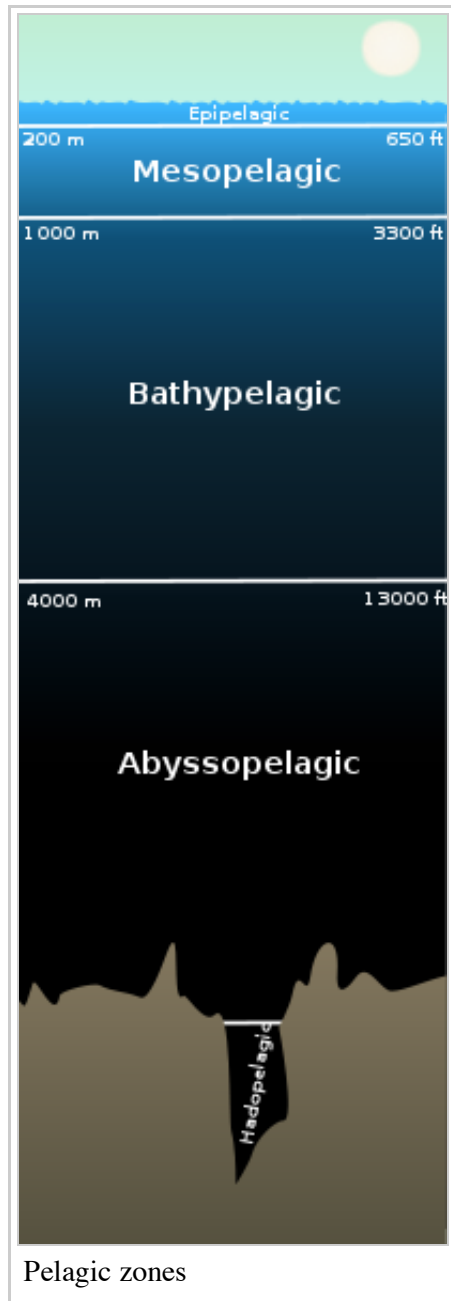


Mesopelagic zone

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



The **mesopelagic** (Greek μέσον, middle) (also known as the *middle pelagic* or *twilight zone*) is that part of the pelagic zone that extends from a depth of 200 to 1000 metres (~660 to 3300 feet)^[1] below the ocean surface. It lies between the photic epipelagic above and the aphotic bathypelagic below, where there is no light at all.

Contents

- 1 Physical conditions
- 2 Ecology
- 3 References
- 4 See also

Physical conditions

Though the temperature varies less at any one height than the epipelagic, the mesopelagic is the location of the thermocline; and in warmer regions of the world, the temperature varies from over 20 °C (68 °F) at the top to around 4 °C (39 °F) at the boundary with the bathyal zone. Water generally moves slowly in the mesopelagic with a residency time of about a century^[2] though a variety of animals move vertically through the zone on a daily basis

and various debris sink down in relatively short time frames.

Ecology

Although some light penetrates as deep as the mesopelagic zone, it is insufficient for photosynthesis. The general types of life forms found are daytime visiting herbivores, detritivores feeding on dead organisms and fecal pellets, and carnivores feeding on the former types.^[3]

Examples of animals in the mesopelagic zone are: swordfish, squid, wolf eels, cuttlefish, and other semi-deepsea creatures. Also, there is enough sunlight for animals, such as the chain catshark, to be fluorescent.

Aquatic layers
Pelagic
Photic
Epipelagic
Aphotic
Mesopelagic
Bathyalpelagic
Abyssopelagic
Hadopelagic
Demersal
Benthic
Stratification
Pycnocline
Isopycnal
Chemocline
Halocline
Thermocline
Thermohaline
Marine habitats
Lake stratification
Aquatic ecosystems
Wild fisheries

References

- ↑ Trujillo, Alan P.; Thurman, Harold V. (2010). *Essentials of Oceanography* (10th edition ed.). Prentice Hall. pp. 363–366.
- ↑ Hogan, Michael C. "Mesopelagic zone" (<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/154574/>). The Encyclopedia or Earth. Retrieved 17 September 2013.
- ↑ Hogan, Michael C. "Mesopelagic zone" (<http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/154574/>). The Encyclopedia or Earth. Retrieved 17 September 2013.

See also

- Mesopelagic fish

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mesopelagic_zone&oldid=604301698"

Categories: Aquatic biomes | Oceanography

-
- This page was last modified on 15 April 2014 at 13:50.
 - Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.