

Marine Ecology Vocabulary

Aquarius

An underwater research facility where scientists can conduct research on the marine ecosystem

Global warming

Increase in average global temperature due to building up of greenhouse gases

Coral

Small ant-sized marine organisms that often live 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 grows 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 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.)