

Review of: "Assessment of Quality of drinking waterbased on the water quality index method in Hawassa Zuria Woreda, Sidama Regional State, Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I do not have any issue classifying Fe and Mn as heavy metals, as they can be grouped as heavy metals based on specific gravity. However, with respect to classifications based on the toxicity Fe and Mn are rarely or perhaps not at all called heavy metals.

Duffus, J. H. (2002). "Heavy metals" a meaningless term?(IUPAC Technical Report). *Pure and applied chemistry*, 74(5), 793-807.

The paper has a few positive aspects: data from a region where studies are not abundant; writing good; methodology is appropriate as per the objectives (other than the sampling mass could have been more);

Give details: sampling dates/season (wet or dry) - these do matter when it comes to reservoir sampling

Anyway I am concerned why authors only discussed the water quality against WHO (etc) and only a few correlations (would say too simple and basic), and not a high level objective/hypothesis? Things like seasonal variations and impact on WQ, comparison of treatment plant and end of pipe WQ and reasons, etc could have been better candidates.

Qeios ID: MOEU65 · https://doi.org/10.32388/MOEU65