# **Brief Contents**

1 A Short History of Marine Community Ecology 1

# PART Processes that Generate Pattern in Marine Communities 9

- 2 The Physical Context of Marine Communities 11
- 3 Foundation Species in Marine Ecosystems 37
- Marine Dispersal, Ecology, and Conservation 57
- The Role of Infectious Diseases in Marine Communities 85
- 6 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function: Does Pattern Influence Process? 109
- The Biogeography of Marine Communities 131
- 8 Marine Historical Ecology: Informing the Future by Learning from the Past 165

# PART Community Types 201

- Intertidal Rocky Shores 203
- 10 Soft-Sediment Communities 227
- Salt Marsh Communities 251
- Ecology of Seagrass Communities 271
- 13 Coral Reef Ecosystems: A Decade of Discoveries 299
- 14 Kelp Forests: Dynamic Patterns, Processes, and Feedbacks 315
- 15 Pelagic Communities 337
- 16 Phytoplankton Communities 365
- Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vent Communities 383

# PART Conservation 401

- 18 Services of Marine Ecosystems: A Quantitative Perspective 403
- 19 Climate Change and Marine Communities 427
- Threats to Marine Ecosystems: Overfishing and Habitat Degradation 449
- 21 Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Marine Conservation and Management 477
- 22 Marine Restoration Ecology 495
- The Future of Marine Conservation and Management 517

# **Contents**



The Beginning of Marine Ecology 1

Simple but Powerful Field Experiments Shift the Focus and Rigor of Marine Ecology 3 Marine Community Ecology since 2000 5 Why Marine Ecology? 6



# PART

# Processes that Generate Pattern in Marine Communities 9



The Context Sensitivity of Organismal– Environmental Interactions 12

Scaling up 13

#### Important Aspects of the Physical Environment 13

A few basic properties of fluids 13

Derived quantities 13

#### The Importance of Gradients 18

Gradients as determinants of physiological performance 18

Mass transfer 18

Heat transfer 19

Benthic, momentum, and diffusive boundary layers 19

#### **Ecological Implications 20**

Ecological effects of DBL and mass flux limitation 20 Flow effects in the benthic boundary layer 21

#### Effects of Physical Forces across Scales 23

Fertilization, attachment, and propagule supply 25 Food delivery 29

Regulation of predator—prey information transfer 30 Propagule supply and large-scale connectivity 30

# Foundation Species in Marine Ecosystems 37

Foundation Species along Environmental Stress Gradients 39

Foundation Species Shape the Spatial Pattern of the Landscape 41

Interactions among Multiple Foundation Species 43

Societal Value of Foundation Species 47

Conservation Concerns 48

Future Considerations 51

# Marine Dispersal, Ecology, and Conservation 57

Dispersal Kernels 57

#### The Importance of Dispersal 58

Population dynamics 58

Community structure 59

Metapopulation dynamics 60

Biogeography 60

Spread of advantageous alleles 60

Measuring Dispersal with Genes 61

#### Standard Equilibrium Population Genetics 61

Genetic drift 61

Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium 61

Testing differentiation 62

Measuring gene flow 62

The Waples zone 62

#### The Geography of Dispersal and Genetics 63

Isolation by distance (IBD) 63

Seascape models of gene flow 64

Nonequilibrium conditions 65

Assignment to populations and parents 66

Natural selection, gene flow, and dispersal 67

#### Key Determinants of Dispersal Spread and Pattern 68

Pelagic duration 68

Larval feeding 68

Larval behavior 68

Adult spawning behavior 69

Temporal variation in oceanographic conditions 69

*Habitat patchiness* 70

Retention versus immigration 70

Selection for or against immigrants 71

Influence of population size 71

#### Regional Surveys of Genetics and Dispersal 72

Meta-analyses of genetics and dispersal 73

#### What We Can Infer about Dispersal 74

Dispersal and Marine Conservation 75

Scales of dispersal 75

Dispersal and local fish stocks 75

Population rescue 76

Marine protected area design 76

Dispersal and MPAs in California 77

Dispersal and local adaptation 77



### The Role of Infectious Diseases in Marine Communities 85

#### An Introduction to Infectious Diseases 85

Trophic strategies 85

Life cycles 86

Taxonomic groups 86

#### Parasites as a Part of Marine Biodiversity 87

Basic Epidemiology 88

## Effects of the Environment on Infectious

Diseases 89

Thermal stress and climate warming 89

Ocean acidification 90

Eutrophication 90

#### Effects of Free-Living Diversity on Infectious Diseases 91

#### Parasite Communities 92

Parasite communities in fishes 92

Larval trematode communities in snails 93

#### Host Regulation by Infectious Diseases 95

Bacteriophages and bacteria 95

Sea urchin epidemics 95

Trematodes and snails 95

Oysters and protozoan parasites in Delaware Bay 96

Parasites and sea otters 96

#### Mass Mortalities 97

#### Effects of Infectious Diseases on Marine Communities 99

Indirect effects of infectious diseases 99

Behavior 100

Food webs 101

#### Applied Aspects of Infectious Diseases 101

Fisheries and infectious diseases 101

*Invasive species* 103



# Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function: Does Pattern

Influence Process? 109

#### Definitions and Key Concepts 111

#### Theoretical, Conceptual, and Empirical Approaches 111

Theoretical foundations of biodiversity—ecosystem function

Experimental approaches for testing concepts, questions, and theory 114

#### Major Findings of Marine BEF Research 117

Genetic diversity affects resilience and other functions 118

*Species diversity affects function within and across trophic* levels 118

Functional diversity explains diversity effects 120

Food web structure modifies the effects of diversity 121

Extinction order can determine how diversity loss alters function 121

#### Scaling Up Diversity Effects from Local Experiments to Regional Processes 123

BEF and Current Challenges in Marine Ecological Research 125

## The Biogeography of Marine Communities 131

#### Species' Geographic Range Limits 132

Niche-based modeling 133

Temperature effects on survival and reproduction: Mechanistic studies 134

Biogeographic boundaries: Temperature or transport? 134

Dispersal limitation and range boundaries 136

*Interactive effects of temperature and dispersal on range* boundaries 137

Evolutionary processes and range boundaries 138

Implications and future directions 139

#### The Geography of Abundance 139

*The abundant-center hypothesis* 139

Role of environmental heterogeneity 140

Role of dispersal in uncoupling habitat favorability and local abundance 141

Geographic variation in individual performance and demographic processes 142

Role of plasticity in physiological and life history traits 144

Role of evolutionary processes 145 Implications and future directions 146

#### Latitudinal Variation in Species Interactions 147

Environmental stress gradients and the strength of competition and facilitation 147

Influence of temperature on per capita predation and herbivory 148

Population density, community composition, and context dependency 149

The role of variation in recruitment 150

Geographic mosaics of selection 151

*Tropical*—temperate comparisons of species interactions 152

Implications and future directions 154

#### Local versus Regional Effects on Species Richness 154

Tests of community saturation and regional enrichment in marine systems 155

Latitudinal variation in local species interactions versus regional enrichment 157

Implications and future directions 158

## 8 Marine Historical Ecology: Informing the Future by Learning from the Past 165

#### Origin and Development of Marine Historical Ecology 166

#### How We Can Learn about the Past 167

Paleontological data 168

Archaeological data 170

Historical data 172

Fisheries and hunting records 174

Scientific surveys 175

Living memory 178

Molecular data 178

*Integrating different data sources and disciplines* 179

#### What We Can Learn from the Past 182

Environmental changes 182

Changes in species occurrence and abundance 183

Habitat alterations 185

Changes in water quality 185

Species invasions 186

Changes in ecosystem structure, functioning, and services 186

Overarching patterns 187

#### How the Past Can Inform the Future 188

Science and ecology 188

Management and conservation 192

Teaching and communication 195





PART



# Community Types 201

# Intertidal RockyShores 203

#### Oceanographic Drivers of Rocky Intertidal Community Structure 205

#### Scale: Relating Pattern to Process 207

The analysis of pattern at multiple scales 208 Effects of scale in manipulative experiments 209

## The Community Consequences of Predation Risk 211

Nonconsumptive predator effects and trait-mediated indirect interactions 212

NCEs, food chains, and ecosystem function 214
The effects of physical factors on the importance of NCEs and TMIIs 214

#### Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning 215 Climate Change and Local Human Impacts 216

Shifting species ranges 217 Climate-driven environmental fluctuations 217 Local human impacts 219

# Soft-Sediment Communities 227

#### General Patterns 227

#### Invasive Species in Soft Sediment 234

Soft-sediment estuaries and associated marshes are the most invaded marine habitats 234 Exotic species may have greater impacts in soft-sediment habitats 234

# Habitat Complexity and Soft-Sediment Communities 236

Abiotic and biogenic structure in soft sediments 236 Soft sediments as a model for understanding structural complexity effects 237

Losses of habitat complexity to anthropogenic impacts 239

# Anoxia and Eutrophication in Soft-Sediment Communities 240

Eutrophication and bottom-water hypoxia 240

Immediate and longer-term impacts of hypoxic events on community structure and biogeochemistry 241

The Microphytobenthos 242

## Salt Marsh Communities 251

#### The History of Salt Marsh Ecology 252

Salt marsh experimental community ecology 253

#### What's New in Salt Marsh Community Ecology? 255

Salt marsh biogeography 255

Biodiversity 257

Human impacts 258

Grazer control, trophic cascades, and salt marsh die-off 260

Consumer control in southern United States marshes 262

Grazer-driven marsh die-off in northern United States marshes 264

# How Will Marshes Survive the Onslaught of Human Impacts? 267

Where Marsh Community Ecology Is Going 267

# Ecology of Seagrass Communities 271

#### Seagrass Community Interaction Webs: A Conceptual Framework 275

#### Seagrasses as Foundation Species 275

Seagrass modification of the environment and of biotic interactions 275

Seagrass demographic processes: Community-level consequences 278

#### Control of Seagrass Community Processes 279

Bottom-up control in seagrass communities 279
Top-down control in seagrass communities 280
Indirect effects of predation: Trophic cascades in seagrass ecosystems 281

Grazer diversity and trophic processes in seagrass beds 283

#### Seagrass Ecosystem Functioning and Services 284

Control of productivity and trophic transfer in seagrass ecosystems 284

Landscape-level interactions among seagrasses and other habitats 285

Importance of seagrasses to human society 286

#### Human Impacts on Seagrass Ecosystems 287

Change in seagrass ecosystems 287

Seagrass management and restoration 290

#### Conclusions and Looking Forward 291

Seagrasses in a global seascape 291

Biological diversity and functioning of seagrass ecosystems 291

Seagrasses in a changing world 292



## Coral Reef Ecosystems:

A Decade of Discoveries 299

#### Biodiversity 299

How many species on coral reefs? 299 Patterns of species diversity 301

#### Ecological Interactions 302

Predation and disease 302

Competition 303

Herbivory 303

Positive interactions 303

Food webs and trophic cascades 305

Community (dis)assembly rules 306

#### The State of Coral Reefs 306

Local causes of decline 307

Global causes of decline 309

*Interactions between multiple stressors* 310

Phase shifts, tipping points, alternative states, and extinctions 311

#### Prospects for Conservation and Management 311



### Kelp Forests: Dynamic Patterns, Processes, and

Feedbacks 315

#### The Evolution and Global Distribution of a Major Marine Biome 316

Diversity, biogeography, and evolution 316

Global distribution of kelp forests: Setting the stage 317

#### Assembly and Disassembly of Kelp Forests: Global and Local Ecosystem Drivers 319

Kelp growth and forestation 319

Kelp deforestation: Abiotic and biotic drivers 320

Predation: Indirect effects on kelp forests 323

Trophic cascades: General ecological theory illustrated by kelp forest dynamics 324

#### Alternative Stable States: Ecosystem Flips, Locks, and Feedbacks 325

Multiplicative effects of climate change and fishing 327

Other phase shifts from kelp forest: Interactions of local stressors with climate change 330



### Pelagic Communities 337

#### Boundaries on a Boundless Ocean 340

Physical environment 340

Temperature 341

Stratification 341

Fronts 342

Upwelling 343

Eddies 344

#### Delineation of Pelagic Habitats and Production Units 344

Boundary schemes 344 Boundless species 345

#### Patterns and Processes in Pelagic Habitats 347

Patchiness and scale of physical and biological variables 347

Benthic-pelagic coupling 348

Size-structured food webs 348

Gradients in species diversity and body size 349

#### Top-Down versus Bottom-Up Forcing in Pelagic Communities 352

Forcing from below (bottom-up control) 352

Forcing from above (predation) 353

Context dependence of food chain stability 355

#### Major Perturbations Affecting the Structure and Function of Pelagic Ecosystems 356

Climate change 356

Eutrophication 357

Ecosystems exploited to the limit and beyond 357



#### Major Taxonomic Groups of Marine Phytoplankton 366

#### Principles Underlying Phytoplankton Community Structure and the Maintenance of Diversity 368

Cell size and community co-limitation by resources and predators 368

Gradients of light versus nutrient availability 371 Nutrient ratios and nitrogen fixation 372 Non-equilibrium dynamics 374

Food web complexity 376

Global Change 378



Vent Habitat and Inhabitants 385

New Insights on Species Interactions 387

What are the roles of species interactions in a physically extreme habitat? 387

#### Larval Dispersal and Exchange in Patchy, Disturbed Habitat 388

Can larvae travel far enough to disperse between vents? 389

Are vent populations open or closed? 390

Colonization and Succession 392

Metacommunity Dynamics 393

Conservation of Vent Communities 396





# **Conservation 401**

# Services of Marine Ecosystems: A Quantitative Perspective 403

#### Marine Ecosystem Services 404

Spatial variation in the ecological production functions of coastal landscapes 406

Valuation of coral reef benefits 408

#### Why Quantify Ecosystem Services? 408

Assessing trade-offs 409

Evaluating cumulative impacts 409

Measuring management effectiveness 410

#### Quantifying and Valuing Marine Ecosystem Services 411

Mangrove conservation versus shrimp aquaculture development in Thailand 411

Louisiana Master Plan for Coastal Restoration and Protection 413

Ecosystem-based planning for multiple marine ecosystem services in British Columbia 414

Local investment in building resilient coastal communities 416

#### Challenges for the Future 417

Quantifying the role of biodiversity in supporting marine ecosystem services 417

Assessing marine ecosystem resilience 419 Linking science with action 420

# Climate Change and Marine Communities 427

What Is Climate Change? 427

#### Physical and Chemical Effects of Climate Change on the Oceans 428

Ocean warming 430

Ocean acidification 431

#### Ecological Effects of Climate Change 431

Individual-level effects of ocean warming: Ecophysiology 431

Population-level effects of ocean warming 432 Individual- and population-level effects of ocean acidification 433

Changes in geographic ranges and phenology 435 Population- and species-level effects: Adaptation and acclimatization 439

Population- and species-level effects: Extinction 439

Community-level effects of climate change 440

Ocean Solutions to Climate Change 441 Climate Change and Ocean Ecosystem Services 443



# Threats to Marine Ecosystems: Overfishing and Habitat Degradation 449

Types of Fisheries 450

#### Direct Effects of Fishing on Community Structure 453

Changes in abundance and biomass 453

Changes in size and age structure 454

Changes in composition and diversity 455

Extinction risk 456

Summary of direct effects 457

#### Indirect Ecosystem Effects 457

Top-down effects and trophic cascades 457

Bottom-up effects 459

Effects on ecosystem functioning 460

Summary of indirect effects 460

#### Habitat Loss and Alteration 461

Fishery-related habitat disturbance 461

Other forms of habitat disturbance 461

Direct effects of fisheries on benthic habitats 462

Effects of other habitat-degrading activities 464

Indirect effects of habitat degradation 467

Summary: Effects of habitat degradation 467

Habitat restoration 468

# Synthesis: The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management 470

What is overfishing? 470

Ecosystem overfishing 470

Reference points for management 471

Summary of ecosystem-based fisheries

approaches 473

#### Conclusions and Future Directions 473



## Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Marine Conservation and Management 477

Ecosystem-Based Management 478 Marine Protected Areas 478

The science of MPAs 479

The application of MPAs 480

Marine Spatial Planning 483

A Key Related Tool: Cumulative Impact Mapping 485

# Major Themes in Marine Conservation and Management in the Last Decade 487

Humans as part of the system (social ecological systems) 487

Ecosystem function and dynamics 487

Interdisciplinary science to support management for multiple objectives 488

Resilience 489



# Marine Restoration Ecology 495

What Is Restoration? 495

Population-Level Approaches 497

#### Habitat-Level Approaches 499

Salt marshes 501

Seagrasses 503

Oyster reefs 504

Coral reefs 507

Mangroves 508

Landscape-Level Approaches 508

Ecosystem-Level Restorations 510

Socioeconomic Considerations in Marine Restoration 511



## The Future of Marine Conservation and Management 517

History of Marine Conservation and Management 517

A New Framing: Emerging Issues in Marine Conservation and Management 518

# The Promise and Challenges of Marine Conservation 519

Beyond single-species fishery management 519

Fishery catch shares for job security and conservation 520

Beyond marine protected areas: Managing cumulative impacts and land—sea interactions 522

Ecosystem indicators: Tracking progress toward multiple management objectives 523

Restoration ecology and economy 526

#### **xiv** Contents

Incorporating climate into adaptation and hazard mitigation planning 526

Considering linked dynamics of social and ecological systems 528

Governance of common-pool resources 529 Intermediate-complexity models for multi-objective management 530

Ecolabeling and fishery certification 531

*Using ecosystem service information in decisions* 533 *Improving food security through seafood* 534

The Science and Art of Communication 536 Opportunities Facing the Next Generation of Marine Conservation Scientists 538

Index 545