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*Using Asian Clams as a Bioindicator to Assess the Health of a River System*

The purpose of this project was to study the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) as a bioindicator of the health of a river system by testing the tissue and the shell for the presence of four heavy metals of cadmium, lead, copper, and zinc. Previous research in this area has focused solely on the study of tissues of Asian clams as a bioindicator of heavy metals in a water system. The uniqueness of this project was that the researcher studied not only the tissues, but also the shells of Asian clams in order to determine which is the better indicator of heavy metals in water systems. A spectrophotometer was used to test metal levels in the clams. The results of this project reflect that shells of Asian clams were significantly lower in metal concentrations than the tissues. Therefore, the tissues are the preferred part of the Asian clam to use as a bioindicator. This research supports previous theories that Asian clams can successfully be studied in order to warn the public that a body of water is polluted with heavy metals.