
Vocabulary

absorption: to soak up, to take in and assimilate; incorporate.

abyssal plain: flat, gently sloping or nearly level region of the seafloor.

abyssal and **abyssal (pelagic) zone:** pertaining to the portion of the ocean between 2,000 and 4,000m

active response: a reaction to an event. For example, a predator attacking its prey when it needs to eat.

aerial vision: the ability for some fish to see out or above the water surface as well as below the surface.

appendage: a limb or other subsidiary part that diverges from the central body or structure.

baleen: the bones in a whales mouth that are used for straining plankton and krill from the ocean.

bathyal and **bathypelagic zone:** refers to organisms or phenomena at depths between about 200 and 4000m, on the sea bottom.

beak-like: narrow and pointed like a beak on a bird.

benthic: of or pertaining to the bottom. Another word for bottom – benthos.

biotic: pertaining to life or living beings.

bycatch: fish caught in a net that are not the desired catch. Correct terminology is regulatory discards.

canine: of or pertaining to any of the four single-cusped, pointed teeth, esp. prominent in dogs, situated in the upper and lower jaws

coast: the land next to the sea; seashore.

carbon dioxide: a colorless, odorless gas present in the atmosphere and formed during respiration.

carnivore: an animal that eat flesh, other meats

cartilage: more flexible than bone, but strong enough to support a fishes body. Firm, elastic, whitish connective tissue.

compressed: flattened, pressed together.

caudal: of, at, or near the tail end of the body, tail-like.

cod-end: the end of a towed net that plankton are rinsed off the net into, usually make of plastic or PVC material.

consumer: an organism usually an animal that feed on plants or other animals.

continental margin: zone between continental land and deep-sea floor; consists of continental shelf, slope, rise, and borderland.

continental rise: gentle slope with a generally smooth surface rising toward the foot of the continental slope

continental shelf: the area adjacent (next) to a continent or around an island, usually extending from the low-water line to the depth at which the slope increases steeply.

continental slope: the area off the continental shelf that declines at a sloping angle into a greater depth of water.

countershading: coloration that is dark on parts on the body surface that are usually exposed to the sun and light on parts usually in shade.

crevice: a crack forming an opening

decomposer: an organism, usually a bacterium or fungus, that breaks down the cells of dead plants and animals into simpler substances.

demersal: (of marine life) persisting at the lowest ocean layers, the ocean bottom.

diffusion: the transmission of elements from one medium to another without mixing or shaking.

diurnal: occurring each day, of or belonging to the daytime, cyclic.

dorsal: situated on or toward the upper side of the body, equivalent to the back in humans.

emarginate: indented, forklike

energy pyramid: the passing of energy from one organism to another. The amount of energy decreases by 10% for each level up in the food chain.

epidermis: the outermost, non-sensitive layer of the skin.

epifauna: organisms that live in the oceanic area between the surface, and depths of approximately 200m.

epipelagic zone: portion of the oceanic area extending from the surface to a depth of about 200m.

exotic: not native, brought from abroad, unusually strange in effect, appearance or nature.

exploit: to use selfishly, to take advantage of.

fin: a membrane, winglike or paddlelike organ attached to any of various parts of the body of certain aquatic animals.

food web: a series of overlapping food chains.

fusiform: tapering towards the ends.

genus: the usual major subdivision of a biological family or subfamily in the classification of organism, usually consisting of more than one species.

gonopodium: an opening through which eggs or sperm are released.

hadal: of or pertaining to the ocean bottom at depths greater than 6500m, and to the greatest ocean depths.

herbivore: an animal that feeds solely on plants.

hypertonic: a solution of higher pressure than another

hypotonic: a solution having less pressure than another

inferior: low or lower in place or position

Isinglass: transparent or translucent form of gelatin obtained from the air bladders of fish and used in glue, jellies, and as a clarifying agent.

isotonic: of or pertaining to solutions that have equal osmotic pressures.

krill: any of the small, pelagic, shrimplike crustaceans of the family Euphausiidae.

lateral: of or pertaining to the side, or directed to the side

littoral zone: benthic zone between high- and low-water marks; approximately between the shore and water depths of 200m.

mesopelagic and mesopelagic zone: refers to the organisms, or zone, at depths between 200 and 1000m, in midwater.

MOCNESS: MULTIPLE OPENING CLOSING NET AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSING SYSTEM. is a very large and complicated piece of equipment, allowing, in a single deployment, the use of nine nets. Eight nets are sampling nets, and the ninth, or bottom net, serves as a drogue, stabilizing the frame as it goes down.

It is also equipped with a thermister for measuring temperature, a conductivity cell, a pressure sensor, and a flowmeter. This instrument allows the scientist to investigate the vertical distribution of zooplankton. Although cumbersome, it's a very delicate piece of equipment, requiring 4 to 5 people to deploy.

native: the place or environment in which a person was born, or a thing came from originally.

nekton: animals that are active swimmers, such as most of the adult squids, fishes, and marine mammals.

nektonic: area in the ocean in which animals that are active swimmers live

nictitating (membrane): a thin membrane, present in many animals that can be drawn across the eyeball for protection.

offal: waste parts, refuse, or rubbish, garbage.

ocellus: (pl. ocelli) the simple eye of many invertebrates, consisting of retinal cells, pigments, and nerve fibers

omnivore: a plant or animal that feeds on both plants and meat.

osmosis: the tendency of a fluid, usually water, to pass through a semipermeable membrane into a solution where the solvent concentration is higher, equalizing the concentration of materials on either side of the membrane.

pectoral: of, in or on the chest, the breast, or thoracic area.

pelagic: of or pertaining to the open seas or oceans, living at, or near the surface of the open seas.

pelvic fins: either pair of fins behind and below the pectoral fins.

photosynthesis: the production of complex organic materials especially carbohydrates, from carbon dioxide, water, and inorganic salts, using sunlight of the source of energy with the aid of chlorophyll and associated pigments.

plankton: the aggregate of passively floating, drifting or somewhat motile organism occurring in a body of water, primarily composed of microscopic algae and protozoa.

planktonic: of or pertaining to the plankton, being in the surface waters of the open ocean.

predators: an animal that hunts and seizes other animals for food.

producer: an organism or plant that is able to produce its own food from inorganic substances.

protrude: to project or jut out.

ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle): a manned or unmanned vehicle used for going under the ocean surface, often to great depths for research purposes. The vehicles may have arms on them for grasping items, video cameras, or used to place instruments on the ocean bottom for studying the ocean.

rhombic: having the form of a rhombus. A rhombus is a parallelogram with equal sides, and angles larger than 90 degrees.

SCUBA: Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus. A portable-breathing device used by free-swimming persons underwater composed of a mouthpiece, hose, joined to one or two tanks of compressed air that are strapped on the back.

scientific names: a method in science that organisms are identified by two or more latin or greek words. Using this method allows each individual organism ONE scientific name, and it can be identified worldwide.

seine: a fishing net that hangs vertically in the water, having floats at the waters surface and weights at the lower edge, used to catch fish in.

serpentine: having a snakelike form or movement.

siphon or **syphon**: a projecting tubular part of some animals through which liquid enters or leaves the body.

specific: having a special application, bearing, or reference; specified, precise, or particular.

species: a class of individuals having some common characteristic or qualities; distinct sort or kind, the major subdivision of a genus or subgenus, regarded as the basic category of biological classification, composed of related individuals that resemble one another, are able to breed among themselves, but are not able to breed with members of another species.

superior: higher in place or position, being toward the head.

sword like: having a long narrow, pointed mouth. For example, the mouth on a marlin is shaped into a very long point; swordlike.

terminal: of or pertaining to the end, occurring at or forming the end of a series, the final part.

trench: a long, narrow and deep depression of the seafloor with relatively steep sides.

truncate: square or broad at the end, as if cut off

ventral: of or pertaining to the belly, situated on or toward the lower, plane of an animal's body, equivalent to the front of humans.

vertebra *pl. brae*: cylindrical bones or segments of the spinal column. Each has two projections forming an arch, and the bone surrounds the spinal cord.