

Terminology Services - Vocabulary Catalog List Detail Report

Term
Aquatic
Definition: Living or growing in or on the water.
Benthic Environment
Definition: The environment at the bottom of lakes, rivers, estuaries, or oceans.
Bioaccumulation
Definition: The process in which a substance is taken up by an aquatic organism through any route, including respiration, ingestion, or direct contact with water or sediment.
Bioavailability
Definition: The ability of a substance to affect organisms.
Biodegrade
Definition: To decompose a substance by living organisms.
Biodiversity
Definition: The presence of many species of organisms, plant and animal.
Biomagnification

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Definition: The increased accumulation and concentration of a contaminant at higher levels of the food chain; organisms higher on the food chain will have larger amounts of contaminants than those lower on the food chain, because the contaminants are not eliminated or broken down into other chemicals within the organisms.
Bulk Organics
Definition: A class of hydrocarbon compounds including oil and grease.
Clean Air Act
Acronym: CAA
Coastal Zone Management Act
Acronym: CZMA
Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act
Acronym: CERCLA
Confined Disposal Facility
Acronym: CDF

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Contaminated Sediment
Definition: Soil, sand, organic matter, or minerals that accumulate on the bottom of a water body and contain toxic or hazardous materials at concentrations that may adversely affect human health or the environment.
Dredging
Definition: Removal of material from the bottom of a water body by excavation or similar removal activity.
Ecological
Definition: Relating to the interrelationships of organisms and their environment.
Endangered
Definition: Referring to an endangered species; any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range/habitat.
EPA Office of Water
Acronym: OW
Geologic
Definition: Referring to the history and structure of the solid portion (rocks, soils, and minerals) of the earth.

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Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990
Acronym: GLCPA
Halogenated Hydrocarbons
Definition: A group of chemicals that are very resistant to decay. The banned pesticide DDT and PCBs fall into this category.
Listing of Fish and Wildlife Advisories
Acronym: LFWA
Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act
Acronym: MPRSA
Metalloids
Definition: Metalloids are nonmetallic elements, such as arsenic and selenium, with some of the chemical properties of metals.
Metals
Definition: Metals include elements with a metallic luster and are found on and beneath the earth's surface, such as iron, manganese,

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lead, cadmium, zinc, nickel, gold and mercury.
National Environmental Policy Act
Acronym: NEPA
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Acronym: NOAA
National Sediment Quality Survey
Acronym: NSQS
Nonpoint Source Pollution
Definition: Pollution sources that are diffuse, without a single identifiable point of origin, including runoff from agriculture, forestry, and construction sites.
Nutrients
Definition: Substances such as nitrogen and phosphorus compounds necessary for growth and survival. Elevated levels can cause unwanted growth of algae, and can result in the lowering of the amount of oxygen in the water when the algae die and decay.

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Persistent Organics
Definition: A group of chemicals that are very resistant to decay. The banned pesticide DDT and PCBs fall into this category.
Point Source Pollution
Definition: Point source pollution refers to the pollution that comes from a specific, identifiable source, such as a pipe or channel.
Pollutant
Definition: A chemical or biological substance in a form that can be incorporated into, onto, or be ingested by aquatic organisms, consumers of aquatic organisms, or users of the aquatic environment.
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
Definition: A group of organic chemicals that includes several petroleum products and their derivatives. Acronym: PAHs
Sediment
Definition: Loose particles of sand, clay, silt, and other substances that settle at the bottom of a body of water. Sediment can come from the erosion of soil or from the decomposition of plants and animals. Wind, water, and ice often carry these particles great distances.
Toxic Substance

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Definition: A substance that can cause short-term or long-term damage to biological tissue following contact or absorption. Routes of exposure of the substance include ingestion, inhalation, or assimilation into any organism, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Acronym: USACE
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Acronym: EPA
Water Column
Definition: A hypothetical "cylinder" of water from the surface of a water body to the bottom and within which physical and chemical properties can be measured.
Water Resources Development Act
Acronym: WRDA