

Keyword Glossary

Abundance: The total number of individuals of a species present in a certain area.

Biomass: Total mass of organisms inhabiting an area.

Coral Bleaching: Whitening of corals through loss of algal pigmentation due to stress. E.g. rising of sea surface temperature, cyanide fishing or changes in water chemistry.

Coral Reef: An offshore ridge made mostly from calcium carbonate secretions and skeletons of marine organisms. They flourish in warm (over 21°C), shallow waters, which have lots of sunlight.

Digital Reef Rugosity (DRR): A new electronic surveying method used to collect measurements of rugosity and therefore topographical complexity of an underwater structure e.g. a reef.

Ecosystem: A community of animals and plants living in a similar physical environment, involved in a cycle or flow of materials whereby organisms make use of living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) matter. Ecosystems range in size.

Exploitation: Use of resources.

Genus: A group of similar animals or plants.

Negative Correlation: Used to describe trends and relationships between data. As one variable increases another variable decreases.

Positive Correlation: Used to describe trends and relationships between datasets. As one variable increases so does another.

Rugosity: A term to describe the structural complexity of a community. E.g. corals.

Topographical complexity: Refers to the layout and make up of features in an area. The level of complexity of an areas topography depends on the number and variety of layers and structures present.

Transect: A linear section across an area, followed in order to survey changes over a distance. E.g. landuse, species type and abundance, gradient.

Command words

Analyse: Extract and interpret patterns and relationships between and within data sets.

Annotate: More lengthy and detailed labels, which explain a concept or observation.

Conclude: To sum up patterns and relationships discovered and come up with informed decisions and/or opinions.

Describe: Put in to words what you see in the image, diagram, graph etc.

Explain: Give reasons for what is being done, what has happened or what you see. Often you will use the word 'because' used when something is being explained.