

# H. 61

Testimony

Neil C. Kamman

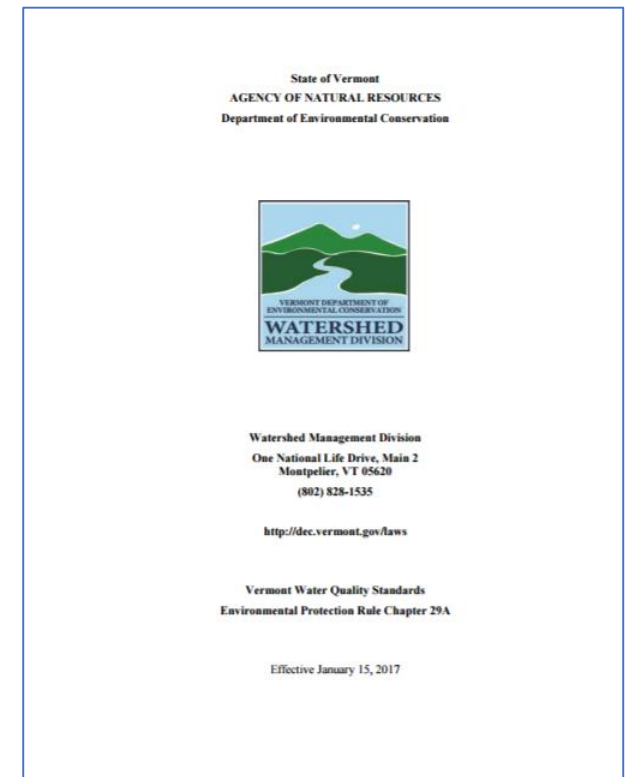
Manager, Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program



# Federal Clean Water Act goals are reflected by State Water Quality Standards Rules.



- Designated Uses
- Water Quality Classes
- Associated Criteria



# Vermont Water Quality Standards

## Uses

- Aesthetics
- Aquatic Life and Habitat
- Swimming
- Secondary contact (boating and fishing)
- Drinking Water Supply
- Fish Consumption
- Agricultural Water Supply
- Industrial Water Supply



# Water Quality Standards

- Classes
  - A(1) Uses that are managed to achieve their natural condition
  - A(2) Use as a Public Drinking Water Source Use
  - B(1) Waters in which one or more uses are of demonstrably and consistently higher quality than Class B(2) waters; or
  - Class B(2): Waters that are suitable for swimming and other primary contact recreation; irrigation and agricultural uses; aquatic biota and aquatic habitat; good aesthetic value; boating, fishing, and other recreational uses and suitable for public water source with filtration and disinfection or other required treatment.



# Vermont Water Quality Standards

- Criteria
- Narrative criterion example

2. ***Phosphorus***

a. All waters - general policy

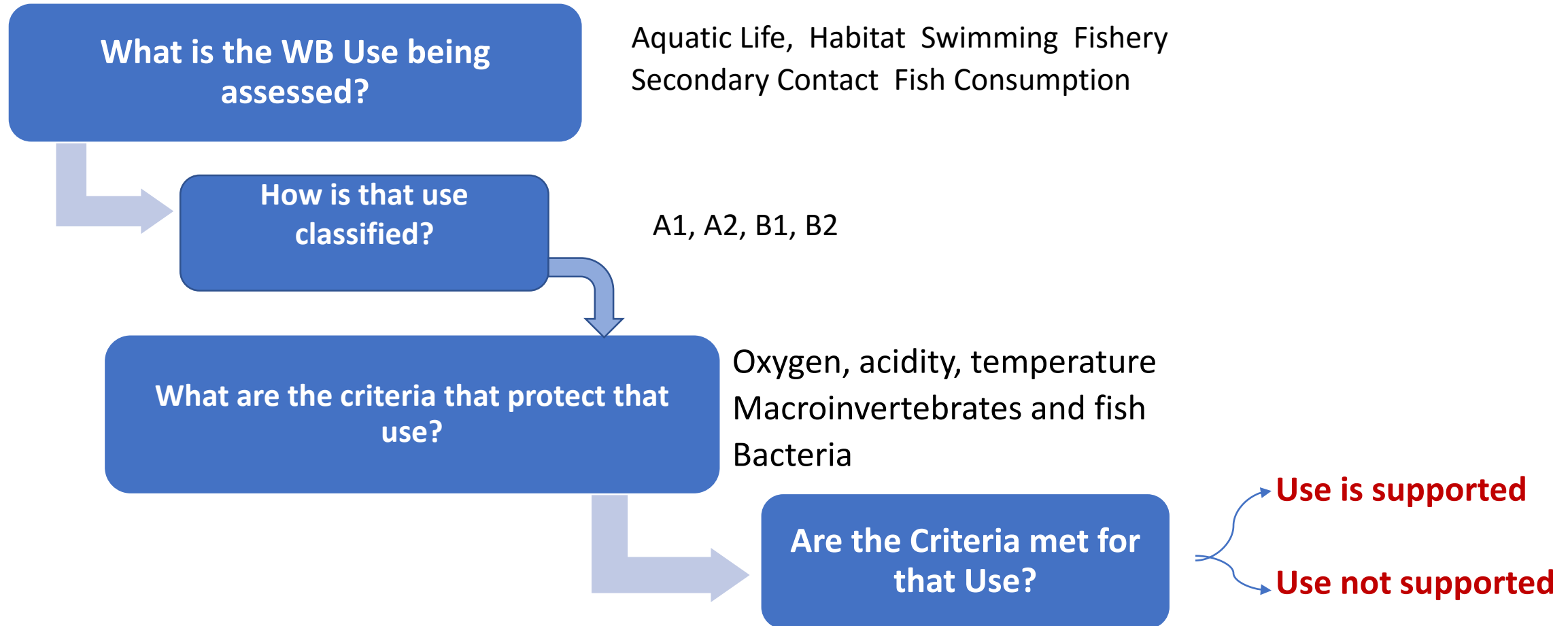
In all waters, total phosphorous loadings shall be limited so that they will not contribute to the acceleration of eutrophication or the stimulation of the growth of aquatic biota in a manner that prevents the full support of uses.

- Example of Numeric Criteria

Stream Type <sup>2</sup>	Class A(1)			Class B(1)			Classes A(2) and B(2)		
	Small, High-Gradient	Medium, High-Gradient	Warm-Water, Medium Gradient	Small, High-Gradient	Medium, High-Gradient	Warm-Water, Medium Gradient	Small, High-Gradient	Medium, High-Gradient	Warm-Water, Medium Gradient
Nutrient Concentrations									
Total Phosphorus (µg/L) <sup>3</sup>	10	9	18	10	9	21	12	15	27



# “Workflow” to apply Water Quality Standards



# Water Quality Standards, existing tools to protect wild trout fisheries

- Coldwater designation of significant spawning habitat important to maintenance of fishery.
  - More conservative oxygen and turbidity (siltation) criteria
- Class A(1) designation for Fishing
  - Management in a natural condition and most conservative temperature criteria
- Class B(1) designation for Fishing
  - Managed to support very good fishing and more conservative temperature criteria
- Reclassify habitat to B1 or A1
- Outstanding Resource Water Designation.



# Reclassification Process

- Development of candidate waters through tactical basin planning
- “Pre rulemaking” outreach using the basin plan issuance, and other outreach as needed
- APA Rulemaking to amend Water Quality Standards Rule list of use classifications in Appendix F.





# Other tools

- Dam Removal
- Right sized structures / culverts