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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (586 p.)
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Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Foreword / by Sylvia Earle -- Introduction -- Historical background -- An introduction to marine science -- The physical environment -- Origin and history of the Gulf of Mexico basin -- Physiography and sedimentary environments -- Meteorology -- Physical oceanography -- Chemical oceanography -- Biology -- Phytoplankton -- Zooplankton -- Benthos of soft bottoms -- Biota of hard substrates: biofouling communities and coral/algae reefs -- Plant-dominated communities: salt marshes, mangrove swamps, and seagrass meadows -- Nekton -- The deep gulf -- Ecological processes -- Ecological processes I: Environmental factors and species adaptations -- Ecological processes II: Life histories and system integration -- Human relations -- Human impacts on coastal and marine systems -- Management perspectives.
Sommario/riassunto	For more than a decade, Reznat Darnell worked on this major synthesis of what is known about the Gulf of Mexico. His goal: to bring a deeper understanding of "the American Sea" to students, scientists, managers, and educated citizens of the public at large. The American Sea builds on Darnell's own research, the research of his graduate students, government agency research reports, data synthesis reports, and literature summaries to present a holistic view of the Gulf of

Mexico. Although he is recognized as a pioneer in the study of continental shelf ecology, Darnell largely resisted specializ