2022 Water Quality Data Solicitation Minimum Data Requirements

Summary tables of most common data types for lakes/reservoirs (Table 1) and streams/rivers (Table 2), excerpted from draft 2022 *Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment & Listing* Methodology (WisCALM) guidance document. Monitoring methods are available in the reference section of 2022 draft WisCALM, if needed.

Table 1. Minimum data requirements of conventional parameters for lakes and reservoirs.

Parameter	Min. Sample Quantity/Frequency ¹	Sampling Period (Season)	Sampling Protocol
Chlorophyll a	3 monthly values from each of two years	July 15 - September 15	Surface grab or integrated samples from top 2 m
Total phosphorus	3 monthly values from each of two years	June 1 - September 15	Surface grab or integrated samples from top 2 m
Dissolved oxygen	10 values from separate calendar days	Ice-free period	Discrete epilimnetic measurements, except Two-Story Fishery lakes ²
Water temperature	20 values from separate calendar days	Year-round	Discrete epilimnetic measurements, except Two-Story Fishery lakes ²
рН	10 values from separate calendar days	Year-round	Discrete epilimnetic measurements, except Two-Story Fishery lakes ²
Toxic substances	2 values w/in a 3-yr period	Year-round	Surface grab or integrated samples from any depth
E. coli	5 values for GM, 11 values for STV ³	May 1 – Sept. 30	Surface grab

¹ Smaller datasets may be considered in certain cases, such as a high magnitude of exceedance.

² Two-Story Fishery lakes require temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH depth profiles, multiple per year if possible, for assessment.

³ E. coli data are compared to two thresholds, a Geometric Mean criterion and a Statistical Threshold Value criterion; having enough data for STV comparison is recommended.

Table 2. Minimum data requirements of conventional parameters for streams and rivers.

Parameter	Min. Sample Quantity/Frequency ⁴	Sampling Period (Season)	General Sampling Protocol
Total phosphorus	6 values (one sample per month) ⁵	May - October	Surface grab sample
Dissolved oxygen	3 days of continuous measurements	July - August	Continuous measurements collected at a frequency of no less than once per hour
Water temperature	20 daily average values	May - October	Continuous measurements collected at a frequency of no less than once per hour
pH	10 values from separate calendar days	Year-round	Surface measurement
Toxic substances	2 samples w/in a 3-yr period	Year-round	Surface grab sample
E. coli	5 values for GM, 11 values for STV ⁶	May 1 – Sept. 30	Surface grab
Macroinvertebrates	2 samples (one sample from each of two years)	March – May or September – November	WDNR protocol, June 2000 (available on request)
Fish surveys	2 surveys (one survey from each of two years)	Generally, during base flow conditions	WDNR protocol, March 2001 (available on request)

⁴ Smaller datasets may be considered in certain cases, such as a high magnitude of exceedance.

⁵ Two years of total phosphorus monitoring (six monthly samples per year) may be required for impairment listings in the absence of a corroborating bioassessment showing biological impairment or high magnitude of total phosphorus criteria exceedance.

⁶ E. coli data are compared to two thresholds, a Geometric Mean criterion and a Statistical Threshold Value criterion; having enough data for STV comparison is recommended.