

Understanding, enhancement, sustainability

What exactly is ocean literacy?

The understanding of how the ocean affects us — and how we affect the ocean.

Why is it important?

The world's oceans play a key role in sustaining life on Earth as we know it by:

- **climate regulation**
- **producing more than 50 % of oxygen on Earth**
- **being the main source of food and resources for billions of people**

Today however, we are witnesses to rapid climate change that affects all life on Earth which makes knowledge about sustainability more important than ever.

Human activities and decision-making can **profoundly transform the ocean**, with far-reaching consequences for humanity.

By promoting ocean literacy, individuals are better equipped to make **responsible, ocean-aware decisions** that ensure the protection of a sustainable and healthy environment for future generations.

1. **First step for sustainable oceans** – understanding its complexity and importance
2. **Second step for sustainable oceans** – enabling communities to turn ocean literacy knowledge into action



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7 Principles of ocean literacy:

1

Earth has one big ocean with many features

Although the ocean is large it is finite and resources are limited



2

The ocean & life in the ocean shape the features of Earth

Many earth materials originate in the ocean alongside with many sedimentary rocks now exposed on land



3

The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate

Interaction of oceanic and atmospheric processes controls weather and climate by dominating Earth's energy, water and carbon systems



4

The ocean makes Earth habitable

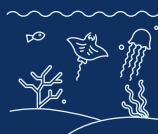
Most oxygen in the atmosphere originally came from the activities of photosynthetic organisms in the ocean



5

The ocean supports great diversity of life and ecosystems

Ocean biology provides many unique examples of life cycles, adaptations, and relationships among organisms



6

The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected

The ocean affects every human life – it provides freshwater (as most rain comes from the ocean), nearly all oxygen, food, medicines and mineral and energy resources



7

The ocean is largely unexplored

Less than 20% has been explored. However, exploration, experimentation and discovery are required for better understanding of ocean systems as our very survival could hinge upon it.



EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARING FOR THE OCEAN



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