
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Underwater clean-up



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

It's no ordinary day at the beach. These **divers** are in Cornwall, southwest England, not for the fun but to pick up rubbish.

An estimated 70% of the plastic which enters the sea **sinks**, according to the organisation Dive Against Debris. And much of it is not **biodegradable**.

This is a problem that **stretches** far beyond the UK. Eight million tonnes of plastic ends up in the world's oceans every year, causing damage to this fragile **ecosystem**.

Vocabulary

divers

people who swim underwater as a sport or for work

sinks

goes down below the water level

biodegradable

describes something that decays naturally

stretches

extends its reach further

ecosystem

all the living things in a particular area

Watch this video online: Underwater clean-up

<http://bbc.in/1MjA4b4>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

divers / sinks / biodegradable / stretches / ecosystem

1. The new regulations form part of Oxford City Council's new street trading policy, approved by the council on Monday evening.

It insists that all packaging and utensils passed on to customers by street traders must be made of _____ or recyclable materials.

2. Although deserts and arid lands may seem to be barren places, they often support complex and fragile _____ in which mammals play a key role.
3. A submerged prehistoric forest, discovered 200 metres off the Norfolk Coast, is about 10,000 years old, according to geologists.

Discovered by _____, the forest is part of a prehistoric Doggerland which once spread all the way to Germany.

4. Six fishermen have been rescued after their boat collided with another vessel and _____ off the coast of County Down.
5. A state of emergency has been declared in southern California in the US after two oil slicks, _____ nine miles, formed off the coast.

Answers

1. The new regulations form part of Oxford City Council's new street trading policy, approved by the council on Monday evening.

It insists that all packaging and utensils passed on to customers by street traders must be made of **biodegradable** or recyclable materials.

Source: Oxford bans non-recyclable takeaway boxes

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-32299281>

2. Although deserts and arid lands may seem to be barren places, they often support complex and fragile **ecosystems** in which mammals play a key role.

Source: Desert diversity cut by 'human activities'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/19466470>

3. A submerged prehistoric forest, discovered 200 metres off the Norfolk Coast, is about 10,000 years old, according to geologists.

Discovered by **divers**, the forest is part of a prehistoric Doggerland which once spread all the way to Germany.

Source: Divers discover underwater forest off Norfolk coast

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-30944708>

4. Six fishermen have been rescued after their boat collided with another vessel and **sank** off the coast of County Down.

Source: Fishermen rescued after boat sinks off County Down coast

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-33700313>

5. A state of emergency has been declared in southern California in the US after two oil slicks, **stretching** nine miles, formed off the coast.

Source: California oil spill sparks state of emergency

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-32821384>