abiotic nonliving
active coasts coasts located near a plate boundary
adaptation evolved trait
anoxic dissolved oxygen (DO) content is 0mg/L
asthenosphere dense, plastic layer of Earth found beneath the lithosphere
atoll a ring-shaped reef that surrounds a lagoon
barrier island a large sediment deposit that forms between the ocean and the shore
benthic zone the bottom of the ocean, ocean floor
biogenous sediment originates from organisms like plankton when their exoskeletons break down
biogeochemical cycle refers to the movement of elements and compounds moving continuously between Earth and its organisms
biomass the total weight of fish in a stock
biotic living
boundary currents currents that fall along a coastline
bow the front of a ship
bycatch organisms other than the primary target species that are caught incidentally
calcareous ooze comprised mostly of plankton with calcium carbonate skeletons
carbon sink is a natural or manmade reservoir that accumulates and stores some carbon-containing chemical compound for an indefinite period
carbon source is any process or activity through which a greenhouse gas is released into the atmosphere
carbon sequestration refers to the storage of carbon for indefinite time
chronometer mechanical device for keeping time independent of ship's motion that can be used to determine longitude through celestial navigation
continental rise a gradual slope following the continental slope
continental shelf a narrow landmass of shallow water that surrounds nearly all continents
continental slope begins at the edge of the continental shelf and drops very sharply in depth
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) a single world-wide time system used for events like observations made by scientific spacecraft or eruptions on the Sun
Coriolis Effect tendency of a moving object in the Northern Hemisphere to deflect right and in the Southern hemisphere to deflect left
cosmogenous sediment originates in space, filters in through the atmosphere or travels to Earth on meteorites
crest highest point of a wave
current regular movement of large amounts of water along defined paths
dead zone is an area of an ocean, estuary, river, lake or other water body with low DO (hypoxic conditions) or no DO (anoxic conditions) that cannot support most marine life
diurnal tide one low tide and one high tide each day
duration the length of a wind gust over water
ecosystem a physically distinct area that contains a community of interacting organisms
equator The latitude line at 0 degrees.
estuary partially enclosed body of water where freshwater from rivers mixes with saltwater
euphotic zone the uppermost sunlit layer where photosynthesis can take place
eutrophication ecological imbalance that occurs as a result of excess nutrients
fathom unit used to measure water depth equal to 6 vertical feet (2 yards) in water
fetch the distance that wind blows over water
fishing mortality rate the rate at which fishing removes fish from a stock
halocline  rapid change in salinity with depth
homeostasis  maintenance of constant internal conditions within the body
hydrogenous sediment  originate from chemical reactions in the ocean
hypoxic  dissolved oxygen (DO) content less than 2mg/L
International Date Line  a special time zone boundary, most of it following the line of longitude 180° that ensures correct matching of dates when crossing times zones
intertidal zone  the area of the ocean that is entirely submerged at high tide and dry during low tide
knot (kt or kn)  the internationally accepted measure of maritime (a ship’s) speed
land-deposition coasts  formed when rivers flow into the ocean and sediment accumulates along a wide shelf
latitude  The measurement of location north or south of the equator
lithogenous sediment  originates from land and move to the ocean via rivers, ice, wind and other processes
lithosphere  rigid layer of Earth composed of the crust and the outer zone of the mantle
longitude  The measurement of location east or west of the Prime Meridian
longshore drift  the movement of sediments along the coast parallel to the shore
marine-deposition coasts  formed by sea movement causing accumulation of sediments in a single place
maximum sustainable yield (MSY)  the greatest number of fish that can be caught each year without impacting the long-term productivity of the stock
mixed tide  two low tides and two high tides each day with different tidal ranges
nautical mile  unit of measurement used to measure distance over water that is equal to one minute of latitude or 6,076 feet
neap tides  occur when the Sun and the Moon form a 90° angle with respect to the Earth
neritic zone  the area between low tide and the end of the continental shelf
niche  an organism’s role in its habitat
ooze  deep-ocean sediment that is comprised of more than 30% biogenic material
oceanic zone  open water beyond the coastal zone
overfishing  occurs when fishing mortality exceeds a specific threshold, usually set at a level to achieve MSY
passive coasts  coasts located far from plate boundaries and thus not associated with the tectonic activity of active coasts
pelagic zone  the open water
period  the time it takes the same spot on two waves to pass a single point
population  a group of interacting members of the same species
port  left side of a ship
primary coasts  formed by land-driven rather than ocean-driven processes like plate tectonics, land erosion and sedimentation
Prime Meridian  The 0 degree longitude line that runs through Greenwich, England that marks the starting point of every time zone in the world.
Principle of Constant Proportions  the ratio of any two major constituents dissolved in seawater is constant
pycnocline  rapid change in density with depth
salinity  a measure of the total concentration of dissolved solids in water
secondary coasts  formed by more ocean driven processes like wave erosion or growth of a coral reef
semidiurnal tide  two low tides and two high tides each day with the same tidal range
siliceous ooze  comprised mostly of plankton with silicon-based skeletons
soluble  material dissolved in solvent
solvent  dissolving agent
spit  a length of sand that accumulates in the direction of longshore drift
spring tides  occur when the Sun and the Moon form a straight line with respect to the Earth
statute mile  unit of length used to measure distance on land equal to 5,280 feet
thermocline  rapid change in temperature with depth
starboard  the right side of a ship
stern  the back of a ship

Thermohaline circulation  global circulation of Earth’s ocean waters driven by density differences that are controlled by temperature and salinity

tidal range  the difference between the water level at high tide and low tide
tide  the periodic rise and fall of sea level
tombolo  spit that forms either between two islands or from an island to mainland

Tropic of Cancer  The northernmost latitude at which the sun can appear directly overhead at noon. It is located around 23.5 degrees North latitude of the equator.

Tropic of Capricorn  The equivalent of the Tropic of Cancer south of the Equator is located around 23.5 degrees South latitude. The region between the two, centered at the equator is known as the Tropics.

trough  lowest point of a wave

wave  transmission of energy through matter
wavelength  the horizontal distance between the same point on two waves