



Coral reefs are formations made up mainly of the skeletons of small organisms called coral polyps. They are vital for marine biodiversity, sheltering around 25% of marine species, providing food and protection.



Mangroves are coastal wetlands where fresh water meets salt water. They act as nurseries for many species of fish and protect the coast from erosion.



Plankton are microscopic organisms that float in ocean waters. They form the base of the marine food chain and are essential for feeding many marine animals.



Estuaries are places where rivers meet the sea. They are crucial for the reproduction of many fish and marine organisms, and serve as natural filters, purifying the water before it enters the ocean.



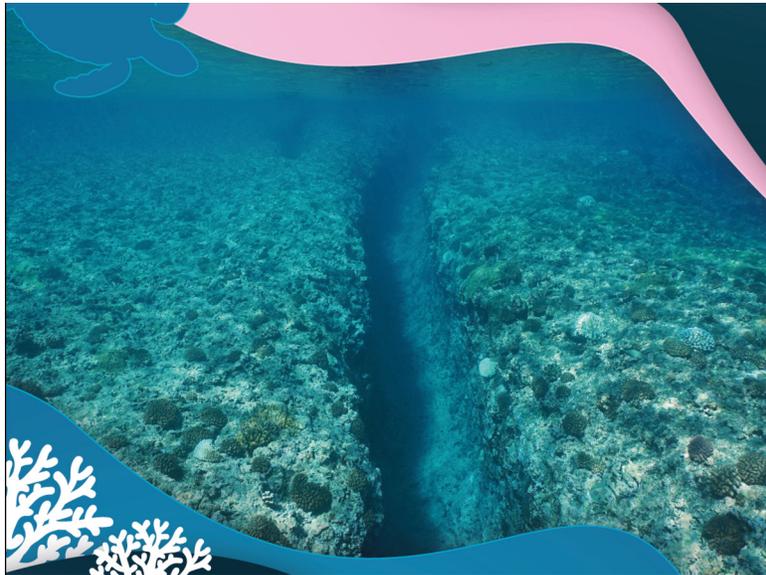
The continental slope is the edge of the continental shelf, where the ocean floor drops steeply to the depths. These productive regions attract many fish species, which in turn concentrate larger cetacean species such as sperm whale, minke whale and fin whale.



Marine prairies are vast fields of aquatic plants that provide refuge and food for a variety of marine animals, helping to absorb carbon and maintain water quality.



Oceanic islands are isolated islands in the ocean that are home to unique and endemic species. They play a crucial role in marine biodiversity and are centres for scientific research.



Ocean trenches are long, narrow depressions on the seafloor. These chasms are the deepest parts of the ocean—and some of the deepest natural spots on Earth.



The continental shelf is a flat extension of the continent under the ocean. It is rich in nutrients and supports a great diversity of marine life, including many species of fish.



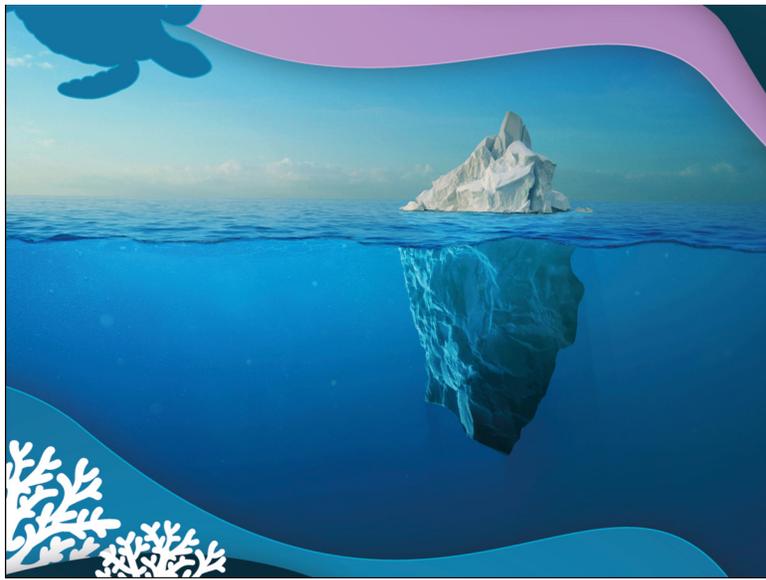
Rocky shores are areas where the land meets the sea, characterized by steep rocks and tidal pools. They are dynamic habitats that support a rich biodiversity of algae, invertebrates, and fish.



The open sea, or pelagic sea, refers to the vast expanses of ocean water far from the coast. It is home to many migratory species and is essential for the global circulation of ocean currents.



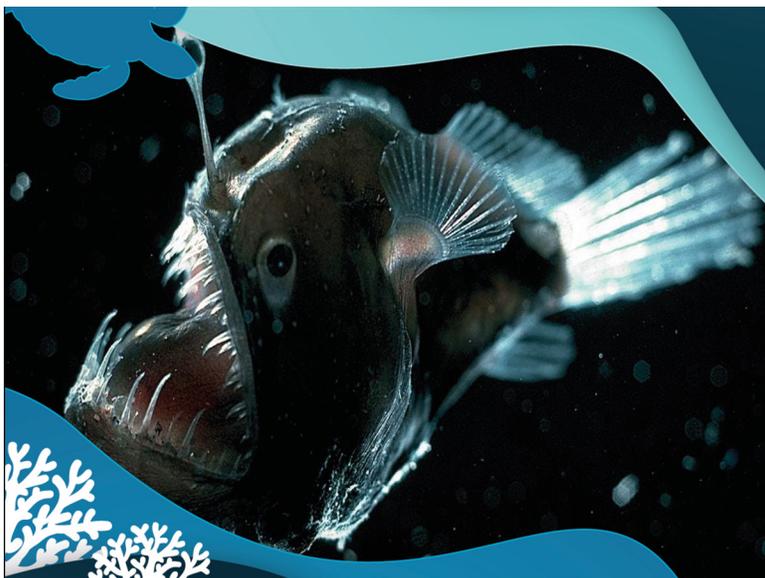
Atolls are rings of coral reefs that have grown up around a submerged volcanic island. They are refuges for seabirds and fish and are vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels.



Icebergs are large floating blocks of ice that break off from glaciers. They influence salinity and ocean circulation and are temporary habitats for some marine species.



Bays are protected areas of coastal water surrounded by land on three sides. They are crucial for the reproduction of many marine species and serve as natural nurseries.



Abyssal plains are vast expanses of deep-sea floor. They are habitats for creatures adapted to total darkness and lack of sunlight and are important for studies of life in the ocean depths.