

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP PROTECT DOLPHINS AND WHALES ?

BY JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU

Dolphins and whales are our counterparts in the sea. What we do to the land ultimately affects marine mammals in the ocean.

Many marine mammals are top predators of the oceanic food chain and some of the chemical pollution we are dumping into the ocean is making its way all the way up the food chain, accumulating in the blubber tissues of many species of whales and dolphins.

We have to be more accountable for the kinds and amount of pollution we produce and the way it is disposed of. There is a garbage patch in the Central Pacific that is bigger than Texas. Ninety percent of this trash is from land base pollution that accidentally washes into the ocean.

Everyone has the power to be ambassadors of the environment. *We have to understand that everyday actions can have positive impacts on the environment, such as walking and riding your bike more; recycling or, better yet, using less of everything; turning off the lights when you leave the room; turning off the water faucet when you brush your teeth; buying fish that are listed as a sustainable harvested species, with little by-catch; participating in beach clean-ups; and making every day earth day!*

Did you know the United States makes up only 4% of the world population but we use much of Earth's raw materials? If everyone on this planet lived like Americans, it would take 4.3 planet Earths to support our wasteful lifestyle. Americans also produce 25% of the greenhouse gases, contributing to global warming.

We have to learn how to be more responsible stewards of the environment and minimize our environmental footprint.



Jean-Michel Cousteau
oceanfutures.org



Credit: 3D Entertainment Distribution