Algae All Around Us
Workshop, Jan 24, 2009

Glossary

algae - one-celled or many celled aquatic plants that have no root, stem, or leaf systems

axial - growing along the length of the plant rather than at the end.

blade - broad, leaf-like portion of algae.

calcareous - containing calcium carbonate (CaCO3).

dichotomous - division by branching in two.

differentiation - tissues specialized to perform different functions.

encrusting - covering in a crust-like fashion forming a low profile over a substrate.

estuary - coastal marine bay with freshwater sources.

filamentous - thread-like or fibrous strands.

frond - the blade(s) and stipe of an algae.

holdfast - the rootlike portion of the algae that holds it to a rock or surface. Unlike a true root, it doesn't gather water and nutrients from the soil.

infralittoral - low intertidal area exposed only during low spring tides.

kelp - any large brown, cold water algae of the family Laminariaceae, used as food and in various manufacturing processes

littoral - narrow vertical band of coastline affected by the range of tides.

lobed - rounded projections from the algal blade.

macroscopic - large enough to be seen without magnification.

midrib - central line of tissue that may strengthen the blade.

midlittoral - band of coastline between that range of the tides.

pinnate - blade projections arranged on either side of a common axis.

pneumatocyst - air filled bladder found in some algae allowing for positive buoyancy

Glossary

receptacle - fertile area where reproductive cells are produced.

stipe - the stalk arising from the holdfast and to which the blades attach

substrate - surface layer of material on which an organism can grow and multiply.

sublittoral - depth below the range of the tides.

succulent - fleshy plant material that may retain water.

supralittoral - elevation above the range of the tides.

thalli - algae bodies lacking differentiation into roots, stems, and leaves. Singular = thallus.