



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2015 PROJECT SUMMARY**

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| Name(s) Adrian M. Mendoza | Project Number 35125 |
| Project Title Effectiveness of Aquatic Azolla Plants in Removing Toxic Oils from a Fresh Water Environment | |
| Objectives/Goals Will harvesting Azolla make pollutants less toxic in fresh water environments? Abstract Methods/Materials 30 small glass fish bowls Twenty (20) ml of motor oil per bowl, 600 ml in total Twenty (20) ml of motor oil per bowl, 600 ml in total 200 ml of water per bowl One (1) 500 ml measuring cup 59 square cm of aquatic Azolla plant per bowl One one by one cm (1x1) transparency Results My hypothesis for the oils was supported. I stated that the harvested oil would be the least toxic pollutant and it was with an average of 20% discoloration. When the harvested oil is compared to the untouched oil the difference of discoloration is 79%. The untouched oil was the most toxic pollutant with an average of 99% discoloration. I believe that the reason why the harvested oil was the least toxic was because the Azolla must have drained out some of the toxins making the oil not as polluted. Conclusions/Discussion Pollutants are very toxic, not only in the air, but also very toxic in fresh water environments. People need to be careful of disposing of the pollutants more wisely because they can cause more damage than you think. I also believe that people should use my method to at least try to clean up pollutants. This project will also enlighten people on more organic and efficient way of removing oil from fresh water environments. In conclusion, I believe that all people are able to stop laying waste to water environments and become more aware about the consequences of their actions. | |
| Summary Statement Will harvesting Azolla make pollutants less toxic in fresh water environments? | |
| Help Received Mr. John Young | |