

Glossary

Algal bloom

A large, often considered excessive, growth of algae on or near the surface of water (lakes or sea), occurring naturally or as a result of an oversupply of nutrients from organic pollution.

Living modified organism (LMO)

Any living organism that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology. *Note: In general use the term living modified organism (LMO) is considered to be functionally the same as genetically modified organism (GMO).*

Keystone species

Species whose influence on ecosystem function and diversity are disproportionate to their numerical abundance. Although all species interact, the interactions of some species are more profound and far-reaching than others, such that their elimination from an ecosystem often triggers cascades of direct and indirect changes on more than a single trophic level, leading eventually to losses of habitats and extirpation of other species in the food web.

Ocean acidification

Increased concentrations of CO₂ in sea water causing a measurable increase in acidity (i.e. a reduction in ocean pH). This may lead to reduced calcification rates of calcifying organisms such as corals, molluscs, algae and crustacea.