

## Reading Passage – topic: marine life protection

Oceans are fundamental to life on Earth, covering nearly three-quarters of the planet's surface and containing 97 percent of its water. They are crucial for everyone, regardless of **proximity** to the coast. Marine phytoplankton generate half of the oxygen in our **atmosphere**. Beyond this, oceans provide vital food, various resources, and **act as** a significant **economic driver** for countless communities.

Historically, humanity often viewed the ocean as an **inexhaustible resource** and a **convenient dumping ground**. There was a widespread belief that its immense size **rendered it immune** to human harm. This perception, however, proved dangerously flawed as **human activity intensified**, leading to significant **marine degradation**.

Today, human actions exert a substantial negative impact on the world's oceans, threatening marine life, their habitats, and entire ecosystems. Key threats include overfishing, destructive fishing, unchecked coastal development, widespread pollution and runoff, and the introduction of non-native species. Climate change further **exacerbates** these issues by causing rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification.

Recognizing the urgent need to halt or reverse this damage, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have gained prominence. Broadly defined, an MPA designates a specific ocean region where human activities are restricted to protect natural and cultural resources. While specifics vary globally, the core aim remains consistent: to provide lasting protection for marine environments via **legal frameworks**.

Currently, approximately 5,000 officially designated MPAs exist globally. Despite this, less than one percent of the world's oceans benefits from protection. **International commitments** aim to safeguard at least 10 percent of marine areas, yet at the current rate, achieving this target remains a significant challenge, highlighting the gap between ambition and reality.

**proximity** (n) – sự gần gũi, khoảng cách gần

**marine phytoplankton** (n.phr) – thực vật phù du biển

**atmosphere** (n) – khí quyển

**act as** (v.phr) – đóng vai trò là

**economic driver** (n.phr) – động lực kinh tế

**countless communities** (n.phr) – vô số cộng đồng

**inexhaustible resource** (n.phr) – nguồn tài nguyên không thể cạn kiệt

**convenient dumping ground** (n.phr) – nơi xả thải tiện lợi

**render** (v) – khiến cho, làm cho

**immune** (adj) – miễn nhiễm, không bị ảnh hưởng

**human activity intensified** (v.phr) – hoạt động của con người gia tăng

**marine degradation** (n.phr) – sự suy thoái môi trường biển

**exacerbate** (v) – làm trầm trọng thêm

**ocean acidification** (n.phr) – sự axit hóa đại dương

**legal frameworks** (n.phr) – khung pháp lý

**international commitments** (n.phr) – các cam kết quốc tế

### Question 23 Detail (Exception / NOT Mentioned)

Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a benefit oceans provide in the first paragraph?

- A. Producing a large portion of atmospheric oxygen
- B. Driving economic activity for many communities
- C. Serving as a crucial source of food
- D. Supplying fresh water for human consumption

### Question 24 Vocabulary (Antonym)

The word "negative" in paragraph 3 is OPPOSITE in meaning to which of the following?

- A. harmful
- B. detrimental
- C. constructive
- D. adverse

### Question 25 Reference

The word "it" in paragraph 2 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the widespread belief
- B. humanity
- C. immense size
- D. the ocean

### Question 26 Vocabulary (Synonym/Replacement)

The word "exacerbates" in paragraph 3 can best be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. prevents
- B. mitigates
- C. worsens
- D. alleviates

### Question 27 Paraphrase

Which of the following best restates the main idea of the final sentence in paragraph 5: "International commitments aim to safeguard at least 10 percent of marine areas, yet at the current rate, achieving this target remains a significant challenge, highlighting the gap between ambition and reality."

- A. Nations have successfully met their goals to protect 10% of global oceans.
- B. The current rate of ocean protection is on track to exceed the 10% international commitment soon.
- C. International commitments are the only effective method for achieving ocean protection goals.
- D. Protecting 10% of marine areas is proving difficult despite global promises, showing a discrepancy between goals and current progress.

**Question 28 True/False Comprehension (Identify TRUE)**

Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. Historically, people always understood the ocean's fragility and protected it diligently.
- B. Less than one percent of the world's oceans is currently under official protection.
- C. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) allow unrestricted human activity in designated regions.
- D. Over half of the oxygen in the atmosphere is produced by land-based plants.

**Question 29 Paragraph Identification (Content/Function)**

Which paragraph primarily discusses the historical human perception of the ocean and its subsequent negative consequences?

- A. Paragraph 2
- B. Paragraph 3
- C. Paragraph 1
- D. Paragraph 4

**Question 30 Paragraph Identification (Content/Topic)**

Which paragraph primarily focuses on the current state and future goals of global marine protection efforts?

- A. Paragraph 5
- B. Paragraph 3

C. Paragraph 4

D. Paragraph 2