

Environmental Effects of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion

In tropical and subtropical regions with warm waters, a different kind of marine renewable energy is available: ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC). OTEC produces power from the ocean by using the difference in temperature between warm water at the surface of the ocean and cold water deep in the ocean to generate electricity. This process can only take place year-round in tropical environments where there is enough temperature difference between the surface and deep waters. Scientists think OTEC may be a good energy source for tropical and subtropical coastal areas and islands, but it might create new challenges for the environment that need to be studied more.

