



MCSP



DEERING ESTATE

Ocean Fast Facts

The ocean covers 140 million square miles, or nearly 71% of the Earth's surface.

Humans have explored less than 5% of this vast ecosystem, leaving many mysteries waiting to be discovered!

Over 250,000 marine species have been identified, and scientists estimate at least 750,000 more have yet to be discovered.

Life began in the ocean 3.1 billion years ago, about 2.7 billion years **before** terrestrial life evolved.

The Gulf Stream transports nearly four billion cubic feet of water per second, greater than the amount carried by all of the world's rivers combined.

Ocean-related businesses account for \$9 billion annually in goods and services in South Florida.

Photosynthetic organisms in the ocean produce about **70%** of the oxygen we rely on.

While other colors are absorbed by water, blue is reflected back, giving the ocean the **azure** hues we see.

Fish supply the greatest percentage of the world's protein consumed by humans.

The gray whale migrates more than **10,000 miles** every year, the longest migration of any mammal.

South Florida is home to the third largest coral reef in the world, stretching 358 miles from Dry Tortugas National Park to St. Lucie and hosting over 80 species of coral, 70 species of sponges, and over 1,000 fish species.

80% of all marine pollution comes from land-based activities.

The blue whale is the largest animal on our planet, its heart is the size of a Volkswagon.

Water pressure at the deepest point in the ocean is more than **8 tons** per square inch, the equivalent of one person trying to hold 50 jumbo jets. Incredibly, many organisms thrive in this environment.

The ocean contains 97% of the planet's water, and provides 99% of Earth's habitat.

Although coral reefs cover less than 0.5% of the ocean floor, more than 90% of marine species are directly or indirectly dependent on them.

The Great Barrier Reef, measuring 1,243 miles, is the **largest living structure** on Earth. It can be seen from the Moon.