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1. Oceans warming faster than previously thought

- What is Ocean warming? What are its implications?
- Why do oceans absorb most of the anthropogenic heat?
- What can be done to limit the ocean warming?

GS paper 3 (Conservation)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

PTI. (2019, January , 15). Oceans warming faster than previously thought . Economic Times. Retrieved from <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/oceans-warming-faster-than-previously-thought/articleshow/67510407.cms>

What is the context about?

- Heat trapped by greenhouse gases is raising ocean temperatures faster than previously thought, according to a new research .
- The new analysis, published in the journal Science, shows that trends in ocean heat content match those predicted by leading climate change models, and that overall ocean warming is accelerating.
- Ocean heating is critical marker of climate change because an estimated 93 per cent of the excess solar

energy trapped by greenhouse gases accumulates in the world's oceans.

What is Ocean warming? What are its implications?

- ❑ The ocean absorbs most of the excess heat from greenhouse gas emissions, leading to rising ocean temperatures.
- ❑ Increasing ocean temperatures affect marine species and ecosystems. Rising temperatures cause coral bleaching and the loss of breeding grounds for marine fishes and mammals.
- ❑ Rising ocean temperatures also affect the benefits humans derive from the ocean – threatening food security, increasing the prevalence of diseases and causing more extreme weather events and the loss of coastal protection.
- ❑ Rising sea levels and erosion will particularly affect low-lying island countries in the Pacific Ocean, destroying housing and infrastructure and forcing people to relocate.
- ❑ The rise in sea surface temperatures is causing more severe hurricanes and the intensification of El Niño events bringing droughts and floods.

Why do oceans absorb most of the anthropogenic heat?

The ocean absorbs most of this "anthropogenic heat" because:

- ❑ Water has a high heat capacity: It takes much more heat to warm 1 liter of water than it does to warm the same volume of air (or most other substances).
- ❑ The ocean is deep: The world's oceans cover 71% of the earth surface and are about 4 km deep on average. This represents a tremendous reservoir of heat.
- ❑ The ocean is dynamic: Heat, carbon, oxygen and various other quantities exchanged with the atmosphere are mixed throughout the ocean through currents, internal waves, eddies, and various other circulation mechanisms.

What can be done to limit the ocean warming?

Limiting greenhouse gas emissions: There is an urgent need to achieve the mitigation targets set by the Paris Agreement on climate change and hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This will help prevent the massive and irreversible impacts of growing temperatures on ocean ecosystems and their services.

Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems: Well-managed protected areas can help conserve and protect ecologically and biologically significant marine habitats. This will regulate human activities in these habitats and prevent environmental degradation.

Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems: Elements of ecosystems that have already experienced damage can be restored. This can include building artificial structures such as rock pools that act as surrogate habitats for organisms, or

boosting the resilience of species to warmer temperatures through assisted breeding techniques.