

Chapter 7, Aquatic Ecosystems: Section 2, Marine Ecosystems

Marine Ecosystems

- Marine ecosystems are located mainly in _____.
- Organisms that live in coastal areas adapt to changes in _____.
- Organisms that live in the open ocean adapt to changes in _____.

Coastal Wetlands

- Coastal land areas that are covered by _____ for all or part of the time are known as coastal wetlands.
- Coastal wetlands provide _____ for many fish and wildlife.
- They also _____ which protects them from flooding, they _____ and sediments, and they _____ for boating, fishing, and hunting.

Estuaries

- An _____ is an area where fresh water from rivers mixes with salt water from the ocean.
- Estuaries are very productive because they _____ while the surrounding land protects the estuaries from the harsh force of ocean waves.

Plants and Animals of Estuaries

- Estuaries support many marine organisms because they receive _____ for plants and animals.

Plants and Animals of Estuaries

- Organisms that live in estuaries are able to _____ in salinity because the salt content of the water varies as fresh water and salt water mix when tides go in and out.
- Estuaries also provide _____, access to the ocean, and connection to rivers.

Threats to Estuaries

- Estuaries that exist in populated areas were often used as places to _____.

Salt Marshes

- _____ are maritime habitats characterized by grasses, sedges, and other plants that have adapted to continual, periodic flooding and are found primarily throughout the temperate and subarctic regions.
- Salt marshes, like other wetlands, also _____ to help protect inland areas.

Mangrove Swamps

- _____ are tropical or subtropical marine swamps that are characterized by the abundance of low to tall mangrove trees.
- The swamps help _____ from storms.

Rocky and Sandy Shores

- A _____ is a long ridge of sand or narrow island that lies parallel to the shore and helps protect the mainland.

Coral Reefs

- _____ are limestone ridges found in tropical climates and composed of coral fragments that are deposited around organic remains.
- Thousands of species of plants and animals live in the cracks and crevices of coral reefs, which makes coral reefs among the _____ ecosystems on Earth.

Coral Reefs

- Corals live only in _____ where there is enough light for photosynthesis.

Disappearing Coral Reefs

- Coral reefs are productive ecosystems, but they are also _____.

Disappearing Coral Reefs

- _____ have also been linked to coral-reef destruction.
- _____ can devastate fish populations, upsetting the balance of the reef's ecosystem.

Oceans

- Because water absorbs light, sunlight that is usable by plants for photosynthesis penetrates only about _____ into the ocean.
- As a result, much of the ocean's life is concentrated in the _____ where sunlight penetrates to the bottom and rivers wash nutrients from the land.

Plants and Animals of Oceans

- The sea's smallest herbivores are _____, including jellyfish and tiny shrimp, which live near the surface with the phytoplankton they eat.

Threats to the Oceans

- _____ from fertilized fields and _____ and _____ being discharged into rivers are major sources of ocean pollution.