

Marine Ecology Vocabulary

Aquarius	An underwater research facility where scientists conduct research on the marine ecosystem.
Climate change/global warming	Increase in average global temperature due to building up of greenhouse gases.
Coral	Small ant-sized marine organism that often lives in colonies.
Coral bleaching	When reef building corals lose the algae (zooxanthellae) they need to survive.
Coral reef	A rock-like structure built over thousands of years by tiny coral that creates homes for thousands of other plants and animals.
Ecosystem	The study of how animals live together and how the animals use their environment.
Filter feeder	Animals that obtain their food by filtering particles out of the water.
Food Chain	The transfer of food energy, made by plants to animals by repeated stages of animals eating and being eaten. For example, the lugworm eats the plant and animal remains; the lugworm is eaten by the shanny and the shanny is eaten by the pollock.
Habitat destruction	The destruction of the places where animals live through human impact or natural disasters.
Mangrove Forest	A tropical inshore habitat that is dominated by several species of trees or shrubs that grow in salt water.

Marine ecologist	A person who studies marine organisms and the marine environment in which they are found.
Marine ecology	The study of marine environments and the organisms found in these environments
Non-point source pollution	An unknown source of pollution (fertilizer runoff from lawns)
Point Source Pollution	A known source of pollution that can be identified (leak from sewage plant)
Predators	Animals that eat other organisms.
Prey	An animal that is hunted for food.
Salinity	The amount of dissolved salts in water.
Seagrass Community	Shallow sea bottom areas covered by flowering plants that have adapted to live underwater.
Sponges	Simple filter-feeding marine organisms.
Turbidity	Cloudiness or color in water due to the presence of small particles like dirt, soil, sand, algae, etc.
Zooxanthellae	Small algae that live within the tissues of coral (They give the coral energy and the coral give them a home.)