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A GLOSSARY OF SELECTED AQUATIC ECOLOGICAL TERMS.(U)
JAN 78 E S BENDER

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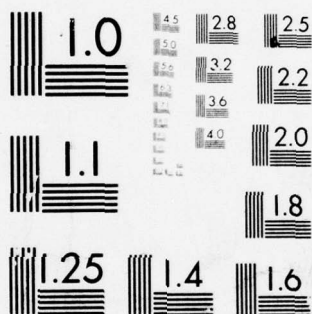
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A GLOSSARY OF SELECTED AQUATIC ECOLOGICAL TERMS

Compiled by

Edward S. Bender

Environmental Technology Division

January 1978

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US ARMY ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
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PREFACE

This glossary was prepared to supplement the reports of aquatic ecological surveys published by the Ecology Branch, Environmental Technology Division, CSL.

This glossary is intended to provide familiarity and understanding of technical terminology specific to the discipline of aquatic ecology and will serve as a convenient reference for all professionally trained persons concerned with water pollution control.

Definitions have been extracted from selected references as listed.

Terms specifically identifying or describing organisms have generally been excluded from this work. For this information the reader is referred to the selected references presented in the appendix. Glossaries of terminology related to other disciplines concerned with water pollution control are also listed in the appendix.

Terms underscored in a definition are separately defined in this glossary. Where appropriate, closely associated or related terms are cited parenthetically, (see _____), following the definition. Specific synonyms are noted, in italics, with the listed word.

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A GLOSSARY OF SELECTED AQUATIC ECOLOGICAL TERMS

abiotic	Pertaining to factors or influences which have no biological origin.
acclimation	Physiological and behavioral adjustments of an organism in response to a change in environment, or (see <u>adaptation</u>) the presence of a contaminant.
acute toxicity	Any toxic effect that is produced within a short period of time, usually 24 to 96 hours. Although the effect most frequently considered is mortality, the end result of acute toxicity is not necessarily death; any harmful biological effect may be the results (see <u>chronic toxicity</u> , <u>direct toxicity</u>).
adaptation	Change in the structure, form or habits of an organism to adjust to changes in the existing environmental conditions (see <u>acclimation</u>).
aerobic	Of or pertaining to organisms which live only in the presence of free oxygen; also processes which occur only in the presence of free oxygen; also modifies a condition characterized by an excess of free oxygen in the aquatic environment (see <u>anaerobic</u>).
alga (Pl. Algae)	A simple plant, often microscopic, containing <u>chlorophyll</u> . Algae form the base of the <u>food chain</u> in aquatic environments. Some species create a nuisance when environmental conditions are suitable for prolific growth (see <u>chlorophyll</u> , <u>food chain</u>).
allochthonous	Pertaining to those substances, materials or organisms in a particular waterway which originate from runoff into that waterway or from tributaries of that waterway (see <u>autochthonous</u>).
alluvial	Pertaining to material (particularly sediment) that is transported and deposited by running water.
anaerobic	Of or pertaining to living organisms or processes which occur in the absence of free oxygen; also conditions that are characterized by the absence of free oxygen (see aerobic).
aphotic zone	That layer in a body of water to which light does not penetrate with sufficient intensity to have any biological significance (see <u>euphotic zone</u>).
aquatic vascular plants	<i>Higher aquatic plants.</i>
artificial substrate	A device placed in the water (for a specified period of time) that provides living spaces for a multiplicity of organisms; e.g., glass slides, concrete blocks, multiplate samplers, rock-filled baskets, etc. The primary purpose of artificial substrates is to allow the investigator to collect organisms in areas where the physical habitat

	is limiting or cannot be adequately sampled using conventional methods. Results obtained from this sampling method are quantitative and can be compared to other artificial substrate samples gathered during the same period.
assimilation	1. Removal of dissolved or suspended materials from a water mass by biological, chemical and physical processes. 2. Conversion or incorporation of absorbed nutrients into body substances (see <u>synthesis</u>).
association	All organisms occupying a given <u>habitat</u> (see <u>habitat</u>).
autochthonous	Pertaining to those substances, materials, or organisms that originate within a particular waterway and remain in that waterway (see <u>allochthonous</u>).
aufwuchs	<i>Periphyton</i> .
autotrophic (holotrophic)	Self-nourishing; denoting those organisms that do not require an external source of organic material but can utilize light energy and manufacture their own food from inorganic materials; e.g., green plants, pigmented flagellates (see <u>heterotrophic</u>).
autotrophic index	A measure of the effect of organic matter in the stream, a value of 100 or greater indicates organic pollution. The index is the ratio of chlorophyll containing biomass (autotrophs) to nonchlorophyll biomass (heterotrophs) multiplied by 100 (see <u>biomass</u> , <u>chlorophyll</u> , <u>autotrophic</u> , <u>heterotrophic</u>).
bacteria	Microscopic, single-celled or noncellular plants, usually saprophytic or parasitic.
benthic region	The bottom of a waterway; the substratum that supports the <u>benthos</u> .
benthos	<u>Organisms</u> growing on or associated principally with the bottom of waterways. These include: (1) <u>sessile</u> animals such as sponges, barnacles, mussels, oysters, worms, and attached algae; (2) creeping forms such as snails, worms and immature insects; (3) burrowing forms, which include clams, worms, and some immature insects; and (4) fish; e.g., flounders, whose habits are more closely associated with the <u>benthic region</u> than other zones.
bioassay	A determination of the biological effect of some substance, factor or condition employing living organisms or cells as the indicator (see <u>biomonitoring</u>).

biological control	1. Use of natural <u>predators</u>, <u>parasites</u>, diseases, or viruses, to reduce or eliminate pest organisms; e.g., use of Gambusia to feed on mosquito <u>larvae</u>. 2. Control of organisms by interference with their physiological processes; e.g., sterilization of male flies.
biological magnification	The ability of certain organisms to remove substances from their environment and store them in their tissues at nontoxic levels. The concentration of these substances becomes greater in each higher step in the food chain (see <u>enrichment factor</u>).
biomass	The total amount of living material in a given <u>habitat</u> or area; or, an expression dealing with the total weight of a given <u>population</u> of organisms.
biomonitoring	1. Continuous surveillance of an effluent (or dilution thereof) by using living organisms into a receiving water. 2. Use of living organisms to test the quality of a receiving waterway downstream from a waste discharge (see <u>bioassay</u>).
biostimulation	A general term used to describe the complex set of factors involved in the growth of algae (and other organisms) in a receiving waterway due to the addition of nutrients.
biota	All life (plants and animals) of a region.
biotic factors (biological factors)	In <u>ecology</u> , those environmental factors; e.g. <u>competition</u> , predation, etc.; which are the result of living organisms and their activities; distinct from physical and chemical factors (see <u>ecological factor</u>).
bloodworms	Midge <u>larvae</u> (family Chironomidae). Many of the species have hemoglobin in the blood causing a red color and are often associated with rich organic deposits. This is also the common name for certain of the segmented true worms (family Tubificidae) (see <u>sludgeworms</u>).
bloom	A readily visible concentrated growth or aggregation of minute organisms, usually <u>algae</u> , in bodies of water. This may be caused by natural seasonal processes of nutrient cycling or by nutrients from a discharge of polluted wastewater.
carnivore	An animal that feeds on other animals (see herbivore).
carrying capacity	The maximum quantity of organisms a particular <u>habitat</u> can support over an extended period.

catastrophic drift	Massive drift of bottom organisms as a result of stress such as floods or <u>toxicity</u> (see <u>drift organisms</u> , <u>incidental drift</u>).
chemical stratification	The formation of layers of water in a lake that are of different densities. This density difference is caused by changes in the concentrations of dissolved substances in the water at different depths (see <u>stratification</u>).
chlorophyll	Green photosynthetic pigment present in many plant and some bacterial cells. There are seven known types of chlorophyll; their presence and abundance vary from one group of photosynthetic organisms to another.
chronic toxicity	<u>Toxicity</u> , determined from a long duration of testing, that produces an adverse effect on organisms. The end result of chronic toxicity can be death although the usual effects are sublethal; e.g., inhibition of reproduction, reduction of growth, etc. These effects are reflected by changes in the productivity and population structure of the <u>community</u> (see <u>acute toxicity</u>).
classification	The placing of organisms into groups (categories) according to established scientific procedures (see <u>taxonomy</u>).
clean water association	An <u>association</u> of organisms found in a natural, unpolluted <u>environment</u> . These associations are characterized by the presence of species that are sensitive to environmental changes caused by introduction of pollutants. In many cases the presence of a wide variety of species with relatively few individuals representing any one of them is also a characteristic of a clean water association (see <u>sensitive organisms</u> , <u>tolerant association</u>).
community	An aggregation of organisms within a specified area; all forms of life inhabiting a common <u>environment</u> .
competition	The effort of two or more individuals or species of a <u>community</u> to utilize some of the same environmental resources.
consumers	Heterotrophic organisms, chiefly animals, that ingest other organisms or particulate organic matter. Often they are divided into primary consumers (<u>herbivores</u>), secondary consumers (<u>carnivores</u> , which eat primary consumers), etc. (see <u>heterotrophic</u> , <u>trophic level</u> , <u>producers</u>).
critical	<i>Threshold.</i>
critical range	In <u>bioassay</u> , the concentration range which causes an effect for a factor. The concentration range lies between the minimum level or concentration at which no organisms die to the maximum level or concentration at which all organisms die under a given set of conditions in a given period of time.

cultural eutrophication	Acceleration by man of the natural process of <u>enrichment</u> (aging) of bodies of water.
density (population species)	The number of individuals in relation to the space (generally surface area) in which they occur; refers to the closeness of individuals to one another.
depositing substrates	Bottom areas where solids are being actively deposited because the velocity of the water has decreased. These substrates often occur in the vicinity of effluent discharges (see <u>sludge deposits</u>).
detritus	Fragments of organic material in the water or on the bottom of a waterway.
diatom	A ubiquitous, unicellular alga of the phylum Chrysophyta, which is sampled in water quality surveys as the main constituent of the periphyton community. They are attached to substrates and are the major producers of oxygen in aquatic environments (see <u>periphyton</u>).
direct toxicity	<u>Toxicity</u> that has an effect on organisms themselves instead of effecting an alteration of their habitat or interference with their food supply (see <u>acute toxicity</u> , <u>chronic toxicity</u> , <u>indirect toxicity</u>).
diurnal	1. An event, process, or specific change that occurs every day; usually associated with changes from day to night. 2. Pertaining to those organisms that are active during day time (see <u>nocturnal</u>).
diversity (species diversity)	Pertaining to the variety of <u>species</u> within a given <u>association</u> of organisms. Areas of high diversity are characterized by a great variety of species; usually relatively few individuals represent any one species. Areas with low diversity are characterized by a few species; often relatively large numbers of individuals represent each species.
dominant species	<u>Species</u> of a community which by their activity, behavior, or number, have considerable influence or control upon the conditions that affect the existence of associated species; a species which "controls" its <u>habitat</u> and <u>food web</u> (see <u>predominant</u>).
drift organisms	Benthic organisms temporarily suspended in the water and carried downstream by the current (see <u>incidental drift</u> , <u>catastrophic drift</u>).
EC ₅₀	The concentration of a substance producing 50% decrease in some observable parameter, e.g., shell growth.
ecological factor	Any part of condition of the <u>environment</u> that influences the life of one or more organisms (see <u>biotic factor</u>).

ecological niche	The role of an organism in an ecosystem; its activities and relationships to the living and nonliving environment; (feeding and nutritional relationships are of primary importance (see <u>habitat</u>).
ecology	The study of the interrelationships between <u>organisms</u> and their <u>environment</u> .
ecosystem	A <u>community</u> , including all the component organisms, together with the <u>environment</u> forming an interacting system.
ecotype (habitat form)	A locally adapted population of a species which has a distinctive limit of tolerance to environmental factors. (Individuals of the same species may appear different morphologically, physiologically in various habitats.)
emergent aquatic plants	Plants that are rooted at the bottom of a body of water, but project above the surface; e.g., cattails, bulrushes, etc. (see <u>floating aquatic plants</u> , <u>submersed aquatic plants</u>).
enrichment	An increase in the quantity of nutrients available to aquatic organisms for their growth (see <u>eutrophication</u>).
enrichment factor	The number of times a substance is concentrated in the tissue of an organism over the concentration in its environment (see <u>biological magnification</u>).
environment	All external influences and conditions affecting the life and development of an organism or <u>community</u> .
equilibrium	The condition in which a <u>population</u> or <u>community</u> is maintained with only minor fluctuations in composition over an extended period of time.
euphotic zone	The lighted region of a body of water that extends vertically from the water surface to the depth at which <u>photosynthesis</u> fails to occur because of insufficient light penetration.
eutrophic lakes	Lakes which are rich in <u>nutrients</u> and organic materials, and, therefore, highly productive. These lakes are often shallow and seasonally deficient of oxygen in the <u>hypolimnion</u> (see <u>oligotrophic lakes</u>).
eutrophication	The natural process of the maturing (aging) in a lake: the process of <u>enrichment</u> with <u>nutrients</u> , especially nitrogen and phosphorus, leading to increased <u>production</u> of organic matter (see <u>cultural eutrophication</u> , <u>oligotrophic lakes</u> , <u>eutrophic lakes</u>).

fall overturn	A physical phenomenon that may take place in a <u>lentic</u> body of water during early autumn. The sequence of events leading to fall overturn include: (1) cooling of surface waters, (2) density change in surface waters producing convection currents from top to bottom, (3) circulation of the total water volume by wind action, and (4) vertical temperature equality. The <u>overturn</u> results in uniform conditions of physical and chemical properties throughout the water mass (see <u>overturn</u> , <u>spring overturn</u>).
flora	Plant life.
floating aquatic plants	Rooted plants that wholly or partly float on the surface of the water; e.g., water lilies, water hyacinth and duckweed (see <u>emergent aquatic plants</u> , <u>submersed aquatic plants</u>).
food chain	The dependence of a series of organisms, one upon the other, for food. The chain begins with plants and ends with the largest carnivores; e.g., <u>phytoplankton</u> , <u>zooplankton</u> , <u>forage fish</u> , <u>game fish</u> .
game fish (<i>sport fish</i>)	Those species of fish considered to possess sporting qualities on fishing tackle; e.g., salmon, trout, black bass, striped bass, etc. Game fish are usually considered to be more sensitive to environmental changes than <u>rough fish</u> .
habitat	A specific type of place that is occupied by an <u>organism</u> , a <u>population</u> , or a <u>community</u> .
herbicide	A chemical substance used for killing plants, especially weeds.
herbivore	An organism that feeds on plant material (see <u>carnivore</u>).
heterotrophic (<i>holozoic</i>)	Pertaining to organisms (primarily animals) that are dependent on organic material for food (see <u>autotrophic</u>).
higher aquatic plants (pond weeds, aquatic vascular plants)	Those plants composed of complex and differentiated tissues whose seeds germinate in the water or <u>substrate</u> of a body of water. They must spend part of their life cycle in water. This group includes plants which grow completely <u>submersed</u> as well as <u>emersed</u> and floating-leaf types (see <u>macrophyte</u>).
hypolimnion	The region of a body of water that extends from the thermocline to the bottom and is essentially removed from major surface influences.
identification	The use of a taxonomic key or the equivalent to determine the scientific name of an organism.

incidental drift	Random drift of <u>benthic</u> organisms in the water (see <u>drift organisms</u> , <u>catastrophic drift</u>).
incipient lethal level (ILL)	That concentration or level of an <u>abiotic</u> factor beyond which an organism could not survive.
indicator organisms	A <u>species</u> , whose presence or absence may be characteristic of environmental conditions in a particular kind of <u>habitat</u> . Species composition and the relative abundance of those species in a community are also reliable indicators of water quality.
indirect toxicity	<u>Toxicity</u> that affects organisms by interfering with their food supply or modifying their <u>habitat</u> instead of directly acting on the organisms themselves (see <u>direct toxicity</u>).
instar	A stage of tissue manufacture and growth in the <u>life cycle</u> of an insect or other arthropod between two <u>successive</u> molts; e.g., the first instar is the stage between the egg and the first molt.
interaction	Mutual action or influence among organisms, between organisms and <u>environment</u> , or among environmental factors.
interspecific	Refers to relations or conditions among different species.
intertidal zone	(<u>Tidal zone</u>).
intolerant organisms	(<u>Sensitive organisms</u>)
invertebrates	Animals without an internal skeletal structure; e.g., insects, mollusks, and crustaceans (see <u>vertebrate</u>).
larva (pl. larvae)	The immature form of an animal which is unlike its parents. Larvae are usually self-feeding stages which undergo complete <u>metamorphosis</u> into an adult; in insects, the stage between the egg and the pupa in metamorphosis (see <u>metamorphosis</u> , <u>nymph</u> , <u>pupa</u>).
Law of the Minimum, Liebig's	The growth and reproduction of an organism is dependent on the <u>nutrient</u> substance (such as oxygen, carbon dioxide, calcium, etc. . . .) that is available in the minimum quantity (see <u>limiting factor</u>).
Law of Tolerance, Shelford's	When one environmental factor or condition is near the limits of tolerance for a species, either maximum or minimum, that factor or condition will determine the success of a species (see <u>limiting factor</u>).
lentic	Pertaining to standing (nonflowing) waters such as lakes, ponds, and swamps (see <u>lotic</u>).

life cycle	The various phases, changes, or stages through which an individual passes from the fertilized egg to death of the mature organism (see <u>metamorphosis</u>).
limiting factor	A factor whose absence, or excessive concentration, exerts some restraining influence upon a <u>population</u> through incompatibility with requirements or tolerance of a <u>species</u> (see <u>Law of the Minimum</u> , <u>Law of Tolerance</u>).
limnology	The science of inland waters.
lotic	Pertaining to flowing waters such as streams and rivers (see <u>lentic</u>).
macroorganisms (<i>macroinvertebrates</i>)	Those <u>invertebrates</u> visible to the unaided eye and which are retained on a U.S. standard sieve No. 30 (openings of 0.589 mm); e.g., clams, insects (see <u>microorganisms</u>).
macrophyte	Plants that can be seen with the unaided eye; e.g., aquatic mosses, ferns, liverworts, rooted plants, etc.
marsh	A periodically wet or continually flooded area with the surface not deeply submerged. It is often predominated by <u>emergent aquatic plants</u> ; e.g., sedges, cattails, rushes.
median tolerance limit (TL _m)	The concentration of a substance tested in water at which 50% of the test organisms survive for a specified period of exposure (see <u>tolerance limit</u>).
metamorphosis	Transformation of an animal from one distinctive life history stage to another in its postembryonic development; e.g., in insects, a <u>larva</u> transforming to a <u>pupa</u> . Complete metamorphosis includes the egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages; incomplete metamorphosis lacks one or more stages (see <u>life cycle</u>).
microorganisms (<i>microinvertebrates</i>)	Those organisms which are invisible or only barely visible with the unaided eye. Microorganisms pass through a U.S. standard Series No. 30 sieve but are retained on a series No. 100 sieve (mesh openings of 0.149 mm).
molt	A process of casting or shedding the outer body covering to permit an increase in body size. This is characteristic of arthropods (see <u>instar</u>).
native species	A species that is part of an area's original biota.
natural selection	Processes occurring in <u>populations</u> of <u>species</u> in nature which impose a rigorous test on the fitness of an organism, and which determine which genetic changes will persist and which will perish in the <u>environment</u> .

nekton	Macroscopic organisms, e.g., fish, which swim actively in the water (see <u>plankton</u>).
niche	(See <u>ecological niche, habitat</u>).
nocturnal	Pertaining to those organisms that are active at night (see <u>diurnal</u>).
nuisance organism (pests)	Those organisms capable of interfering with man's use of water.
nutrients	Elements, or compounds, that are essential as raw materials for organism growth and development; e.g., carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.
nymph	An immature life cycle stage of insects that do not have complete metamorphosis; e.g., mayflies and stoneflies (see <u>larva, metamorphosis</u>).
oligotrophic lakes	Deep lakes which contain limited nutrients, thus organic production is low. Dissolved oxygen is present throughout the lake, year round (see <u>Eutrophic lakes</u>).
organism	Any living plant, animal or bacteria.
overturn (turnover)	The period of mixing, by top and bottom circulation, of previously stratified <u>lentic</u> water masses. This phenomenon may occur in spring and/or fall; it causes the physical and chemical properties of the water to be uniform at all depths (see <u>chemical stratification, thermal stratification, spring overturn, fall overturn</u>).
parasite	An <u>organism</u> that lives on or in a host <u>organism</u> during all or part of its existence. Nourishment is obtained at the expense of the host.
pathogen	An <u>organism</u> or virus that causes a disease.
pesticide	Any chemical preparation used to kill pests, including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.
periphyton	The aquatic community, composed of diatoms and other algae, bacteria, fungi and protozoa, which is attached to substrates such as plants, rocks, mud, and glass.
photosynthesis	The metabolic process by which simple sugars are manufactured from carbon dioxide and water by plant cells using light as an energy source (see <u>chlorophyll</u>).
photic zone	(<u>Euphotic zone</u>)

phytoplankton	Microscopic plants that float on or in the water and are carried by the current (see <u>zooplankton</u>).
plankton	Suspended <u>microorganisms</u> that have relatively low powers of locomotion, or that drift in the water subject to the action of waves and currents. The name means wanderer (see <u>benthos</u> , <u>periphyton</u> , <u>nekton</u>).
pond weeds	(Higher aquatic plants)
population	A group of interacting individuals of the same <u>species</u> , area, or <u>community</u> .
predator	An animal that kills and consumes other animals (see <u>prey</u>).
predominant	Those organisms that are of greatest numerical abundance in a particular community for a given period of time (see <u>dominant species</u>).
prey	An animal that is killed and consumed by another animal (see <u>predator</u>).
primary productivity	The total quantity of protoplasm produced by <u>autotrophic</u> organisms per unit of time in a specified <u>habitat</u> .
producers	<u>Organisms</u> that synthesize organic material from inorganic substances, e.g., plants (see <u>consumers</u> , <u>reducers</u>).
production	The process of producing organic material. 1. Rate of <u>protoplasm</u> formation of energy utilization by one or more <u>organisms</u> ; total quantity of organic material produced within a given period in a specified <u>habitat</u> . 2. Capacity or ability of an organism or <u>trophic level</u> to produce organic material (see <u>primary productivity</u> , <u>secondary productivity</u>).
protoplasm	The living material in cells of plants and animals.
pupa	An intermediate, usually quiescent, stage following the larval stage in insects; from it emerges the adult (see <u>larva</u>).
quality	The composite chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of a waterway describing its suitability for a particular use.
reducers (<i>decomposers</i>)	Those <u>organisms</u> , usually bacteria or fungi, that break down complex organic material into simpler compounds (see <u>producers</u> , <u>consumers</u>).

respiration	The complex series of chemical and physical reactions in all living organisms by which the energy and <u>nutrients</u> in foods is made available for use. Oxygen is used and carbon dioxide released during this process.
riffles	A shallow, usually rocky area, in an open stream where the water surface is broken into waves by wholly or partly submerged obstructions. Riffles usually support a wider variety of bottom-dwelling organisms than other stream sections.
rough fish	Those species of fish considered to be of poor fighting quality when taken on tackle; e.g., carp, gar, suckers, etc. These fish are considered undesirable by man in most situations. Most species in the group are more tolerant of widely changing environmental conditions than <u>game fish</u> .
scavenger	An <u>organism</u> that consumes decomposing organic matter.
secondary productivity	Total quantity of animal (and other heterotrophic protoplasm) produced per unit of time in a specified <u>habitat</u> (see <u>primary productivity</u> , <u>productivity</u>).
sensitive organisms (intolerant organisms)	<u>Organisms</u> that exhibit a rapid response to environmental changes and are killed, driven out of the area, or as a group are substantially reduced in numbers, when their environment is changed (see <u>tolerant association</u>).
sessile	Pertaining to those organisms that are attached to a <u>substrate</u> and not free to move about; e.g., <u>periphyton</u> .
seston	All material, both organic and inorganic, which is suspended in a waterway. Bioseston is the living material; abioseston is the nonliving portion.
sludge deposits	Accumulations of settled, usually rapidly decomposing organic material in the aquatic system. A deposit of solids of wastewater origin.
sludgeworms	Aquatic segmented true worms (class Oligochaeta) that exhibit marked population increases in waters polluted with decomposable organic wastes (see <u>bloodworms</u>).
species (pl. species)	An <u>organism</u> or organisms forming a natural <u>population</u> , or groups of populations, that transmit specific characteristics from parent to offspring. Each species is reproductively isolated from other species with which they might breed.

spring overturn	A physical phenomenon that may take place in a <u>lentic</u> body of water during the early spring. The sequence of events leading to spring overturn, include: (1) melting of ice cover; (2) warming of surface waters; (3) density changes in surface waters producing convection currents from top to bottom; (4) circulation of the total water volume by wind; and (5) vertical temperature equilibration. During the summer, thermal and chemical stratification of the water mass will occur (see <u>fall overturn, overturn</u>).
stimulus	An influence that causes a response in an <u>organism</u> (see <u>taxis</u>).
submersed (submerged) aquatic plants	<u>Higher aquatic plants</u> that grow, or are adapted to grow beneath the surface of the water; e.g., ponaweed, coontail, etc.
substrate	The bottom material of a waterway; the base or substance upon which an organism is growing.
stratification (density stratification)	Arrangement of water masses into separate, distinct, horizontal layers as a result of differences in density; this may be caused by differences in temperature, dissolved oxygen, dissolved or suspended solids (see <u>thermal stratification</u> , <u>chemical stratification</u>).
stress	The conditions resulting from an environmental change that disturbs the normal functioning of an animal to such an extent that its chances for survival are reduced.
surface aquatic plants	(<u>Floating aquatic plants</u>).
synergism	The joint action of two or more substances which is greater than the sum of the action of each of the individual substances; e.g., action of certain combinations of <u>toxicants</u> .
synthesis	The production of a substance by the union of elements or simpler chemical compounds.
systematics	(<u>Taxonomy</u>)
taxis	A response to a stimulus; e.g., rheotaxis is a response to current.
taxon (pl. taxa)	Any taxonomic unit or category of organisms; e.g., species, genus, family, order, etc.
taxonomy (systematics)	The science of organism <u>classification</u> with reference to their evolutionary relationship in the plant or animal kingdom; includes the base, principles, procedures and rules of <u>classification</u> .

terrestrial	Growing on, living on, or peculiar to the land, as posed to the aquatic or marine environments.
territory	The area which an animal defends against intruders.
thermal stratification	The layering of water masses owing to different densities in response to temperature. The condition of a body of water in which the successive horizontal layers have different temperatures, each layer more or less sharply differentiated from the adjacent ones, the warmest (or the coldest) at the top (see <u>overturn</u> , <u>fall overturn</u> , <u>spring overturn</u>).
threshold (critical level)	The maximum or minimum duration or intensity of a <u>stimulus</u> that is required to produce a response in an organism.
TL _m (TL ₅₀)	(<u>Median Tolerance Limit</u>)
tolerance	Relative capability of an <u>organism</u> to endure or adapt to an unfavorable environmental factor.
tolerance limit (TL ₁₀ . . 100)	<i>The concentration of a substance which some specified portion of an <u>experimental population</u> can endure for a specified period of time with reference to a specified type of response; e.g., TL₁₀₀ means that all test organisms endured the stress for the specified time; TL₁₀ means only 10% of the test organisms could tolerate the imposed stress for the specified time (see <u>median tolerance limit</u>).</i>
tolerance range	The range of one or more environmental conditions within which an organism can function; range between the highest and lowest value of a particular environmental factor in which an organism can live.
tolerant association	An <u>association</u> of organisms capable of withstanding adverse conditions within the <u>habitat</u> . These associations are often characterized by having a lower number of species (compared to a <u>clean water association</u>) and, in the case of organic pollution, an increase in individuals representing certain species.
toxicant	A substance that through its chemical or physical action kills, injures, or impairs an organism; any environmental factor which, when altered, produces a harmful biological effect (see <u>pesticide</u>).
toxicity	Quality, state or degree of the harmful effect resulting from alteration of an environmental factor.
tripton	The dead suspended particulate matter in an aquatic habitat; the nonliving portion of the <u>seston</u> .

trophic level	One of the parts in a food chain in an ecosystem in which all organisms of that level secure food in the same general manner. The first or lowest trophic level consists of <u>producers</u> (green plants); the second level of <u>herbivores</u> ; the third level of secondary <u>carnivores</u> , etc. Most bacteria and fungi are organisms in the <u>reducer (decomposer) trophic level</u> .
ubiquitous organisms	<u>Organisms</u> that can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions or variations; organisms that are so active or numerous as to seem to be present or existent in all types of environments (see <u>tolerant association</u> , <u>sensitive organisms</u>).
unicellular	Refers to an <u>organism</u> that consists of only one cell; e.g., blue-green algae, protozoa, bacteria. These organisms may be filamentous or colonial in form.
vertebrates	Animals that have an internal skeletal system; e.g., fish, snakes (see <u>invertebrate</u>).
water pollution	Alteration of the aquatic environment in such a way as to interfere with a designated use.
water quality criteria	A scientific requirement on which a decision of judgment may be based concerning the suitability of water quality to support a designated use (see <u>water quality standard</u>).
water quality standard	A plan that is established by governmental authority as a program for water pollution prevention and abatement (see <u>water quality criteria</u>).
zooplankton	The animals which are part of the plankton.

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APPENDIX
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