

# **Unit 1: Ecosystem Conservation**

## **“Seaspiracy” Questions**

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*Between 1:14 - 1:18 there is quite graphic slaughtering of whaling.*

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1. How do marine mammals such as whales and dolphins help to keep the ocean environment healthy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why is phytoplankton so important?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How big is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How much plastic is dumped in the sea every minute?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What are **microplastics**?

6. What are some of the ways that the narrator, Ali Tabrizi, tried to reduce his plastic consumption?
7. When did the whaling ban come into existence?
8. Which countries do not adhere to the ban?
9. Why are people in Taiji, Japan, capturing and killing dolphins?
10. How much can a yellow fish tuna sell for in Japan?
11. What percentage of yellow fish tuna stocks remain in the ocean today?
12. Why is shark fin soup such an important industry in Asia?

13. What percentage of sharks have been lost in the last few decades?
14. Why are sharks such an important part of the ocean ecosystem?
15. What is **bycatch**? What percentage of marine life caught is bycatch?
16. How many commercial fishing vessels are at sea?
17. Who are Sea Shepherd and what do they do?
18. Why are the 'sustainable fishing' labels put on fishing products not always truthful?

- 19.** Why are discarded fishing nets even more of a problem than plastics in the ocean?
- 20.** How many sea turtle species are currently threatened?
- 21.** Why are fish so important to keeping coral reefs healthy?
- 22.** How has the amount of halibut caught changed from 1830 to present day?
- 23.** By what year do leading fishing experts believe we will see empty oceans by?
- 24.** What role do marine animals play in reducing global warming?
- 25.** How much carbon does marine vegetation store?

- 26.** What is **seafloor trawling** and why is it so destructive to the ocean environment? How much land in the ocean does it destroy?
- 27.** How many Marine Protected Areas are there? How many should there be?
- 28.** What is a **subsidy**? Why do we subsidize the fishing industry?
- 29.** What are the negative impacts on the economy and the environment of fishing subsidies?
- 30.** What are **fish farms**?
- 31.** What are the positive impacts of fish farms?

- 32.** What are the negative impacts of fish farms?
- 33.** How much of the world's fish comes from fish farms at present?
- 34.** What are **mangroves** and why are they important?
- 35.** What percentage of the world's mangroves have been destroyed for fish farms?
- 36.** Why is there so much slave labor in the fishing industry in parts of Asia?
- 37.** Traditional whaling is often viewed very negatively by society. In the interview with Jens Mortan Rasmussen, what were his reasons for saying that whaling was not as bad as the fishing industry?