Marine Ecoregions of the World

A nested, biogeography of marine ecosytems, made up of the following units (as defined in Spalding et al. 2007):
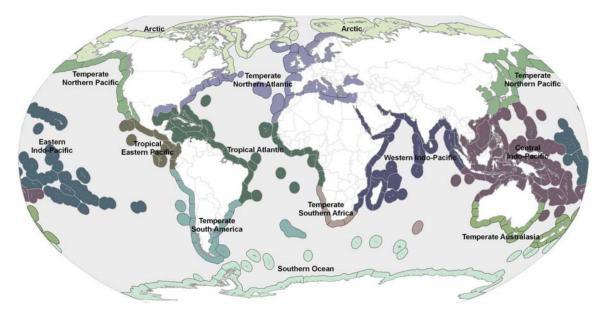
Realm: "Very large regions of coastal, benthic, or pelagic ocean across which biotas are internally coherent at higher taxonomic levels, as a result of a shared and unique evolutionary history. Realms have high levels of endemism, including unique taxa at generic and family levels in some groups. Driving factors behind the development of such unique biotas include water temperature, historical and broadscale isolation, and the proximity of the benthos."

Provinces: "Large areas defined by the presence of distinct biotas that have at least some cohesion over evolutionary time frames. Provinces will hold some level of endemism, principally at the level of species. Although historical isolation will play a role, many of these distinct biotas have arisen as a result of distinctive abiotic features that circumscribe their boundaries. These may include geomorphological features (isolated island and shelf systems, semienclosed seas); hydrographic features (currents, upwellings, ice dynamics); or geochemical influences (broadest-scale elements of nutrient supply and salinity)."
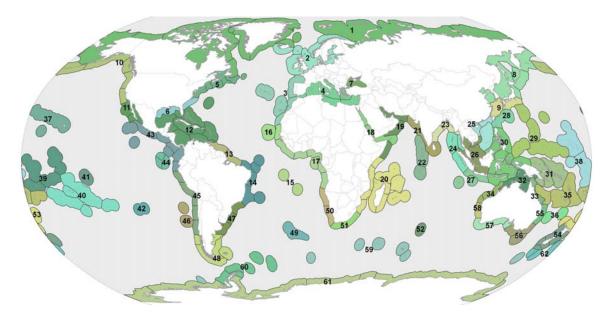
Ecoregions: "Areas of relatively homogeneous species composition, clearly distinct from adjacent systems. The species composition is likely to be determined by the predominance of a small number of ecosystems and/or a distinct suite of oceanographic or topographic features. The dominant biogeographic forcing agents defining the ecoregions vary from location to location but may include isolation, upwelling, nutrient inputs, freshwater influx, temperature regimes, ice regimes, exposure, sediments, currents, and bathymetric or coastal complexity."

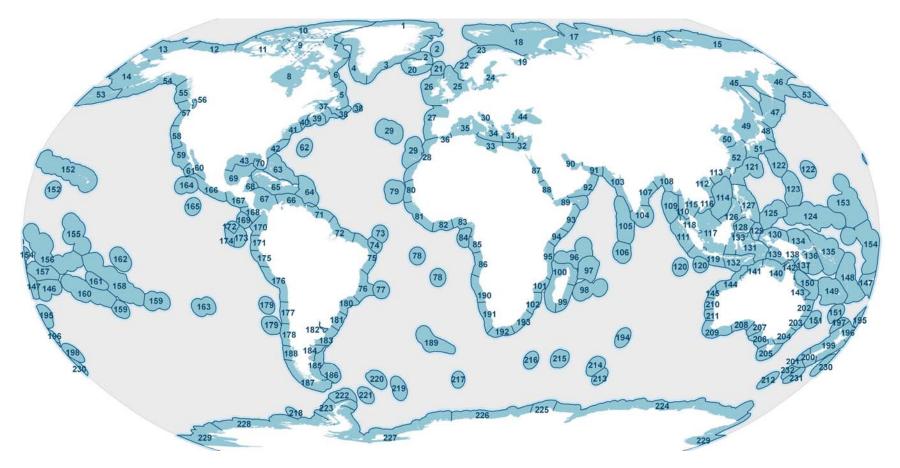The following pages include indexed maps of each of these units.

Citation: Spalding MD, Fox HE, Allen GR, Davidson N, Ferdaña ZA, Finlayson M, Halpern BS, Jorge MA, Lombana A, Lourie SA, Martin KD, McManus E, Molnar J, Recchia CA, Robertson J (2007) Marine Ecoregions of the World: a bioregionalization of coast and shelf areas. BioScience 57: 573-583

Marine Realms: 12 biogeographic realms with varied colors and ecoregion boundaries outlined

Marine Provinces: 62 provinces numbered and with varied colors, and ecoregion boundaries are outlined.

Marine Ecoregions: 232 ecoregions are numerically identified.

REALM
   Province
      Ecoregion

ARCTIC
  1 Arctic (no provinces identified)
      1   North Greenland
      2   North and East Iceland
      3   East Greenland Shelf
      4   West Greenland Shelf
      5   Northern Grand Banks - Southern Labrador
      6   Northern Labrador
      7   Baffin Bay - Davis Strait
      8   Hudson Complex
      9   Lancaster Sound
      10   High Arctic Archipelago
      11   Beaufort-Amundsen-Viscount Melville-Queen Maud
      12   Beaufort Sea - continental coast and shelf
      13   Chukchi Sea
      14   Eastern Bering Sea
      15   East Siberian Sea
      16   Laptev Sea
      17   Kara Sea
      18   North and East Barents Sea
      19   White Sea

TEMPERATE NORTHERN ATLANTIC
  2 Northern European Seas
      20   South and West Iceland
      21   Faroe Plateau
      22   Southern Norway
      23   Northern Norway and Finnmark
      24   Baltic Sea
      25   North Sea
      26   Celtic Seas
  3 Lusitanian
      27   South European Atlantic Shelf
      28   Saharan Upwelling
      29   Azores Canaries Madeira
  4 Mediterranean Sea
      30   Adriatic Sea
      31   Aegean Sea
      32   Levantine Sea
      33   Tunisian Plateau/Gulf of Sidra
      34   Ionian Sea
      35   Western Mediterranean
      36   Alboran Sea
  5 Cold Temperate Northwest Atlantic
      37   Gulf of St. Lawrence - Eastern Scotian Shelf
      38   Southern Grand Banks - South Newfoundland
      39   Scotian Shelf
      40   Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy
      41   Virginian
  6 Warm Temperate Northwest Atlantic
      42   Carolinian
      43   Northern Gulf of Mexico
  7 Black Sea
      44   Black Sea

TEMPERATE NORTHERN PACIFIC
  8 Cold Temperate Northwest Pacific
      45   Sea of Okhotsk
      46   Kamchatka Shelf and Coast
      47   Oyashio Current
      48   Northeastern Honshu
      49   Sea of Japan
      50   Yellow Sea
  9 Warm Temperate Northwest Pacific

      51   Central Kuroshio Current
      52   East China Sea
  10 Cold Temperate Northeast Pacific
      53   Aleutian Islands
      54   Gulf of Alaska
      55   North American Pacific Fijordland
      56   Puget Trough/Georgia Basin
      57   Oregon, Washington, Vancouver Coast and Shelf
      58   Northern California
  11 Warm Temperate Northeast Pacific
      59   Southern California Bight
      60   Cortezian
      61   Magdalena Transition

TROPICAL ATLANTIC
  12 Tropical Northwestern Atlantic
      62   Bermuda
      63   Bahamian
      64   Eastern Caribbean
      65   Greater Antilles
      66   Southern Caribbean
      67   Southwestern Caribbean
      68   Western Caribbean
      69   Southern Gulf of Mexico
      70   Floridian
  13 North Brazil Shelf
      71   Guianan
      72   Amazonia
  14 Tropical Southwestern Atlantic
      73   Sao Pedro and Sao Paulo Islands
      74   Fernando de Naronha and Atoll das Rocas
      75   Northeastern Brazil
      76   Eastern Brazil
      77   Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands
  15 St. Helena and Ascension Islands
      78   St. Helena and Ascension Islands
  16 West African Transition
      79   Cape Verde
      80   Sahelian Upwelling
  17 Gulf of Guinea
      81   Gulf of Guinea West
      82   Gulf of Guinea Upwelling
      83   Gulf of Guinea Central
      84   Gulf of Guinea Islands
      85   Gulf of Guinea South
      86   Angolan

WESTERN INDO-PACIFIC
  18 Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
      87   Northern and Central Red Sea
      88   Southern Red Sea
      89   Gulf of Aden
  19 Somali/Arabian
      90   Arabian (Persian) Gulf
      91   Gulf of Oman
      92   Western Arabian Sea
      93   Central Somali Coast
  20 Western Indian Ocean
      94   Northern Monsoon Current Coast
      95   East African Coral Coast
      96   Seychelles
      97   Cargados Carajos/Tromelin Island
      98   Mascarene Islands
      99   Southeast Madagascar
      100 Western & Northern Madagascar
      101 Bight of Sofala/Swamp Coast
      102 Delagoa
  21 West and South Indian Shelf
      103 Western India