



Vocabulary

- 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
- detritivores: 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