



Vocabulary

- biodiversity:** diversity of plant and animal species in an environment
- calcium carbonate:** a compound (CaCO_3) found in nature, used by animals to make shells and used by humans to make lime and cement
- carbon dioxide:** a heavy, colorless, odorless gas (CO_2), is formed from burning of fossil fuels and animal respiration
- carbohydrates:** compounds composed of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen (in form of sugar, starches and fats). Most are formed by green plants.
- chlorofluorocarbons:** derivatives of methane; contain chlorine and fluorine, and are used as aerosol propellants
- coral bleaching:** the result on corals when they are forced by environmental factors to expel their symbiotic algae. They lose color, and often die.
- Deep Worker:** a small submersible used by the Sustainable Seas Expedition to explore ocean depths.
- dinoflagellate:** marine plankton that include luminescent forms and forms causing red tide
- dredging:** the action of removing earth
- Dry Tortugas:** a group of ten islands southwest of the Florida Keys in North America
- El Nino:** the warm ocean current that appears along the pacific coast of South America every year around Christmas. Recently, the term has been applied to those years when there is a change in this annual pattern.
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS):** The designation of the Florida Keys to receive special attention and care to preserve it for years to come. It includes coral reefs, bank reefs, mangrove shorelines, sand flats and seagrass meadows.
- foraminifera:** marine animals having calcareous shells that often are perforated with minute holds for protrusion of slender pseudopodia (cytoplasmic extensions)
- fossil fuels:** combustible organic materials derived from the remains of former life
- freon:** nonflammable gaseous and liquid fluorinated hydrocarbons used as refrigerants and as propellants for aerosols.
- global warming:** an increase in the average temperature of the earth that results in different climate patters; it may induce the greenhouse effect
- groundings:** the event of a ship running its propeller and/or its vessel on the ground, a coral reef or other substrate.
- islet:** a little island
- Management Plan:** a plan to use an area for recreation, study and commercialism. When formed, all parties in the FKNMS were hoped to benefit.
- ozone:** a form of oxygen in the atmosphere that is formed when an electric spark or ultraviolet light passes through air or oxygen that absorbs ultraviolet rays
- paleoclimatology:** science dealing with climates of the past



- Ponce de Leon:** a Spanish explorer who discovered and named the Dry Tortugas
- proteins:** complex combination of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, nitrogen and occasionally other elements.
- proxy data:** representative data that scientists can learn from, not necessarily generate numbers or a final answer, often it is background information
- sea level:** the surface height of the sea between high and low tides
- stratosphere:** an upper portion of the atmosphere that is approximately above 7 miles
- stratospheric ozone depletion:** reduction in ozone content of the stratosphere, evidenced by the ozone hole - an area or portion of the stratosphere that has been depleted of the protective layer of ozone that surrounds the earth.
- submersible:** a vessel capable of being placed under water
- Sustainable Seas Expedition:** an expedition to explore, document and provide scientists with data in North America's National Marine Sanctuaries
- ultraviolet radiation:** harmful rays that penetrate the earth's atmosphere, the rays are short, and have much energy
- virus:** a causative agent of an infection or disease
- zooxanthellae:** symbiotic dinoflagellates that live within the cells of other organisms

