

pLANET of the JELLYFISH: Jellyfish Blooms in Large Marine Ecosystems

Jelly fish blooms have been increasing in size and frequency in almost all the ocean's large marine ecosystems, habitats which usually extend from the coastline to the continental shelf. One of the main factors in this bloom increase is the eutrophication of the world's oceans, a process where an excess of nutrients leads to an explosion of algae. An excess of algae depletes oxygen levels making the water inhospitable for most life, except the jellyfish which eats algae and thrives in extreme environments. Dead zones are large areas where the eutrophication process has depleted or eradicated most marine life and offer a good visual for areas of extreme eutrophication. Dead zones and eutrophication have been strongly linked with intensive agricultural practices and industrial waste.

