

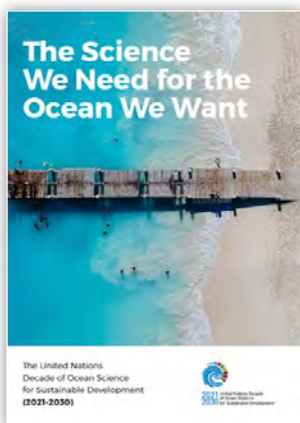
## THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE THE OCEAN WE WANT

Lorraine Chaffer



United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development  
2021 - 2030

Sources: The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: The science we need for the ocean we want <https://www.oceandecade.org>



The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is dedicated to working with ocean scientists to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at global, regional, and local scales. It is a framework to ensure that ocean science supports countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing foundational knowledge and technologies to strengthen ocean management. The UN recognises huge gaps in our knowledge about the oceans and the inequality between nations in access to scientific technologies and therefore capacity to bring about change. 'While many countries benefit from sophisticated, cutting-edge scientific infrastructure, technology, and human capacity for science and innovation, the [Global Ocean Science Report](#) concluded that major disparities exist in the capacity around the world to undertake marine scientific research.'

*"The ocean is our planet's largest ecosystem. It stabilizes climate, stores carbon, nurtures unimaginable biodiversity, and directly supports human well-being through food and energy resources, as well as by providing cultural and recreational services.*

*Unfortunately, despite improved management and conservation actions, the United Nations' First World Ocean Assessment found that much of the ocean is now seriously degraded. As the world population will reach an estimated 9 billion people by 2050, impacts on the ocean associated with human activities will increase."*

Source The Science We Need For The Ocean We Want  
<https://soos.aq/images/soos/activities/UN%20Ocean%20Decade/Brochure-UNDECADEFOROCEAN.pdf>

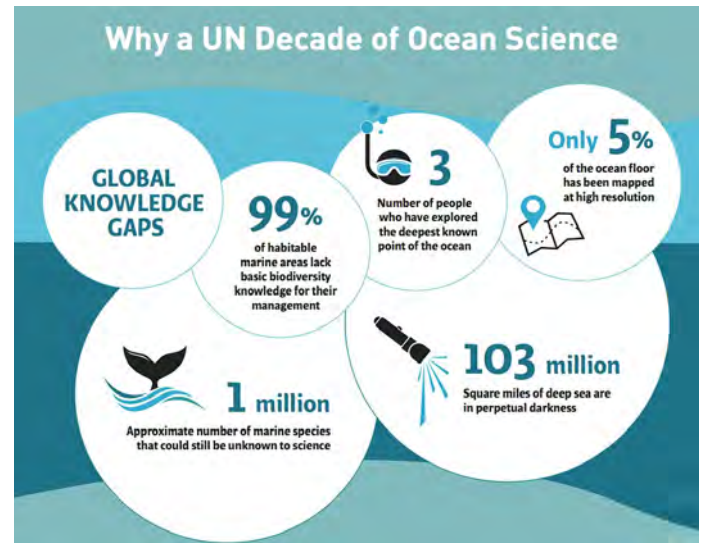


# OCEAN DECADE

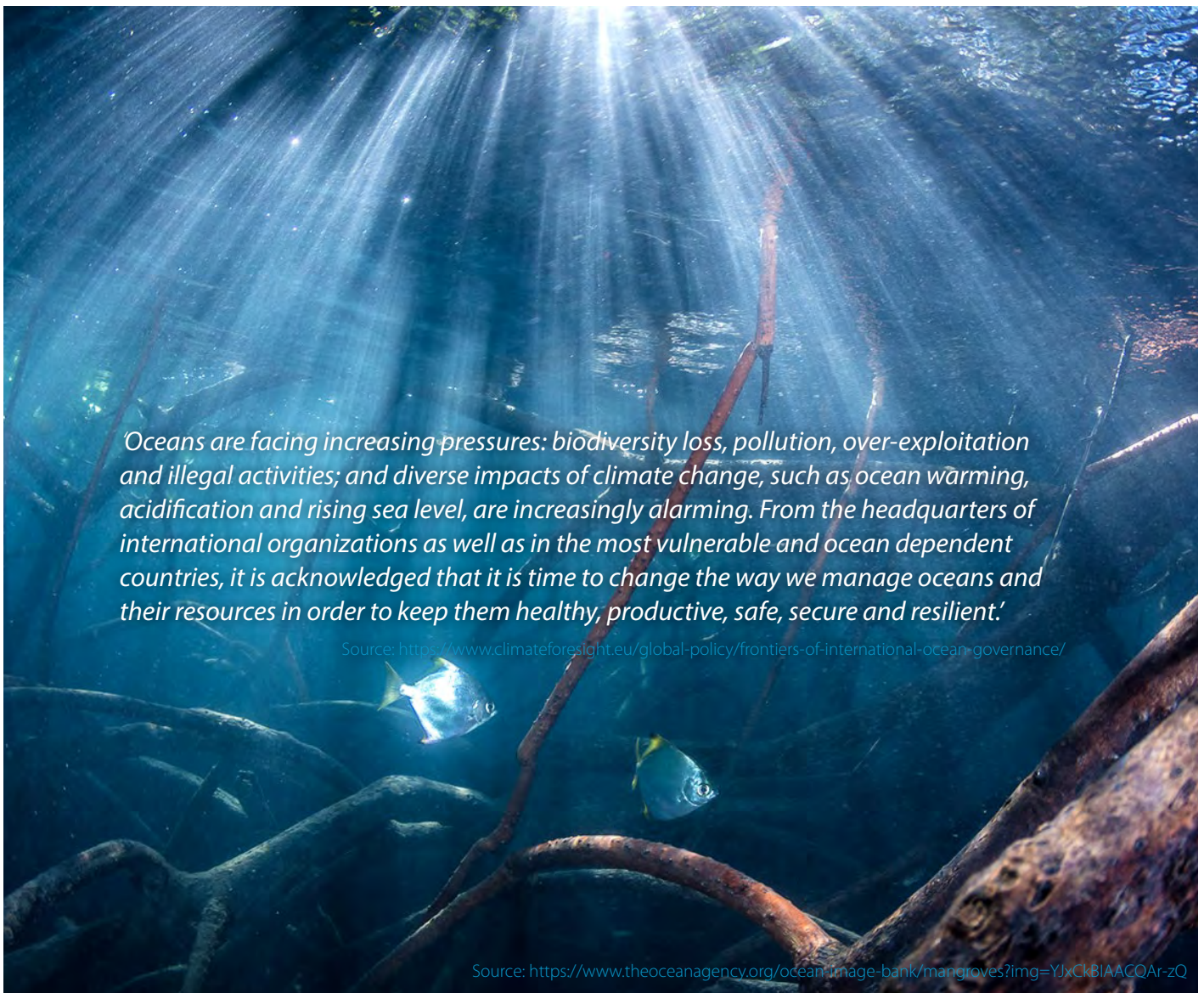
The Ocean Decade declaration underpins a vision to deliver the following outcomes:

1. A **clean ocean** – sources of pollution identified, reduced, removed.
2. A **healthy and resilient ocean** – marine ecosystems are understood, protected, restored, managed.
3. A **productive ocean** – sustainable food supply and ocean economy.
4. A **predicted ocean** – society understands and responds to ocean change.
5. A **safe ocean** – life and livelihoods are protected from ocean-related hazards.
6. An **accessible ocean** – open and equitable access to data, information, technology, innovation.
7. An **inspiring and engaging ocean** – society understands and values the ocean for human wellbeing and sustainable development.

Figure 1: Why a UN Decade of Ocean Science



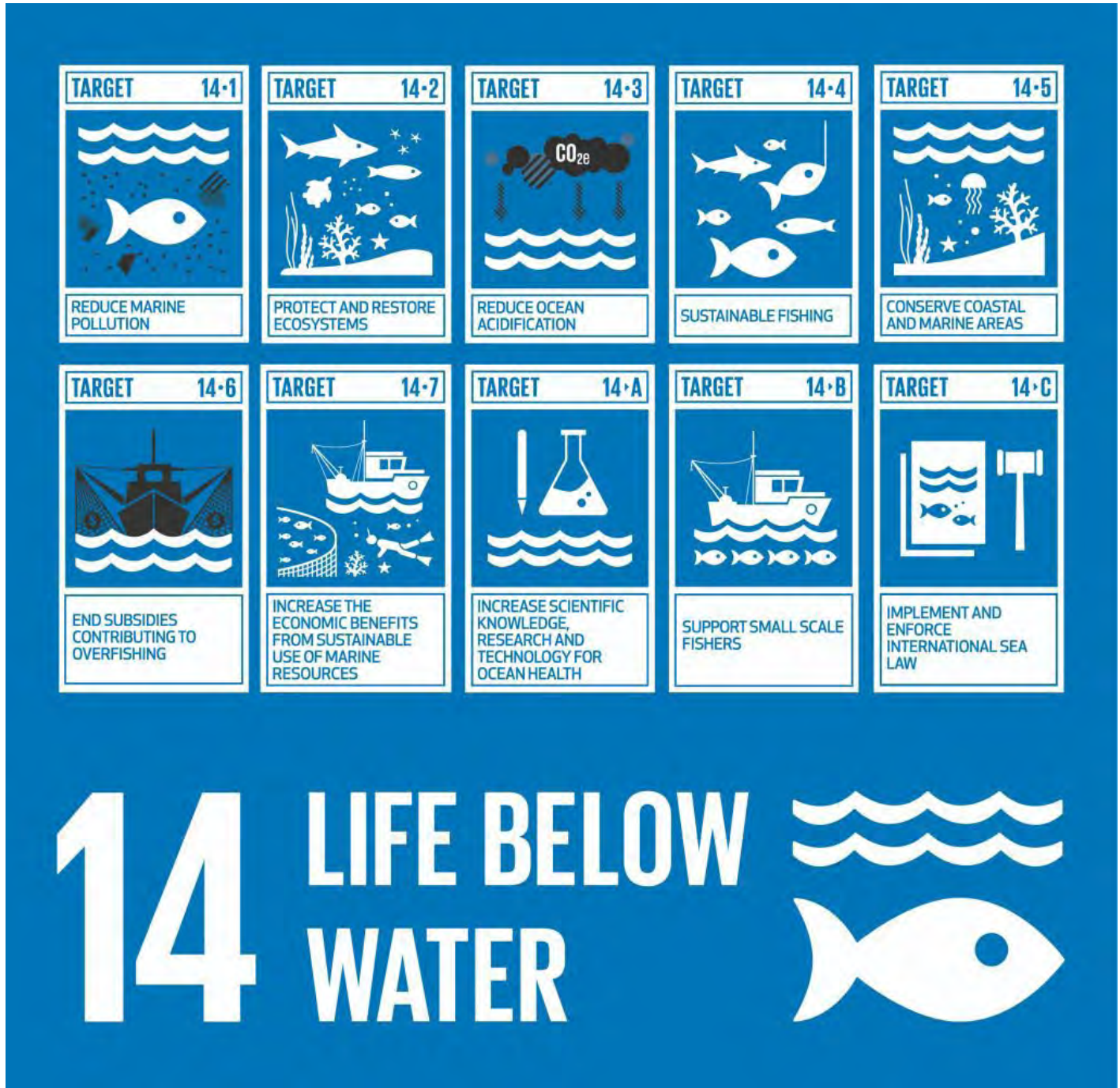
Source: <https://www.climateforesight.eu/global-policy/frontiers-of-international-ocean-governance/>



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

The targeted outcomes of the Decade of Ocean Science are directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. There are 10 targets to meet SDG Goal 14 – these are shown in Figure 2. Without scientific data and knowledge to inform decision making, and without equity of access, opportunities to achieve the relevant goals and outcomes is limited.

Figure 2: SDG 14 Life Below Water



Source: <https://www.guidisr.lt/en/world-wildlife-day-2019/>

The connections between SDG 14 and the other SDGs magnify the importance of oceans to achieving global sustainability such as SDG1– No poverty; SDG2 – No Hunger; SDG3 – Good Health and Wellbeing; SDG12 – Responsible Production and consumption and SDG13– Climate Action.

Examples:

**SDG2: 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition'** – seafood is an important source of protein and micronutrients and is indispensable for sustaining livelihoods particularly in poorer nations.

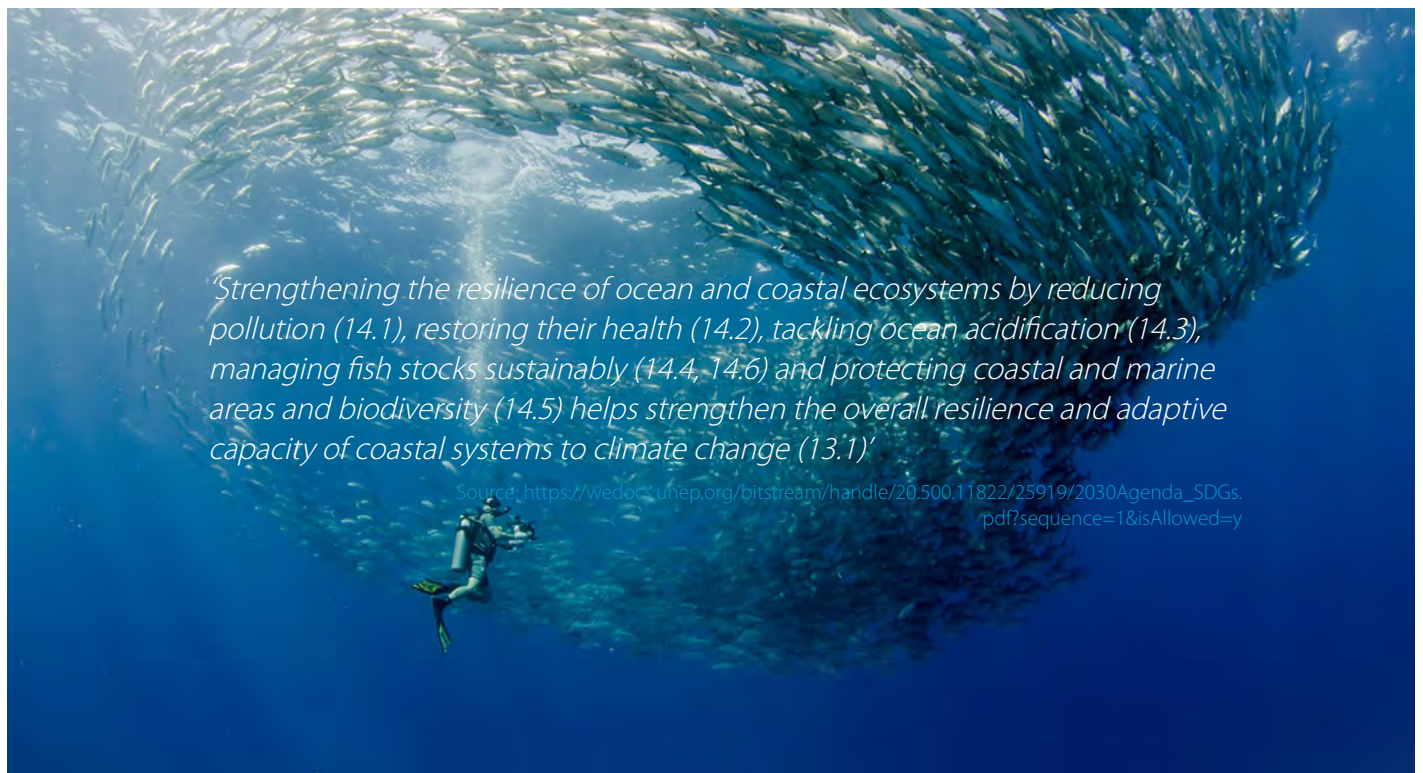
**SDG10: 'Reduce inequality within and among countries'** – a sustainable and equitable blue economy would ensure access for small-scale fishers, the largest employment category in the ocean economy and among the lowest income groups in the world. This would benefit developing coastal and island populations, also in the global bottom 40% by income.

**SDG12: 'Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns'** for ocean resources, products and services eg fishing, shipping and tourism and land – based production and consumption affecting the ocean eg plastic litter.

**SDG13: 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'**. The interconnection between oceans and climate change is one of the most important for the future sustainability of oceans. Oceans and marine environments are climate regulators, but they are also directly impacted by climate change. To build resilience to climate change, restoring and protecting oceans and marine environments is essential.



<https://soos.aq/images/soos/activities/UN%20Ocean%20Decade/Brochure-UNDECADEFOROCEAN.pdf>



*'Strengthening the resilience of ocean and coastal ecosystems by reducing pollution (14.1), restoring their health (14.2), tackling ocean acidification (14.3), managing fish stocks sustainably (14.4, 14.6) and protecting coastal and marine areas and biodiversity (14.5) helps strengthen the overall resilience and adaptive capacity of coastal systems to climate change (13.1)'*

Source: [https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25919/2030Agenda\\_SDGs.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25919/2030Agenda_SDGs.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

# OCEAN DECADE



## OCEAN DECADE EXHIBITION

The Ocean Decade Exhibition is a collection of artworks from the global creative community created for the Ocean Decade. The purpose of the exhibition was

- transforming the image of ocean science and conservation
- raising awareness of the importance of the ocean
- inspire support for action

Artists have made their work available for free so they can be downloaded and used to create exhibitions, in schools, libraries, businesses, social media (or just about anywhere else). Below is a small selection of the posters and photo art in the exhibition.

LEFT: Aanish Peshave. Source: [www.theoceanagency.org/exhibition](http://www.theoceanagency.org/exhibition)

## PHOTO ART



## POSTERS



Photo art credits in order Tim El-Helou, Justin Peters, Tim El-Helou

Poster credits in order Marius Becker, Mayank Patel, Pravinthy Harshani

## Class Activity: Create a classroom exhibition

Visit Ocean Agency Exhibition at <https://www.theoceanagency.org/ocean-image-bank>.

- Work in groups to select TWO pieces of photo art and two posters to exhibit
- Create an ORIGINAL piece of photo art OR poster, a document or an infographic to hang with your selected images with a message about The Ocean Decade to inspire other students' interest. Credit the artists where appropriate.
- Create a social media post for ONE of your selected images. Post with #OceanDecade

## OCEAN LITERACY

While increasing scientific research and technology is essential for achieving the Ocean Decade outcomes and SDG 14, integrating ocean knowledge and concepts into syllabus topics can help bridge the knowledge gap at a student level.

There is a wealth of resources to support the integration of ocean literacy into classroom practice including contemporary documents, documentaries, television programs and interactive websites.

### Syllabus links – some examples:

- Landscapes and Landforms – marine and coastal landscapes, values and management including those of First Nations Peoples.
- Place and Liveability – oceans provide employment, resources and lifestyle options while influencing the environmental quality of places. All affect liveability.
- Interconnections – oceans as an asset that connect the world through resource exploitation (fishing, minerals, energy), tourism and trade (shipping routes)
- Sustainable Biomes – use of ocean biomes to produce food in coastal communities worldwide and for groups such as First Nations and Asian communities.
- Human Wellbeing – oceans can provide access to employment, income and resources and influence the wellbeing of different community groups.
- Environmental Change and Management – damaging marine and coastal environments, exploiting marine resources e.g., overfishing, marine pollution

### READ

About the Decade <https://www.oceandecade.org/about>  
The Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development: The science we need for the ocean we want. Full website <https://www.oceandecade.org>

Ecos magazine: UN Ocean Decade 2021 <http://digital.ecomagazine.com/publication/frame.php?i=707374&p=&pn=&ver=html5&view=issueBrowser>

WWF The value of our oceans [https://www.wwf.no/assets/attachments/47-wwf\\_studie\\_healthy\\_oceans.pdf](https://www.wwf.no/assets/attachments/47-wwf_studie_healthy_oceans.pdf)

Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy <https://www.oceanpanel.org/ocean-action/files/transformations-sustainable-ocean-economy-eng.pdf>

The Blue Planet: Supporting the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development <https://geoblueplanet.org/supporting-the-un-decade-of-ocean-science-for-sustainable-development/>

The Global Goals <https://www.globalgoals.org/14-life-below-water>

### WATCH

Introduction to Decade of Ocean Science <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyiuLwhUpH4>

One Planet One Ocean: Introduction <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-j9HPs5Ypk>

Australia's Ocean Odyssey <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australia-s-ocean-odyssey-a-journey-down-the-east-australian-current>

Netflix – Seaspiracy <https://www.seaspiracy.org>

BBC – Blue Planet 2 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04tjbtX>

### INTERACT WITH

The Ocean Agency: A creative, conservation, not for profit, organisation. <https://www.theoceanagency.org/about>  
The Ocean Agency/Google Ocean Education Resources <https://www.theoceanagency.org/resources-edu>  
UN Ocean image bank <https://www.theoceanagency.org/resources>  
Global Fishing watch <https://globalfishingwatch.org/our-map/>

Figure 3: Document and Documentary covers (UN, WWF, BBC and Netflix)

