

**Blue Environment** refers to the **marine and coastal ecosystems** — including oceans, seas, estuaries, and coastal areas — and their **natural features, resources, and biodiversity**.

### **Key Components of the Blue Environment:**

1. **Oceans and Seas** – Cover over 70% of the Earth's surface and play a critical role in climate regulation.
2. **Marine Ecosystems** – Coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, and deep-sea habitats that support marine life.
3. **Coastal Areas** – Beaches, estuaries, and wetlands that act as buffers against storms and provide habitats for wildlife.
4. **Biodiversity** – A rich variety of fish, marine mammals, plants, and microorganisms essential for ecological balance.

### **Importance of the Blue Environment:**

- **Regulates climate** by absorbing carbon dioxide.
- **Supports biodiversity** and global food supply.
- **Provides livelihoods** through fishing, tourism, and maritime activities.
- **Protects coastlines** from erosion and extreme weather.

### **Threats to the Blue Environment:**

- Pollution (especially plastic waste and oil spills)
- Overfishing
- Habitat destruction
- Climate change (ocean warming, acidification, sea level rise)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4EXyZdG2LI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKrJ-GO4itk>

<https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/14-life-below-water/>