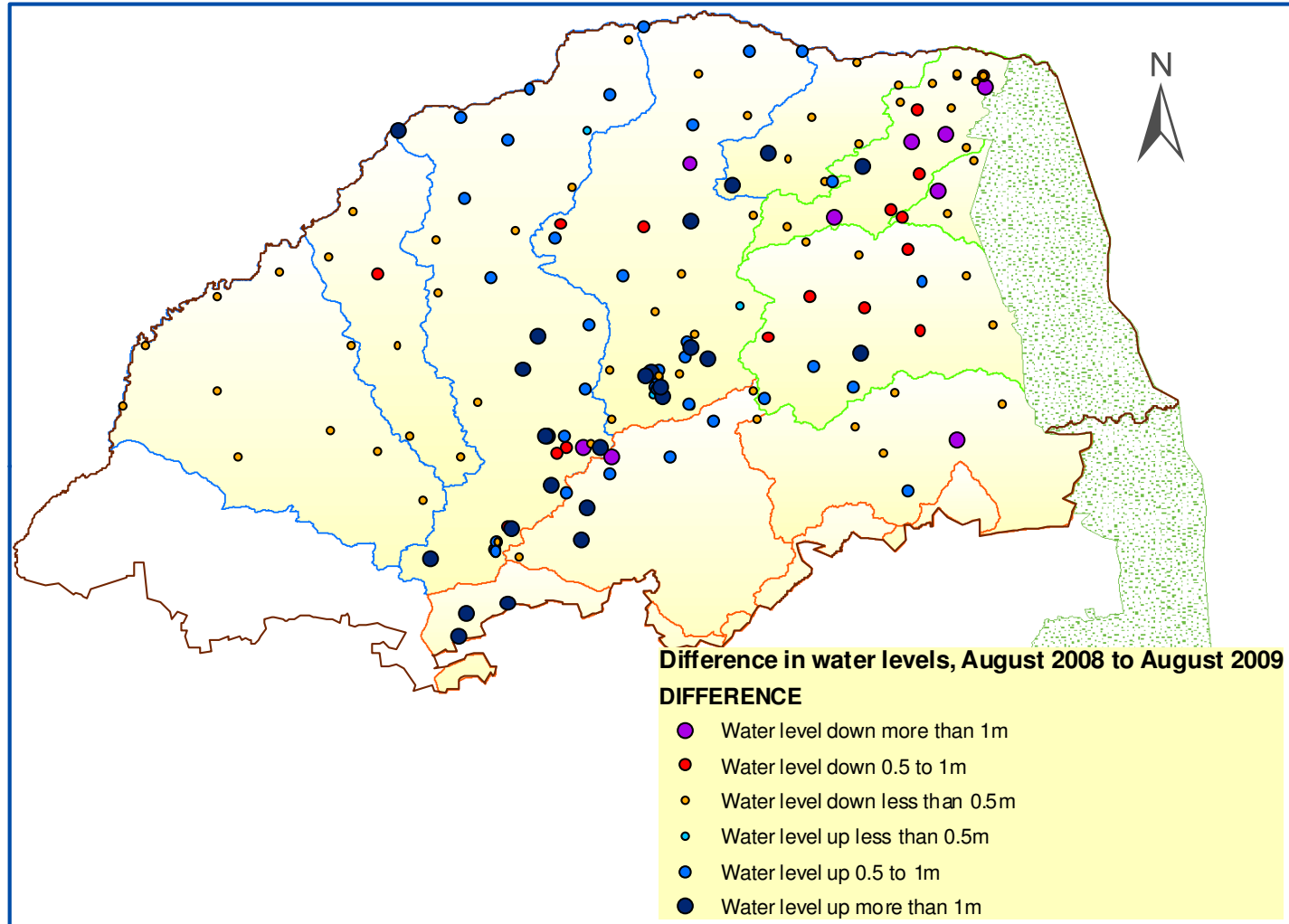
MAP 3

WATER LEVEL DIFFERENCE; MAY 2009 TO AUGUST 2009



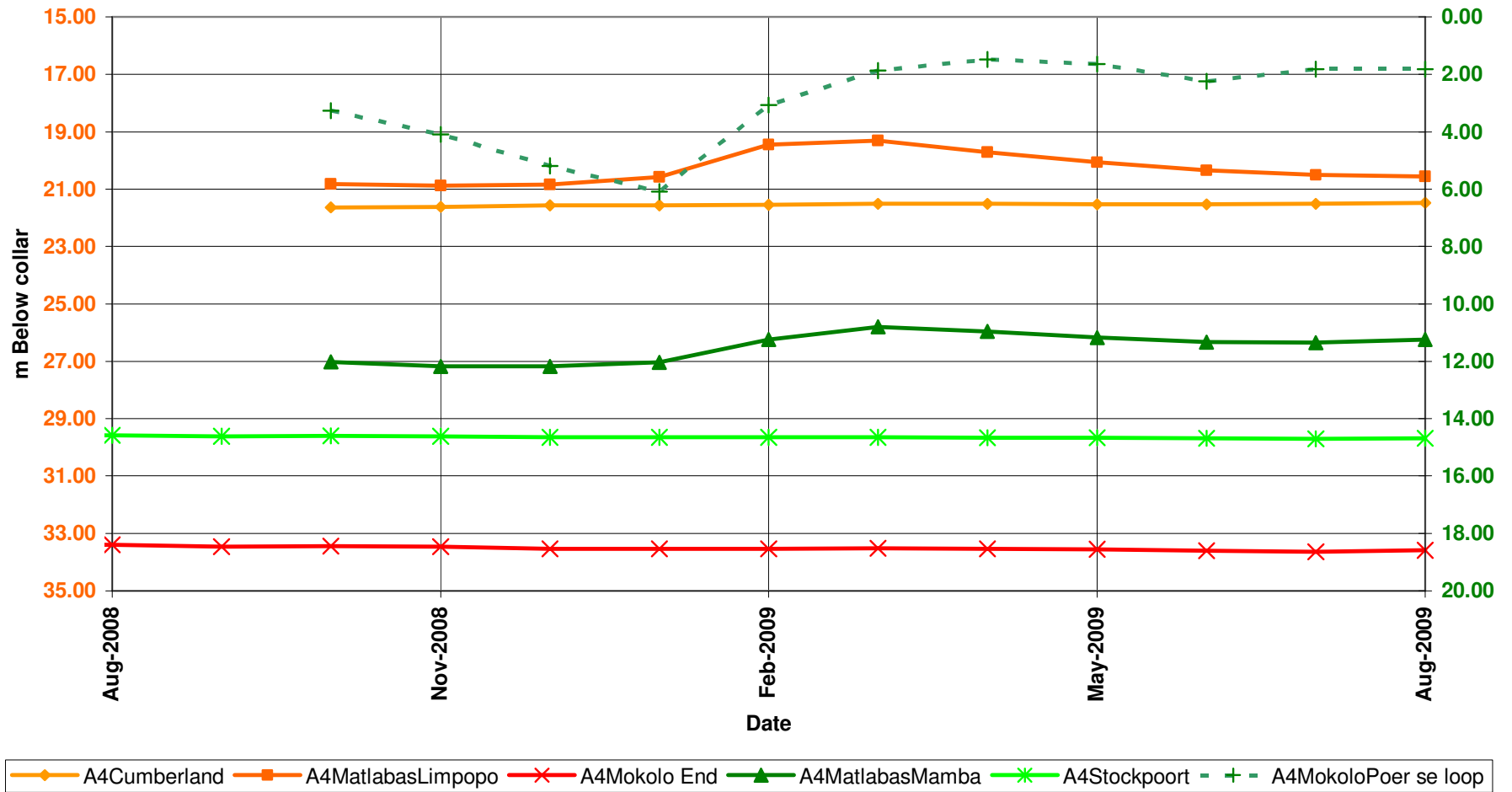
MAP 4

WATER LEVEL DIFFERENCE; MAY 2009 TO AUGUST 2009



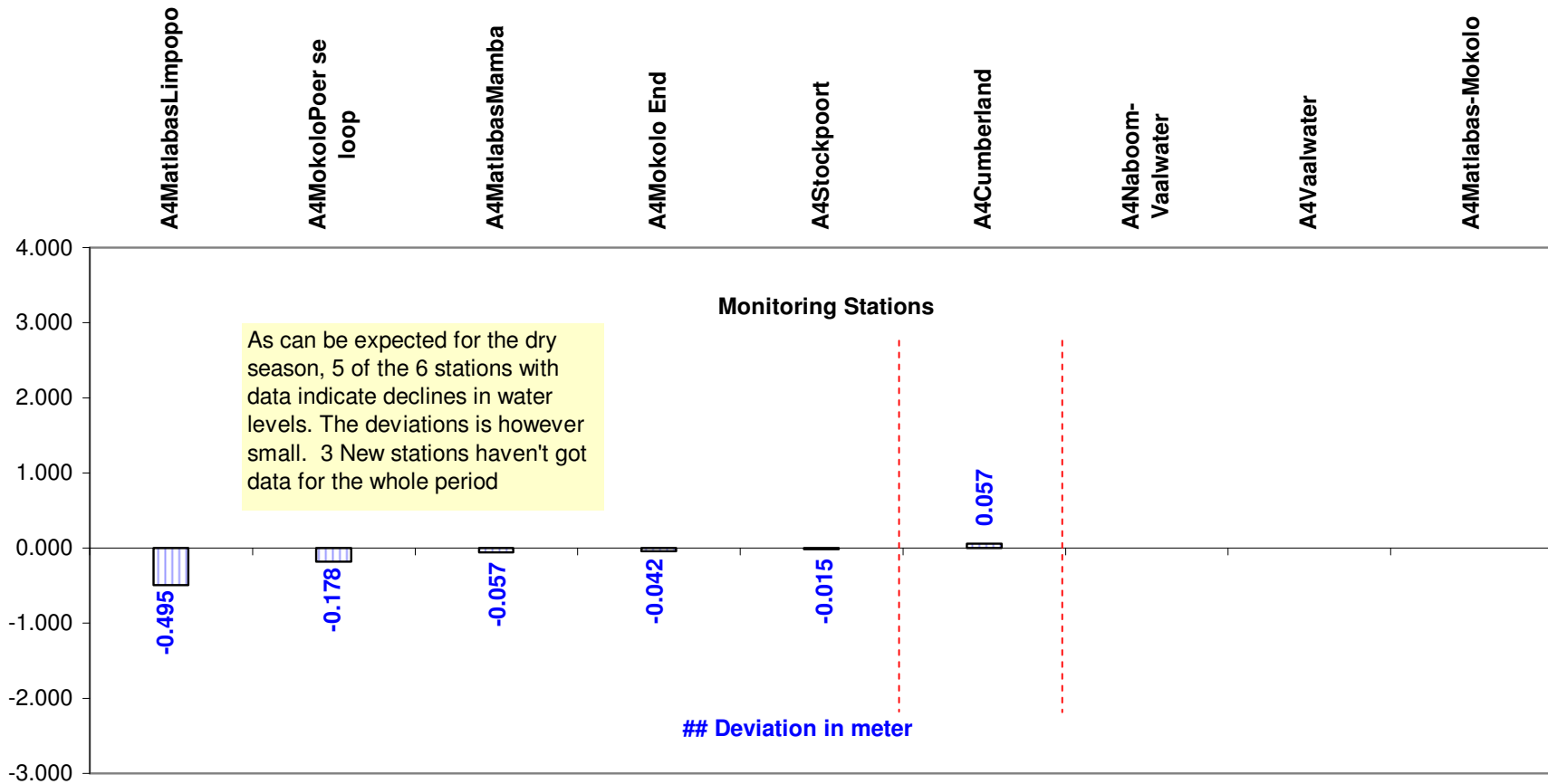
MAP 5

**Water level trend of some stations in A4 drainage:
1 May 2008 to 1 May 2009**



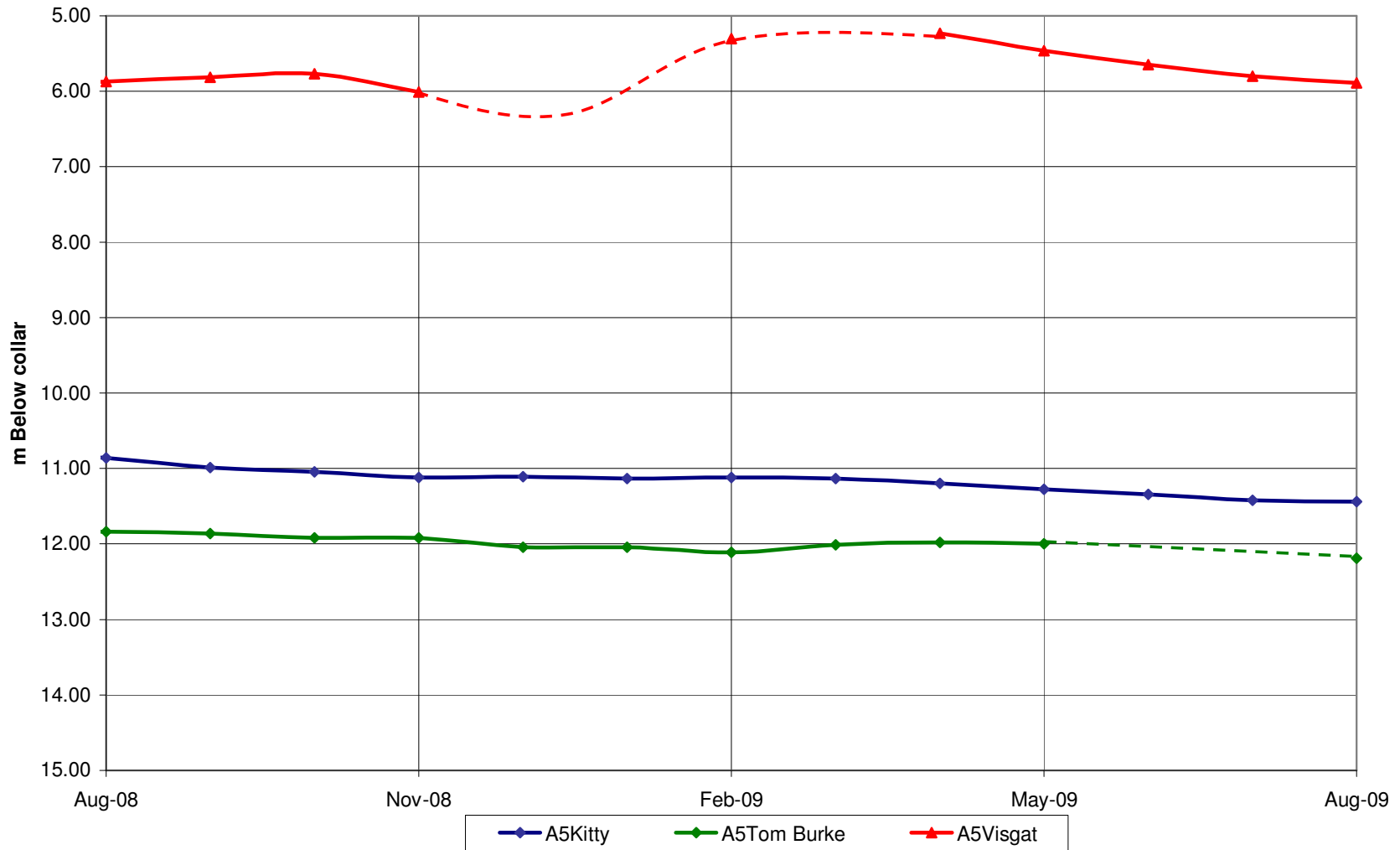
GRAPH 1

A4 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



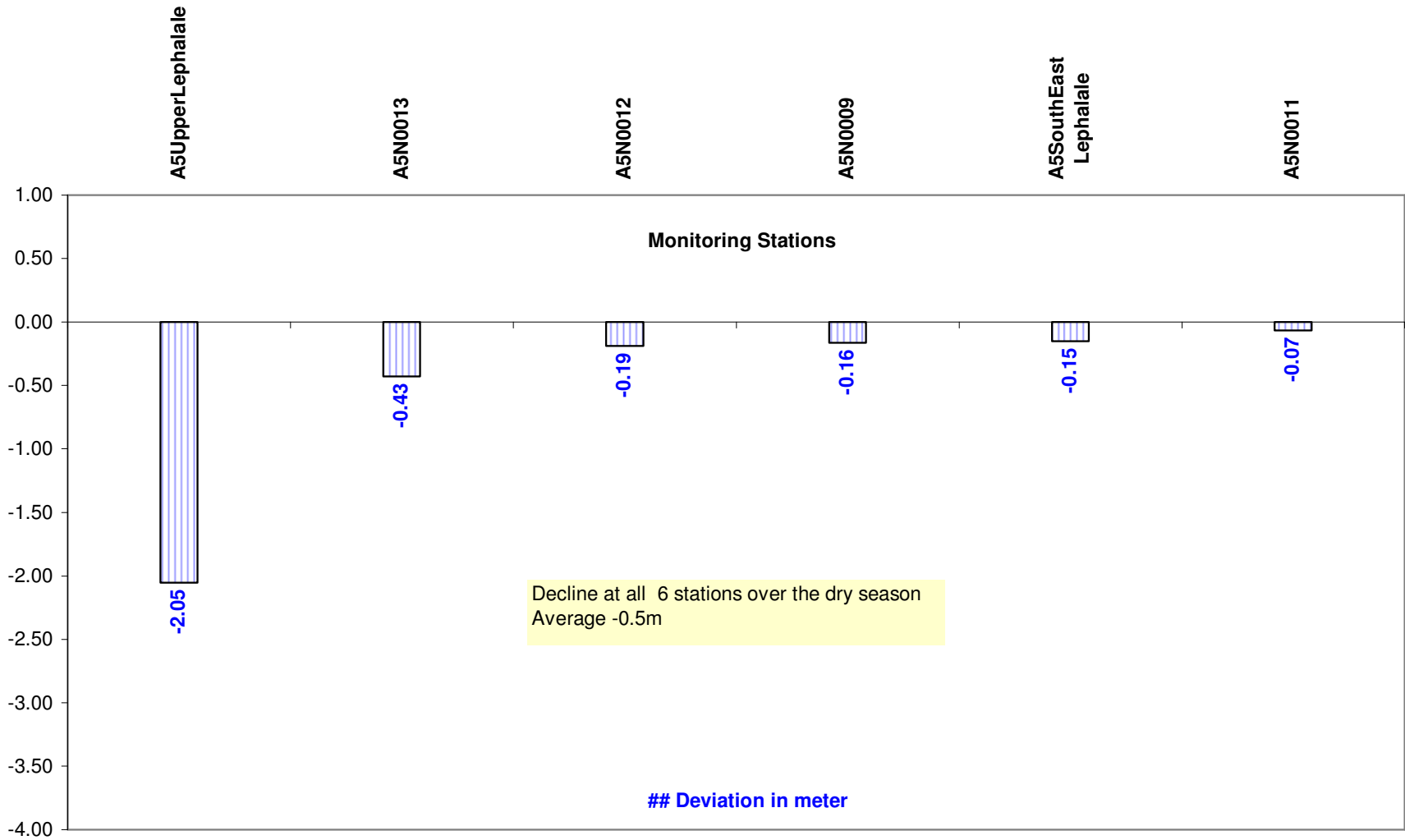
GRAPH 2

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A5 drainage: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



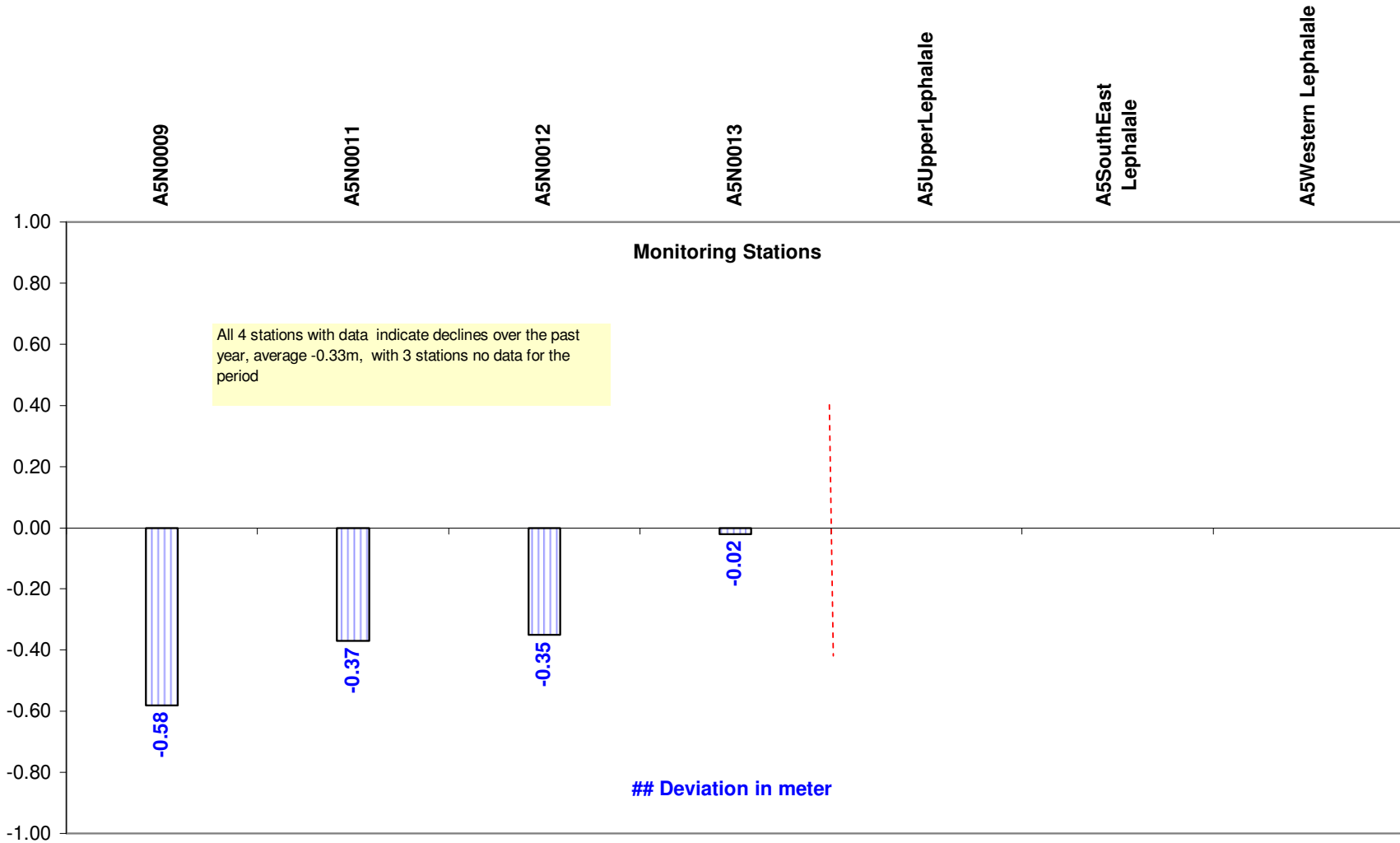
GRAPH 3

A5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



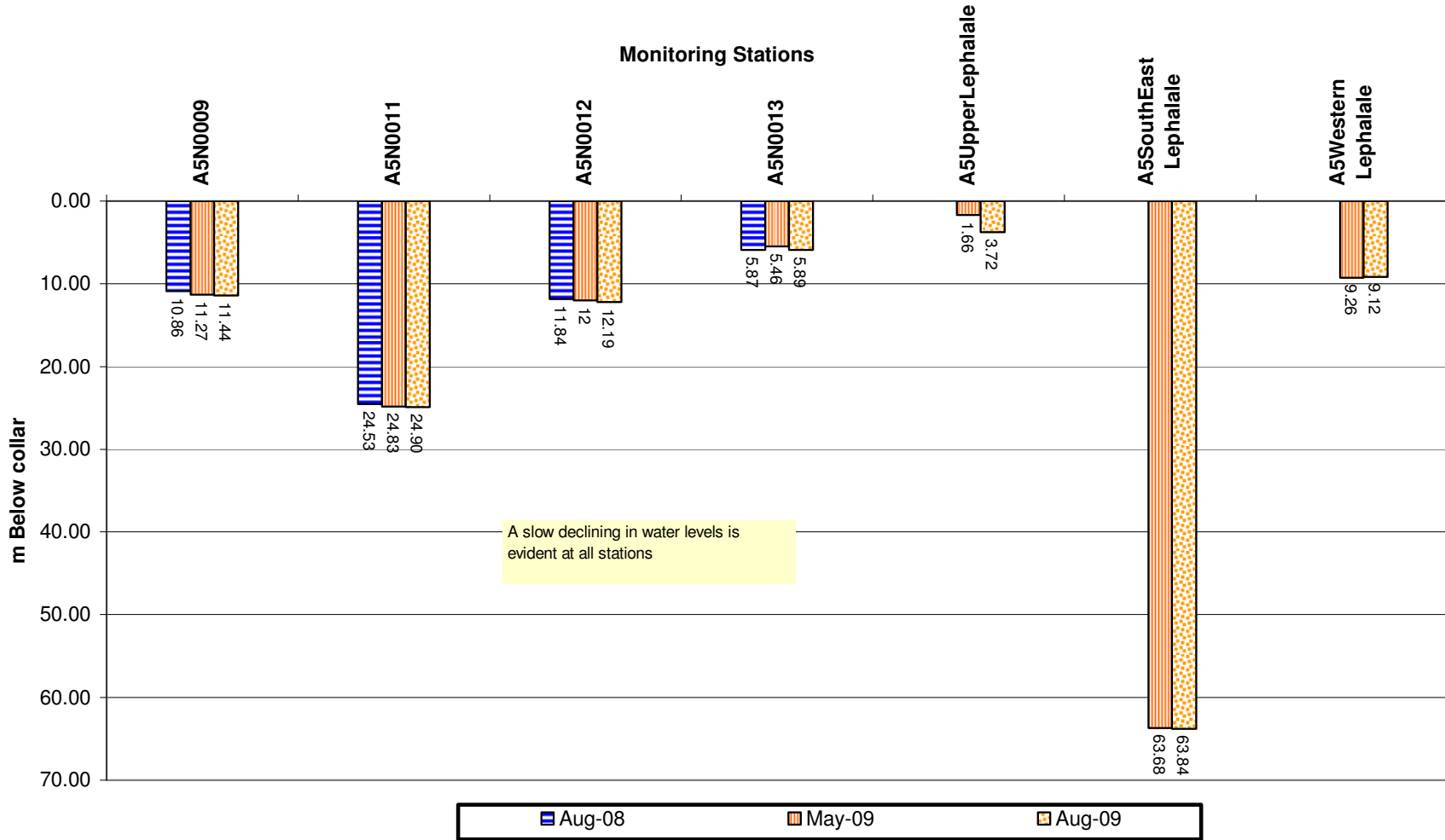
GRAPH 4

A5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



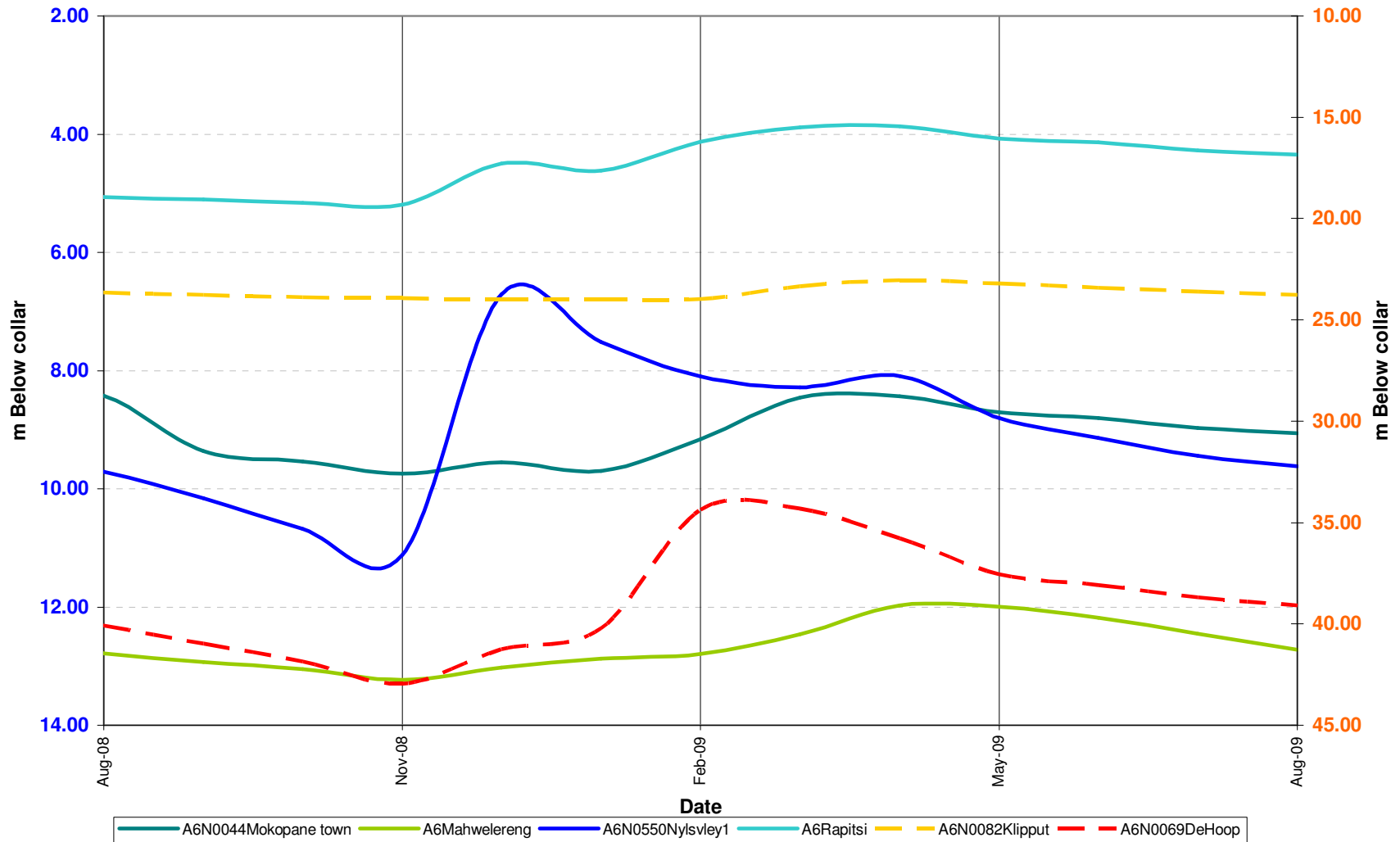
GRAPH 5

A5 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths : 1 August 2008,
1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009



GRAPH 6

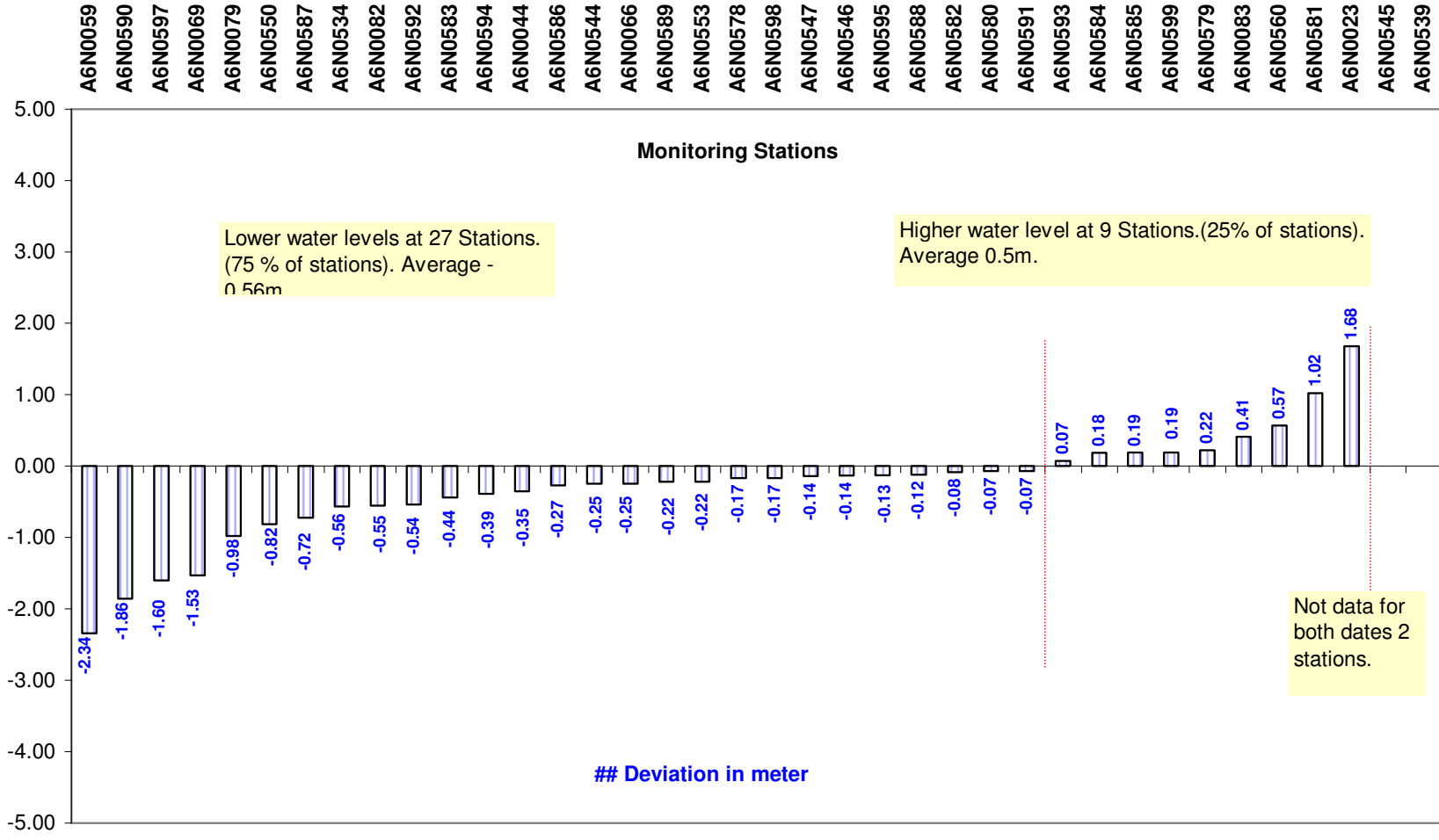
Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A6 drainage: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



GRAPH 7

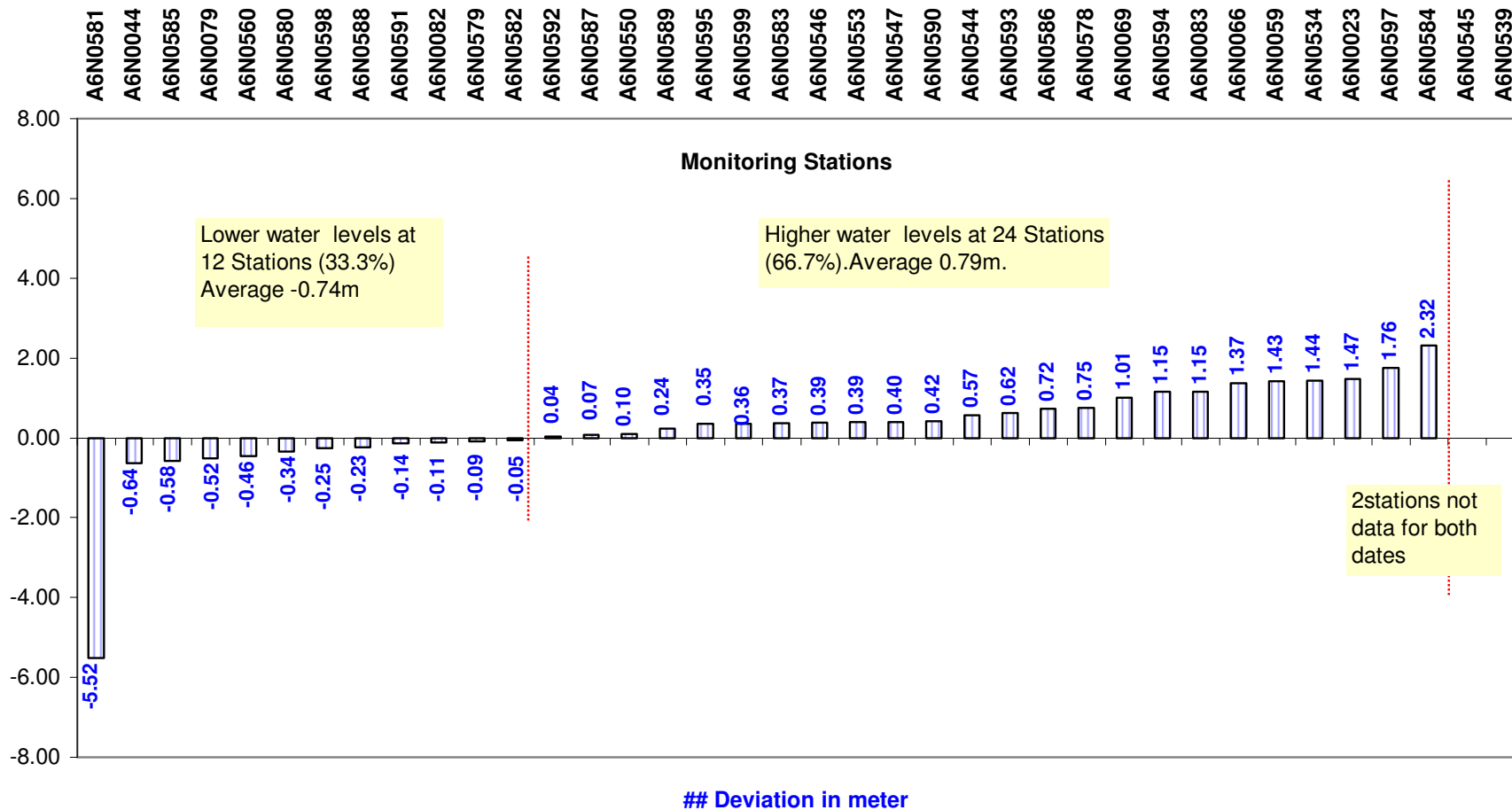
A6 DRAINAGE AREA

Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



GRAPH 8

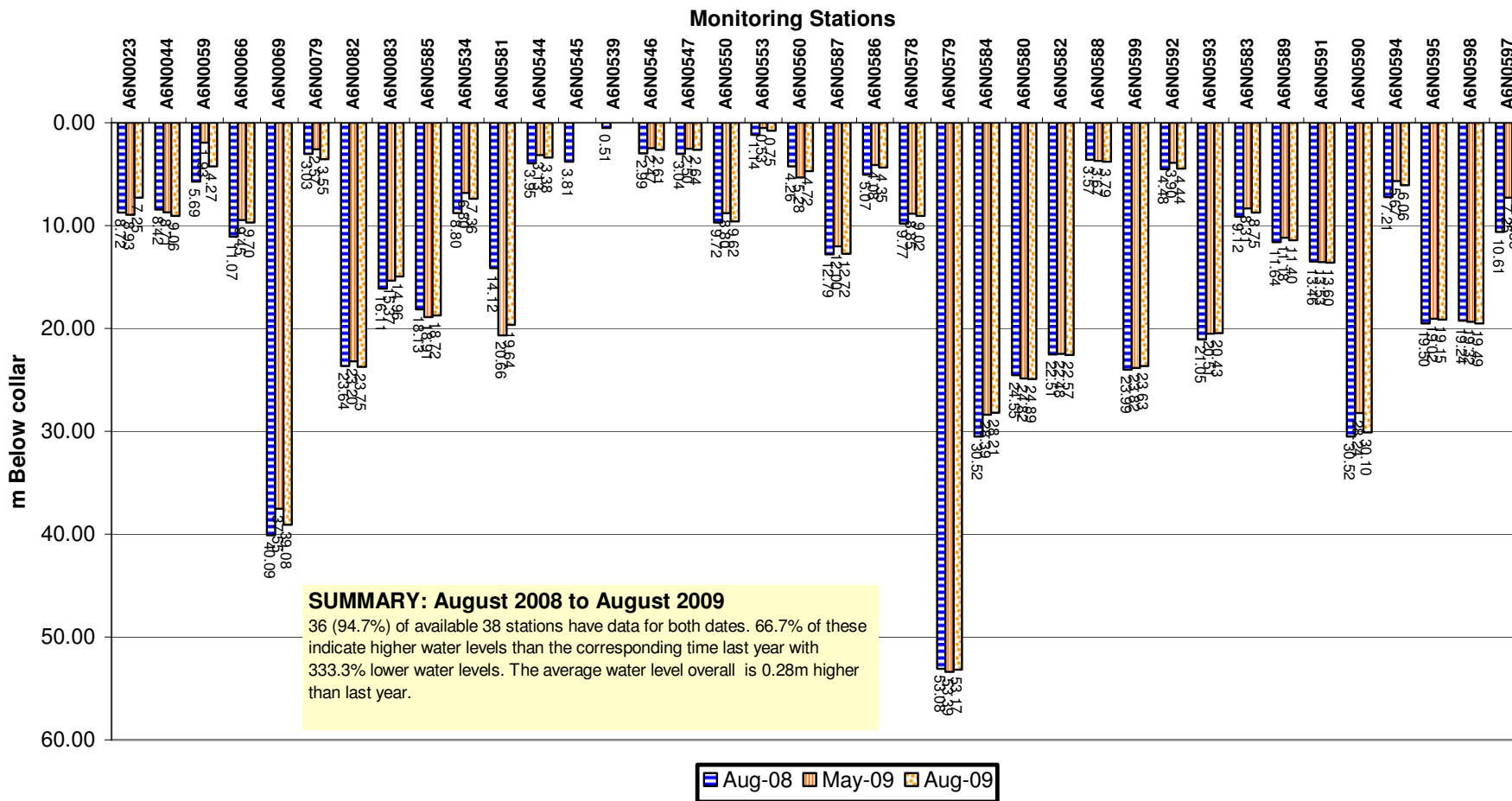
A6 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



GRAPH 9

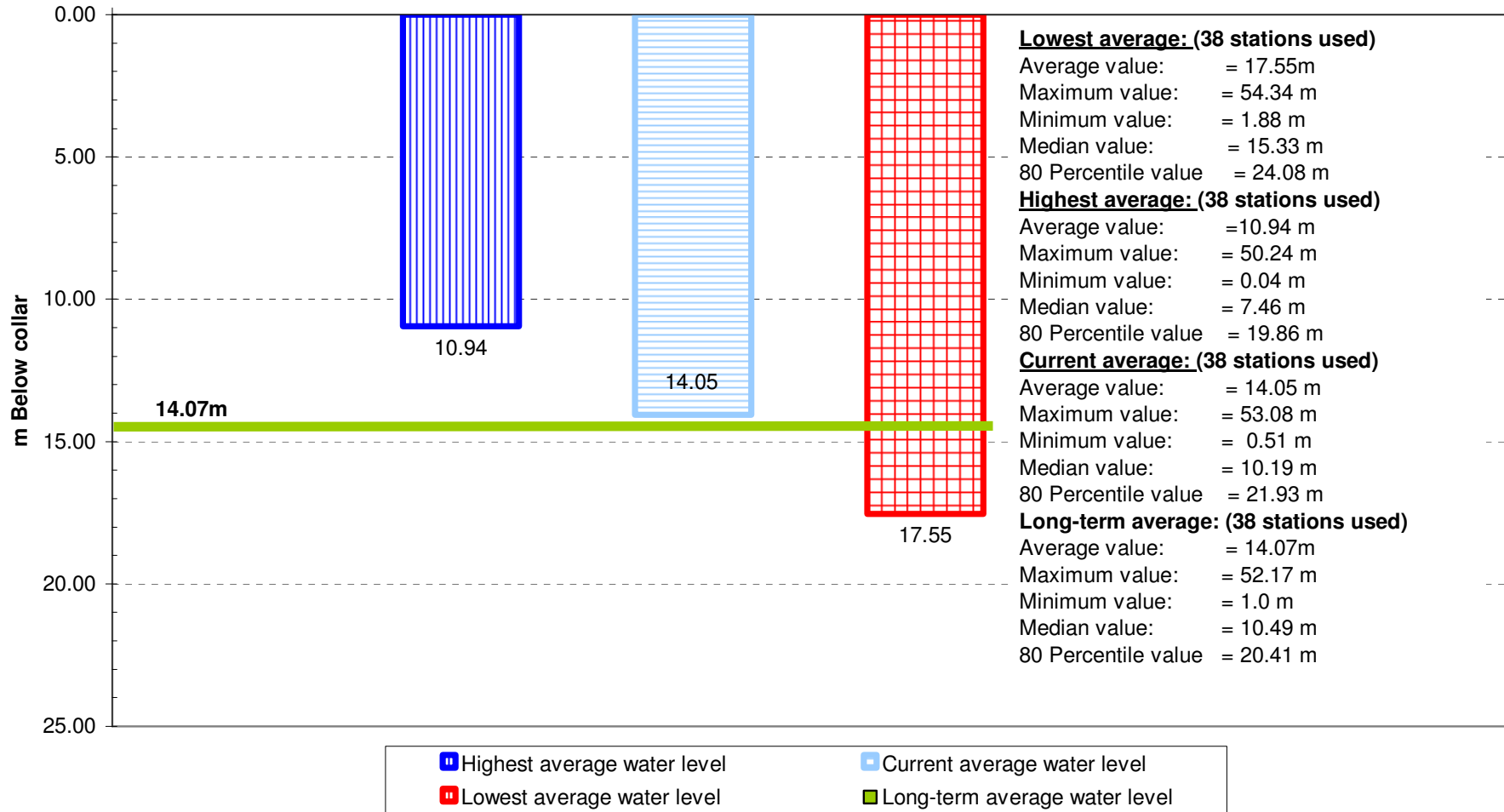
A6 DRAINAGE AREA

Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008, 1 May 2009, and 1 August 2009



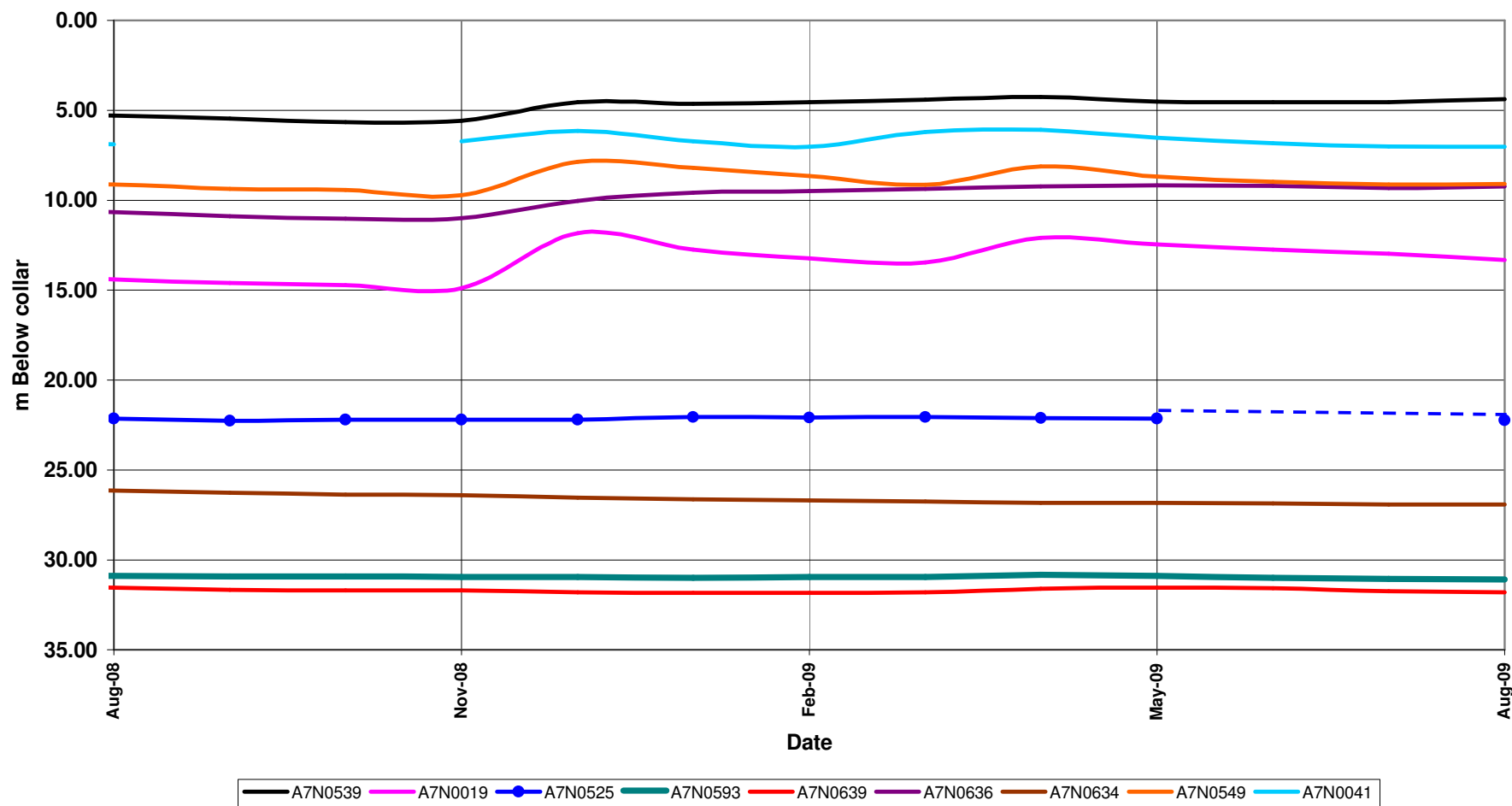
GRAPH 10

A6 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison of average current water level depths with highest, lowest & long-term average water level depths recorded



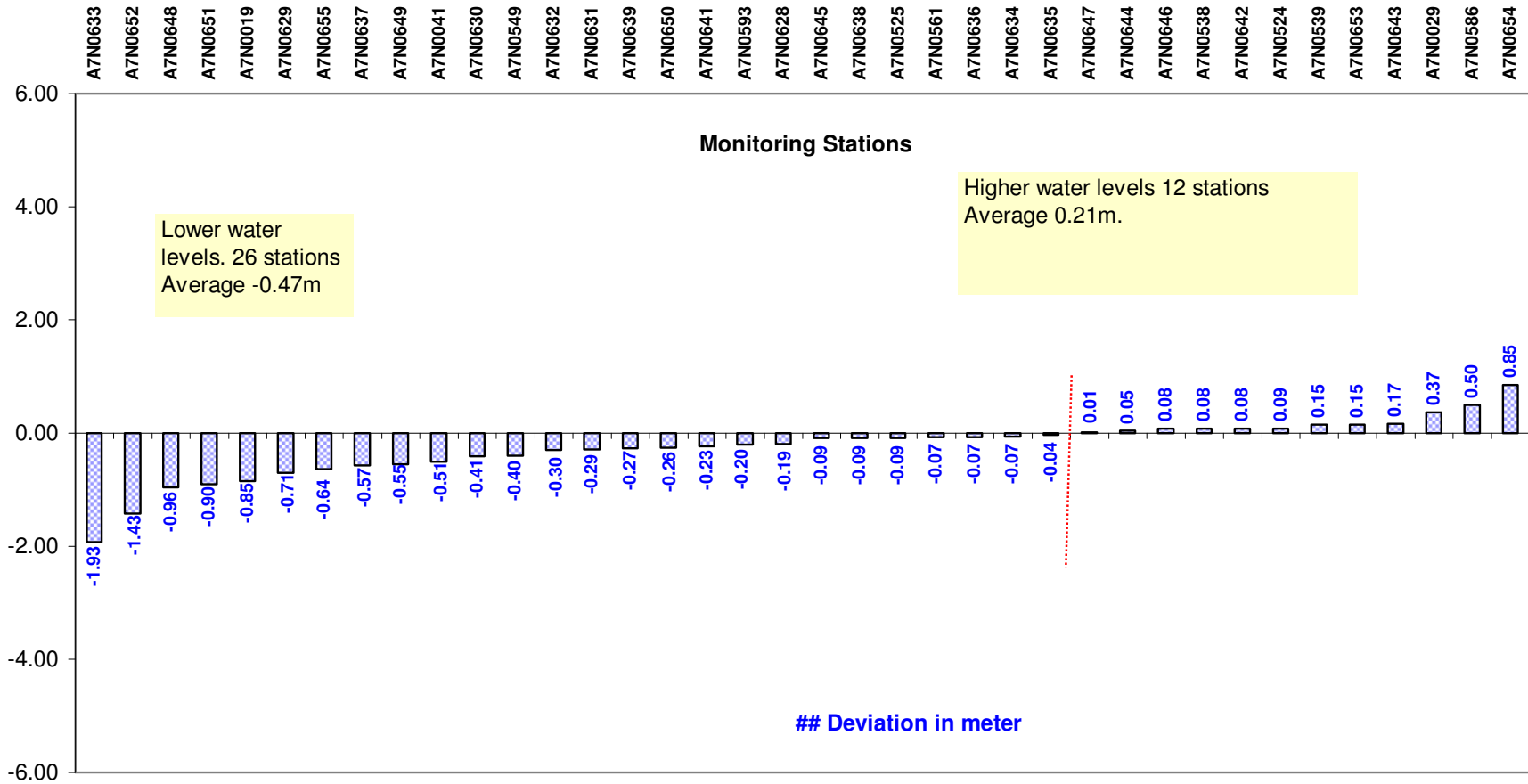
GRAPH 11

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A7 drainage:
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



GRAPH 12

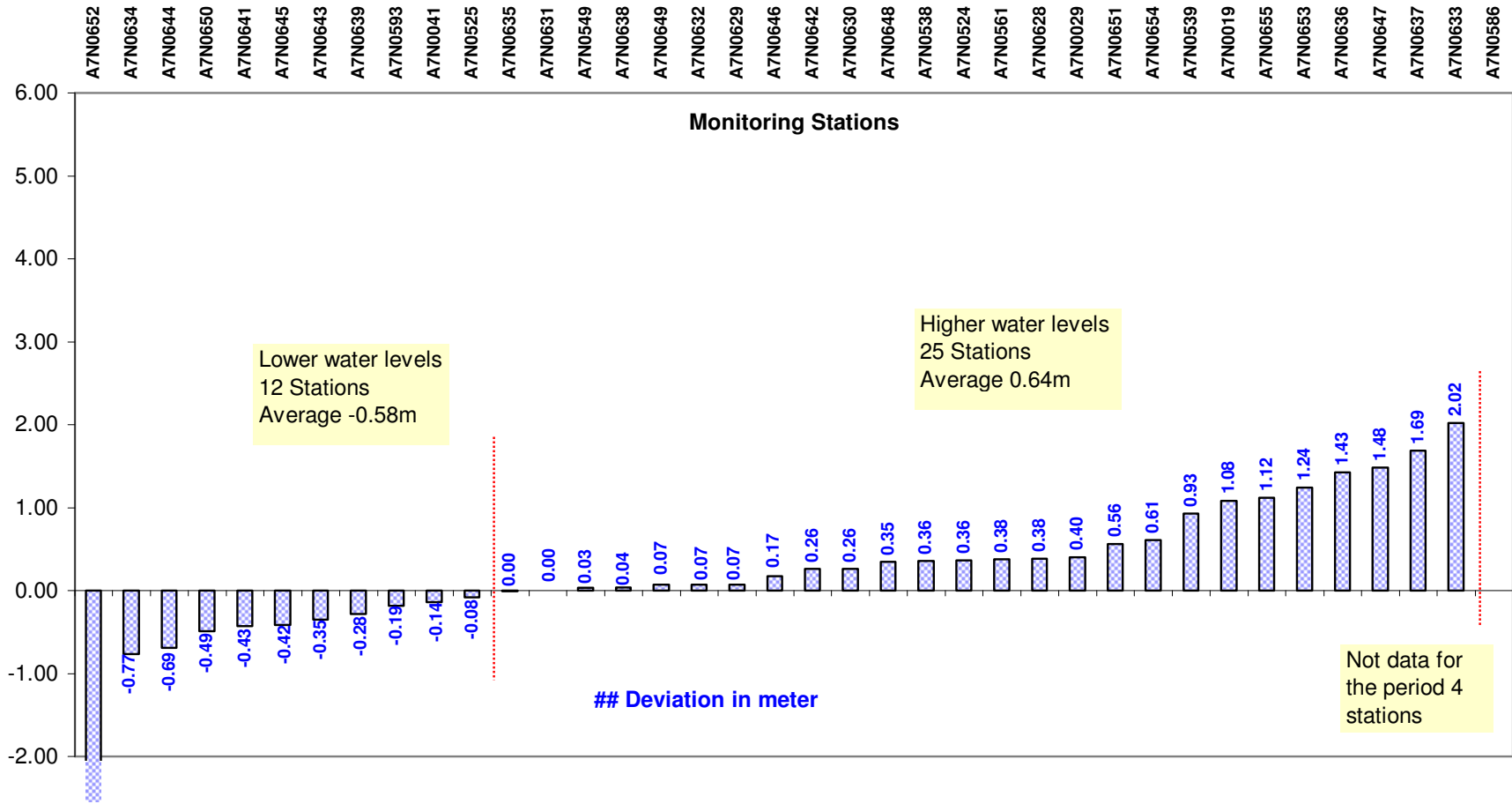
A7 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water level depths: 1 May 2009
to 1 August 2009



GRAPH 13

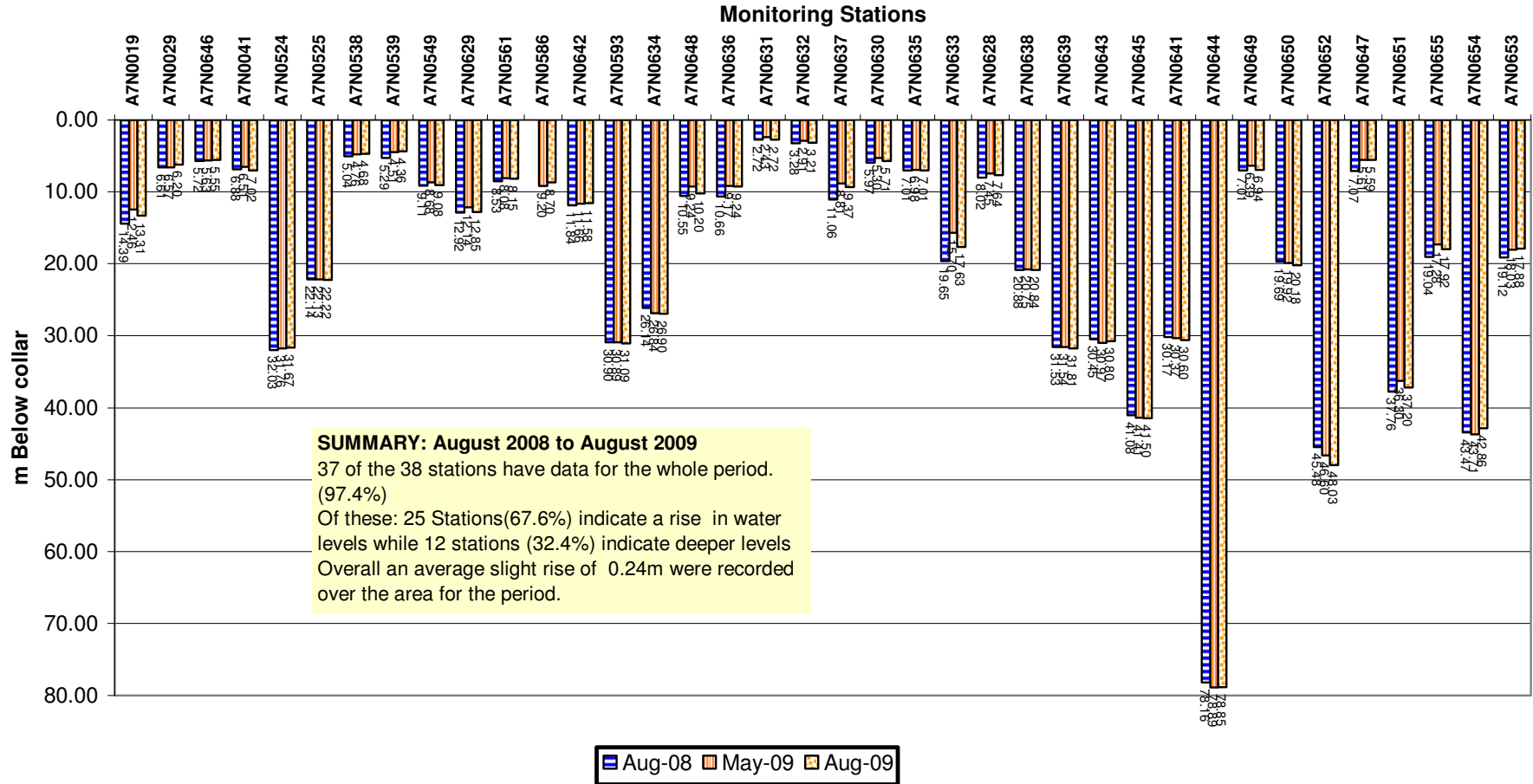
A7 DRAINAGE AREA

Deviation of water level depths: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



GRAPH 14

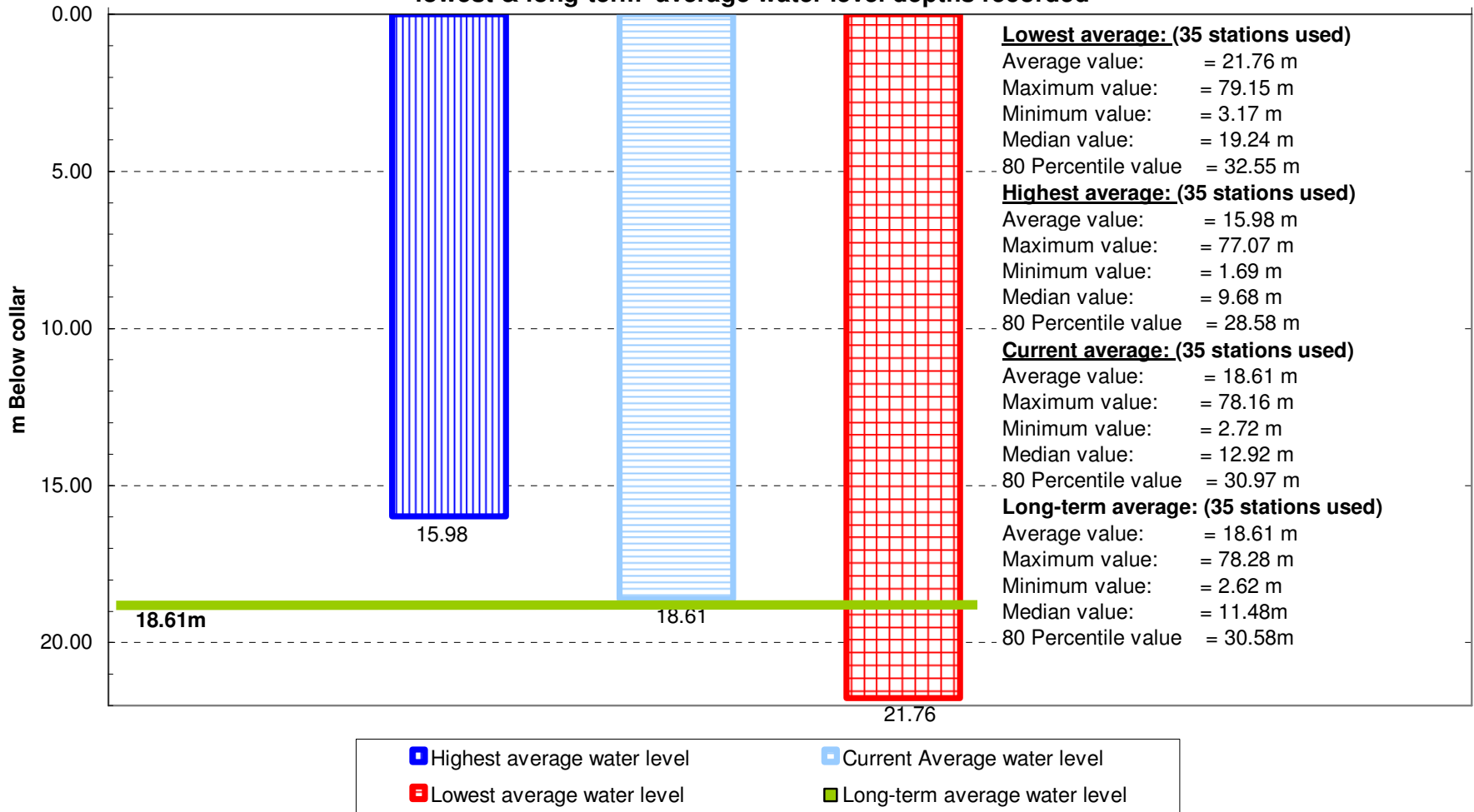
A7 DRAINAGE AREA Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008, 1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009



GRAPH 15

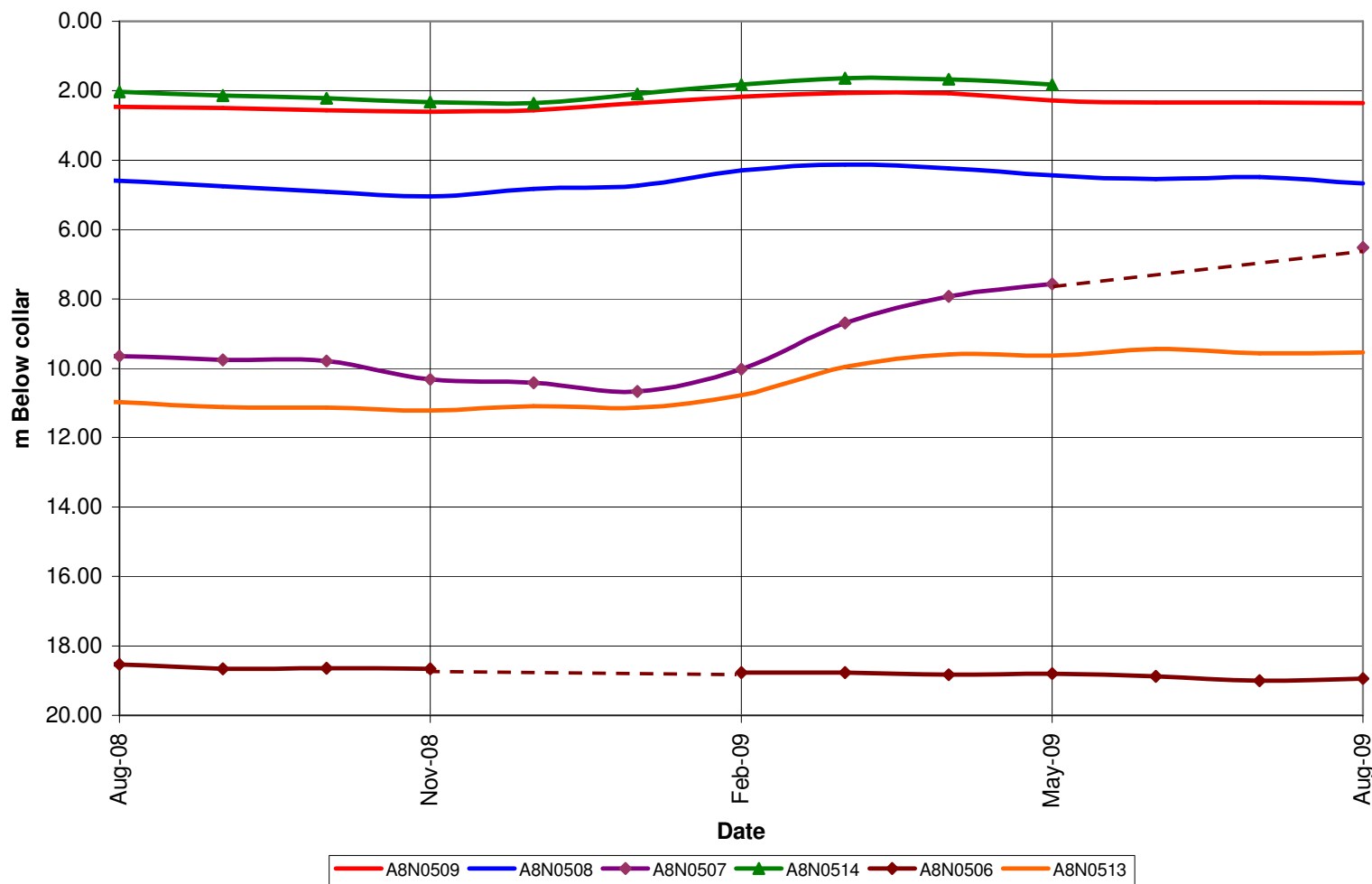
A7 DRAINAGE AREA

Comparison of average current water level depth with highest, lowest & long-term average water level depths recorded



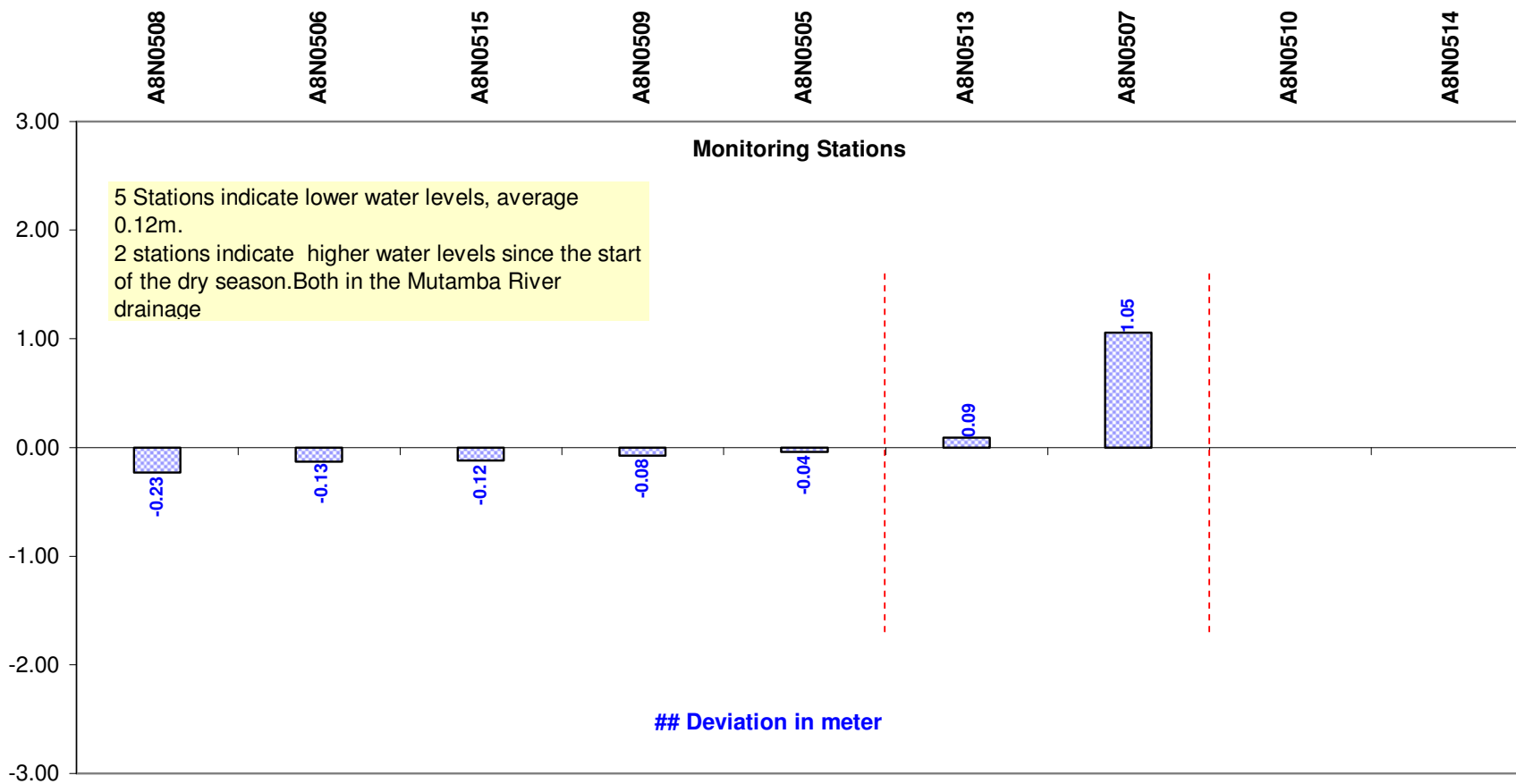
GRAPH 16

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A8 drainage:
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



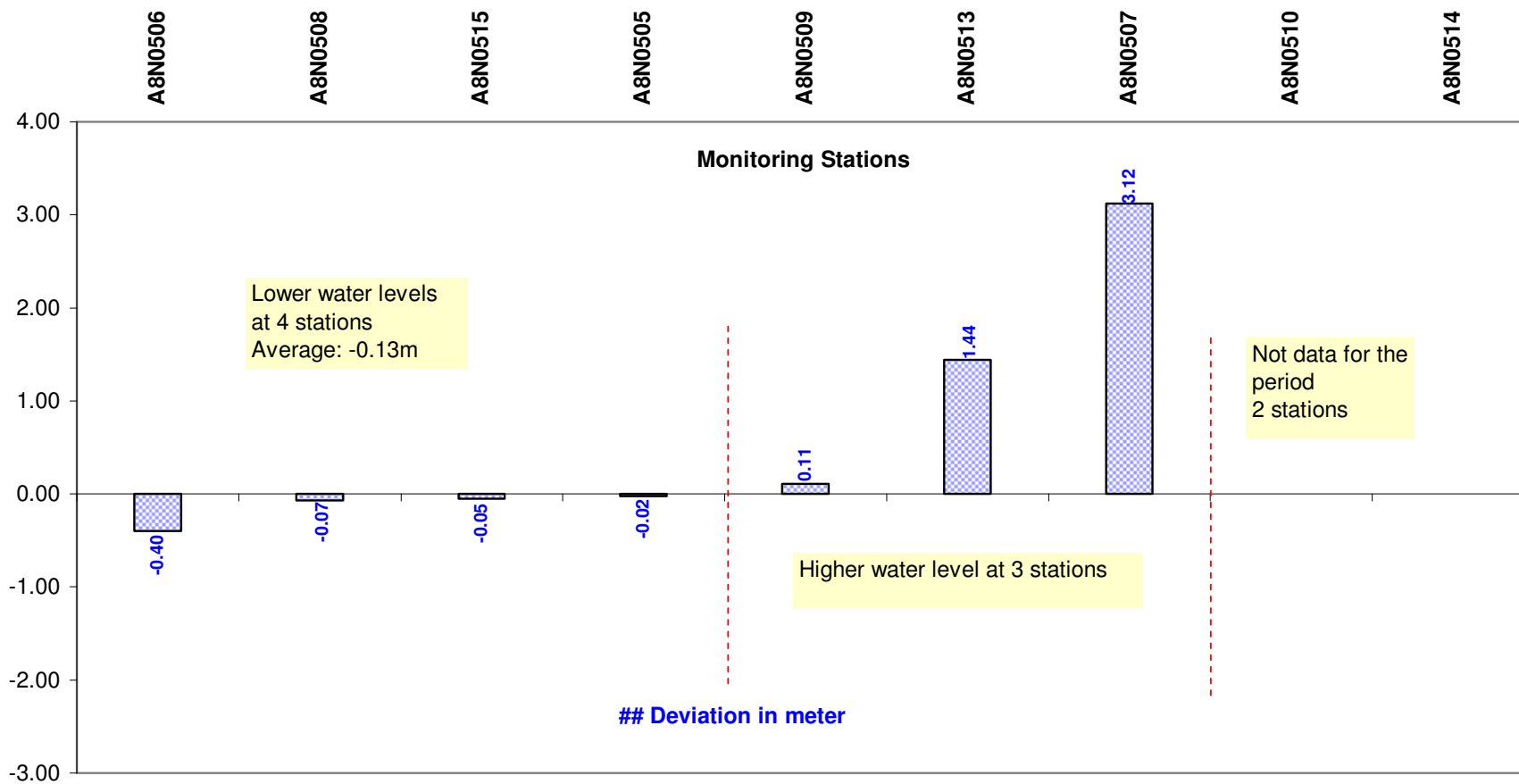
GRAPH 17

A8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water level depths: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



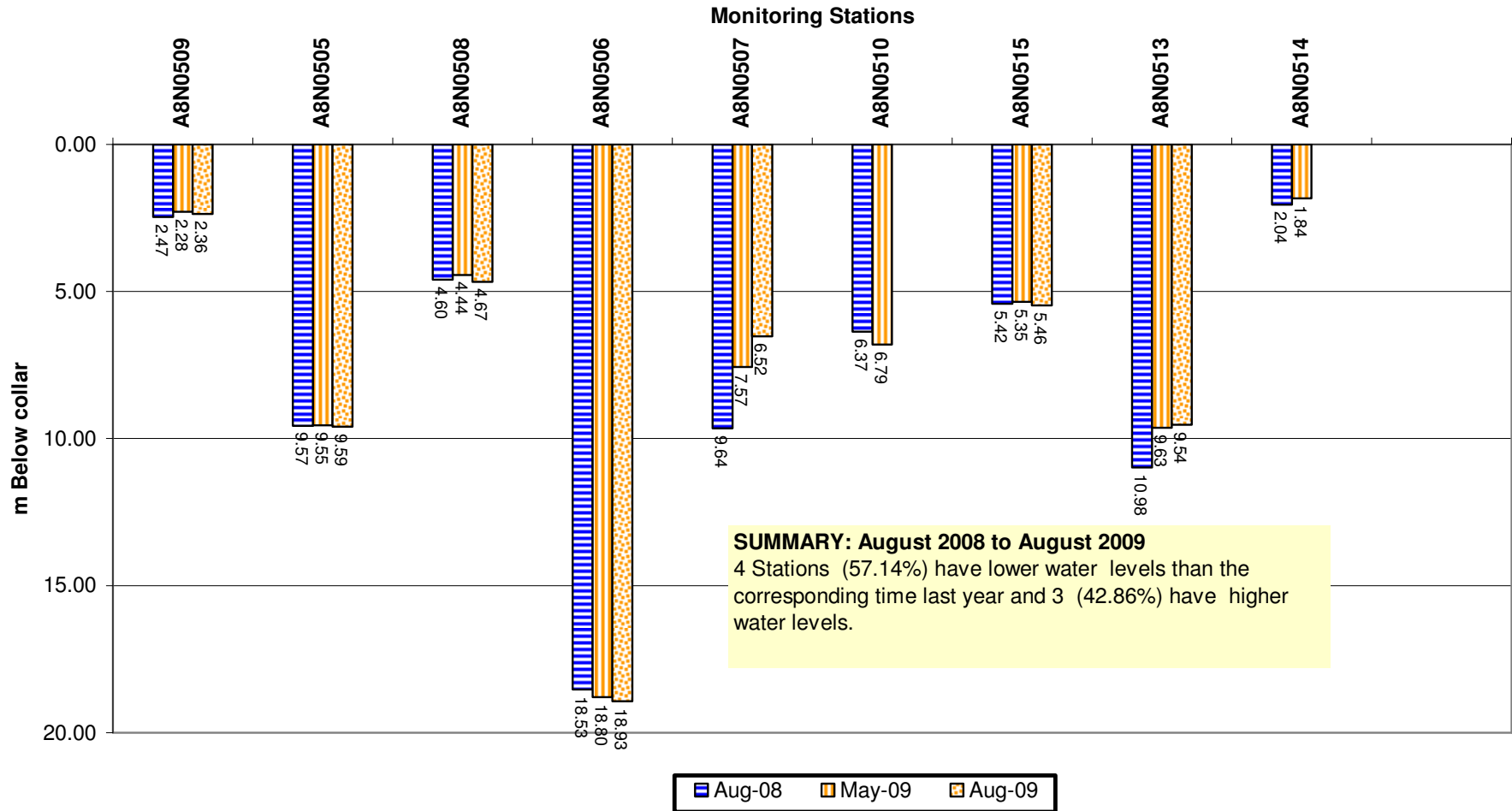
GRAPH 18

A8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



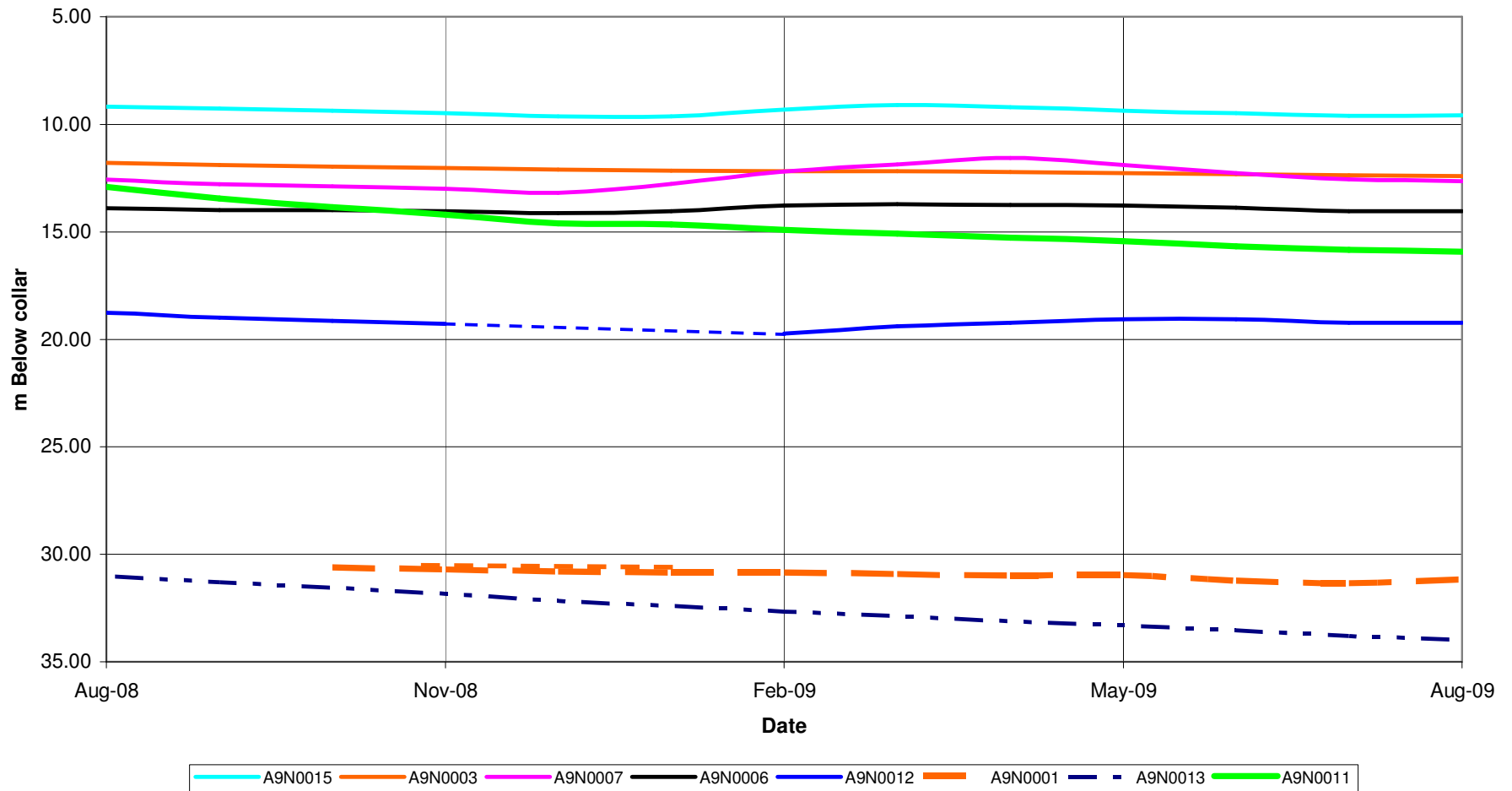
GRAPH 19

A8 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008,
1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009



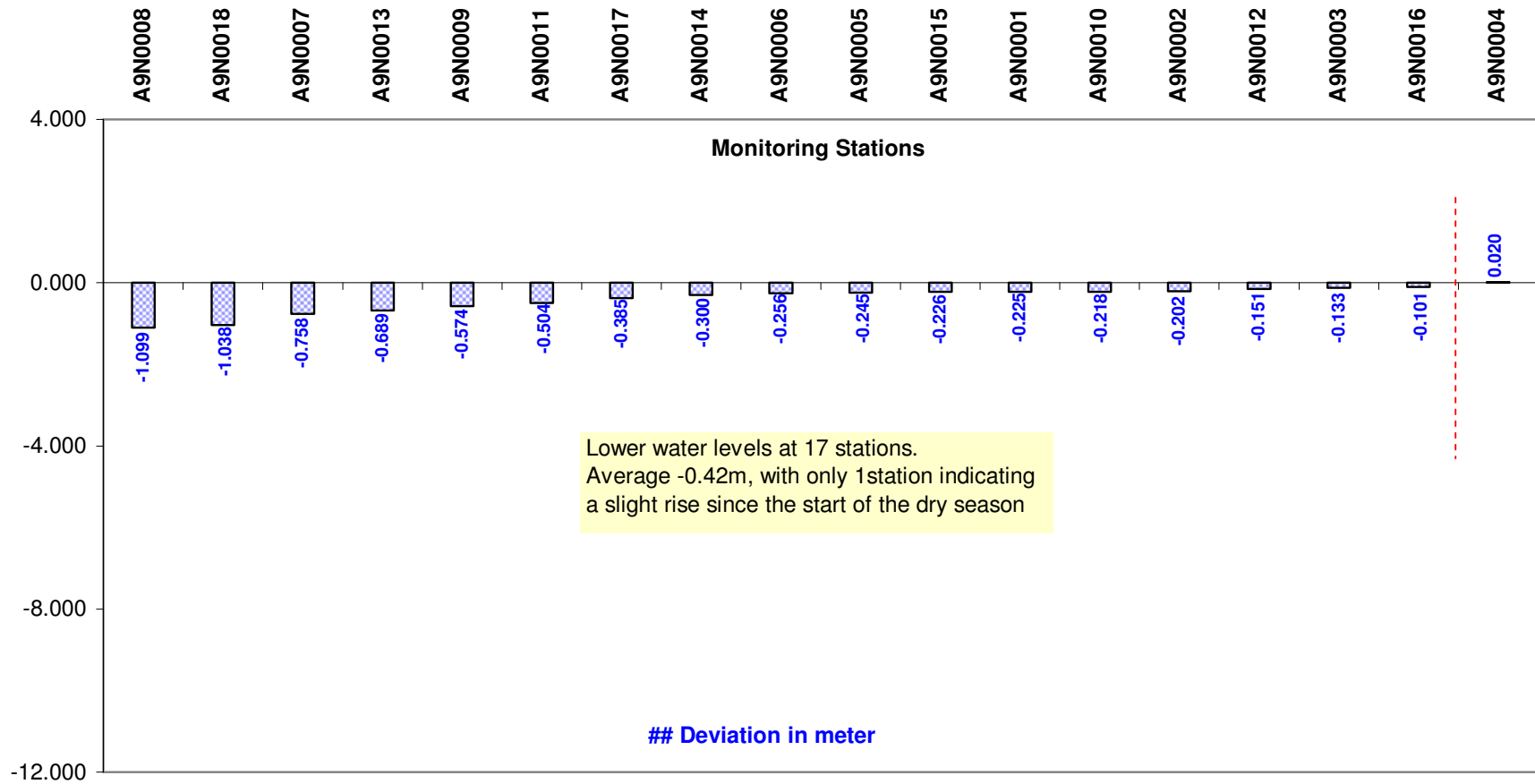
GRAPH 20

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in A9 drainage :
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



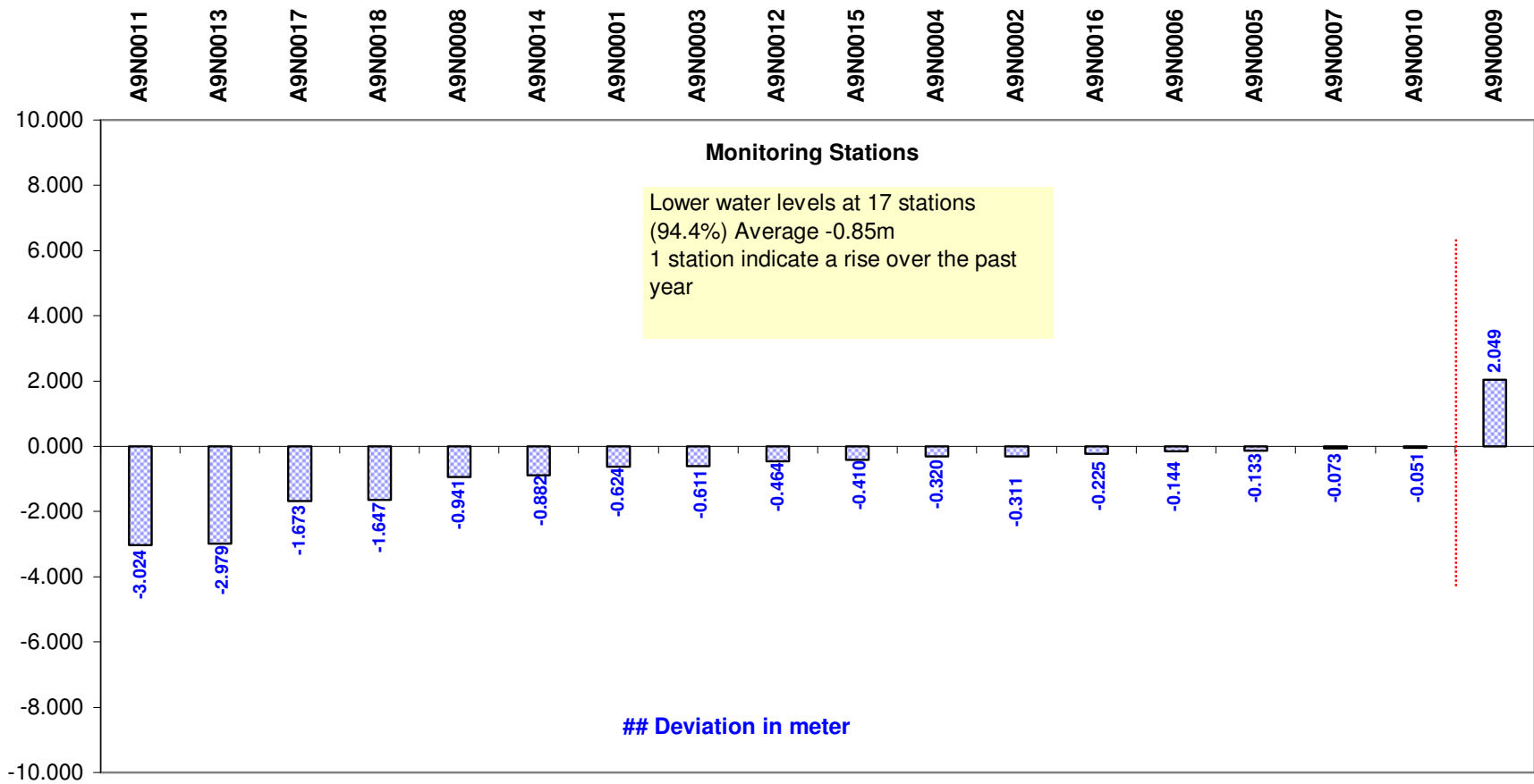
GRAPH 21

A9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



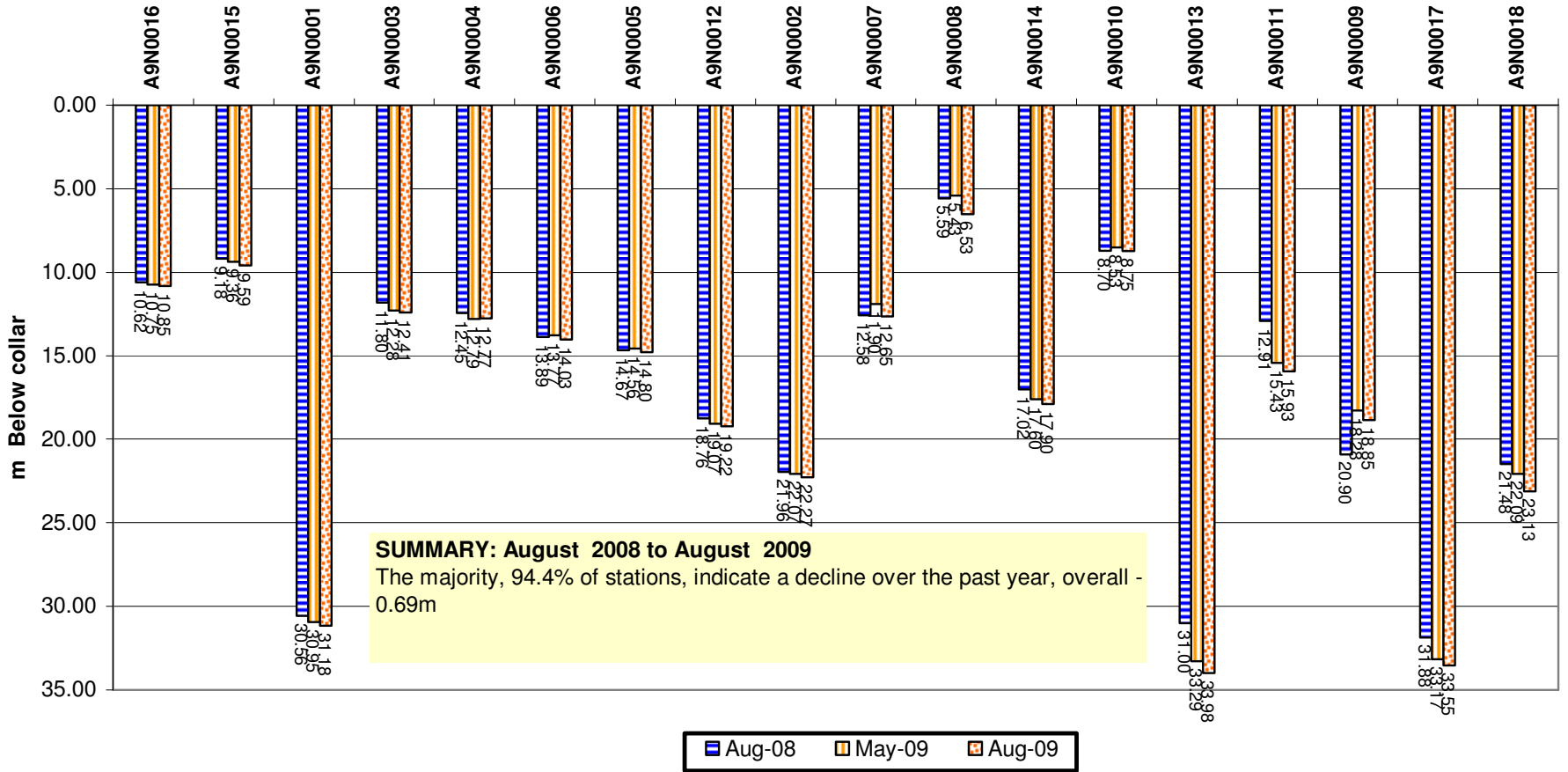
GRAPH 22

A9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



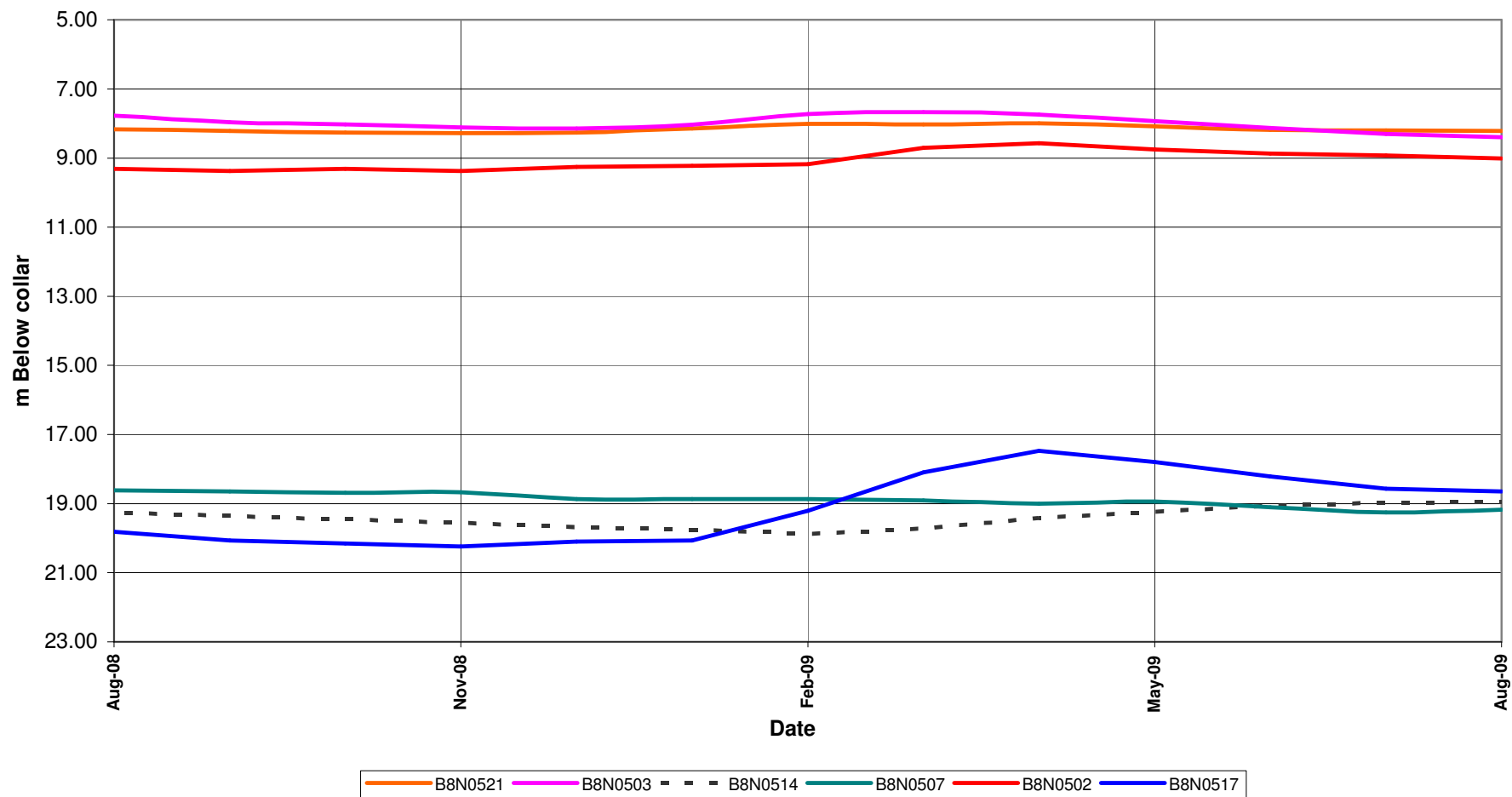
GRAPH 23

A9 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008,
1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009
Monitoring Stations



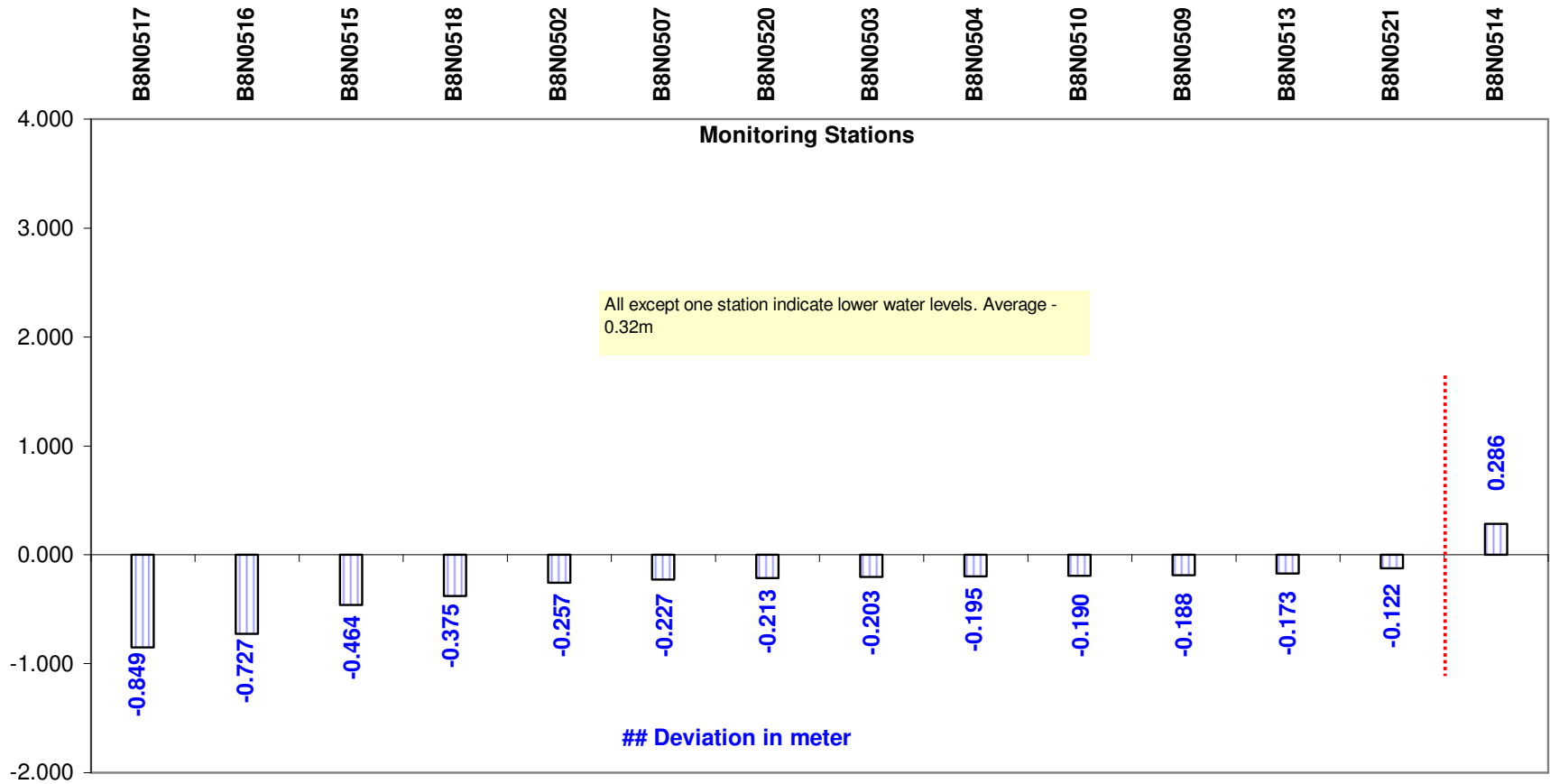
GRAPH 24

Comparison of water level trends at some stations in B8 drainage:
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



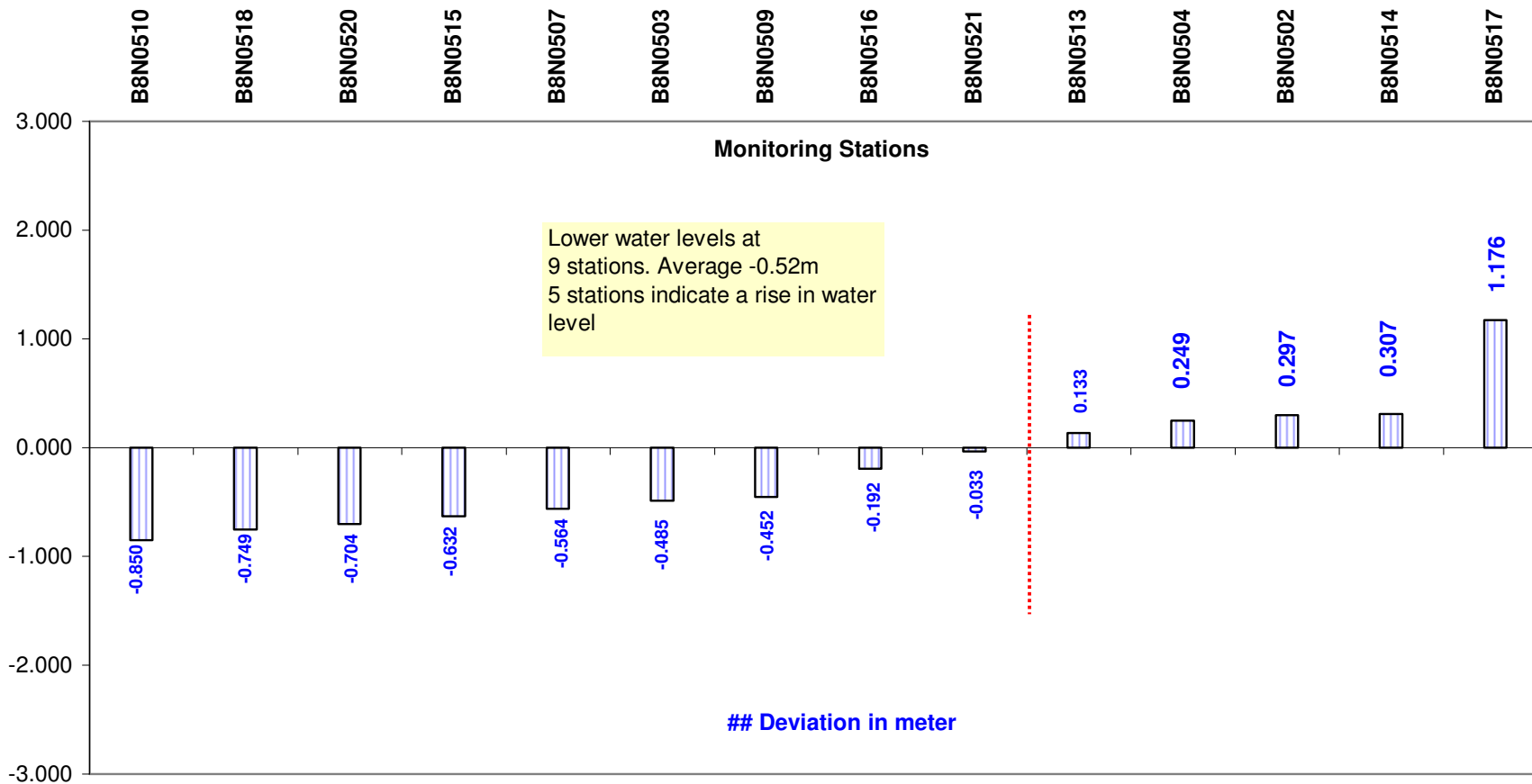
GRAPH 25

B8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



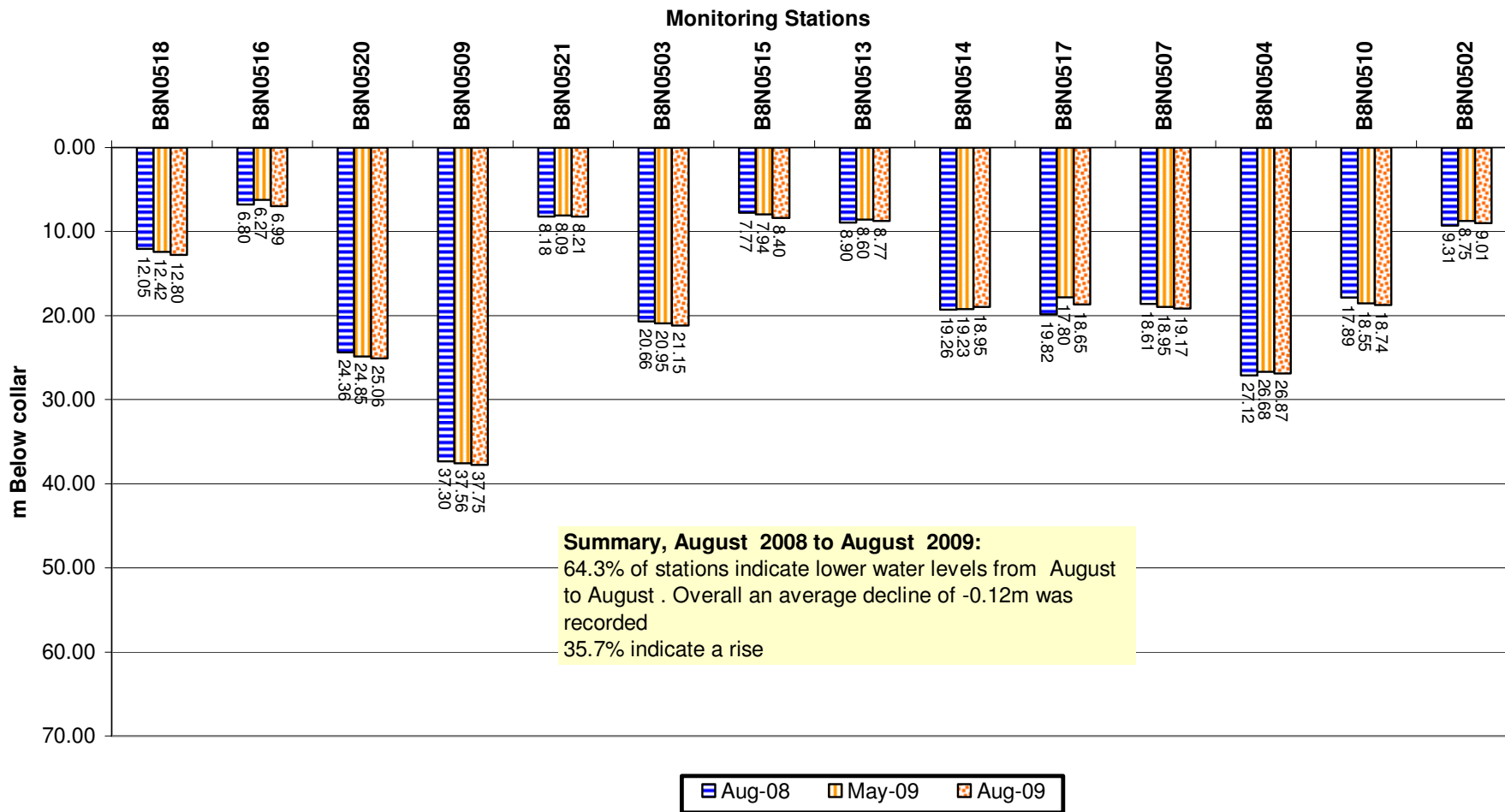
GRAPH 26

B8 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



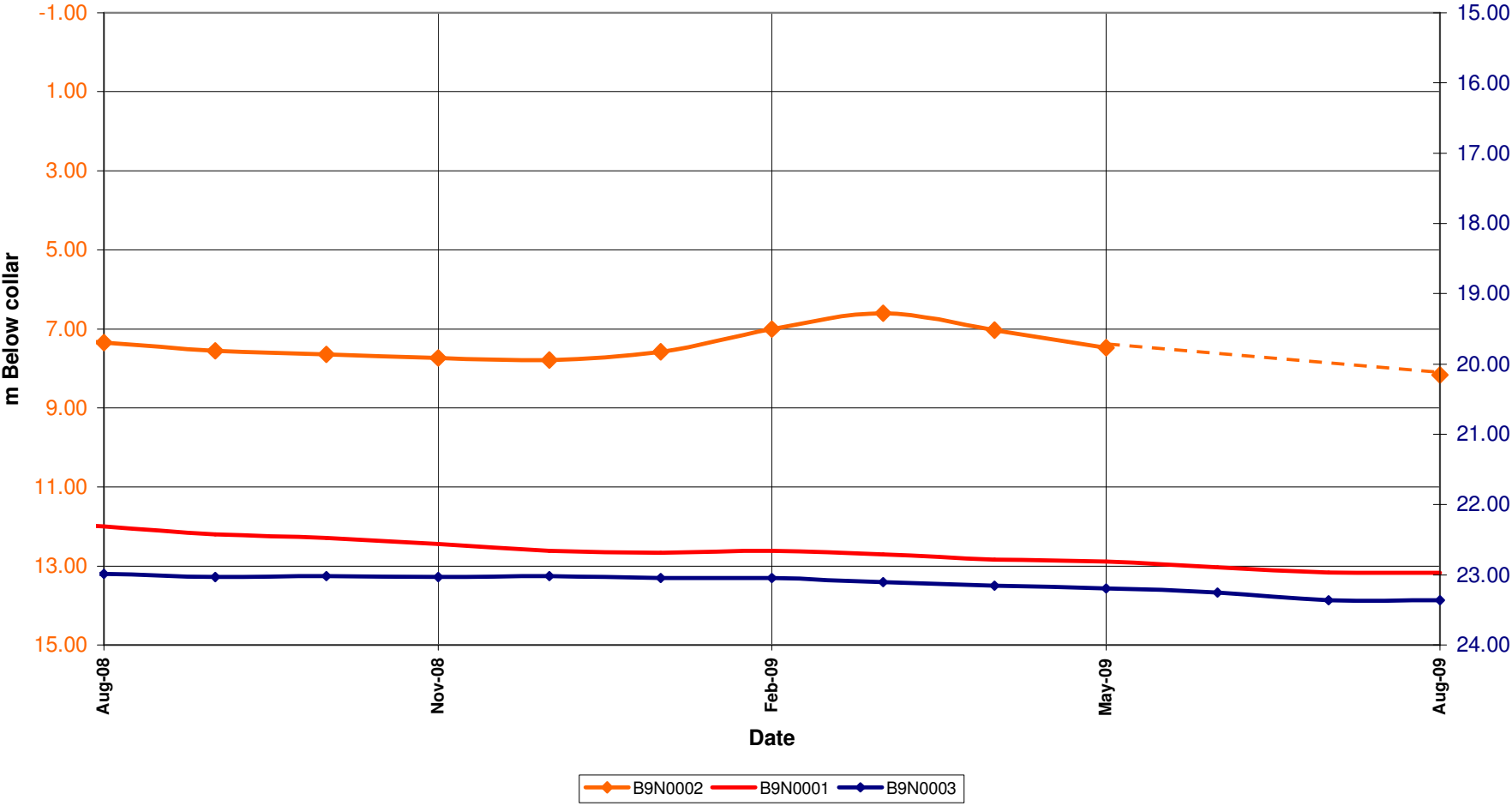
GRAPH 27

B8 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008,
1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009



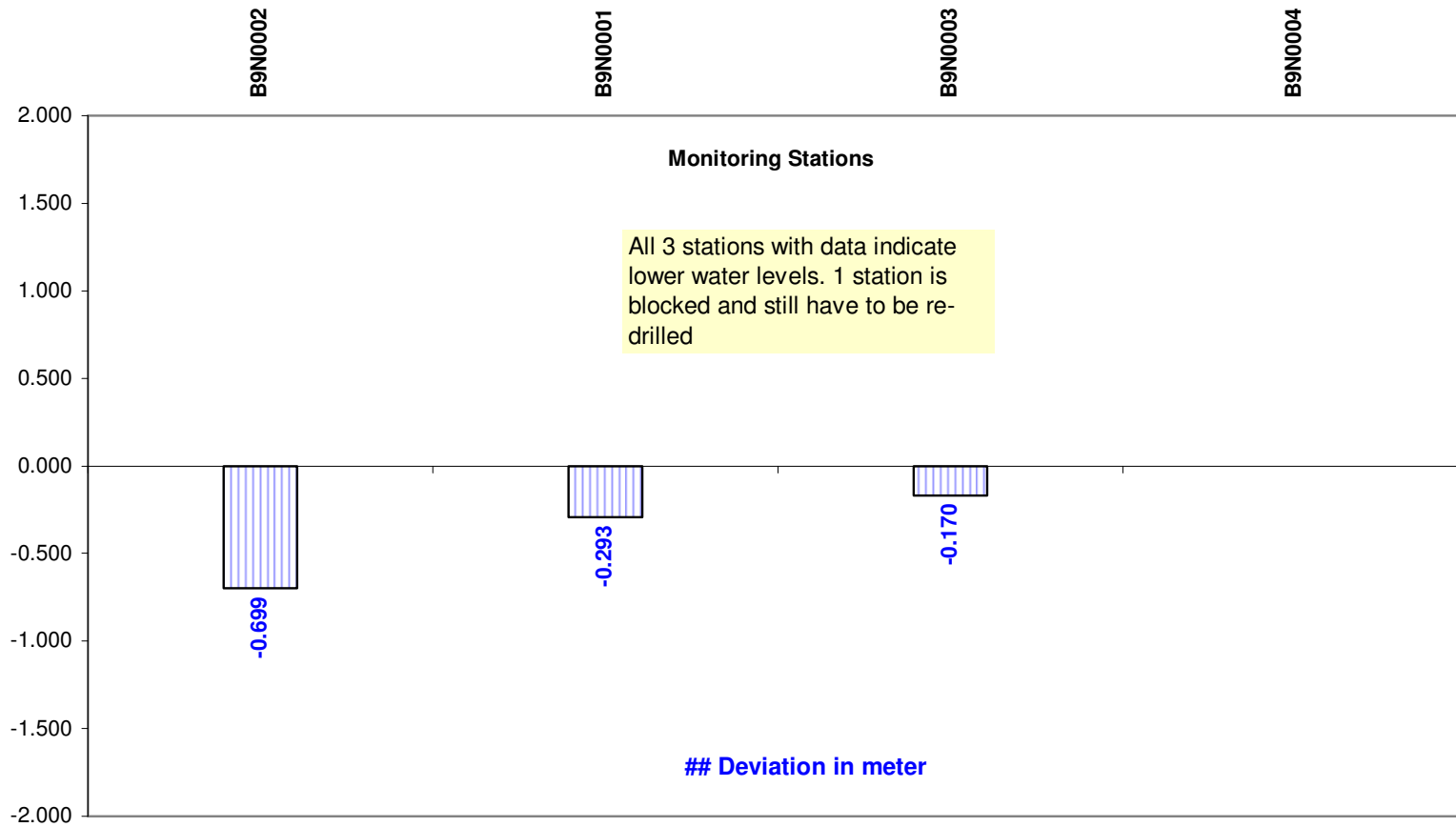
GRAPH 28

**Comparison of water level trends of stations in B9 drainage:
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009**



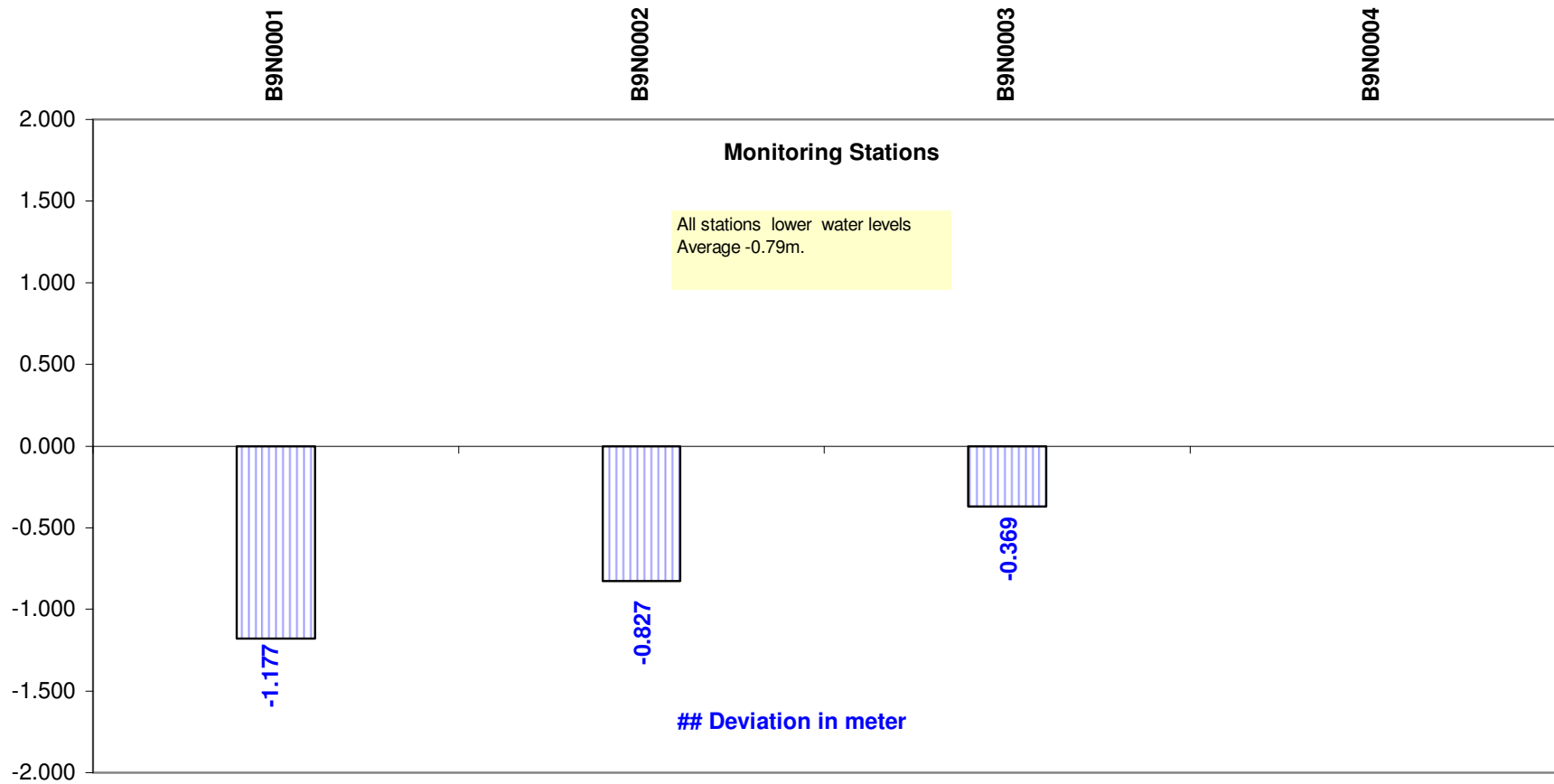
GRAPH 29

B9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



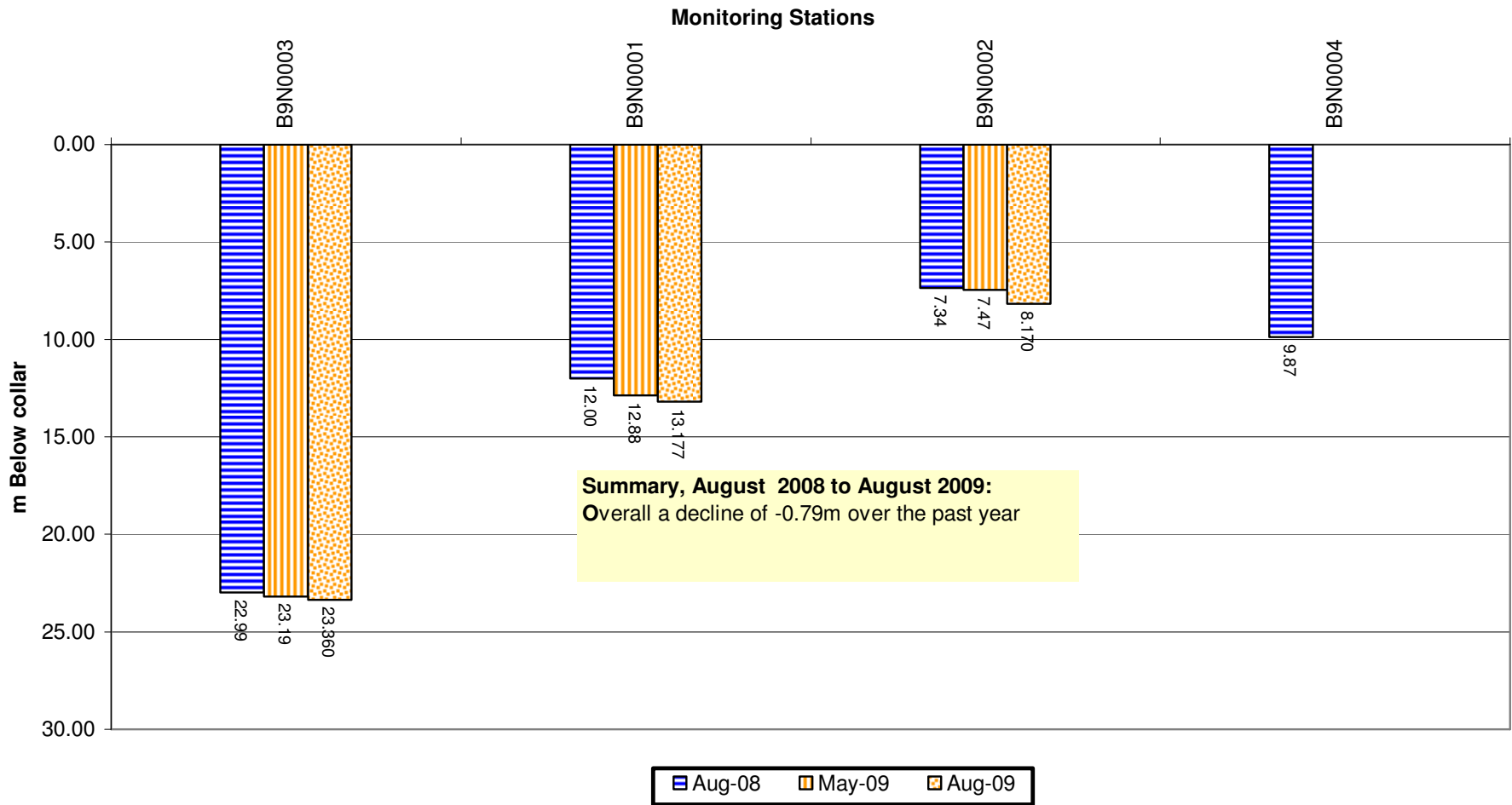
GRAPH 30

B9 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



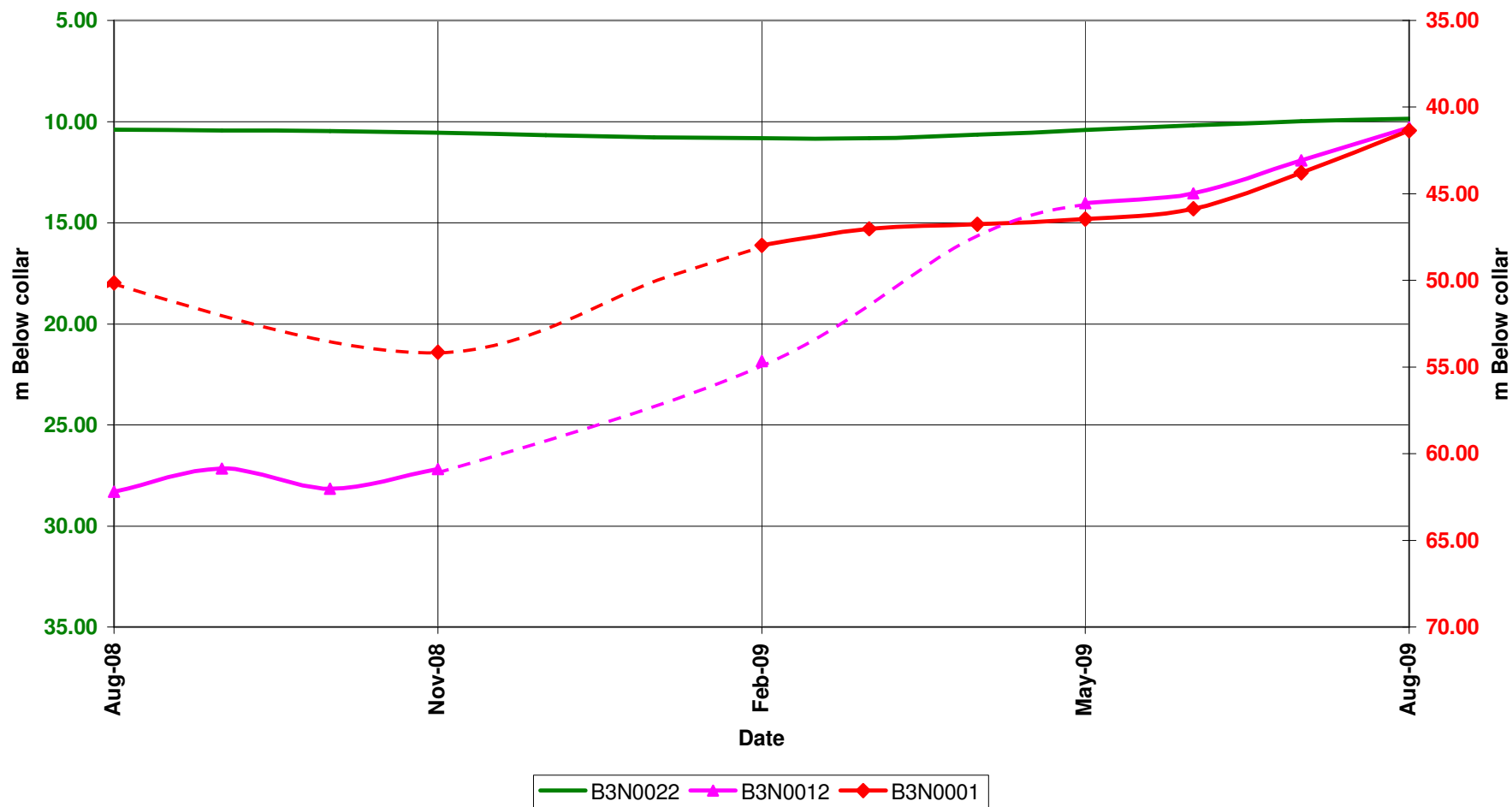
GRAPH 31

B9 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008,
1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009



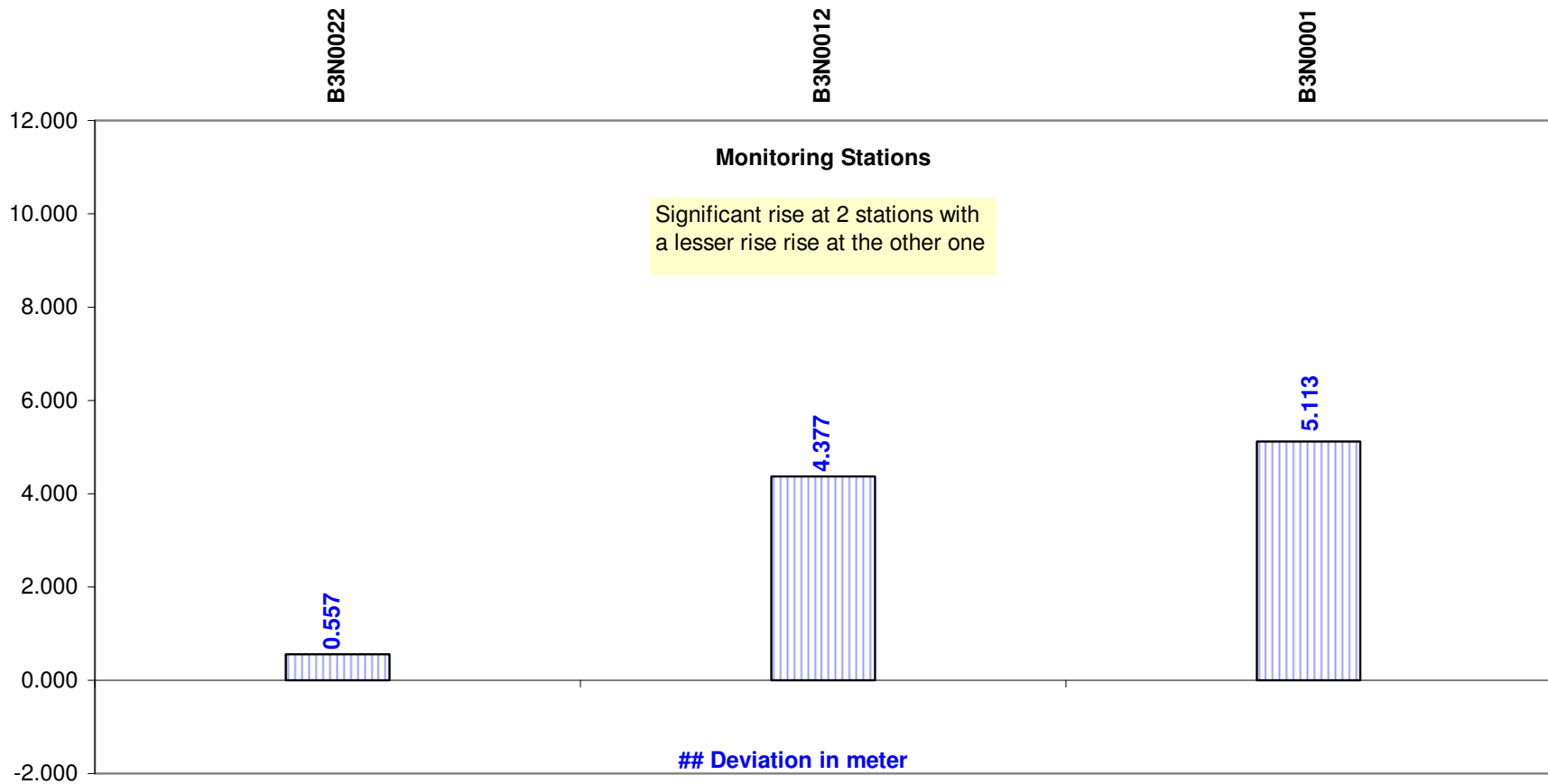
GRAPH 32

Comparison of water level trends at stations in B3 drainage:
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



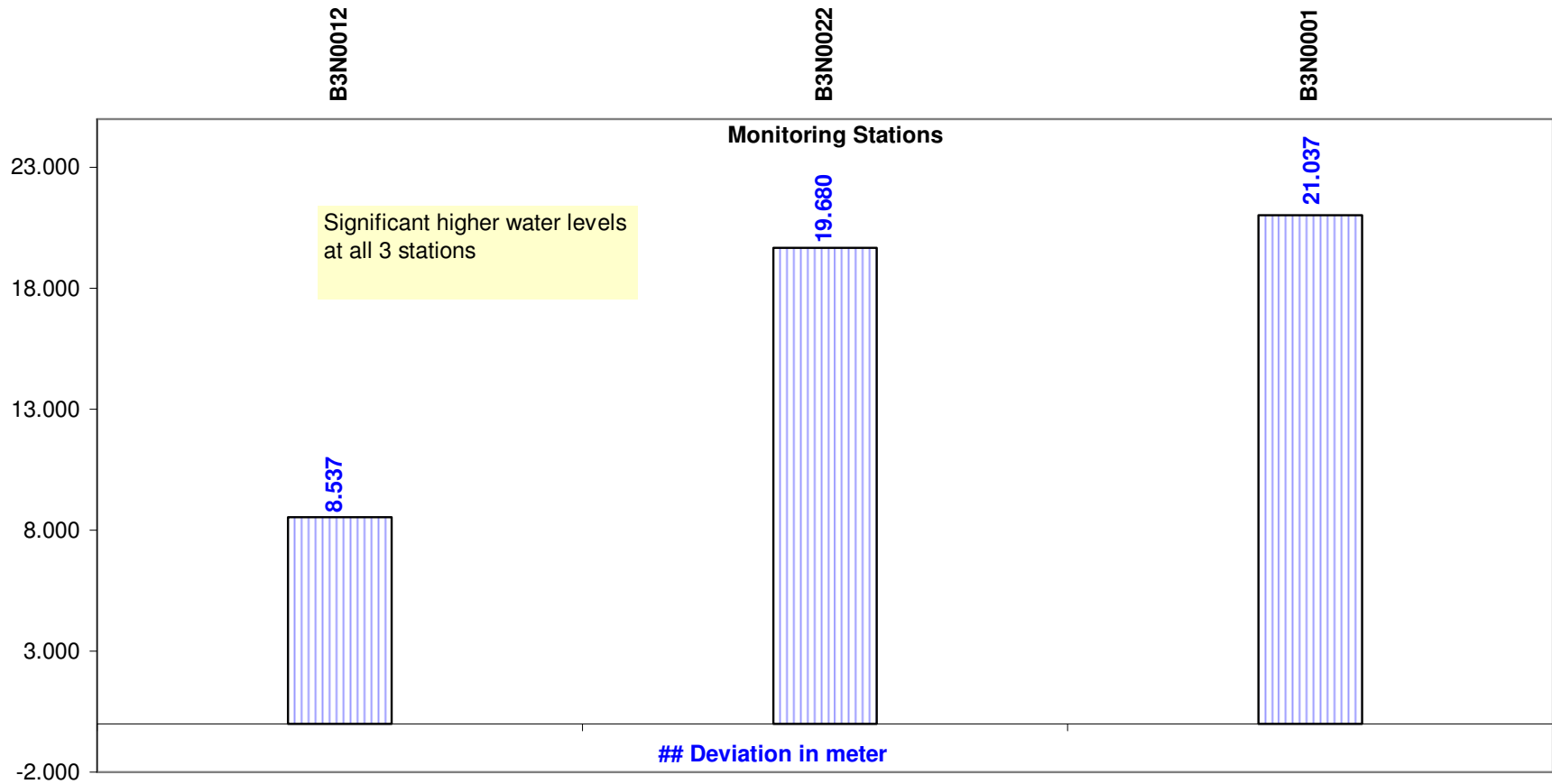
GRAPH 33

B3 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



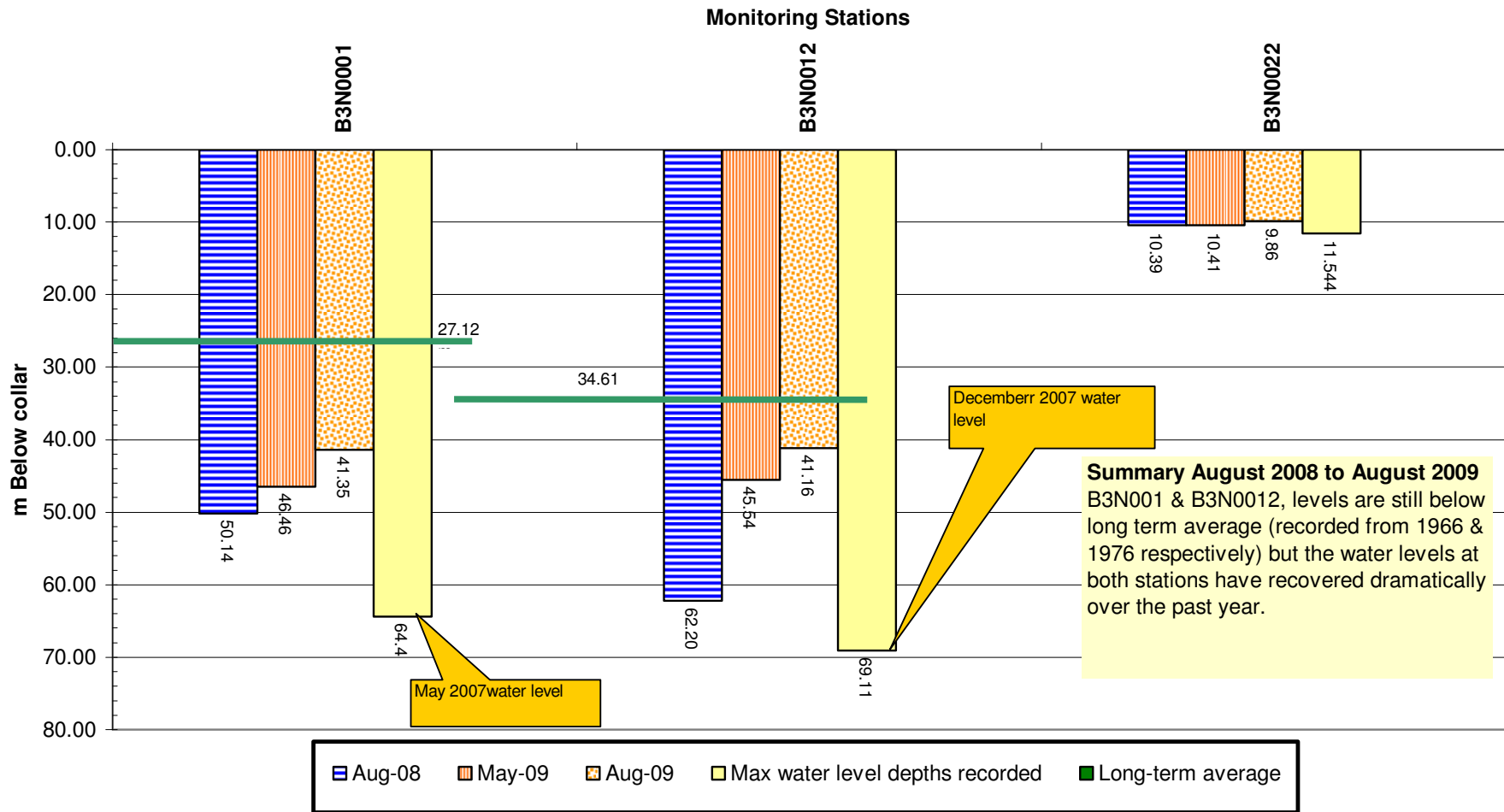
GRAPH 34

B3 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



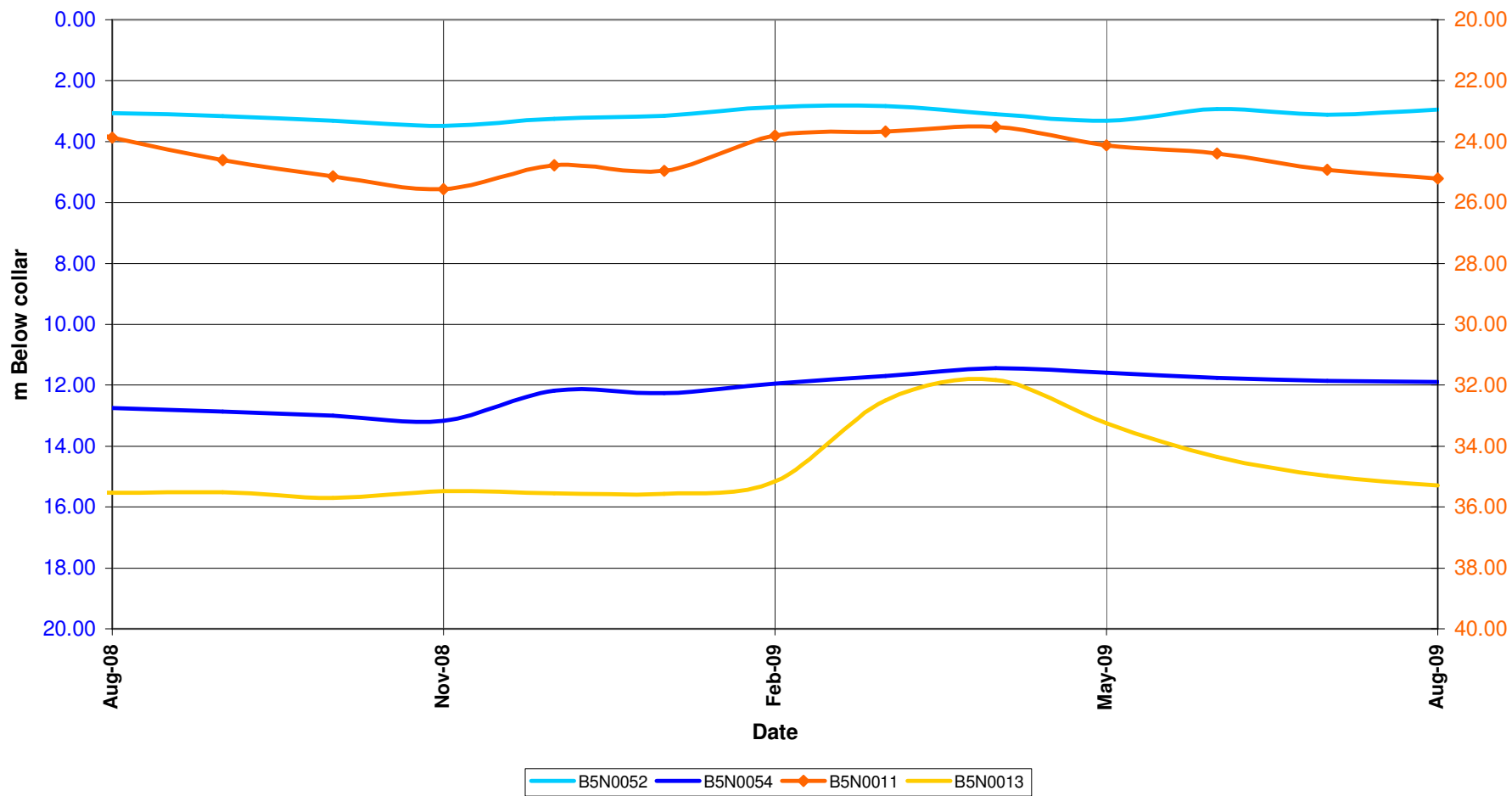
GRAPH 35

B3 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008
1 May 2009, 1 August 2009 and maximum depths recorded



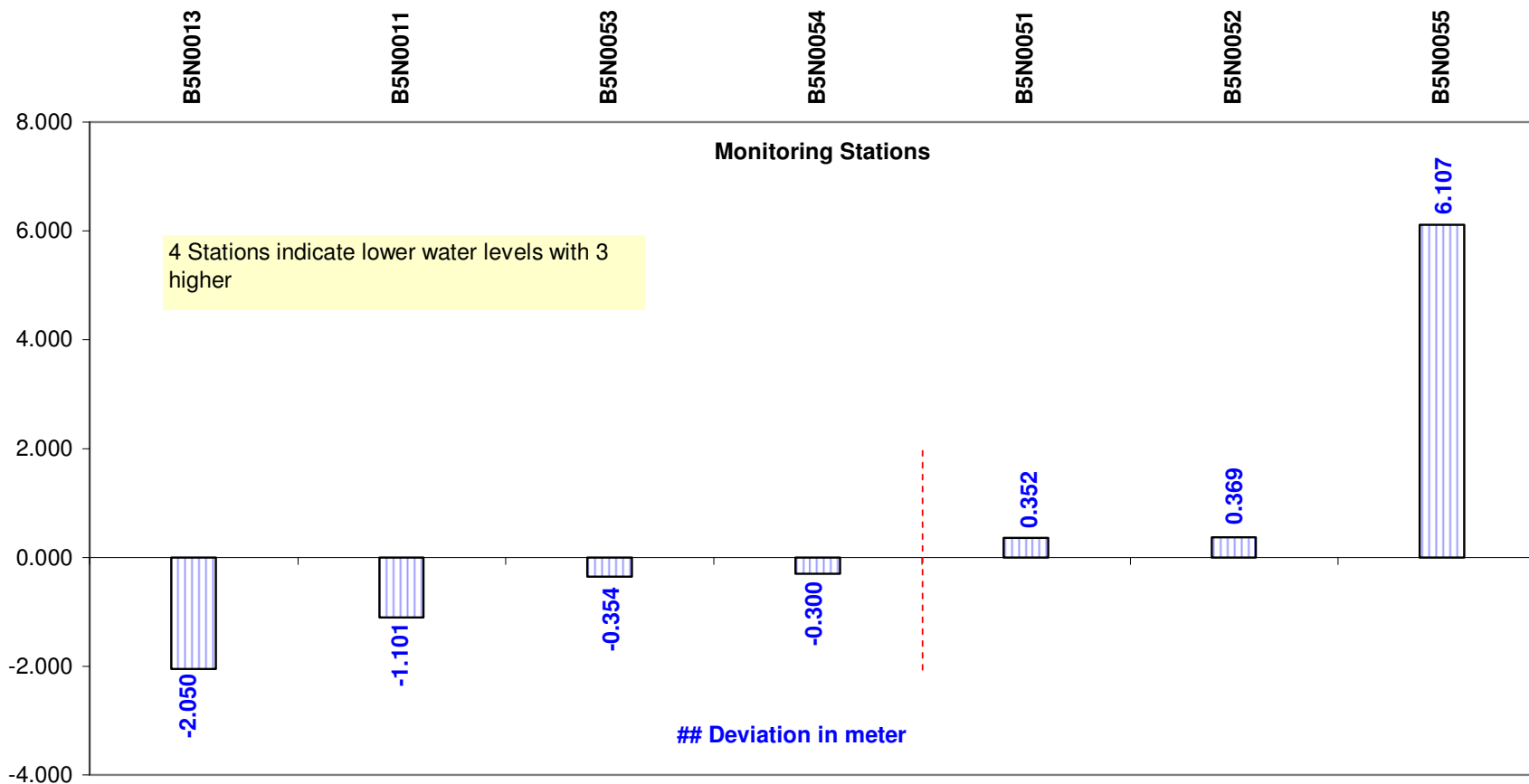
GRAPH 36

**Comparison of water level trends at stations in B5 drainage:
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009**



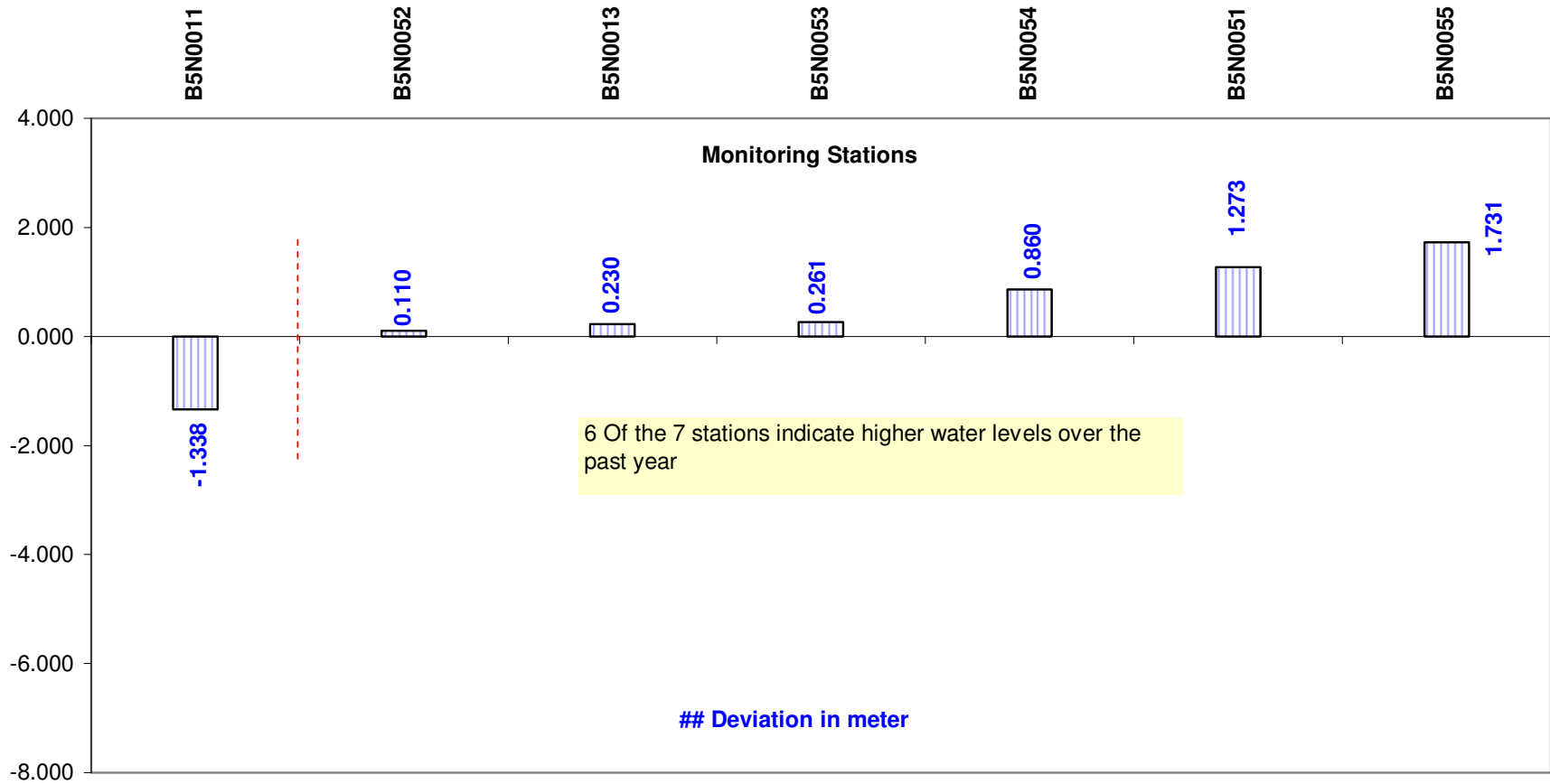
GRAPH 37

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



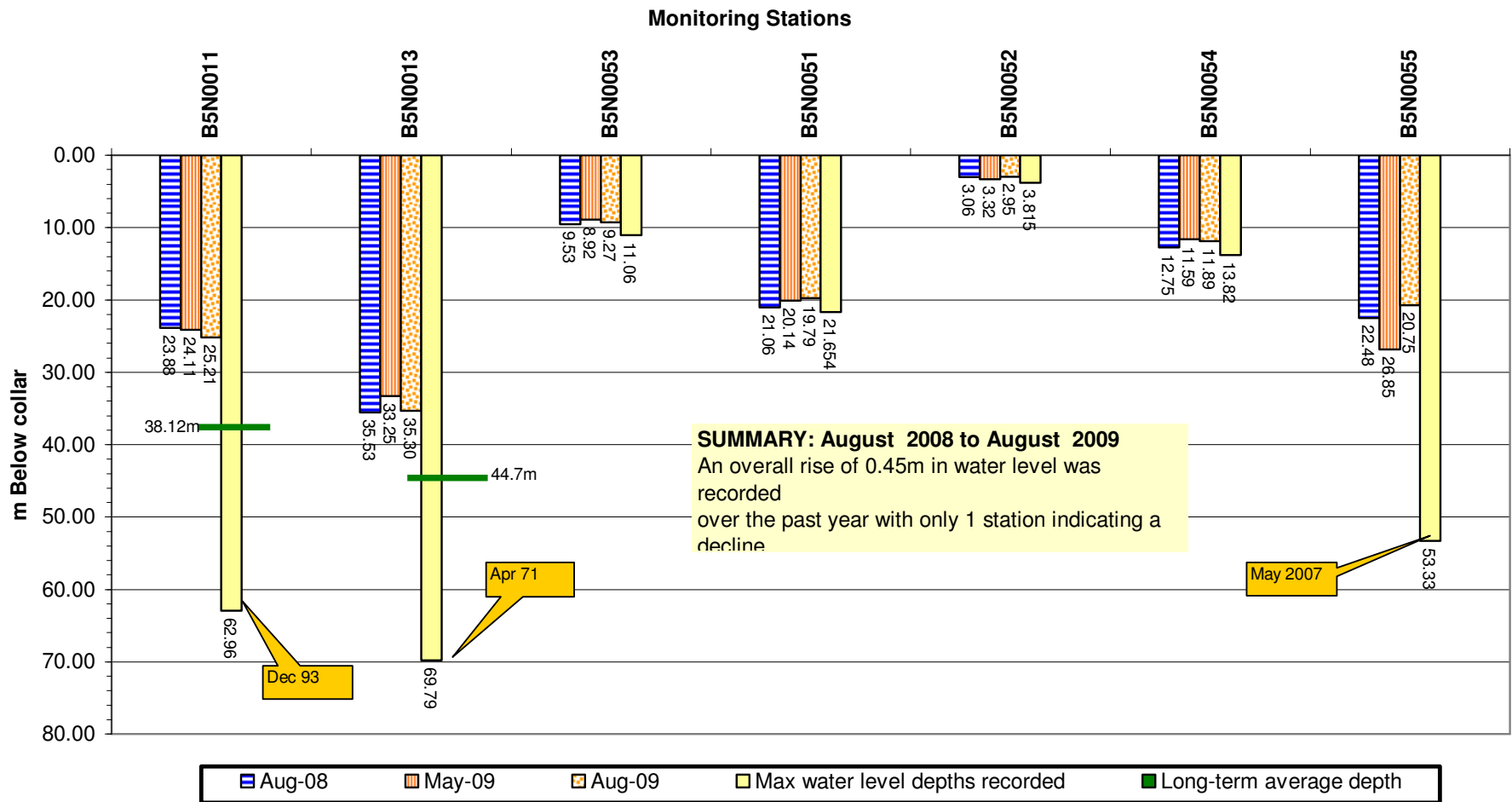
GRAPH 38

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



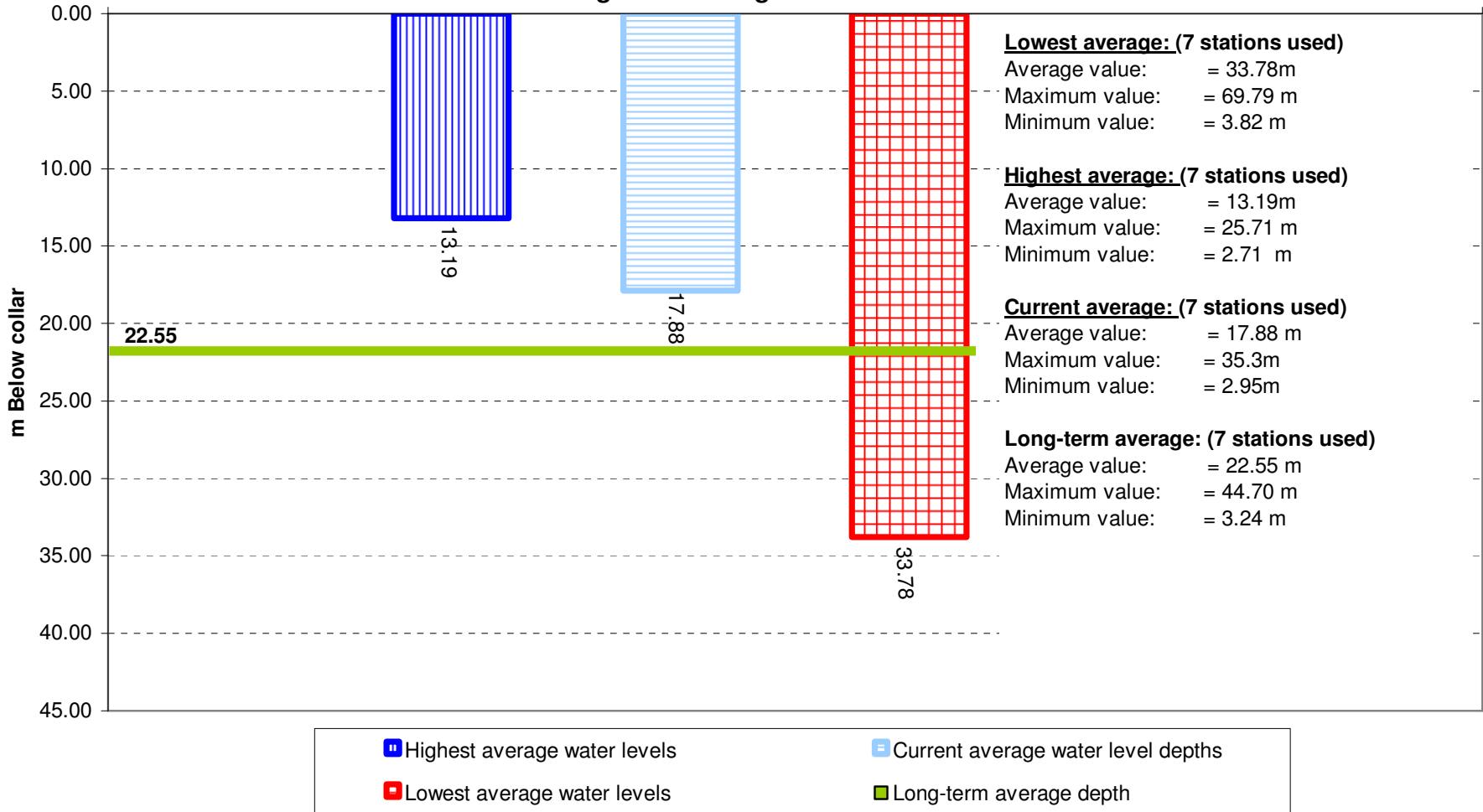
GRAPH 39

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water level depths: 1 August 2008,
1 May 2009 , 1 August 2009 and maximum depths recorded



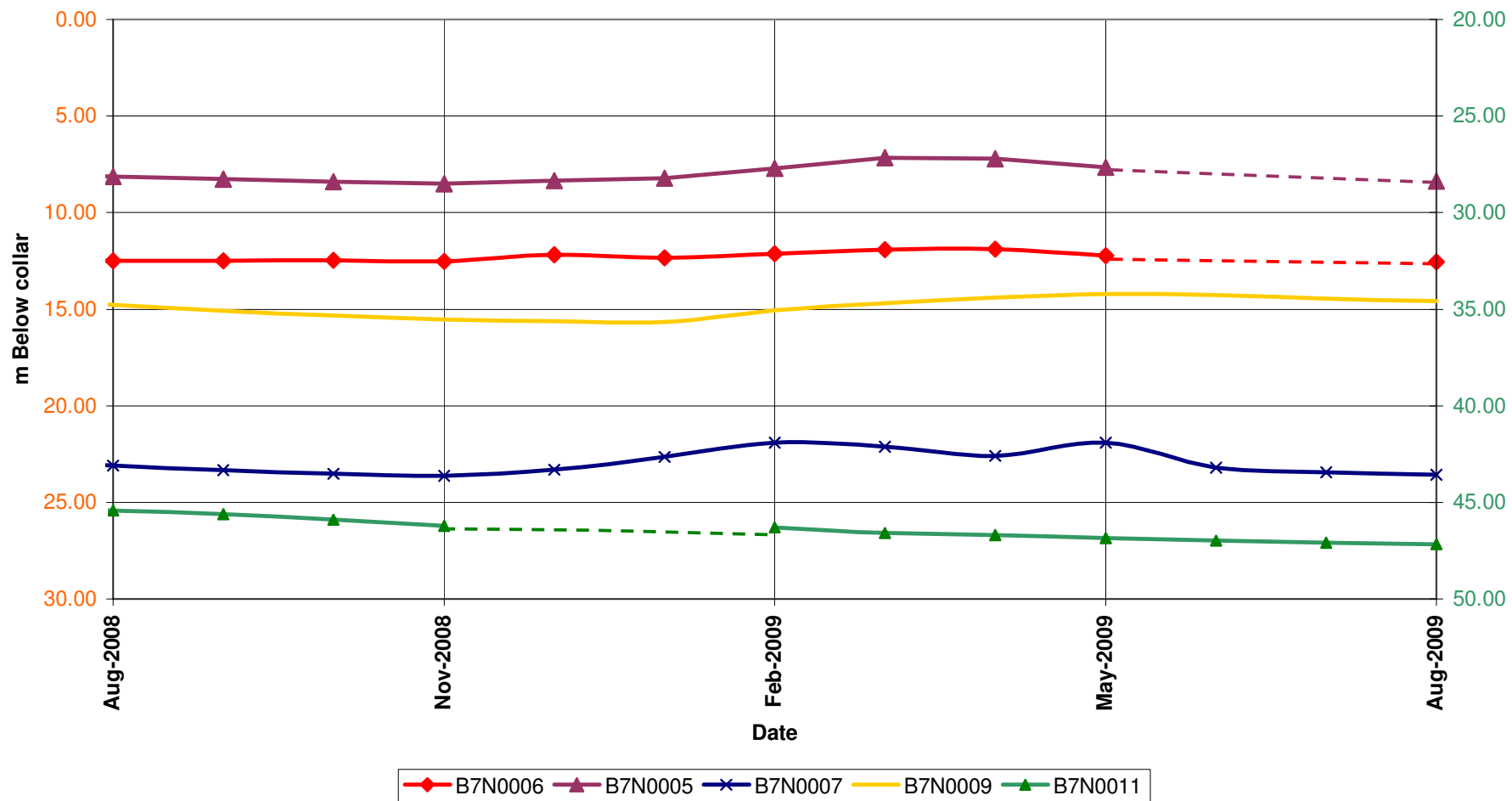
GRAPH 40

B5 DRAINAGE AREA
**Comparison of average current water level with highest,
lowest & long-term average water levels recorded**



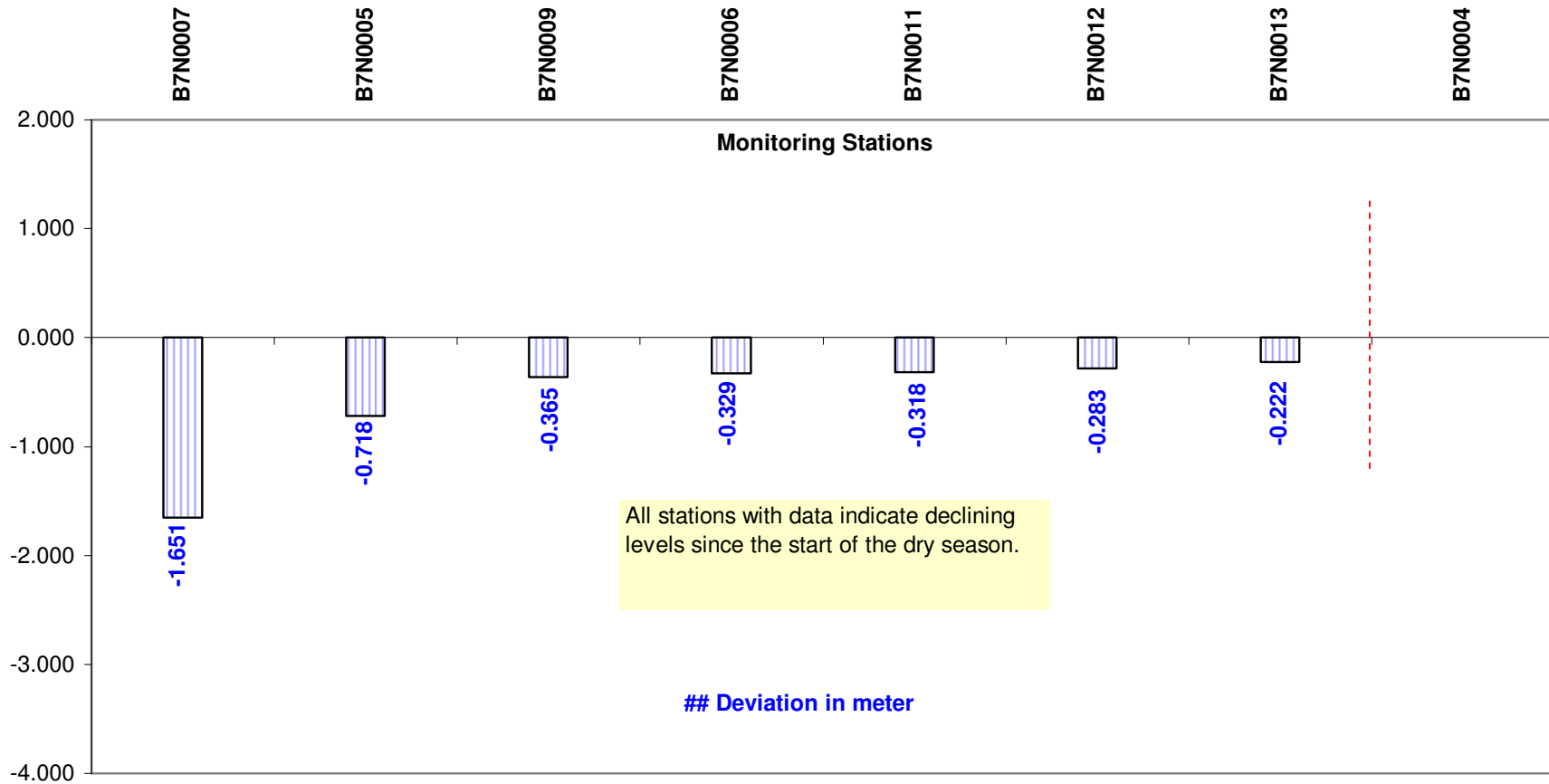
GRAPH 41

Water level trend of some stations in B7 drainage:
1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



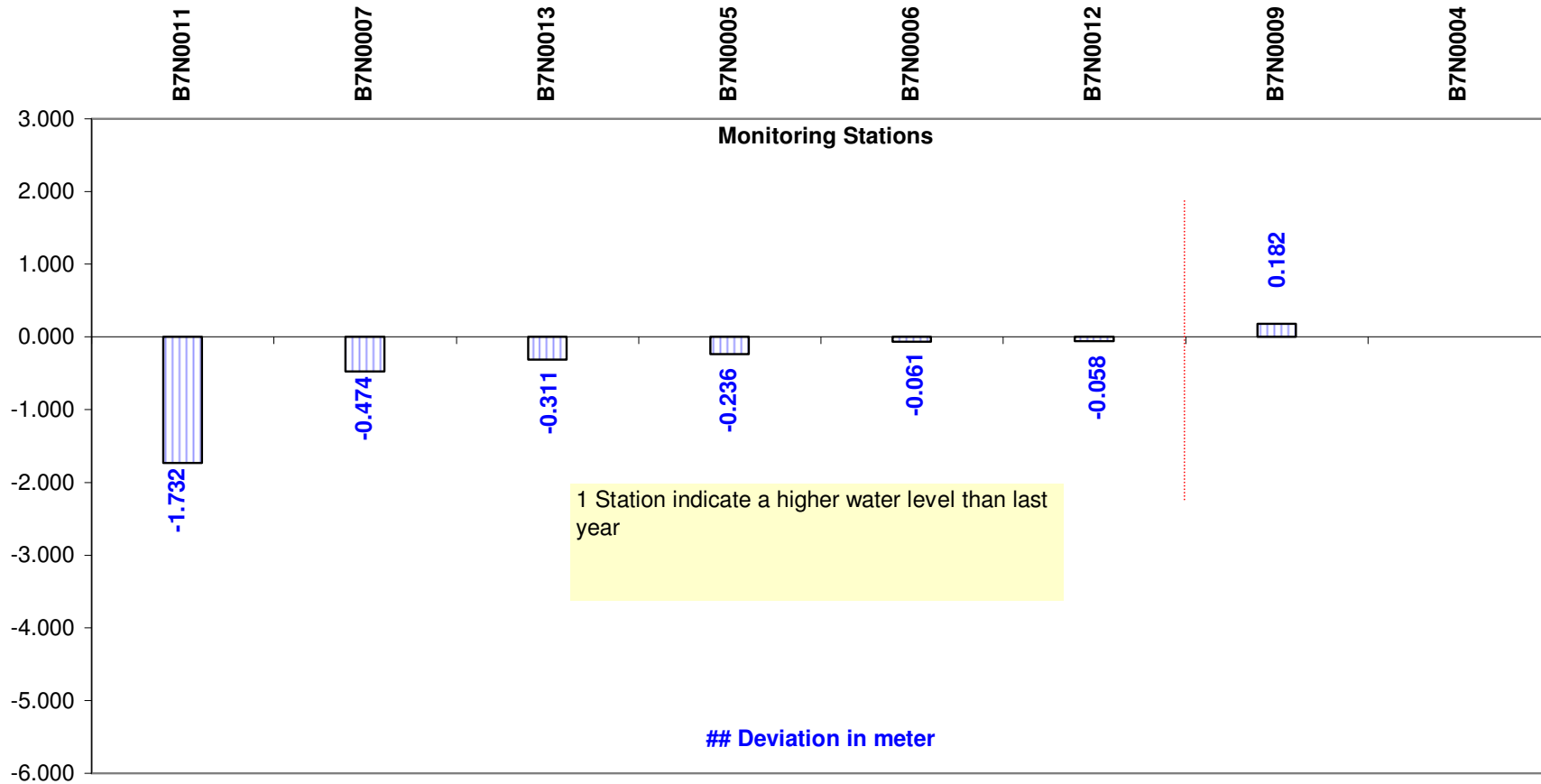
GRAPH 42

B7 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 May 2009 to 1 August 2009



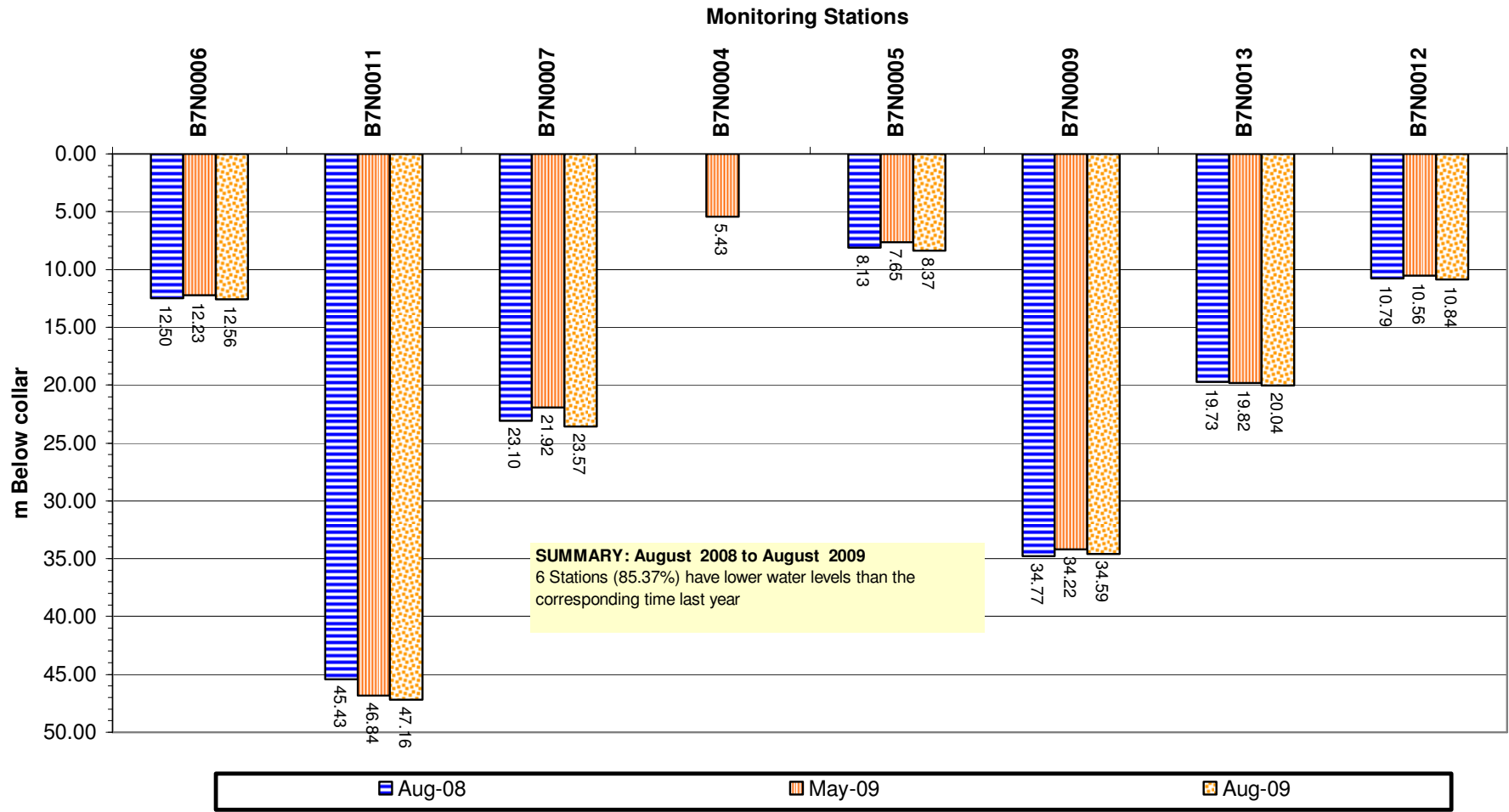
GRAPH 43

B7 DRAINAGE AREA
Deviation of water levels: 1 August 2008 to 1 August 2009



GRAPH 44

B7 DRAINAGE AREA
Comparison between water levels: 1 August 2008,
1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009



GRAPH 45