

Developing Indicators for the Bay of Fundy to Long Island Sound

5. Contaminants

Contamination in the world's oceans, rivers, estuaries, groundwater, soil, sediment, and air threatens plants, animals, and the safety of our food supply and clean water. It also may impact the economy, tourism, aquatic and upland habitat and the biological integrity of many marine species. Contaminants of concern can be biological, such as bacteria, which have been cited as the main cause for beach closures (US EPA, 2001) or chemical, such as metals or organic chemicals (e.g., PCBs, PAHs). Many organic chemicals are readily taken up by animals and concentrate at the top of the food chain. Although metals occur naturally in the environment, high concentrations of some metals (e.g., mercury) in fish have resulted in advisories recommending limited consumption of a number of fish species.

18. How important are the following contaminant issues?

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Extent of contamination in the marine environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lethal and sub-lethal effects of contaminants on fisheries and people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changes in the sources of contaminants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fate and transport of contaminants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Suggested Additional Contaminant Issues:

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20. How useful are the following themes in communicating the status and trends of contaminants?

	Very Useful	Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful
Sediment and water contamination levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tissue contamination levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• clams & mussels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• marine birds and mammals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Shellfish acreage closed to harvesting



Bathing beach closures



Loading of contaminants to the marine environment



• atmospheric



• land-based



21. Suggested Additional Contaminant Themes:

a.

b.

c.