

## Summary

1. A water body becomes impaired when it cannot be safely used for recreation, drinking, fishing, or agricultural purposes due to pollutants in the water;
2. Nutrient pollution can be harmful to human health if the waterway is used for swimming or drinking water.
3. Pathogens are the most commonly reported cause of water pollution. People can become ill by eating contaminated fish or shellfish or swimming in waters with these microbes;
4. The LDEQ list all the impaired water bodies in the state in a list called the 303(d) list;
5. Swimming advisories are usually caused by sewage contamination entering a water body and
6. Fishing advisories are determined by the concentrations of mercury in the fish in an area. The amount of fish that can be eaten is determined based on health effects.



Pictures from the following web sites: [urbanspoon.com](http://urbanspoon.com) and [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com).

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# Protecting the Vermillion River: Your Recreational Area

Part 22 – Impaired Water Bodies

Lafayette Airport Commission  
Lafayette Regional Airport



Picture from the following web site: [nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov](http://nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov)

