

## **Glossary**

### **Aesthetic Degradation**

Changes in environmental quality that offend our aesthetic senses.

### **Barrier Islands**

Low, narrow, sandy islands that form offshore from a coastline.

### **Bioaccumulation**

The selective absorption and concentration of molecules by cells.

### **Biological Community**

The populations of plants, animals, and microorganisms living and interacting in a certain area at a given time.

### **Biological or Biotic Factors**

Organisms and products of organisms that are part of the environment and potentially affect the life of other organisms.

### **Biomass**

The total mass or weight of all the living organisms in a given population or area.