

Exploring the Ocean's Depths



Lisa Levin

Section Head, Biology Director, Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation Distinguished Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

CURRENT RESEARCH

Understanding the relationships between marine organisms and climate change

Anyone that has seen the iconic photo of the Earth taken from space knows that there is far more blue than green; in fact, roughly 70% of Earth is covered by water, with the oceans composing an overwhelming majority. Roughly 80% of this water is deep water, totaling about one half of the entire earth. Dr. Lisa Levin's research is providing windows into nature's ability to adapt to multiple stressors associated with climate change (hypoxia, ocean acidification, warming). She is studying the relationships between marine organisms and environmental change to better understand how populations will cope to oceanic changes in deep water. Much of the deep ocean remains largely unknown, and with the supply of metals and rare earth elements running dangerously low on land, many believe the deep ocean is the next frontier for mineral resource acquisition. Still, with little information about this environment, we run the risk of exploiting it before we truly discover it. Dr. Levin is exploring new settings and searching for ways of maintaining the integrity and functions of the deep half of the planet through research and stewardship activities.

As a marine ecologist, Dr. Levin, Section Head of Biology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Director of the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, both housed at the University of California, San Diego, examines the relationship between the environment and animal communities on the seafloor at depths ranging from intertidal to deep sea. She works largely at the population community and ecosystem level to identify the ways marine communities respond to changes in the oceanic environment. She is studying levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the ocean....

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AFFILIATION

 University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Scripps Institution of Oceanography 1982, University of California, San Diego
- B.A. in Radcliffe College 1975, Harvard University

AWARDS

- American Geophysical Union Fellow, 2013
- Sverdrup Lecture, Am. Geophys. Union (Bowie Medal Lecture Series), 2012
- Anton Brun Memorial Lecture, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Paris, 2011
- Pogo Visiting Professorship (Namibia, Angola, S. Africa), 2010
- Riley Presenter, Dalhousie University, 2007

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology, Clean Energy, Oceanic

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will greatly assist in the training and support of human resources (graduate students, postdocs, and summer stipends). General lab equipment and analytical fees constitute the majority of Dr. Levin's laboratory costs. Larger donations will allow for more research time spent at sea (ship time runs around \$35,000 a day or more) and for the use of a remotely operated vehicle, which will enable unmanned deep sea exploration controlled from the surface.