

Does the Amount of Fecal Coliform in Water Increase Due to Precipitation?

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Fecal coliform is produced by warm blooded mammals, and when found in bodies of water, is an indication that the water is contaminated with fecal matter. Fecal coliform can contaminate water near waste treatment plants. Coliform content is important to monitor because of its relationship with water, an essential substance of life that provides means of hydration, a crucial component of all ecosystems and mandatory for survival. '*Coffee Pot Bayou*,' located near Canterbury School of Florida, is a small body of water that connects to the bay, home to seagrass beds that help prevent erosion. The bay also happens to be a popular "water activity hangout" spot for St. Petersburg. The Tampa Bay Area, receiving rain frequently, would benefit from this study, in which fecal coliform levels will be recorded and monitored. In order to conduct this experiment, the amount of fecal coliform in water after mass amounts of rainfall will be measured. Comparing this data to the control, being when there is an absence of rain, will cultivate the experiment's conclusion. The hypothesis is as follows: the levels of fecal coliform in Coffee Pot Bayou will rise due to increased precipitation. A possible explanation could be that flooding, a result of excessive rainfall, increases the bayou's risk of contamination, especially because of its proximity to the waste treatment plants. The possibility that this flooding affects the sewers' ability to hold sewage is plausible.