## 2.3 Effects of Bioaccumulation on Ecosystems

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1. The gradual build-up of synthetic and organic chemicals in living organisms.

2. Species that can greatly affect population numbers and the health of an ecosystem.

3. The process in which chemicals not only accumulate but become more concentrated at each trophic level in a food pyramid.

4. polychlorinated biphenyls

5. The time it takes for the amount of a chemical to decrease by half.

6. Even if PCBs enter the food chain at a relatively low level, by the time they get to the orca, at the top of the food chain, they are highly \_\_\_\_\_ in its blubber.

7. Shortened term for the carbon-containing compounds that remain in water and soil for many years.

8. Chemical accumulation is measured in \_\_\_\_\_, (ppm).

9. Dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane.

10. Metallic elements with a high density that are toxic to organisms at low concentrations.

11. In the past, this heavy metal, naturally present in all soils, generally in the range of 15 to 40 ppm, was used in insecticides, in paints, and as an anti-knock ingredient in gasoline.

12. This heavy metal is found in Earth's crust and is released into the environment through rock weathering, volcanoes, and forest fires.

13. For humans, the most serious source of cadmium poisoning is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

14. This activity accounts for more than 40 percent of mercury released into the atmosphere.

15. The use of living organisms, usually micro-organisms or plants, to do the clean-up naturally, only faster through biodegradation.