

## Heyward Nash

Minnesota has nearly 2,400 waters that produce wild rice and 35 of those waters are currently impaired, or polluted, by sulfate. Wild rice plant biology and sulfur biogeochemistry are complex. Significant natural variability in hydrology and other features of aquatic environments that support wild rice prevents the MPCA from prescribing a fixed, step-by-step approach to developing a site-specific standard that would suffice in all circumstances.

The ultimate expectation is that the MPCA will require a demonstration that the waterbody has and will maintain a wild rice population that is self-sustaining and productive.