

Question: What effects do waves have on marine life?

Secondary Sources:

1. <http://animals.mom.me/waves-affect-marine-animal-life-7723.html>
2. http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/pd/tidescurrents/tidescurrents_effects_influences.html



Quote: “Waves, especially in seas and oceans, are sometimes a force to be reckoned with. To humans, they can go from the soothing sight and sound of water lapping gently at the shore to overwhelming forces of destruction. They can affect marine animals in much the same way, but waves also play a major role in their day-to-day ability to survive and thrive.”

Comment:

I really like how the quotes explains that, besides us humans, animals also view the ocean in beauty and terror and how we both use the water to survive and prosper. Before reading the article, I had no idea that waves were caused by the wind blowing on water. Which is why when there are storms out on sea, there are huge waves and treacherous, face-hitting, whips of air. But with no wind, the water is uber still. But now I wonder, what causes the waves that blow down on the water? The pressure of the earth’s surface is a measure of the weight of air that presses down on it. The more mass in the air above us, the more pressure we feel. Wind is caused by the differences in atmospheric pressure. The article also says how waves bring nutrients along through the waves that are full of plankton which provide food for fishes and whales. The waves can also create small ditches in the ground, or move rocks and dirt aside, to provide some shelter for animals like crabs and turtles. Waves also bring kelp along shorelines for certain birds and shelled creatures. They could also move away entire colonies of a group of animal which would provide a new, empty space for another species. And the currents can also spread a species out over the area. I remember learning a few of these things in science shows for kids and articles that my neighbor would throw away, which would leave me digging into his garbage can searching for more knowledge on animals since we didn’t have a home computer yet. And I could only go to the library so many times. After reading through both articles, they mostly explain the same thing. How currents can move organisms and make new homes for them, etc...

Follow-Up Questions:

Will waves increase or decrease in size in the future, and how will it affect us and animals? Will humanity ever discover a planet full of only water? What species would be alive if humans couldn't travel by water? What species wouldn't exist if humans couldn't travel by water? Will a fish ever be able to be out of water without dying? If the water had no waves, how would that affect us?