

Indicators of Bay Health

Pollution/Water Quality

Health Indicator	Definition	Effect on Ecosystem Health	Rating	Cause of Rating
Nitrogen	Nutrient used by plants and animals to create protein	Too much nitrogen can cause algal blooms which block the sun and kill off underwater grasses. This, in turn, reduces oxygen supplies sub-surface plants and animals need to survive.	F	Sewage treatment plants, industries, vehicle exhaust, acid rain, runoff from agricultural, residential, and urban areas (especially fertilizer).
Phosphorus				
Dissolved Oxygen				
Water Clarity				

Habitat

Health Indicator	Definition	Effect on Ecosystem Health	Rating	Cause of Rating
Underwater Bay Grasses				
Wetlands				

Fisheries

Health Indicator	Definition	Effect on Ecosystem Health	Rating	Cause of Rating
Blue Crab				
Oyster				
Striped Bass (Rockfish)				

Additional Indicators

Health Indicator	Definition	Effect on Ecosystem Health	Rating	Cause of Rating