

---

---

***GLOSSARY OF TERMS***

---

---

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b>Aerobic</b>	Condition characterized by the presence of oxygen.
<b>Algae</b>	Single- or multi-celled, nonvascular plants containing chlorophyll. Algae form the base of the food chain in aquatic environments.
<b>Algal bloom</b>	Heavy growth of algae in and on a body of water as a result of high nutrient concentrations.
<b>Alkalinity</b>	The acid binding capacity of a (carbonate) solution, its buffering capacity.
<b>Anaerobic</b>	Absence of oxygen (Gr. <i>an</i> without, <i>aer</i> air).
<b>Anoxic</b>	Lack of oxygen.
<b>Biomass</b>	The total organic matter present (Gr. <i>bios</i> life).
<b>Chlorophyll</b>	The green pigments of plants (Gr. <i>chloros</i> green, <i>phylon</i> leaf).
<b>Drainage basin</b>	The area drained by, or contributing to, a stream, lake, or other water body.
<b>Ecosystems</b>	Any complex of living organisms together with all the other biotic and abiotic (non living) factors which affect them.
<b>Epilimnion</b>	The surface layer of a lake (Gr. <i>epi</i> on, <i>limne</i> lake).
<b>Euphotic zone</b>	That part of a water body where light penetration is sufficient to maintain photosynthesis.
<b>Eutrophic</b>	High algal productivity; lake suitability for most recreational uses is often impaired by frequent and intense algal blooms which may form floating scums. The water often takes on a "pea soup" color and is extremely murky. Fish kills may be common because of depleted oxygen, especially in shallow lakes.
<b>Fall turnover</b>	A natural mixing of thermally stratified waters that commonly occurs during early autumn. The sequence of events leading to a fall turnover includes 1) cooling of surface waters, 2) density change in surface water that produces convection currents from top to bottom, and 3) circulation of the total water volume by wind action. The turnover generally results in a uniformity of the physical and chemical properties of the water.

<b>Fecal coliform bacteria</b>	A group of organisms common to the intestinal tract of vertebrates.
<b>Hypolimnion</b>	The deep layer of a lake and removed from surface influences (Gr. <i>hypo</i> under, <i>limne</i> lake).
<b>Limiting nutrient</b>	Essential nutrient which is the scarcest in the environment relative to an organism's needs.
<b>Limnology</b>	The study of inland waters (Gr. <i>limne</i> lake).
<b>Littoral</b>	The shoreward region of a body of water.
<b>Mesotrophic</b>	Moderate algal productivity; generally compatible with all recreational uses. Algal blooms are occasional, but generally of low to moderate intensity. Oxygen depletion is common in the bottom waters and cold water fisheries may be endangered in some shallow lakes. In many lakes, however, the fishery may be enhanced by the increased productivity.
<b>Metalimnion</b>	The layer of water in a lake between the epilimnion and hypolimnion in which the temperature exhibits the greatest difference in a vertical direction (Gr. <i>meta</i> between, <i>limne</i> lake).
<b>Nutrient</b>	Any chemical element, ion, or compound required by an organism for growth, reproduction, or other life processes.
<b>Oligotrophic</b>	Low algal productivity; high suitability for all recreational uses. Algal blooms are rare and the water is extremely clear.
<b>Periphyton</b>	The biological community attached to substrate (such as rocks, sediments, aquatic plants) that is primarily composed of algae.
<b>pH</b>	The negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion activity.
<b>Photosynthesis</b>	Production of organic matter (carbohydrate) from inorganic carbon and water in the presence of light (Gr. <i>phos</i> , <i>photos</i> light, <i>synthesis</i> placing together).
<b>Phytoplankton</b>	Free floating microscopic plants (algae) (Gr. <i>phyton</i> plant).
<b>Residence time</b>	The average length of time that water or a chemical constituent remains in a lake.
<b>Respiration</b>	An energy yielding oxidation which can occur in aerobic or anaerobic conditions.
<b>Secchi disc</b>	A 20-centimeter (8-inch) diameter disc painted white and black in alternating quadrants. It is used to measure light transparency in lakes.

<b>Sediment</b>	Solid material deposited in the bottom of a basin.
<b>Stratified period</b>	The period of time in which through warming (or cooling) from above, a density stratification is formed that prevents a mixing of the water mass (Lat. <i>stagnum</i> a piece of standing water).
<b>Thermocline</b>	Zone of temperature decrease (Gr. <i>therme</i> heat, <i>klinein</i> to slope). See metalimnion.
<b>Trophic state</b>	Term used to describe the productivity of the lake ecosystem and classify it as oligotrophic, mesotrophic, or eutrophic.
<b>Watershed</b>	See drainage basin.
<b>Watershed management</b>	The management of the natural resources of a drainage basin for the production and protection of water supplies and water-based resources.
<b>Zooplankton</b>	The animal portion of the plankton (Gr. <i>zoion</i> animal).