

# The Effect of Sea Pollution on Humans

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Abridged and translated by Wafa' Stephan Tarnowski

Sea pollution affects humans on two levels: 1) either through contact, by swimming in polluted water, or 2) through consumption of contaminated sea food and fish. In other words, human health will be affected according to the degree of contamination or pollution of the sea and its inhabitants.

## Swimming in polluted water

Research has shown that contact with polluted water will not result in immediate contamination. It depends on the number of times humans go into polluted water and on the type of bacteria found in that water. Some bacteria like the Typhoid and Salmonellae do not live a long time in sea water. They tend to be quickly

neutralized. However, viruses like Poliomyelitis and others are dangerous because they can survive more than a month in sea water and more than five months in the bodies of some animals living in the deep.

## Fungi

Fungi responsible for many skin diseases are definitely a result of swimming in polluted water. They are also caused by sweating, high temperatures and sunrays, all of which are found in bathing places. Most skin diseases, according to research, are transmitted through the sand and stones with which infected people have been in contact, rather than through swimming.

## Consumption of contaminated seafood

The real danger of sea pollution is the consumption of raw contaminated seafood such as oysters and others. Oysters tend to filter sea water and store bacteria which cause many diseases. Moreover, seafood that contains a high proportion of heavy metals and chemicals are a great danger to health.

## Conclusion

Humans can protect themselves from pollution by being aware and well-informed of the relevant dangers. It is the role of governments to inform their citizens of these dangers and to enforce laws which protect the sea from further pollution. Governments should build sewer processing plants that filter sewers before they get to the sea as well as respect international conventions for the protection of the seas.

But most of all, governments must cooperate with each other on a regional level in order to protect the seas because national solutions for this particular problem are never as effective as international ones ●

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