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Early history[edit] Humans first acquired knowledge of the waves and currents of the seas and oceans in pre-historic times. Observations on tides were recorded by Aristotle and Strabo. Early exploration of the oceans was primarily for cartography and mainly limited to its surfaces and of the animals that fishermen brought up in nets, though depth soundings by lead line were taken. Franklin and Timothy Folger printed the first map of the Gulf Stream in 1792. James Rennell wrote the first scientific textbooks on oceanography, detailing the current flows of the Atlantic and Indian oceans. During a voyage around the Cape of Good Hope in 1801, he mapped "the banks and currents at the Lagullas ". In 1845 Edward Forbes undertook dredging in the Aegean Sea that founded marine ecology. The first superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory 1842, Matthew Fontaine Maury devoted his time to the study of marine meteorology, navigation, and charting prevailing winds and currents. His textbook *Physical Geography of the Sea* was one of the first comprehensive oceanography studies. Many nations sent oceanographic observations to Maury at the Naval Observatory, where he and his colleagues evaluated the information and distributed the results worldwide. Almost nothing was known of the ocean depths. As exploration ignited both popular and scientific interest in the polar regions and Africa, so too did the mysteries of the unexplored oceans. The seminal event in the founding of the modern science of oceanography was the 1871 Challenger expedition. As the first true oceanographic cruise, this expedition laid the groundwork for an entire academic and research discipline. Challenger, leased from the Royal Navy, was modified for scientific work and equipped with separate laboratories for natural history and chemistry. Challenger during the years 1873-76 Murray, who supervised the publication, described the report as "the greatest advance in the knowledge of our planet since the celebrated discoveries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries". He went on to found the academic discipline of oceanography at the University of Edinburgh, which remained the centre for oceanographic research well into the 20th century. In the late 19th century, other Western nations also sent out scientific expeditions as did private individuals and institutions. The first purpose built oceanographic ship, Albatros, was built in 1873. In 1893, Fridtjof Nansen allowed his ship, Fram, to be frozen in the Arctic ice. This enabled him to obtain oceanographic, meteorological and astronomical data at a stationary spot over an extended period. The first acoustic measurement of sea depth was made in 1852. Between 1868 and 1870 the "Meteor" expedition gathered 70,000 ocean depth measurements using an echo sounder, surveying the Mid-Atlantic ridge. Sverdrup, Johnson and Fleming published *The Oceans* in 1942, [12] which was a major landmark. The *Sea* in three volumes, covering physical oceanography, seawater and geology edited by M. S. The theory of seafloor spreading was developed in 1962 by Harry Hammond Hess. The Ocean Drilling Program started in 1985. The United States nuclear submarine Nautilus made the first journey under the ice to the North Pole in 1958. From the 1960s, there has been much emphasis on the application of large scale computers to oceanography to allow numerical predictions of ocean conditions and as a part of overall environmental change prediction. Geosat seafloor mapping data became available in 1985. Study of the oceans is linked to understanding global climate changes, potential global warming and related biosphere concerns. The atmosphere and ocean are linked because of evaporation and precipitation as well as thermal flux and solar insolation. Wind stress is a major driver of ocean currents while the ocean is a sink for atmospheric carbon dioxide. Oceanographic frontal systems on the Southern Hemisphere The study of oceanography is divided into these four branches: Biological oceanography, or marine biology, investigates the ecology of marine organisms in the context of the physical, chemical and geological characteristics of their ocean environment and the biology of individual marine organisms. Chemical oceanography and ocean chemistry, are the study of the chemistry of the ocean. Whereas chemical oceanography is primarily occupied with the study and understanding of seawater properties and its changes, ocean chemistry focuses primarily on the geochemical cycles. Geological oceanography, or marine geology, is the study of the geology of the ocean floor including plate tectonics and paleoceanography.

2: CRC Press Online - Series: Oceanography and Marine Biology - An Annual Review

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Pelagic zone The open ocean is relatively unproductive because of a lack of nutrients, yet because it is so vast, in total it produces the most primary productivity. The open ocean is separated into different zones, and the different zones each have different ecologies. Zones which vary by the amount of light they receive include the photic and aphotic zones. Deep sea and trenches[edit] A deep-sea chimaera. Its snout is covered with tiny pores capable of detecting animals by perturbations in electric fields. At such depths, water pressure is extreme and there is no sunlight, but some life still exists. A white flatfish , a shrimp and a jellyfish were seen by the American crew of the bathyscaphe Trieste when it dove to the bottom in Marine life also flourishes around seamounts that rise from the depths, where fish and other sea life congregate to spawn and feed. Hydrothermal vents along the mid-ocean ridge spreading centers act as oases , as do their opposites, cold seeps. Such places support unique biomes and many new microbes and other lifeforms have been discovered at these locations. Most involve studying specializations of particular animal groups, such as phycology , invertebrate zoology and ichthyology. Other subfields study the physical effects of continual immersion in sea water and the ocean in general, adaptation to a salty environment, and the effects of changing various oceanic properties on marine life. A subfield of marine biology studies the relationships between oceans and ocean life, and global warming and environmental issues such as carbon dioxide displacement. Recent marine biotechnology has focused largely on marine biomolecules , especially proteins , that may have uses in medicine or engineering. Marine environments are the home to many exotic biological materials that may inspire biomimetic materials. Related fields[edit] Marine biology is a branch of biology. It is closely linked to oceanography and may be regarded as a sub-field of marine science. It also encompasses many ideas from ecology. Fisheries science and marine conservation can be considered partial offshoots of marine biology as well as environmental studies. Marine Chemistry, Physical oceanography and Atmospheric sciences are closely related to this field. Distribution factors[edit] An active research topic in marine biology is to discover and map the life cycles of various species and where they spend their time. Technologies that aid in this discovery include pop-up satellite archival tags , acoustic tags , and a variety of other data loggers. Marine biologists study how the ocean currents , tides and many other oceanic factors affect ocean life forms, including their growth, distribution and well-being. This has only recently become technically feasible with advances in GPS and newer underwater visual devices. Scientists know little about where many species spend different parts of their life cycles especially in the infant and juvenile years. For example, it is still largely unknown where juvenile sea turtles and some year-1 sharks travel. Recent advances in underwater tracking devices are illuminating what we know about marine organisms that live at great Ocean depths. This data is important to both scientists and fishermen because they are discovering that by restricting commercial fishing in one small area they can have a large impact in maintaining a healthy fish population in a much larger area.

3: Marine Biology | Biology

This section of MarineBio explores some of what is known about the ocean and provides an online introduction to marine biology and ocean science. Here we begin the journey into this planet's largest living space—The Ocean.

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8: The Ocean - Marine conservation, Sea creatures, Ocean biology, Marine life

Marine Biology faculty and their students are actively engaged in such exciting research topics as biomimicry, functional genomics, ocean exploration, and marine conservation, and are working at the cutting edge of scientific efforts to combat overfishing, global climate change, and marine species extinction.

9: SEA (www.enganchecubano.com) - SEA Semester Study Abroad Programs | SEA Semester

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