

As it relates to our conservation earlier regarding the wood chips, it is not a good idea to dump the wood chips in the cove water because it will cause significant environmental problems. As the wood chips decompose, they strip oxygen from the water, releases harmful organic acids and leaches toxic compounds. This damages the aquatic ecosystems, smothers bottom dwelling organisms, and can lead to fish kills. Especially due to the slow volume of water flowing through the cove area prior to getting out to the river which is most of the time.

Some major environmental impacts include

1. Severe oxygen depletion: As the wood chips break down, they consume large amounts of oxygen. This drastically lowers dissolved oxygen levels, creating hypoxic or anoxic dead zones that can suffocate fish or other aquatic life.
2. Toxic Leachate: Fresh wood chips, especially soft woods, leach acidic compounds, tannins and resin acids into the water. These chemicals are highly toxic to aquatic fauna and early-stage fish development.
3. Habitat Destruction: Unnaturally high volumes of wood waste sink and blanket the waterbed. These smothers bottom dwelling creatures, destroys spawning habitats and ruins recreational areas like shellfish beds.
4. Disrupted Water Quality: Leaching causes water to turn brown and foul smelling and dramatically raises Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Chemical Oxygen Demand, destroying the water's ecological balance.