

SOURCE APPORTIONMENT OF NUTRIENT LOADS IN 17 EUROPEAN CATCHMENTS

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ABSTRACT

One major research challenge in the EU 5th FP EUROHARP project is to apply the source apportionment method to the measured annual nitrogen and phosphorus exports from 17 European catchments. The source apportionment tool is one of nine quantification tools being evaluated for assessing the level of diffuse nutrient pollution in European catchments. The initial Pressure-Impact analysis under the EU Water Framework Directive demands that the main pollution sources of nutrients in an initial step have to be analysed at the catchment level before January 2005. Thus, catchment managers need screening tools that enables them to quantify the importance of point sources and diffuse sources of nutrients in catchments. One such tool could be the source apportionment method that has been widely used in different European countries. In this poster a source apportionment of the nitrogen and phosphorus export will be conducted and presented from the 17 European catchments involved in the EUROHARP project. The results of the source apportionment will be discussed and related to different catchment properties as population density, land use, soil types, climate, etc.

KEYWORDS: Nitrogen, phosphorus, source apportionment, European catchments, nutrient cycling, EU Water Framework Directive.