



# SAVE THE SEAS

## Website works to support sustainable fishing practices that help restore healthy oceans

For many of us, summer means a trip to the shore. Sitting in the sand experiencing the sights and sounds of the sea is rejuvenating. The vastness of the ocean puts your problems in perspective. The soothing sound of the surf replaces stress with serenity. The breeze off the bay blows away your worries.

It turns out the oceans have the same effect on the planet as they do on people.

Healthy oceans go a long way toward creating a healthy environment. **Bluemarinefoundation.com** is the website of a charity working to restore the health of the oceans by concentrating on sustainable fishing and protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. The

foundation claims that restoring the ocean will help mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

The London-based Blue Marine Foundation has projects around the globe dedicated to saving the seas. Billions of people depend on the sea for nutrition and employment. Over-fishing and other damaging practices, such as bottom trawling, are damaging to the fishing industry. They deplete stocks and hinder the ability of fish to recover. Sustainable fishing practices actually increase stocks

and create healthy habitats where species can thrive. That means more food and employment. And healthy fish populations help create healthy oceans. Healthy oceans act as huge carbon sinks that help stabilize the climate.

The site is full of amazing photographs. Menacing waves, colorful corals, teeming schools of fish, underwater forests, exotic creatures from the deep, beautiful beaches and more. The home page is topped with a large photo of a school of fish swimming over a coral reef. The picture sways gently back and forth as you read the overlaid text. Below that is a grid of photo links. They take you to news stories from publications around the world featuring Blue Marine Foundation projects.

Below the news links is a three-slide carousel of full-width photo links. One takes you to stories about the foundation's impact since 2010. The next one takes you to a page that describes the crisis facing the sea. The third one takes you to profiles of the people running the foundation.

Scroll further down and there's another grid of photo links. These take you to pages that describe the various projects the foundation is involved in around the world. Each project page has a slideshow of related photos. There's also a Projects link at the top of the site that takes you to the same photo grid, but this page also has an interactive map at the top with

brief descriptions of each project.

More links are at the top of the site. The News + Media link takes you to the same news links as on the homepage. The Contact link provides contact info, information on careers and volunteering, and a sign-up spot for updates. The Support Us link provides different ways to donate.

The last link at the top is the coolest. The Sea We Breathe takes you to a narrated, interactive underwater experience. You can dive through three currents depicting different aspects of undersea life. Each is filled with engaging visuals and interesting information.

The next time you go to the shore to restore your soul, consider doing something to help restore the sea.

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