

DISCUSSION GUIDE



SPECIAL PREMIERE

O C E A N

*with*

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

JUNE 7

STREAM ON



This discussion guide is designed to encourage thoughtful reflection and conversation about “OCEAN with David Attenborough.” It covers three key themes: the ocean’s importance for life on earth, the impact of industrial fishing on marine life, and the benefits of marine protected areas (MPAs). This guide is organized into three acts based on the film’s structure, with questions aimed at deepening understanding and sparking meaningful dialogue.



# ACT 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OCEAN FOR OUR LIVES

## Opening Reflection

What were some of the most surprising or impactful facts you learned about the ocean in the first act of the film?

How did the film illustrate the ocean's role in supporting life on Earth, both for marine life and humans?

What new questions about the ocean did the film spark for you?

## Key Questions

### 1. Benefits of Marine Biodiversity to People

- The ocean plays a vital role in regulating climate, producing oxygen and supporting biodiversity. How did the film convey these essential functions? What stood out to you about how the ocean sustains life on Earth?
- In what ways does the ocean provide benefits that many people may not realize, especially those living far from the coast?

### 2. Human Dependence on the Ocean

- What are some of the specific ways that human activities are increasingly linked to ocean health?
- The film highlights how much humanity relies on the ocean for food and climate regulation. Can you think of other ways the ocean is integral to human societies that weren't addressed in the film?

### 3. The Ocean as a Global System

- How does the film emphasize the interconnectedness of the ocean with other environmental systems? What does this teach us about the ocean's importance for planetary health?
- What did you learn about the connection between all creatures in the ocean, from the tiny plankton to whales?



# ACT 2: THE IMPACTS OF INDUSTRIAL FISHING ON OCEAN LIFE

## Opening Reflection

How did the depiction of industrial fishing practices in the second act make you feel? Were there any specific images or information that stood out to you about its impacts?

What other types of information or data on overfishing would be useful to learn more?

## Key Questions

### 1. Overfishing and Biodiversity Loss

- The film showed how overfishing is depleting marine life. What are some of the consequences of overfishing that you found most alarming, both for marine ecosystems and for local communities that depend on fish?
- According to the film, what specific marine species or ecosystems were impacted the most? How do these losses affect the broader marine food web?
- How are these overfished marine species connected to your community's local coastal environment or areas you care about, such as coral reefs?

### 2. Bycatch and Ecosystem Damage

- What did you learn about the impact of bycatch on individual species and entire ecosystems?
- How do fishing practices like bottom trawling contribute to habitat destruction? Why is this a significant issue for marine life?

### 3. Economic and Social Impacts

- Industrial fishing often prioritizes profit over sustainability. What are the economic impacts of this, both on global markets and local fishing communities?
- How does the loss of marine biodiversity from overfishing affect coastal communities that rely on fishing as their primary livelihood?
- How does bottom trawling affect the warming of the planet?
- How did it feel to learn that many governments encourage and support bottom trawling in marine protected areas? What would be a solution?



# ACT 3: THE BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS TO MARINE LIFE, PEOPLE AND CLIMATE

## Opening Reflection

How did the third act of the film shift your perspective on the solutions to ocean health issues? Did the idea of marine protected areas (MPAs) inspire hope or raise any new questions for you?

What type of story does the film tell about the ocean, and how can you take action based on what you learned?

Did the film give you a sense of hope overall?

## Key Questions

### 1. What Are MPAs and Why Are They Important?

- What role do MPAs play in preserving marine ecosystems? How did the film explain the benefits of MPAs for the ocean's biodiversity and resilience?
- In your opinion, why are MPAs an essential tool in ocean conservation efforts?

### 2. Success Stories of MPAs

- The film highlighted specific MPAs where marine life has recovered, or the benefits have been evident. What examples of successful MPAs did the film showcase, and what factors contributed to their success?
- How can MPAs provide tangible benefits for communities?

### 3. MPAs and Global Warming

- How does the establishment of MPAs help mitigate the impacts of global warming, such as ocean acidification and rising sea temperatures?
- In what ways do MPAs contribute to carbon sequestration and the overall health of the planet?
- How can MPAs help coral reefs recover from marine heatwaves?

### 4. Challenges to MPAs and the Path Forward

- What are the main challenges in implementing and maintaining MPAs? How may political, economic and social factors influence the success of these protected areas?
- What are some of the potential solutions or strategies the film suggests to overcome these barriers and support the expansion of MPAs worldwide?



# FINAL REFLECTIONS AND CALL TO ACTION

## 1. Personal Connection to the Ocean

- How has the film changed the way you view the ocean and its importance to your life, whether directly or indirectly?
- What steps can you personally take to support ocean conservation, whether through advocacy, lifestyle changes or supporting ocean-friendly policies?

## 2. Global vs. Local Action

- While ocean health is a global issue, what are some local actions or initiatives you can engage with to help protect the ocean? Who are the marine knowledge holders in your community, and how can you support or help lead with them?
- How can communities and governments work together to expand the creation of MPAs and ensure they are effectively protected?

## 3. The Future of the Ocean

- After watching the film, how optimistic or concerned are you about the future of the ocean? What gives you hope, and where do you think more effort is needed?
- What can you do to help take action locally or spread awareness about the importance of MPAs and the ocean's health?
- What should be the role of young people in helping protect the ocean?



## CLOSING ACTIVITY

- If you're part of a group or community, consider organizing them to improve your local MPA or help establish one. To learn more, visit: [reviveourocean.org](http://reviveourocean.org)
- Encourage others to watch the film and share their thoughts. Perhaps create a social media campaign or educational initiative to raise awareness locally about the role of MPAs and the ocean's threats.
- Get involved locally by learning which leaders or organizations are working on marine conservation in your community and contacting them.
- Use Open Planet's free visuals and data to tell stories that can inspire change for our planet. Access the vast library of content at [OpenPlanet.org](http://OpenPlanet.org).

This discussion guide encourages viewers to reflect deeply on the ocean's significance, its threats and the solutions that can ensure its protection. The goal is not only to foster understanding but also to inspire proactive involvement in marine conservation efforts.

### Learn More

#### Global efforts to create MPAs

[National Geographic Pristine Seas](#)

[Revive Our Ocean](#)

#### Global tracking of industrial fishing

[Global Fishing Watch](#)

#### Information on MPAs

[Bringing the Ocean Back: An Introduction to Marine Conservation](#)

[The MPA Guide](#)



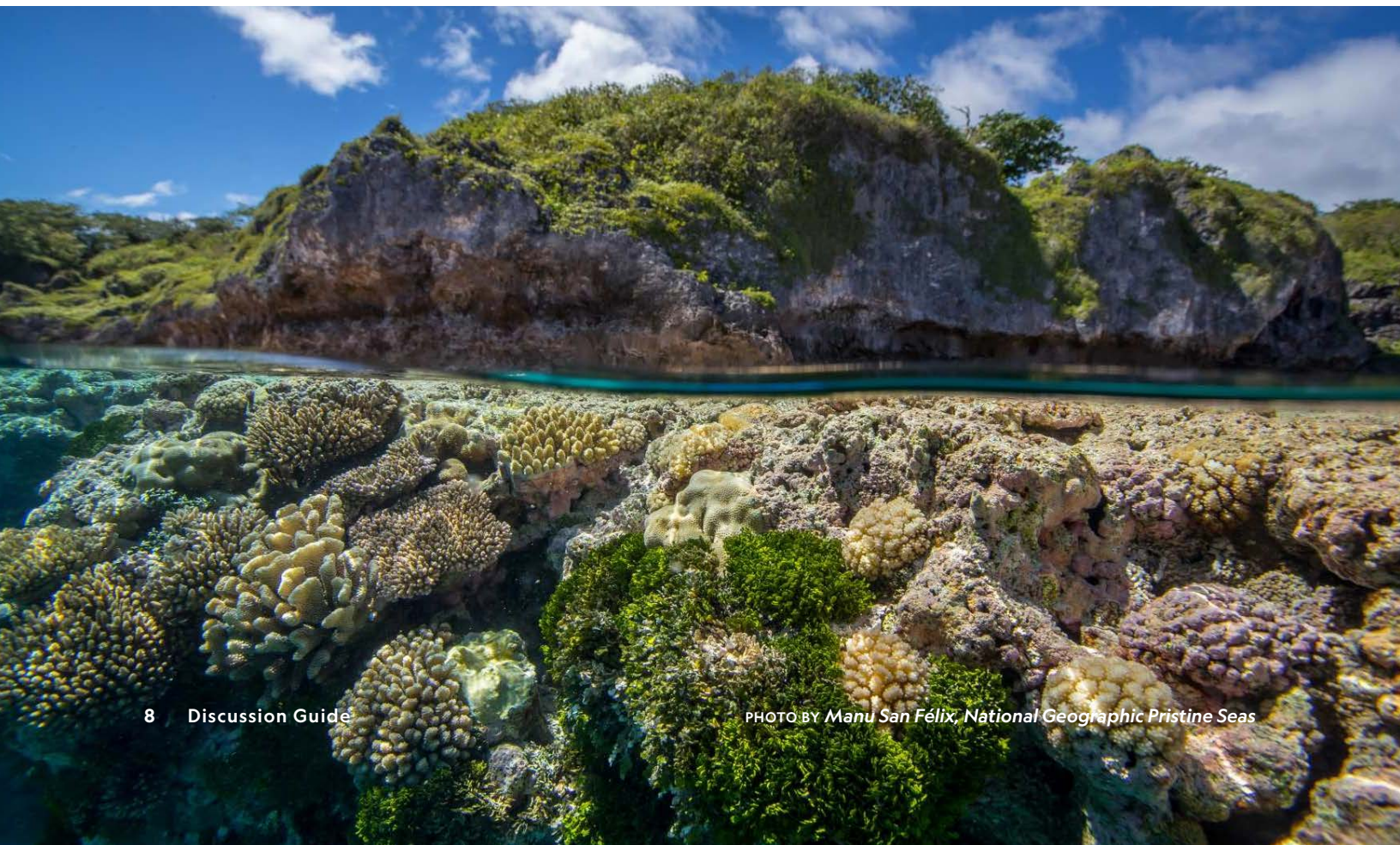
## ABOUT OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

After seven decades filming every aspect of the natural world, Attenborough delivers his greatest message of hope in a spectacular new film, “Ocean with David Attenborough.” Through breathtaking sequences of coral reefs, kelp forests and the open ocean, Attenborough shares why a healthy ocean keeps the entire planet stable and flourishing.

The documentary will play in theaters globally starting May 8, 2025, which coincides with Attenborough’s 99th birthday. The film premieres on National Geographic Channel on June 7, 2025, and streams on Disney+ and Hulu starting June 8, 2025 – World Ocean Day.

“Ocean with David Attenborough” is the prominent environmentalist’s first-ever collaboration with National Geographic.

“Ocean with David Attenborough” is a Silverback Films and Open Planet Studios co-production, in association with All3Media International, National Geographic and Minderoo Pictures. The film is directed by Toby Nowlan, Keith Scholey and Colin Butfield. Nowlan is also its producer. It is co-produced by Arksen and 10% for the Ocean, the Don Quixote Foundation, the National Geographic Society and Pristine Seas, Revive Our Ocean, and The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Sir David Attenborough is not involved with, nor does he endorse, any specific non-profit initiative mentioned in this Discussion Guide.



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