

Our Planet is a beautifully written documentary series that offers some truly breathtaking and surprisingly light-hearted scenes. It is one of the best nature documentary series that is very informative, well-presented and emotionally complex. Its highly thought provoking narration is done by David Attenborough and is produced by Silverback films. This is the fourth episode of the documentary series *Our Planet*. The total time span of this documentary is [49:47] forty nine minutes and forty seven seconds.

This great episode discusses the effect of climate change and human impact on coastal seas ecosystem. This discusses the ocean acidification, nutrient availability and from over exploitation to maintaining the healthy ecosystem.

In this documentary Coastal Seas, one of the episodes of Our Planet series from Netflix, the narrator takes viewers on a breathtaking journey during which he describes ways of life of various marine creatures, the wildlife, their behavior and habitats and highlights the devastating consequences of global warming. But it also gives the message of hope that we can still save our planet if we act wisely now. This episode first describes the importance of the shallow seas and its inhabitants (plant and animal species) which is then followed by the horrible scenes of the overfishing and devastating effects of global warming, and the conclusion gives us the hope for future.

The documentary begins by showing us the incredible and captivating footages of the marine creature, the anchovies, that how the small fishes sustain the bigger one by hunting and thus provide abundance of food for wildlife and humanity. Coastal seas are the rich community of plant and animal species. The plants and the lush marine meadows inside the sea provide the habitat for the wide variety of animal species. About 90% of all the marine creature lives in the coastal seas. But due to the human activities and most importantly the climate change, it has been greatly affected. Thanks to the miraculous gift by nature , the sea grass , which absorbs much of the CO₂ and reduces the damage and warming of the seas.

After that, the documentary takes turn to the formative point of the episode by highlighting the fact that every specie in the coastal sea is highly important as it supports each other's presence. For the survival of one specie , the presence of the other is necessary. This makes the ecosystem healthy. The documentary is carried on showing us the most amazing coral reefs which makes less than 1% of the sea floor and are home to quarter of marine species – therefore are of tantamount importance. Every cute creature in the sea assist in maintaining the health of the reefs , hence whole community depends on it. None of the creature will be there if there is no reef. But sadly and unfortunately, they are in danger. The sea warming due to the climate change makes the coral reefs lose their vital food source and hence they become white. And If this continues for a long period of time, these hauntingly appearing white reefs starve and eventually die and their communities had perished alongside them. Depressingly across the world, half of all coral reefs in shallow waters have already died.

Then we have one of the misunderstood creature “the sharks”. Surprisingly , sharks are crucial to the survival of the ocean's corals because they keep the predators under check. Apart from the predators , the small fishes are equally vital for the maintaining the health of the larger fishes. Later , the scene is shifted taking us to the most favorite part of mine -the beauty of kelp forests where the sea otter and its helper sheephead in his Californian style feed on the urchins plucking them as they destroy the kelp forest.

This is followed by the captivating scene of ethereal Jellyfishes that are now taking over the water and provide sustenance to the other life forms.

After that, the documentary is revealing the most horrible fact of the overfishing and overexploitation. It's causing a serious imbalance in the sea community as overfishing wipes out the competitors and predators. Whether we admit it or not, but we have caused a serious damage to our planet. Due to the human activities, many species are on the verge of extinction. Only 3% of the marine areas are free from human pressure. More than half of the world's ocean is overexploited. And this documentary is a constant reminder of the damage we have done to our species and the Planet and this is totally unforgiving.

The animals are hard to forget and have interesting individual stories, that the human can relate to without over-humanizing. This episode showcases the importance of protecting our Coastal seas and concludes by saying that the "future doesn't need to be like this". We should struggle for the future in a way that both nature and people be benefited. Our nature is precious and must need to be protected.

Here in the documentary the future is presented very optimistically with stunning animation saying that there is still hope. We can manage this turnaround and stop fishing until the fish community is properly regulated and maintained. The verdict is damning and we desperately need to act.

Although the documentary was worth watching and covers a lot of information using a wide range of techniques rarely seen before. But there were emotionally destructive scenes having more sense of jeopardy of the precious and cute creatures between the prey and the predators. And the most important thing that it didn't tell us that how we can stop it and conserve the nature as it is an important thing to talk about. But despite all the facts, it was thought provoking and insightful.

As the documentaries are a powerful tool to change the narratives and for spreading awareness around what is happening in the natural world. So I would recommend this documentary to all of our young generation who can make a change to nature, those are willing to strive and thrive for the conservation of our resources and species.

Let us remember – that even a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can make a change to this world.