

Glossary

Abiotic: Non-living.

Acidification: The process of becoming more acidic from the original condition. Acidification does not require the final solution to be an acid (pH < 7).

Aerosol: Very small particles suspended in air. Aerosol particles provide a surface upon which water drops form.

Biotic: Living.

Bycatch: Fish caught unintentionally and discarded.

Calcareous: Containing calcium carbonate (CaCO₃).

Calcification: Biochemical reactions that deposit calcium carbonate forming a shell or exoskeleton for marine organisms.

Catch share program: An example of a fish management practice in which the total quota of a certain fish type is decided for the season, and divided into designated portions for each participant.

Cnidaria (ni-DARE-ri-a): A phylum of marine animals that are gelatinous and have stingers. The bell-shaped medusa forms are called “true jellyfish.”

Coriolis Effect: The deflection of air or water at the Earth’s surface caused by the rotation of the Earth. The deflection is northward (clockwise) in the Northern Hemisphere and Southward (counter-clockwise) in the Southern Hemisphere.

Ekman Transport: How layers of water are transported by wind. Ekman transport is 90° to the right of wind direction in the Northern Hemisphere, and 90° to the left of wind direction on the Southern Hemisphere.

Equator: An imaginary horizontal line drawn around the middle of the Earth that is geographically equidistant from the poles.

Ground-truthing: A method used to verify the accuracy of remote measurements. Measurements taken from the ground (often direct measurements) are compared to measurements taken from a satellite or other remote-sensing device (often indirect measurements based on calculations).

Gyre: A spiraling or circular current.

Hydrophone: An instrument that records underwater sound by using a transducer that only converts pressure into sound.

Latitude: Distance from the equator. On a map or globe, latitude lines run horizontally. Positive numbers indicate North; negative numbers indicate South.

Marine Debris: Any solid, man-made material left in the ocean or on the coast.

Overfishing: The practice of catching fish at a rate faster than the rate at which they can reproduce.

Polyp: The portion of a coral that is alive. Polyps have a simple, sac-like body shape with stinging tentacles surrounding the mouth opening.

Sea Ice: Ice formed from seawater. Sea ice forms in the ocean from saltwater. Icebergs and glaciers form on land from fresh water.

Snapping shrimp: A small shrimp (belonging to the genus *Alpheus*) that lives in tropical waters. Snapping shrimp use a large claw to create a jet of water to stun prey and communicate. Closing the claw creates a jet of water and bubbles that produce a crackling sound.

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without limiting the ability of people, other species, and future generations to survive.

Symbiosis: Where two organisms live dependently on each other. Each organism provides something (e.g., food, shelter) to the other. The symbiotic relationship is beneficial to the survival of the organisms.

Thermohaline circulation: The movement of water currents around the globe due to changes in temperature and salinity, which impacts the density of water.

Zooxanthellae (zo-uh-zan-THEL-ee) : Various species of single-celled algae that live in a mutualistic symbiosis with coral (the symbiotic relationship is beneficial to both organisms). Zooxanthellae are photosynthetic and provide corals with nutrients and brilliant colors.