

Terminology Services - Vocabulary Catalog List Detail Report

Term
Algae
Definition: Plants without roots that grow in estuaries and "feed" on nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus) in the water.
Algae Blooms
Definition: Occurs when algae grows very fast because too many nutrients enter the water. Algae blooms color the water a deep red-brown.
Barrier Island
Definition: Refers to a long, narrow island running parallel to the mainland, built up by waves and currents and protecting the coast from erosion by surf and tidal surges.
DDT
Definition: A group of colorless chemicals, no longer made today, that was used to kill insects. DDT is toxic to people and animals when swallowed or absorbed through the skin.
Drought
Definition: A period without rain that can damage crops such as wheat and corn.
Ecosystem
Definition: A community of plants and animals, like a neighborhood.

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Endangered Species
Definition: A plant or animal that is in immediate danger of becoming extinct and needs protection to survive.
Erosion
Definition: The process where soil and other matter are worn away by rain, stream currents, and wind.
Estuary
Definition: A partially closed coastal body of water where freshwater and saltwater mix.
Fertilizers
Definition: Substances, such as chemicals or animal manure, used to provide nutrients to help plants grow. Many people use fertilizers on their lawns and gardens.
Fish Kills
Definition: Refers to large numbers of fish being killed, usually because there is not enough oxygen in the water or because of a chemical spill.
Fisheries
Definition: A place where large numbers of fish are caught.
Food Chain

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Definition: The relationship between who eats whom among plants and animals.
Freshwater
Definition: Refers to water from rivers, lakes, reservoirs, underground streams, and other sources. Water is continually lifted from the oceans by evaporation and then returned to the land as ice, snow, or rain. Ice and snow melt from mountains to release freshwater to our rivers, streams, lakes, and to resupply underground streams.
Habitat
Definition: The place in which a plant or animal normally lives.
Heavy Metals
Definition: A group of highly toxic metals that are generally harmful to plants and animals.
Hypoxia
Definition: A condition where there isn't enough oxygen in the water. This forces fish to either swim away or die and can suffocate plants living in the water. Hypoxia occurs when there are too many nutrients in the water.
Nonpoint Source
Definition: Refers to pollution that enters estuaries from many places, such as when rainwater washes over parking lots, lawns, or farms and brings pollutants from all these sources into the estuary.

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<p>Nutria</p> <p>Definition: Animals with reddish brown and black fur, webbed feet, orange front teeth that stick out, and long tails. Nutria live throughout Louisiana in coastal swamps, brackish marshes, ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes. They eat plants and grass and can grow up to 4 feet long.</p>
<p>Nutrients</p> <p>Definition: Refers to the "food" that plants need in order to grow. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus. Too many nutrients in the water can cause problems in an estuary, such as hypoxia.</p>
<p>Pathogens</p> <p>Definition: Tiny disease-causing microorganisms such as viruses, fungi, and bacteria.</p>
<p>Pesticides</p> <p>Definition: Chemicals used to destroy or control plant, fungus, or animal pests.</p>
<p>Point Source</p> <p>Definition: Refers to pollution that enters estuaries from a single point, such as a factory pipe.</p>
<p>Reefs</p> <p>Definition: Skeleton-like ecosystems made up of colonies of limestone-producing, living animals. Coral reefs tell us about water</p>

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quality and the health of an estuary.
Runoff
Definition: Water that flows across the surface of the land and empties into a body of water.
Seawater
Definition: Water that comes from the ocean and is very salty.
Sediment
Definition: Mud, sand, silt, clay, shell debris, and other particles that settle on the bottom of rivers, lakes, estuaries, and oceans. Sedimentation refers to the build up of sediment.
Septic Systems
Definition: Systems that carry wastewater away from our homes when we turn on a faucet or flush a toilet.
Sewage
Definition: The wastewater generated by people in homes and businesses.
Sewage Treatment Plants
Definition: Places where wastewater is treated with chemicals and bacteria to produce clean water that can be returned to rivers and other waterways.

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Shellfish
Definition: An animal such as a mollusk (clams, oysters, and snails) or crustacean (crabs and shrimp) that have a shell or shell-like external skeleton.
Stormwater
Definition: Refers to rainwater as well as water from washing cars, overwatering lawns, and other sources. Stormwater washes down storm drains on the curbs of roads and leads directly into lakes, rivers, and streams untreated. Stormwater can carry pollution directly into our natural water resources.
Threatened Species
Definition: A plant or animal that is likely to become endangered if not protected.
Tides
Definition: The rise and fall of ocean waters produced by the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun.
Watershed
Definition: The area of land that drains into a particular body of water.