TABLE 4-1

SUMMARY OF NUTRIENT-RELATED HABITAT HEALTH FOR ROCK HARBOR ESTUARY

HEALTH INDICATOR	ROCK HARBOR ESTUARY	
	UPPER SALT MARSH	LOWER HARBOR BASIN
Dissolved oxygen	--(1)	SI(2)
Chlorophyll	--(3)	H-MI(4)
Macroalgae	H(5)	SI(6)
Eelgrass	--(7)	--(8)
Infaunal animals	--	SI-SD(9)
OVERALL	**H[10]**	**SI**

Notes:

H = Healthy Habitat Conditions
MI = Moderate Impairment
SI = Significant Impairment
SD = Severe Degradation
-- = Not Applicable to this Estuarine Reach
(1) oxygen mooring not placed in upper marsh creek as naturally organic matter and nutrient rich, oxygen depletions are typical of pristine salt marsh creeks
(2) pPeriodic oxygen depletions to <3 mg/L and frequently <4 mg/L
(3) tidal waters ebb nearly completely at low tide, chlorophyll levels reflect floodwaters
(4) low to moderate chlorophyll a levels generally 2-8 ug/L, generally <5 ug/L
(5) *Ulva* and drift algae very sparse to absence
(6) thick benthic algal mat throughout basin
(7) no evidence that this estuarine reach is supportive of eelgrass, as it is a salt marsh tidal creek, which drains at low tide
(8) no evidence that this estuarine reach is supportive of eelgrass, this basin was created by dredging the main salt marsh tidal creek, and is structured as a depositional basin, with accumulations of marsh detritus
(9) low numbers of individuals and species, dominated by stress indicator species (*Capitella, Streblospio*)
(10) upper estuary salt marsh very similar in structure, communities and TN levels to high quality upper marsh reaches of adjacent Namskaket and Little Namskaket salt marsh systems