

9.4 HOW CAN WE SAVE OUR OCEANS?



INTENT– In this unit you will look at the importance of the world’s oceans and why we need to protect them. You will explore the numerous threats facing our oceans and the impact this is having on oceans habitats and species, especially coral reef ecosystems. You will investigate how oceans can be managed successfully

Builds on – Y7 –
coasts, Yr8 – Water



Feedforward –
Climate change,
Anthropocene

KEY LOCATIONS



Global Scale –
Oceans are part
of our global
commons.



National Scale–
Maldives

KEY KNOWLEDGE

- There are 5 oceans in the world.
- Oceans are part of the global commons – they are important for a number of reasons.
- Coral reefs are a key ecosystem within oceans and contain a high level of biodiversity.
- There are a number of factors which affect the distribution of tropical coral reef ecosystems.
- There are a number of threats that the oceans face including plastic pollution and climate change.
- Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing coral reefs, leading to coral bleaching.
- Plastic pollution is a huge problem facing the oceans. Plastic makes its way into the oceans from a variety of sources, and then is carried around the world, leading to the build up of giant garbage patches.
- Overfishing fish such as tuna fish has an impact of people and the environment, especially in places such as the Maldives.
- Fishing can be done more sustainably using methods such as pole and line fishing.
- Managing oceans is difficult as they are large and not all the oceans are owned by anyone.
- Treaties such as the High Seas treaty provide a way to help manage oceans on an international scale.

Natural resources	Substances that are found in nature that can be used by humans for our benefit such as water, minerals and wood.
United Nations	An intergovernmental organisation of 193 member states formed after the Second World War. The primary aims of the UN are to secure international peace, eliminate poverty and protect human rights.
Sustainability	When materials and resources are used in a way which will balance the needs of the present without compromising the future.
Climate Change	A long-term change in the Earth’s climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature.
Overfishing	Removing fish from the ocean at an unsustainable rate.
Bycatch	The capture of unwanted animals whilst fishing for other species.
Trawler	A large boat which drags a large net behind it in order to catch a large number of fish.
Biodiversity	The number of different plant and animal species in a given area.



Oceanographer—
Oceanography covers a wide range of topics, including marine life and ecosystems, ocean circulation, plate tectonics and the geology of the seafloor, and the chemical and physical properties of the ocean.