

~ 1993

CASCO BAY ESTUARY PROJECT

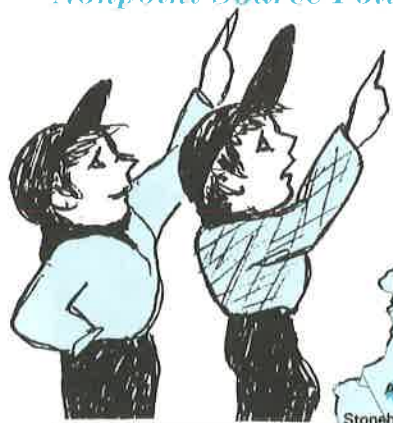
FACT SHEET

THE BAY BOYS AND THE CASCO KID EXPLORE

Nonpoint Source Pollution

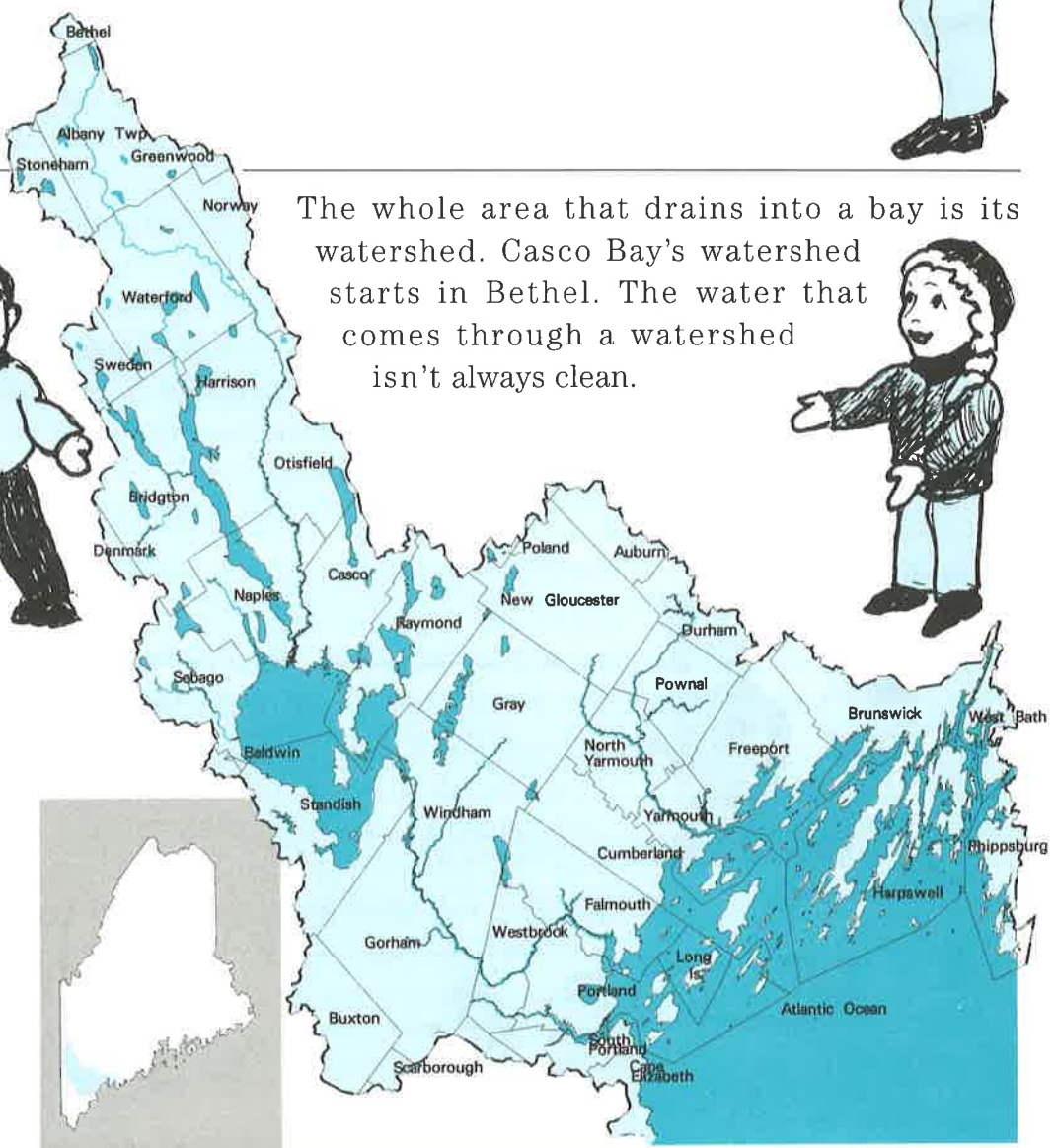
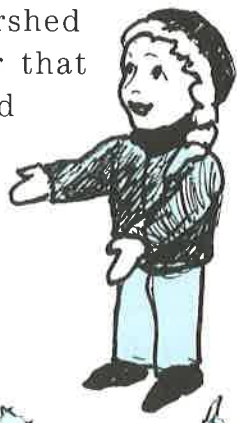
Nonpoint Source Pollution?

That's the kind you can't point to. It doesn't come from any one place. It comes from all over the watershed into the Bay.



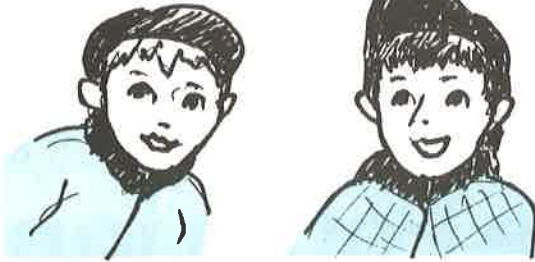
Watershed?

The whole area that drains into a bay is its watershed. Casco Bay's watershed starts in Bethel. The water that comes through a watershed isn't always clean.

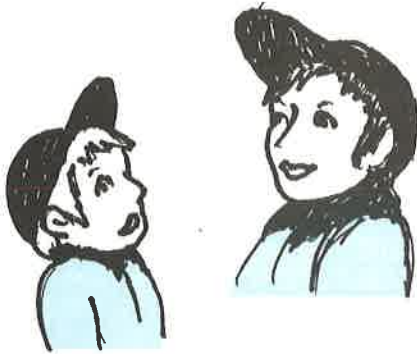


What makes it dirty?

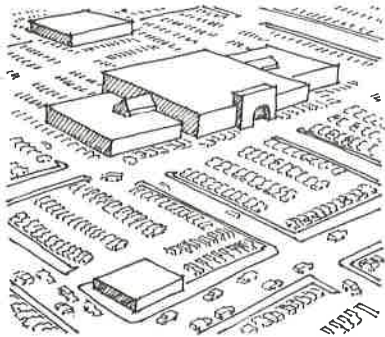
Atmospheric deposition, stormwater runoff...



*Atmospheric deposition?
Stormwater runoff?*



Particles of lead, petroleum, and nitrogen from car exhausts and building smokestacks get sucked up into the atmosphere and blown around by the winds. When rain forms it picks up these particles and deposits them in the water and on the ground. When rain lands on earth it can soak in and the particles are filtered into the ground.

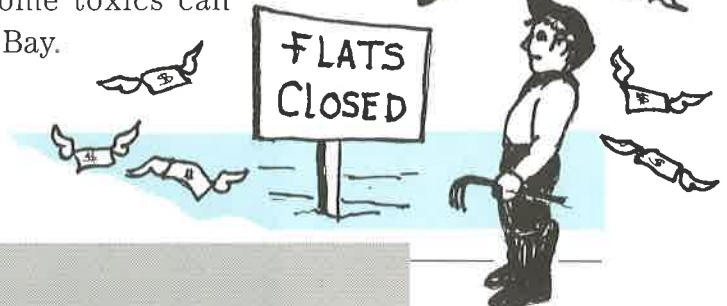


But when rain lands on paved surfaces like highways, driveways, and parking lots it can't soak in. When there is a storm with a lot of rain the stormwater runs off, picking up more bacteria, heavy metals, toxic chemicals and sediments on its way to the water, or it goes into storm drains and is carried into Casco Bay that way. Rain will run off the rooftops, too. As cities get bigger there are more rooftops, more highways, more cars, and more parking lots, making particles of bacteria, toxic chemicals and sediments.

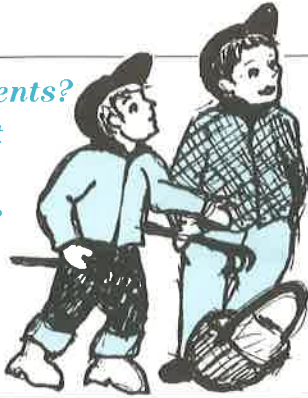


What do these do?

Bacteria can make people sick. When too much gets into the Bay, beaches have to be closed to swimming. Shellfish areas have to be closed, too. We can't get the shellfish to eat and the people who harvest these shellfish are put out of work. Other pollutants like toxic chemicals may get into the fish so that they are no longer good to eat. And some toxics can add nutrients to the Bay.



*Nutrients?
Aren't they
good?*



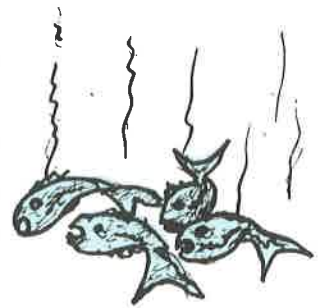
Not when there are too many. When the underwater and microscopic plants have too many nutrients they multiply, blocking valuable sunlight. As they die and decompose they use up too much of the oxygen that is in the water. When there isn't enough oxygen left for the fish, they die.



*Dead fish? Phew!!!
Let's get out of the city
to the nice clean country!*



The country has pollution, too. People use cars to get back and forth and the cars may leak oil as well as send out particles from their exhausts. Farmers may have animals whose waste can go into the streams. To grow more food for all of us to eat, the farmers may use chemical fertilizers and pesticides to get rid of the bugs. If they use too much, the extra chemicals can go into the streams. Country homes are far apart and may not be on a sewer line. They have their own septic systems and if these don't work properly they can pollute the Bay. Fertilizers and weed killers used on lawns can also get into streams and into the Bay.



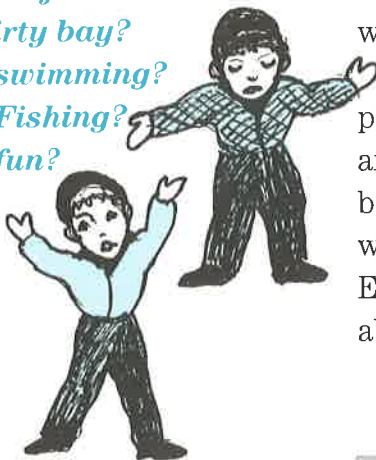
*Let's go live on a boat.
Then we won't have
a lawn!*



Boats can pollute, too. They use petroleum products for fuel that can get spilled into the water, along with motor oil. 1/4 teaspoon oil can make a film over 2,000 square feet of water! Some boats may have anti-fouling paint on their bottoms to kill the worms. This paint can kill marine life, too.



*Do we just have to have
a dirty bay?
No swimming?
No Fishing?
No fun?*



Not if everybody works together. People are working to find better ways to handle wastes and to make better products. Towns and cities can plan to have more green space to let rain soak up and better ways to handle stormwater. We can all be more careful about the products we use and what we do with our wastes. The Casco Bay Estuary Project is helping people learn about better ways to do things.





NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION AND YOU

Nonpoint source pollution is a product of our modern lifestyle. There is a lot that you can do to ensure a cleaner and healthier coast by making simple changes in your daily habits. Please help us reduce nonpoint source pollution now.

- Drive less
- Limit impervious surfaces in your yard
- Replace toxic chemicals you use in your home, on your yard, and at work with environmentally safe alternatives
- Maintain your septic system
- Properly dispose of used motor oil
- Always use pump-out stations to dispose of boat sewage, and never throw garbage overboard
- Encourage your community to protect land close to waterways to catch rain and to filter polluted water.

If you are interested in participating in the Casco Bay Estuary Project, or would like more information call or write:

Casco Bay Estuary Project

312 Canco Road
Portland, Maine 04103
207-828-1043



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For more information on what you and your community can do to reduce nonpoint source pollution call or write:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Nonpoint Source pollution Program
State House Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333
207-3901

Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

381 Main Street
Gorham, ME 04038
839-7839