



## Riverwatch Captain Fact Sheet

### What Am I Looking For?

#### Pollution

##### 1. Spills

- Unusual smells, colors, or material in the water or on shore
- Oil sheen on surface of water
- Unidentified pipes or other outfalls
- Suspicious activity by boats, vehicles or individuals
- Sick or dead wildlife or fish
- Disturbed shoreline area or manhole covers
- Discussion of illegal dumping

##### 2. Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

- Sewage smell, "floatables", toilet debris
- Flow from sewer outfalls
- Recent sewer system problem
- Sick or dead wildlife or fish

##### 3. Legal discharges

- Flow from SPDES-permitted outfalls
- Smells, colors, or material in the water near outfalls
- Oil sheen on surface of water
- Sick or dead wildlife or fish in vicinity of outfall

##### 4. Stormwater runoff

- Trash, yard waste, oil sheen, unusual smells or colors in the water following a rainfall
- Debris, oil sheen, unusual smells or colors in the flow from stormwater outfall following a rainfall
- Sediment in the water ("chocolate milk" creeks)
- Erosion from construction sites on shore

## **5. Litter**

- Scattered debris on heavily visited public lands
- Concentrations of debris washed down during floods
- Concentrations of trash at illicit “party” spots
- Illegally dumped construction debris or household trash

## **6. Historic Contamination**

- Fish with eroded fins, tumors, lesions or deformities
- Sick, dead or deformed wildlife
- Fish or wildlife with tainted flavor
- Deformed or absent benthic (bottom-dwelling) invertebrates

## **Habitat**

### **1. Land Use**

- Disturbance of shoreline or creekbed
- Construction near the shoreline
- Presence of unidentified, undeveloped lands

### **2. Restoration**

- Presence of invasive plants or animals
- Degraded habitat areas on public lands (filled, ditched, bulldozed, invaded by alien species, lacking wildlife)
- Presence of healthy wildlife and fish
- Presence of habitat areas, such as forest, wetland, old field

## **Public Access**

- Blocked public access points
- Poorly maintained access points
- Actual public uses of sites
- Dangerous conditions at public access points
- Construction or maintenance of public access points in a way that damages wildlife habitat or water quality