

Regional Science Consortium

Macroinvertebrates

Vocabulary

1. **Biotic Index** – Qualitative indicator of water quality calculated from the pollution tolerance values of macroinvertebrates and species diversity.
2. **Critical Wetland Habitats** – Habitats which provide critical needs in an ecosystem such as food and shelter for migratory waterfowl and spawning areas for fish.
3. **Dichotomous Key** – A key for the identification of organisms based on a series of choices between alternative characteristics.
4. **Genus** – A taxonomic category comprised of related species.
5. **Lentic System** – Body of standing water, ranging from ditches, seeps, ponds, seasonal pools, basin marshes and lakes.
6. **Lotic System** – Running water like a river, stream, or creek.
7. **Macroinvertebrate** – Small insects, usually in the larval stage.
8. **Non-Point Source Pollution** – Pollution resulting from many different sources; rarely possible to pinpoint the exact source.
9. **Point Source Pollution** – Pollution resulting from a single, known source.
10. **Pollution Intolerant Species** – Species of macroinvertebrates that rarely live in polluted waters.
11. **Moderately Pollution Tolerant Species** – Species of macroinvertebrates that can live in waters with moderate levels of pollution.
12. **Pollution Tolerant Species** – Species of macroinvertebrates that can live in polluted waters.
13. **Species Diversity** – the number of different species that are represented in a given community.
14. **Water Quality** – The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water.