Pressures on our seas

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

From space our planet Earth is blue. Most of what can be seen is water.

It is estimated that 71% of the Earth is covered by the sea.

People often call the Earth

‘The Blue Planet’

Image courtesy of Chris Roll/FreeDigitalPhotos.net

What does the sea give us?

Isle of Arran
COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

What does the sea give us?

- Oxygen
- Food
- Medicines
- Leisure activities
- Transport
- The delight of looking at it and the huge range of amazing species which live there.
- Millions of people earn their living from the sea

More than 70% of our planet is made up of oceans but only about 1% of it is protected.

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Our seas and shores are under huge pressure.

What are the pressures on our seas?

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

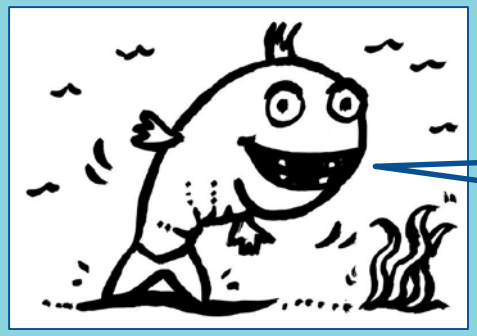
Why does it matter?

What can we do about it?

Isle of Arran
COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Do we have an impact on our seas?

Think of some ways that humans affect our seas.



What do you think you can do about it?

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

"Oiled Bird - Black Sea Oil Spill 111207" by Marine Photobank - originally posted to Flickr as Oiled Bird - Black Sea Oil Spill 11/12/07. Licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oiled_Bird_-_Black_Sea_Oil_Spill_111207.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Oiled_Bird_-_Black_Sea_Oil_Spill_111207.jpg

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Overfishing

- Some fishing practices can damage the health of the marine environment.
- Often too many fish are caught and young fish are not given enough time to mature and then breed.

What will happen if this continues? Discuss with your partner.

What do you think has happened in the picture below?

How did this affect the turtle? - Think about feeding and moving.

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Bycatch

- When fish are being caught other creatures get caught up in the nets or hooks at the same time. Animals such as seals or birds can become entangled in nets and die. Smaller fish are also caught up.

This is known as bycatch.

- Thousands of dolphins, small whales, seals and porpoises are killed every year in this way.
- ***How do you think this will affect the marine food chain? Talk to your partner.***

Bob Fisher moves a cownose ray, which was caught as bycatch off the coast of Virginia by Virginia Sea Grant is licensed by CC by 2.0

Climate change

Our seas are getting warmer which makes them more acidic. This has a negative effect on plankton and corals which are primary producers.

How will this affect the marine food chain?

The last Polar Bear by Gerard Van der Leun is licensed by CC by-NC-ND 2.0

Pollution

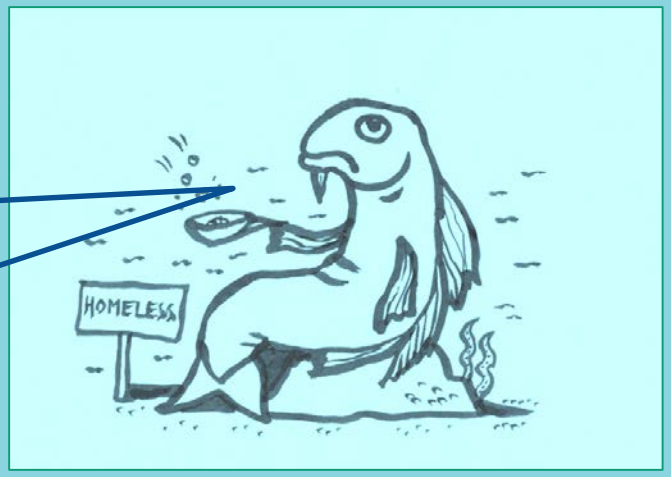
- Pollution can poison marine life and seriously damage marine habitats.
- It's human activities which create pollution.
- Plastic waste, chemical waste, oil, sewage and litter, all contribute to altering the marine food web which damages the ecosystem.

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Habitats destroyed

- One example of this is scallop dredging which has destroyed the maerl beds in Lamlash Bay. Maerl beds provide nursery habitats for young individuals.
- Fortunately, due to the No Take Zone, these maerl beds are beginning to recover, but many areas continue to be damaged.

What's happening? Why is my home disappearing?



Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Litter

- Litter can injure or kill wildlife. Many marine animals either mistakenly eat litter or become entangled with it and die.

- How does litter on our shores affect humans?

This was collected from Blackwaterfoot beach in just 1 hour.

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Too little is being done to protect our precious marine wildlife and vital fish stocks.

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

We **can** do something to help!

Make a list of some things you think we can do.

Isle of Arran COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

10 things **you** can do

- Reduce, re-use, recycle. Reduce your carbon foot print.
- Support organisations like COAST who are working to protect our seas and learn about how they do this.
- Don't buy items which threaten marine life, e.g. coral jewellery.
- Use eco friendly cleaning products in your home.
- Take a bag to the supermarket instead of accepting a new plastic bag each time.
- Ask your parents to buy fish which has been sustainably caught. Look for the marine stewardship council logo.
- Get involved in beach clean-ups.
- Be considerate of habitats on the shore, e.g. Don't disturb nesting shorebirds, take your rubbish home with you.
- Learn about our seas and the plants and animals in them.
- Tell others about the sea, we take care of things better when we understand and appreciate them.

Isle of Arran
COAST
Community Of Arran Seabed Trust