

What's the Big Idea about Marine Biology? The Oceans and Us

This text is provided courtesy of OLogy, the American Museum of Natural History's website for kids.



Image Credit: Sean Murtha

We've always depended on the oceans: mostly for food, but also for oil, sand, and salt. We spend time at the ocean when we want to relax.

But over the years we've taken too much out of the oceans through overfishing. And we've put too much in: fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, and trash pollute our oceans. Modern fishing nets often catch animals by mistake — like dolphins — when they mean to catch tuna. And these nets destroy the ocean floor.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. For what have we depended on the oceans?

2. How are humans harming the oceans?

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

3. What is the main idea of this text?