

***Ocean Literacy Survey, MEA 200H, August, 2006***  
***Required but Not Graded***

*Answer all the questions, but you will not be penalized for incorrect answers.*

***Name:***

***Demographics:***

Year: a) Freshman    b) Sophomore    c) Junior    d) Senior

Major:

College:

- |                      |                      |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| a) CHASS             | b) Ag & Life         | c) PAMS             |
| d) management        | e) education         | f) engineering      |
| g) natural resources | h) design            | i) undecided or FYC |
| j) textiles          | k) lifelong learning | l) other            |

What is the main reason you are taking this course?

- a) introductory oceanography (not other science course) is required for my major
- b) general education requirement
- c) simple curiosity

Mark the two or three ways you have learned most about the ocean (before this class):

- a) formal education: a whole course in ocean science
- b) formal education: just touched on ocean science in other courses
- c) informal education: aquarium, museum, camp
- d) personal experience: actually going to the beach
- e) friends and family: in conversation
- f) media: TV, magazines, etc
- g) other: please explain

How often do you visit the beach or shore?

How often do you visit an aquarium, zoo or museum where you might learn about the ocean?

***Attitudes about the Ocean***

How much do you agree with the following statements?

Please answer on a scale from 1 (disagree strongly) to 5 (agree strongly).

- 1) "My actions can have a significant effect on the health of oceans and coastal areas."
- 2) "I am familiar with the issues facing the coastal areas in my home state."
- 3) "I could write a letter to my congress representative about an issue affecting the ocean."
- 4) "I enjoy discussing the ocean with my friends and family."

### ***Big Picture***

- 1) What regulates climate and rainfall?  
a) rotation of the earth                      b) oceans                      c) both equally
- 2) What produces most of the earth's oxygen?  
a) forests                      b) plants in the ocean                      c) both equally
- 3) What would the earth be like without an ocean?
- 4a) Is the draining of your kitchen sink affected by the earth's rotation?
- 4b) Why or why not?
- 5) What determines the seasons?

### ***Size of the Ocean***

- 1a) How deep is the ocean, on average?  
a) 100 yards                      b) 1 mile                      c) 500 meters                      d) 4000 meters  
e) 20,000 leagues                      f) 6000 kilometers
- 1b) What familiar size or distance is similar to the depth of the ocean?
- 2) How much of the Earth is covered with ocean?
- 3) What fraction of the water on earth is in the ocean?

### ***Life in the Ocean***

- 2) Where is a greater variety of living organisms found?  
a) on land                      b) in the ocean                      c) both equally
- 3) Name a few oceanic ecosystems.
- 4) Describe one oceanic ecosystem you find especially interesting.

### ***Oceans and Shorelines***

- 1) Describe one or two processes that affect the shape of the coast.
- 2) What is the essential nature of barrier islands?
  - a) stasis and stability
  - b) motion and change
- 3) In general, what is the effect of human attempts to stabilize the shoreline?
  - a) increased erosion
  - b) decreased erosion
  - c) no effect

### ***Oceans and You***

- 1) What causes the **most** ocean pollution?
  - a) industrial waste
  - b) litter from beaches
  - c) runoff from land
- 2a) Name a few ways your actions affect the ocean
- 2b) Discuss in more detail one way your actions affect the ocean.
- 3) Discuss some ways the ocean affects you.
- 4) Describe a few ways scientists study the ocean.
- 5) What can you do to ensure that you're swimming in clean water at the beach?

**Essay Question:** *Tell me what interests you about the ocean, and what you would like to learn about in this class. You may use your latest trip to the ocean as a starting point.*