

Name _____ Date _____

Water Quality Degradation in the Ocean

Use the following online resources to answer the questions.

- National Geographic “Dead Zone” encyclopedic entry
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution “Harmful Algae” site. The “Impacts” tab will also provide helpful information.

Part 1. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

1. What are phytoplankton? _____

2. What are Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)? _____

3. What are some of the negative effects of HAB formation? _____

Part 2. Toxic Algae

4. Describe the relationship between HABs and toxic phytoplankton. _____

5. What is biomagnification? _____

6. Describe the relationship between HABs and shellfish poisoning. _____



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Water Quality Degradation in the Ocean, continued

7. Briefly describe one current event related to toxic algae *within* the United States. _____

8. Briefly describe one current event related to toxic algae *outside of* the United States.

Part 3. Dead Zones

9. Describe the relationship between HABs and eutrophication, or nutrient loading.

10. What is a dead zone? _____

11. Describe the relationship between HABs and hypoxia, or oxygen depletion. _____

12. Briefly describe one water quality improvement success story *within* the United States.
