

= SpongeBob 's Last Stand =

" SpongeBob 's Last Stand " is the eighth episode of the seventh season and the 134th overall episode of the American animated television series SpongeBob SquarePants . It originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on April 22 , 2010 , in celebration of Earth Day .

The series follows the adventures and endeavors of the title character and his various friends in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom . In this episode , SpongeBob and Patrick protest the construction of a highway that would destroy Jellyfish Fields .

The episode was written by Aaron Springer , Steven Banks , and Derek Iversen , and was directed by Andrew Overtoom and Tom Yasumi . Upon release , the episode met positive reviews . On March 16 , 2010 , the episode became available on DVD .

Similar to that of The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie , the episode was originally planned to be the final episode of the series , but Nickelodeon decided to keep it on afterwards .

= = Plot summary = =

Early one day , SpongeBob and Patrick become the first visitors to a new section of Jellyfish Fields . As they wander in the area , they discover a sign that states that a " super highway " will be built through Jellyfish Fields . Believing that the highway will pollute and ultimately destroy Jellyfish Fields , SpongeBob resolves to prevent the highway 's creation .

SpongeBob asks Mr. Krabs for assistance , but he supports the highway , as it can bring more customers to the Krusty Krab . SpongeBob then shows Mr. Krabs the highway 's blueprint , which shows that the highway with concrete columns will run over the Krusty Krab and end directly at the Chum Bucket , revealing that Plankton is responsible for the highway 's development . Mr. Krabs thus decides to support SpongeBob . They both go to the Chum Bucket and ask Plankton to not develop the highway , but he states that , already , the whole rest of the town has unanimously voted to build the highway .

Refusing to give up , SpongeBob and Patrick peacefully petition to stop the highway . Nobody listens to them , however , and they are quickly exiled for their actions . Shortly after arriving there , they see a parade meant to commemorate the groundbreaking of the highway . It is rapidly built and , as SpongeBob predicted , it turns Jellyfish Fields into a wasteland .

A few days later , the Krusty Krab 's business quickly dwindles due to the highway . Believing that no one will come to the Krusty Krab , Mr. Krabs decides to finally give Plankton the Krabby Patty formula . Mere seconds before he does , however , the jellyfish from Jellyfish Fields invade Bikini Bottom and start attacking civilians . Seeing this as an opportunity to demolish the highway , SpongeBob makes an appeal to the people , who agree to destroy it . Everybody in Bikini Bottom turns against Plankton and destroys the pavement and the columns of the highway (Plankton , who thinks his highway is unremovable , tries to save it but gets run over) . Jellyfish Fields is restored instantly to its natural state .

= = Production = =

" SpongeBob 's Last Stand " was written by Aaron Springer , Steven Banks , and Derek Iversen . Springer also served as storyboard director . Directed by Andrew Overtoom and Tom Yasumi , the episode was part of Nickelodeon 's 2010 Earth Day celebration . The episode originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on April 22 , 2010 , following a two @-@ hour marathon of nature @-@ themed SpongeBob episodes . A tie @-@ in game to the episode was released online prior to its television airing . According to Nickelodeon , " [kids will] learn about the environment through different levels at different Bikini Bottom locales . "

Nickelodeon officially announced the episode on a press release on April 5 , 2010 . According to the network , " SpongeBob and Patrick learn the ' Shelly Super Highway ' is coming to Bikini Bottom - right through Jellyfish Fields ! They must find a way to galvanize their neighbors , or it could be the end for Jellyfish Fields forever . " It was promoted as SpongeBob 's campaign to save the jellyfish .

Writer Banks told that the episode never set out to teach environmental lessons . He said " When you entertain someone and make it funny , sometimes you can get a message across [...] Not that we 're out here to send messages everywhere . " The episode featured two musical numbers , including " Give Jellyfish Fields a Chance " , a salute to the 1960s protest songs with similarities to John Lennon 's " Give Peace a Chance " . Banks , on the song , said that " [It is a] sort of Bob Dylan meets John Lennon . "

On March 16 , 2010 , prior to the episode 's television airing , the episode was released on the DVD compilation of the same name in the United States and Canada , on July 18 , 2011 in region 2 , and on June 6 , 2011 in region 4 . The DVD features six other episodes including " Pet or Pests " , " Komputer Overload " , " Gullible Pants " , " Overbooked " , " No Hat for Pat " , and " Toy Store of Doom " . It was also released on the series ' season seven DVD compilation , alongside 25 other episodes .

= = Reception = =

According to the Nielsen Media Research , Nickelodeon averaged 2 @.@ 1 million total viewers . SpongeBob SquarePants was ranked as the number @-@ one program on broadcast and basic cable in April and scored the number @-@ one telecast , " SpongeBob 's Last Stand " , with kids 2 @-@ 11 for the month .

The episode received positive reviews from critics . Paul Mavis of DVD Talk said " [the episode have] a nicely worked @-@ out story and strong , integrated gags . He added " it 's a particularly well @-@ crafted entry . " C. S. Strowbridge of The Numbers said " There are a number of funny gags on this double @-@ length short , but it feels padded . It 's also heavy @-@ handed . I do like that they have a message to go with the jokes , but it would have been more effective if it were more subtle . " Josh Rode of DVD Verdict described the episode as " decent " . Shannon Gosney of The Mommy @-@ Files said " there were many parts where my boys just burst out laughing . Even I found myself laughing at times . "