OCEANA

WINTER 2017 | OCEANA.ORG

TED DANSON, OCEAN HERO

Recognizing three decades of advocacy for the world's oceans

Left to Right: Susan Rockefeller, Ted Danson, David Rockefeller

PLUS: A WIN FOR CHILE'S OCEANS | Q&A WITH NINA DOBREV | PROTECTING THE EAST COAST

OCEANA Protecting the World's Oceans

OCEANA is the largest international advocacy organization focused solely on ocean conservation. We run science-based campaigns and seek to win policy victories that can restore ocean biodiversity and ensure that the oceans are abundant and can feed hundreds of millions of people. Oceana victories have already helped to create policies that could increase fish populations in its countries by as much as 40 percent and that have protected more than 1 million square miles of ocean. We have campaign offices in the countries that control close to 40 percent of the world's wild fish catch, including in North, South and Central America, Asia and Europe. To learn more, please visit www.oceana.org.

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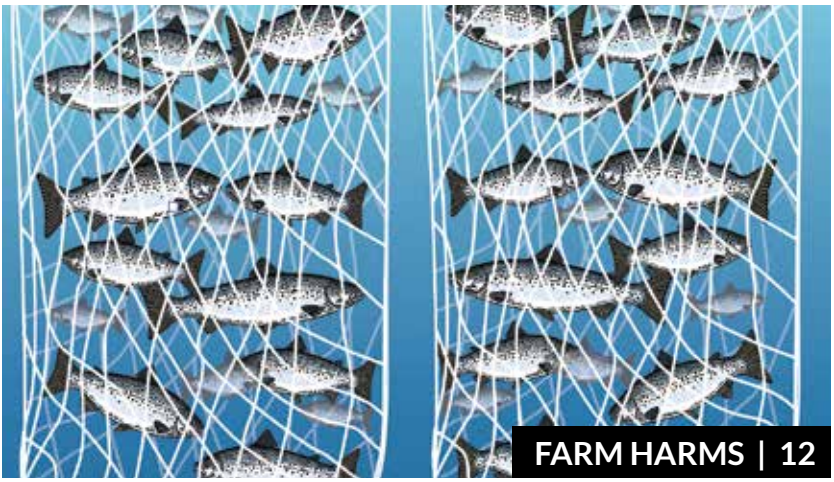

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DEPARTMENTS

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OCEANA Protecting the World's Oceans

A new wave of commitment to fishing transparency

Dear friend,

As people start thinking about how we can change the way we interact with the world's oceans, one issue that rises to the forefront of our minds is enforcement. We tend to think of the oceans as a lawless place, and it can be hard to imagine that governments will effectively and reliably project their influence over the horizon. Even with the right laws on the books, how can we make sure they're enforced?

Since the last issue of this magazine, I traveled to Peru to visit our team there and to bear witness to an exciting victory that helps answer this question.

In late September, the government of Peru followed through on its commitment to make its national fishing vessel tracking data publicly available by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. The initial commitment, which was the result of Oceana's collaboration with the Peruvian government to increase transparency of commercial fishing in Peru's waters, was announced at The Ocean Conference hosted by the United Nations earlier this year. This Memorandum will start the process of making Peru's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data publicly available through Global Fishing Watch.

Global Fishing Watch was created by Oceana, SkyTruth and Google and launched in September 2016 with the support of funding partners including the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Marisla Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Wyss Foundation, The Waterloo Foundation and Adessium Foundation. This online platform uses public broadcast data from the Automatic Identification System (AIS), collected by satellite and terrestrial receivers, to show the movement of vessels over time. Global Fishing Watch uses this information to track vessel movement and classify it as "fishing" or "non-fishing" activity. While AIS is required for many of the largest vessels that catch a disproportionately large amount of fish, adding VMS data, which is required by some governments, provides an even clearer view of fishing activity on our oceans. Together, AIS and VMS data offer the most accurate and comprehensive dataset, and Peru's VMS data will add information from thousands of vessels to Global Fishing Watch.

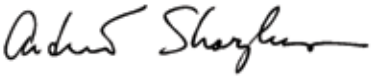
Global Fishing Watch became an independent organization earlier this year, and recently announced the appointment of Tony Long, formerly of The Pew Charitable Trusts and a veteran of 27 years in the British Royal Navy, as its first permanent CEO. Oceana will remain involved in Global Fishing Watch, as Jackie Savitz and I will both serve on its Board of Directors. Oceana will also continue to use Global Fishing Watch as a tool to win our campaigns around the world. The platform is free and available to anyone with an internet connection — I encourage you to try it for yourself at globalfishingwatch.org.

This new commitment matters because Peru, one of the most globally significant fishing nations and home to an enormous anchovy fishery — historically the world's largest — has committed to making its fishing fleet truly transparent. Peru will also become just the second country (after Indonesia) to add its VMS dataset to Global Fishing Watch, making it easier to track and stop illegal fishing and other suspicious activity in Peru's oceans and empower the government to enforce its laws effectively.

It is my hope that Peru's commitment will spur other countries to step forward and contribute their data to this platform to encourage responsible management globally. This sort of transparency helps answer the critical enforcement question. In fact, here at Oceana, we recently added "Increasing Transparency" to the list of our core campaigns. It joins stopping overfishing, reducing pollution and protecting habitat as one of our key tenets of responsible oceans management.

I am pleased to report that we continue to win victories in all of these areas. In this issue of Oceana, you'll have an opportunity to read about the work that continues — around the world — to restore healthy oceans that could help feed more than a billion people. All of this work is made possible by your continued support. Thank you for helping us save the oceans so we can feed the world.

For the oceans,



Andrew Sharpless
CEO
Oceana

To help you navigate Oceana's work, we're introducing icons for our five major campaigns. Look for them throughout the magazine to learn more about what Oceana focuses on.

STOP OVERFISHING

REDUCE BYCATCH

PROTECT HABITAT

CURB POLLUTION

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY

BELIZE GOVERNMENT SAYS "NO" TO OFFSHORE OIL

Offshore oil makes no sense for Belize, and Belizeans know it. In 2012, around 30,000 citizens — out of a voting population of over 150,000 — participated in a "people's referendum" on offshore oil. Over 96 percent of participants voted in favor of banning oil exploration and drilling. Despite the overwhelming opposition to oil, the government declined to take legislative action for years after the vote. That might be about to change.

In 2017, Oceana and the Belize Coalition to Save Our Natural Heritage felt that once again the time had come to trigger an official offshore oil referendum.

"We know we have enough support to trigger a referendum. None of the traditional divisive tactics have diluted the opposition to offshore oil," said Janelle Chanona, the head of Oceana in Belize. "We maintain that every person's vote on this issue needs to be officially recorded."

In August, within days of receiving the referendum letter from Oceana and the Belize Coalition, Prime Minister Dean Barrow announced the government's plans to institute an indefinite moratorium on offshore oil. If all goes well, Chanona said, the law could be enacted as early as late November.

Belize's economic and cultural life centers on the health and beauty of its vast barrier reef and palm-dappled atolls. One in four jobs depend on tourism, and 15,000 are tied to the seafood sector. If high-security offshore rigs shut locals out from their fishing grounds, or if an oil spill tarred beaches or the famous Blue Hole, the entire country could suffer severe economic consequences.

Earlier this year, the risks posed by offshore oil came into sharp focus. Observers tipped Oceana off that the Belizean government had secretly approved seismic airgun blasting — a dangerous process used to search for offshore oil — near the barrier reef. A huge public outcry put an end to the detonations, but amplified fears about the arrival of future blasting and drilling.

Chanona welcomed the government's August announcement, and attributed the win to two factors. "Oceana has been a steady, constant, persistent voice on this," she said. "But we've simply echoed the call of the tens of thousands of Belizeans who depend on the country's marine assets for their food, jobs and way of life."

Several species of sea turtle live and nest in Belize.

CHILEAN SUPREME COURT FORCES SALMON FARMERS TO DISCLOSE ANTIBIOTIC USE

In a win for clean water, the highest court in Chile upheld a decision ordering the company-by-company publication of antibiotic use on salmon farms. These proceedings were handled by Oceana lawyers, and are part of years-long Oceana campaign. Chile's salmon farmers use hundreds of times more antibiotics on a per-fish basis than their counterparts in other countries. The drugs are used to combat diseases brought on by poor sanitation and overcrowded sea pens. Oceana's victory is a major step towards ending the dangerous overuse of antibiotics on Chilean salmon farms.

EU'S EXTERNAL FISHING TO BECOME WORLD'S MOST TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND SUSTAINABLE

Following campaigning by Oceana and a coalition of partners, regulators have announced new rules governing European-flagged ships that fish outside of European Union waters. The external fleet will be required to publicize which boats fish where, end practices that sidestep conservation rules and ensure that all vessels adhere to EU sustainability standards, no matter where they travel. The rules will have an outsized impact — this fleet of thousands of vessels catches 28 percent of the EU's total fish landings.

COURT UPHOLDS RULE THAT WILL REDUCE AMOUNT OF ILLEGALLY CAUGHT AND MISLABELED SEAFOOD ENTERING THE U.S.

In August, a federal court upheld a rule requiring traceability for certain types of imported seafood. Thanks to Oceana's campaign, the Seafood Import Monitoring Program will require some imported fish at risk of seafood fraud or illegal fishing to be documented and traced from the fishing vessel or farm to the U.S. border. In May, Oceana and allies filed a joint amicus brief in support of the rule. The decision will benefit consumers and law-abiding fishermen by ensuring that some imported seafood is held to the same standards as domestically caught fish.

MINISTERS REJECT DESTRUCTIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN LA HIGUERA, CHILE

A committee of ministers rejected a proposal from Andes Iron to construct open-pit mines, a desalinization plant and an industrial port in La Higuera, a group of coastal villages north of Santiago. Oceana partnered with nonprofits, scientists and communities to oppose this mega-development, which stood to devastate local artisanal shellfish harvesting, ecotourism and 80 percent of the world's Humboldt penguins. The victory made national headlines and received a public endorsement from President Michelle Bachelet. For more on the fight for La Higuera, turn to page 8.

Seafloor habitat in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
©CSSF/ROPOS, Oceana Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Gray mullet is one of Brazil's most important fisheries.
©kajornyot wildlife photography

A sperm whale wrapped in fishing gear.
©Alberto Romeo/Marine Photobank

OCEANA EXPEDITION EXPLORES CANADA'S GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

On a joint expedition to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Oceana Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada discovered an astonishing diversity and abundance of life at depths as great as 400 meters. The expedition sailed from Quebec City in late August on the Canadian Coast Guard science vessel Martha L. Black. The team used ROPOS, a $6 million remotely operated robot, to document colorful anemone gardens, fields of sea pens and schools of valuable food fish like cod and redfish. At the surface, scientists spotted critically endangered North Atlantic right whales as well as seabirds and turtles. This data will support Oceana Canada's efforts to protect vital marine habitats in the gulf.

OCEANA INVESTIGATION REVEALS EU COUNTRIES UNLAWFULLY AUTHORIZING EU-FLAGGED VESSELS TO FISH IN AFRICAN WATERS

Oceana's recent report, based on data from Global Fishing Watch, identified 19 EU-flagged vessels fishing for more than 31,000 hours under authorizations granted by four European countries in violation of fisheries agreements and EU law. Oceana found that EU-flagged vessels from Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain fished in The Gambia and Equatorial Guinea from April 2012 to August 2015. Because The Gambia and Equatorial Guinea do not have active fisheries agreements with the EU, the governments violated the law in authorizing vessels to fish in African waters.

OCEANA PARTNERS WITH FISHERS TO COUNT GRAY MULLET LANDINGS IN BRAZIL

For the first time in Brazil's history, associations, trade unions and other fishers' organizations were directly involved in tracking seafood landings. Using Oceana's Tainhometer, or "Mullet Meter," fishermen self-reported their catch of this important food fish. Data collection is a pillar of scientific fisheries management, and is particularly important in Brazil, which currently gathers almost no information about its fisheries.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION GETS ONE STEP CLOSER TO ALLOWING OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING ALONG THE U.S. EAST COAST

In June, the Trump administration issued draft "incidental harassment" permits for seismic airgun blasting, an extremely loud and dangerous process used to search for potential oil and gas deposits buried below the seafloor. If finalized, these permits could allow seismic survey companies to injure or disturb marine mammals during their operations. According to government estimates, seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic could injure as many as 138,000 dolphins, whales and other marine mammals.

OCEANA FILES LAWSUIT TO PROTECT WHALES AND SEA TURTLES FROM DROWNING IN SWORDFISH DRIFT GILLNETS OFF CALIFORNIA

Oceana filed a federal lawsuit challenging the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service's decision to withdraw a proposed rule that would have protected endangered species from dying in drift gillnets meant to capture swordfish. The rule would have required an immediate closure of the fishery if it seriously injured or killed nine protected species, including several whale and sea turtle species.

A TIMELINE OF SUCCESS

2017

- Chilean Supreme Court forces salmon farming industry to disclose antibiotic use
- Chile rejects major industrial port mining project that threatened penguins, whales and fragile habitat
- European Parliament acts to end overfishing in the North Sea
- Legal reform makes the EU's external fishing fleet more transparent, accountable and sustainable
- Hundreds of critical forage species safeguarded off the entire U.S. West Coast
- President Obama protects fish, whales and more from dangerous seismic airgun blasting in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean
- Belizean government protects Belize Barrier Reef with moratorium on offshore oil activity
- U.S. Court upholds rule requiring traceability for at-risk seafood imports
- Peru agrees to publish vessel tracking data through Global Fishing Watch to help fight illegal fishing
- U.S. takes action to protect West Coast sardines from overfishing for the third consecutive year
- Chilean ministerial commission rejects rejects massive coastal port and mining project near marine reserves
- New pact commits nations to rebuilding a healthy Mediterranean Sea

2016

- Brazil's 'Red List' reinstated to protect 475 endangered aquatic species
- Executive order to create the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area in Alaska
- Scientists recommend management measures to control sardine overfishing in the Philippines
- New prosecutors to boost law enforcement in Philippine protected areas
- Government finalizes safety and prevention rules for U.S. Arctic Ocean exploration drilling
- Court of Appeals orders Sernapesca to provide information about antibiotics used in the salmon farming industry in Chile
- Pacific loggerhead conservation area in California closed to drift gillnets to protect sea turtles
- The Honourable Minister LeBlanc announces a big step forward for more transparent fisheries management in Canada
- California moves to protect hundreds of forage fish species in state waters
- 1,400 square kilometers in Spain's Balearic Islands protected from destructive fishing
- Oceana Brazil celebrates appointment of members to Fisheries Management Committee
- Oceana wins pledge from Obama administration to issue new rule to save thousands of sea turtles in the United States
- Forage fish in Oregon win significant protections
- Chilean government officially decrees the creation of the Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park

To see more victories, visit www.oceana.org/victories

Actress Nina Dobrev snorkels with a Caribbean reef shark.

Q&A: NINA DOBREV

Actress Nina Dobrev is taking the plunge for sharks. This summer, she headed to Hawaii to dive with sharks for the upcoming documentary Our Planet 360. But that's not the first time she got up close and personal with the ocean's most misunderstood predators. In June, Dobrev travelled with Oceana to the Bahamas' Bimini Shark Lab. There, she helped get the word out that it's time to end the gruesome practice of shark finning. Each year, fins from as many 73 million sharks end up on the global market, most destined to become pricey soup in Asia. With 30 percent of sharks at risk of extinction, a fin ban can't come soon enough.

Why did you become an advocate for sharks?

Sharks are so misunderstood. They have a bad reputation because of movies. It's unfair that we treat sharks like they're bloodthirsty killing machines, when really it's humans that are killing so many sharks. I wanted to become a voice for these amazing and beautiful creatures.

What prompted your decision to swim with these predators?

The first time I swam with sharks it was because I had such a big fear of sharks, and I wanted to get over that fear. We all have seen those movies that depict them in such negative light. I went in the water and once I saw how peaceful they are it was absolutely fascinating to me.

When you traveled to the Bimini Shark Lab with Oceana, what did you learn that surprised you?

One thing I didn't know prior to this trip is that the United States works to hard to protect the sharks that are in our waters, but we're still buying fins from other countries where sharks are not protected. So essentially, we can't do shark finning here, but we can buy shark fins from other places where it's legal. We're constantly and brutally killing sharks around the world. It's imperative that we stop doing that now. We need to stop buying, selling, trading and killing our sharks no matter where they are. And the United States needs to set that example.

What are the best ways to help protect sharks?

If you want to help, you can do many things. You can support scientific research, you can make sure you're eating sustainable seafood, and you can reach out to your members of Congress and ask them to support sharks. There's so many things we can do. Everyone's voice is important, and everyone's voice matters.

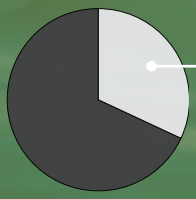
Any safety tips for swimming with sharks?

Real "man-eating" sharks are incredibly rare. Sharks really only bite swimmers because they mistake them for their normal prey. And even then, that almost never happens. But if you're swimming in the ocean, it's best not to thrash around like an injured seal or fish. If you stay calm and swim normally, sharks will be totally fine. They're not interested in us, at all. I respect them for that.

DEATH BY A THOUSAND BUDGET CUTS

A congressman once told Jane Lubchenco, a past National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration administrator, why he didn't need to fund her agency's weather satellites: "I have the Weather Channel."

But the Weather Channel gets its data from NOAA satellites. And NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service and other federal agencies that study and protect our climate and oceans do more than just tell Americans when to grab the umbrella. They predict hurricanes, protect millions of fishing jobs and keep 95,471 miles of U.S. shoreline healthy.



32% Proposed budget cuts to NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, which studies weather, climate and oceans, and runs the Sea Grant program.

16%

Total proposed cuts to NOAA's operating budget from 2017 funding levels.

1.6 MILLION

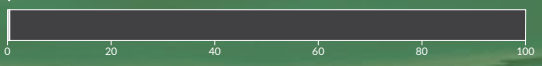
Jobs supported by commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in 2015

$160 TO $385 BILLION

Damage estimates in the U.S. from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria

43 The number of commercial fish stocks that have recovered to healthy levels since 2000, under the management of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

LESS THAN .04%



The total portion of the federal budget currently allocated to climate change action

39% The proportion of Americans living in coastal shoreline counties

0% The funding remaining for climate action investments like the Green Climate Fund after proposed cuts

$8 BILLION

The amount NOAA-managed national marine sanctuaries generate each year from commercial fishing, research and tourism

$22 MILLION

Proposed cuts to fisheries research and management, including fish stock assessments, fisheries observers, data collection, bycatch reduction, and the regional fishery management councils

Islands off La Higuera, Chile, are home to 80 percent of the world's Humboldt penguins.

A FUTURE FOR FISHERMEN (AND 26,000 PENGUINS)

Fishermen and activists teamed up with Oceana to stop an industrial megaproject from overrunning La Higuera, Chile, a global biodiversity hotspot. They might also have changed how the country thinks about conservation.

by Allison Guy

Rosa Rojas has some unusual neighbors. Sometimes, when she looks past her front yard to the sea, she spots a blue whale passing by.

Rojas owns a cluster of guest cabins in Punta de Choros, a quiet, 450-person settlement seven hours north of Santiago. If not for the sea, Punta de Choros wouldn't exist. The scrubby, moon-gray desert surrounding the town doesn't offer much to sustain human life. But the ocean here is as generous as the land is dry. Shellfish beds churn out valuable clams and abalone. Whales and penguins lure in tourists.

"We have so many things to protect," Rojas said. "It's not just the sea, it's not just the land. It's the water, the flowers, the wetlands, the birds."

For years, Rojas, Oceana and other allies have battled to keep heavy industry from steamrolling Punta de Choros and nearby fishing villages. In 2013, the area faced its biggest challenge yet. Mining company Andes Iron unveiled a $2.5 billion plan to transform the landscape with vast mines, a desalinization plant and commercial port. It was the fight of a lifetime — and it's not over yet.

THE LAST CLEANEST COAST

All of Chile's coastline once teemed with wildlife and seafood. Now, Punta de Choros is an anomaly. Aside from a few small mines, La Higuera, the municipality that contains Punta de Choros, has escaped the industrial overgrowth that has bedeviled other parts of the country.

Because of this, La Higuera's waters are pollution-free, said Josue Ramos, a third-generation fisherman and the president of the La Higuera Fisherman's Cooperative. Like many residents in Punta de Choros, he hand-harvests bushels of

abalone and razor clams from the town's cold waters.

Shellfish from this area are worth a lot because the ocean is so clean. "Export companies fight over the product we harvest and sell it outside of the country," Ramos said. "In this area there isn't contamination like in other areas in Chile."

Though most folks in La Higuera fish, tourism is gaining importance. Since 1998, annual visitors have jumped from 900 to 60,000. It's easy to see why. The area is one of 37 global hotspots for biodiversity, home to rare desert and ocean life. Strong currents drive nutrient-rich water to the surface, nourishing fish, giant kelp, otters and 80 percent of the world's Humboldt penguins.

When rains come, as they did this August, the wind-scoured islands of the National Humboldt Penguin Reserve erupt with pink flowers and green leaves, said filmmaker Cristóbal Díaz de Valdés. "It becomes magical."

BROKEN PROMISES

When Andes Iron submitted its proposal in 2013, it was not the first time that industry had eyed the mineral-rich region. Starting in 2007, three coal-fired power plants were slated for construction in La Higuera, until the president of Chile relocated them in 2010 following a vocal campaign.

Andes Iron's "Dominga" project was notable for the scale of its disruption. Two open-pit iron and copper mines would punch holes in the face of the desert. An industrial port and desalinization plant would rise above the area's unspoiled coves. Other big changes would tag along: highways, cargo ships, droves of outside workers. "In Chile, once you have one project," said Liesbeth van der Meer, the head of Oceana in Chile, "there are usually many other projects associated with it."

The locals who had fought the coal plants were aghast. Díaz de Valdés, who has campaigned to protect La Higuera since 2007, said that the ship traffic, noise and pollution would drive away whales and hurt penguins. No wildlife, no tourists.

The area's abalone fetch top dollar on international markets.

A fisherman smiles with his haul of shellfish.

Photographs: Oceana/Eduardo Sorensen unless otherwise noted

La Higuera's famous shellfish were at risk too. The brine pumped into the ocean from the desalinization plant might kill sensitive abalone and razor clam larvae, Díaz de Valdés said. And Ramos was concerned that the mercury and cyanide used to process iron and copper ore could seep into drinking water, then filter into the ocean. "For us, as fishermen, it's an accursed project," he said. "It would kill the entire marine ecosystem."

Andes Iron promised jobs and income. But people in La Higuera said they only needed to look to northern Chile to know their future. Up north, Rojas said, people are still poor, and poorly educated, despite a glut of mines and industrial projects.

SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE

It took Andes Iron another three years to evaluate the project's environmental impact. Oceana — which had campaigned against the coal plants in 2010 and had been pushing to permanently protect La Higuera since then — examined the environmental impact report and saw something strange.

Andes Iron said nothing about how a sudden onslaught of cargo ships would affect the National Humboldt Penguin Reserve — a significant oversight. Under Chilean law, if an industrial project is found to have omitted key information from its impact report, the government is required to reject it right off the bat.

South American marine otters, an endangered species, thrive in Punta de Choros.

A view from Damas Island, one of the islands that make up the National Humboldt Penguin Reserve.
©Jess Kraft


Bottlenose dolphins are a big tourist draw in La Higuera.

To confirm its suspicions, the Oceana team approached an environmental assessment expert to review the impact statement. He was dismayed by Andes Iron's work. "He said this is incomplete, this is a very bad project, there's not enough scientific information," van der Meer said.

In October 2016, Oceana published an 80-page report detailing reasons why the Dominga project should be rejected — not only because it overlooked the effects of ship traffic, but because of inadequate mitigation measures and other legal flaws.

Oceana presented the report to members of the senate and house of deputies, some of whom concurred with its findings. Despite this, the Environmental Evaluation Service of Coquimbo, the region where La Higuera is located, recommended the project for approval to a commission of regional officials. After their vote, the officials were split down the middle — leaving the governor of Coquimbo to decide.

Many assumed that the governor, Claudio Ibáñez, would side with mining interests. Mining, after all, is a major economic force in Coquimbo. But Ibáñez had visited Punta de Choros before, van der Meer said. He didn't want to be responsible for destroying the penguin's nesting islands, one of the oldest marine reserves in Chile. On March 9, the governor cast the deciding vote — against Andes Iron.

In August, the project headed for a final vote with a committee of national ministers, and was again rejected. "It was a huge shock," van der Meer said. "Mining is the motor of our economy. We have never before rejected a project, mining or otherwise, on environmental principles."

Other surprises followed. President Michelle Bachelet publicly supported the national ministers' decision. "Chile needs development to go hand-in-hand with care for the environment," she said, in an August speech. "It is my promise to the future." Angered by what they saw as an anti-economy stance, the finance and economy ministers resigned just days after.

> ***"Chile needs development to go hand-in-hand with care for the environment. It is my promise to the future."***
>
> ***- President Michelle Bachelet***

Andes Iron appealed the final rejection. The project is now headed to Chile's environmental court. The fight continues. But it's clear that the campaign to protect La Higuera has changed Chile's national conversation. Policymakers are being forced to consider the consequences of unchecked development. And it's now well-known that Chile's civil society has the power to galvanize thousands.

The day the national ministers rejected Dominga was a rare time for celebration. Oceana organized an impromptu thank-you march in La Serena, the capital of Coquimbo. Since the vote happened months earlier than anticipated, van der Meer expected a low turnout. To her surprise, over 900 fisherman and other supporters arrived, some after traveling for hours. "They love what they have, they understand what they have," van der Meer said. "It was a very happy moment."

DEVELOPMENT, NOT DESTRUCTION

Though Andes Iron may never dig in La Higuera, it left its mark in other ways. "They divided families, groups, social unity," Rojas said. "Our work now is to reestablish families and friendships." One way to do this, she said, is by making sure that everyone can earn a decent living.

Rojas, along with Ramos, Díaz de Valdés and van der Meer, have high hopes for eco-tourism. "We need to make clear that we are pushing for sustainable growth," van der Meer said. "It's not just about penguins and whales. It's about the community."

And then there are those pristine shellfish plots. Unlike the mines, which had a working life of just 26 years, the abalone and clams will produce as long as fishermen can protect them, van der Meer said. "We can't dismiss that they are doing something that is going to last forever."

There are still big challenges on the horizon. Even if the environmental court terminates the Dominga project, there's no guarantee that another mining company won't arrive next year with blueprints and promises.

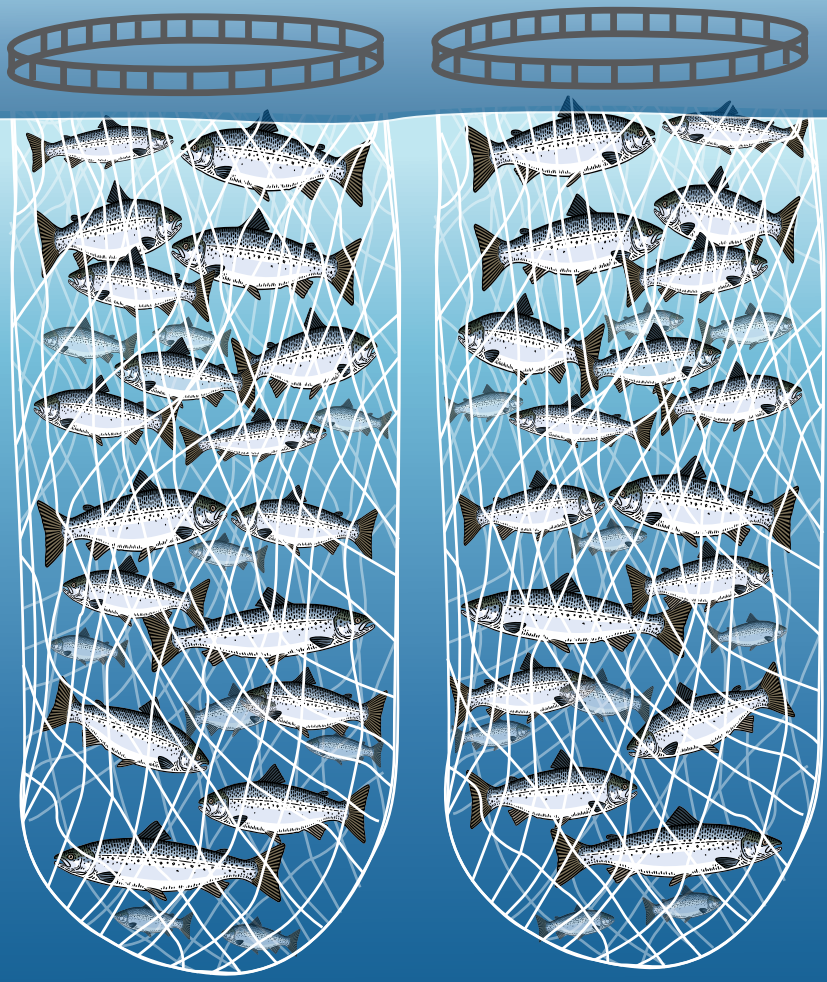
To prepare for this, Oceana is working with scientists and local advocates to put the brakes on dirty industry, permanently. They're currently campaigning to get La Higuera declared a mixed-use protected area, one that would allow sustainable fishing and responsible tourism while shutting out mines and mega-ports.

The change can't come soon enough. "We can't keep fighting all our lives," Rojas said. "We need to protect this forever."

DRUGS, SLUDGE AND SUPERBUGS: THE

If you eat salmon, you're most likely eating the farmed stuff. And if you eat the farmed stuff, there's a good chance it came from Chile. That's because 70 percent of the salmon consumed globally is farmed, and Chile is the world's second-largest farmed salmon producer after Norway. While Norway's salmon industry is relatively clean, Chile's farms have only gotten dirtier, bigger and riskier.

Oceana's Chile team has worked to rein in dangerous salmon aquaculture since 2009. Recently, they scored a major victory when the Chilean Supreme Court ordered salmon farmers to disclose antibiotic use on a company-by-company basis. This is a first step to addressing the skyrocketing use of these drugs on salmon farms. But in Chile, antibiotics are just one piece of salmon's toxic puzzle.



TONS OF DRUGS:

Each year, Chile doses its farmed salmon with tons of antibiotics. In 2016, Chilean farmers dumped 382,500 kilograms (843,300 pounds) of antimicrobials into their fish pens. Norway used just 523 kilograms to produce twice as much salmon.

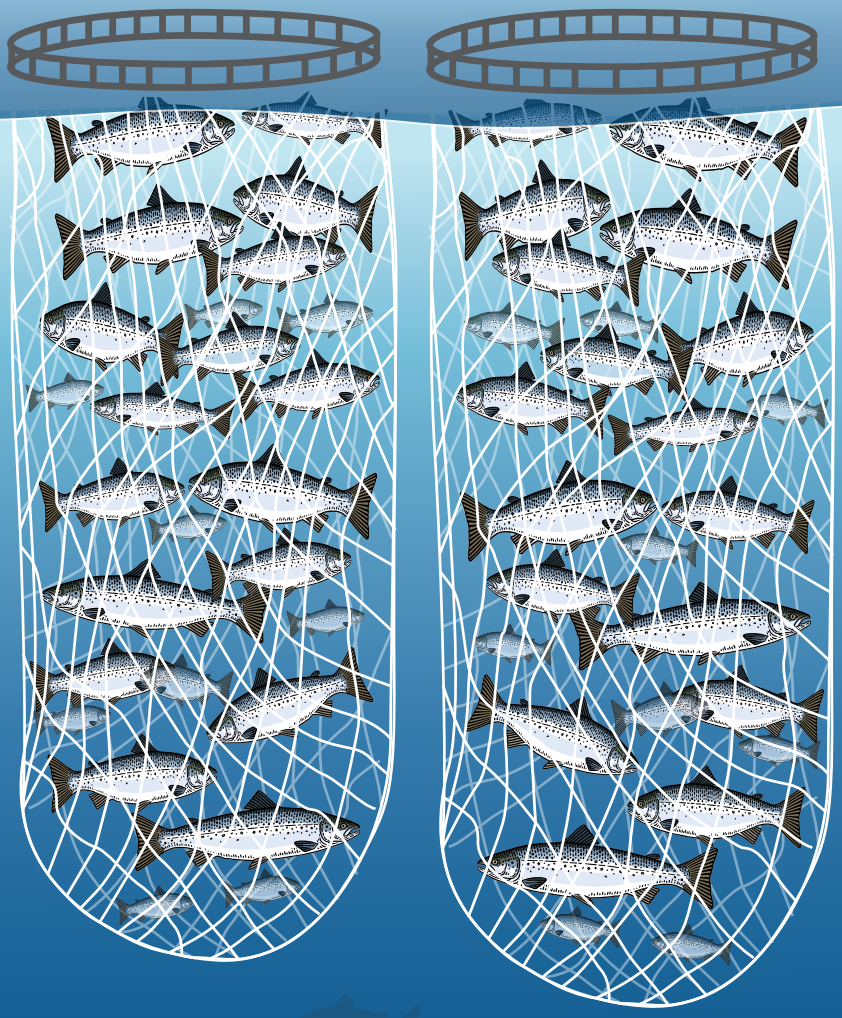
FUGITIVE FISH:

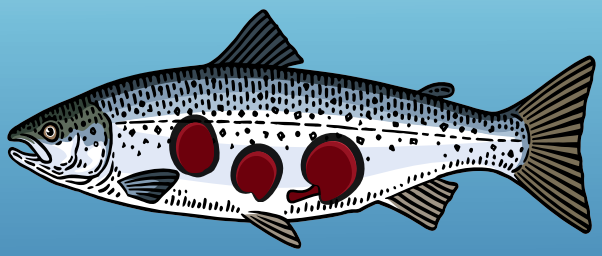
Atlantic salmon are not native to Chile. But many have escaped from farms and now compete with wild species for food, upsetting the balance of Chile's ecosystems.

DEADLY SLUDGE:

A slurry of feces, uneaten food, drugs and pesticides accumulate underneath salmon pens. Excess nutrients in the sludge spurs algae overgrowth. When the algae die they rob of the water of oxygen, creating dead zones that kill ocean life. This pollutes some of the most pristine coastal habitats left on earth, like the bays and fjords of Patagonia.

DANGERS OF CHILEAN SALMON FARMS





FISH PLAGUE:

The packed, unsanitary conditions on Chilean farms means salmon fall prey to a deadly bacterial disease known as piscirickettsiosis. This disease isn't just bad for farmed salmon. It can spread to Chile's native fish and kill them.

SPAWNING SUPERBUGS:

Studies of antibiotic-resistant bacteria on Chilean salmon farms have uncovered these worrying bugs everywhere researchers look: in feed, fish, water and sediment. The concern is that salmon farm workers and local fishers might pick up these bacteria and pass them to other people.

OFFSHORE DRILLING COULD **WRECK THE US EAST COAST**

by Amy McDermott

A long stretch of narrow islands called the Outer Banks runs off the coast of North Carolina. The archipelago stretches for more than 100 miles, three miles at its widest, curving like a fishhook in the sea. Beaches there are clean and white, dotted with dune grass. The islands' quaint towns and bird-filled wildlife refuges are big economic engines: In 2015, tourists spent over $1 billion in and near the Outer Banks. But these scenic spots might be about to change. If current policy proposals are left unchecked, the Outer Banks and places like it could be overrun with offshore oil rigs, pipelines, refineries and all the dirty and dangerous trappings of the oil and gas industry.

"It's the infrastructure that's going to be the biggest shock," said Peg Howell, a former oil rig supervisor who worked for Chevron, Mobil and Marathon, and who now campaigns against offshore drilling in the Atlantic. "People will be shocked by the number of trucks going down the highway carrying mega-loads," she said. "We don't have a highway along the coast to handle that."

The oil and gas industry has courted the Outer Banks and other spots along the East Coast for decades without success. Rigs are a regular sight in the western Gulf of Mexico off Texas and Louisiana, but not further east in the Atlantic. This might change. Right now, the Trump administration is trying to push through a slate of permits for offshore oil and gas exploration from Delaware to Florida. Drilling might not be far off.

If fossil fuel interests succeed, conservationists and industry veterans alike paint a grim picture of the coast's future. It's not just tourism that's under threat. It's fishing, wildlife, a way of life. And once the industry swings into action, it will be hard to stop.

Hatteras Island Lighthouse is one of the most iconic sights in North Carolina's Outer Banks. The Trump administration is pushing legislation that could add offshore oil rigs to views like this.

"This is the single most powerful commercial, industrial enterprise in the history of this earth," said Bob Bea, a veteran of Shell Oil Company, who retired in 1976 and went on to teach engineering at UC Berkeley. Fossil fuels are "a very intense, focused, capable beast," he said. And if poorly managed, "the beast will eat you."

A NEW, OLD FIGHT

In 2010, a tragedy helped save the East Coast from offshore oil development. In April, British Petroleum's, or BP's, offshore rig Deepwater Horizon exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, killing 11 people and gushing more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf. The Obama administration had planned to open parts of the Atlantic coast to offshore drilling, but stepped on the brakes after the spill.

That lasted a few years while the disaster was fresh in the nation's mind. But by 2014, the memory had faded. "Then the Atlantic was very much on the chopping block," said Nancy Pyne, who leads Oceana's field team. "While coastal governors and decision-makers in Washington supported opening up the East coast, our theory was if you actually went to people who lived on the coast, those folks would not be in favor of offshore drilling."

She was right. Between 2014 and 2016, Oceana mobilized more than 100 coastal communities to pass resolutions against offshore drilling in the Atlantic, and brought that opposition to bear in Washington D.C. Largely due to Oceana and its allies' efforts, the Obama administration closed the coast to both drilling in 2016 and exploration in 2017. "At first, Washington wasn't listening," Pyne said. "But we organized and forced them to."

Then, this spring, President Trump signed an executive order that reopened the possibility of drilling in the Atlantic.

Once the oil industry gets its foot in the door in the Atlantic, there may be no turning back, activists say.
©Lukasz Z

Boats attempt to contain the blaze at the BP Deepwater Horizon oil platform on April 21, 2010.
©Lukasz Z

In June, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued draft incidental harassment authorizations as part of the permitting process for seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic: a first step to help locate potential fuel reserves locked beneath the seabed.

Now coastal communities are back in a battle they thought they'd won. If those communities lose, a problematic of new development could descend on unprepared coastal towns.

Howell explained that once exploration activities reveal hints of buried oil or gas reserves, companies will compete for leases to drill. After seismic airgun blasting, the companies will dig a few exploratory wells to definitively locate oil and gas deposits. And if those deposits are promising, they'll dig many more. The coast could eventually be riddled with oil rigs, refineries, storage facilities and pipelines, and the noise and pollution they bring. Production could be in full swing by 2040 and will last another 40 to 50 years, Howell said.

But oil isn't limitless, and wells eventually run low. When the boom ends, rigs and factories linger. It's expensive to plug the holes in the seafloor and tear down oil platforms the size of skyscrapers, Pyne said, so the industry fights it at every turn. Once you let drilling through the door, there's no turning back. As Howell put it, this is a forever decision; "this is about your babies."

DOWN AND DIRTY

"We are a tourist, commercial fishing and recreation attraction," said Frank Knapp, co-founder of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce and head of the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast. "Maine to Florida, that's who we are on the East Coast. We don't want industrialization."

If the oil industry succeeds, industrialization is exactly what the East Coast will get. But it's unclear where companies will move in, or how exactly they plan to develop. "Are you going to take the beaches of the Outer Banks and make an industrial processing plant?" Knapp asked. "Tell the communities now. If they won't share that, we shouldn't let them do anything."

Cape Hatteras in the Outer Banks is a good guess for where the first rigs might go up. "There's been interest there since at least 2008," Howell said, based on earlier industry research. "Unfortunately for fish, it's also one of the world's best fishing areas."

Before companies drill Hatteras, or anywhere else, they'd blast the seabed searching for oil and gas reserves using seismic airguns. Ships will tow huge arrays of airguns that fire blasts of compressed air into the water column, sending sound waves into the seabed that reveal potential fuel reserves. The sound is so loud that an airgun detonated in Washington D.C. would prick the ears of gamblers in Las Vegas (if both cities were underwater). The blasts could kill zooplankton, harass fish, and disturb thousands of whales and dolphins. Blasts can continue 24 hours a day, for weeks to months at a time.

Once the industry swings into action, it will be hard to stop

LESSONS FROM THE GULF

Injuring wildlife and jeopardizing commercial fisheries are just a few costs of doing business with the oil industry. More — and more dangerous — consequences rack up with time. A catastrophic accident is the obvious fear with oil and gas development. It was a nightmare realized in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, when BP's Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank. But even before that spill — the largest in U.S. history — drilling caused chronic problems in the Gulf.

Jonathan Henderson, founding director of the watchdog organization Vanishing Earth, grew up fishing in south Louisiana. Now he leans out the window of a Cessna, binoculars pressed to his face, looking for the telltale rainbow sheen of an oil slick or distinctive bubbling of a busted gas pipe. He finds and reports thousands of little problems every year. "Sometimes the leaks are so small," Henderson said, "it doesn't look like a BP disaster. They're subtle."

Subtle leaks add up to big impacts though. Each year, little leaks release about 13 million gallons of oil into the Gulf. That's 13 times more than oil companies report to the government, according to a 2013 study in the scientific journal Nature. Over time, all that oil has slowly poisoned the Gulf environment. If oil comes to the Atlantic, the coast would probably face similar woes. Very few new safeguards have been enacted since the Deepwater Horizon 2010 disaster.

The basic problem is an imbalance of power, said oil veteran Bea. "I have very deep respect for the capabilities of the oil and gas industry," he said. "But I'm also very afraid of this beast. It can sense weaknesses and exploit those weaknesses to its benefit." Recent regulatory rollbacks don't bode well for the Atlantic, Bea added. President Trump lifted drilling safeguards this spring. "That's an indication that industry has the balance of power in its direction," he said. "And if you don't think it'll take control, you better think otherwise."

Facing down offshore drilling is daunting. But ultimately, protecting the Atlantic coast will come down to Atlantic communities, Bea said. Even if drilling does come to places like the Outer Banks, the way that people there respond — and how engaged they stay — will decide what the industry can or can't do.

After everything she's seen leading this fight for Oceana, Pyne had a message for residents of the Eastern Seaboard. Keep the pressure on your representatives, Pyne said. Call them, write them. Let them know what you expect. "Rising up was the only thing that stopped this last time," Pyne said. "We've fought this and won before. We need to keep it up."

REVEALING **THE NORTH SEA'S** HIDDEN POTENTIAL

Look, but don't touch. This giant lion's mane jellyfish spotted off Scotland can deliver a nasty sting.

The North Sea is one of the most productive stretches of ocean in the world, but it's also one of the most mistreated.

After more than a century of relentless fishing and industrial sprawl, the North Sea is struggling. Cities, refineries and power plants ring its coastline. Fishing trawls plough up over 40 percent of its seabed every year. Nearly half of commercial seafood species are classified as overfished. But scientists say this decline can be reversed.

In June 2017, Oceana embarked on a two-month expedition to document some of the least-studied habitats in the region. In the waters off Denmark, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the team uncovered a surprising sea of worm cities, cold-water corals and nosy seals. "The diversity of life was shocking sometimes," said expedition scientist Suzanne Conlon.

The team also recorded sights that left them dismayed: nominally protected areas so heavily fished nothing was left; wildlife tangled up in discarded fishing gear. Oceana will use the expedition's data and photos to strengthen calls to expand the North Sea's network of protected areas and better manage its fisheries.

"The North Sea is worth protecting," Conlon said. "It has so much potential."

A cuckoo wrasse flaunts its eye-popping colors.

A northern gannet flies with a length of fishing line tangled around its beak. Pollution is a major problem in the North Sea.

Cod are the North Sea's most famous fish.

Kelp
Norwegian

This goldsinny wrasse might look intimidating — but it's only 4 inches long.

A blood star and a phalanx of edible sea urchins march across a rock.

forest in Karmøy,
n Trench, Norway.

Gray seals sunbathe in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

A common tern chick waits for its parents on Urter Island, Norway.

A curious gray seal off Newcastle, England.

Fish abundance increased nearly 5-fold from 1995 to 2009 in Mexico's Cabo Pulmo National Park.
By Leonardo Gonzalez

INSIDE THE WORLD'S MOST SUCCESSFUL MARINE RESERVE

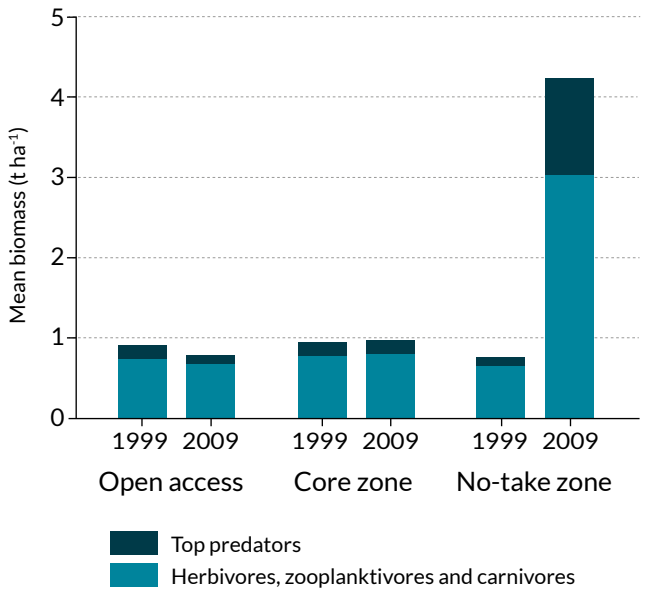
Big fish have it hard these days. The Caribbean is missing 60 to 90 percent of its groupers, sharks and other predators. Globally, we've lost around two-thirds of big fish since 1880. But around the world, there are bright spots that prove that science-based management can restore ocean abundance. And of these spots, Mexico's Cabo Pulmo might shine brightest of all.

Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, near the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, is considered the world's most successful marine reserve. Fish abundance increased nearly 5-fold between 1995 and 2009, one of the largest increases ever recorded in an ocean sanctuary. Top predators — fish like bull sharks and critically endangered goliath groupers — increased 11-fold.

Cabo Pulmo's coral reef is the northernmost one in the eastern Pacific. It's also one of the oldest, at 20,000 years of age. Both John Steinbeck and Jacques Cousteau sung the praises of the reef and its vibrant wildlife. By the 1990s, however, intense fishing pressure had wiped out a big chunk of the reef's charismatic residents. It wasn't just familiar food fish like snapper and grouper that were missing, but fish as small as rainbow wrasses and as large as manta rays.

Residents of the 120-person town knew they had reached a fork in the road: keep fishing unchecked and lose everything, or give up fishing in some spots and save the reef and their livelihoods. So, when a local university approached the community about setting up a protected area, it proved an auspicious match. In 1995, they successfully lobbied the Mexican government to create a national park.

Average biomass of fish in three study sites in Cabo Pulmo from 1999 to 2009.



Today, locally owned tourism businesses help residents earn above-average incomes for Mexico. Fish that migrate out of the park mean that adjacent fishing grounds supply plenty of food and money. And it's not just humans that enjoy the area's newfound abundance. Five species of endangered sea turtles come to the park to feed and mate. Sea lions that cavort in the park's waters are much appreciated by tourists — and by the resident killer whales.

It's proof that protecting nature helps people and wildlife alike. Oceana is opening a Mexico City office in 2018, and we hope our work there can lay the path for more Cabo Pulmo-style bright spots across the country.

These iridescent comb jellies are just one example of the thousands of species of plankton in the sea.
©Karen Adamczewski

Plankton, the tiny wanderers that rule the sea

The German evolutionist Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919) became famous for his "Art Forms in Nature" illustrations, a series of delicate drawings of the microscopic algae that live in the sea. But it was another German, Victor Hensen (1835-1924), who can be thought of as the true discoverer of plankton. On numerous expeditions in the North Atlantic, he identified and mapped tiny, drifting algae and animals, which he named "plankton" after the Greek word for wanderer.

Hensen uncovered predicable patterns in the average plankton abundance across different regions of the North Atlantic. He also correctly identified phytoplankton — "plant plankton" — as the first rung of marine food chains, with phytoplankton-eating zooplankton as the second rung. Zooplankton include jellyfish, shrimp-like krill and other animals that drift with the sea's currents, rather than actively swimming.

Hensen's work was a great conceptual achievement. But Ernst Haeckel disagreed. He had studied the bizarre and beautiful shapes of microscopic algae for 30 years, and he didn't believe that averages and other arithmetic contrivances — not to speak of more sophisticated mathematics — could be used to describe the wondrous diversity of these ocean drifters.

We now know that mathematics can and must be applied when studying phytoplankton and zooplankton. Indeed, it is now possible to map the distribution of phytoplankton from satellites. This is because phytoplankton change the color of the ocean, and clever mathematics can relate the intensity of this color to phytoplankton abundance.

This abundance can then be used to estimate "primary production," the creation of living matter from water, oxygen, carbon dioxide, certain nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, and the energy of sunlight. Ocean phytoplankton therefore act like grasses do on land, and produce about half of the oxygen we breathe.

Satellite data has helped confirm Hensen's hypothesis that phytoplankton form the basis of most marine (and freshwater) food webs. We can also observe this from fisheries studies: Fish catches are higher in coastal areas with greater plankton abundance than offshore in the open ocean.

Like all plants, phytoplankton need fertilizer in the form of iron, nitrogen and other nutrients. In the sea, these nutrients are usually in deeper waters, since marine plants and animals often sink once they die. As climate change heats up surface water, it expands and becomes lighter. Surface water has a harder time mixing with denser, deep water. This process, known as "stratification," is the reason why the giant plankton-poor, desert-like ocean currents known as gyres are currently expanding.

Along coastlines, on the other hand, primary production is often excessive. This is mainly due to agricultural fertilizers and other nutrient-rich runoff being washed from the land into the sea. This leads to phytoplankton "blooms," which grow so swiftly that they can't be grazed down by zooplankton. Once the phytoplankton die, they sink and are consumed by bacteria. The bacteria suck up all the oxygen in the water column, creating a "dead zone" where fish, crabs, mussels and other animals choke to death.

Every summer a huge dead zone arises in the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Mississippi River, which drains agricultural runoff from the entire Midwest. Another dead zone occurs along the coast of Oregon. There are currently about 500 dead zones in the world, and their number and size are increasing.

Plankton may be small, even microscopic, but they drive systems as huge as the sea. There is a lesson in this.

Daniel Pauly is the principal investigator of the Sea Around Us Project at the University of British Columbia's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries and a member of the Board of Oceana.

A fisherman in Chile unloads his catch.
©Oceana/Claudio Almarzo

Peruvian anchovies
©Pabklov

Barry Gold, environment program director, Walton Family Foundation

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

During the summers, the Walton family — founders of the global retail chain Wal-Mart — threw canoes in the back of their car and headed to rivers near Bentonville, Arkansas. For Sam and Helen Walton and their children, these summers on the water fostered a love of rivers, and by extension, the sea.

Building on this love of the water, the Walton Family Foundation is now a leading supporter of efforts to end overfishing, improve ocean health and preserve coastal livelihoods. Its work covers the United States, Mexico, Peru, Chile and Indonesia. To secure healthy, sustainable fisheries, the foundation focuses on policy changes, innovations in fisheries management and market pressure. In short, a systems approach that includes:

- Empowering fishermen and local communities through rights-based management approaches that provide them with secure tenure rights;
- Making science-based decisions about annual catch limits, habitat protection and timelines for rebuilding fish stocks;
- Building capacity for fishermen, governments and civil society;
- Reforming public policies to create positive incentives that encourage responsible fishing; and
- Harnessing the market for sustainable seafood to build demand for healthy fisheries practices.

It is Oceana's expertise in driving policy change that makes it an ideal partner, said Barry Gold, the Walton Family Foundation's environment program director. In each of the countries where the foundation works, assessments revealed that policy and management are a key pillar of sustainable fisheries. "We saw Oceana as having a strong suit in helping us get good policies in place," Gold said.

The foundation aims to ensure that the fisheries in its target countries are sustainable and profitable and that all seafood sold in the U.S., Japan and Spain is sustainable. To do so, Gold explained, it's all about getting the right incentives in place. He cited Oceana's work to end government subsidies that incentivize overfishing as an example of this. "I think incentives are the most powerful instrument."

Despite these ambitious goals, Gold emphasized that there are no quick fixes when it comes to restoring abundant oceans. "Even in our country, where we have one of the best fisheries laws in the world, we see constant challenges. Oceans, ocean conservation and fisheries — it's the long march."

For more information, please visit waltonfamilyfoundation.org.

MARIO BATALI'S **LINGUINE WITH CLAMS**


©Ken Goodman


©David Gruber

Between his restaurants, cookbooks, television appearances and his foundation, Mario Batali's life has been dedicated to feeding people and educating them about the joys of cooking with great, local ingredients. In Oceana CEO Andy Sharpless' book *The Perfect Protein*, Batali showed readers how to cook with jellyfish. Now, he shares a classic linguine recipe featuring clams, some of the most sustainable seafood around.

INGREDIENTS

From *Molto Gusto (Ecco 2010)*

- Kosher salt
- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 6 tablespoons dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon hot red pepper flakes
- 1 pound small clams, such as Manila or cockles, scrubbed
- 1 pound dried linguine
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped fresh Italian parsley

DIRECTIONS

Bring 6 quarts water to a boil in a large pot and add 3 tablespoons kosher salt.

Meanwhile, combine the oil and garlic in a large pot and cook, stirring, over medium-high heat until the garlic is softened, about 1 minute. Add the wine, red pepper flakes, and clams, cover, and cook, shaking the pot occasionally, until the clams open, about 5 minutes; transfer the clams to a bowl as they open. Remove the pot from the heat.

Drop the pasta into the boiling water and cook until just al dente. Drain, reserving about 1/2 cup of the pasta water.

Add the pasta and 1/4 cup of the reserved pasta water to the clam broth and stir and toss over medium heat until the pasta is well coated (add a splash or two more of the reserved pasta water if necessary to loosen the sauce). Stir in the clams, with their juices, and toss until just heated through. Stir in the parsley and serve immediately.

In 2018, Batali and Fabien Cousteau will take passengers into the heart of the Antarctic summer to spot penguins, whales and towering icebergs — and to learn about great cooking. To learn how to join the voyage, please visit oceana.org/antarcticadventure.

NEW YORK GALA

Board Member Ted Danson received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his three decades of ocean advocacy at Oceana's New York Gala at Blue Hill at Stone Barns on September 13. President Bill Clinton presented the award and delivered remarks. Oceana also honored philanthropist and founder of the Living Peace Foundation, Kelly Hallman.

Sam Waterston served as master of ceremonies for the evening, which was co-chaired by Susan and David Rockefeller, Violaine and John Bernbach and Loic Gouzer. Musical guest Cobi performed.

Oceana board member Susan Rockefeller welcomed the Gala's guests, saying, "I am so grateful to see so many important ocean advocates and supporters here tonight. This is a critical time for our oceans, and we need all of your help. Without you — all of you who support our work — we cannot win the victories that must be won." The benefit raised over $1.1 million to restore and revitalize the oceans.

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Violaine and John Bernbach
Loic Gouzer

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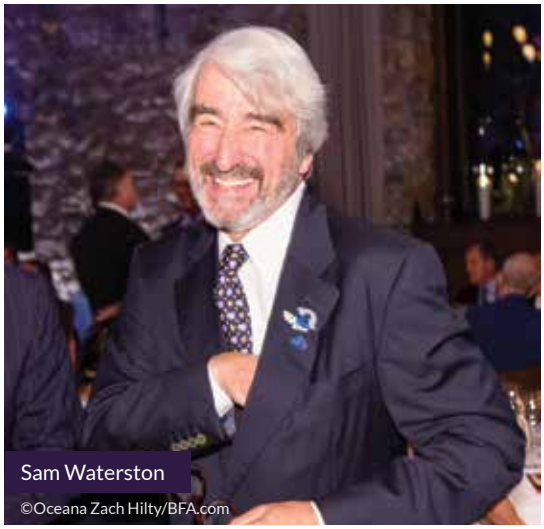
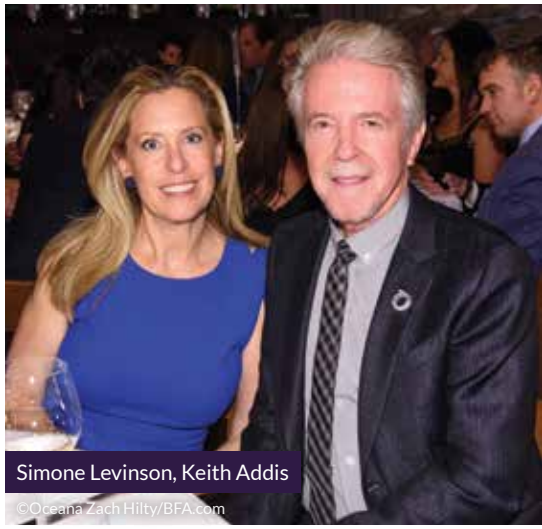


Sam Waterston



Simone Levinson, Keith Addis

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Ted Danson, Adrian Grenier

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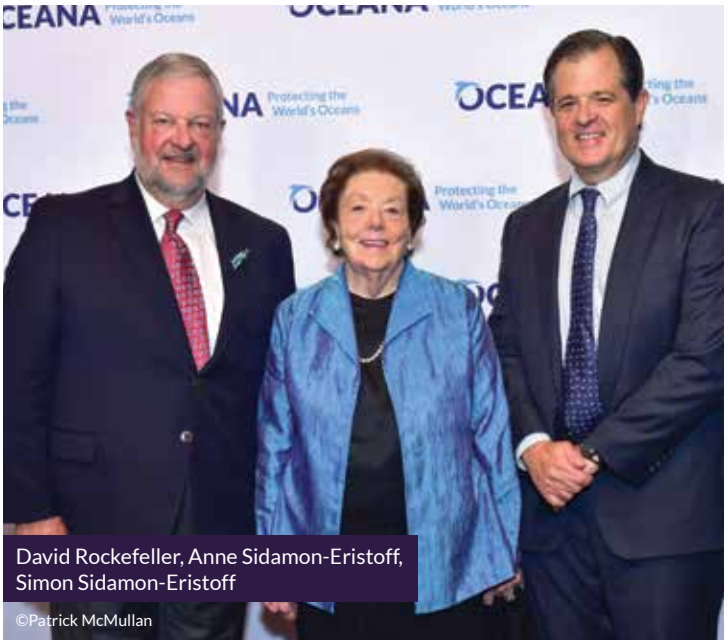

David Rockefeller, Anne Sidamon-Eristoff, Simon Sidamon-Eristoff

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Ifeoma Okoronkwo, Sheila Rogers, Ted Danson, Salla Alfieri, Tracy Nixon, Dede McMahon

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Sardines school near Panagsama Beach in the Philippines' Tañon Strait, the largest marine protected area in the country. Oceana has helped locals eliminate dynamite fishing in Tañon, and programs aimed at curbing illegal fishing are beginning to pay off. As a local politician recently noted at Oceana's Ocean Heroes Assembly, fisheries protection efforts in Tañon Strait have returned 30 times their initial investment — meaning more fish in the sea, and more food for Filipinos.

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Remora fish attend to a humpback whale and her calf.

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