

Table 8. Decision Matrix That Will Be Used to Assess Support of Headwater Aquatic Life Uses for Nutrient-related Water Quality Problems

		Ecological Responses		
		No Data	< All Criteria	> Any Criterion
Nutrient Data (TN or TP)	No Data or < 4 Samples	Not Assessed ^a	Not Assessed ^a	Impaired (5) ^b
	< Low Threshold	Fully Supporting (1 or 2) ^d	Fully Supporting (1 or 2) ^d	Impaired (5) ^{b,e}
	Between Lower and Upper Threshold	Insufficient Data (3A) ^c	Fully Supporting (1 or 2) ^d	Impaired (5)
	Above Upper Threshold	Threatened (5) ^f	Threatened (5) ^{e,f}	Impaired (5)

Note: Associated *Integrated Report* categories are in parentheses.

^aThere are insufficient nutrient-related data to assess whether or not aquatic life uses are supported; however, aquatic life uses may be assessed with other water quality parameters.

^bSites where an ecological response threshold has been exceeded, but the lower TN and TP thresholds have not, will be listed as impaired on the basis of a biological assessment; cause will be listed as unknown pending follow-up investigations.

^cSites where TN or TP fall below the upper threshold, but above the lower threshold, and lack measures for at least one response variable will not be assessed with respect to nutrients. These sites will be prioritized for follow-up monitoring.

^dThe integrated report distinguishes between sites where at least one parameter has been evaluated for all uses (Category 1) and sites where some uses are supported, and other uses are either not supported or not assessed (Category 2).

^eSites where nutrient and ecological response data are in conflict may be candidates for site-specific criteria.

^fSites designated as threatened will automatically become impaired within two assessment cycles unless it can be demonstrated that biological uses are fully supported both locally and protective of downstream uses.