



## Oceans: A Very Short Introduction (Paperback)

By Dorrik Stow

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The importance of the oceans to life on Earth cannot be overstated. Liquid water covers more than 70 of our planet s surface and, in past geological time, has spread over 85 . Life on Earth began in the oceans over 3.5 billion years ago and remained there for the great majority of that time. Today the seas still provide 99 of habitable living space, the largest repository of biomass, and holds the greatest number of undiscovered species on the planet. Our oceans are vital for the regulation of climate, and with global warming and decreasing land area, they have become increasingly important as the source of food, energy in the form of oil and gas, and for their mineral wealth. Oceans also form a key part of the biogeochemical cycles of carbon, nitrogen, and other elements critical to life. Nutrients in upwelling areas are spread by ocean currents, and the plankton of the seas supports a wealth of wildlife. In this Very Short Introduction Dorrik Stow analyses these most important components of our blue planet and considers their relationship with, and exploitation by, humans...

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