

## **IMPORTANCE OF MEASURING NUTRIENTS**

Nutrients are naturally present in the environment, and are very important for maintaining a balanced aquatic ecosystem. Adverse human activities can lead to an increase in the level of nutrients present in the environment, and consequently disrupt the aquatic ecosystem and lead to eutrophication. Increase in the level of nutrients is a very serious issue, as it can increase the algal bloom, which consequently die and are consumed by microorganisms that use oxygen and as a result cause fish kill.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently trying to enforce the nutrient criteria enacted in 2000. As a result, the industry will soon be required to monitor and regulate the release of nutrients into the environment, as well as monitor organic carbon. The industry is also continuously striving to use sampling systems that will help in obtaining data exhibiting better accuracy and precision, to meet the requirements.