

# **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

## **CH1002**

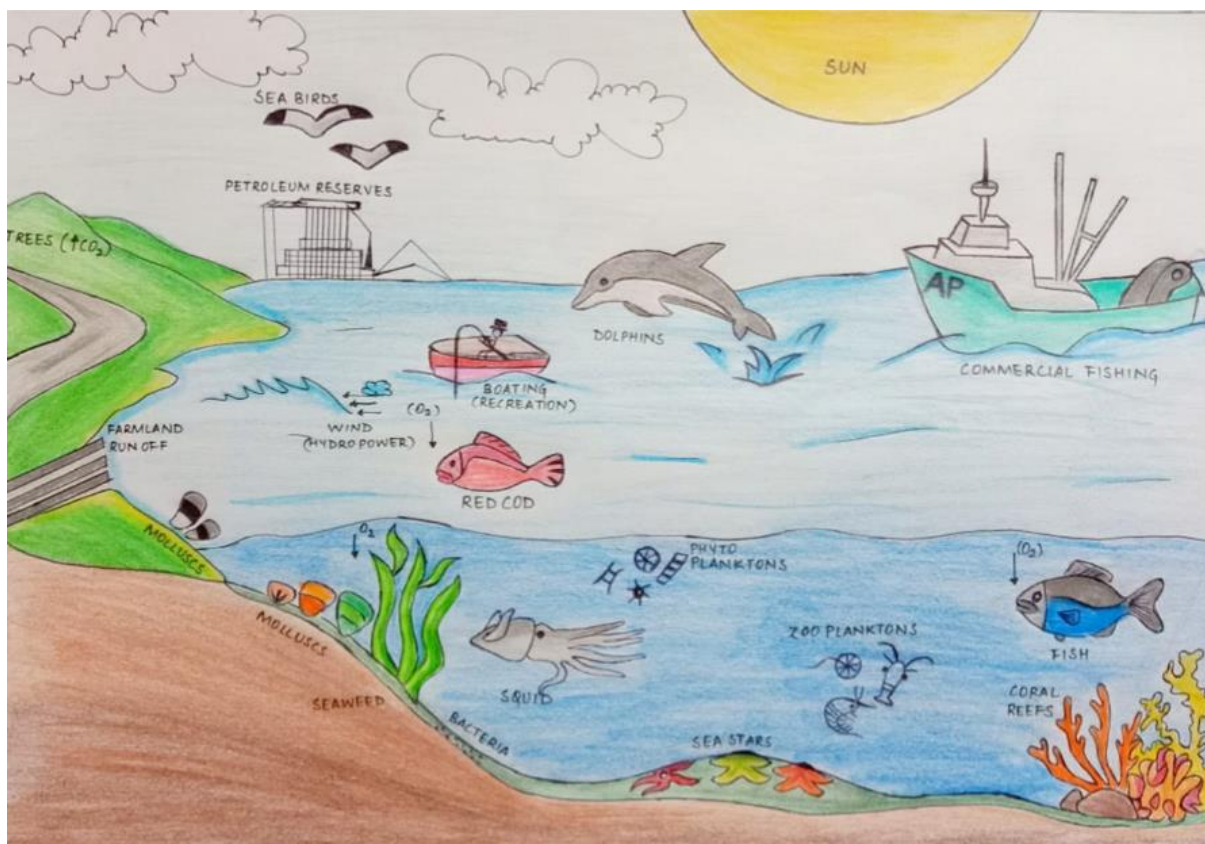
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# AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

## MARINE ECOSYSTEM

The ecosystem is defined as the complex of living organisms, their physical environment and all their interrelationships in a particular unit of space. The marine ecosystem is one such ecosystems which consists of seas, oceans, marshes, lagoons, coral reefs and deep sea and sea floor. The salt content is high and constant. Abiotic factors include water, soil, minerals, sunlight, temperature, nutrients, wind and many more. Many big and important industries function because of the presence of these abiotic components. Minerals found below the surface of the ocean are petroleum reserves, farmland run off deposit into the oceans, commercial fishing, wind used for generating hydro power and recreational activities such as boating, surfing and diving flourish due to these abiotic factors.



MARINE ECOSYSTEM

As marine water is saline, it is home to many creatures. From single celled plankton to the blue whale, all live in the same habitat. Plants and animals live on different levels of the sea levels. Phytoplankton and zooplankton are at the bottom of the food web. Whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, sea lions, walruses, polar bears, sea otters manatees and dugongs are some marine mammals. Sea turtles (olive ridley, loggerhead, hawksbill), starfish and jellyfishes live near the dark ocean floor. Coral reefs are the most diverse ecosystems and live in warm shallow tropical seas or in the cold, dark depths of the ocean.

To conclude, marine ecosystem is a crucial part of human existence. It needs to be protected and used sustainably.