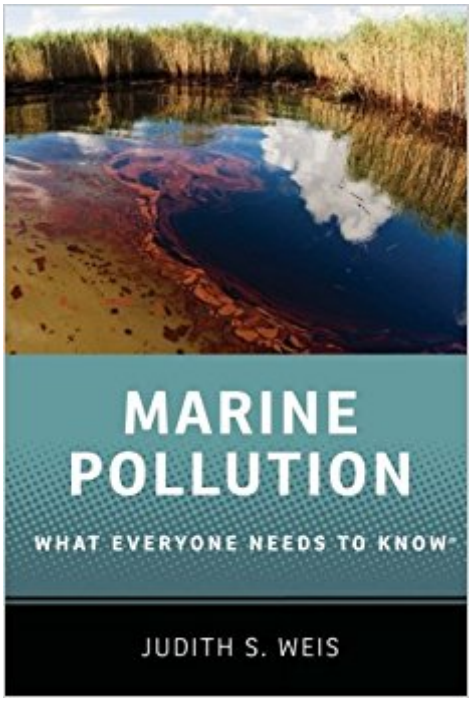
Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs To KnowÃ‚Â®



Synopsis

Marine pollution occurs today in varied forms--chemical, industrial, and agricultural-and the sources of pollution are endless. In recent history, we've seen oil spills, untreated sewage, eutrophication, invasive species, heavy metals, acidification, radioactive substances, marine litter, and overfishing, among other significant problems. Though marine pollution has long been a topic of concern, it has very recently exploded in environmental, economic, and political debate circles; scientists and non-scientists alike continue to be shocked and dismayed at the sheer diversity of water pollutants and the many ways they can come to harm our environment and our bodies. In Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know, Judith Weis covers marine pollution from numerous angles, each fascinating in its own right. Beginning with its sources and history, she discusses common pollutants, why they are harmful, why they cause controversy, and how we can prevent them from destroying our aquatic ecosystems. Questions ask what actually happened with the Exxon Valdez, and why harmful algal blooms are a serious concern. Covering pollutants that are only now surfacing as major threats, such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and metal nanoparticles, she explains how these can begin in the water and progress up the food chain to emerge in human bodies. Looking at the effects of climate change and acidification on marine pollution levels, we learn how we can begin to reduce pollution at the local and global levels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Marine Pollution is a great tutorial as well as a great source for the general public." -- Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AESR) News"Given the coverage of marine pollution related to oil spills, this book is timely and pertinent. ... It is a one-stop-shop for interested laypeople; it is also suitable for policy makers and students. Recommended." --Choice"As a researcher I found this book to be very useful. Every marine scientist is inescapably confronted with marine pollution, but only a few specialists can maintain an overview of the full range of threats. I found the best use of the book to be to work from its index: pick a topic, find the page(s) and be up to speed in seconds" - Michael Stachowitsch, Department of Limnology and Bio-Oceanography, University of Vienna,

Judith Weis is Professor of Biological Sciences at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on the effects of stressors like environmental contaminants, invasive species, and parasites on the behavior and ecology of estuarine organisms. She is the author of Salt Marshes: A Natural and Unnatural History, Do Fish Sleep?, and Walking Sideways: The Remarkable World of Crabs.

Dr. Judith Weis has written a book about marine pollution that is very accessible to a variety of people, from the layperson to professionals in the field. She makes no assumptions about what the reader knows and starts at the very beginning to define pollution, food chains, biomagnificaiton and more. Dr. Weis covers the range of pollutants from the more familiar pollutants DDT, nutrients and oil to emerging pollutants such as invasive species and endocrine disruptors. Although the text does not include sources, there are abundant sources listed for each chapter in the back of the book. This book is part of the "What everyone needs to know" series by Oxford University Press, and in this function, it is an excellent tutorial and reference for anyone interested in pollution. Dr. Weis has done extensive research in chemical pollutants, and is to be commended for bringing her knowledge to the general public in an easy to understand book.

LACKS INFORMATION. Beware Nitrogen is in our atmosphere and we need it to breath... yet there is no mention of carbon dioxide... MANY errors in the sense that it lacks data.

A very comprehensive entry-level overview of marine pollution. Well written, easy to read, enough technical details to support conclusions without dragging down the text.

I have received

I found many inaccuracies and statements for which there were no substantiating references. I have been in this field for over 25 years and found this book to be frustrating, overly simplified, and biased. If it had not been delivered promptly and in good condition, I would ask for my money back.

If you’re looking for a well-written primer on marine pollution and its sources, Dr. Weis has done a good job of summarizing the many complex issues and provided references to support her work. As an academic scientist (rather than an industry employee or ocean activist), Dr. Weis has no particular axe to grind and it shows in her relative neutrality. If the book were designed to be EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW, then it might not meet that goal-- such a reference would have to be 1000’s of pages! In the peer-reviewed science from around the world, there is growing evidence that marine pollution from all sources-- industry, agriculture, and other human activities-- may be the greatest obstacle to ocean resilience and adaptation, and recovery of the threatened life within. From plastics to oil spills, we have much to do to address the harm these activities cause-- Dr. Weis has provided us with an educational place to start to understand the enormity of the problem.

This is a well written basic primer on pollution in the sea. Plenty of good information for students or non-scientists interested in the subject. My only concern is that some topics are simplified or generalized in a way that may be misleading for the uninformed reader. And as a scientist I would have liked to have seen more references. Weis takes on an important topic that needs more attention, so even if it isn’t perfect, thanks for getting the word out and helping to educate students and the public about ocean pollution.

It is hard to find a common sense introduction to marine pollution issues but this book does just that. I highly recommend it for anyone seeking a general introduction to this topic. Dr. Weis has a clear, straightforward writing style that I found easy to comprehend. The Q&A format of the book is also very accessible- you can read it bit by bit over time. As a working environmental professional I am certain I will use this book as a resource for years to come.

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