

Atlantic area exceeding 2000 fathoms in depth.

The principal area exceeding 2000 fathoms in depth is continuous throughout the Atlantic, although much broken up by areas of shallower water; there are besides in places isolated areas in which the depth exceeds 2000 fathoms, as in the Gulf of Guinea, near the Canary Islands, at the northern extremity of the Mid-Atlantic ridge (as already mentioned), as well as in the Norwegian Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Carribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico.

The areas exceeding 3000 fathoms in depth ("deeps") will be referred to under a later heading.

Area of the Pacific sea-floor at different depths.

Pacific Ocean.—The Pacific may be looked upon as extending southwards from the Arctic circle in Behring Strait to the Antarctic continent, including the fringe of partially enclosed seas along its western border, and as being separated from the Atlantic in the south at the meridian of Cape Horn (long. 70° W.), and from the Indian Ocean at the meridian of Tasmania (long. 147° E.). As thus defined the Pacific Ocean covers an area of about 68,634,000 square English miles, the distribution of depth being shown in the following table:—

Fathoms.	Square English Miles.	Percentage.
0-1000	7,174,000	10.45
1000-2000	12,214,000	17.80
2000-3000	44,633,000	65.03
3000-4000	4,412,000	6.43
Over 4000	201,000	0.29
	68,634,000	100.00

Continental shelf and slope in the Pacific.

These figures show that nearly nine-tenths of the Pacific sea-floor are covered by water exceeding 1000 fathoms in depth, and nearly three-fourths by water exceeding 2000 fathoms in depth. Unlike the Atlantic, the shallowest zone in the Pacific (0-1000 fathoms) is smaller than the succeeding zone (1000-2000 fathoms), indicating that the Pacific land-slopes are on the average steeper than those of the Atlantic, and this is strikingly shown by the near approach to the land of the deep contours in certain regions, as off the coasts of South America, North America, Japan, the Philippine Islands, and South-East Australia. The ratio between the two areas on either side of the 500-fathoms line is not so striking as in the case of the Atlantic, the area