

# HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT MARINE WILDLIFE



10 simple actions you can take to protect our precious oceans.



DRAWING FOR THE PLANET

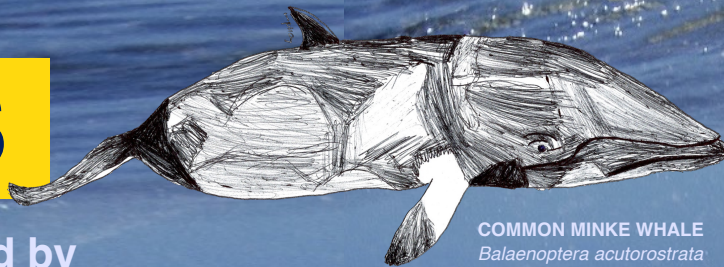


# OCEANS

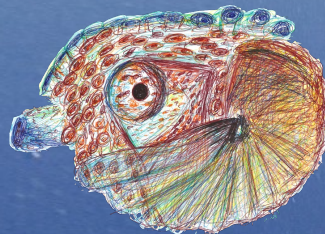
Our Oceans are inhabited by beautiful creatures — as drawn by children and adults for Drawing for the Planet’s project *Laguna Marine Wildlife*. Due to human activities many extraordinary species are on the brink of extinction and could be lost forever.

The more people who take positive action the bigger difference we can make for marine and other wildlife - together we are stronger!

“No water, no Life.  
No blue, no green.”  
*Dr. Sylvia Earle*



**COMMON MINKE WHALE**  
*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: London, USA



**WINGED ARGONAUT**  
*Argonauta hians*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Josephine Y9, UK



**PACIFIC SEA NETTLE**  
*Chrysaora fuscescens*  
**UNLISTED (IUCN Red List)**  
Drawing: Halle, USA



**HUMPBACK WHALE**  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Image: Dreamstime



**CALIFORNIA TWO-SPOT OCTOPUS**  
*Octopus bimaculoi*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Lucia Y10, UK



**LOGGERHEAD TURTLE**  
*Eumetopias jubatus*  
**VULNERABLE**  
Drawing: Ethan Y9, UK



Here is our list of 10 simple actions.  
Please download and share with others...

## 1. VOLUNTEER FOR A BEACH CLEAN-UP

Simple but hugely effective, beach clean-ups are a fun way you can help marine wildlife and our environment.

At Drawing for the Planet, we love the concept of volunteering — it's good for those you're helping and good for the soul! If you live by or visit the coast, why not **volunteer** for a beach clean-up, organize a clean-up yourself with friends and family or simply pick up trash and take it to a recycling centre. Live In the USA? Volunteer with [Surfrider Foundation](#) (South Orange County Chapter clean-up dates [here](#))



## 3. EAT RESPONSIBLY

Make sustainable shopping choices.

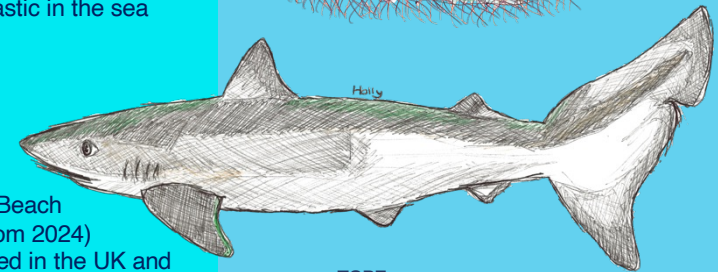
Eating eco-friendly locally caught fish lessens the demand on species like tope. Choosing sustainably caught fish helps avoid bycatch (species unintentionally caught in fishing nets intended for other species) and reduces the threat to species like the endangered Blue Whale, Stellar Sea Lion and the critically endangered Tope.

Checking food labels and understanding where your food comes from will help you make responsible choices. **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!**

**STRIPED MARLIN**  
*Kajikia audax*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Yasemin Y10, UK



**PINTO ABALONE**  
*Haliotis kamtschatkana*  
**ENDANGERED**  
Drawing: Brooke Y9, UK



**TOPE**  
*Galeorhinus galeus*  
**CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**  
Drawing: Holly Y10, UK

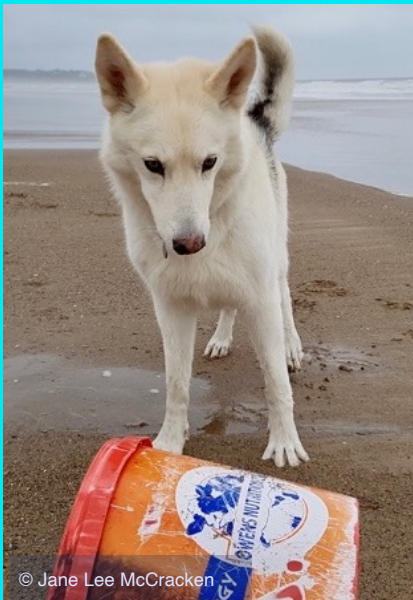
## 2. USE LESS PLASTIC

The truth about plastic - it kills wildlife! Plastic has also entered our food chain with traces found in seafood.

Many marine species, like the critically endangered Hawksbill turtle become entangled in plastic and drown or eat plastic and suffocate. Seabirds like albatross are known to feed plastic to their chicks. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the sea than fish. **Be part of the solution, not the problem:**

- Use tote bags to carry shopping
- Say no to plastic straws and cutlery
- Carry reusable water bottles and coffee cups
- Avoid single-use plastics
- Lobby for your local authority to ban balloons (Laguna Beach City Council has prohibited all public use of balloons from 2024)
- REUSE! Less than 10% of household plastic is recycled in the UK and USA. For more on plastic pollution visit [Surfrider Foundation](#)

Lily found a plastic container and we disposed of it...



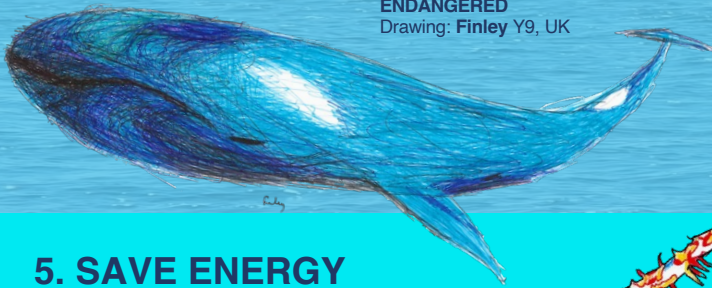
## 4. SAVE WATER

Using less water means less waste-water enters our oceans. It also keeps more water in our environment — particularly as our wetlands which are home to 40% of all species — and avoids water shortages, reduces energy consumption and saves money:

- Don't run baths – take short showers instead
- Collect water in butts for your garden
- Only wash clothes when your washing basket is full and wash on cold water cycles to save both water and energy
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth!

Using eco-friendly cleaning products also reduces water pollution.

**BLUE WHALE**  
*Balaenoptera musculus*  
**ENDANGERED**  
Drawing: Finley Y9, UK



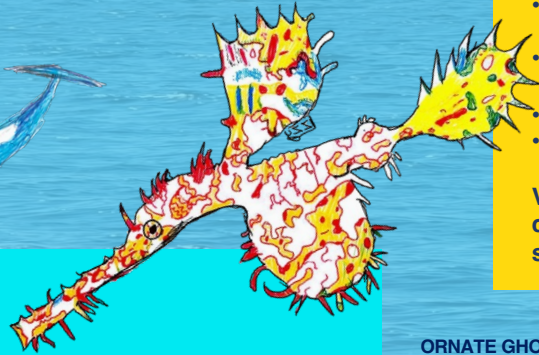
**REDDISH EGRET**  
*Egretta rufescens*  
**NEAR THREATENED**  
Drawing: Nina, USA

## 5. SAVE ENERGY

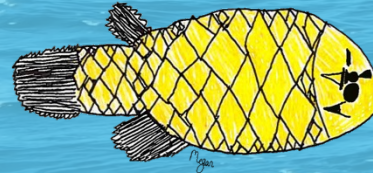
Our over-consumption of energy, particularly burning of fossil fuels leads to more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) being released into the atmosphere, which causes global warming.

CO<sub>2</sub> also enters our oceans resulting in ocean acidification. This can cause the death of coral, among other living things. The destruction of coral reefs threatens many amazing species to which they are home. Lowering your carbon foot-print could help save these animals from extinction. Here are a few energy saving ideas which can also save money on bills:

- Drive less
- Walk or cycle
- Carpool
- Use public transport
- Fly less
- Turn off lights and chargers you're not using!



**ORNATE GHOST PIPEFISH**  
*Solenostomus paradoxus*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Izzy P7, UK



**JAPANESE PINEAPPLE FISH**  
*Monocentris japonica*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing by Megan P5, UK

## 6. TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

More of us are thinking about the impact of flying on our environment and taking vacations at home instead. If travelling abroad, we can lessen our impact on wildlife:

- Use sustainable tourist companies
- Research threats to local wildlife so you can avoid purchasing goods that harm wildlife
- Help support local community eco-activities and continue to support when you return
- Avoid buying marine wildlife souvenirs
- Don't get too close to wildlife - respect it and enjoy it from a distance
- Whale watch or dive with responsible companies and instructors
- Say **NO to swimming with dolphins** – it can cause health risks and stress to dolphins
- Be aware of sustainable food choices at your destination
- Use reef-safe sun-cream

Visiting aquariums or dolphinariums encourages the capture and captivity of wild animals which can cause stress, behavioural issues, illness and premature death



**BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN**  
*Tursiops truncatus*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Kristin, USA



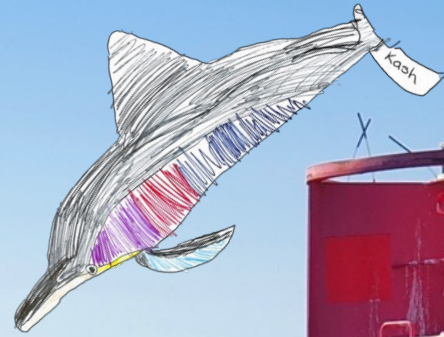
## 7. BOAT RESPONSIBLY

Many of us enjoy ocean recreational activities including boating, kayaking and water-skiing. When we enter the ocean, we are its guests, and its inhabitants need our respect.

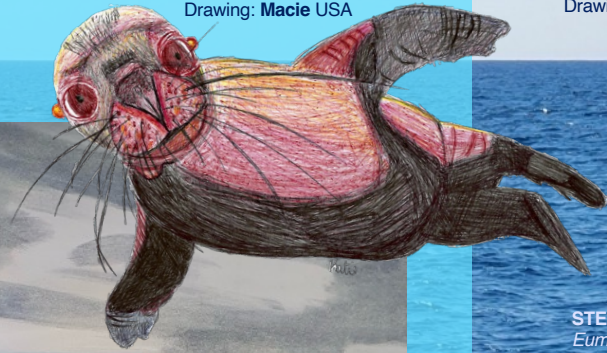
Wildlife can be disturbed easily and suffer not only stress but injury and death through vessel strikes. **Sailors for the Sea** gives excellent advice in its program: [Boating Near Marine Wildlife.](#)



**SEA OTTER**  
*Enhydra lutris*  
**ENDANGERED**  
Drawing: Macie USA



**COMMON DOLPHIN**  
*Delphinus delphis*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Kash Y1, UK



**STELLER SEA LION**  
*Eumetopias jubatus*  
**NEAR THREATENED**  
Drawing: Katie Y9, UK



**PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN**  
*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Jess Y10, UK



*Dead Seas* 2020 [Nick Holmes](#), acrylic on canvas



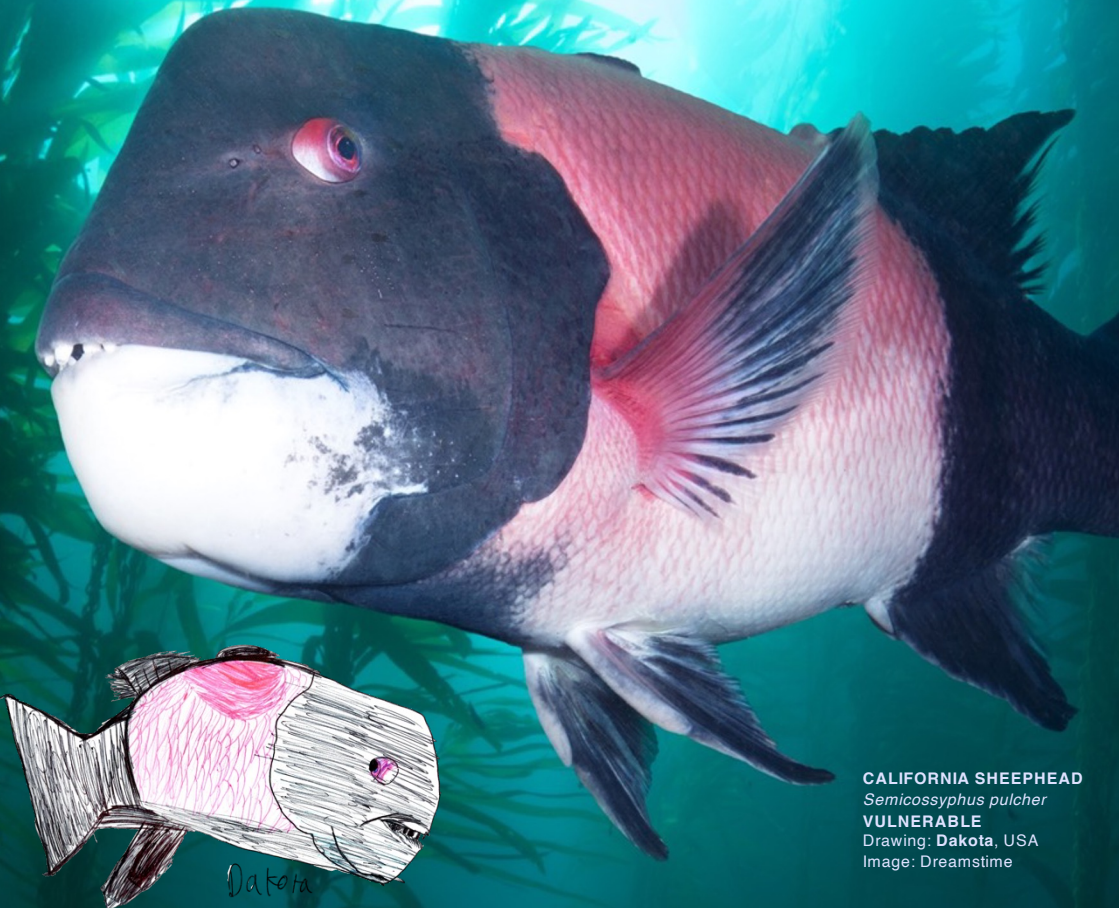
“Art is a very powerful form of expression! By providing the opportunity of self-expression through drawing wildlife, it is my hope to further generate individual compassion towards animals and the environment while encouraging collective responsibility to cherish and conserve the planet’s remaining wildlife for future generations – **IF WE CARE WE WANT TO CONSERVE.**” *Jane Lee McCracken*



## 8. LEARN ABOUT MARINE WILDLIFE

Learning more about wildlife is not only exciting it also helps us appreciate the beauty and importance of each species in its ecosystem, why it is threatened and ways we can take positive action to help. Remember, humans need wildlife to survive so it is also for our own benefit that wildlife is protected. Here are some suggestions:

- Watch wildlife documentaries like Blue Planet
- Read books/articles about wildlife
- Follow environmental news organisations such as Mongabay
- Follow marine conservation organisations like Greenpeace on social media



CALIFORNIA SHEEPHEAD  
*Semicossyphus pulcher*  
**VULNERABLE**  
Drawing: Dakota, USA  
Image: Dreamstime

## 9. FUNDRAISE FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

In order to help animals, conservation organisations need funding and that means they need our help. If you are passionate about saving wildlife, or our oceans you can raise funds for organisations that protect them. Here are some fundraising ideas:

- Research responsible conservation organisations you would like to raise funds for – Drawing for the Planet, like our partners *Born Free*, is an advocate for keeping wildlife in the wild where it belongs and supports other charities that observe this vision
- Organise a school art-sale of children's wildlife drawings, or bake-sale, or sponsored walk to raise funds
- **VOLUNTEER** - many organisations need volunteers to help with their missions - check their websites for volunteer programmes

## 10. TELL OTHERS

By telling others what you have learned not only can you inspire them to get involved in the conservation of wildlife and the environment, but you also become a champion for wildlife and humanity! As well as telling people there are other effective ways you can raise awareness:

- Share conservation organisations posts
- Write posts about your own wildlife experiences
- Sign petitions and share them - signing petitions really can effect change!
- Starting an environment club



# ABOUT WILDLIFE IN CAPTIVITY

Many people enjoy seeing marine animals in public aquariums. Keeping fish in home aquariums is something many people enjoy, but did you know captivity shortens the lives of many animals including dolphins and orcas.

Often kept in inadequate tanks, they can suffer from stress, behavioural issues or illness. While most freshwater fish are bred in captivity, 95-99% of marine fish sold in the aquarium trade are captured in the wild. Not only can this be harmful to species populations particularly endangered species as well as their ecosystems, destructive practices are often used to capture marine species. The Animal Welfare Institute says:

*“The use of toxins like cyanide to capture fish can kill or impair both target and nontarget species, while also killing coral or impairing its ability to provide shelter or food to marine life.”*

**“If we damage the Earth,  
we damage ourselves.”**  
Sir David Attenborough



**GARIBALDI**  
*Hypsypops rubicundus*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Grace, UK



**GIANT SEAHORSE**  
*Hippocampus ingens*  
**VULNERABLE**  
Drawing: Andy, USA



**HORN SHARK**  
*Heterodontus francisci*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Drawing: Jordan, USA



**STARBURST SEA ANEMONE**  
*Anthopleura sola*  
**UNLISTED**  
Drawing: Sarah Y9, UK

**California Moray Eel**  
*Gymnothorax mordax*  
**LEAST CONCERN**  
Image: Jane Lee McCracken



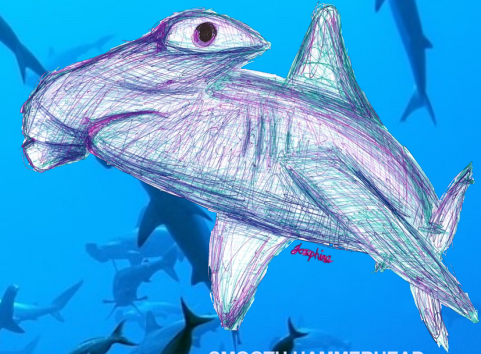
# SHARKS



**SMALLTOOTH SAND SHARK**  
*Odontaspis ferox*  
**VULNERABLE**  
Drawing: Brooke Y9, UK



**COMMON THRESHER**  
*Alopias vulpinus*  
**VULNERABLE**  
Drawing: Ewan Y9, UK



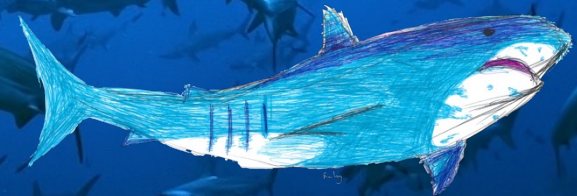
**SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD**  
*Sphyrna zygaena*  
**VULNERABLE**  
Drawing: Josephine Y9, UK

## SHARK FINNING AND WHY SHARKS ARE IN PERIL

**Majestic, beautiful, yet greatly misunderstood, with over 500 species in existence, sharks are vitally important to our ocean ecosystems. But around 100 MILLION sharks are killed EVERY YEAR!**

Victims of bycatch, where species are unintentionally caught in nets intended for other species, sharks are also hunted for their fins. Fins are cut from live sharks leaving them to die an agonising death. Shark fins are used in Shark Fin soup and other body parts for medicines, particularly in traditional Chinese medicine, despite the absence of scientific evidence that shark products can cure diseases. Such uses are unsustainable with many shark species now facing extinction. Sharks have existed for 450 million year while modern humans only evolved around 200 thousand years ago.

**It's time to shout out for sharks and raise awareness of their plight by telling others or sharing on social media.**



**TIGER SHARK**  
*Galeocerdo cuvier*  
**NEAR THREATENED**  
Drawing: Finley Y9, UK

**SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD**  
*Sphyrna lewini*  
**CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**  
Image: Dreamstime



# LAGUNA MARINE WILDLIFE PROJECT

*Laguna Marine Wildlife 2023* project celebrates the dazzling and diverse wildlife inhabiting the Pacific Ocean around Laguna Beach, California. The project raises awareness of vulnerable marine species and raises funds for marine conservation organisations.

Led by [Jane Lee McCracken](#) artist and Founder of Drawing for the Planet, and in partnership with the [Laguna Art Museum](#) and the [Coast Film & Music Festival](#), over 600 children and adults from California and the UK have created ballpoint pen drawings of over 180 Pacific marine species in Jane's workshops between 2022 and 2023. Nine artworks featuring participants drawings including *Laguna Marine Wildlife* mural have been created by Jane for the project. Find out more about the project and the wildlife by visiting our project page: [drawingfortheplanet.org/lagunamarinewildlife](https://drawingfortheplanet.org/lagunamarinewildlife)

Left: *Laguna Marine Wildlife 2023* Jane Lee McCracken, featuring drawings by children and adults



## DRAWING FOR THE PLANET

We are a global art and environmental education charity with drawing, one of the oldest forms of communication, at its core. Founded by artist, Jane Lee McCracken, to share her passions for drawing and wildlife, we partner with international wildlife charity Born Free, conservationists, artists, educators and cultural institutions. Through our art, education, exhibition and conservation fundraising projects we give children, communities and wildlife a voice.

## DONATE

via the QR code or:  
[drawingfortheplanet.org/donate](https://drawingfortheplanet.org/donate)



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