

***Report of Nationally Designated Experts on Eutrophication Control. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Paris, France. 1971.*** (Reviewed by Jessica Bliss)

This peculiar report reads like a science fiction novel; I got quite a kick out of it. The premise, that eutrophication is an intensely dangerous, threatening phenomenon that may come to destroy all of the world's water, contrasts pleasantly with the standard textbook explanation (which makes eutrophication sound as mundane and simple as possible). Given that it was published in 1970, I enjoyed seeing how current approaches to eutrophication in the Willamette Valley differ from those that may have been utilized 30 years ago.

At the time of this report's publication, there was not a deep understanding of the mechanisms of eutrophication or algal physiology. It is important to note also that "eutrophication" in this text appears to refer only to nutrient loading due to sewage management, not by other causes (such as fish stocking or runoff). Therefore, instead of spending much time defining the issue, the authors jump right into a series of methods for controlling the process. They list mechanical and legal actions, stressing that the initial costs of most de-eutrophication programs are soon made up for.

## **Critique**

I am not very familiar with current eutrophication control processes, but I suspect that several of the methods listed in this book have been proven inefficient or ineffective. If anything, it seems that in the Willamette Valley there is more emphasis on prevention than control or extravagant solutions. This resource would perhaps be more useful if there were a current text for comparison. Also, since it addresses only the extreme cases of eutrophication (i.e. sewage treatment scenarios), I wonder how applicable it is to eutrophication processes that we may recognize on smaller scales in natural bodies of water.

I recommend this book for two types of people: those interested in former methods of eutrophication control relating to sewage treatment, and those who enjoy reading science fiction tales of slime monsters and goeey beasts. This is not a book for someone researching eutrophication processes as they occur in the public waters of Willamette Valley.

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