

SC.912.L.17.20 – Human Impact – Example 7 Answer

When fertilizers run off farmland into streams and ponds, the nitrogen content of the water increases. This can lead to rapid growth of algae in a process called eutrophication. How can this process affect other organisms in the water?

- A. Oxygen is used up as algae is decomposed, reducing the amount available to other organisms.**
- B. The water becomes better able to support aerobic organisms.**
- C. The algae provide food for fishes and other organisms, leading to decreased algae populations.**
- D. The extra nitrogen provides additional food for the other organisms, increasing their population.**

Answer

A. Oxygen is used up as algae is decomposed, reducing the amount available to other organisms.

Algal blooms, often caused by high levels of nitrogen in water lead to low dissolved oxygen levels and the death of many species in these ecosystems.