Littoral Zone Encyclopedia Article

Littoral Zone

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Littoral Zone

In marine systems, littoral zone is synonymous with intertidal zone and refers to the area on marine shores that is periodically exposed to air during low tide. The freshwater littoral zone is that area near the shore characterized by submerged, floating, or emergent vegetation. The width of a particular littoral zone may vary from several miles to a few feet. These areas typically support an abundance of organisms and are important feeding and nursery areas for fishes, crustaceans, and birds. The distribution and abundance of individual **species** in the littoral zone is dependent on predation and **competition** as well as tolerance of physical factors.

See Also

Neritic Zone; Pelagic Zone