How does climate change affect the oceans and marine life? The purpose of this final paper is to explore one of the questions the class has posed on the science and policy of climate change. In the prompt below, after you choose your topic, you can decide to do a deeper dive examining the scientific evidence, or current policy and policy proposals for addressing the problem. Assignment: From the list of topics below, choose one to explore in greater detail. In the Introduction of your final paper, state the problem, and provide an overview of the scientific evidence for your chosen focus and possible policy proposals for addressing the problem. Next, discuss what science says about what changes we have already begun to see, and how consequences will play out in the future. Discuss (i) the scientific evidence for your focus topic and its likely causes and (ii) possible consequences were it left unchecked. Evaluate (iii) proposed methods of mitigation. You can start by examining the issue on a global level, then focus on one region. State your own opinion on whether these efforts will make a difference. Those focusing on scientific evidence for a particular topic should discuss the source and methodology of the scientific observations in greater detail, particularly if there is more than one method of observation that leads to the same conclusions. For those focusing on policy, look at current policies and proposals to address the issue, and discuss what can be done by the individual, and by authorities at the local, state, national or international level to mitigate the aspect of climate change you have chosen as your focus. The IPCC website (see links on the next page) is an excellent place to start. Conclude by providing a sentence summarizing your findings. Topics: This list of topics is adapted from the topics of interest that you generated in class. • What alternative energy resources could help mitigate climate change, and how do we assess the potential gains and drawbacks associated with putting these in place? • How does climate change affect the oceans and marine life? • How is deforestation linked to climate change and what can be done about it? • How is climate change linked to our farming practices and food sources? • How is climate change linked to the melting of glaciers, land ice, permafrost? • What is the differential impact of climate change on different geographical areas of the globe? (As an example, what is the link between climate change and sea levels, and what populations does this affect the most?) • What human factors play a role in climate change? What policies might offset the worst effects of climate change, and what hurdles lie in the way of implementing them? • What can individual countries do to address climate change? Who should pay for global efforts to mitigate climate change? What role can a concerned individual play?