

What is Sea Snot?

A slimy layer of grey or green sludge formed when algae are overloaded with nutrients is called sea snot. It is a marine mucilage and is harmful to the water bodies.

Sea Snot - Key Points

How is Sea Snot formed?

When algae are overloaded with nutrients as a result of water pollution and climate change, it begins to create a thick slimy layer on the surface of the water. This layer is colloquially known as sea snot. These algae feast and grow in warm and nutrient-rich water.

What are the causes of Sea Snot?

The major causes of Sea Snot include:

- One of the biggest causes of this layer of snot is global warming and the increasing temperature of the water bodies
- The climatic conditions and the severe variations in climate change is another cause of this. UPSC aspirants can get notes on [Climate Change in India](#) at the linked article.
- The increased water pollution is another key factor resulting in the formation of sea snot

Impact of Sea Snot

With the increased water pollution, global warming and deteriorating climatic condition, the overall situation of water bodies across the globe are being affected. Considering sea snot, it also leaves a severe impact on marine life. Discussed below are the concerns regarding the same:

- **Marine Ecosystem gets affected** - Since the snot covers up the surface of the water along with 80 to 90 feet below the surface, it results in the death of many sea creatures, fishes and other aquatic organisms such as corals and sponges
- **Clogs Fishermen's nets** - The livelihood of fishermen gets affected as the sludge gets collected on the nets, making them heavy and tougher to remove from the water, ultimately resulting in the breaking down of nets. Also, because of the dark colour of the layer formed on the surface, the net becomes visible to the fishes, and it becomes difficult to trap them
- **Gives rise to water-borne diseases** - Cases of diseases like cholera which are water-borne may also rise
- **Poisoning Aquatic Organisms** - Fishes, crabs, oysters, mussels and other marine animals may get poisoned. These sea creatures are also consumed by people and can affect their health as well

Steps Taken to Contain the Spread of Sea Snot

- All necessary actions must be taken by the authorities to preserve the water bodies and control water pollution
- Steps for treatment of water in coastal areas must be prioritised
- Measures must be taken to preserve the environment and climate as ultimately irregularities in the climatic conditions and increasing global warming have resulted in the spread of the smudge