

Why are the Oceans Important?

We can make a long list of how the oceans and marine life are important to us. The Oceans contains 99% of the living space on earth.

1. Biodiversity :-

- Coral reefs, salt marshes, estuaries and mangrove and sea-grass beds are just a few of the ocean environments which support a large number of different species of organisms – that is, have a high biodiversity.
- Estuaries are brackish water systems that empty their waters into the world's oceans, and support many, many fish and other organisms. Along with coral reefs, estuaries sustain 75 percent of all commercial fish and shellfish during some point of their life cycles!
- Spawning organisms make reefs and estuaries their home because animals can find an abundance of food and excellent protection from predators.
- In the estuary, the sea-grasses provide protection to juveniles and food for herbivore.
- Mangroves not only act as nurseries for commercially important marine species, they also act as a filtering system for coastal water.
- Sea-grass beds, mangroves and coral reefs are crucial to providing protection against shoreline erosion and flooding.
- The sandy shores are home to fiddler crabs and burrowing worms, as well as a feeding ground for birds. Without coral reefs and estuaries, our oceans would lose many, many organisms that are important to both humans and other marine life

2. Natural resources:-

- The ocean floor habitat is not as well known as coral reefs or coastal areas, but it is very important to all the organisms that live on the bottom (benthic organisms), as well as commercially important as well.
- The continental shelves and ocean floor are home to many important minerals, including oil and natural gas.
- Natural gas and oil play a major role in meeting U.S. energy needs. The outer continental shelf contains more than 50 percent of the nation's remaining undiscovered natural gas and oil resources.

3. Transportation:-

- Not only are oceans important to sustain life, but also for moving materials that we use.
- More than 95 percent of U.S. foreign trade (by weight) passes through U.S. ports and harbors.
- Without commercial ships and barges, transportation of goods from place to place would be much more difficult and expensive.
- Cities which have good natural harbours have always had an advantage, and even today are some of the largest cities in the world.

4. Climate and weather :-

- The oceans interact with and affect global weather and climate.