

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP PROTECT DOLPHINS AND WHALES ?

BY DR. SYLVIA EARLE

People ask me, and I ask myself, what can I do, as one individual, that can help ensure the future and the safety of dolphins and whales and their fellow mammals in the sea, the manatees?

No one is without power. *The first thing you need to do is to understand what's going on. Take people to see the fantastic 3D film about dolphins and whales so they can see the world from the standpoint of the creatures who live there. Get people to care. I think the biggest problem is that people think that everything is OK, that dolphins and whales are safe. Or they don't think about them at all. But the truth is, dolphins and whales are in trouble, and so are we because the ocean is in trouble.*

Their future and our future are totally connected. *What we do to the ocean, what we do to dolphins and whales, links back to what we do to ourselves.*

*We can, first of all, become aware. Secondly, we can support efforts to take care of dolphins and whales. **Make sure that those who represent us in government make the right policies, to have areas where dolphins and whales are truly safe. Protect the breeding and feeding areas.***

There are some places in the ocean that are especially important to dolphins and to whales, places – just as with wild birds, as with people – where they go for food, where they have to go to have safe places to raise their young. Grey whales have special lagoons in Mexico where, from all over the world, this is the place that they must return to for their young to be born and go through their early stages. The corridors along the coast where they travel on their way to feeding grounds, they need to be protected there. And, certainly, we must help protect their food sources.

We are competing with dolphins and whales for food where they have no choices. We have plenty of choices. *We don't have to eat squid. We don't have to eat the fish that these creatures depend on for their survival. We can give their food a break so that we give the dolphins and whales a break. It seems like such a simple, straightforward thing but most people probably don't think about it in that way when they order fish or when they look at places where squid are common on the menu. It doesn't occur to them that that's squid or that those are little fish that might have fed dolphins and whales. We are competing with the wildlife in the sea when we go out and extract from what amounts to their kitchen, their refrigerator.*



Credit: 3D Entertainment Distribution

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So, knowing what makes it possible for these creatures to live and taking actions that will protect those vital aspects of their life history are among the actions that we can take to take care of the ocean that takes care of them and us.

One thing that you can do to make a difference for dolphins and whales is to encourage people to go see DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D. Of course, go see it yourself. I can't think of another way, other than going out into the ocean yourself, to understand something of what it's like to be a dolphin or a whale, to fly along underwater, to really hold your breath and come to the surface and inhale the same air that we share with them, and then dive down again to the depths of the ocean. To see what it's like to be at home in the sea.

I have so often wished I could be a dolphin or a whale, to be able to communicate over long distances with beautiful sounds. It's a dream, a dream that anybody can experience – vicariously, at least—by going to go see DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D. And take a child along. Look at the world through their eyes. If you don't have a child of your own, borrow one. But see the world and the ocean through their eyes, through the eyes of dolphins and whales.

And look back and see yourself in new ways.

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