

Glossary

Ag: silver

Al: aluminum

ambient water quality: the natural concentration of water quality constituents prior to the mixing of either point- or nonpoint source loads of contaminants

anthropogenic: the influence of human activities

atmospheric deposition: the process by which airborne pollutants fall to the ground in raindrops, in dust, or due to gravity

background or baseline reference condition: an environmental condition that is relatively free of industrial and anthropogenic influences

Beginning with Habitat: a Maine DEP program to preserve and improve wildlife habitats

benthic: referring to the bottom of a body of water

bioaccumulation: the sequestering of toxic chemicals in the tissues of an organism at a higher concentration than those of the source

bioindicator/biosentinel: a resident organism that serves as an indicator of environmental contamination

biomagnification: the increasing concentration of toxics in organisms with each step up the food chain from the lowest to the highest links

biomarker: an indicator that can be used to measure a biological process

biota: the animal and plant life of a given region

butyltins: toxic organometallic compounds, *i.e.*, molecules in which metal is bonded to a carbon atom in an organic molecule

CBEP: Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

CCSWCD: Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cd: cadmium

Cr: chromium

CSO: a combined sewer overflow that discharges untreated wastewater directly to a body of water; refers to both the location and the event

Cu: copper

CWA: the federal Clean Water Act

DBT: dibutyl tin

DEP: Maine Department of Environmental Protection

dioxins and furans: toxic organic chemicals formed when organic material is burned in the presence of chlorine

DO: dissolved oxygen

EMCC: Eastern Maine Coastal Current

estuary: a semi-enclosed coastal water body with a free connection to an open sea, and within which seawater is measurably diluted with fresh water

eustatic: referring to a uniform global rise in sea level

FOCB: Friends of Casco Bay

Fe: iron

green slime: *Ulva intestinalis*, a green alga that is used as an indicator of nutrient enrichment

Gulfwatch: a joint United States/Canada blue-mussel monitoring program

HAPs: Hazardous air pollutants

heavy metals: dense metallic elements such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, silver, nickel, selenium, chromium, zinc, and copper

Hg: mercury

HUC: hydrologic unit codes that designate the size of a hydrologic unit or watershed

hydrophobic: chemicals that do not readily dissolve in water

intertidal zone: areas between high tide and low tide that are alternately exposed to seawater and air

ISWG: Interlocal Stormwater Working Group

LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LID: Low Impact Development - an approach to site planning, design, and development that aims to maintain pre-development hydrology of a site in order to manage stormwater

LiDAR: (light detecting and ranging) an optical remote sensing technology that measures properties of scattered light

load, loading: the total amount of a material (pollutant) entering a system from one or multiple sources.

Maine DEP: Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Maine DMR: Maine Department of Marine Resources

MDN: Mercury Deposition Network

MERI: Marine Environmental Research Institute

MHB: Maine Healthy Beaches Program

NADP: National Atmospheric Deposition Program

NATA: National Air Toxics Assessment

NCA: National Coastal Assessment

NDA: No Discharge Area

NEMO: Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials

neurotoxin: a substance that causes damage to the tissues of the nervous system

Ni: nickel

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

nonpoint source: an indirect discharge – not from a pipe or other specific source – such as stormwater runoff

NPDES: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NSSP: National Shellfish Sanitation Program

PAHs: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; toxic organic chemicals primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels and wood, as well as fuel spills and asphalt

Pb: lead

PBDEs: polybrominated diphenyl ethers, widely used as flame retardants

PCBs: polychlorinated biphenyls; persistent, toxic organic chemicals that were once used to insulate transformers and capacitors, and to lubricate gas pipelines

pelagic: relating to or living in the open sea (*i.e.*, offshore not coastal).

PFCs: heat resistant, slippery industrial chemicals such as Teflon

PFOA: perfluorooctanoate, a form of PFC

PFOS: perfluorooctanesulfonate, a form of PFC

planar PCBs: the most toxic conformation of PCBs, based on health effects; also called "dioxin-like" compounds

point source: any confined or discrete conveyance (*e.g.*, a pipe) from which pollutants are or may be discharged into a watershed

POPs: persistent organic pollutants, *e.g.*, PCBs, dioxins, and DDT

PPCPs: pharmaceuticals and personal care products

PRWC: Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition

red tide: harmful algae blooms of *Alexandrium fundyense*

Secchi depth: measure of water clarity

SEM: scanning electron microscope

sentinel or indicator organisms: resident organisms that serve as indicators of environmental contamination.

smart growth: a planning strategy that promotes integration of compact, centralized downtown development patterns with land conservation and alternative transportation

TBT: tributyltin

TDR: transfer development rights; a market-based planning tool

TMDL: total maximum daily load; a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources; also refers to the report that establishes a TMDL

trophic level: the position of an organism in the food chain.

US EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

USCG: United States Coast Guard

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

VOCs: volatile organic compounds (*e.g.*, gasoline and benzene) that produce vapors readily

WMCC: Western Maine Coastal Current

Zn: zinc