

Seamobile Glossary

abdomen	body region below the chest area
gas bladder	small air-filled floats that help a plant or animal float in the water Air bladders hold kelp blades toward the surface where they receive sunlight. They also help fish swim upright.
algae	plants that live only in water; they have no roots or leaves; often called sea weed
Arthropoda	invertebrates that have a hard exoskeleton and jointed legs
bioluminescence	production of light by a living plant or animal
camouflage	ability to blend into the surroundings using special body coloration and patterns
carapace	part of an exoskeleton that covers the first body part of various arthropods
cartilage	tough, flexible connective and supportive tissue found in many animals
Cephalopoda	class of marine mollusks; includes octopuses, squids, and nautilus
chromatophores	skin pigments that can change squid's skin color
Cnidaria	soft invertebrates with simple bodies; all possess tentacles containing stinging cells
continental shelf	gradually sloping area of land that begins at the shore and continues under the ocean
continental slope	steeply sloping area of land located beneath the ocean past the continental shelf.
Crustacea	mostly aquatic class of animals that include shrimp, lobsters, crabs, barnacles and others
detritus	small bits of organic matter, such as decaying plant and animal parts, and animal waste
dorsal fin	fin on the top part of the fish
Echinodermata	invertebrates with spiky skin; often in a star shape or possessing a star pattern
exoskeleton	hard, shell like covering of some invertebrates
Ichthys	scientific name for fish
invertebrate	animal that does not have a backbone
Mammalia	air breathing, warm-blooded vertebrates that have hair and produce milk
Mollusca	invertebrates with soft bodies. Often protected by one or two piece shells
marine snow	another name for detritus; used to describe detritus drifting down from the surface
opercle	cover for the gill chamber in fishes
operculum	cover for the opening of the shells of gastropods (like snails)
over-collection	taking too many of a species of plant or animal for human use

over-fishing	taking too many fish and seriously depleting its numbers, potentially affecting the future of that species
over-harvesting	taking too many plants or animals for human use, depleting the numbers and impacting the future of the species
photosynthesis	process which occurs in green plants where light energy is used to create food
phytoplankton	microscopic plants that float in the ocean's water
pneumatocysts	air-containing spaces, like the air-bladders of sea kelp
preopercle	cover over the smaller opening in front of the gill opening
radula	file-like structure in mollusks used to tear up food and bring it into the mouth of an animal
ROV	"Remotely Operated Vehicle"
runoff	rainfall that is not absorbed by the ground and flows into the ocean; usually carries with it pollutants like oil, fertilizers and other materials
scavenger	animal that feeds on dead plants or animals
sediment	material that settles to the bottom such as dirt, dead microorganisms and pollutants
vertebrate	animal having a backbone
zooplankton	microscopic animals that float in the ocean's water