

RESEARCH NEEDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL NUTRIENT STANDARDS

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Protection of water quality begins with the ability to clearly define whether or not a water body is impaired. Once impairment has been established, federal and state regulations provide a formal mechanism to address the impairment. For certain key parameters such as nutrients and eutrophication, the current challenge is to clearly define impairment so that resources can be directed to the greatest need. Recent attempts to define eutrophication and to develop nutrient criteria have, in some cases, produced conflicting results. Research is needed to clearly define water quality impairment from eutrophication and to establish the role of nutrients in the impairment. This research would be the basis for the creation of meaningful nutrient criteria for marine waters.

Management Implications:

Describes the needs of environmental managers for clear definitions of water quality impairments

Provides examples of research that could improve the definition of impairment for coastal waters such as Barnegat Bay.
