



2026 Integrated Report Call for Data

Additional guidance for data submitters

This document provides additional guidance for submitting commonly collected and submitted water quality data. Additional information is found in the [Water Body Assessment Guidance \(WBAG\)](#).

Nutrients/Sediment

Idaho does not have *numeric* criteria for nutrients or sediment. Therefore, DEQ does not make listing decisions based solely on nutrient or sediment data. To make assessment decisions using *narrative* criteria, DEQ must know the source of pollution (i.e., anthropogenic cause), pathway for pollution to reach the water body, and measurable adverse effect on a beneficial use. When submitting nutrient data, ensure that you specify what chemical component was measured (e.g., nitrate as N, nitrate + nitrite, etc.). Refer to the WBAG, section 5.1 for additional information.

Temperature

DEQ prefers the submission of continuous water temperature data. When submitting water temperature data, ensure that the logger deployment and retrieval dates are specified and indicate any times when data are suspect; for example, a logger was out of water or vandalism was suspected. The WBAG, section 5.2 provides additional information on how DEQ assesses water temperature data.

Toxics

When submitting toxics data, ensure that the appropriate data are collected and submitted to compare to criteria. For example, our toxics criteria for cadmium, lead, and zinc are expressed as the dissolved fraction. Other toxics criteria require collecting additional environmental data—ammonia requires pH and temperature data to calculate a criterion and hardness-dependent metals, like cadmium, require corresponding water hardness data. The WBAG, section 5.2.7 provides more information on how toxics data are assessed and [IDAPA 58.01.02.210](#) provides the various toxics criteria.

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*)

Idaho's *E. coli* criterion is either 1) A geometric mean of 126 cfu (or mpn)/100 mL based on a minimum of five (5) samples taken every three (3) to eleven (11) days over a forty-five (45) day period; or 2) A statistical threshold value (STV) of four hundred and ten (410) *E. coli* counts per one hundred (100) mL in more than ten percent (10%) of samples collected over a forty-five (45) day period. The Department will ensure samples collected represent the forty-five (45) day duration. When submitting *E. coli* data for § 303(d) listing or delisting purposes, ensure that the data meet these sampling requirements. [IDAPA 58.01.02.251](#) provides the various *E. coli* criteria.