

Transcript: Peak and Plunge Trailer

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Speaker 1

I mean, I definitely have like a deep respect for it and a healthy fear because again not being from anywhere near water, it's always that you know, the big unknown literally, like miles and miles and gallons and gallons of who knows what sell there's always that this is like a core memory.

Speaker 2

But it was during a sailboat trip I did from Panama to Colombia. And one of the days we were on this like uninhabited island, like boat anchored offshore, and we saw a pod of dolphins like near the boat. On the trip, there were like divemasters, like people who are like very comfortable in the water, they immediately swam out. Because like, why not? We're in this beautiful place. Dolphins, you go. You go. But I was super hesitant. I think for like, seven minutes. I like started recording a video on my phone. And there's like, I have like a whole whole dialogue with my friend. I'm like, oh, no, like, should we go? Should we not? Yeah, it was just it was probably the the fear of like, yeah, that was just holding me back. Ended up going I swam out. I think it was maybe like, I don't know, like 200 meters out or something. And yeah, and then we were just surrounded by this like wild pod of dolphins, and they're clicking and like, swimming all around our fins and like, looking into our eyes. And it was like pure joy. I think that I I guess I can't really like I can't remember like another moment that felt that way.

Dane Whicker

How do you feel about the ocean?

Speaker 3

Completely negative, we should get rid of it? No, I mean, it's, I mean, I know that it's very much a vital source of many things for the earth.

Speaker 4

It's usually positive tied to vacation memories. And it's a it's an air of mystery. It was really cool.

Speaker 1

I definitely have fond memories of like all of the sea kelp, and wash up onto the beach. And at the same time my sister got lost. So there was a lot of terror of trying to find a small child, also being a small child, being the only one who could fit into small places. But you know,

Speaker 2

to me, I think it's like the biggest life source. It's what feeds us, it helps us breathe. It also gives us this like magical world to explore. And then on a more personal note, I think it represents like this, like immense force of power. And that can be pretty scary. And that's why like that's what really feeds into the fear that I grew up with of the ocean.

Dane Whicker

Most every person on this planet has their own personal thoughts and feelings about the sea. The earth is mostly ocean after all. So it makes sense that this big salty swimming pool would cross your mind once or twice. It really doesn't matter what you do.

Speaker 4

I am a land surveyor

Speaker 2

world of like multimedia storytelling. Currently,

Speaker 1

I'm working as a sample receiving person, I am a doctor of veterinary medicine.

Dane Whicker

It's unlikely that you've gone through your life without learning about thinking about interacting with or forming opinions about the ocean. This can range from admiration

Speaker 3

Generally, I think about it more of hey, fish come from there. And I like fish

Dane Whicker

To intrigue...

Speaker 4

It's definitely one of those things where it's like, anywhere you are in the ocean. I feel you don't know what's actually at around you at any given time. Even if you can see what's around you, you don't know what's around you. So it's got that kind of cool Mystique to it of, it's never going to be the same

Dane Whicker

and even fear.

Speaker 2

Seeing like the aftermath of a tsunami I think like instilled more fear in a way but also just like, more respect, I guess for how powerful the ocean is. Human

Dane Whicker

History is full of stories about the sea. We build boats to sail it. We hunt for its food, we enjoy long walks along its lapping edge, make art inspired by its beauty, and can even struggle to contend with its wrath.

Speaker 2

So in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku Japan, I was in Tokyo at the time. And you know, so I only experienced the earthquake part of it. Not even like that big in magnitude down there. But we went up north kind of just to volunteer and help out after words. And yeah, it was just like some, like towns

were gone. massive concrete buildings like on its side, like street signs were bent in the middle and like have like, like new angles. It's just Yeah, I think I remember like we were, we saw it. And then I think all of us kind of described it as like, it feels like there was like an atomic bomb that was dropped here because it was just like, it was just like destruction, like I've never seen before. A lot

Dane Whicker

of these stories from the wondrous to the terrifying. Well, they happen in places where the sea rises to meet us, on coasts on islands while you're sailing on a boat. But of all the people that exist on this planet, there are voices that are missing from these popular narratives. Yeah,

Speaker 2

I don't remember like going to the beach too much in Japan as a child. You can like take up take the train out to the coast. There are like coastal areas, obviously. But yeah, it wasn't a huge part of my life.

Dane Whicker

Voices missing from places you might not expect. I live in Fort

Speaker 4

Collins, Colorado,

Speaker 2

Colorado, growing up in Tokyo was was great. And then

Speaker 1

all of my life. I've lived in Ohio and Arizona, but unfortunately no one you're a ghost.

Dane Whicker

Looking just at the United States, over 60% of its citizens live inland in counties not connected to a coastline in any way, shape, or form. That's roughly 200 million people. These 200 million people and many more worldwide may not easily be able to go and dip their toes in the ocean. But each and every one of them is still inexplicably connected to its waters. Those ties are just a little harder to see

Speaker 3

what kind of seafood Do I like to eat? I I'm not sure if I've come across a seafood that I haven't liked having tried it. There is

Speaker 2

like the big famous Tsukiji fish market in Japan where like, that's like, a spot to go to if you're ever visiting.

Dane Whicker

These ties exist in our seafood.

Speaker 3

I haven't tried everything. But I mean, calamari is nice, various types of either freshwater or saltwater fish. Both of those love oysters, scallops, I do enjoy seafood, it's a lot harder to get here, and a lot more expensive to get. I wouldn't say prohibitively expensive, but it's not great.

Dane Whicker

These ties also exist in our agriculture. Yeah,

Speaker 1

I think they all kind of tie into each other. Like, again, like, vet med is its own little world, but I think it does a really good job of, again, like learning a little bit about a lot of things. And part of that you learn like what it takes to raise the chicken or raise the cow and the consequences of it. And so you know, you have all of this water that goes into it, or you have all these nitrates that go into growing the food for the chicken and the cows. And are those go to the ocean. What does it do wreak havoc in the ocean, but nobody thinks about that. They're like, Oh, hey, cool. Chicken, love it. That's my dinner, and a story. And

Dane Whicker

these ties exist in the very jobs we do and ways we move around. It's

Speaker 4

it's definitely something I have to deal with in my job is working with oil. So we don't do a whole lot of like actual rigging out in the ocean. But we do work with companies that get natural gas and oil out of the out on land. So it's it is something I am forced to look at almost daily is like, Oh yeah, gas companies. Cool.

Dane Whicker

Inland residents, or inlanders, as I like to call us have a lot of power in shaping our changing oceans, from our uses of fossil fuels to our grocery shopping and restaurant choices. How the oceans of the future will look depends a lot on us. And spoiler alert,

Speaker 4

everything affects everything. There is no one way street about this whole nonsense, everything comes back.

Dane Whicker

And unhealthy ocean in many ways means very real consequences for us inlanders. Ignoring our role in these problems doesn't just mean dead sea life miles away. It could mean contending with more forest fires and blizzards, dealing with food security loss, disease and health risks, economic downturns and so much more. But is that something you've thought about how

Speaker 3

hard it is for people who live in England to really spend time thinking about something that for many of them might be so far away, you know, we're in color. We're very, very center of, you know, the North American continent like,

Dane Whicker

it seems we have a conundrum on our hands. Here are these important issues that can be really key to Inlander daily life, yet being so far away from the waves can impart a bit of a disadvantage when it comes to painting an accurate picture of what the biggest issues, even our top three threads.

Speaker 3

Oh, boy. Well, it's gonna be straight up guesses, some of them educated.

Speaker 1

Oh, geez. I mean, I could take a guess. But I did say And lastly, I'm educated in this area.

Speaker 4

Waste is probably number one.

Speaker 3

I feel like as much as people say, fish get sustainably caught. Those numbers probably aren't as big as we'd want them to be probably

Speaker 1

overfishing is huge.

Speaker 3

oil and natural gas drilling. I know a lot of people say that it's damaging to, you know, inland environments. And it is.

Speaker 1

And then of course, global warming is another part of that.

Speaker 4

I do know a little bit about like the North Pacific trash Island.

Speaker 1

I definitely say pollution is a huge one, but I'm not confident. How big of an impact really is it is I

Speaker 4

believe that I've heard that orcas and whales in general are under threat.

Speaker 3

I feel like I want to say cruises.

But that kind of it kind of piggybacks on the first two of reliance on oil natural gas and, and waste. Because, boy, our cruise ships not clean.

Dane Whicker

Thankfully, because of things like the internet news and you know, public education, the ocean isn't an entirely foreign concept to all inlanders

Speaker 3

a lot of things that I can kind of just pick up through that like cultural osmosis of just like various people that I follow my follow on Instagram. But

Dane Whicker

since the internet is, well, the internet, and we don't have direct access to the ocean, understandings can range from perfectly spot on to well, a little muddled. And that's okay. We all have limited brain space, our own rich lives to read struggles to conquer things to be interested in, muddled is understandable. I

Speaker 3

don't want to say like the lack of motivation, but like, lack of like drive, because at some point, you have to say, I can only care about so many things. Yes, at the end of the day, you can only spend so much of your energy worrying about so many things before you just burn yourself out.

Dane Whicker

And yet, with stakes that do affect us during a time in our world where we need every single possible mind focused on solutions.

Speaker 1

I mean, even came up with our wedding. We were trying to make everything as like, eco friendly as possible. We were out in the middle of the woods, we didn't want trash or wildlife eating anything. We didn't want a big ball of trash going down to who knows where and that was part of our decision was like we got palm leaf plates and we got sugar cane straws, and I'm like, how much are we actually helping? Are we actually helping? Are we just feeling better about helping muddled

Dane Whicker

just will not do? I'm Dane whicker host of the peak and plunge podcast, a series all about spotting and examining those invisible ties that link inlanders to the sea. Think of me as your friendly neighborhood, inland Aquaman. I hope you'll join me as we plunge into ocean sustainability topics from the highest of the mountain peaks. Along the way, we'll talk with experts in the field who all agree that absolutely

Cory Nash

everyone should care about sustainability and seafood. Because it affects you if you're at a mountaintop, okay? Maybe well, you know, even in a mountaintop, it affects you. All right? There are so no matter where you live, the ocean plays an enormous role in your life.

Mark Haver

It is something where you actually have the right to engage in this conversation, whether you're living in Arizona, or whether you're living in Polynesia, but then

Seth Watkins

I thought about it. I thought, you know, if people in Iowa don't care about the ocean, and that thinking follows us all the way downstream. Why would someone down there care? You know, I think we should care. We should, we should but if our thinking isn't right here, how can we ever you know, we can't go the other direction.

Dane Whicker

On Peak and plunge we'll explore many intrigued and mysterious topics. Well, it

Mark Haver

started actually 100 years ago, scientists found these baseball sized polymetallic nodules sitting on the abyssus on the seafloor,

Dane Whicker

all of which relate to something important in the daily life of an Inlander. And

Cory Nash

I love the fish and chips. And so I wanted to learn more about it, and why, you know, what are the responsible choices? What are the issues facing sustainable seafood?

Seth Watkins

Let's remember, everything goes somewhere. So when we put an iOS, you know, I can't remember exact number, but I think it's 13 14 million pounds of Atrazine on our crops that comes off of our crops, it either goes into the kernel that you eat, it goes into the plant, or it goes on low water, and it stays there

Dane Whicker

Through the combination of science and stories. Peak and plunge is here to clear the mud. And shed just a little bit of light on how ocean issues and inlanders are truly entwined. But like in a fun way,

Mark Haver

I love the fact that you just called a polymetallic, nodule and metal potato. That's brilliant. I love that

Dane Whicker

through it all. You'll come to a better understanding of the inland role in ocean health, the role it plays in your life, and most importantly, ways to use your own power to pave a sustainable and healthy path forward.

Speaker 2

Yeah, there's like so much of like, we need to save the planet or like, save the oceans. I'm always like, and then what like what's like one step that I can take like what's just like one thing that I can do?

Dane Whicker

Listen to peak and plunge, a five-part miniseries proudly produced in partnership with the inland ocean coalition. Let's plunge... right in.