
Hydrodynamic Vocabulary

Adaptions-characteristics that allow an organism to live in its environment

Algae-aquatic photosynthetic organisms ranging from single-celled forms to the giant kelp

Anemone-marine organism (related to the corals and jellyfish) with flexible cylindrical body and numerous tentacles

Bay-a body of water partially enclosed by land but having a wide outlet to the sea

Benthic-of or pertaining to the bottom; another word for bottom-benthos

Biomass-the total mass of living matter within a given environmental area

Calcium carbonate-a compound (CaCO_3) found in nature, used by animals to make shells and used by humans to make lime and cement

Camouflage-blending in with the environment

Chitin-tough protective substance found in insect exoskeletons and crustacean shells

Clarity-quality or condition of being clear

Colony-a group of the same kind of organism living or growing together

Community-a group of plants and animals living and interacting with one another in a specific region

Continental shelf-the area adjacent (next to) a continent or around an island, usually extending from the low-water line to the place at which the bottom depth increases steeply

Coral-marine polyps that secrete skeletons

Crustacean-a class of aquatic arthropods having segmented bodies with a hard outer shell; these include lobsters, crabs, and shrimp

Current-part of a fluid that has an onward movement

Detritus-dead and decaying plant and animal material

Diurnal-daily

Drag-a force that slows down movement

Ebb current-water as it flows away from the coast

Echinoderm-spiny, marine invertebrates including sea stars and sea urchins

Echolocation-a method of locating objects by determining the time for an echo to return and the direction from which it returns, as by radar or sonar

Ecosystem-a community of living organisms and their non-living environment

Estuary-a semi-enclosed body of water that has a free connection with the open sea and within which seawater is diluted with freshwater from land drainage

Epiphyte-organisms that grow on plants for mechanical support but not for nutrition

Erosion-washing away of the soil

Flood current-water flow toward the coast

Flume-an apparatus through which water flows

Food Chain-the order of transfer of matter and energy from one organism to another in the form of food

Food Web-a series of overlapping food chains

Friction-a force imposed by an object on a fluid or other object

Gulf-a large area of a sea or ocean partially enclosed by land

Habitat-an area or environment in which an organism normally lives or occurs

Inlet-a narrow passage of water

Interdependent-mutually dependent; relying on each other

Invertebrate-organism without a backbone

Migrate-move from one environment to another

Nutrient-a source of food

Operculum-gill cover found in bony fish

Photosynthesize-plants making their own food through a chemical process; the process uses carbon dioxide, water, nutrients, and sunlight

Phytoplankton-small or microscopic plants that float and drift in the water

Pollution-harmful or foreign substances that enter the environment

Polysaccharide-a sugar

Predator-an animal that hunts for food

Prey-any animal that is hunted and caught for food by a predator

Producer-an organism that is able to make its own food from inorganic substances; a plant – photoautotroph, or some bacteria - chemoautotrophs

Rhizome-underground stem

Seagrass-flowering plant that grows completely submerged in water and resembles grass

Sediment-clay, sand, and silt that collect on the sea floor; remains of dead animals are also incorporated into the sediments

Sessile-permanently attached

Semi-diurnal-occurring twice in one day

Shellfish-an aquatic animal such as a mollusk that has a shell

Siphon-body part of a squid or octopus through which water jets to provide directional movement

Sponge-primitive marine animal with a porous skeleton

Suspension feeder-organism that collects food from water as it flows past

Terrestrial-associated with the land

Thrust-force that propels an organism forward through a fluid

Tidal current-water flow caused by a tide

Tide-periodic change in the level of the ocean caused by the gravitational pull between the earth and the moon and sun

Topography-surface features of a place or region

Turbulence-the result of randomly varying flow rates and directions within a fluid

Velocimeter-instrument used to measure water flow rate

Velocity-the rate per unit of time a body moves in a specified direction

Vertebrate-organism having a backbone made of bone or cartilage

Wave-a ridge or swell moving along the surface of a body of water