

Evaluation of Nearshore Ecology and Aesthetics

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Apparent changes in nearshore conditions at Lake Tahoe have become particularly evident to both visitors and residents of the Tahoe Basin, with increasing stakeholder interest in managing factors that have contributed to the deterioration of this important environment. This has led to joint implementation of a Nearshore Science Team (NeST) and Nearshore Agency Working Group (NAWG), which together are engaged in the evaluation of nearshore impacts and the development of a monitoring and assessment framework that will track changes in nearshore conditions and the effects from management actions. This team has conducted a review of the historical data, an assessment of existing standards, and has developed an integrated approach toward evaluating the status and trends of nearshore indicators. The underlying data metrics are discussed, as well as the science-based approach for recommended new metrics and relevant indicators to evaluate nearshore clarity, nearshore trophic status, community structure, and conditions for human health.