

Marine biology - Unit 5

Ecology is the study of the behaviour of living organisms

Members of the same species don't always look similar or exact (sexual dimorphism)

Hybrids are offsprings of 2 parents belonging to different species

Ecosystem

Population is the number of organisms of 1 species living in an area at the same time

A community is all of the population's different species

Habitat = Home

Environment = external surroundings

Coastal ecosystems: higher chlorophyll, shallow, surface run-off, upwelling, susceptible to human activity

If it's an ecosystem found along the continental shelf or slope it is a coastal ecosystem.
Usually tidal, humans often live nearby

Coral reef - between 30N and 30S of equator, not below 50m depth

A mangrove is a type of coastal tree

Mangrove forests: tropical and subtropical coastal regions, salt tolerant trees and shrubs, highly productive and biodiverse zones

Abiotic features (not natural) change during a tidal cycle

Riverine zone: closest to river, most flooded, tall, stilt roots

Intertidal zone: flooded and drained by tides, prop roots

Seaward zone: least flooded, closest to sea

Rocky shores

Supratidal zone - part of the shore furthest from the sea, rarely covered by tide, spray from wave action

Intertidal zone - area of shore where tide flows over, upper, middle and lower zone

Subtidal zone - part of shore constantly underwater

Abiotic - air exposure, wind, wave action, tides, oxygen, temperature of air, water

Biotic - Predation, grazing, food availability

Intertidal - only exposed to air during low tide, lower subzone, stretches from neap tide to spring tide

Subtidal - extra part under lower intertidal zone, high productivity, complex foodchains

A wetland is a distinct ecosystem that is flooded or saturated by water. These are the most endangered habitats