Proposed Amendment To The Water Quality Control Plan – Los Angeles Region With Respect To The Early Life Stage Implementation Provision Of The Inland Surface Water Ammonia Objectives For Freshwaters

Amendment:

Chapter 3. Water Quality Objectives

Ammonia

[*Amendments begin with third paragraph under "Ammonia" in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan and are shown in underline/strikeout text below.*]

The one-hour average objective is dependent on pH and fish species (salmonids present or absent), but not temperature. It is assumed that salmonids may be present in waters designated in the Basin Plan as "COLD" or "MIGR" and that salmonids are absent in waters not designated in the Basin Plan as "COLD" or "MIGR," in the absence of additional information to the contrary. The 30-day average objective is dependent on pH, ~~and~~ temperature and~~. At lower temperatures, the 30-day average objective also is dependent on~~ the presence or absence of early life stages of fish (ELS). Implementation of the ELS Provision is described under "Implementation", subparagraph 3. ~~Water bodies with a Basin Plan designation of "SPWN" support high quality aquatic habitats suitable for reproduction and early development of fish and, therefore, these water bodies are designated as ELS present waters.~~ The four-day average objective is 2.5 times the 30-day average objective.

Table 3-2. 30-day Average Objective for Ammonia-N for Freshwaters Applicable to Waters Subject to the "Early Life Stage Present" Condition ~~Designated SPWN~~ (mg N/L)

Temperature, °C

pH	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6.5	6.67	6.46	6.06	5.68	5.33	4.99	4.68	4.39	4.12	3.86	3.62	3.39	3.18	2.98	2.80	2.62	2.46
6.6	6.57	6.36	5.97	5.59	5.25	4.92	4.61	4.32	4.05	3.80	3.56	3.34	3.13	2.94	2.75	2.58	2.42
6.7	6.44	6.25	5.86	5.49	5.15	4.83	4.52	4.24	3.98	3.73	3.50	3.28	3.07	2.88	2.70	2.53	2.37
6.8	6.29	6.10	5.72	5.36	5.03	4.72	4.42	4.14	3.89	3.64	3.42	3.20	3.00	2.82	2.64	2.47	2.32
6.9	6.12	5.93	5.56	5.21	4.89	4.58	4.30	4.03	3.78	3.54	3.32	3.11	2.92	2.74	2.57	2.41	2.25
7.0	5.91	5.73	5.37	5.04	4.72	4.43	4.15	3.89	3.65	3.42	3.21	3.01	2.82	2.64	2.48	2.32	2.18
7.1	5.67	5.49	5.15	4.83	4.53	4.25	3.98	3.73	3.50	3.28	3.08	2.88	2.70	2.53	2.38	2.23	2.09
7.2	5.39	5.22	4.90	4.59	4.31	4.04	3.78	3.55	3.33	3.12	2.92	2.74	2.57	2.41	2.26	2.12	1.99
7.3	5.08	4.92	4.61	4.33	4.06	3.80	3.57	3.34	3.13	2.94	2.76	2.58	2.42	2.27	2.13	2.00	1.87
7.4	4.73	4.59	4.30	4.03	3.78	3.55	3.32	3.12	2.92	2.74	2.57	2.41	2.26	2.12	1.98	1.86	1.74
7.5	4.36	4.23	3.97	3.72	3.49	3.27	3.06	2.87	2.69	2.53	2.37	2.22	2.08	1.95	1.83	1.72	1.61
7.6	3.98	3.85	3.61	3.39	3.18	2.98	2.79	2.62	2.45	2.30	2.16	2.02	1.90	1.78	1.67	1.56	1.47
7.7	3.58	3.47	3.25	3.05	2.86	2.68	2.51	2.36	2.21	2.07	1.94	1.82	1.71	1.60	1.50	1.41	1.32
7.8	3.18	3.09	2.89	2.71	2.54	2.38	2.23	2.10	1.96	1.84	1.73	1.62	1.52	1.42	1.33	1.25	1.17
7.9	2.80	2.71	2.54	2.38	2.24	2.10	1.96	1.84	1.73	1.62	1.52	1.42	1.33	1.25	1.17	1.10	1.03
8.0	2.43	2.36	2.21	2.07	1.94	1.82	1.71	1.60	1.50	1.41	1.32	1.24	1.16	1.09	1.02	0.957	0.897
8.1	2.10	2.03	1.91	1.79	1.68	1.57	1.47	1.38	1.29	1.21	1.14	1.07	1.00	0.938	0.879	0.824	0.773
8.2	1.79	1.74	1.63	1.53	1.43	1.34	1.26	1.18	1.11	1.04	0.973	0.912	0.855	0.802	0.752	0.705	0.661
8.3	1.52	1.48	1.39	1.30	1.22	1.14	1.07	1.00	0.941	0.882	0.827	0.775	0.727	0.682	0.639	0.599	0.562
8.4	1.29	1.25	1.17	1.10	1.03	0.966	0.906	0.849	0.796	0.747	0.700	0.656	0.615	0.577	0.541	0.507	0.475
8.5	1.09	1.06	0.990	0.928	0.870	0.816	0.765	0.717	0.672	0.630	0.591	0.554	0.520	0.487	0.457	0.428	0.401
8.6	0.920	0.892	0.836	0.784	0.735	0.689	0.646	0.606	0.568	0.532	0.499	0.468	0.439	0.411	0.386	0.362	0.339
8.7	0.778	0.754	0.707	0.663	0.622	0.583	0.547	0.512	0.480	0.450	0.422	0.396	0.371	0.348	0.326	0.306	0.287
8.8	0.661	0.641	0.601	0.563	0.528	0.495	0.464	0.435	0.408	0.383	0.359	0.336	0.315	0.296	0.277	0.260	0.244
8.9	0.565	0.548	0.513	0.481	0.451	0.423	0.397	0.372	0.349	0.327	0.306	0.287	0.269	0.253	0.237	0.222	0.208
9.0	0.486	0.471	0.442	0.414	0.389	0.364	0.342	0.320	0.300	0.281	0.264	0.247	0.232	0.217	0.204	0.191	0.179

* At temperatures below 14 °C, the objective is the same as that shown for 14 °C.

Reference: U.S. EPA 1999 Update of Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia[1]

[1] For freshwaters subject to the "Early Life Stage Present" condition ~~designated SPWN~~, the thirty-day average concentration of total ammonia as nitrogen (in mg N/L) shall not exceed the values described by the following equation.

$$\text{30-day Average Concentration} = \left(\frac{0.0577}{1+10^{7.688-pH}} + \frac{2.487}{1+10^{pH-7.688}} \right) * MIN\left(2.85, 1.45*10^{0.028*(25-T)}\right)$$

Where T = temperature expressed in ºC.

In addition, for freshwaters, the highest four-day average within the 30-day period shall not exceed 2.5 times the 30-day average objective as calculated above.

Table 3-3. 30-day Average Objective for Ammonia-N for Freshwaters Applicable to Waters Subject to the "Early Life Stage Absent" Condition ~~Not Designated SPWN~~ (mg N/L)

	Temperature, °C								
pH	**0-7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15***
6.5	10.8	10.1	9.51	8.92	8.36	7.84	7.35	6.89	6.46
6.6	10.7	9.99	9.37	8.79	8.24	7.72	7.24	6.79	6.36
6.7	10.5	9.81	9.20	8.62	8.08	7.58	7.11	6.66	6.25
6.8	10.2	9.58	8.98	8.42	7.90	7.40	6.94	6.51	6.10
6.9	9.93	9.31	8.73	8.19	7.68	7.20	6.75	6.33	5.93
7.0	9.60	9.00	8.43	7.91	7.41	6.95	6.52	6.11	5.73
7.1	9.20	8.63	8.09	7.58	7.11	6.67	6.25	5.86	5.49
7.2	8.75	8.20	7.69	7.21	6.76	6.34	5.94	5.57	5.22
7.3	8.24	7.73	7.25	6.79	6.37	5.97	5.60	5.25	4.92
7.4	7.69	7.21	6.76	6.33	5.94	5.57	5.22	4.89	4.59
7.5	7.09	6.64	6.23	5.84	5.48	5.13	4.81	4.51	4.23
7.6	6.46	6.05	5.67	5.32	4.99	4.68	4.38	4.11	3.85
7.7	5.81	5.45	5.11	4.79	4.49	4.21	3.95	3.70	3.47
7.8	5.17	4.84	4.54	4.26	3.99	3.74	3.51	3.29	3.09
7.9	4.54	4.26	3.99	3.74	3.51	3.29	3.09	2.89	2.71
8.0	3.95	3.70	3.47	3.26	3.05	2.86	2.68	2.52	2.36
8.1	3.41	3.19	2.99	2.81	2.63	2.47	2.31	2.17	2.03
8.2	2.91	2.73	2.56	2.40	2.25	2.11	1.98	1.85	1.74
8.3	2.47	2.32	2.18	2.04	1.91	1.79	1.68	1.58	1.48
8.4	2.09	1.96	1.84	1.73	1.62	1.52	1.42	1.33	1.25
8.5	1.77	1.66	1.55	1.46	1.37	1.28	1.20	1.13	1.06
8.6	1.49	1.40	1.31	1.23	1.15	1.08	1.01	0.951	0.892
8.7	1.26	1.18	1.11	1.04	0.976	0.915	0.858	0.805	0.754
8.8	1.07	1.01	0.944	0.885	0.829	0.778	0.729	0.684	0.641
8.9	0.917	0.86	0.806	0.756	0.709	0.664	0.623	0.584	0.548
9.0	0.790	0.740	0.694	0.651	0.610	0.572	0.536	0.503	0.471

* At 15 °C and above, the regional 30-day average objective for waters subject to the "Early Life Stage Absent" condition ~~not designated SPWN~~ is the same as that for waters subject to the "Early Life Stage Present" condition ~~designated SPWN~~.

Reference: U.S. EPA 1999 Update of Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia[2]

[2] For freshwaters subject to the "Early Life Stage Absent" condition~~not designated SPWN~~, the thirty-day average concentration of total ammonia as nitrogen (in mg N/L) shall not exceed the values described by the following equation.

$$\text{30-day Average Concentration} = \left(\frac{0.0577}{1+10^{7.688-pH}} + \frac{2.487}{1+10^{pH-7.688}} \right) * 1.45 * 10^{0.028*(25-MAX(T,7))}$$

Where T = temperature expressed in ºC.

In addition, for freshwaters, the highest four-day average within the 30-day period shall not exceed 2.5 times the 30-day average objective as calculated above.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation Provisions for the Application of Ammonia Objectives to Inland Surface Waters in the Los Angeles Region

3. Selection of 30-day Average Objective – Early Life Stage (ELS) Provision

Early life stages are presumptively present and must be protected at all times of the year unless the water body is listed in Table 3-X or unless a site-specific study is conducted, which justifies applying the ELS absent condition or a seasonal ELS present condition. Any change in the implementation provision for the ELS present/absent condition, including the assignment of water bodies, must be approved through the Basin Plan Amendment process. To justify the ELS absent provision, information regarding fish species distributions, spawning periods, nursery periods and the duration of early life stages found in the water body must be presented. Expert opinions from fisheries biologists and other scientists will be considered. Where it can be obtained, a consensus opinion from a diverse body of experts would carry significant weight in determining the presence or absence of the ELS. Information on water body temperature, including spatial, seasonal and inter-annual variability will also be considered. The determination of the time frame during the year when early life stages are most likely not to be present in numbers that, if chronic toxicity did occur, would affect the long-term success of the fish populations, should include adequate scientific justification. The Regional Board will use the record supporting a Basin Plan amendment as the basis upon which to approve or disapprove changes to these implementation provisions for the 30-day average ammonia objective. The record should clearly explain all the factors and information considered in arriving at the determination. The Regional Board will consider and weigh the breadth and depth of scientific evidence in determining whether to remove the early life stage specification of a water body.

~~Water bodies with a Basin Plan designation of "SPWN" support high quality aquatic habitats suitable for reproduction and early development of fish and, therefore, these water bodies are designated as ELS present waters. Early Life Stages are assumed present year-round unless a site-specific study is conducted which justifies a seasonal provision. The Basin Plan Amendment process must be followed to develop a seasonal beneficial use designation.~~

Table 3-X. Water Bodies Subject to 30-day Average Objective Applicable to "ELS Absent" Condition*

Hydro Unit No.	Waterbody
VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED	
402.10	Canada Larga
CALLEGUAS-CONEJO CREEK WATERSHED	
403.11	Calleguas Creek
403.11	Revolon Slough
403.61	Beardsley Wash
403.12	Conejo Creek
403.63	Conejo Creek
403.64	Arroyo Conejo
406.68	Arroyo Conejo
403.12	Arroyo Las Posas
403.62	Arroyo Las Posas
403.62	Arroyo Simi
403.67	Arroyo Simi
MALIBU CREEK WATERSHED	
404.23	Medea Creek
404.24	Medea Creek
404.24	Triunfo Creek
404.25	Triunfo Creek
BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED	
405.13	Ballona Creek to Estuary
405.15	Ballona Creek
DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL WATERSHED	
405.12	Dominguez Channel to Estuary
LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED	
405.12	Los Angeles River to Estuary
405.15	Los Angeles River
405.21	Los Angeles River
405.15	Rio Hondo below Spreading Grounds
405.15	Rio Hondo to Spreading Grounds
405.41	Rio Hondo (except from Whittier Narrows to 4 miles north)
405.32	Arroyo Seco
405.21	Tujunga Wash
405.15	Compton Creek

Hydro Unit No.	Waterbody
405.15	Arroyo Seco S. Of Devil's Gates (L)
405.31	Arroyo Seco S. Of Devil's Gates (U)
405.21	Burbank Western Channel
405.21	Pacoima Wash
SAN GABRIEL RIVER WATERSHED	
405.15	San Gabriel River: Firestone Blvd-Estuary
405.15	San Gabriel River: Whittier N-Firestone (2)
405.41	San Gabriel River
405.42	San Gabriel River
405.15	Coyote Creek to Estuary
405.41	San Jose Creek
405.51	San Jose Creek

Notes:

1) All wetlands/estuaries and lagoons are assumed to have ELS.

2) Whittier Narrows flood control basin is listed separately in the Basin Plan

3) Based on published literature and expert opinion, fish species known to reproduce in significant numbers below 15 degrees Celsius are absent in these water bodies, or the water bodies are known to have physical conditions that preclude reproduction and early development of these species in significant numbers. These species include: steelhead/rainbow trout, three-spine stickleback, brown trout, prickly sculpin, staghorn sculpin, striped mullet, starry flounder, arrow goby, and Pacific lamprey.