

Name _____

Slick Situation: Understanding the Impact of Oil Pollution on Water Ecosystems

Short Answer Key

1. Oil pollution can coat the feathers and fur of marine mammals and seabirds, impairing their ability to regulate body temperature and repel water.
2. Oil pollution can disrupt aquatic ecosystems by contaminating water, sediment, and habitats, smothering coral reefs and seagrass beds, and reducing oxygen levels.
3. One long-term impact of oil pollution on the environment is the accumulation of oil in sediments and organisms, leading to ongoing risks to marine life and human health.
4. Oil pollution can impact coastal communities economically by causing loss of income and livelihoods, particularly for those dependent on fisheries, tourism, and recreational activities.
5. One mitigation effort to address oil pollution is restoring affected habitats, such as coral reefs and seagrass beds, to support ecosystem recovery and biodiversity.

