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**A STUDY OF AQUATIC POLLUTION EFFECTS ON AQUATIC
ANIMALS**

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ABSTRACT

Aquatic pollution has severe consequences for the health and well-being of aquatic animals, affecting ecosystems and biodiversity in complex ways. Contaminants, such as heavy metals, pesticides, plastics, oil, and untreated sewage, alter the natural environment, leading to physiological and behavioral disturbances among aquatic species. Heavy metals, including mercury, lead, and cadmium, accumulate in the tissues of fish and other aquatic organisms, causing toxic effects that impair reproduction, growth, and the nervous system. Bioaccumulation of these toxic substances up the food chain further impacts higher-order predators, leading to population declines and reduced biodiversity. Similarly, pesticides and agricultural runoff introduce harmful chemicals into aquatic habitats, disrupting hormonal balances and causing developmental abnormalities in species such as frogs and fish. Additionally, plastic pollution is a critical threat; aquatic animals often ingest microplastics, mistaking them for food, which leads to internal injuries, blockages, and sometimes death. These pollutants also release toxic additives that further damage the animals' organs and tissues.