Aquatic Ecosystems

-75% of our planets surface is water

-very little actual "fresh" water that we can use

-plants and animals have had to adapt very differently to live in the water compared to life on land

Abiotic Factors

-fresh water areas consist of several "zones"

-*littoral zone* is the area just off shore
-extends out to where plants rooted in the bottom can no longer be foun

-*limnetic zone* is the top surface of the water to the depth of light penetra photosynthesis

-beneath the limnetic zone is the *profundal zone*, the area where light ca

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Changes Found in Lake Ecosystems

-two kinds of lakes, oligotrophic and eutrophic

-oligotrophic are very deep and tend to have low nutrient levels
-eutrophic tend to be shallow with higher levels of nutrients

-oligotrophic eventually become eutrophic
-process can be speeded up by human activity

Seasonal Variations In A Lake

epilimnion-upper layer
thermocline-narrow band between the epi- and hypolimnion
hypolimnion-lower layer

-the layering of the lake water affects dissolved Oxygen content and thus aquatic organisms ability to overwinter

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