

# OCEAN

The **ocean** is the body of [salt water](#) that covers approx. 70.8% of [Earth](#).<sup>[8]</sup> In [English](#), the term *ocean* also refers to any of the large bodies of water into which the world ocean is conventionally divided.<sup>[9]</sup> The following names describe five different areas of the ocean: [Pacific](#), [Atlantic](#), [Indian](#), [Antarctic/Southern](#), and [Arctic](#).<sup>[10][11]</sup> The ocean contains 97% of [Earth's water](#)<sup>[8]</sup> and is the primary component of Earth's [hydrosphere](#), thus the ocean is essential to [life](#) on Earth. The ocean influences [climate](#) and [weather](#) patterns, the [carbon cycle](#), and the [water cycle](#) by acting as a huge [heat reservoir](#).



The ocean provides many benefits to humans such as [ecosystem services](#), access to [seafood](#) and other [marine resources](#), and a means of [transport](#). The ocean is known to be the [habitat](#) of over 230,000 [species](#), but may hold considerably more – perhaps over two million species.<sup>[18]</sup> Yet, the ocean faces many [environmental](#) threats, such as [marine pollution](#), [overfishing](#), and the [effects of climate change](#). Those effects include [ocean warming](#), ocean acidification and [sea level rise](#). The [continental shelf](#) and [coastal waters](#) are most affected by human activity.

