

Table 3 Results of the regression analysis between mean seasonal abundance of *O. ceratophthalmus* and mean sediment temperature, salinity and pH

| Sediment Temperature (°C) | Equation | R ² |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Veraval | y =0.0498X+1.34 | 0.007 |
| Sutrapada | y =-0.3221X+14.49 | 0.19 |
| Dhamlej | y =-0.0794X+6.57 | 0.011 |
| Kodinar | y =0.1434X+3.98 | 0.03 |
| Sediment Salinity (%) | | |
| Veraval | y =0.0453X+2.68 | 0.116 |
| Sutrapada | y =0.1797X+3.60 | 0.065 |
| Dhamlej | y = -0.4411X+21.0 | 0.482 |
| Kodinar | y =-0.5807X+25.99 | 0.5624** |
| Sediment pH | | |
| Veraval | y = 1.8861X+17.85 | 0.394 |
| Sutrapada | y=-4.504X+40.79 | 0.764*** |
| Dhamlej | y =4.1207X+37.38 | 0.361 |
| Kodinar | y =-4.4688X+40.79 | 0.566** |

Note: ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001