

# Fish Ecology

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# Dissolved Oxygen

- What is Dissolved Oxygen?
- Oxygen refers to the level of free, non-compound oxygen present in water or other liquids. It is an important parameter in assessing water quality because of its influence on the organisms living within a body of water. In limnology (the study of lakes), dissolved oxygen is an essential factor second only to water itself. A dissolved oxygen level that is too high or too low can harm aquatic life and affect water quality.

# Dissolved Oxygen

- Oxygen, or free oxygen ( $O_2$ ), is oxygen that is not bonded to any other element. Dissolved oxygen is the presence of these free  $O_2$  molecules within water.
- The bonded oxygen molecule in water ( $H_2O$ ) is in a compound and does not count toward dissolved oxygen levels.

