

Understanding of Marine Ecology Would Enable Humans to Harvest the Resources

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DESCRIPTION

In addition, Robert Ballard's discovery of the Titanic in 1985 sparked a curiosity in deep-sea archaeology. Additional knowledge of the oceans would enable scientists to accurately predict phenomena such as the timing and intensity of El Nino and the behavior of earthquake-predicated tsunamis. Having a greater understanding of marine ecology would enable humans to reap the resources they have from the oceans in sustainable ways. The oceans have played crucial roles in the origin and development of life on Earth, and they continue to be essential for maintaining life. Whether they still provide these critical services, remaining an important resource for the longer term of this big "Blue Planet," is essentially up to the actions of citizenry in the coming decades. The ocean may be a continuous body of salt water that's contained in enormous basins on surface. When viewed from space, the predominance of the oceans on Earth is readily apparent. The oceans and their marginal seas cover nearly 71 percent of surface, with a mean depth of three, 795 meters (12,450 feet). The exposed land occupies the remaining 29 percent of the planetary surface and features a mean elevation of only 84 meters (2,756 feet). Actually, all the elevated land might be hidden under the oceans and Earth reduced to a smooth sphere that might be completely covered by endless layer of seawater 2,686 meters (8,812 feet) deep. This is referred to as the sphere depth of the oceans and serves to underscore the abundance of water on surface. Earth is exclusive within the system due to its distance from the Sun and its period of rotation. These combine to subject Earth to a radiation level that maintains the earth at a mean surface temperature of 17°C (62.6°F), which varies little over annual and night-day cycles.

This mean temperature allows water to exist on Earth altogether three of its phases-solid, liquid, and gaseous. No other planet within the system has this feature. The liquid phase predominates on Earth. By volume, 97.957 percent of the water on the world exists as oceanic water and associated sea ice. The gaseous phase and drop-let water within the atmosphere constitute 0.001 percent. Fresh water in lakes and streams makes up 0.036 percent, while groundwater is one times more abundant at 0.365 percent. Glaciers and ice caps constitute 1.641 percent of Earth's total water volume.

Each of the above is taken into account to be a reservoir of water. Water continuously circulates between these reservoirs in what's called the hydrologic cycle, which is driven by energy from the Sun. Evaporation, precipitation, movement of the atmosphere, and therefore the downhill flow of river water, glaciers, and groundwater keeps water in motion between the reservoirs and maintain the hydro-logic cycle. The large range of volumes in these reservoirs and therefore the rates at which water cycles between them combine to make important conditions on Earth. If small changes occur within the rate at which water is cycled into or out of a reservoir or small and slow during a large reservoir. A small percentage change within the quantity of the oceans may produce an outsized proportional change within the land-ice reservoir, thereby promoting glacial and interglacial stages. The rate at which water enters or leaves a reservoir divided into the reservoir volume determines the duration of water within the reservoir. The duration of water during a reservoir, in turn, governs many of the properties of that reservoir.

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