NRWA River Classroom
Aquatic Insect Investigations with Biotic & Abiotic Factors

Names_____

DEFINITIONS: BIOTIC VS. ABIOTIC

Biotic factors are all the living things or their materials that directly or indirectly affect an organism in its environment. This would include organisms, their presence, parts, interaction, and wastes. i.e. predation, disease, parasitism, decomposition.

Abiotic factors are those non-living physical and chemical factors which affect the ability of organisms to survive and reproduce. i.e. light, temperature, soil type, pH level, dissolved gases, pollutants, wind.

Organism	Biotic Factor	Abiotic Factor
MACRO-INVERTEBRATE NAME	TROPHIC LEVEL & TOTAL NUMBER (count)	POLLUTION TOLERANCE: Good quality = very sensitive Fair quality = somewhat tolerant Any quality = very tolerant

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