Life in the Ocean

* Oceanic Statistics
  + 71% of the Earth’s surface is oceanic
  + Comprises 90% of the biosphere
* Deep-seas are nearly unexplored
* Sea animals display more diverse body types than land animals
* More land animals have been described than ocean animals
* The Oceans don’t contain as much plant life
  + The nutrient concentrations are lower than they are on land
* Depth and Biology
  + Depth affects the evolution of many animals
  + Large amounts of dissolved oxygen
  + Animals move slowly
  + Density drops significantly
* Although diversity is high, overall density is low
* Scientists are most familiar with nearby aquatic animals
* Study is necessary for sustainability

Summary:

The ocean makes up most of the Earth’s surface and biological diversity. Ninety percent of the world’s biosphere and 71 percent of the Earth’s surface comes from the ocean. Although sea animals have been explored, more land animals have been described. This is a consequence of the lack of attention given to the deep-seas. Although the animals in such regions have yet to be thoroughly explored, scientists estimate that the biodiversity of the ocean’s animals is greater than that of land animals. This is potentially a result of the time in which the ocean’s animals have been evolving in comparison to land animals. The informational gap between the land and sea animals, reduces scientist’s ability to understand the intricacies of the oceanic ecosystems, reducing the over-all efficiency of environmental protection efforts.

My thoughts:

I found this article interesting, although a little dry and repetitive. The oceans remain a mystery to us even to this day. It’s fascinating to imagine how we may attempt fixing an environment we so hardly understand. I attribute our continued attempts at solving oceanic problems to an inability to accept the futility of an endeavor. We dare not understand the ecosystems in a timely enough manner so as to save them. Hardly, we’ll be forced to make changes for reasons we suddenly understand when it’s far too late. We should be more concerned on making said changes now.

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| **So what?**  We need to understand the dynamics of the ocean’s ecosystems if we are to attempt at saving them from our own reckless behavior. | **Says who?**  This article was written by James W. Nybakken and Steven K. Webster. It was published by Scientific American in 1998. |
| **Now what?**  Now we must invest in ocean research projects and support the exploration of the oceans to gains a better understand of ocean dynamics. | **What is reminds me of:**  This article reminds me of a quote by Socrates “All I know, is that I know nothing”. |