



Argopecten irradians
Atlantic Bay Scallop

Seagrass beds are an important habitat for marine calcifiers and serve as nursery areas for many species. These ecosystems and their inhabitants, such as shellfish like the bay scallop shown here, can be affected by changes in ocean chemistry. USGS scientists are monitoring seawater chemistry associated with ocean acidification and benthic habitats to better understand possible impacts of changing water chemistry in temperate marine ecosystems.
<http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/ocean-acidification/>

Photo Credits: seagrass bed - NOAA; insert - Tampa Bay Watch

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A curious squid looks over a USGS coral monitoring station in Biscayne National Park, Florida. The USGS is studying rates of coral and algal growth at stations like this throughout Florida and the Caribbean to measure calcification in coral reef systems. Coral reefs are highly diverse ecosystems vital to our global oceans and to humans. Changes in ocean chemistry such as seawater acidification may adversely impact calcifying organisms that build tropical reef structures.
<http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/crest/>

Photo Credit: T.D. Hickey, USGS

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Climate change and ocean acidification may be occurring faster at the poles than in other climatic regions of the planet. The USGS is collecting data on carbon-dioxide (CO₂) concentrations and other related information in the largely uncharted Arctic Ocean to fill important gaps in knowledge. This information will be used to improve understanding of CO₂ impacts on polar-water chemistry, trends in ocean acidification, and implications for climate change in one of the most productive oceans in the world.
<http://coastal.er.usgs.gov/ocean-acidification/>
<http://continentalshef.gov/>

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