



SENSITIVE MARICULTURE AREA
• PLEASE HELP KEEP THE SHELLFISH HABITAT CLEAN
REFRAIN FROM DUMPING SEWAGE

Don't Use The Ocean As A Toilet

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The city of Victoria in British Columbia does not have a sewage treatment plant and has been dumping all of its sewage into the Ocean. Although there have been talks and plans to build a sewage treatment plant, these plans have so far been delayed.

What Is Raw Sewage?

Raw sewage is anything that we pour down the drain or flush. This raw sewage includes all the chemicals we use in our house and the feces we flush down. On top of this there are also chemicals used by businesses that are also included in this raw sewage.

Why Is Raw Sewage Bad?

Usually with other pollutants the answer to the problem would be to decrease the amount of the production of the

pollutant. But in the case of sewage there is not much that can be done since it is something that will always be produced. Raw sewage contains toxic organic matter and heavy metals, which are highly toxic to humans and marine life. Studies around the areas where the sewage output is have found high levels of these heavy metals and toxic matter. (Markovic, 1995).

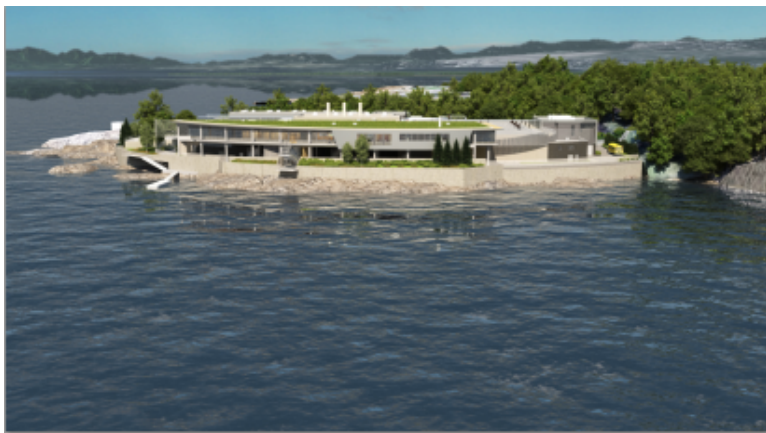
Consequences

At the points where the sewage is dumped into the ocean, lower biodiversity has been observed (Scientific and Technical Review Panel, 2006). With growing population of Victoria there are also many future concerns, since the sewage load will



also be increasing. In other places due to high raw sewage dumping there have been negative consequences on the fishing and public safety. At times beaches had to be closed off because of high levels of contaminants in the water. Also eutrophication leading to high numbers of fish deaths has also caused problems with the fishing industry in other countries. The sewage also includes pathogens, microorganism and bacteria that can be harmful to both humans and marine life.

Proposed Treatment Plant

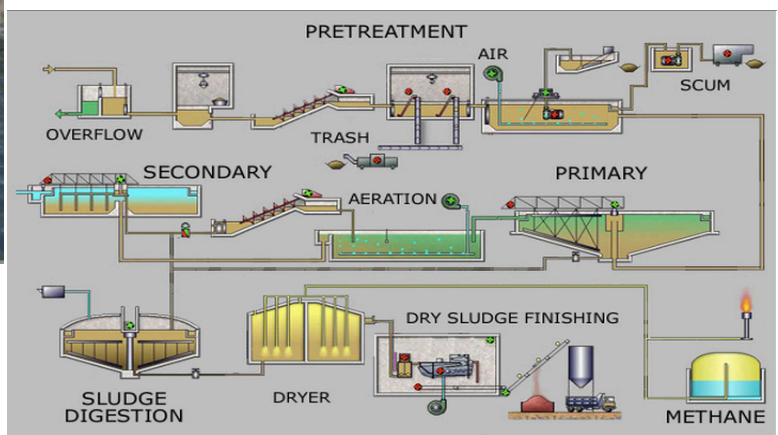


source: www.victoriasewagealliance.org

To Treat Or Not To Treat

Considering the future growth in the population, relying on the dilution of the sewage in the ocean is not a long-term solution. The treatment plant would allow for the proper disposal and neutralizing of the harmful components of the sewage. There are also economic sides to look at. The construction of the treatment plant would create many jobs, while the plant itself ensures the safety of the marine life and therefore the fishing industry.

Steps In Sewage Treatment



Source: Wikipedia

References:

- Markovic, D.L. (1995). *UNTREATED MUNICIPAL SEWAGE DISCHARGE IN VICTORIA BIGHT, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA: AN INVESTIGATION OF SEDIMENT METAL CONTAMINATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTA INABLE DEVELOPMENT* (Master's Thesis). Retrieved from <http://www.victoriasewagealliance.org/Markovic%20Heavy%20Metals.pdf>
- Scientific and Technical Review Panel. (2006). *Capital Regional District Core Area Liquid Waste Management Plan*. Retrieved from <http://www.victoriasewagealliance.org/SETACCRDFinalReport.pdf>