



PROJECT OCEANOLOGY

Facebook Live: Peterson Grab

Life in Long Island Sound is very diverse! Scientists group organisms based on many factors, including their habitat and their movement or **motility**.



Plankton are organisms that drift with waves and currents, most often near the surface of the water.

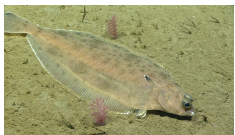
Nekton are organisms that swim.

Benthos are organisms that live *on or in the bottom*. Some remain permanently in one spot and are sessile. Others can move around in or on the bottom and are motile.

- Benthos that live on top of the bottom are called **epifauna**
- Benthos that live partially or completely buried in the bottom substrate are called **infauna**.

Complete the table below to describe the lifestyles of the marine organisms. Justify your conclusions with background knowledge or an observation about the organism. The first entry has been completed as an example.

Organism	Does it move?	Plankton, Nekton, Epifauna, or Infauna	Motile/Sessile	Justification
	Yes	Epifauna	Motile	The picture shows the snail crawling along the bottom, so it is motile benthos. It is not buried, therefore it is epifauna.
				



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