



## Assessment of the Efficiency and Ability of Coastal Water Quality

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### DESCRIPTION

Estuaries, coastal wetlands, seagrass meadows, coral reefs, mangrove forests, kelp forests, and upwelling zones are a few examples of coastal habitats. Many different fish species can be found in coastal waterways, where 85 percent of the migratory birds that travel through the United States nest. Numerous other animals, like as corals, sea turtles, aquatic plants, and marine mammals all call them home. Coastal waterways are necessary for a variety of human endeavours, such as tourism, recreation, transportation, and fishing. Living near the coast is quite appealing to people.

Lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams only make up a tiny fraction of the total amount of water on earth, but they are crucial to both the ecosystem and human life. These fresh surface waters, which sustain ecological systems, are home to a wide variety of plant and animal species. They also meet a variety of human requirements, including those for recreation, cattle, industrial uses, drinking water, irrigation, wastewater treatment, and hydropower. Fresh surface waters also affect other water resources, including ground water, wetlands, and coastal systems, as well as their quantity and condition.

Wetlands include marshes, swamps, bogs, and other areas that occasionally get saturated with water or submerged by it. They serve as a deterrent to erosion and flooding and are significant links in the global water cycle. Additionally, they offer a variety of plants and animals food and a home.

Because of their ability to absorb water like a sponge, wetlands can slow down storm surges or floodwaters along the coast. Large-scale root systems found in wetlands stabilise the soil and trap pollutants, improving the organic quality of the water. Wetlands are one of the biodiverse habitats on the planet. The water and soil are given nutrients *via* their microbial activities. Wetlands act as a "sink" for a range of elements, including carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

### Dimensions of the coastal water

The size of coastal waters, or their spatial area, is especially important when it comes to certain types of coastal waters, such as coral reefs and coastal wetlands. The extent of a storm and other natural events, such as erosion, may be affected. It can also be changed by human activity like erecting seawalls or other obstacles or draining wetlands for buildings. River channeling in coastal areas can cause rivers that would ordinarily be replenished by sediments by natural processes to "sink."

### Seacoast water quality

The condition of coastal waters exhibits a variety of interrelated physical, chemical, biological, and ecological characteristics. Coastal waters may be subject to a variety of stressors.

Pathogens and nutrients may be present in agricultural runoff, storm water, and sewage discharge or overflows. An abundance of nutrients can cause algal blooms, which lower dissolved oxygen levels and kill aquatic life. People who ingest contaminated seafood or undertake recreational water activities run the risk of getting sick.

The atmospheric deposition of airborne pollutants, agricultural runoff, and industrial activities are all sources of chemical contamination. The status of freshwater imports or weather patterns can have an impact on temperature and salinity fluctuations. Human health is especially at risk from toxic substances found in fish and shellfish that are consumed. These changes might affect algal blooms, the health of native plant and animal populations, and the habitats overall quality.

A larger gap exists since there is no wetland condition indicator. It is difficult to quantify condition because it consists of so many different components. Every wetland has a different starting point in terms of its function, hydrology (water flow), and mix of plant and animal species. Wetland conditions are being thoroughly surveyed across the country, and the findings may provide future data on new variables.

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