

Water Quality Parameters



Phosphate:

Concentrations over .05 mg/L will likely have impacts on ecosystem
Concentrations over .1 mg/L definitely have impacts on ecosystem

Nitrate:

Natural levels < 1 mg/L
+10 mg/L significant effect on freshwater environment

Organic Waste:

Comes from something living or was once living, raw or poorly treated sewage, runoff from farms and feedlots, decaying aquatic plants and animals, leaves in the water

PHOSPHORUS CYCLE: (Nutrient)

- Enters the water
- Plants take up Phosphorus and grow too much
- Plants (algae) die and sink to the bottom
- Bacteria at the bottom decompose dead plants, using up Oxygen in the process
- Oxygen levels drop, killing fish and other aquatic insects
- Phosphorus continues to enter water
- Cycle continues

NITROGEN CYCLE: (Nutrient)

- Enters the water
- Plants take up Nitrogen and grow and grow
- Plants (algae) die and sink to the bottom
- Bacteria at the bottom decompose dead plants, using up Oxygen in the process
- Oxygen levels drop, killing fish and other aquatic insects
- Nitrogen continues to enter water
- Cycle continues