The National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS)
Nutrient Results

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Key Findings To Date: Streams and Lakes

• **Streams**: 28% support healthy biological communities. Most important assessed stressors are nutrients and excess sedimentation. Streams with these problems are 2 times more likely to have poor biology.

• **Lakes**: 56% support healthy biological communities. Most important assessed stressors are poor lakeshore habitat and nutrients. Lakes with these problems are about 3 times more likely to have poor biology.

*Source: The National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) for Wadeable Streams and Lakes*
The WSA found that 32% of stream miles have higher levels of nitrogen than reference.

Streams with high levels of nitrogen are 2.1 times as likely to have poor biological condition.

Source: The National Aquatic Resources Survey
Mississippi River Basin – Nitrogen
Comparison of NARS Results and Impaired Waters Listings

Statistical surveys provide information on the extent and geographic location of problems; and provide information to help identify nationally significant problems.

Targeted monitoring identifies problems in specific locations and documents information for implementing actions on a local/watershed scale.

Blue = Miles in subbasin exceeding NARS thresholds
Gold= Miles in subbasin 303(d) listed for nitrogen, nutrients, algal growth or DO (2008)

* 303(d) listings for just nitrogen in the Lower Mississippi River = 306 miles
• Please see caveats on previous page
Total Phosphorus

The WSA found that 31% of stream miles have higher levels of phosphorus than regional reference condition.

Streams with high levels of phosphorus are 2.2 times as likely to have poor biological condition.

This is the percent of stream miles with low, medium and high levels of phosphorus based on regionally-relevant thresholds derived from the best quality regional reference sites. Low concentrations are most similar to reference condition. Medium concentrations are higher than the 75th percentile of reference condition. High concentrations are higher than the 95th percentile.