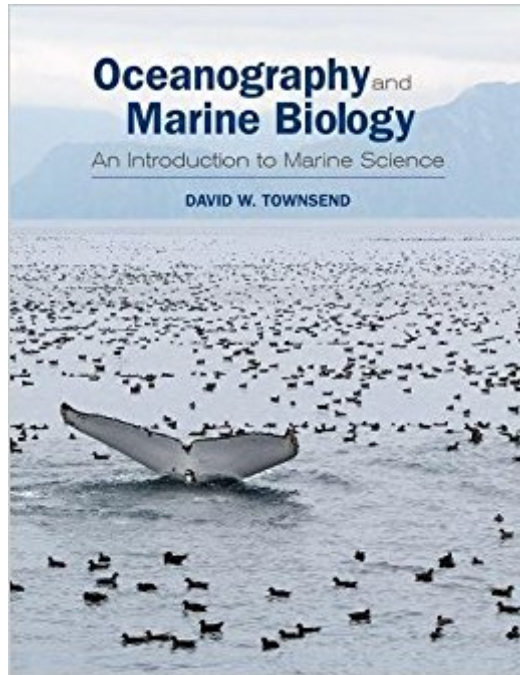




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Oceanography And Marine Biology: An Introduction To Marine Science



Synopsis

Dear Colleagues, Having taught an introductory ocean science class to more than 5,000 undergraduates over the past 15 years, it has become abundantly clear to me that the majority of my students are more interested in biological aspects of the marine environment than they are in either the oceans' physics or geology. On the other hand, having been a basic research scientist throughout my career, I remain convinced that a fundamental understanding of basic physical sciences is necessary for a deeper appreciation of biology and ecology. And so, over time, my teaching philosophy has evolved to one where I almost trick students into learning basic science. What I mean is, they already appreciate the oceans--the parts of the oceans they have had exposure to, that is--and so we already have their interest. All we need to do is build on that intuitive and still naïve interest and show students why our oceans are, in fact, even more interesting--and important. Oceanography and Marine Biology preserves the basic elements of the physical, chemical, and geological aspects of the marine sciences, and merges those fundamentals into a broader framework of marine biology and ecology. I have found that this approach works: my class of 350 students fills every semester it is offered, with students on waiting lists to get in. But existing textbooks on oceanography or marine biology address the companion field only cursorily: very few pages in oceanography texts are devoted to marine biology, and vice versa. This new book overcomes that imbalance, bringing these disparate marine science text formats closer together, giving them more equal weight, and introducing more effectively the physical sciences by showing students with everyday examples how such concepts form the foundation upon which to build a better understanding of the marine environment in a changing world. I invite you to take a look at the book, and welcome your comments on it. David W. Townsend

RESOURCES For the Instructor

Instructor's Resource Library This resource includes all figures (line-art illustrations and photographs) and tables from the textbook, provided as both high- and low-resolution JPEGs. All have been formatted and optimized for excellent projection quality. Also included are ready-to-use PowerPoint slides of all figures and tables. In addition, the IRL includes suggested answers to the textbook's end-of-chapter discussion questions.

Book Information

Hardcover: 512 pages

Publisher: Sinauer Associates is an imprint of Oxford University Press; 1 edition (March 31, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0878936025

ISBN-13: 978-0878936021

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 1 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"Townsend succeeds very well in providing balanced coverage as he leads students on an exploration of the physical, chemical, and geological fundamentals, and follows through with biological processes and organisms. So, the very inclusive title (all three terms--oceanography, marine biology, and marine science) is appropriate, and courses with any of these titles could use this textbook. The textbook is written in a very engaging style. Throughout, Townsend asks questions and then provides illustrative answers. Oceanography and Marine Biology should provide the thoughtful student with ways to answer the question 'Why is the ocean important?'" --Lisa Campbell, Oceanography

David W. Townsend is Professor of Oceanography in the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine. He has a longtime affiliation with the University, having completed a B.A. in Zoology there; after pursuing his M.S. (in Marine Science) at Long Island University, he then returned to the University of Maine, earning a Ph.D. in Oceanography. Dr. Townsend has been recognized for his teaching with the College Outstanding Teaching Award (2001) and the Distinguished Maine Professor Award (2006). He has published more than 90 papers, book chapters, and reviews. His research interests include biological oceanography of estuaries and shelf seas; phytoplankton blooms; nutrient dynamics; fisheries oceanography; ecology and population dynamics of larval fishes and zooplankton; plankton ecology and trophodynamics; and coupling of physical and biological processes.

This would be a good text for upper-level undergraduate students in either oceanography or marine biology. It covers both areas in sufficient detail for a solid background; students will eventually need more advanced texts in their areas of specialization, but this is a good start. Some mathematical

analysis is included in the main text, and more is provided in boxes, allowing flexibility for the instructor or student. There are a few minor errors that seemed to have escaped the editors, but all-in-all, it is a well written and illustrated text. The Further Reading section for each chapter is quite good. Classic and recent (up to 2010) books, reviews, and original research articles are cited.

Really awesome Oceanography and Marine Biology textbook. Great Job Dave. As a former student I can tell you still take the time to provide individuals with the best information in an easy and fun manner. Great for all levels of student.

Required text book

For a mandatory textbook it is pretty well put together.

Very good textbook

As promised, will shop again.

It return to day

I'm a marine biology masters degree student and struggled with oceanography concepts throughout undergrad. This book is a great introduction to how oceanography makes sense to marine biologists. Lots of pictures and qualitative descriptions -- few equations. This author wants you to get the big picture of what is going on in the ocean to spark your interest as to why you should care about the ocean. He is not trying to confuse you with complicated concepts and equations and jargon. I highly suggest this book to all levels of education even graduate school -- this book explains a lot of concepts I am trying to wrestle with in my grad level biological oceanography in a more logical way than my assigned bio oceanography textbook. Yet it's an easy enough read that any person mildly interested in the oceans could understand the big pictures -- the book reads like a teacher is explaining a lecture to you. Cannot recommend this book enough!

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