

National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Week 1981, "We Care About Oceans"
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WE CARE ABOUT OCEANS

Habitat Theme Excerpt

NARRATION FOR SLIDES

3. It's fun to collect shells or watch the birds and the crabs. The ocean is wonderful . . .

Photo by C. Allan Morgan.

25. Of all the special habitats of the sea, the coastal areas called estuaries are some of the most important. An estuary is a place where salt water and fresh water meet at the mouth of a river. So many animals start out their lives in these calm tidal creeks, mudflats, and marshlands, that estuaries are called "nurseries of the sea."

Photo courtesy of Porter B. Reed, Jr./ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

26. Many marshlands have been drained and filled in, so that streets, houses, and factories could be built. When an estuary is destroyed, wildlife--like this handsome Louisiana heron--is threatened.

Photo by Stephen J. Krasemann/Photo Researchers.

27. Another shore habitat is this sandy beach. It's the place where you find the fast-running ghost crab . . .

Photo by Stephen J. Krasemann.

28. . . . and gulls.

Photo by Stephen J. Krasemann.

29. Along a rocky shore, a clear, freshly-filled tidepool looks like a miniature sea.

Photo by Sue Drafahl.

30. You can see algae and many other small plants and animals in a tidepool. The animals crawl and swim and cling to the rocks or hide under them, waiting for the next life giving tide.

Photo by Animals Animals/Anne Wertheim.

31. Here are some colorful creatures. These arm-waving starfish are sort of eyeing each other. They have eyespots on the end of each arm, though they don't "see" as we do; they sense what's around them.

Photo by Jack Drafahl.

32. A coral reef is another special community. This tropical reef was built by millions of small coral animals. Many different plants and animals depend on the reef and each other for shelter and food.

Photo by Animals Animals/Carl Roessler.

33. While many sea animals spend their lives in a special place like a kelp forest, coral reef, sand beach or rocky coast, many others--such as these mackerel--may be found in the vast, open oceans. Ocean fish like mackerel, tuna, and cod

help feed the world. We need seafood, but we must be careful not to take too much food from the sea. Overfishing is not wise ocean management.

Photo by Animals Animals/Steve Earley.

34. Far out from shore and way down where the sun never reaches, the waters are eerie and dark. Many animals that call the deep ocean home have shapes and features that help them move about, feed and avoid enemies in the never-ending night of their world. This fish has extra-big eyes and its own pattern of lights. We rarely see such strange creatures, but they're part of the ocean food web, too.

Photo by Animals Animals/Oxford Scientific Films.

53. (Music closes the slide program.)