



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

# Final Questions for Peer Review Panel

1. Are Oregon's biocriteria thresholds valid and do they adequately represent the cutoff where aquatic life use is considered to be impaired?
  - a. If they don't adequately represent the aquatic life use attainment cutoff, what are the limitations of the thresholds and how might they be improved?
2. Oregon currently has two thresholds, one for designated use support (e.g., good biological condition, equivalent to reference) and another for designated use impairment (e.g., poor biological condition, dissimilar from reference). This approach of two thresholds creates a third category of potential concern (uncertain biological condition). DEQ has received input from EPA favoring a single threshold approach, resulting in only two categories of beneficial use support (attaining or impaired). Please provide input on which approach is ultimately more technically defensible in your professional opinion.
3. Are Type I and Type II errors sufficiently balanced by the regional biocriteria thresholds?
  - a. If not, suggest alternatives for balancing Type I and Type II errors.
4. Are there other methods for determining biological thresholds that DEQ should consider?