angiosperm: any vascular plant in the phylum Anthophyta, having the seed
enclosed in a fruit, grain, pod or capsule and comprising all flowering
plants
aquaculture: the cultivation of aquatic animals or plants in a natural or controlled
environment.
arboreal: of, or pertaining to the trees, treelike benthic: of , or pertaining to the
bacteria: one-celled organisms which are involved in infectious diseases,
nitrogen fixation, fermentation, or putrefaction
baleen: stiff fringed plates of keratin that extend from the upper jaw of a mysticete
whale. Keratin is a protein. The human body uses keratin to make finger
nails and hair
benthos: the ocean bottom
biological magnification
blubber: the layer of fat below the skin of the whale or other large marine
mammal
booms: floating fences that make a barrier to contain the oil and prevent it from
spreading further.
bioremediation:
carnivores: an animal that eats meat
cetacean: belonging to the Cetacea, an order of aquatic, chiefly marine
mammals, including the whales and dolphins
cloning: a cell, cell product or organism genetically identical to the unit or
individual form from which it was derived
countercurrent exchange— a special arrangement of veins and arteries. Cooler
blood in veins flows close to warm blood in arteries. This reduces the
amount of energy it takes to keep an animal warm.
coralline: composed of coral or having the structure of coral
detrivores: organisms that eat debris, or detritus
dimorphism: the occurrence of two different forms
dispersants: any chemical mixture capable of driving or sending off chemicals in
various directions in suspension
dorsal fin: the fin situated or located on the backside of a marine mammal, or
other animal
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
embayments: a bay, or a baylike formation
epiphytes: a plant that grows above the ground, supported by the structure of
another plant or object, and deriving its nutrients and water from rain, the
air, dust, etc
erosion: the process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action
of water, glaciers, winds, waves, etc.
eutrophication: abundant accumulation of nutrients that support a dense growth
of algae, the decay of which depletes the shallow waters of oxygen in
summer
exoskeleton: an external covering or integuments especially when hard like a shell
fluke: either half of the triangular tail of a whale
forage: the seeking, or wandering in the act of looking for food
fossil fuels: product of decayed plants and animals that is preserved in the earth.
geologist: a person who studies the earth’s origin, history, and structure.
hermaphroditic: an organism having both the male and female organs of generation
hydrocarbons: compound formed from hydrogen and carbon.
lenticels: a corky slash or spot appearing on plant bark, about the epidermal stoma, that allows for the exchange of gases between the atmosphere and inner tissue
mangrove: any tropical tree or shrub belonging to the genus Rhizophora, of the family Rhizophoraceae, the species of which are mostly low trees growing in marshes or tidal shores, noted for interlacing above-ground roots
mass stranding— a stranding where more than one marine mammal is involved. This term usually refers to whale strandings.
marine environment - the biological, chemical, and physical factors which effect organisms living in saltwater.
melon: the upper portion of the head of a whale or dolphin
metabolic rate— the speed at which an animal's body works. for example, how fast the heart is pumping and how many calories it is burning
metals: any of a class of elementary substances, as gold, silver, or copper, all of which are crystalline when solid and many of which have a unique luster when freshly fractured
National Marine Fisheries - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is a division of NOAA in charge of regulating many aspects of the marine environment. Their jurisdiction includes most marine mammals.
necropsy: the examination of a body after death; autopsy
non-point sources: source of a contaminant is unidentifiable; that is, the pollutant can come from one of many places
nutrients: food or materials that provides a body nourishment or nutriment
oil: refined or crude petroleum
pectoral fin: either of a pair of fins usually situated behind the head, one on each side, and corresponding to the forelimbs of higher vertebrates.
pelagic: of, or pertaining to the open ocean or seas
pesticides: a chemical preparation for destroying plant, fungal, or animal pests
petrochemicals: a chemical substance from petroleum or natural gas, as gasoline, kerosene, or petrolatum
petroleum: liquid fossil fuel; oil.
phytoplankton: single-celled marine plants responsible for photosynthesis
pinniped: belonging to the Pinnipedia, a grouping of carnivorous aquatic mammals that have their limbs broadened and flattened into flippers, as seal and walruses
pneumatophores: specialized structure developed from the root in certain plants growing in swamps and marshes, serving as a respiratory organ
point source pollution: pollutants that are discharged from and can be traced back to an identifiable point or source, such as a factory’s discharge pipe or a sewage ditch

propagules: a structure, as a plant cutting that is used for propagation

protandric: change sex from male to female

rhizome: a root-like underground stem, commonly in the horizontal position that produces roots below, and sends up shoots progressively from the upper surface

rostrum: a beaklike projection, a snout

seagrass meadows

sediments: the materials that settle to the bottom of a liquid, minerals or organic matter deposited by water, air, or ice, small pieces of rocks, shells, or the remains of plants and animals that have been carried along and deposited by wind, water, or ice.

skimmer: a boat that is equipped to remove oil from the water. Its equipment may include suction devices (like vacuum cleaners) that collect the oil and send it through a hose into a container.

halophytes: a plant that thrives in saline soil

slope and bottom of a lake or ocean

storm berm:

turbidity: a turbid, dense current of sediments in suspension moving along the ultrafiltration: a filter having pores sufficiently small to prevent the passage of suspended particles

wetland: an area where water saturates the soil for several months each year, usually during the growing season