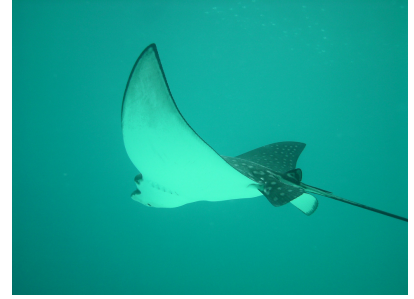


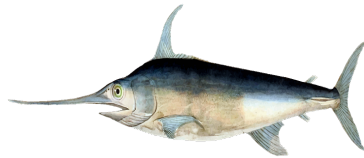
Sunlight Zone **surface of the ocean down to 600 feet**



The top layer of the ocean closest to the surface is called the sunlight zone. This zone gets the most amount of light from the sun. Since this zone gets sunlight, it is the warmest. Plant life also grows in this layer because it can get its energy from the light. One type of marine animal that gets its food from the sea and from the sun is the coral reef. The reef might look like plain rock, but it is actually made up of groups of tiny polyps. In addition to plants, most marine animals live in the sunlight zone. There is a lot of available food, so more animals can survive. Often, animals in this layer are colorful. Sea turtles and stingrays also live in this layer.

Twilight Zone

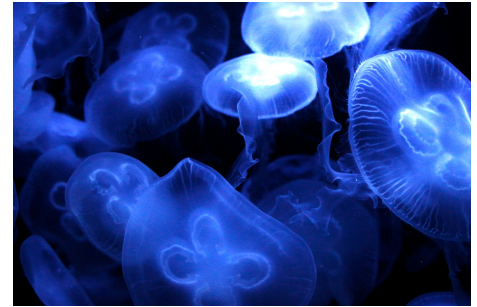
660-3,300 feet below the surface of the ocean



Just below the sunlight zone is the twilight zone. This zone still gets some sunlight, but is colder. Marine life at this layer often has larger eyes. Larger eyes allow more light into the eye and help these animals to see better. Animals might also glow at this layer because they can create their own light. Plants cannot get energy from the sun at this layer so there is little to no plant life. Animals have to hunt and hide so they do not get eaten. Examples of twilight zone animals include cuttlefish, swordfish, and wolf eels.

Midnight Zone

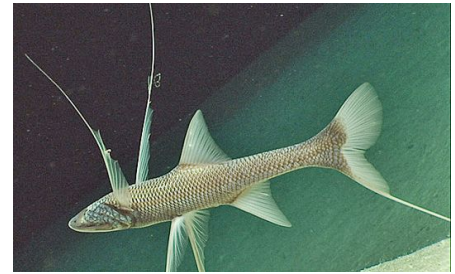
3,300-13,100 feet below the surface of the ocean



The third layer of the ocean is the midnight zone. It is called the midnight zone because there is no light in this layer. It looks dark as night to the human eye. The temperature is very low at around 39-40 degrees fahrenheit. This cold, dark, and high-pressure layer is not an easy place to live. Animals adapt by finding other ways to see. They often have small eyes or no eyes at all. They have bodies that make the most of what food they can find. They sometimes have transparent or see through skins. Animals at this layer include giant squid, jellyfish, and some shelled-animals.

Abyss Zone

13,100-19,680 feet below the surface of the ocean

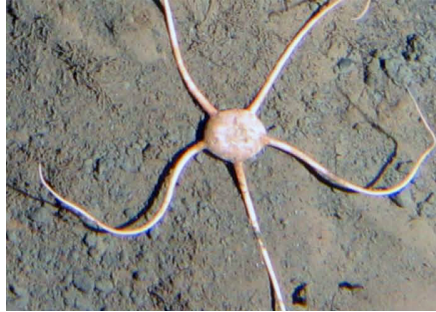


The ocean floor deep underwater is known as the abyss zone. It is completely dark here. The bottom of the ocean is covered in muddy dirt that is made from dead animals and their parts. Many marine animals at this layer eat dead animals who have sunk to the bottom. Some animals also get their food from the ocean mud, too. Some animals have built-in fishing lures and lights to attract prey. They usually move and mate slowly to save energy. Many animals in the abyss zone are blind since it is too dark to see well. Animals at this layer include some kinds of shrimp, dumbo octopus, and tripod fish.

Pictures from: <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/>

Trench Zone

19,680-36,000 feet below the surface of the ocean



The deepest layer of the ocean is called the trench zone. This is because the ocean is only this deep in underwater canyons called trenches. Scientists are still learning about the animals who live here because it is difficult to explore this layer of the ocean. Marine life in the abyss has to adapt to find food where it can. Animals here also eat marine snow. Some animals in the trenches feed on bacteria from vents in the ocean floor. Animals have only recently been discovered here, but some examples of animals that live in or near the trench zone are isopods and snailfish.

Pictures from: <https://web.whoi.edu/hades/imagesvideo/>