

# Environments, modes of life

Marine – lives in the sea (salt water)

Terrestrial - land dweller

Lacustrine – lives in lakes (fresh water)

Benthic - ecologic region at base of water where “benthos” organisms live (i.e. lobsters, snails today)

Pelagic – free swimmers, ecologic zone above the benthic, but removed from the shore where organisms float or swim (plankton, jellyfish, crinoids), birds that never come to shore are referred to as pelagic birds

Vagrant – free swimmer, same as pelagic

Sessile – animals that attach to seafloor and do not move, most capture food as it moves by (sponge, coral, barnacle)

Motile – opposite of sessile, any organism that can move around

Planktonic – floating in open sea, at whim of currents, storms

Filter feeders - animals that feed by straining suspended matter and food particles from water (many fish, sponges, bivalves, etc.)

Deposit feeder – animals that obtain nutrients by consuming decomposing plant and animal parts as well as feces (worms)

Scavenger – feeds on dead animals

Predator – captures, kills, and feeds on live animals

Herbivore – plant eater