



Glossary of Terms

acclimation changes in tolerance under laboratory or other experimental conditions, generally over the short term

acclimatisation phenotypic changes by an organism to stresses in the natural environment that result in the re-adjustment of the organism's tolerance levels

adaptation an adjustment that moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic changes or their effects. A 'biological adaptation' is a phenotypic variant that results in highest fitness among a specific set of variants in a given environment; it occurs when the more vulnerable members of a population are eliminated by an environmental stress, leaving the more tolerant organisms to reproduce and recruit to available habitat

adaptive capacity the potential for a species or system to adapt to climate change (including changes in variability and extremes) so as to maximise fitness; moderate potential damages; or take advantage of opportunities, such as increased space availability

amphidromic a point within a tidal range where the tidal range is almost zero

arboreal relating to or resembling a tree

Argo global array of free-drifting profiling floats measuring temperature and salinity of the ocean

arthropods characterised by a segmented body, chitinous exoskeleton, paired, jointed limbs and in the class Crustacea

assemblage multiple species of plants and animals living in the same place and time

Atlantic meridional overturning circulation carries warm surface waters into far-northern latitudes and returns cold deep waters south across the Equator. Its heat transport makes a substantial contribution to the moderate climate of maritime and continental Europe, and any slowdown in the overturning circulation would have profound implications for climate

attribution the process of establishing cause and effect with some defined level of confidence

autotrophs produce sugars that are essential to consumers, in the pelagic environment, this is usually through photosynthesis (see *phytoplankton*). Autotrophs are the foundation of marine food chains

azooxanthellate organisms that do not contain microscopic single-celled algae called *zooxanthellae*, which are commonly found in soft and hard corals

biodiversity the number and relative abundance of different genes (genetic diversity), species, and ecosystems (biological communities) in a particular area

bioturbation the displacement and mixing of sediment layers by benthic plants and animals

bottom-up control refers to ecosystems in which the nutrient supply, productivity, and type of primary producers (plants and phytoplankton) control the ecosystem structure

broadcast spawning the simultaneous release of sperm and eggs into the water column. Many species of corals, fish and benthic invertebrates exhibit synchronised spawning in order to increase the chances of fertilization and maximise genetic diversity

Cephalopoda means 'head foot' and refers to a class of marine molluscs with well-developed senses and large brains, for example squid and octopi

chronostratigraphic a graphic display, with geologic time along the vertical axis and distance along the horizontal axis, to demonstrate the relative ages and geographic extent of *strata* in a given location (also known as a Wheeler diagram)

climate the 'average weather', or more rigorously, the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands of years. The classical period is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization. These quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind

climate change a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) (see *climate variability*). The concept of increased emissions over time and gradual changes in climate is well accepted. Importantly though, fossil evidence clearly demonstrates that the Earth's climate can shift within a decade, establishing new patterns that can persist for decades to centuries. Climate change, therefore, can refer to either a gradual or abrupt change in climatic conditions

climate variability variations in the mean state and other statistics of the climate (such as standard deviations and the occurrence of extremes) on all temporal and spatial scales beyond that of individual weather events. Variability may be due to natural internal processes within the climate system (internal variability), or to variations in natural or anthropogenic external forcing (external variability) (see also *climate change*)

CLIVAR a program run by the World Climate Research Program that works to describe and understand the physical processes responsible for climate variability and predictability on seasonal, interannual, decadal, and centennial time-scales, through the collection and analysis of observations and the development and application of models of the coupled climate system

connectivity natural links among reefs and neighbouring habitats, especially seagrass beds, mangroves and back-reef lagoons that provide dispersal and genetic replenishment. Also refers to linkages among coastal lands and adjacent catchments, which are sources of freshwater, sediments and pollutants. The mechanisms include ocean currents, terrestrial runoff and watercourses, larval dispersal, spawning patterns, and movements of adult fishes and other animals. Connectivity is an important process to ensure the productive function of the plant and animal species that contribute to the overall health of an ecosystem

copepod small pelagic crustaceans (0.3 to 5 mm long) that are important consumers of phytoplankton and some zooplankton, and form an important food source for higher trophic levels

coral bleaching the paling of corals and other animals with *zooxanthellae* resulting from a loss of these symbiotic algae. Bleaching occurs in response to physiological shock due primarily to periods of increased water temperature coincident with high levels of light (see *mass coral bleaching*). Bleaching can also be caused by changes in salinity or turbidity

Coriolis effect the apparent deflection of objects from a straight path when the objects are viewed from a rotating frame of reference. The best example is the deflection of winds moving along the surface of the Earth to the right of the direction of travel in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere. This effect is caused by the rotation of the Earth and is responsible for the direction of the rotation of tropical storms and cyclones

cryptofauna animals that are difficult to see when making cursory observations of a habitat. They are usually small and in most cases, highly dependent on their habitats for shelter and food. In the marine environment, these are *demersal* animals

demersal dwelling at or near the bottom of a body of water

detection the process of demonstrating that an observed change is significantly different (in a statistical sense) than can be explained by natural variability

East Australian Current (EAC) a current that originates in the Coral Sea and flows southward along the east coast of Australia

echinoderms radially symmetrical invertebrates of the phylum Echinodermata that have an internal calcareous skeleton and are often covered with spines, for example starfish and sea cucumbers

ecosystem a community of organisms, interacting with one another and the environment in which they live. Such a system includes all abiotic components such as mineral ions, organic compounds, and the climatic regime

ectotherm having a body temperature that varies with the temperature of the surrounding environment

Effective Juvenile Habitats (EJH) habitats that have a greater than average overall contribution to adult populations

Ekman transport process by which each layer of water in the ocean drags with it the layer beneath. Thus, the movement of each layer of water is affected by the movement of the layer above

emissions scenario scenarios describing how greenhouse gas emissions could progress between 2000 and 2100, depending on various hypotheses about human societies and behaviour. As there are an infinite number of possibilities to describe future emissions, scenarios are necessarily conventional with each reflecting a plausible state of the future world. The IPCC has published 40 scenarios grouped into four types (A1, A2, B1, B2) with each representing a different evolution of humanity and associated rates of energy consumption and food production

endemic native to or confined to a certain geographical region

endogenous originating or produced from within an organism, tissue or cell

enhanced greenhouse effect increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trap more heat and raise the Earth's surface temperature

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) widespread two to seven year oscillations in atmospheric pressure, ocean temperatures and rainfall associated with El Niño (the warming of the oceans in the equatorial eastern and central Pacific) and its opposite, La Niña. Over much of Australia, La Niña brings above average rain, and El Niño brings drought. A common measure of ENSO is the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), which is the normalised mean sea level pressure difference between Tahiti and Darwin. The SOI is positive during La Niña events and negative during El Niño events

euphotic zone the depth of water that is exposed to sufficient sunlight for photosynthesis to occur

eutrophic nutrient-rich waters

eutrophication the increase in dissolved nutrients and decrease in dissolved oxygen in a (usually shallow) body of water, caused by either natural processes or pollution

exogenous derived or developed outside the body; to originate externally

- exposure** the nature and degree to which a system or species is exposed to significant climate variations. In a climate change context, it captures the important weather events and patterns that affect the system. Exposure represents the background climate conditions against which a system or species operates, and any changes in those conditions
- fissiparous** reproducing by biological fission, a process in which the organism breaks into parts
- genotype** the genetic makeup, as distinguished from the physical appearance, of an organism or a group of organisms
- geostrophic current** the current that results from the forces associated with horizontal changes in density being compensated by accelerations arising from fluid motion on a rotating Earth
- global temperature** usually referring to the surface temperature, this is an area-weighted average of temperatures recorded at ground- and sea-surface-based observation sites around the globe, supplemented by satellite-based or model-based records in remote regions
- global warming** an increase in global average surface temperature due to natural or anthropogenic *climate change*
- gravity wave** in fluid dynamics these waves can be generated in a fluid medium or at the interface between two mediums (eg the atmosphere and ocean) and have the restoring force of gravity, which often results in the wave oscillating around an equilibrium
- Great Barrier Reef (GBR)** tropical marine ecosystem on the northeast coast of Australia that comprises of reef, seagrass, inter-reef, pelagic, shoals and mangrove habitats and includes the islands, cays and coastal areas that are connected physically and biologically
- greenhouse gases** any of the atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect. Naturally occurring greenhouse gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone. Certain human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, add to the concentration of these naturally occurring gases in the atmosphere
- greenhouse effect** greenhouse gases that are present naturally in the Earth's atmosphere trap heat from the sun to maintain the Earth's surface temperature at a habitable level
- heterotrophs** consumers that cannot synthesise their food and must consume other plants or animals, for example zooplankton and nekton
- impacts** the adverse effect resulting from a threat acting on a vulnerability. Can be described in terms of loss or degradation of any, or a combination of any, ecological, social or economic features
- insolation** a measure of incoming solar radiation incident on a unit horizontal surface at a specific level
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** an organisation set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program to advise governments on the latest science of climate change, its impacts and possible adaptation and mitigation. It involves panels of climate and other relevant experts who assess climate change-related information and prepare reports, which are then critically reviewed by researchers and governments from member countries around the world
- iteroparous** to produce offspring across multiple seasons or years
- larval phase** the early developmental life phase of an animal that is usually different to its adult form. In the marine environment, larvae are often pelagic. In the case of benthic organisms, settlement to the bottom marks the end of this phase (other terms include pre-settlement phase and pelagic larval duration). For pelagic species, growth into a juvenile is the end of the larval phase
- latent heat** the heat released or absorbed per unit mass by a system in a reversible isobaric-isothermal change of phase. In tropical oceanography, the latent heat of evaporation (or condensation) is of importance
- lecithotrophic** describing larvae that do not feed during their planktonic phase but rather derive nutrition from yolk
- longwave radiation** heat radiation with wavelengths greater than 4 micrometres (infra-red)
- Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** an atmospheric cycle characterised by the eastward movement of large regions of both enhanced and suppressed tropical rainfall, observed mainly over the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. Cycles last between 30 to 60 days.
- marine snow** a continuous shower of mostly organic detritus falling from the upper layers of the water column, including dead or dying animals and plants, faecal matter, sand, soot and other inorganic dust. As sunlight cannot reach them, deep-sea organisms rely heavily on marine snow as a source of energy
- mass coral bleaching** coral bleaching extending over large areas (often affecting reef systems spanning tens to hundreds of kilometres) as a result of anomalously high water temperatures (see also *coral bleaching*)
- mesograzers** organisms able to use individual seaweeds as both habitat and food. Mesograzers can acquire enemy-free space by inhabiting and consuming seaweeds that are chemically defended against larger, more mobile consumers.
- mitigation** mitigation of climate change refers to those responses that reduce the sources of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere or enhance their sinks. Targets are usually set with respect to a baseline scenario, thus avoiding exceeding the adaptive capacity of natural systems and human societies
- molluscs** a phylum in which organisms are characterised by a shell-secreting organ, the mantle, and a radula, a food-rasping organ located in the forward area of the mouth

Morphoedaphic Index (MEI) the total dissolved solids in mg/litre divided by mean depth in metres. The MEI was first developed by Richard A. Ryder in the mid-1960s as an estimator of potential fish yield in lakes, and can be used to predict both fish harvest and standing crop

nekton aquatic organisms that are self-propelled (ie not at the whim of the currents) and are large consumers that include squid, fishes, turtles and whales

neogastropods an order of gastropods that contains the most highly developed snails whereby respiration is performed by means of ctenidia, the nervous system is concentrated, an operculum is present, and the sexes are separate

nutrient-phytoplankton-zooplankton models models that describe the relative interactions of nutrients, phytoplankton and zooplankton in an environment. These can range in complexity, depending on the environment in question, and/or the focus of the research

octocorals commonly called 'soft corals', they are not close relatives of the Scleractinia, or 'hard corals' that have hexaradial symmetry. Octocorals have eightfold radial symmetry, and are made up of colonial polyps, which, in some, perform specialised functions. Excepting the 'blue coral' and 'organ-pipe' corals, few produce substantial calcium carbonate skeletons while some produce calcified holdfast structures

oligotrophic nutrient-poor waters

ontogenetic the origin and development of an individual organism from embryo to adult

osmoregulation maintenance of an optimal, constant fluid pressure in the body of a living organism

oviparous to produce eggs that hatch outside the body

Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) a long-lived El Niño like climate pattern with the same spatial implications for climate but lasting from 20 to 30 years rather than the six to 18 months seen in the *El-Niño-Southern Oscillation*

panmictic random mating within a breeding population

pelagic living in open water (from plankton to whales)

phenology the scientific study of periodic/seasonal biological phenomena, such as flowering, breeding and migration, as they relate to climate conditions

phenotype the observable physical or biochemical characteristics of an organism, as determined by both genetic makeup and environmental influences

phenotypic plasticity the ability of an organism with a given genetic makeup to change its *phenotype* in response to changes in the environment

photoinhibition reduction in photosynthetic capacity following damage to the light-harvesting reactions of the photosynthetic apparatus caused by excess light energy

photoprotection the use of compounds to minimise the harmful effects of excess light energy

photorespiration oxidation of carbohydrates in plants with the release of carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, which lowers the efficiency of photosynthesis

photosensitise to make an organism, cell or substance sensitive to light

photosynthesis the process in which plants, and some bacteria and protists convert sunlight energy, carbon dioxide and water into sugars and starch. It is a highly complex process beginning with the capture of sunlight by the green pigment chlorophyll and the release of oxygen from water

photosynthetically active radiation the spectral range of solar light from 400 to 700 nanometres that is used in the process of *photosynthesis*. Light energy at shorter wavelengths tends to be so energetic that it can damage cells and tissues, though most are filtered out by the ozone layer. Light energy at longer wavelengths does not carry enough energy to allow photosynthesis to take place

phytoplankton plant plankton that require light to photosynthesise; they are essential to higher trophic level consumers, such as zooplankton

plankton all organisms that are considered 'wanderers' or 'drifters'. Plankton includes viruses, autotrophs and heterotrophs, phytoplankton and zooplankton

planktotrophic larvae that feed on plankton

pneumatophores erect roots in swamp dwelling plants such mangroves that are an extension of the underground root system. Since these roots are exposed at least part of the day to the air and not submerged underwater, the root system can obtain oxygen in an otherwise anaerobic substrate, for example mangrove sediments

poikilothermic having a body temperature that varies with the temperature of the surrounding environment (eg a fish or reptile); an *ectotherm*

polyplacophorans refers to chitons, an order of molluscs distinguished by an elliptical body with a dorsal shell comprised of eight overlapping calcareous plates

prediction a statement that something will happen in the future, based on known conditions at the time the prediction is made, and assumptions as to the physical or other processes that will lead to change. Since present conditions are often not known precisely, and the processes affecting the future are not perfectly understood, such predictions are seldom certain, and are often best expressed as probabilities

primary productivity rate at which light energy is used by producers to form organic substances that become food for consumers

projection a set of future conditions, or consequences, derived on the basis of explicit assumptions, such as scenarios. Even for a given scenario or set of assumptions, projections introduce further uncertainties due to the use of inexact rules or 'models' connecting the scenario conditions to the projected outcomes

radiation emission or transfer of energy in the form of electromagnetic waves

refuges place where species and/or communities survive environmental changes. Species may remain restricted to the vicinity of a refuge or disperse from a refuge thus recolonising wider areas following further environmental changes. Past refuges might include places where species have survived glacial periods

resilience the ability of system to absorb shocks, resist phase shifts and regenerate and reorganise so as to maintain key functions and processes without collapsing into a qualitatively different state that is controlled by a different set of processes

risk probability that a situation will produce harm under specified conditions. It is a combination of two factors the probability that an adverse event will occur; and the consequences of the adverse event. Risk encompasses impacts on human and natural systems, and arises from exposure and hazard. Hazard is determined by whether a particular situation or event has the potential to cause harmful effects

sea surface temperature the temperature of ocean water at the surface. In practical terms, this will vary depending on the method of measurement used. Infrared radiometers attached to orbiting satellites typically measure the temperature in the top ten microns of the water column while drifting or moored buoys take temperature readings from the top 1 metre

scaphopods predatory molluscs with a tubular and, generally, curved shell having openings at both ends

scenario a coherent, internally consistent and plausible description of a possible future state of the climate. Similarly, an emissions scenario is a possible storyline regarding future emissions of greenhouse gases. Scenarios are used to investigate the potential impacts of climate change; emissions scenarios serve as input to climate models

schema the organization of experience in the mind or brain that includes a particular organised way of perceiving and responding to situations and stimuli

sensible heat the heat absorbed or transmitted by a substance during a change of temperature which is not accompanied by a change of state. Used in contrast to latent heat

sensitivity the degree to which a system is affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate related stimuli, including average climate characteristics, climate variability and the frequency and magnitude of extremes

sensu (in *sensu stricto*) in a narrow or strict sense

shortwave radiation radiation in the visible and near-visible portions of the electromagnetic spectrum (roughly 0.4 to 4.0 micrometres in wavelength)

sink reefs reefs that receive larvae via ocean currents. Some reefs may be sinks at one time of year and sources at another time, where monsoonal currents reverse in different seasons

social-ecological collective term for the natural and human components of the Great Barrier Reef; that is, the ecosystem and the industries and communities that interact with it

socioeconomic the study of the relationship between economic activity and social life. This is a multidisciplinary field using theories and methods from sociology, economics, history, and psychology

source reefs reefs that have the potential to supply larvae to other reefs via ocean currents. Some reefs may be sinks at one time of year and sources at another time, where monsoonal currents reverse in different seasons

Southern Annular Mode (SAM) a ring of climate variability that encircles the South Pole and extends out to New Zealand, and involves alternating changes in wind and storm activity

Southern Equatorial Current (SEC) a broad, westward flowing current that extends from the surface to a nominal depth of 100 metres. Its northern boundary is usually near 4° N, while the southern boundary is usually found between 15 and 25° S

Southwest Pacific Circulation and Climate Experiment (SPICE) a multi-organisational experiment working to observe, model and understand the role of the southwest Pacific ocean circulation in the large-scale, low-frequency modulation of climate from the Tasman Sea to the equator, as well as the generation of local climate signatures

spermatogenic formation and development of spermatozoa by meiosis and spermiogenesis

spongin a sulfur-containing protein related to keratin that forms the skeletal structure of certain classes of sponges

- Stomatopoda** an order of crustacean containing four families of narrow and elongate-bodied mantis shrimps
- strata** a bed or layer of rock or soil with internally consistent characteristics that distinguishes it from contiguous layers
- sublittoral** lying between the low tide line and the landward edge of the continental shelf
- superspecies** a grouping of very closely related species with common ancestry that have developed into true species due to their geographical location
- sustainability** activities that meet the needs of the present without having a negative impact on future generations. A concept associated with sustainability is triple bottom line accounting, taking into account environmental, social and economic costs
- teleconnection** linkage between changes in atmospheric circulation occurring in widely separated parts of the globe
- terrigenous** of or derived from the land and often used to describe sediments that enter the marine environment by erosive action
- thalassinideans** a group of thin-shelled decapod crustaceans that live in burrows in the muddy bottoms of the world's oceans
- thermocline** the region of transition between the warmer surface waters and colder deep oceanic water
- thermoregulation** maintaining a constant internal body temperature independent of the surrounding environmental temperature
- threshold** any level in a natural or *socioeconomic* system beyond which a defined or marked change occurs. Gradual climate change may force a system beyond such a threshold. Biophysical thresholds represent a distinct change in conditions, such as the drying of a wetland. Climatic thresholds include frost, snow and monsoon onset. Ecological thresholds include breeding events, local to global extinction or the removal of specific conditions for survival
- top-down control** biomass at different levels of the food chain is controlled from the top, for example fisheries take fish that consume zooplankton, this allows the abundance of phytoplankton to increase (see *bottom-up control*)
- trophic focusing** the biomass of organisms is aggregated in certain regions of abrupt topography (eg a seamount). It generally results in biomass (and diversity) decreasing further offshore and deeper. This is because *primary productivity* is highest closest to the ocean surface and close to coastlines
- uncertainty** the degree to which a value is unknown, expressed quantitatively (eg a range of temperatures calculated by different models) or qualitatively (eg the judgement by a team of experts on the likelihood of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet collapsing). Uncertainty in climate projections is primarily introduced by the range of projections of human behaviour which determine emissions of greenhouse gases, and the range of results from climate models for any given greenhouse gas
- upwelling** process whereby cold, often nutrient-rich waters from the ocean depths rise to the surface
- vermivorous** to feed on worms, grubs, or insect vermin
- vitellogenic** formation of the yolk of an egg
- viviparous** in animals giving birth to living offspring that develop within the mother's body; in plants producing seeds that germinate before becoming detached from the parent plant, for example some mangroves
- vulnerability** the degree to which a system or species is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system or species is exposed, its *sensitivity*, and its *adaptive capacity*
- West Pacific Warm Pool (WPWP)** a body of water, which spans the western waters of the equatorial Pacific to the eastern Indian Ocean and holds the warmest seawater in the world
- zoogeographic species concept** closely related species with common ancestry that have developed into true species due to their geographical location
- zooplankton** animal plankton that range in size from a few microns to metres, for example some jellyfish
- zooxanthellae** microscopic single-celled algae (usually dinoflagellates) that form symbiotic relationships with corals, sea anemones, molluscs and several other types of marine invertebrates and provide photosynthetic products (ie energy) to the host animal in return for shelter








Symbol Glossary

ANIMALS




















	Branching coral		Pelagic tunicates		Crown-of-thorns starfish
	Plate coral		Butterflyfish		Hermit crab
	Massive coral		Rabbitfish		Brittle star
	Anenome		Coral trout		Squid
	Soft coral		Parrotfish		Nudibranch
	Gorgonian		Damselfishes		Bivalve/burrowing
	Sponge		Goby		Snail
	Sponge larvae		Barramundi		Burrowing worms
	Coral larvae		Trevally		Feather duster worm
	Copepods		Whiting		Prawn
	Juvenile fish		Flyingfish		Crab
	Sea birds		Black marlin		Polychaete worm
	Noddy		Eel		Christmas tree worm
	Sooty oystercatcher		Baitfish		Feather star
	Crested tern		Bull shark		Stingray
	Pied imperial pigeon		Mako shark		Chimaera
	Bar-tailed godwit		Hammerhead shark		Dolphin
	Capricorn white-eye		Sawfish		Turtle
	Jellyfish		Blacktip reef shark		Koala
					Frog

Symbol Glossary
































ENVIRONMENT

	Sun		Calcareous sand		Temperature - cool/warm/hot
	Rain - high/low		Silicious sand		pH - alkaline/acidic
	Cyclone/wind		Mud		Reef rubble
					Dead coral

PLANTS

	Mangroves		Wetland vegetation		Phytoplankton - diatoms
	Seagrass		Terrestrial vegetation		Phytoplankton - dinoflagellates
	Seagrass seeds		Island vegetation		Phytoplankton - mixed
	Fleshy macroalgae		Casuarina		Trichodesmium
	Turf algae		Argusia		Heath vegetation
	Crustose coralline algae		Rare terrestrial plant		Grasslands
					Terrestrial weed

PROCESSES

	Elevated temperature		Coral recruitment - good/poor		Flux - low/high
	Nutrients - pulsed input		Upwelling		Limitation - carbon
	Freshwater - pulsed input		Desiccation		CO ₂ concentration - low/high
	Sediment - pulsed input		Nutrient uptake		HCO ₃ ⁻ concentration - low/high
	Sediment scouring		Flux - in/out		Salinity - low/high
	Sediment - burial		Currents		Decomposition
	Sediment resuspension		Flushing - poor/good		Growth
	Light attenuation/extinction		Mixing		Coral growth - slow/rapid
	Loss		Wave energy		Timing altered
	Flood plume		Sea level rise		Shoreward migration/barrier
					Reef substrate bioerosion

Index

A

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 6, 764–5, 784–5, 796
- acidification of oceans *see* ocean chemistry
- adaptation, defined, 748
- adaptive capacity, defined, 748
 - see also* vulnerability assessment
- agricultural industry, 7–8
 - see also* industries and communities
- air temperature, 22
 - observed and projected changes, 27–33, 45–7, 775
- air temperature changes
 - effects on species and habitats
 - island flora and fauna, 632–6
 - mangroves, 247
 - marine reptiles, 472–83
 - seagrasses, 201–4
 - sharks and rays, 399
- algae
 - macroalgae *see* macroalgae
 - microalgae, 154 *see also* phytoplankton
- algal turfs *see* turf algae
- animal diseases, 635
- anthropogenic factors *see* human activities
- Asian monsoon system, 45, 67
 - see also* atmospheric circulation
- atmospheric chemistry changes
 - effects on species and habitats
 - island flora and fauna, 636–8
 - mangroves, 247–8
- atmospheric circulation, 20–7, 45, 54–5

B

- bacteria *see* marine microbes
- bait fish, 564
- beaches and spits, 676–7, 695–8, 707
- benthic algae, 82–3, 154–5
 - see also* macroalgae
- benthic environments, 101
- benthic invertebrates, 310–44
 - adaptive capacity, 330–3
 - management, 343
 - research gaps, 343–4
 - role, 317–19, 335–6
 - vulnerability to climate change, 319–43, 779
- benthic macroalgae *see* macroalgae
- bio-indicator organisms, 104
- biodiversity, 3, 5, 83–4, 123–4, 310–17, 608
- birds, 627–9, 655–6
 - see also* seabirds
- brittle stars *see* echinoderms

C

- carbon cycle, 100–1, 106–8, 112, 158, 244
- carbon dioxide concentration, 722–3
 - effects of elevated concentrations, 219–21, 637–8
 - projections, 47
- carbon sinks, 44, 158
- cays, 639–40, 643
 - geomorphology, 673–6
 - vulnerability to climate change, 689–98, 782
 - see also* islands
- chondrichthyan fishes, 394–421
 - see also* rays; sharks
- climate, 5, 16–20, 45–6
 - current surface climate, 20–7
 - observed and projected, 27–44
- climate change, 2, 16–20
 - catastrophic, 44–5, 296, 643, 725, 736
 - certainities, 45–6
 - community and industry impacts, 746–69, 784–7, 795–7
 - ecological resilience, 76–92
 - evidence for, 20
 - historical perspective, 718–36, 783
 - policy responses, 797–800
 - potential management responses *see* management responses to climate change
 - projections of, 18–20, 27–44, 47
 - stakeholder understanding of, 756–61, 767–8
- climate change vulnerability *see* vulnerability assessment
- climate scenarios, 27–8, 47, 534–5
- climate surprises, 44–5
- climate variability, 17, 24–7, 434–49
- climate vulnerability *see* vulnerability assessment
- coastal development and planning, 766–7, 787
- coastal habitats, 594–5, 600–10
 - adaptive capacity, 611
 - exposure to climate change, 596–7
 - management responses to climate change, 611
 - research gaps, 611–12
 - vulnerability to climate change, 597–611, 782, 794–5
- coasts
 - geomorphology, 677–8
 - vulnerability to climate change, 698–704, 707
- commercial fishing, 6–7, 245, 565–7, 763, 786–7, 797
 - see also* fisheries; recreational fishing
- communities and industries, 7–8, 746–69, 784–7, 795–7
- connectivity, 85, 605–6
 - research gaps, 612

conservation and management of GBR *see* Great Barrier Reef; natural resource management organisations
 coral bleaching, 2, 82, 87–9, 104, 273–81, 284–5, 288, 291–8, 404, 516, 798
 coral cays *see* cays; islands
 coral disease, 103–4, 106, 108, 292–4
 coral mortality, 160, 172–3, 275–9, 284, 288, 295–6
 coral reefs, 3, 6, 272–3, 516–17, 683
 adaptive capacity, 533–4, 733–4
 degradation, 158, 160
 ecological resilience, 76–92, 535–6
 flora and fauna, 272, 312
 framework and construction, 108, 159, 272
 future scenarios, 534–5
 geomorphology, 670–3
 impacts of climate change, 517–32
 linkages with other ecosystems, 545
 management responses to climate change, 545–7, 736–8
 palaeoecology, 718–38
 research gaps, 547–8, 738
 vulnerability to climate change, 534–45, 684–9, 706, 720–36, 781–2
 see also corals; Great Barrier Reef
 Coral Sea circulation, 60–4, 71
 coral settlement, 103, 158, 159
 corals
 associated with marine microbes, 102–3
 critical factors for survival, 272–3
 importance of, 294–5
 research gaps, 299
 role of reef-building corals in GBR, 81–2, 272–3
 vulnerability to climate change, 274–98, 779
 see also coral bleaching; coral disease; coral mortality; coral reefs
 crocodiles *see* estuarine crocodiles
 crown-of-thorns starfish, 342
 crustaceans, 315–16, 318–19
 crustose calcareous (calcified) algae
 impacts of changes in specific environmental conditions, 160–73
 vulnerability to climate change (summary), 180–2
 currents, 5, 55–6, 60–71, 105, 131, 400
 see also ocean circulation; ocean circulation changes
 cyanobacteria, 154
 cyclones *see* tropical cyclones

D

decadal variability *see* Pacific Decadal Oscillation
 diseases, 103–6, 108–9, 113–14, 635
 see also coral disease; animal diseases
 disturbance (physical disturbance)
 effects on corals, 287–9
 effects on mangroves, 257

 and seagrass survival, 200, 208–10
 see also tropical cyclones
 diversity *see* biodiversity
 dolphins, 498–510, 560–1
 drought, 37–8
 dugongs, 498–510, 560–1

E

East Australian Current, 5, 60–3, 65–7, 71, 131
 echinoderms, 313–14, 318
 ecological functions, 601–3, 607
 see also particular species and species groups, eg corals, fishes
 ecological resilience, 76–92, 608, 789–95
 economic benefits *see* social and economic benefits of GBR
 ecosystems, 3–4, 45, 110, 113–14, 140–1, 600–1
 coastal *see* coastal habitats
 pelagic *see* pelagic ecosystems
 resilience *see* ecological resilience
 see also habitats; particular ecosystems, eg, coral reefs; pelagic ecosystems
 eddies, 62–3
 emissions scenarios, 27–8, 47
 enhanced greenhouse effect 44–5, 296
 see greenhouse effect
 ENSO phenomenon *see* El Niño–Southern Oscillation
 estuarine crocodiles, 470, 471
 vulnerability to climate change, 472–89
 estuarine habitats, 594–5, 600–10
 adaptive capacity, 611
 exposure to climate change, 596–7
 management responses to climate change, 611
 research gaps, 611–12
 vulnerability to climate change, 597–611
 exposure to climate change drivers *see* vulnerability assessment
 extinction risk
 benthic invertebrates, 339–42
 of corals, 296
 extinctions, 727

F

fauna *see* flora and fauna
 fire, and terrestrial flora, 626, 650
 fisheries, 379–80, 565–6, 786–7
 importance of mangroves, 245
 management of, 91, 379
 see also commercial fishing
 fishes, 358–60, 560–1
 adaptive capacity, 378
 bait fish, 564
 critical factors for survival, 359–60
 management, 382–3
 planktivores, 126–7
 population and communities, 366–77, 379

research gaps, 382–3
 vulnerability to climate change, 360–6, 380–2,
 779–80, 793–4
 fishing, 6–7, 245, 565–7, 763, 786–7, 797
 flooding *see* freshwater inputs; rainfall changes;
 river plumes
 flora and fauna, 601–3
 of coral reefs, 272, 312
 of GBR islands *see* island flora and fauna
 of mangroves and salt marshes, 244–6
 see also particular species and species groups,
 eg corals, fishes
 food
 in pelagic ecosystems, 562–3
 plankton as, 126–7, 563
 food webs, 100, 158, 603–5
 fossil record, 675, 718–20, 722, 727–31, 736, 783
 freshwater inputs, 37–8
 see also rainfall; river plumes; terrestrial inputs
 freshwater wetlands, 628, 635–6, 654

G

gelatinous zooplankton *see* jellyfish
 geologic time scale, 719
 geomorphological features
 exposure and sensitivity to climate change,
 669–70, 679–83
 management responses to climate change, 708
 vulnerability to climate change, 684–708
 geomorphology, 668
 research gaps, 708–9
 global climate change *see* climate change; climate
 variability
 global warming, 2, 17–20, 41, 44, 643
 evidence for, 20
 and heat content of oceans, 34, 52, 71
 see also sea surface temperature
 impact of human activities, 2, 17–20
 see also climate change; greenhouse effect
 Great Barrier Reef, 2–9, 516–17, 774–87
 bathymetry, 64
 ecological resilience, 81–9, 789–95
 ecosystems *see* ecosystems
 geomorphology *see* geomorphology
 human associations with, 5–8
 management of climate change impacts *see*
 management responses to climate change
 oceanography *see* oceanography
 physical environment, 5, 64, 558, 598–9
 tourism *see* tourism
 vulnerability to climate change (summary),
 2, 9–12, 774–87
 see also coral reefs; particular species and
 species groups, eg corals, fishes
 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, 3, 8–9, 91–2, 799

greenhouse effect, 16, 43–5
 enhanced greenhouse effect, 44–5
 see also climate change; emissions scenarios;
 global warming
 greenhouse gas emissions, 182, 799

H

habitats, 3, 600–1
 ecological resilience of, 81–9
 habitat formation, 159
 research gaps, 613
 vulnerability to climate change (summary),
 781–2
 see also coastal habitats; ecosystems; estuarine
 habitats; particular species and species groups,
 eg corals, fishes
 heat content, of ocean, 34, 52, 71
 see also sea surface temperature; water
 temperature
 Hiri Current, 5, 60–2, 65–7
 human activities
 and climate change, 2, 17–20
 impact on coastal habitats, 608–10
 human association with Great Barrier Reef, 5–8
 human pathogens, 108–9
 human population of GBR region, 7–8

I

ice sheet disintegration, 41, 44, 643
 industries and communities, 7–8, 746–69, 784–7,
 796
 Inter-decadal Oscillation *see* Pacific Decadal
 Oscillation
 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 10,
 41, 98
 Special Report on Emission Scenarios, 27–8, 47
 International Coral Reef Initiative, 797–8
 intertidal wetlands *see* tidal wetlands
 invertebrates
 benthic *see* benthic invertebrates
 of GBR islands, 634 *see also* island flora and
 fauna
 irradiation *see* light availability; ultraviolet radiation
 island flora and fauna, 624–9
 interactions and linkages between stressors,
 650–3
 management responses to climate change,
 659–60
 research gaps, 661
 summary of impacts, 657–9
 vulnerability to climate change, 630–50,
 653–60
 islands, 622–3, 639
 geomorphology, 676–7, 689–98
 vulnerability to climate change, 689–98,
 706–7, 782, 794–5

J

jellyfish, 558–60
see also zooplankton

K

keystone species, 342

L

larvae, 562–3
 light availability
 effects on species and habitats
 benthic invertebrates, 320, 323–4, 328, 331–2, 334
 coral reefs, 523–5
 corals, 279–84
 fishes, 364
 island flora and fauna, 638
 macroalgae, 166–7
 marine reptiles, 483–4
 plankton, 128, 137–8
 seagrass survival, 199, 204–8, 216–19
 sharks and rays, 402
see also ultraviolet radiation

M

macroalgae, 154–8
 categories and functional groups, 154–5
 critical survival factors for, 160
 ecological roles of, 157–60
 research gaps, 183
 vulnerability to climate change, 156–8, 160–82, 778
 mammals *see* marine mammals
 management responses to climate change, 787–97, 800
 benthic invertebrates, 343
 coastal habitats, 611
 community and industry impacts, 768, 795–7
 coral reefs, 545–7, 736–8
 and ecological resilience, 76–92
 fishes, 382–3
 geomorphological features, 708
 island flora and fauna, 659–60
 macroalgae, 182
 managing for resilience, 77–80, 90–2, 789–97
see also ecological resilience
 mangroves and tidal wetlands, 259–60
 marine mammals, 510
 marine microbes, 114
 marine reptiles, 489–90
 pelagic ecosystems, 584–6
 plankton, 146
 reef building corals, 296–8
 seagrasses, 226–8
 sharks and rays, 419–20

mangroves, 240–3, 545
 critical factors for survival, 245–6
 importance to fisheries, 245
 mangrove forest fauna, 244–6
 predicted effects of climate change, 238–9
 research gaps, 260–1
 role in GBR, 243–5
 threats to resilience, 258–9
 vulnerability to climate change, 246–59, 778–9
 marine carbon cycle, 100–1
 marine mammals, 498–9, 560–1
 research gaps, 510
 significance of, 498–502
 vulnerability to climate change, 502–10, 781, 794
 marine microbes, 98–9
 adaptive capacity, 109–10, 113
 effect of terrestrial inputs, 112–13
 functional role, 99–105
 research gaps, 114–15
 vulnerability to climate change, 105–14, 777
 marine reptiles, 466–72, 560–1
 research gaps, 490
 vulnerability to climate change, 472–90, 780–1, 792–3
 marine turtles, 467–9, 560–1
 nesting options, 642–3, 657
 vulnerability to climate change, 472–89, 792–3
 microalgae, 154
 microbes *see* marine microbes
 microbial loop, 101, 106–8, 126
 migration, 606
 migratory birds, 656–7
 mining industry, 7–8
see also industries and communities
 molluscs, 314–15, 318
 monsoon circulation *see* Asian monsoon system;
 atmospheric circulation
 monsoonal wind, 5
see also Asian monsoon system

N

natural resource management organisations, 765–6, 787
 nekton, 560–1
 nesting options
 birds, 641, 642–3, 655–6
 turtles, 642–3, 657
 La Niña events *see* El Niño–Southern Oscillation
 El Niño–Southern Oscillation, 19, 20, 24–6, 40, 43–6, 516, 776
 and Coral Sea circulation, 60
 impact on islands, 631–2
 impact on seabirds, 434–43, 452–3
 implications for disease, 108
 observed and projected changes, 43–4
 and sea level trends, 53–6

nitrogen fixation, 159
 North Atlantic thermohaline circulation, 44
 North Queensland current, 60–2
 nursery grounds, 606–7
 nutrient cycling, 100–1, 104
 impact of water temperature increase, 106–8, 110
 role of mangroves, 244
 nutrient enrichment
 effects on macroalgae, 170–1
 effects on pelagic organisms, 572–3, 582–3
 effects on plankton, 129–32, 138–45
 nutrients, and seagrass survival, 199–200, 212

O

ocean acidification *see* ocean chemistry changes
 ocean chemistry, 2, 720–2
 observed and projected changes, 41–2, 45–6, 776
 ocean chemistry changes
 effects on species and habitats
 benthic invertebrates, 321–2, 323, 327–8, 332, 334
 coral reefs, 525–7, 689
 corals, 284–5
 fishes, 362–3
 geomorphology, 683
 island flora and fauna, 636–8
 macroalgae, 164–6
 marine microbes, 110–11
 marine reptiles, 483
 pelagic organisms, 571–2, 581–2
 plankton, 128, 135–6, 146
 seagrasses, 219–21
 sharks and rays, 399, 402
 ocean circulation, 60–2
 see also currents
 ocean circulation changes
 effects on species and habitats
 benthic invertebrates, 319–20, 322, 325, 332–3
 corals, 289–91
 fishes, 363–4
 islands, 631–2
 macroalgae, 160–2
 mangroves, 246–7
 marine reptiles, 472
 seagrasses, 221–2
 oceanic currents *see* currents
 oceanography, 5, 52–71, 558
 measurement of oceanographic processes, 53, 71
 and pelagic organisms, 568–9, 577–8
 oceans
 heat capacity, 34, 52, 71 *see also* sea surface temperature
 thermal stratification, 56–9
 thermocline, 55–6, 59, 66, 70–1

oysters, 108
 ozone layer, 44, 129

P

Pacific Decadal Oscillation, 26–7, 44, 45, 55, 435–6
 palaeoecology of coral reefs, 718–38
 pelagic ecosystems, 556–73
 linkages, 583–4
 management responses to climate change, 584–6
 vulnerability to climate change, 573–84, 782
 pelagic environments, 545, 558, 782
 pelagic organisms, 558–61
 and physical environment, 557–73
 significance of, 562–6
 pH *see* ocean chemistry
 phytoplankton, 123–7, 558–9
 effects of light and ultraviolet radiation, 111, 137–8, 142–5
 growth rates, 141
 and nutrient enrichment, 130–2, 138–45
 and ocean chemistry, 128, 135–6, 142–5
 and water temperature changes, 133–5, 142–5
 plankton, 122–5, 558–60
 adaptation, 140–1
 factors affecting abundance and growth, 127–32, 141–5
 as food, 126–7, 563
 and other ecosystem components, 140–1
 production and energy flow, 126
 research gaps, 146–7
 role of, 125
 vulnerability to climate change, 132–45, 777–8
 predators, in pelagic ecosystems, 563–4
 primary production, 101
 defined, 158
 role of by macroalgae, 158–9
 role of plankton, 125–6
 protected species, 795

R

rainfall, 22–3, 70
 extreme rainfall events, 38, 45–6, 288–9
 observed and projected changes, 36–9, 45–6
 regional projections, 19
 see also climate
 rainfall changes
 effects on species and habitats
 benthic invertebrates, 329, 332
 coral reefs, 530–2, 689
 corals, 287–9
 fishes, 365–6
 geomorphology, 682–3, 695, 698
 island flora and fauna, 645–50
 macroalgae, 170–2
 mangroves, 257–8
 marine reptiles, 486–7

- microbial communities, 112–13
 - pelagic organisms, 582–3
 - plankton, 130–2
 - seabirds, 451–2
 - seagrasses, 210–15
 - sharks and rays, 399, 401–2
- rays, 394–421
 - conservation status, 399, 417
 - ecology, significance and value, 395–8, 415–16
 - functional groups, 403
 - impacts of climate change, 398–404
 - research gaps, 419–20
 - vulnerability to climate change, 398–420
- recreation, 6–7, 91, 565–7
 - see also* tourism
- recreational fishing, 565–7, 763, 797
 - see also* commercial fishing
- reefs *see* coral reefs
- refugia, 85–6, 792
- reptiles *see* marine reptiles; terrestrial reptiles
- research, 6
- research gaps
 - benthic invertebrates, 343–4
 - coastal habitats, 611–12
 - coral reefs, 547–8, 738
 - corals, 299
 - fishes, 382–3
 - geomorphology, 708–9
 - island flora and fauna, 661
 - macroalgae, 183
 - mangroves, 260–1
 - marine mammals, 510
 - marine microbes, 114–15
 - marine reptiles, 490
 - plankton, 146–7
 - seabirds, 457
 - seagrasses, 228
 - sharks and rays, 419–20
 - social dimensions of climate change, 769
- resilience, defined, 748
 - see also* ecological resilience
- risk *see* vulnerability assessment
- river flow, 19, 23
 - observed and projected changes, 36–9, 45–6
- river plumes, 70
 - effects on species and habitats
 - benthic invertebrates, 329, 332, 335
 - coral reefs, 530–2
 - corals, 287–9
 - fishes, 365–6
 - island flora and fauna, 645–50
 - macroalgae, 170–2
 - marine reptiles, 486–7
 - microbial communities, 112–13
 - pelagic organisms, 572–3
 - plankton, 130
 - seagrasses, 210–15
 - see also* freshwater inputs; nutrient enrichment; terrestrial inputs
- runoff *see* river plumes; terrestrial inputs
- S**
- salinity, 37–8
 - and seagrass survival, 200, 211
- salt marshes and salt flats, 238–43, 545
 - effects of climate change, 246–61
 - fauna and dependencies, 244–6
 - management responses to climate change, 259–60
 - mangrove forests *see* mangroves
 - research needs, 260–1
 - vulnerability to climate change, 258–61
- sand islands *see* islands
- scenarios *see* climate scenarios
- sea cucumbers *see* echinoderms
- sea level, 722–3
 - influence of ENSO, 54–6
 - observed and projected changes, 41, 45–7, 53–6, 98
- sea level rise, 44–6, 53–6, 776
 - effects on species and habitats
 - benthic invertebrates, 321–2, 324, 328, 331, 335
 - coral reefs, 684–8
 - corals, 286–7
 - fishes, 364–5
 - geomorphology, 679–80, 689–92, 695, 698, 703
 - island flora and fauna, 638–43
 - macroalgae, 167–8
 - mangroves, 248–56, 258, 259–61
 - marine reptiles, 484–5
 - microbial communities, 112
 - pelagic organisms, 570, 578–9
 - seabirds, 451–2
 - seagrasses, 204–8
 - sharks and rays, 401
 - research and information gaps, 260–1
- sea snakes, 470–1, 560–1
 - vulnerability to climate change, 472–89
- sea stars *see* echinoderms
- sea surface temperature, 2, 22, 24–5, 56–9, 722–3
 - effects on species and habitats
 - coral reefs, 517–23, 688
 - geomorphology, 680
 - island flora and fauna, 636
 - macroalgae, 162–3
 - pelagic organisms, 570–1, 579–81
 - plankton, 133–5
 - seagrasses, 201–4
 - observed and projected changes, 34–6, 45–6, 98, 133, 776
 - and tropical cyclone destructiveness, 287
 - see also* water temperature
- sea urchins *see* echinoderms
- seabirds, 428–34
 - of GBR islands, 627–8, 655–6
 - research gaps, 457
 - vulnerability to climate change, 434–57, 655–6, 780, 793

- seagrasses, 194–9
 critical factors for survival, 199–200
 habitats, 196–9, 223–5, 545
 research gaps, 228
 vulnerability to climate change, 201–28, 778, 794
- seawater acidification *see* ocean chemistry
- seaweeds *see* macroalgae
- sediment deposition, 212–15
 see also river plumes
- sensitivity to climate change drivers *see* vulnerability assessment
- sharks, 394–421, 560–1
 conservation status, 399, 417
 ecology, significance and value, 395–8, 415–16
 functional groups, 403
 impacts of climate change, 398–404
 research gaps, 419–20
 vulnerability to climate change, 398–420
- shorebirds, of GBR islands, 628–9, 655–6
- social and economic benefits of GBR, 6–8, 272, 750–2
- social and economic resilience, 747–8, 795–7
- social impacts of climate change, 746–69
- soft-bottom communities, 310–12
 see also benthic invertebrates
- soft corals, 126–7
- South Equatorial Current, 5, 60–2, 131
- Southern Oscillation *see* El Niño–Southern Oscillation
- species conservation, 90, 342, 792, 795
 see also ecological resilience; extinction risk
- sponge disease, 103–4, 106
- sponges, 102–3, 312–13, 318
- squid, 560–1
- storms (tropical cyclones) *see* tropical cyclones
- stratospheric ozone layer *see* ozone layer
- substrate availability, and macroalgae, 172–3
- summer monsoon circulation *see* atmospheric circulation
- sunlight *see* light availability; ultraviolet radiation
- surface climate (current surface climate), 20–7
 projected changes, 45–6
- symbiosis, 102–3, 108, 109–10
- T**
- temperature
 regional projections, 19–20
 see also air temperature; sea surface temperature; water temperature
- terrestrial flora, 624–6
 see also island flora and fauna
- terrestrial inputs
 effects on species and habitats
 macroalgae, 170–2
 microbial communities, 112–13
 plankton, 130–2
 see also river plumes
- terrestrial invertebrates, 628, 634
 see also island flora and fauna
- terrestrial reptiles, 626
- thermal stress, 86–7
- thermocline, 55–6, 59, 66, 70–1
- tidal wetlands, 238–61
 management responses to climate change, 259–60
 research needs, 260–1
 vulnerability to climate change, 246–60
- tides, 5, 68–9
- tourism, 6–7, 91, 272, 498, 567, 750–2, 763–4, 785–6, 796–7
- trade wind circulation *see* atmospheric circulation
- Traditional Ownership, 6, 764–5, 784–5, 796
- trophic function, 603–5
- tropical cyclones, 23, 26, 40, 112, 130, 287–8, 573
 destructiveness, 287
 effects on species and habitats
 benthic invertebrates, 320–1, 329, 332, 335
 coral reefs, 528–30, 688–9
 corals, 287–9
 fishes, 365
 geomorphology, 681–2, 694, 701, 704
 island flora and fauna, 643–5
 macroalgae, 168–70
 mangroves, 257
 marine reptiles, 486
 pelagic organisms, 572–3, 582–3
 seabirds, 449–51
 seagrasses, 208–10
 sharks and rays, 401
 observed and projected changes, 39–40, 45–6
- turf algae
 impacts of changes in specific environmental conditions, 160–73
 vulnerability to climate change (summary), 173–8
 see also macroalgae
- turtles *see* marine turtles
- U**
- ultraviolet radiation
 effects on species and habitats, 44
 coral reefs, 523–5
 corals, 279–84
 fishes, 364
 island flora and fauna, 638
 macroalgae, 166–7
 and mangroves, 248
 marine microbes, 111
 marine reptiles, 483–4
 pelagic organisms, 572, 582
 plankton, 111, 128–9, 137–8, 141
 seagrasses, 216–19

- uncertainty
 - dealing with uncertainty, 11–12
 - and future climate change, 17–19
- upright algae
 - impacts of changes in specific environmental conditions, 160–73
 - vulnerability to climate change (summary), 178–80
 - see also* macroalgae
- upwelling, 70–1, 130–1, 572–3

V

- vertebrate fauna, 634–5
 - see also* island flora and fauna
- viruses, marine *see* marine microbes
- vulnerability assessment, 2, 10–12, 774–87
 - benthic invertebrates, 319–43, 779
 - coastal and estuarine habitats, 597–611, 782, 794–5
 - of communities and industries, 752–6, 784–7
 - coral reefs, 534–45, 684–9, 706, 720–36, 781–2
 - corals, 274–98, 779
 - fishes, 360–6, 380–2, 779–80, 793–4
 - geomorphological features, 679–708
 - island flora and fauna, 630–50, 653–60
 - islands, 689–98, 706–7, 782, 794–5
 - macroalgae, 156–8, 160–82, 778
 - mangroves, 246–59, 778–9
 - marine mammals, 502–10, 781, 794
 - marine microbes, 114, 777
 - marine reptiles, 472–90, 780–1, 792–3
 - marine turtles, 472–89, 792–3
 - pelagic ecosystems, 573–84, 782
 - plankton, 132–45, 777–8
 - seabirds, 434–57, 655–6, 780, 793
 - seagrasses, 201–28, 778, 794
 - sharks and rays, 404–15, 780
- vulnerability, defined, 747
- water temperature changes
 - effects on species and habitats
 - benthic invertebrates, 320, 322–3, 325–7, 330–1, 333–4
 - corals, 274–9
 - fishes, 360–2
 - island flora and fauna, 632–6
 - macroalgae, 162–3
 - mangroves, 247
 - marine microbes, 105–10
 - marine reptiles, 472–83
 - pelagic organisms, 570–1
 - plankton, 133–5
 - seagrasses, 200, 201–4
 - sharks and rays, 399, 400–1, 403–4
- waterbirds, 628
- weather, 16, 776
 - extreme events, 38, 45–6, 47
 - see also* climate; tropical cyclones
- wetlands
 - freshwater, 628, 635–6, 654
 - tidal, 238–61
- whales, 498–510, 560–1
- World Heritage Area, 8–9, 799

Z

- zooplankton, 124–7, 559–60
 - effects of changes in water temperature, 133–5, 142–5
 - effects of light and UV radiation, 128–9, 137–8, 142–5
 - growth rates, 141
 - and nutrient enrichment, 130–2, 138–45
 - and ocean chemistry, 128, 135–6, 142–5

W

- water column mixing, 56–9
- water movement *see* currents
- water quality, 86, 161, 273, 292, 536, 539, 599, 608
 - management approaches, 9, 90–1, 146, 298, 419, 546, 708, 788, 789–91
 - research gaps, 548
 - role of mangroves, 240, 243
 - role of molluscs, 318
 - see also* light availability; river plumes
- water temperature
 - influence on plankton, 128
 - observed and projected changes, 776
 - see also* heat content of oceans; sea surface temperature