

# Why is *Stormwater* Important?

The US EPA defines stormwater as runoff from rain, snowmelt, or other water drainage from a surface. As stormwater flows over construction, agricultural, and industrial sites; lawns; or other built-up or impervious surfaces, such as roadways, roofs, and parking lots, it picks up trash, debris, nutrients, sediment, metals, and bacteria. If stormwater is left untreated, pollutants may enter creeks and rivers, and eventually the ocean. Pollutants in the stormwater may harm aquatic life by interfering with photosynthesis, respiration, growth, and reproduction, which can lead to a reduction in the number of fish available for commercial and recreational fishing. Pollutants may also make contact recreation, such as swimming, unsafe in affected waters.

Parcel Development

Agriculture

Industry

Construction

Landfills

Wastewater Treatment Plants

Septic Tanks

Drinking Water

Ports

Roadways

Rivers, Streams, and Wetlands

Estuaries and Ocean

Seafood Resources

