

## **Definition for Total Nitrogen**

The NPI NEPM states that total nitrogen refers only to those amounts of nitrogen that give rise to nitrate/nitrite ions. Since this may be possible for a range of nitrogen compounds in a range of environmental conditions, the following pragmatic definition can be applied:

Total Nitrogen is the sum of nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ), nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2$ ), organic nitrogen and ammonia (all expressed as N). Note that for laboratory analysis purposes, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) is a test performed that is made up of both organic nitrogen and ammonia.