

Definitions:

Biomass Productivity = effectiveness in conversion of any inorganic or living planktonic matter into living plant or animal tissue

B-IBI = Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity; a measure of bottom community health, looking at key benthic community attributes such as species abundance and diversity, combined into one numerical value

Water Quality = effectiveness in increasing water clarity and/or DO

Erosion protection = effectiveness to prevent additional deposition and/or resuspension of material into the water column

Fish Habitat = contribution to fish for shelter, foraging, or breeding habitat

Toxic Burden Reduction = effectiveness to reduce the toxicity of man-introduced chemicals into the marine environment with a significant half-life (e.g.: creosote, Kepone, DDT, PCB's, etc.)

Excess nutrient reduction = effectiveness to remove nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous (above the baseline level needed to maintain the planktonic community expected under pristine conditions without human interference, such as agricultural run-off)

Aesthetics = general appearance of the mitigation option

Flood Buffer = effectiveness to absorb water during storm events (e.g., wetlands act as "sponges") or ability to buffer wave action during extreme tidal events

Wildlife habitat = use of the area as habitat by non-fully aquatic fauna, such as waterfowl, small mammals, etc.

In-kind relatedness = similarity of mitigation option to the disturbed habitat type and takes place in vicinity of the impacted area; results in more direct replacement of the lost resource

Large-scale ecosystem benefits = effectiveness of mitigation option to influence a large geographical area over time

Acceptability = The publicly recognized importance of the resource value contributed by the mitigation option as acknowledged in the laws, adopted plans such as national or international agreements, or other policy statements of public agencies or private groups.

