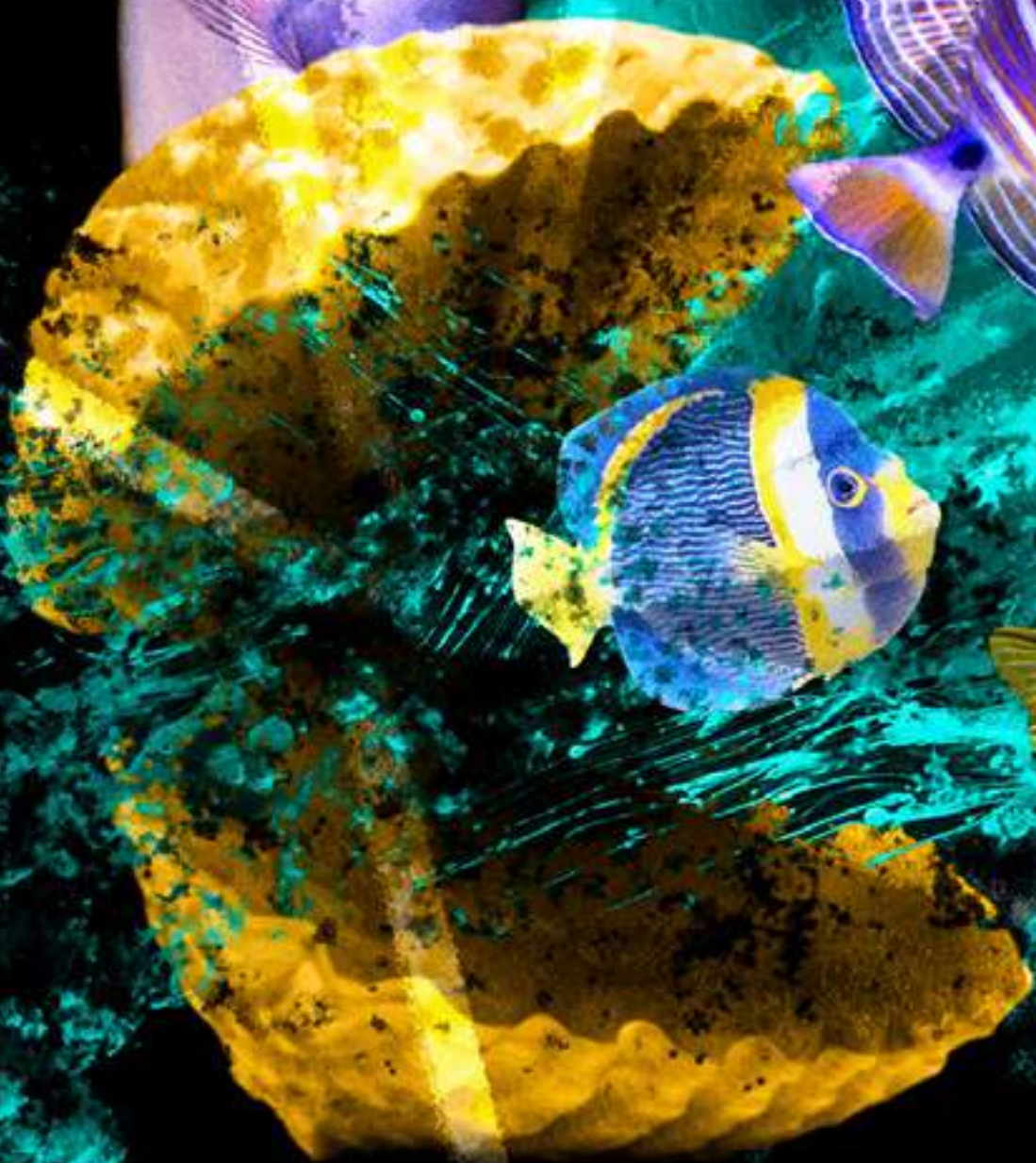


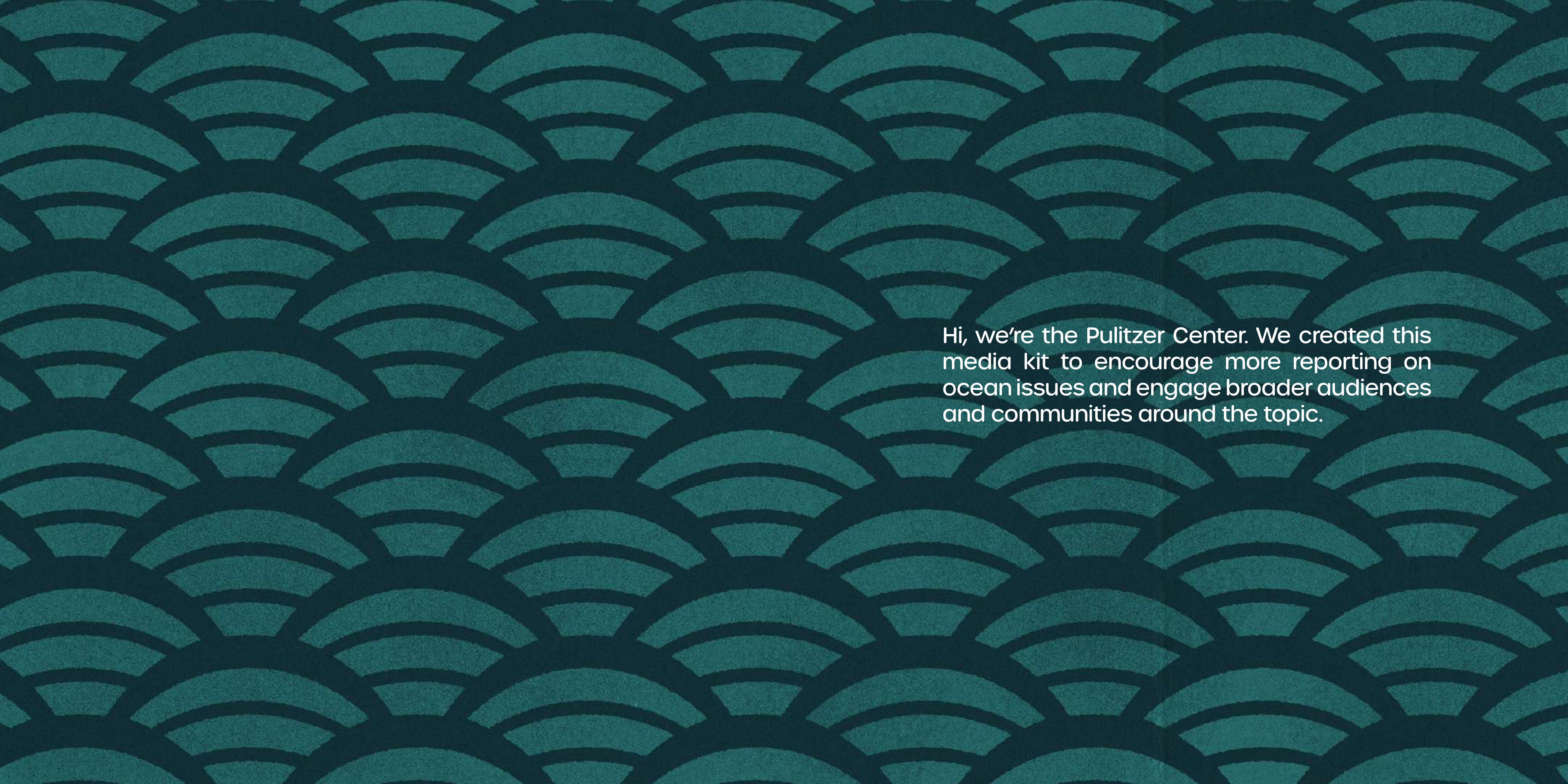
@OCEAN MEDIA KIT



Ocean
Reporting
Network



Pulitzer Center

The background of the image is a solid teal color with a repeating pattern of overlapping semi-circles. The semi-circles are arranged in a staggered grid, creating a textured, scale-like effect. The pattern is consistent across the entire image.

Hi, we're the Pulitzer Center. We created this media kit to encourage more reporting on ocean issues and engage broader audiences and communities around the topic.

SUMMARY

- 1. How to use this kit 6
- 2. The Ocean is still rising - and yet we are not 8
- 3. Ocean Voices 18
- 4. Sailing through narrative waters 26
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- 6. Glossary 52



HOW TO USE THIS KIT

This material is a result of our extensive experience with ocean reporting, working closely with dozens of journalists worldwide over the past four years on more than 150 stories about many different aspects of the ocean and marine resource management: from illegal fishing to biodiversity loss, the crisis of plastic pollution and the threat of rising sea levels, among many others.

It was about time to gather much of the knowledge we have achieved along this journey in an easy-to-use, social media-friendly package that can help other communicators to expand the “ocean agenda” within the environmental umbrella. So we can talk more - and better - about how **a healthy ocean is fundamental to a healthy world.**

Our journey here is divided in five chapters:

- **UN Report in a seashell**, an introductory chapter with a broader context on the rise of ocean levels, based on the recent UN report *Surging Seas in a Warming World (2024)*;
- **Ocean voices**, a selection of stories covered by our grantees around the ocean of the world, that may serve as a hook or inspiration for your next ocean story;
- **Sailing through narrative waters**, a collection of Tools and Narrative Approaches that highlights storytelling resources and opportunities;
- **Communities**, a selection of ideas for engagement and organizations that could serve as possible sources;
- **Glossary**, a selection of terms and expressions on marine resource management designed especially for environmental journalists.

 WATCH HERE

Much of the content is “detachable”:

You can find many of the “pieces” of this media kit in a separate folder. Shareable cards and videos, ready to be used in your stories or social media posts. Feel free to use this kit as you like. Enjoy your dive!

 ACCESS HERE

THE
OCEAN
IS STILL
RISING.
AND YET
WE ARE
NOT

The future of our ocean health depends on immediate and collective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These are causing rising temperatures and sea levels, which are damaging marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and contributing to extreme weather events all over the world.

EVERY OCEAN STORY IS A CLIMATE STORY

Rising temperatures and sea levels due to the climate emergency are damaging marine ecosystems and biodiversity, and contributing to extreme weather events all over the world, such as hurricanes and storms. The future of ocean health depends on immediate and collective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement adaptation strategies, such as restoring coastal ecosystems to protect against erosion and sea level rise.

Global sea levels are rising at unprecedented rates, mainly driven by melting land ice and the thermal expansion of seawater. Recent predictions by the U.N. indicate that sea-level rise (SLR) may happen **faster and on a larger scale than previously anticipated**, along with water temperature rises due to heat absorption, acidification, loss of biodiversity,

and also entire fish populations shifting to cooler waters. That poses severe threats to densely populated coastal areas, low-lying islands, and fishing communities. The ocean is intrinsically linked to climate change - as a victim but also **part of the solution**.

UNESCO listed “Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change” as one of the 10 challenges of the Ocean Decade: a global effort for achievements in ocean sciences until 2030. The **High-level Ocean Panel**, a global initiative for building a sustainable ocean economy, is also widely recognized for its work on the ocean as a solution.

The ocean is the largest carbon sink on the planet. Through the process of absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, it has a crucial role for mitigating climate

change. This process, however, has many consequences, the main result being ocean acidification, which can have devastating impacts on marine life.

Investing in the preservation of mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs not only absorbs excess carbon, but also increases the protection of coastal communities against the worst impacts of extreme weather. Other ocean solutions consist of: expanding ocean-based sustainable food production, decarbonizing ocean-based tourism, among others.

All of these solutions have to take in account the relationship between the ocean and issues of justice and equity, human rights, and agriculture - especially for coastal communities and vulnerable populations who

depend on marine resources for subsistence and sustenance. These communities are often those most affected by the impacts of climate change, leading to rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Furthermore, ocean pollution and degradation can harm food security and the livelihoods of communities that depend on fishing and coastal tourism.

We aim to help empower people with stories and tools that help them make more informed decisions about the ocean as a solution. But, to do that, it's important to look at the current big picture. With that in mind, we bring you a visual breakdown of the latest UN report **“Surging Seas in a Warming World,”** published in 2024, with fresh facts and data about ocean and climate change, in shareable graphics and infographics.

Go straight to the sources:

Surging Seas In a Warming World (UN scientific report)

 [READ HERE](#)

Ocean Decade: the 10 challenges (UNESCO)

 [READ HERE](#)

High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel)

 [READ HERE](#)



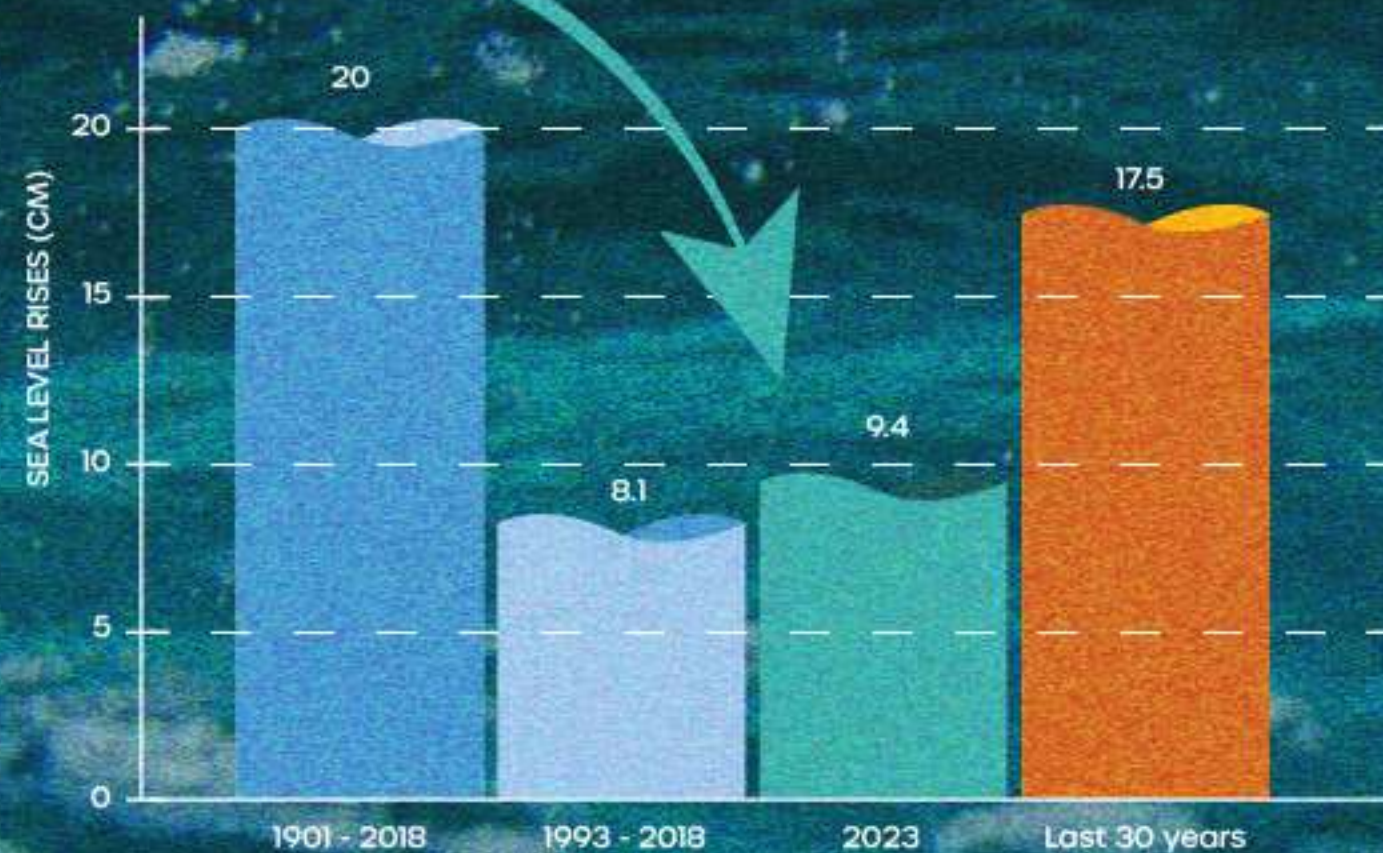
UN REPORT IN A SEASHELL



THIS TIDE IS
RISING TOO FAST!

Overall, the sea level rose **17.5 centimeters (6.8 inches)** over the last 30 years

9.4 centimeters in 2023 alone only!



TOO HOT TO HANDLE!

The ocean has absorbed more than 90% of the excess heat and around 30% of human-produced carbon dioxide emissions that have accumulated in the Earth's system.

Global Impacts

ALMOST 1BN PEOPLE!

The Low Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ) can affect around 11% of the global population (about **900 million people**). SLR poses grave risks to coastal cities, agricultural deltas, and island nations.

11% of the world population

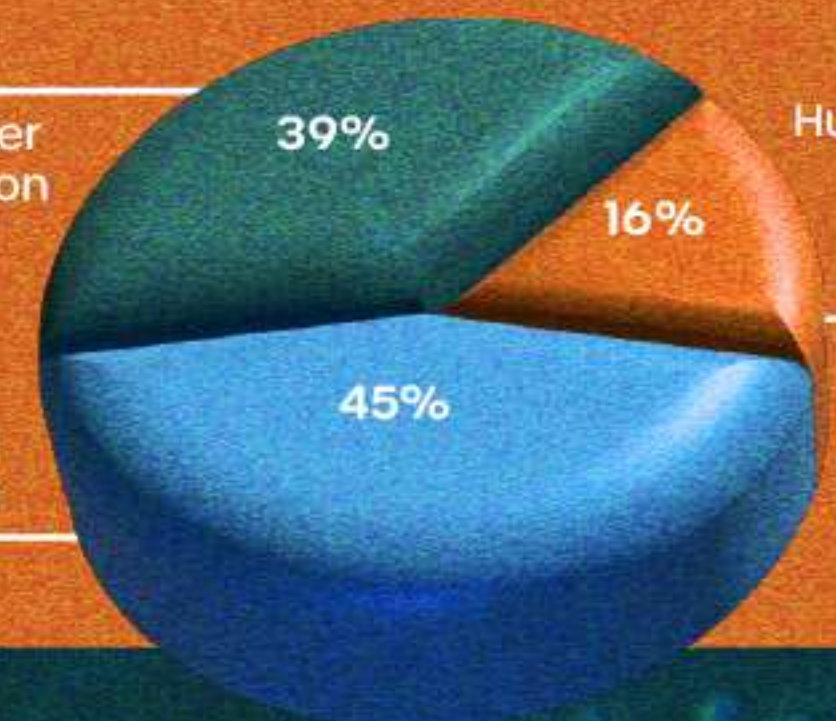


CONTRIBUTION TO THE OBSERVED CHANGE IN GLOBAL-MEAN SEA LEVEL

Seawater expansion

Melting land ice

Human-driven changes in landwater storage



THE LAND IS LOSING WEIGHT, AND THIS IS NOT GOOD

270 AND 150 BILLION TONNES PER YEAR!

This is how much Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are losing in ice mass at average rates.



PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE SEA-LEVEL RISE:

A TSUNAMI OF CONCERNS

The sea level is expected to rise significantly by 2100, depending on future greenhouse gas emissions. If ice-sheet instability accelerates, under a high-emissions scenario, SLR could reach 77 cm, with worst-case scenarios suggesting a rise as high as 2.3 meters by 2100.

High emissions scenario: Up to 77 cm by 2100.

Worst-case scenario: 2.3 meters by 2100 if ice sheet instability accelerates.

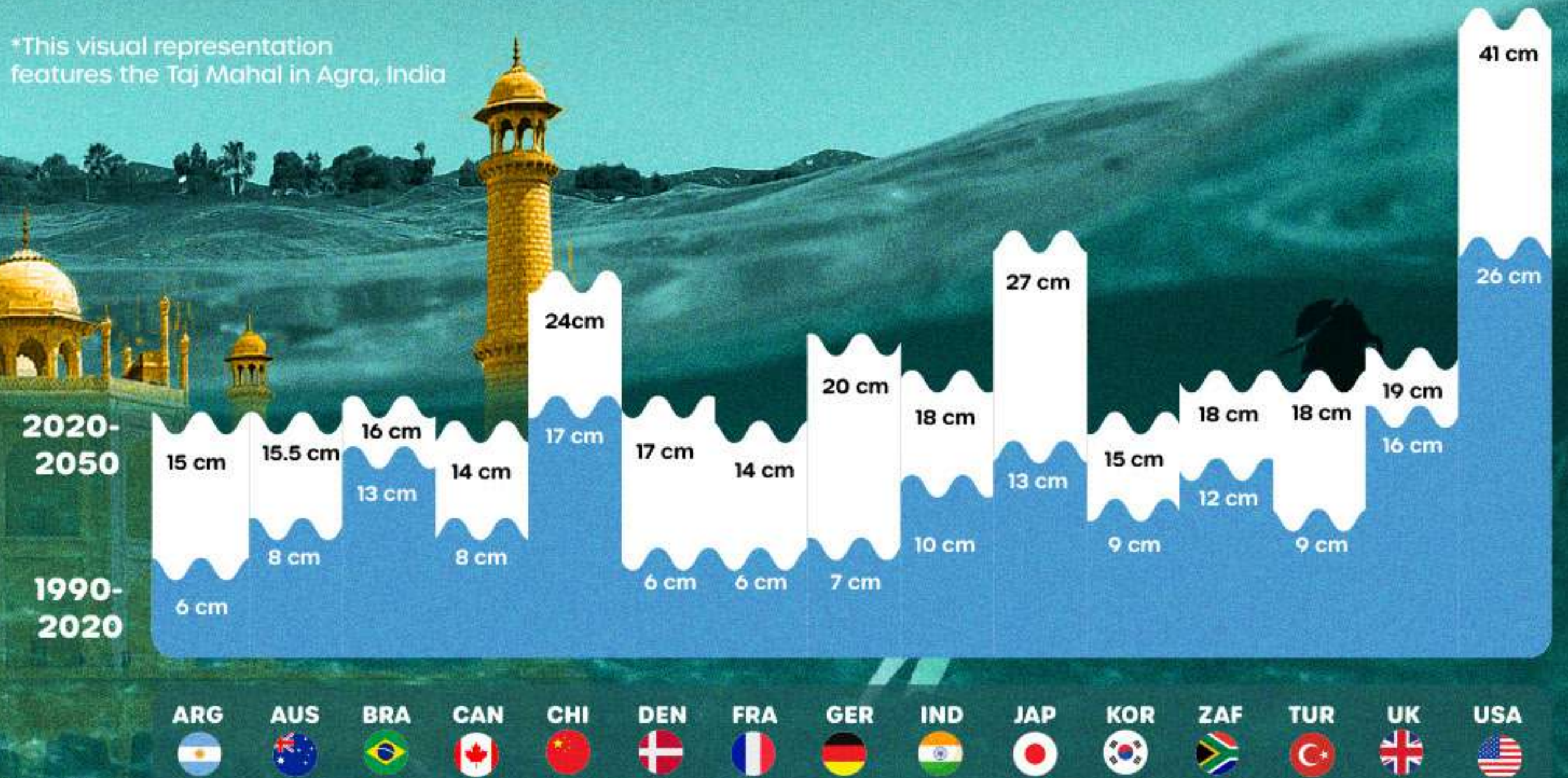
Inevitable scenario: Between 0.7 and 1.1 meters by 2300, even with emission reductions.

SEA-LEVEL RISE

With increased flooding and coastal erosion, major coastal megacities (for example: New York City, Shanghai, Mumbai) could see SLR of over 20 cm by 2050.

PROJECTIONS BY LOCATION

*This visual representation features the Taj Mahal in Agra, India



Observed (1990-2020) and Projected (2020-2050) Sea-level rise by Location

DON'T LET THE TIDE WASH AWAY THIS INFORMATION

A **1.5°C warming limit is critical**, the world **must transition away from fossil fuels**, enhance coastal defenses, and invest in resilient infrastructure.

As of 2021, **no new coal mines** and coal plants, and **no new upstream oil and gas projects**.

Cutting global fossil fuel production and consumption by **at least 30%, by 2030. And by 2035, 40%, relative to 2019 levels.**

Phasing out unabated coal power by 2030, in advanced economies. And by 2040, worldwide.

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS:

Countries should develop and implement adaptation plans that prepare and manage the impacts of sea-level rise, with a focus on protecting populations and coastal infrastructure.

Countries are expected to set a new **collective financial goal to replace the \$100 billion target.**

Finance is critical to implement ambitious mitigation actions and enhanced adaptation measures. Countries must deliver outcomes that build trust and confidence, catalyze the trillions of dollars needed, and **generate momentum for reform of the international finance architecture.**

Long-term global warming is closely proportional to cumulative net CO2 emissions from human activities:

As of January 2024, the remaining global carbon budget for limiting **long-term warming to 1.5°C with a 50% chance was approximately 200 GtCO2;**

In 2023, global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels **reached a record high of 37 GtCO2, and a total of 41 GtCO2** when also accounting for net land-use emissions;

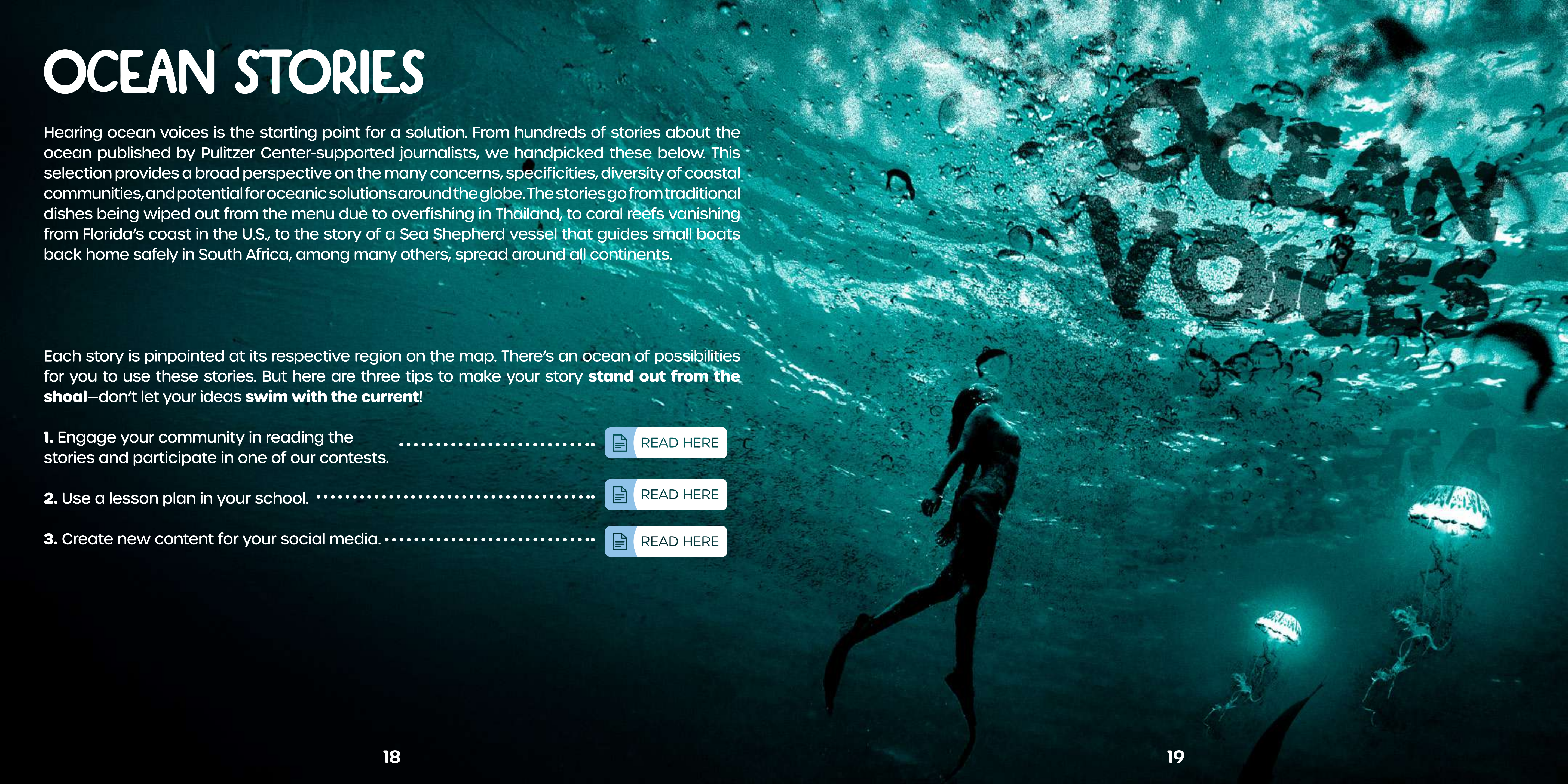
At this current level, the remaining carbon budget will be depleted in approximately five years from now.

OCEAN STORIES

Hearing ocean voices is the starting point for a solution. From hundreds of stories about the ocean published by Pulitzer Center-supported journalists, we handpicked these below. This selection provides a broad perspective on the many concerns, specificities, diversity of coastal communities, and potential for oceanic solutions around the globe. The stories go from traditional dishes being wiped out from the menu due to overfishing in Thailand, to coral reefs vanishing from Florida's coast in the U.S., to the story of a Sea Shepherd vessel that guides small boats back home safely in South Africa, among many others, spread around all continents.

Each story is pinpointed at its respective region on the map. There's an ocean of possibilities for you to use these stories. But here are three tips to make your story **stand out from the shoal**—don't let your ideas **swim with the current!**

- 1. Engage your community in reading the stories and participate in one of our contests. [READ HERE](#)
- 2. Use a lesson plan in your school. [READ HERE](#)
- 3. Create new content for your social media. [READ HERE](#)





For better navigation on this map
Click on the pin to see the information, and right after,
click on the "X" to close it before opening another pin.



SPECIAL CONTENT

We selected **five of our #OceanStories**, from different parts of the world, and made a partnership with **five local content creators** to interview an ocean voice connected to each story and re-tell them in a social media format.

Below you can find the final results, posted by each creator in collaboration with **@pulitzercenter's Instagram account**.

5 OCEAN STORIES YOU CAN'T MISS



Southeast Asia

Thai Mackerel Might Be Wiped Off the Menu, but Why?

Aidan Jones

READ THE STORY

Latin America

PRODUCE Issued Irregular Permits To Export More Than 24 Tons of Shark Fins

Magali Estrada Astiquipan

READ THE STORY

Africa

The Shepherd of the Sea Guiding Small Boats Home to Safety in South Africa

Barry Christianson

READ THE STORY

North America

Florida's Reefs Are Vanishing. Can Scientists Save Them?

Benji Jones

READ THE STORY

Europe

The ocean's invisible pollutants

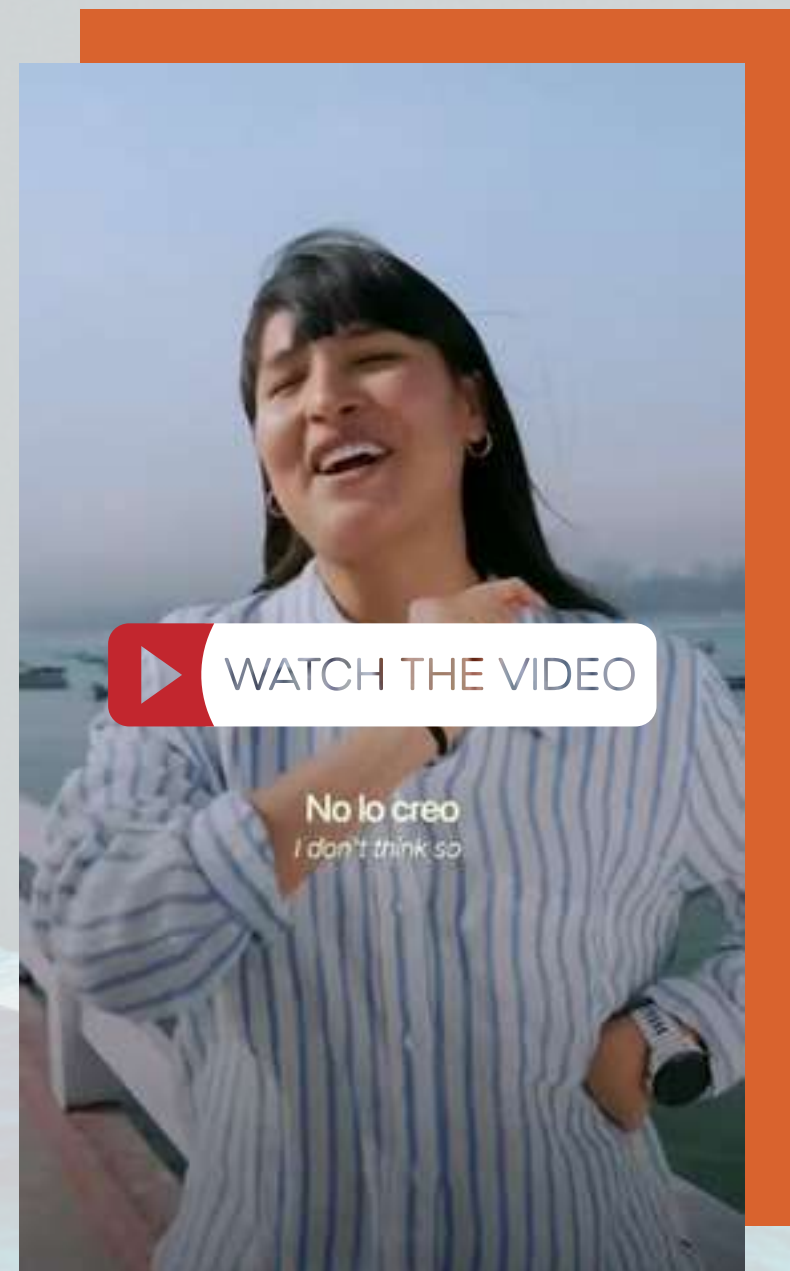
Aryn Baker

READ THE STORY



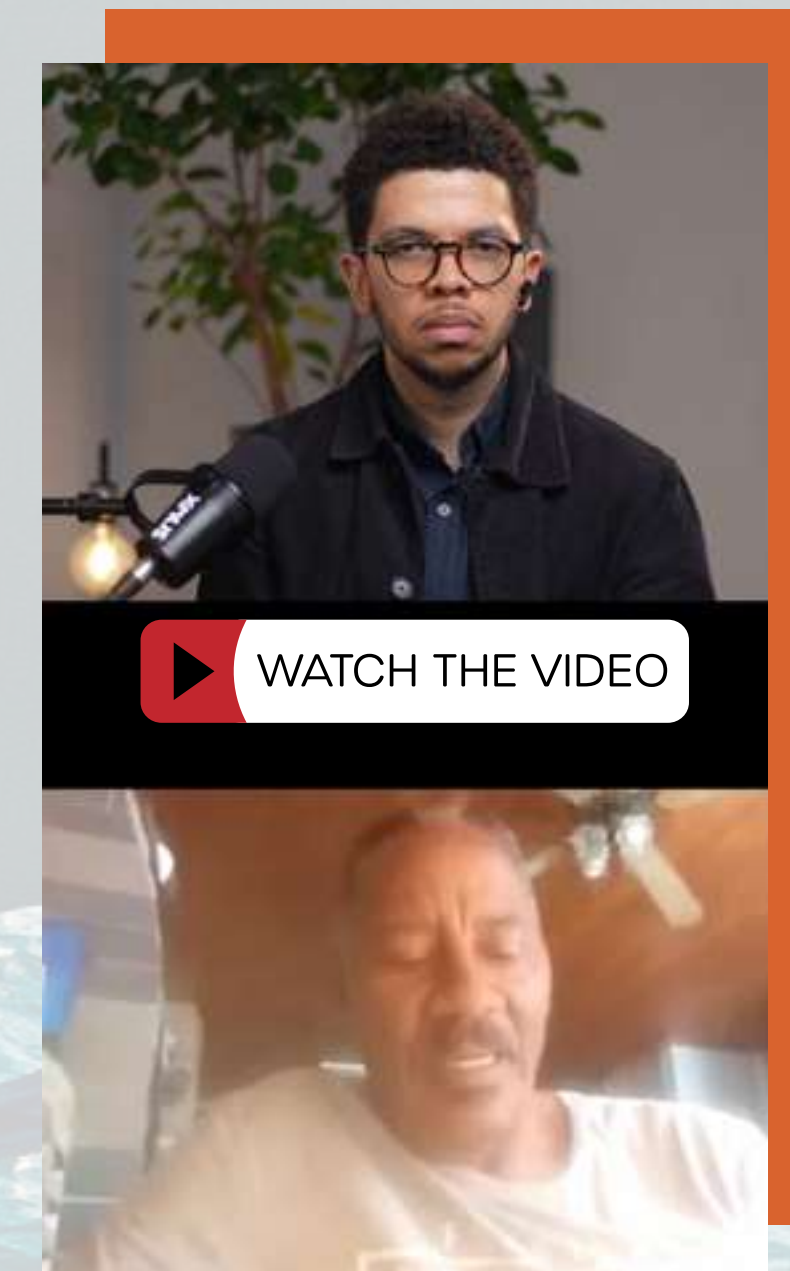
WATCH THE VIDEO

Palakorn Aungkasit



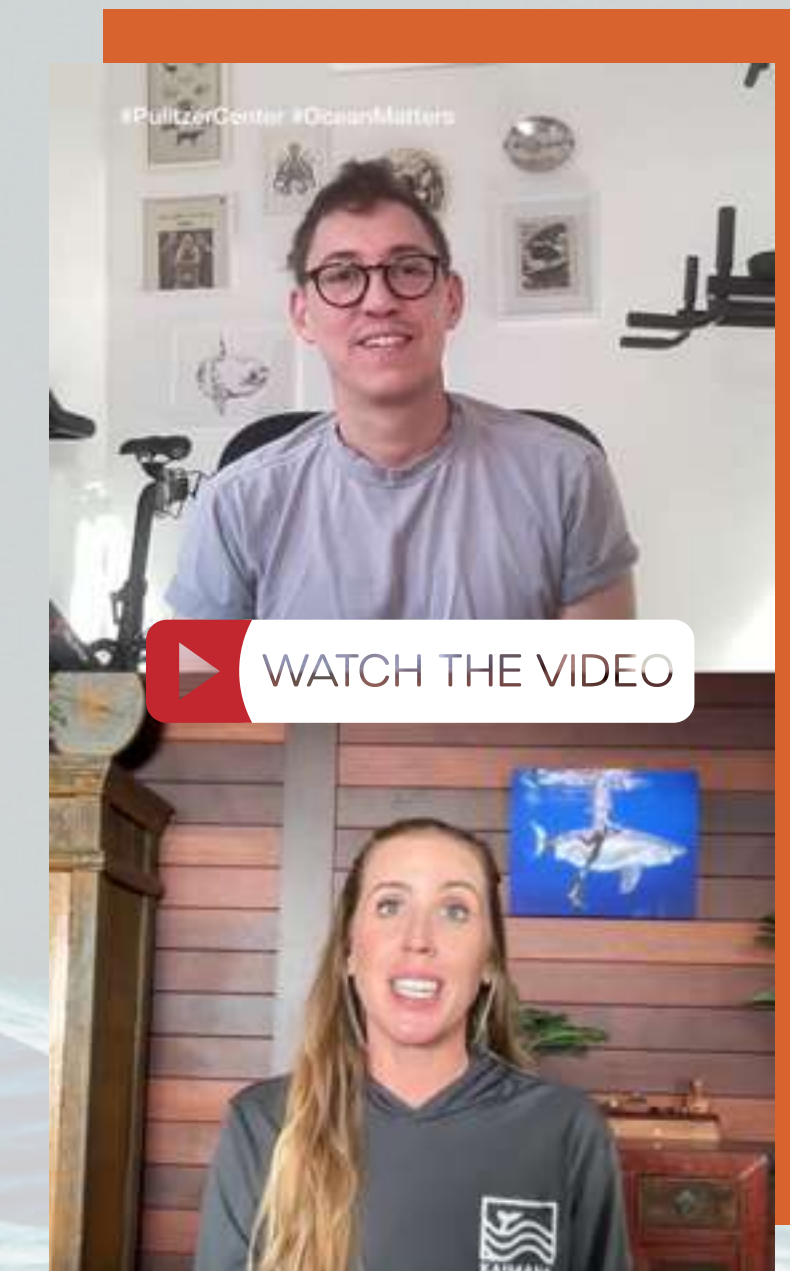
WATCH THE VIDEO

Alessandra Yupanqui



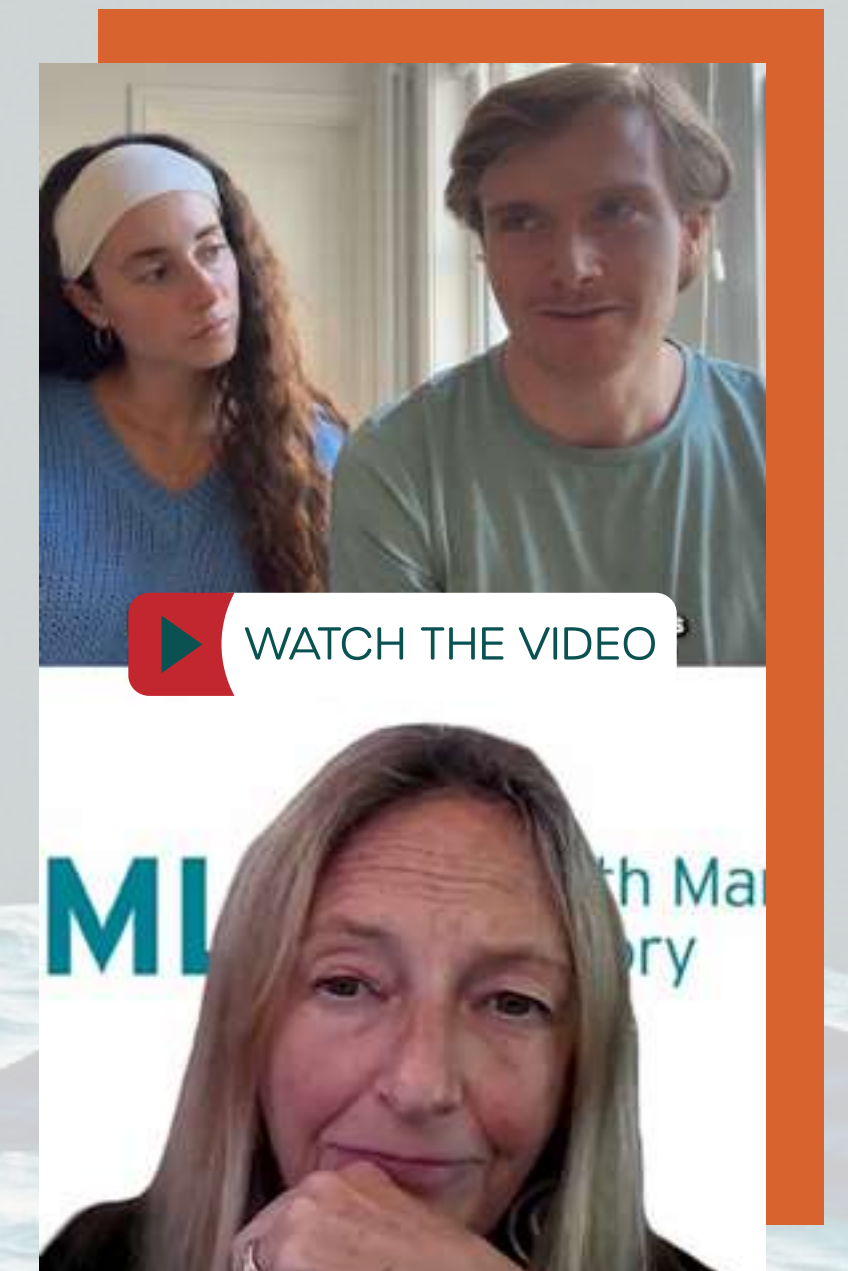
WATCH THE VIDEO

Sizwe Mpofu Walsh



WATCH THE VIDEO

Kayleigh Nicole Grant



WATCH THE VIDEO

Going Green Media

SAILING THROUGH NARRATIVE WATERS

A surreal ocean scene. In the foreground, a large blue and white ship is being pulled by a massive orange octopus. A goldfish wearing a black hat and a blue leash floats in the air. A person in a hat stands on a large rock, holding a fishing rod. In the background, a lighthouse sits on a rocky island under a sunset sky with seagulls. A large striped shell is on the right, and a goldfish with a black hat is in the bottom right corner.

This chapter is a sort of shipyard: Here you can find many tools and tips to build a strong ship, fortified enough to navigate through the multiple narratives, topics, and perspectives – and storms! – related to ocean reporting and ocean engagement.

You'll find useful links, lots of resources, important data from audience research, insights on how to think of strategic approaches to broaden your audiences, and more.

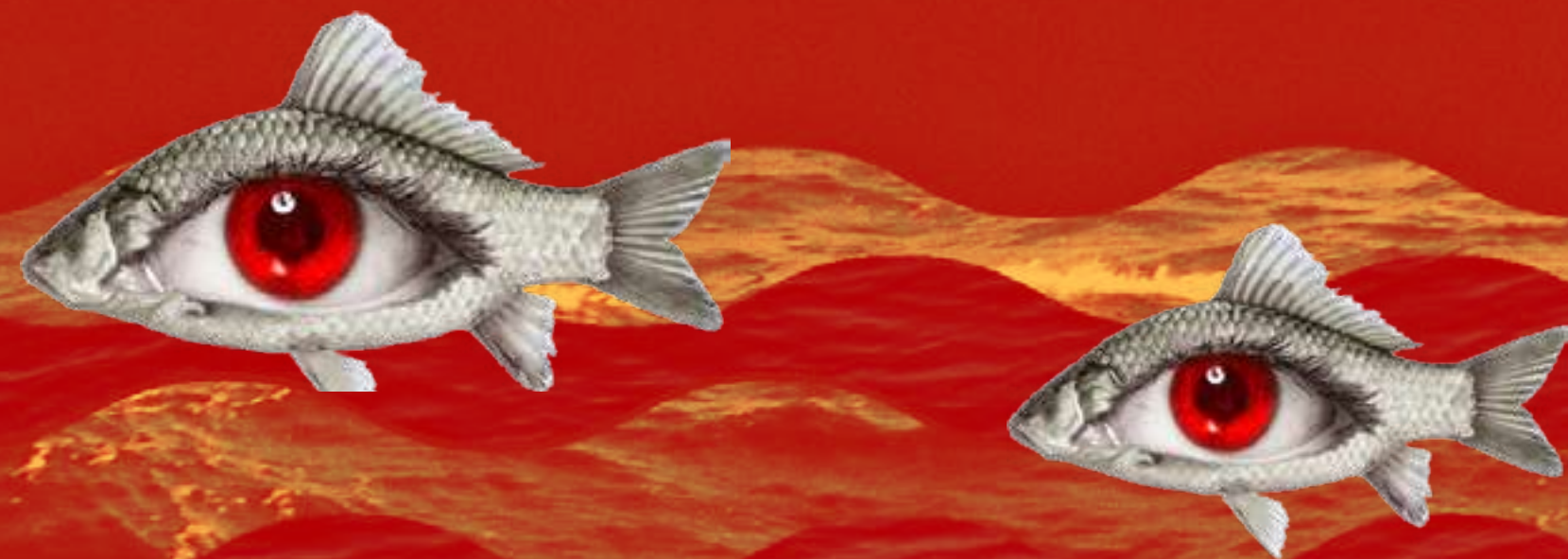
FIRST THINGS FIRST, DROP THE S: OCEAN, NOT OCEANS

Maybe you have already noticed that, since the beginning of this Ocean Media Kit, we have been using ocean, in singular – not oceans, in the plural. That’s intentional, and it’s part of a global campaign for ocean literacy called “Drop the S,” led by UNESCO. As small as this change is, it shifts a huge paradigm about the non-separability of the world’s waters.

“Dropping the S,” according to UNESCO, is the first main principle of ocean literacy. It means acknowledging that Earth has one big ocean with many features. The different “oceans” as we know it are “all part of one interconnected circulation system powered by winds, tides, the force of the Earth’s rotation, the sun, and water density differences that moves energy, matter, and organisms around the globe. Although the ocean is large, it is finite and its resources are limited.” The separation of the “oceans” creates the illusion that your actions here won’t have an impact there.

And, ultimately, that interconnectedness is at the root of our duty as environmental journalists and communicators, right? Reporting on many different fragments of our biosphere and, at the same time, emphasizing all the fragments as part of a whole: one ocean, one land, one planet. So we encourage you to join this movement: Drop the S and talk about the ocean as a whole.

Discover UNESCO’s toolkit for ocean literacy:



NARRATIVE APPROACHES: A NAVIGATION MAP

This section is based on the study “Ocean Reporting Study: “Making Waves – Reflecting the Current State of Ocean Reporting and Exploring Opportunities for Better Storytelling”. It was developed by the Pulitzer Center’s Ocean Reporting Network to help underpin its editorial initiative and contribute to more impactful ocean story-telling. The study also aims to establish a knowledge base to guide the organization’s priorities regarding ocean coverage by exploring gaps, underrepresented voices, and opportunities to increase public awareness.

Discover Making Waves report:

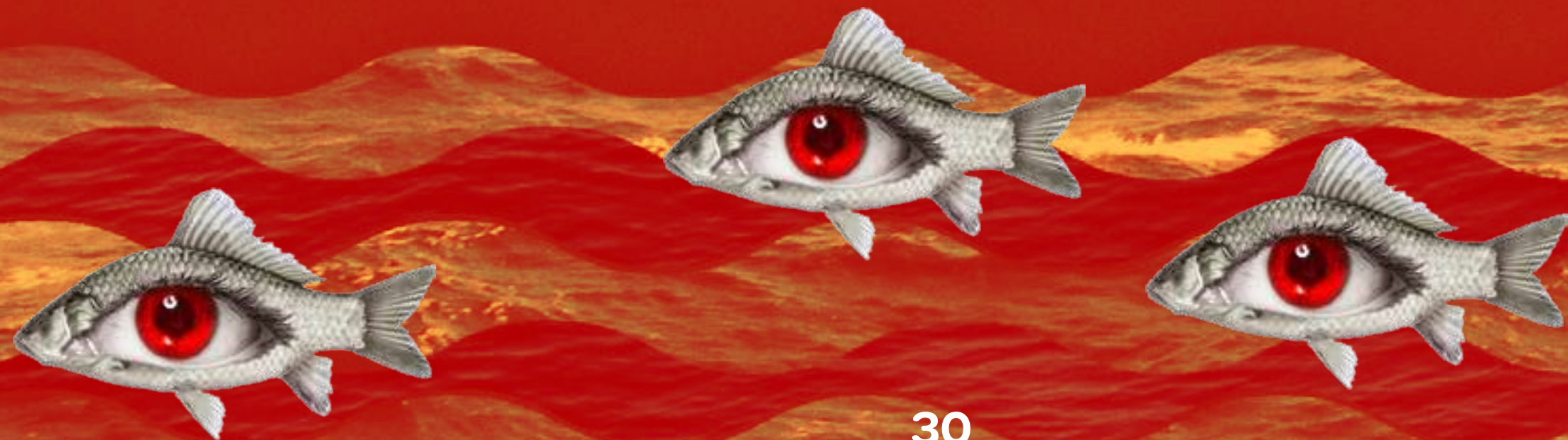


WHY TALK ABOUT THE OCEAN?

Here are five aspects that connect the ocean with people's lives:

- 1 The ocean is the **largest carbon sink on the planet**. The health of the ocean is essential for the planet's environmental and climate balance.
- 2 The ocean is **intrinsically linked to climate change, both as a victim and part of the solution**. Mitigating the impacts of climate change requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation strategies, such as restoring coastal ecosystems to protect against erosion and sea-level rise.
- 3 Ensuring social justice and equity in the management and conservation of ocean resources is essential to protect human rights and promote more sustainable economic measures. **The ocean plays a central role in issues of justice and equity**, especially for coastal communities and vulnerable populations who depend on marine resources for subsistence and sustenance. Ocean pollution and degradation can harm food security and the livelihoods of communities that rely on fishing and coastal tourism.

This section is based on the study Ocean Reporting Study: "Making Waves – Reflecting the Current State of Ocean Reporting and Exploring Opportunities for Better Storytelling."



- 4 Ocean health is directly linked to human health, as it provides a vital source of food and nutrients. **Its degradation can threaten food security and safe working conditions for those who depend on it for their livelihoods**. The global economy relies on the ocean's capacity to provide natural resources, food, energy, and employment opportunities for millions of people around the world.
- 5 Coastal communities are closely linked to the ocean and depend on the ecosystem resources and services it provides for sustenance, economy, and culture. Therefore, **integrated and holistic approaches are necessary to protect and strengthen the resilience of coastal communities, considering their interconnectedness with different aspects of sustainability such as economy, health, food security, and culture**.

Need more inspiration? Check out our **Making Waves** report!

 [READ HERE](#)



DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

HERE ARE SOME AUDIENCES YOU **COULD** ENGAGE AND **TARGET** YOUR REPORT TOWARDS

Decision-makers and Policymakers	Policy Impact Stories: Focus on how ocean policies affect ecosystems, economies, and communities. Highlight successful case studies where policy changes led to positive outcomes.
	Investigative Reports: Expose malpractices, corruption, or inefficiencies in ocean governance and suggest actionable policy recommendations.
Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples	Community-Centric Narratives: Share stories about how ocean health directly impacts local livelihoods, culture, and traditions.
	Empowerment Stories: Cover initiatives where communities have successfully managed their marine resources or protected their coastal environments.
Consumers and the General Public	Relatable Impact Stories: Explain how ocean issues affect everyday life, such as food security, weather patterns, and recreation.
	Actionable Content: Provide practical tips on how individuals can contribute to ocean conservation through lifestyle choices.

Business and Industry Leaders	Sustainability Success Stories: Report on companies that have implemented sustainable practices and seen economic benefits.
	Industry Challenges: Discuss the long-term risks to industries like fishing, shipping, and tourism if ocean degradation continues.
Youth and Activists	Inspirational Stories: Highlight young activists making a difference in ocean conservation to inspire others.
	Educational Content: Develop stories that inform about ocean science and the importance of biodiversity, tailored to engage younger audiences.
Scientists, NGOs, and International Organizations	Research Highlights: Translate complex scientific research into digestible stories that showcase the latest findings and their implications.
	Collaboration Spotlights: Feature partnerships between organizations spotlighting innovative solutions for ocean-related challenges.
Media and Journalists	Behind-the-Scenes Insights: Share the process of investigative journalism in ocean reporting, including challenges and successes.
	Peer Learning: Create content that helps journalists learn from each other's experiences and best practices in covering ocean stories.

Table originally designed by Grazielle Tagliamento as part of the Making Waves report.

 [READ HERE](#)

WHAT WILL MAKE YOUR STORY GREAT FOR THE OCEAN?

Solutions-oriented reporting

"Stories focusing on successful conservation efforts, sustainable practices, and positive actions can inspire hope and provide a roadmap for change."

"Personal stories showing how individuals and communities are affected by ocean issues can create an emotional connection and make the topic more real and relatable."

Investigative journalism

"In-depth reporting that uncovers new information or brings to light underreported aspects of ocean conservation can pique public interest and elicit positive reaction."

"Compelling imagery, videos, and infographics can make complex topics more accessible and engaging, especially for audiences that may not be reached through traditional written reports."

Human interest & local impact

Visual Storytelling

Ocean health & climate change

"Linking ocean health and broader environmental issues like climate change can help people understand the relevance of marine conservation to their own lives."

"Informative pieces that increase ocean literacy and explain the significance of the ocean to global health and climate regulation can help build a more knowledgeable audience."

Actionable information

"Reporting that shows examples of what individuals and communities can do to contribute to ocean sustainability can empower audiences to take action."

"Connecting global ocean issues to local impacts can make them more relatable and show how they affect everyone, not just those living near the coast."

Educational content

Localizing stories



THE MOST PRESSING OCEAN PROBLEMS: AN OVERVIEW

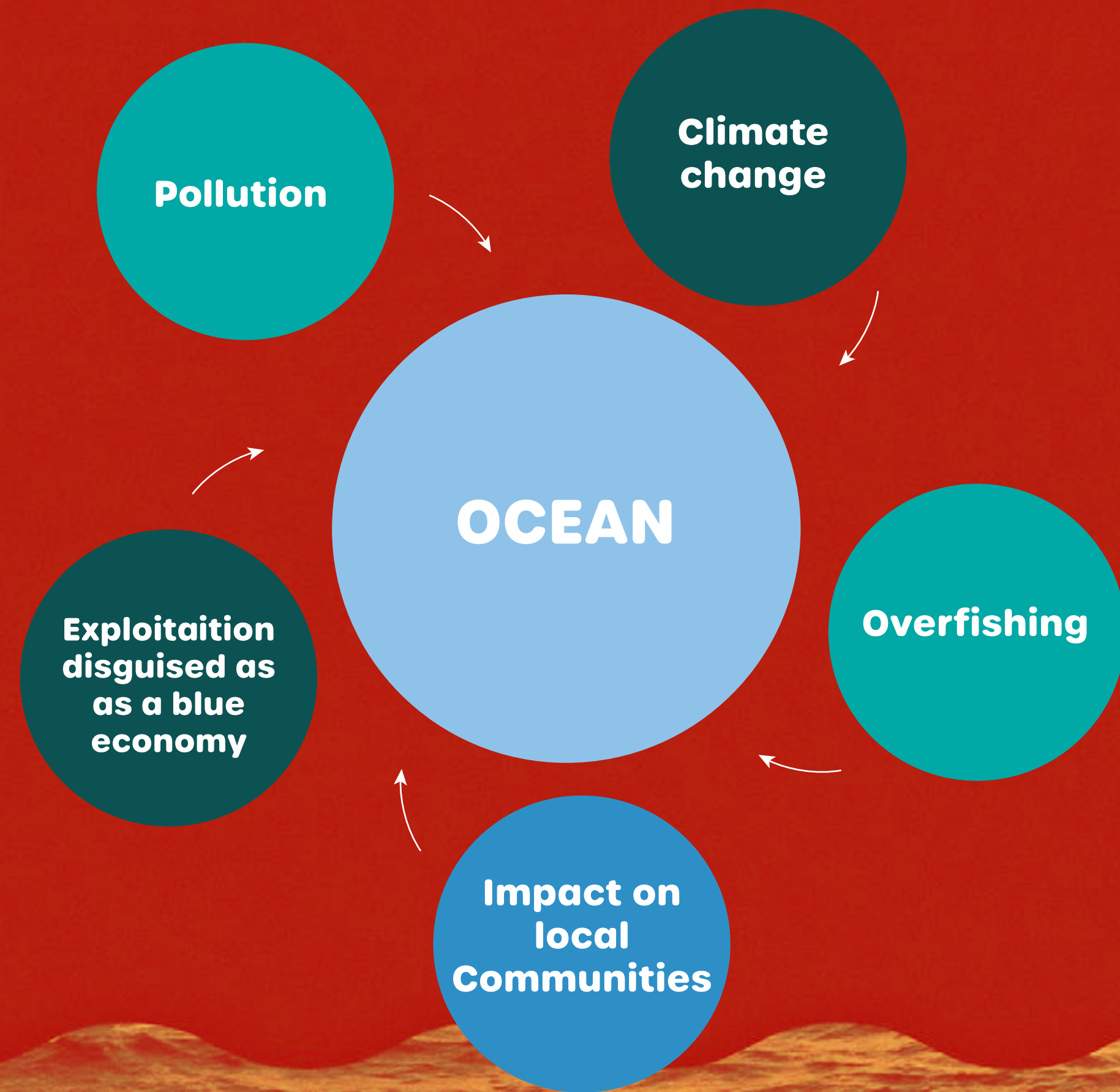


Table originally designed by Grazielle Tagliamento as part of the Making Waves report.

[READ HERE](#)

TOOLS FOR NAVIGATION

Based on a previously published toolkit about ocean reporting, we gathered here a lot of useful links and tips to address many different necessities when reporting **#oceanmatters**

I - USE SATELLITE IMAGERY TO GET A BETTER PICTURE OF THE SITUATION!

Global Fishing Watch - Uses satellite imagery to detect fishing activities. It also has a special feature for monitoring marine reserves. Pin vessels to track their movements and view historical transmissions. Tutorial:

[READ](#)

Orbital EOS - This platform allows you to track oil spills in the ocean.

[READ](#)

Visualization tools | CMEMS - To find images from Landsat to Sentinel. The best images for Earth Observation are Sentinel II and Sentinel III.

[READ](#)

Sea ice products | OSI SAF- Sea ice data.

[READ](#)



2 - TO KEEP ON TRACK! GET TO KNOW THE VESSELS' OWNERSHIP!

Equasis - A free account allows you to see which company owns a boat.



FleetMon - With over half a million vessel photos provided by more than 800 active photographers around the globe, FleetMon is one of the world's largest shipping photography communities.



VesselFinder - A free AIS vessel-tracking web site. Displays real-time ship positions and marine traffic detected by global AIS network.



MyShipTracking - A free real-time AIS vessel-finder tracking service.



AISHub - Central hub for raw NMEA AIS data sharing.



*AIS stands for Automatic Identification System.

3 - DISCOVER ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (IUU FISHING)

Combined IUU Vessel lists - Up-to-date information on all fishing and related vessels that appear on the illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing vessel lists.



Carrier Vessel Portal - Tracks ship movement from Global Fishing Watch.



Fish-I Africa - Intergovernmental initiative to track fishing in East Africa.



HOW TO INVESTIGATE IUU FISHING?

Don't know how to start your investigation? The Pulitzer Center's Fernanda Buffa and Alexandra Waddell have some tips for you. Click the Link



4- FOLLOW THE MONEY (AND THE SUPPLY CHAINS)!

FAOstat - Data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.



OpenCorporates - Data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.



ENCORE - Data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.



5- ACCESS LEGAL DATABASES

CITES Checklist of Species - Data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.



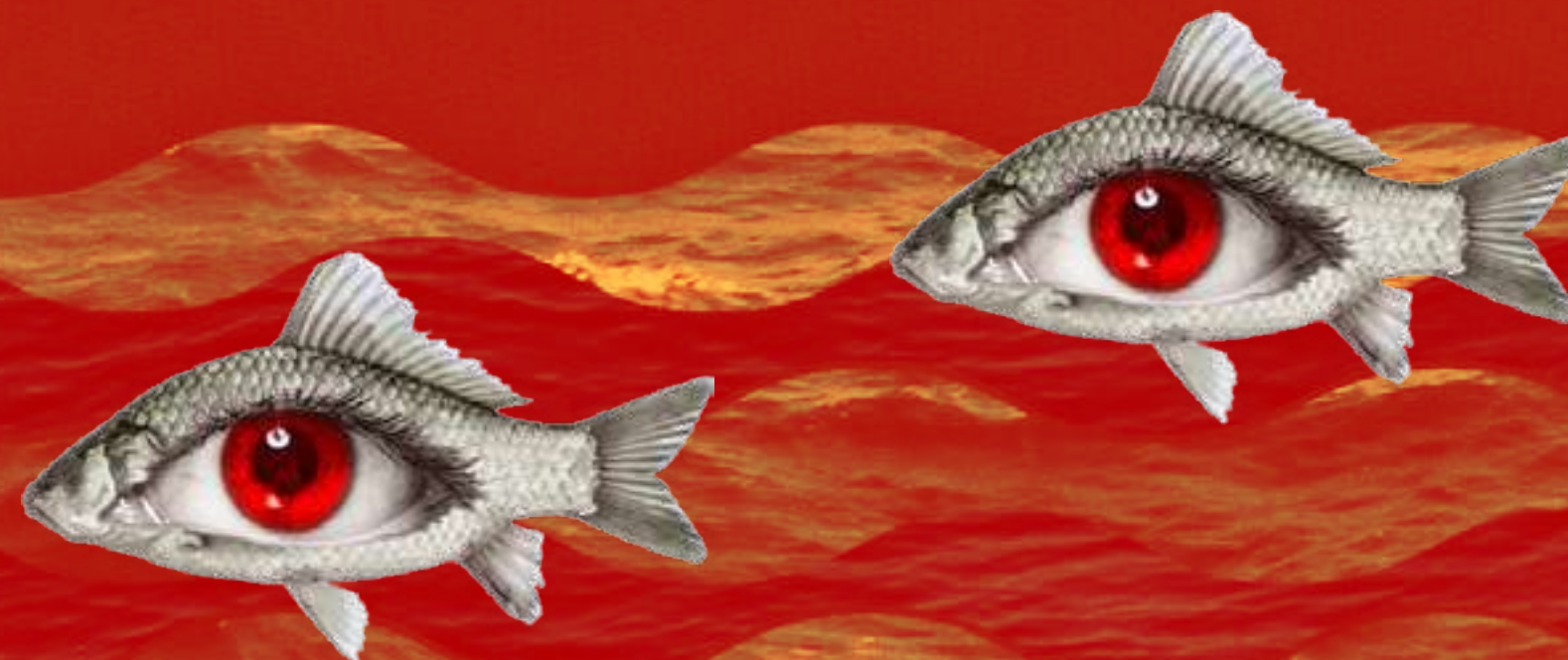
EDGAR - The Security Exchanges Commission in the U.S. keeps a database of all filings about companies.



PACER - A database of all federal court filings in the U.S. Needs an account and pay per file.



Court Listener/ RECAP - If you have a PACER account, this add-on shows you which files have already been downloaded by RECAP members and are accessible for free.



6. GET FREE ACADEMIC DATABASE!

There are both free and paid academic journals and databases available. Here, we will list the free resources.

Sci-Hub - Free access to 85 million scientific papers



Ocean Science Journal - Research articles, short communications, and review papers on all aspects of ocean science.



Ocean and Coastal Law Journal - Dedicated to facilitating discourse on legal issues related to domestic and international use of the sea and seashores.



ICES Journal of Marine Science - Oxford Academic - Peer-reviewed scientific journal covering oceanography and marine biology.



7. DON'T GET LOST IN THE SEA OF INFORMATION! HERE'S SOME ADDITIONAL REPORTING GUIDES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE BETTER!

A Journalist's Guide to Reporting on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing from the Earth Journalism Network



A guide for open data journalists on tracking illegal fishing from Techjournalist on Medium



How AI is tracking illegal fishing vessels on the high seas from TechMonitor



How illegal fishing is being tracked from space from National Geographic



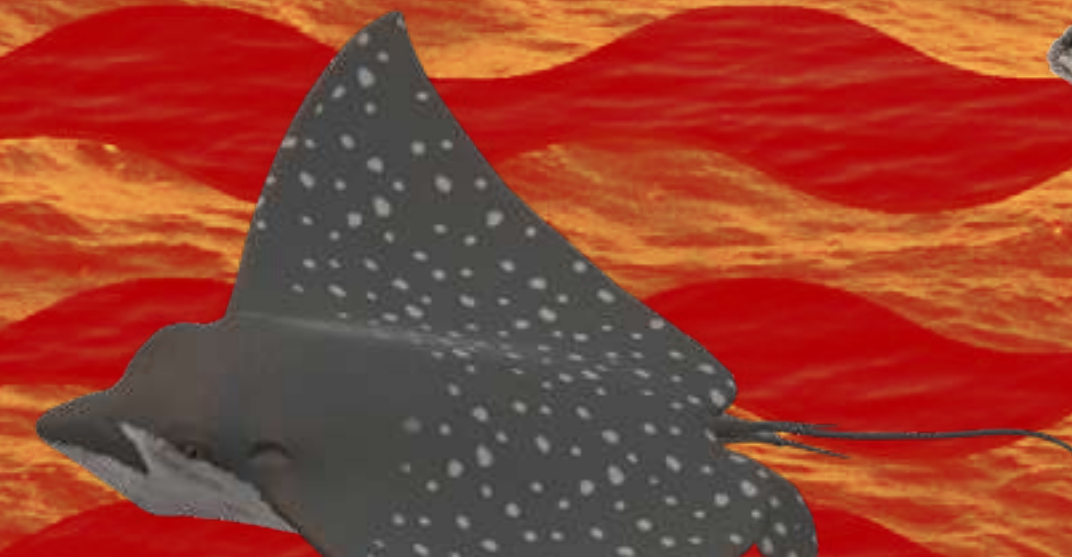
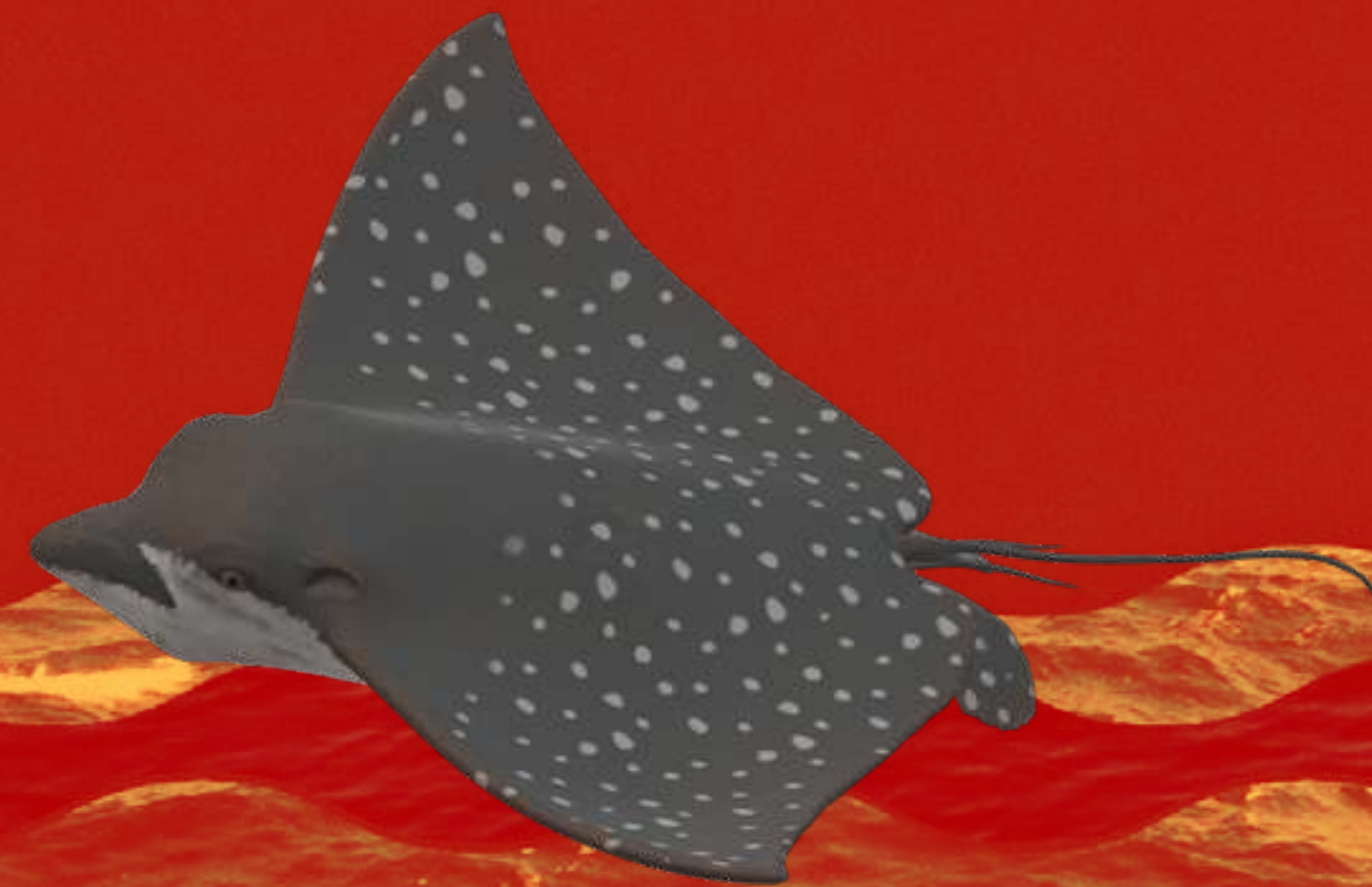
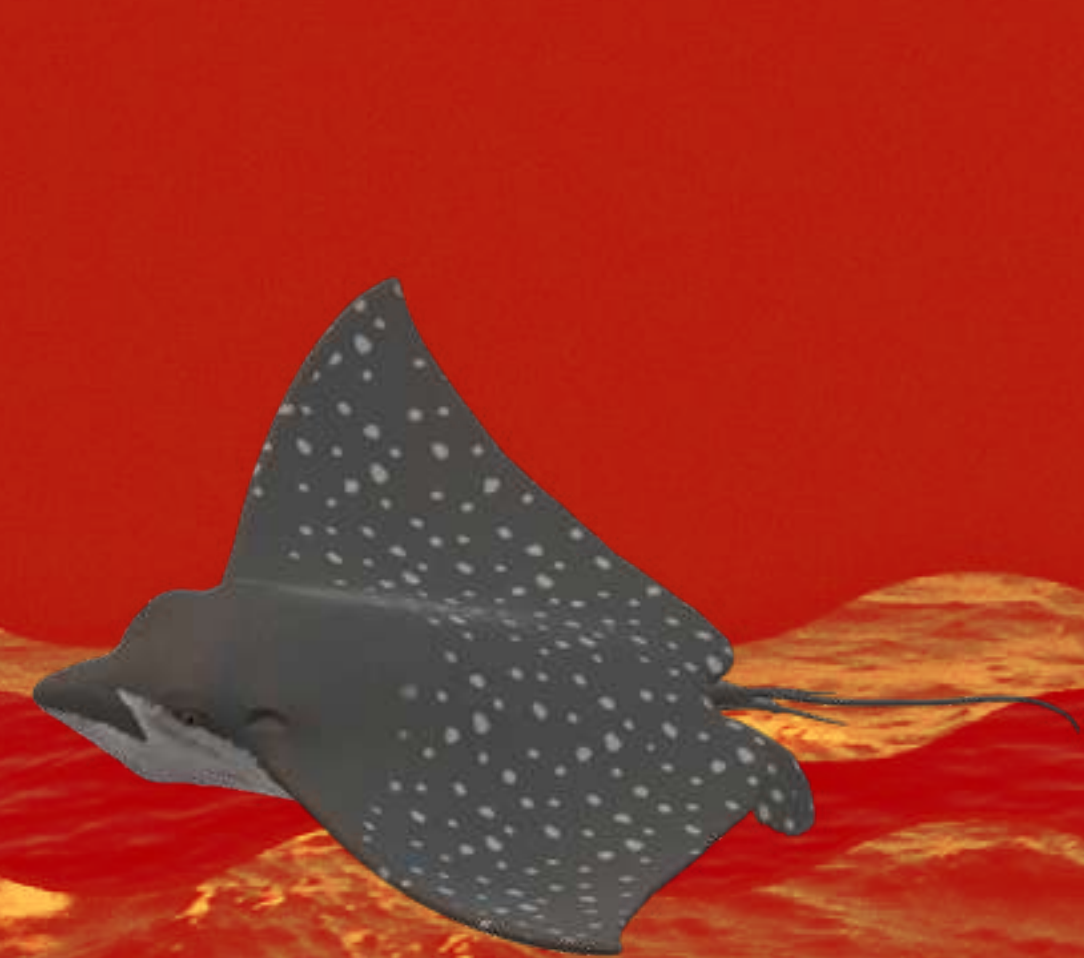
8- STORYTELLER SAILORS UNITE! BE PART OF OCEAN REPORTING NETWORK

We encourage experienced journalists—freelancers or on-staff—with a proven track record of environmental investigations and a solid understanding of ocean issues to apply. The full-time, yearlong Fellowships will cover a reporter's salary and provide additional support for the media outlet that employs the journalist (if on staff), or that agrees to host the Fellow (if a freelancer). Fellows are expected to devote a full year to their ocean investigation and to publish regularly.

They will receive training and data, communication, research, and coordination support from the Pulitzer Center. They will work closely with their co-Fellows worldwide, benefiting from one another's skills and diverse perspectives. We've also prepared information for newsrooms interested in [hosting a Fellow](#). The ORN is supported by the [Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation \(NORAD\)](#).

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to be notified when applications will be open!

Check out our Ocean and Fisheries Reporting Grant!





COMMUNITIES

Along these years of extensive ocean reporting by our grantees, we managed to build a mailing list of specialists, researchers, institutions, organizations, local communities, and many other ocean actors, in many different fields, topics, and locations of the world. In this section, we provide a list of possible sources for your next story, curated from the ocean tab on the Pulitzer Center website.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN OCEAN REPORTING: A QUICK-GUIDE FOR INNOVATION AND IMPACT

Here you'll find **four inspiring ideas** from around the world to help you engage your community in ocean issues. Each example is designed to be easily adaptable, allowing you to replicate and tailor these activities to your own community's needs.

1

OCEAN LETTER CONTEST: AMPLIFY LOCAL VOICES FOR REGIONAL IMPACT

The Ocean Letter Contest is a powerful way for young people to engage with ocean issues by putting their thoughts and solutions into words. This activity promotes global citizenship, civic engagement, and persuasive writing skills, inviting young people to voice their perspectives on ocean conservation and climate action.

This contest encourages young audiences to write letters to their communities, bringing these important stories to the table to be read, discussed, and explored for actionable solutions. Consider organizing a similar contest in your community or joining our next Ocean Letter Contest with the Pulitzer Center.



2

“THINK FOR YOUR SUPPER” – HOSTING AN OCEAN CONSERVATION DINNER

In an innovative approach to discussing marine species decline, “Think for Your Supper” is an immersive dinner event that explores the story of Thailand’s vanishing longtail tuna, a fish beloved across Thai society. At this gathering, guests discuss climate change and overfishing while enjoying a traditional meal. This initiative, inspired by Pulitzer Center-supported journalism, helps attendees understand how their choices impact their nation’s marine life and broader ecosystems.



3

LESSON PLAN: “ENVIRONMENT REDEFINED” – CONNECTING GLOBAL CLIMATE ISSUES LOCALLY

This lesson plan guides students in exploring climate change through diverse media formats, helping them analyze its impacts on people, communities, and ecosystems globally. It encourages learners to draw local connections and consider how similar issues affect their own surroundings.

This adaptable resource is perfect for schools and community organizations interested in educating young people about environmental stewardship. Integrating global perspectives with local insights can deepen students’ understanding and empower them to advocate for sustainable practices in their own lives.



4

MULTI STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES: MANAGING MARINE RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITIES AND CLIMATE

Facilitated by the Pulitzer Center’s “Interconnected” series, these dialogues bring together journalists, policymakers, activists, and affected communities to discuss industrial fishing, overfishing, and the resilience of coastal populations. By hosting such conversations, participants can address the health of marine ecosystems, explore responsible management strategies, and learn about alternative models for sustainable fishing practices.

Consider organizing a similar forum or panel in your community to discuss local ocean-related issues. These conversations can build awareness, foster collaboration, and create actionable plans to protect marine environments.



ORGANISATIONS MENTIONED IN OUR STORIES

AFRICA



Ghana

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The Nature Conservancy



Clean Arctic Alliance



Clean Cape Fear



Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations



Fishery Friendly Climate Action Campaign



Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution



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Kwik'pak Fisheries



Yukon River Towing



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak



Bonaire

STINAPA



Jamaica

Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM)



GLOSSARY



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DON'T GET LOST IN TRANSLATION

Learning the terminology is an important step in understanding the entire material.

Here, we present a concise glossary with main concepts to start navigating ocean-related technical terms for journalists and communicators. These key technical concepts are divided in categories like: climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, and fishing.

You may be familiar with some terms, and not that familiar with others. The purpose here is to help you expand your repertoire and choose your wording with more precision when it comes to ocean storytelling.

POLLUTION

Chemical Pollution: Runoff from agricultural activities, industrial discharges, and oil spills contaminating the ocean.

Marine Debris: Trash and waste, including metals, glass, rubber, and discarded fishing materials accumulating in the ocean, affecting marine habitats.

Nutrient Pollution: Excess nutrients from fertilizers, leading to algal blooms and dead zones.

Plastic Pollution: Discarded plastic waste, including microplastics, harming marine life and ecosystems.

FISHING

Bycatch: Incidental capture of non-target species, leading to the decline of vulnerable species such as sea turtles, dolphins, and sharks.

Destructive Fishing Practices: Techniques like bottom trawling damage marine habitats such as coral reefs and seagrass beds.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing: Fishing activities carried out outside regulations, contributing to the overexploitation of fishery resources.

Overfishing: Fishing above appropriate catch limits has a detrimental effect on fish populations and ocean wildlife.

HABITAT DESTRUCTION

Coral Reef Degradation: Damage caused by pollution, overfishing, and climate change leads to the decline of coral reef ecosystems.

Destruction of Mangroves and Seagrass: Removal for coastal development and aquaculture contributing to the loss of essential habitats and coastal erosion.

Loss of Wetlands: Reclamation for urban development, reducing storm protection, and creating a hostile environment for the survival of many species.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Antarctic Ice Sheet: The largest ice sheet in the world, covering Antarctica. Like Greenland, its melting contributes to rising sea levels.

AR6 (Sixth Assessment Report): The latest comprehensive report by the IPCC on climate change, published in 2021, which includes data on sea-level rise and projections for future impacts.

Coastal Flooding: The inundation of coastal areas by sea water, made more frequent and severe by rising sea levels.

Glaciers and Ice Sheets: Large masses of ice on land that store freshwater. Their melting due to rising temperatures contributes significantly to SLR.

Global Carbon Budget: The maximum amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted while limiting global warming to a specific temperature target, such as 1.5°C or 2°C.

Greenland Ice Sheet: One of the largest ice sheets in the world, covering Greenland. It is a major contributor to sea-level rise due to its melting.

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs): Gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, contributing to global warming.

IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change): A United Nations body that assesses science related to climate change, its impacts, and possible adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Net-Zero Emissions: A state where the amount of greenhouse gases emitted is balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere, which is necessary to stabilize global temperatures and reduce future SLR.

Ocean Acidification: Absorption of excess atmospheric carbon dioxide leading to acidification, impacting marine life with calcium carbonate shells.

Ocean Warming: Rising temperatures affecting marine biodiversity, migration patterns, and coral bleaching events.

SSP (Shared Socioeconomic Pathways): Scenarios used by the IPCC to project future greenhouse gas emissions and their impacts on global warming and SLR.

SLR (Sea-Level Rise): The increase in the global mean sea level due to factors such as the melting of land ice and the thermal expansion of seawater.

Storm Surges: Abnormal rises in sea level caused by storms, exacerbated by higher baseline sea levels due to SLR.

Subsidence: The sinking of land, often exacerbated by human activities like groundwater extraction, which can amplify the impacts of SLR on coastal regions.

Thermal Expansion: The increase in volume of seawater as it warms, which contributes to sea-level rise.

Tipping Points: Critical thresholds in the climate system, beyond which significant and often irreversible changes occur, such as rapid ice-sheet melting.

POLITICAL-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): The overarching international legal framework for regulating activities in ABNJ is provided in UNCLOS, where ABNJ comprises areas "beyond the limits of national jurisdictions, including 'High Seas' (water column beyond Exclusive Economic Zone or beyond the Territorial Sea if no EEZ has been declared) + 'Area' (seabed beyond the limits of the continental shelf)".

BBNJ Agreement (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction), or the High Seas Treaty: Addresses the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas outside national jurisdiction.



Blue Economy: The “sum of economic activities of ocean-based industries and the assets, goods and services of marine ecosystems”. Alternatively, the blue economy/ ocean economy refers to the ‘sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihood and jobs, and ocean ecosystem health’.

Blue Energy: All technologies to harvest the renewable energy of seas and oceans other than offshore wind, such as wave, tidal stream, tidal range, ocean thermal, or salinity gradient energy.

Blue Growth: The ‘long-term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole, recognizing the ocean as a driver for the European economy with great potential for innovation and growth’. Blue Growth is the European Commission’s initiative to further harness the potential of the ocean, seas, and coasts for jobs, value, and sustainability.

Community-Based Conservation: Recognizing and supporting local community-based conservation practices is essential to preventing injustices and ensuring the long-term sustainability of ocean resources.

Contiguous Zone: A zone contiguous to its territorial sea, where the coastal state may exercise the control necessary to prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration, or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory or territorial sea; and punish infringement of the above laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Agreement that aims to conserve biological diversity, promote the sustainable use of its components, and ensure the fair distribution of the benefits of genetic resources.

Exploitation Disguised the Blue Economy: The degradation of the ocean through industrial development that is often poorly supervised, including sectors such as

maritime transport, tourism, and energy; highlights the growing need to think about activities carried out across the ocean in a more sustainable way.

Financing for Ocean Conservation: The need for more financial resources dedicated to ocean conservation and the inclusion of ocean economics in discussions on climate finance; highlights the importance of economic aspects in protecting the ocean.

Good Environmental Status (GES): The ‘environmental status of marine waters where these provide an ecologically diverse and dynamic ocean and seas, which are clean, healthy, and productive within their intrinsic conditions, and the use of the marine environment is at a level that is sustainable, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations.

High Seas: ‘All parts of the sea that are not included in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the territorial sea or in the internal waters of a state, or in the archipelagic waters of an archipelagic state’.

Impact on Local Communities: Ocean degradation has significant impacts on coastal communities that directly depend on marine resources for livelihoods and cultural identity.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regulations: Establishes standards for the safety and environmental performance of international maritime transport.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): Designated areas where human activity is restricted to protect ecosystems and biodiversity.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): The “30x30” initiative to protect 30% of the land, fresh waters, and the ocean by 2030 receives good coverage due to its clear and focused objective, backed by broad public support for nature conservation.

Pacific Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS): A group of island nations in the Pacific that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of SLR, such as increased flooding and loss of land.



Paris Agreement: Although primarily focused on climate change, it has implications for ocean protection due to the interconnectedness of climate systems and ocean health.

Sea Basin Strategy: A 'structured framework of cooperation in relation to a given geographical area, developed by Union institutions, member states, their regions, and where countries share a sea basin; a sea basin strategy takes into account the geographic, climatic, economic, and political specificities of the sea basin'.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Specifically, SDG aims to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Territorial Sea: The sovereignty of a coastal state extends beyond its land territory and internal waters and, in the case of an archipelagic state, its archipelagic waters, to an adjacent belt of sea, described as the territorial sea.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): This convention sets guidelines for how nations use the world's seas and resources.

CREDITS

Concept & execution:
PULSO, Communication for Mobilization

PULSO Team

Executive Director: Mirela Adams
Creative Director: Gustavo Gustrava
Account Executive: Silvana Lemos
Project Manager: Marina Rainho
Planner & Researcher: Lui Machado
Copywriters: Caco Baptista, Lui Machado, Gustavo Gustrava
Designers: Raphael Newman, Luana Rossetto
Illustrator: Luana Rossetto
Video Editor: Victor Adams
Media Coordinator: Yasmin Reis

PULITZER Team

Contributors: Alonso Balbuena, Intan Febriani, Jonatan Rodriguez, Sarah Swan
Editors: Jessica Aldred, Lucy Crelli, Gustavo Faleiros, Dana Thompson





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