

Chapter 7 Section 2 Notes

Marine (salt water) Ecosystems

Coastal Wetlands – industrial waste and sewage causes most coastal pollution in the United States

Estuaries

- fresh water and salt water mix forming a nutrient trap
- are productive ecosystems because they are constantly getting nutrients from rivers and oceans
- runoff is a potential threat to an estuary
- organisms that live in estuaries must adapt to changes in water level and salinity
- barnacles are organisms that anchor themselves to grasses or rocks

Salt Marshes

- marine ecosystem dominated by marsh grasses
- provide habitats for wildlife
- found along coastal areas
- threatened by development

Mangrove Swamps

- marine ecosystem dominated by trees with stilt-like roots
- provide habitats for wildlife
- found along coastal areas
- threatened by development

Coral Reefs

- limestone ridges built by tiny animals
- an ecosystem found in shallow, tropical seas
- corals use stinging tentacles to capture prey

Coral Reefs in Danger

- silt runoff
- excessive nutrients
- growth of algae
- oil spills
- sewage
- pesticides

Oceans

- the majority of marine organisms are found in shallow, coastal waters
- open ocean – a marine ecosystem considered not productive
- photosynthesis doesn't occur in deep ocean water because there is no sunlight
- plankton are the base of marine food webs

Threats to the Oceans

overfishing is a threat against marine organisms
activities on land are the source of most ocean pollution

Arctic and Antarctic Ecosystems

most of the nutrients in an arctic ecosystem come from the ocean