

TABLE 3 [4]

Aquatic Life Subcategories

Aquatic Life Use Subcategory	Dissolved Oxygen Criteria, mg/L			Aquatic Life Attributes					
	Freshwater mean/minimum	Freshwater in Spring mean/minimum	Saltwater mean/minimum	Habitat Characteristics	Species Assemblage	Sensitive species	Diversity	Species Richness	Trophic Structure
Exceptional	6.0/4.0	6.0/5.0	5.0/4.0	Outstanding natural variability	Exceptional or unusual	Abundant	Exceptionally high	Exceptionally high	Balanced
High	5.0/3.0	5.5/4.5	4.0/3.0	Highly diverse	Usual association of regionally expected species	Present	High	High	Balanced to slightly imbalanced
Intermediate	4.0/3.0	5.0/4.0	3.0/2.0	Moderately diverse	Some expected species	Very low in abundance	Moderate	Moderate	Moderately imbalanced
Limited	3.0/2.0	4.0/3.0	-	Uniform	Most regionally expected species absent	Absent	Low	Low	Severely imbalanced
<u>Minimal</u>	<u>2.0/1.5</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Dissolved oxygen means are applied as a minimum average over a 24-hour period.
- Daily minima are not to extend beyond 8 hours per 24-hour day. Lower dissolved oxygen minima may apply on a site-specific basis, when natural daily fluctuations below the mean are greater than the difference between the mean and minima of the appropriate criteria.
- Spring criteria to protect fish spawning periods are applied during that portion of the first half of the year when water temperatures are 63.0°F to 73.0°F.
- Procedures [Quantitative criteria] to support aquatic life attributes are described in the standards implementation procedures chapter "Determining

Water Quality Uses and Criteria".

- Dissolved oxygen analyses and computer models to establish effluent limits for permitted discharges will normally be applied to mean criteria at steady-state, critical conditions.
- Determination of standards attainment for dissolved oxygen criteria is specified in §307.9(d)(6) (relating to Determination of Standards Attainment).
- Minimal aquatic life use has been historically known as no significant aquatic life use.

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