



Marine Water

NARRAGANSETT BAY
**WATERSHED
COUNTS**
ECONOMY • ENVIRONMENT • EQUITY

Oxygen is essential for life. All aquatic organisms depend on dissolved oxygen found throughout the water column. But under certain conditions, this essential oxygen can be depleted. Low dissolved-oxygen conditions, referred to as *hypoxia*, impacts the bay's life. Fish, lobsters, crabs, shrimp, and shellfish that cannot flee poor water quality conditions become stressed or die. Additional effects ripple throughout the ecosystem.

Marine water quality is a complex issue that is measured in a variety of ways. The Watershed Counts assessment focuses on dissolved oxygen, just one of the many important metrics of marine water quality.

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