



Mākena Golf & Beach Club

2025 annual water quality monitoring report

January 20, 2026

Final

AECOS No. 1535AF

Allen Cattell, Ph.D. and E. B. Guinther
AECOS, Inc.
45-939 Kamehameha Highway, Suite 104
Kāneʻohe, Hawaiʻi 96744
Phone: (808) 234-7770 Email: Cattell@aecos.com

Introduction

This annual report of the water quality monitoring program for Mākena Golf & Beach Club (MG&BC) satisfies a requirement stipulated in Condition No. 10, Declaration of Conditions pertaining to the Amendment of the District Boundary, as imposed by the State Land Use Commission and dated April 17, 1998. The County of Maui, Zoning Ordinance 3613, Condition 19 includes a similar requirement.

The primary goals of the water quality monitoring program are to: (1) assess the degree that fertilizers used on land to enhance golf course turf growth and resort landscaping, as well as any other plant nutrient sources, leach to groundwater and subsequently discharge into nearshore waters off the MG&BC property; (2) establish that delivery of these nutrients into the nearshore zone is occurring; and (3) determine if subsequent water quality has measurable impacts on biological community structure in the nearshore marine environment.

Site Description

Coastal waters south of the mouth of Kapuaikea Stream at the north end of MG&BC property and including Mākena Bay and Maluaka Bay (Figures 1 and 2), are designated as “Class A, open coastal waters” in State of Hawaiʻi, water quality standards (HDOH, 2021). These waters are included on the HDOH 2024 list of impaired waters in Hawaiʻi prepared under Clean Water Act §303(d) and listed as impaired for nitrate+nitrite, ammonium, total nitrogen, and turbidity (HDOH, 2024). The so designated nearshore waters are listed as “Category 3”—meaning

that insufficient data and/or information exist to make use-support determinations—and as “Category 5”—meaning that available data and/or information indicate that at least one designated use is not supported or is threatened, and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)¹ study is needed.

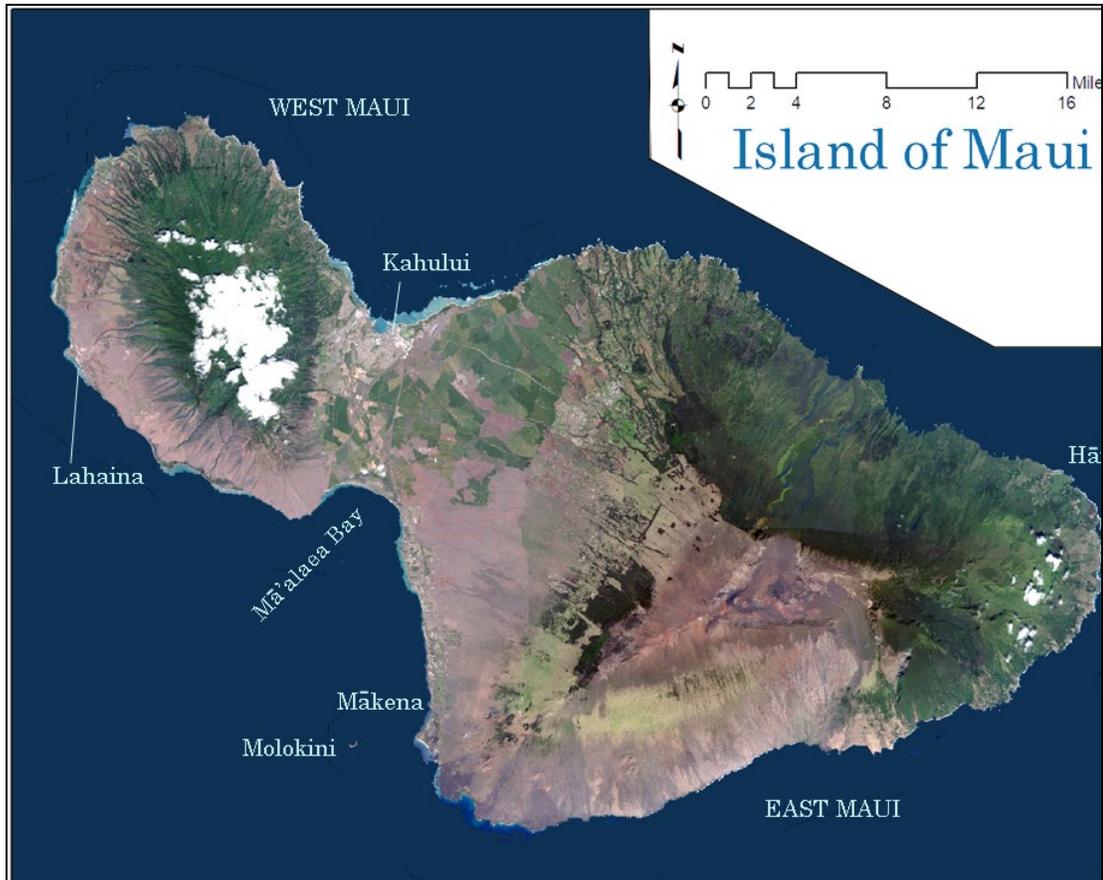


Figure 1. Island of Maui satellite image showing location of Mākena on the western coast of East Maui, south of Ma'alaea Bay.

Coastal waters from Pu'u Ola'i south (Figure 2) are designated as “Class AA, open waters” in state water quality standards (HDOH, 2021). These waters are also included on the list of impaired waters in Hawai'i prepared under Clean Water Act §303(d) for nitrate+nitrite, ammonium, total nitrogen, and chlorophyll α (HDOH, 2024). These nearshore waters are listed as “Category 3” and “Category 5” water areas, and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is needed.

¹ TMDL studies are done to establish limits on point-source discharges of substances causing impairments to water quality of aquatic environments. The term “needed” means “has not been done”.

Water quality parameters of particular interest for purposes of the monitoring program are termed plant nutrients². Nutrient enrichment of nearshore coastal waters from groundwater intrusion and storm water runoff can enhance nuisance algae production (HDLNR, 2020) and have a deleterious impact on corals and other biological components in Hawaiian coastal waters (Laws et al., 2004; Fabricius, 2005; MRC, 2011; AECOS, 2016, AECOS, 2020.).



Figure 2. Location of water quality monitoring transects (M-1 through M-4) and resort irrigation wells.

² “Plant nutrients” are nitrogen and phosphorus chemical compounds that promote plant growth, including algal growth in the marine environment.

Methods

The *AECOS* water quality monitoring program, beginning in June 2018 (*AECOS*, 2018), includes quarterly sampling along three transects in nearshore marine waters adjacent to MG&BC (transects “M-1”, “M-2”, and “M-3”) and a control transect (“M-4”) located far south of the resort (Fig. 2, above) near the northern boundary of ‘Ahihi-Kina‘u Natural Area Reserve in an area of Maui with minimal ongoing land use. Four stations are sampled along each transect at distances of 2 m, 10 m, 50 m, and 100 m from shore for a total of 16 stations.

Water quality samples are also collected at five irrigation wells used for resort golf course and landscaping irrigation: Seibu wells 6, 1, 3, 4 and 5 (Fig. 2). Our program emphasizes monitoring of MG&BC management practices that might influence coastal water quality.

Table 1. Analytical methods and instruments used for water quality analysis.

Analysis	Method	Reference	Instrument
Temperature	SM 2550B	SM (2017)	YSI ProPlus DO meter thermistor
Salinity	SM 120.1	SM (2017)	Accument AB200
pH	SM 4500H+	SM (2017)	pH pHep HANNA meter
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	SM 4500-OG	SM (2017)	YSI ProPlus DO meter
Turbidity	EPA 180.1	USEPA (1993b)	Hach 2100Q Turbidimeter
Ammonium (NH ₄)	EPA 349	USEPA (1997a)	Seal AA3 Auto Analyzer
Nitrate+Nitrite (NO ₃ +NO ₂)	EPA 353.2	USEPA (1993a)	Seal AA3 Auto Analyzer
Silicates	EPA 360.0	USEPA (1997c)	Seal AA3 Auto Analyzer
Total Nitrogen (TN)	EPA 353.4	USEPA (1993a)	Seal AA# Auto Analyzer
Ortho-Phosphate (PO ₄)	EPA 365.5	USEPA (1997b)	Seal AA3 Auto Analyzer
Total Phosphorus (TP)	EPA 365.5	USEPA (1997b)	Seal AA3 Auto Analyzer
Chlorophyll α (Chl. α)	SM-10150	SM (1998)	Turner Fluorometer

Temperature, salinity, pH, and dissolved oxygen (DO) are measured *in situ*. Water samples are collected, chilled, and returned to the *AECOS* laboratory for

additional analyses. The following parameters are measured from these samples in the laboratory: salinity, turbidity, ortho-phosphate, ammonium, nitrate+nitrite, total nitrogen (total N or TN), total phosphorus (total P or TP), and chlorophyll α . Table 1 (above) lists instruments and analytical methods used for these field and laboratory analyses.

The PacIOOS Regional Ocean Modeling System (PacIOOS, 2025) is used to estimate coastal water currents in the nearshore waters off Mākena at the time of each sampling event.

Results

Water quality results from 31 sampling events conducted between the beginning of the water quality monitoring program in June 2018 and November 2025 are summarized in Tables 2 and 3 by comparing means of “historic” (2018 - 2024) annual program results with 2025 means. Hawai‘i State Water Quality Standards (HDOH, 2021) for open coastal waters are shown along the bottom of each table. Note that the state standards include two sets of criteria: (1) so-called “wet” criteria for coastal waters receiving more than 3 million gallons of freshwater discharge per day (mgd) per shoreline mile; and (2) “dry” criteria for waters receiving less than 3 mgd of freshwater water discharge per shoreline mile. Mean annual rainfall in the Mākena area is less than 15-in per year (Giambelluca et al. 2013), so results in these tables are appropriately compared with state “dry” criteria. The dry criteria are more stringent than the wet criteria for most parameters because land runoff (natural) influences are expected to be less off dry coasts.

Salinity means were very slightly lower in 2024 along all three Mākena transects (Transect M-1 thru M-3) compared with historic means and tended to increase with distance from shore. Mean salinity values increased progressively between Transect M-1 and Transect M-4. Water temperatures, on the other hand, showed little change with distance from shore and mean values were slightly lower than historical data. pH means were also slightly lower along all three Mākena transects (Transect M-1 thru M-3) in 2025 compared with historic data. DO saturation mean values were slightly less compared with historic data at Transect M-1 and M-2 and notably less at Transects M-3 and M-4. Turbidity means were low along all four transects during 2024 and tended to decrease with distance from shore. Chlorophyll α geometric means were somewhat higher than historic data and tended to decrease with distance offshore.

Salinity, temperature, pH, and DO saturation met state criteria during both historic and 2025 results at all stations and transects. Turbidity and chlorophyll

α geometric mean values exceeded state criteria at all stations along all four transects for both historic and 2025 results.

Table 2. Station by station comparison of historic (2018 - 2024) means (n = 27) with 2025 means (n = 4) for physical parameters and chlorophyll α.

Transect	DFS [†] (m)	Salinity (ppt)		Temperature (° C)		pH		DO (% Sat.)		Turbidity‡ (NTU)		Chl. α‡ (µg/L)	
		Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025
M-1	2	34.01	33.61	26.3	25.9	8.22	8.21	102	103	1.38	1.16	0.78	0.78
	10	34.27	34.07	26.2	25.9	8.24	8.21	105	102	0.83	0.75	0.54	0.70
	50	34.38	34.33	26.1	25.9	8.24	8.21	100	96	0.72	0.71	0.43	0.56
	100	34.57	34.37	26.1	25.9	8.20	8.18	97	96	0.55	0.45	0.31	0.34
	Means	34.31	34.09	26.2	25.9	8.22	8.20	101	100	0.87	0.77	0.52	0.60
M-2	2	34.27	33.82	26.3	25.8	8.20	8.18	95	93	1.71	1.96	0.48	0.47
	10	34.36	34.17	26.2	25.9	8.21	8.18	94	95	1.15	1.03	0.38	0.51
	50	34.40	34.39	26.2	25.8	8.21	8.19	94	94	0.83	0.89	0.31	0.36
	100	34.60	34.41	26.2	25.9	8.21	8.19	94	93	0.52	0.44	0.26	0.26
	Means	34.41	34.20	26.2	25.8	8.21	8.18	95	94	1.05	1.08	0.36	0.40
M-3	2	34.24	33.37	26.2	25.8	8.21	8.18	102	94	0.71	0.68	0.56	0.62
	10	34.47	34.30	26.2	25.9	8.20	8.17	99	92	0.54	0.50	0.39	0.44
	50	34.59	34.49	26.2	25.9	8.20	8.18	97	94	0.40	0.40	0.29	0.30
	100	34.72	34.71	26.2	25.9	8.20	8.18	94	92	0.36	0.40	0.23	0.25
	Means	34.50	34.22	26.2	25.9	8.20	8.18	101	93	0.50	0.50	0.37	0.40
M-4	2	34.37	34.33	25.8	25.5	8.16	8.14	100	99	1.18	1.40	0.60	0.69
	10	34.44	34.36	25.7	25.5	8.16	8.14	99	99	0.98	2.41	0.50	0.60
	50	34.64	34.70	25.8	25.7	8.15	8.20	97	90	0.63	0.75	0.34	0.41
	100	34.81	34.87	25.9	25.7	8.12	8.12	93	91	0.44	0.54	0.26	0.35
	Means	34.56	34.56	25.8	25.6	8.15	8.15	97	94	0.81	1.28	0.42	0.51
Dry Standard		+/- 10%		+/- 1C°		7.6-8.6		≥75%		≤0.20 NTU		≤0.15 µg/L	
† distance from shore		‡ geometric mean											

Nitrate+nitrite geometric mean concentrations in 2025 (Table 3) were slightly lower at Transect M-2 through M-4 compared with historic means and tended to decrease with distance from shore, as is the case with the historic means. Transect M-1 through M-4. Geometric mean ammonia concentrations in 2025

Table 3. Station by station comparison of historic (2018 - 2024) geometric means (n = 27) with 2025 geometric means (n = 4) for phosphorus, nitrogen and silicate compounds.

Transect	DFS† (m)	NO ₃ +NO ₂ (µgN/L)		NH ₄ (µgN/L)		TN (µgN/L)		PO ₄ (µgP/L)		TP (µgP/L)		Silicates (µg/L)	
		Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	2025
M-1	2	42	63	20	28	176	214	3.4	4.5	11	7	266	473
	10	35	36	20	29	149	176	3.0	3.6	8	7	201	307
	50	31	27	18	24	146	160	3.1	3.8	10	8	207	230
	100	20	16	25	25	130	133	2.4	3.7	8	8	157	198
	Means	32	35	21	27	150	171	3.0	3.9	9	7	208	302
M-2	2	25	30	16	18	122	133	4.7	5.5	20	10	293	519
	10	22	23	18	21	119	123	4.2	4.2	11	10	241	354
	50	20	17	17	31	118	142	4.1	3.6	9	8	239	311
	100	16	7	20	18	111	126	2.9	3.3	10	8	165	186
	Means	21	19	18	22	117	131	4.0	4.2	13	9	234	343
M-3	2	31	31	23	31	150	157	3.6	7.0	8	7	233	398
	10	27	27	14	29	127	143	3.4	8.5	7	8	173	250
	50	18	12	21	23	117	105	2.9	7.5	9	7	125	132
	100	11	7	15	26	110	113	2.7	6.9	8	7	94	93
	Means	22	19	18	27	126	130	3.2	7.5	8	7	156	218
M-4	2	13	9	18	25	104	54	3.6	4.4	9	8	329	335
	10	13	7	26	22	105	95	3.4	4.0	9	7	287	271
	50	9	5	22	25	97	94	2.7	3.5	8	7	207	188
	100	7	4	19	21	89	87	2.7	3.2	6	7	109	106
	Means	14	6	21	23	99	82	3.1	3.8	8	7	233	225
Dry Standard		≥3.5 µgN/L		≥2µgN/L		≥110 µgN/L		ns		≥16µgP/L		ns	
† distance from shore										ns - no standard			

were somewhat high along all four transects and demonstrated no apparent trend with distance from shore. Total nitrogen geometric means in 2025 were high along Transect M-1 through M-3 transects, compared with historic means. and tended to decrease with distance from shore, as did the historic data. Ortho-phosphate geometric means for 2025 were notably high, especially at Transect M-3, along all four transects compared with historic means. Ortho-phosphate levels tended to decrease with distance from shore. Total phosphate means were slightly less compared with the historic TP means.

We use Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System modeling results (PacIOOS, 2025) to estimate the direction and speed of nearshore currents during each sampling event. The morning currents (0200 through 1100 hours) during each sampling event in 2025 are shown in Figure 3. Note that the flow patterns for each date are unique and that some portion of each flow regime is generally from northerly to southerly flow, except during the August 2025 southerly to northerly sampling event and in a circular pattern during the May 2025 sampling event. These longshore currents account for differences in nutrient distribution observed comparing different time periods, but in ways not always apparent.

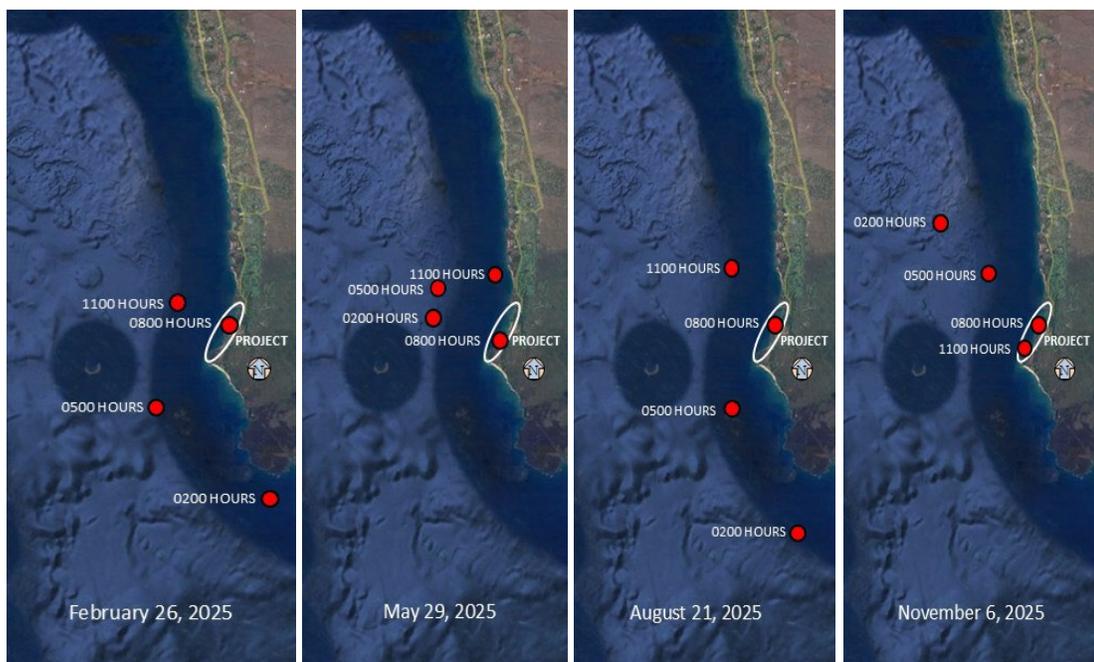


Figure 3. Estimated nearshore currents prior to sampling (0200 & 0500 hours) and during sampling (0800 & 1100 hours) based on PacIOOS calculations (PacIOOs, 2025).

Discussion

Based on our experience, the nitrogen and phosphorus moieties exceeding state nutrient standards, and standards established for turbidity and chlorophyll α in Hawaiian nearshore coastal waters are more the common occurrence than the exception. Nutrient enrichment of a specific coastal water body can occur from a variety of causes: (1) groundwater intrusion³; (2) resuspension of bottom sediments; (3) biological excretion products plus other biological recycling; (4)

³ Groundwater, in comparison to marine receiving water, is characterized by very low salinity and typically high soluble nutrient content.

longshore current transport from other areas; and (5) land surface runoff during storm events (includes enhanced input from stream freshets). Turbidity is typically elevated by land runoff and by resuspension of bottom sediments due to wind and wave action in shallow water near shore. State water quality standards account for these typical influences by differentiating between “open coastal waters” (nearshore; between the shore and the 183-m [600-ft] depth contour) and “oceanic waters” (offshore, beyond the 183-m depth contour) and distinguishing between “wet” and “dry” coasts (HDOH, 2021). An exception is made for waters off the Kona coast where special criteria have been developed to account for the considerable groundwater input there (HDOH, 2021). The majority of Hawaiian coastal waters, including those off Maui, are subject to standards that were developed over 50 years ago and in need of re-evaluation.

Sources of Groundwater Nutrients in Mākena Coastal Waters

The mean distribution of nutrients, especially nitrate+nitrite, along all coastal transects demonstrate decreasing concentrations with distance from shore, and as might be expected, are mirrored by increasing salinity offshore. This information tells us that groundwater seepage/intrusion is a source of nitrate+nitrite in the nearshore waters. The nutrients in groundwater at MG&BC have two possible origins: (1) a remote source: present in groundwater that originates upslope of the resort and that can be measured in well water; and (2) a local seepage source of MG&BC excess irrigation water into the groundwater. Brackish water pumped from the several Mākena wells is used to irrigate MG&BC grounds and the North Golf Course. The golf course, an 18-hole facility encompassing 91.8 ac (37.2 ha) of MG&BC property, is irrigated, and fertilized on a regular basis using water from three wells, Seibu Well 3, Seibu Well 4, Seibu Well 6, and sometimes Seibu Well 5 (Fig. 2 above). Water supplied from Seibu Well 1 is used to irrigate landscape vegetation along Mākena Alanui Road.

Water Supply Wells

We are tracking monthly MG&BC turf fertilization amounts and irrigation rates (data provided by MG&BC) along with nutrient concentrations in the irrigation supply wells (Table 4). Nitrate+nitrite geometric mean concentrations are high compared with both ortho-phosphate and ammonium in these well waters. Only nitrate+nitrite in the groundwater is likely to be detected as it seeps into nearshore marine waters where it mixes into the seawater. Ortho-phosphate, and even more so, ammonium, would be diluted to non-detectable levels very near to the shore.

Table 4. Annual geometric mean soluble nutrient concentrations and mean salinity values in well water for golf course and landscaping irrigation during AECOS sampling events.

Year	PO ₄ (µgP/L)	NO ₃ +NO ₂ (µgN/L)	NH ₄ (µgN/L)	Salinity (PSU)
2018	39	1806	17	1.25
2019	40	1569	18	1.38
2020	64	1755	15	1.25
2021	64	1786	28	1.33
2022	64	1790	28	1.33
2023	59	1743	47	1.37
2024	58	1989	37	1.39
2025	60	1822	83	1.34
Grand Mean	56	1782	34	1.34

Irrigation and Fertilizer Tracking

Under normal MG&BC operations, R-1 effluent from the Mākena Waste Water Reclamation Facility (WWRF) was initially pumped into No. 10 Lake (the reservoir), where it mixed with well groundwater and then used to supply water for irrigation purposes. At the present time, the WWRF is not operational because MG&BC has been closed for redevelopment since 2017. Only a controlled-release nitrate+nitrite fertilizer is used to fertilize the golf course turf; phosphorus-containing fertilizers are used several times a year in small quantities. Ortho-phosphate, on the other hand, is also available from groundwater and, presumably, other sources such as sediments in shallow nearshore waters. Ammonium demonstrates little to no significant relationship to salinity and is likely unrelated to groundwater influx into coastal waters.

Water and nutrients not directly assimilated by golf course turf and other vegetation during irrigation (or water loss to evapotranspiration), filter down through the soil to eventually reach local groundwater. We can assume that this excess irrigation water does not remix with water drawn from the wells for at least two reasons: 1) irrigation occurs mostly downslope of all wells with excess irrigation water moving seaward upon reaching groundwater; and 2) well water is drawn from a depth of 200 ft or more below ground, far below the groundwater surface.

Most ortho-phosphate in irrigation water not taken up by the turf grasses is adsorbed to subsurface soil particles (Busman et al., 2002; Laws et al., 2004) and effectively lost to the groundwater nutrient pool. Nitrogen on the other hand, may change form in subsurface soils and groundwater, but is typically present as soluble nitrate+nitrite in groundwater. Groundwater movement is towards the ocean shore, so eventually this water with its soluble nutrients enters nearshore waters, resulting in nutrient enrichment or subsidy.

We track turf and landscape fertilization/irrigation data provided by MG&BC monthly. Nutrients are measured in irrigation supply wells on each quarterly sampling event and averaged over the year. These results are assumed to be representative of the nutrient concentration of the irrigation water being applied from Pond 10. However, most nutrients are taken up by turf grass and other plants (or otherwise lost). A U.S. Geologic Survey report estimates that only about 20% (as an average for nitrogen fertilizer applied on Maui golf courses) actually reaches the groundwater (USGS, 2018) and we refer to this as the “residual” or “subsidy” concentration.

Table 5. Estimated arithmetic means for annual nitrate+nitrite fertilizer residual amounts and calculated total daily nitrate+nitrite subsidy at 2 m stations on monitoring transects.

	Nitrate+Nitrite Residual	Station nitrate+nitrite subsidy			
Date	Amounts	M-1	M-2	M-3	M-4
Year	Annual (µg/L)	Nitrate+Nitrite (µg/L)			
2018	397	0	0	47	0
2019	237	27	11	40	0
2020	316	9	0	51	0
2021	687	0	0	4	0
2022	678	0	0	0	0
2023	465	11	0	0	0
2024	324	12	0	0	0
2025	410	43	0	0	0
Grand Mean	474	13	1	18	0

Table 5 (above) presents a comparison of estimated groundwater subsidy concentrations with nearshore (2-m stations) nitrate+nitrite concentrations. In

this table, the residual is given for each monitoring year as an annual mean. The concentrations at each 2-m station are calculated as expected concentrations utilizing the inverse relationship (described below) that exists between salinity and nitrate+nitrite in these waters.

We obtain a rough estimate of the nitrate+nitrite subsidy to the nearshore waters by first calculating the salinity reciprocal (S_w) for the Seibu well data and this becomes our salinity factor for the contribution of groundwater seeping out at the shore. The amount of nitrate+nitrite expected in the nearshore from groundwater should be a function of the proportion of groundwater present, calculated using the equation:

$$\text{Expected groundwater contribution} = \frac{S_s \times C}{S_w}$$

Where:

S_s = Salinity reciprocal at 2 m stations;

C = Mean monthly nitrate+nitrite concentration for all Seibu wells;

S_w = Mean salinity reciprocal for Seibu wells.

Utilizing the inverse relationship between salinity and nitrate+nitrite in these waters, a nitrate+nitrite subsidy at the shore is obtained by subtracting this calculated expected contribution from the actual (measured) nitrate+nitrite concentration on 2 m stations. Although transect M-4 is not in the same nearshore area as MG&BC, we assume that the groundwater in that area can be represented by the Seibu well data. Negative values are sometimes generated, but as these are meaningless, they are presented as zero (no subsidy) in Table 5

Of course, we have no direct knowledge of when a fertilizer application on the land might be expressed in groundwater seeping out at the shore, if at all. The subsidies shown in Table 5 are certainly very rough and at best may be an indication of the magnitude of the groundwater influence. The lowest annual mean fertilizer residual estimate occurred in 2019 when nitrate+nitrite concentrations were elevated at all 2 m stations except Transect M-4 (AECOS, 2019). The highest mean fertilizer residual fertilizer amount occurred in 2021 and 2022 when nitrate+nitrite concentrations were lowest at all 2 m stations. Many more samples will be required before this approach can generate statistically meaningful results, but trends are becoming apparent.

Fates of Groundwater Nutrients in Mākena Coastal Waters

Nutrients infiltrating to coastal waters have important implications regarding biological assemblages in these waters. For example, growth of marine benthic algae in Hawaiian coastal waters is typically regulated by nutrient supply, usually dissolved forms of inorganic nitrogen (nitrate, nitrite, and/or ammonium) or

phosphorus (ortho-phosphate) and referred to as dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and dissolved inorganic phosphorus (DIP). Typically, in pristine coastal waters, either DIN or DIP occurs in insufficient concentration to sustain runaway algal growth (Atkinson and Smith, 1983; Smith, 1984; Larned, 1998). Outbreaks of excessive amounts of algae off West Maui have been attributed to elevated concentrations of both DIN and DIP in sewage effluent injected into groundwater and migrating to nearshore waters (Laws et al., 2004; Dollar and Andrews, 1997; Dailer, 2010; MRC, 2011). No such algal outbreaks have been recorded for nearshore waters off MG&BC (MRC, 2006; *AECOS*, 2016, 2020). That excessive algal growth has not been seen in waters off Mākena may be due to several factors, including a limit on the supply of DIP or DIN in these coastal waters.

Nutrient Limitation

Determination of which nutrient is present in a limiting concentration, and thus potentially regulating algal growth, can be calculated by comparing molar ratios of DIN to DIP concentrations. So-called “N:P ratios” measured in 20 Hawaiian algae species range from 15:1 to 44:1, with a mean of about 29:1 (Atkinson and Smith, 1983). Thus, in Hawaiian nearshore waters, it is assumed that DIP is potentially limiting when environmental N:P exceeds 29:1 and DIN is potentially limiting when N:P ratio is less than 29:1. When a particular substance becomes limiting, any excess of other substances necessary for growth remain unused in the environment (Liebig’s Law of the Minimum). As an example, once all the available DIP is taken up by algae, uptake of nitrogen (up to that point being used for growth in an amount roughly equal to 29 times the phosphorus uptake) ceases and further algal growth becomes limited.

Geometric mean molar DIP and DIN concentrations and N:P ratios for all four transects are shown in Table 6 for the historic (2018 - 2024) and 2025 data sets. Historic and 2025 ratios demonstrated typically DIP limitation at along Transect M-1 and then trend toward all nitrate+nitrite potentially limiting in Transect M-4.

While a scarcity of benthic algae in coastal waters off MG&BC is likely due to low DIN or DIP concentrations, the general absence of silty sediments in nearshore waters may also have an influence. Sedimentation from terrestrial runoff cannot only adversely affect coral assemblages but also provides a source of nutrients for algae (Raffaelli et al., 1998; Laws et al., 2004; Fabricius, 2005). Based on benthic surveys (MRC, 2006; *AECOS*, 2016 & 2020), a limited amount of land-derived sediment accumulates in this area off Maui.

Table 6. Geometric mean DIP and DIN molar distributions and DIN:DIP ratios for AECOS historic (2018 - 2024) and 2025 sampling events.

Transect	DFS [†] (m)	DIP ($\mu\text{M/L}$)		DIN ($\mu\text{M/L}$)		DIN:DIP ratio		N/P Limited potential	
		Historic	2025	Historic	2025	Historic	August	Historic	August
M-1	2	0.10	0.16	4	8	40	49	P	P
	10	0.09	0.14	4	5	41	38	P	P
	50	0.09	0.15	3	5	36	36	P	P
	100	0.07	0.13	3	5	42	42	P	P
M-2	2	0.14	0.23	3	5	20	22	N	N
	10	0.12	0.21	3	5	21	24	N	N
	50	0.11	0.23	2	5	23	21	N	N
	100	0.08	0.15	2	4	30	24	P	N
M-3	2	0.11	0.17	4	5	33	32	P	P
	10	0.10	0.17	3	4	27	25	N	N
	50	0.09	0.13	3	4	30	29	P	N
	100	0.08	0.13	2	3	22	21	N	N
M-4	2	0.11	0.19	2	4	19	19	N	N
	10	0.10	0.18	3	4	26	22	N	N
	50	0.08	0.17	2	2	28	14	N	N
	100	0.08	0.16	2	2	23	15	N	N

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