Water Quality

Measured by samples, aerial photography, and aquatic life forms

Analyzing physical, chemical and biological factors

Dissolved oxygen (DO), oxygen available for organisms to breathe

pH measures acidity of water

Nutrients – NPK, too much=eutrophication

Toxins- metals, pesticides, oils etc

Temperature- dictates what life forms can survive

 Correlated to the amount of direct sunlight

 Warmer water contains less DO

Speed of water

Substrate-large sediments stir up ore water, increasing DO

Turbidity (clarity) how much solid is being carried in the bedload (high turbidity is lower quality)

Pathogens-viruses and bacteria Fecal coliforms

Bioindicators, living things that provide info about water quality

 Fish, plants, and macroinvertebrates

 Only species most tolerant will be found in heavily polluted waters

 (6 legged frogs)