Cultural values of marine ecosystem services

Film script

Principal Investigators: Jasper Kenter (SAMS), Juliette Young (Centre for Ecology &

Hydrology)

Interviews and research: Gill Ainsworth (CEH)

Seb O'Connor (SAMS)

Filmed by: Andy Crabb (SAMS), Heather Lowther and Paulette Burns (CEH)

Edited by: Andy Crabb

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SAMS, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA; https://www.sams.ac.uk
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Bush Estate, Penicuik EH26 0QB; www.ceh.ac.uk







Local views

Views about the marine environment and how local people would like to see it managed.

Places

What appeals most to you about the marine environment around here and why?

Scott Wharton: Fisherman, Ilfracombe (SW): Well, yeah, the coast is, obviously, you know, we make our living from the sea, so it's, you know, important to us that the environment's looked after... ... and it's just something you've done for your, well, best part of your lifetime, and like I said previously, my role is to try and make sure the next generation can enjoy the coastline the same as we have, you know?

Tim Robbins: Devon and Severn IFCA, Brixham (SW): I love living in the southwest and I'm very proud of the work that, as an organisation, we undertake to help protect the marine environment. And to help protect the fisheries as well. So that for the benefit of all, we'd all say. I think it's an incredible area to live in and you can witness that by the amounts of people that come down on holiday here to achieve wonder and experience it for at least a couple weeks of the year.

Robert Barlow: Hebrides Cruises, Oban (WCoS): You never know what you're gonna see. You can see vast flocks of birds, you can see rare birds, the storm petrels, you can see basking sharks. You can see different types of dolphins from the bottlenose, the common dolphin to the white beaked dolphin, you can see whales, seals. There's a massive amount to offer and also the scenery itself, it changes every day. Many, many island harbours, they say the whole of the west coast of Scotland and this area in particular, you're never within more than 15 miles from a safe haven. So yeah, there's a lot to offer and yeah, it's loads of places to explore really.

Ian McWhinney: Fisherman and guide, Gairloch (WCoS): Well, I can make a living out of it. I'm obviously a fisherman, but I also do shellfish safaris as well. So that's taking people out and as people become more and more aware of their environment, we take them out and show how we fish sustainably.

Practices

What kinds of work or activities do you / your community carry out at these places and why

Kevin Peach: Harbour master, Ullapool (WCoS): Yeah, well fishing is, obviously, fishing's been here since 1788, Ullapool was built for fishing. The herring society decided to build a village here in Ullapool, specifically to support the herring fishing. And since then, it's evolved to shellfish, but we also have leisure, we have kayakers, yachts, cruise ships, so there's a whole variety going on here, sailing, in the Minch because you're looking at some of the best mountain ranges that there are.

Chris Lowe: Atlantic Diving, Newquay (SW): So we're monitoring seal populations, bird populations. We're monitoring ghost gear from fishermen which is discarded or lost fishing equipment. So we're doing monthly surveys on those. We're also working very closely with Exeter and Plymouth University, doing all kinds of different projects. We've got one ongoing at the moment in Perranporth Bay, where they're measuring sediment movements. We've been involved with the Wave Hub project down off St. Ives, which is a marine renewable sector. So we've been working with all different agencies over wide areas but primarily based around the marine area.

Benefits

Describe the kinds of experiences you have during those activities

Alan McFadyen: Ferry skipper and Oyster farmer, Oban (WCoS): They're all, every one's got it's own wee special area and memories and events have happened there. Sailing in Tobermory's absolutely fantastic. Really good. And likewise, Colonsay, the east side of Mull, just straight across from our house, about 20 minutes in the boat and you're just in wilderness and if the weather's good, it's just stunning. There's no other place you'd want to be, really, you know.

Lenny Campbell: Harbour master, Gairloch (WCoS): Well, I started off trawling, in a trawl with a brother-in-law. We went on to build another boat. And at that time, the fishing sort of died down a bit. Interest rates hit the roof. I ended up bankrupt over it, lost my house. That's the thrust of it. But, I gave that a miss for a couple of years and then a friend asked if I wanted to go creeling, potting. And from then on, I had an excellent life and income from that.

John MacAlister: John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd, Oban (WCoS): It's an environment that is constantly changing... we see the temperature changing. It's been changing up and down. Nothing like what

scientists are predicting with... there's been basking sharks and whales and that. When I started going to the sea 40 year ago, there was an abundance of basking sharks and whales and all that. Then we had a decline. Now we've got the increase again. So, what science has been saying is not really what's happening out there, and I think this is where you'll find quite a few fishermen who will agree on this point.

How do these experiences relate to how you feel about these places

Stuart Cannon, Kames Fish Farming, Kames (WCoS): Our premise is that we value the area we are in. We value the environment. If we haven't got a good environment, we can't exist. So we look after that. That's number one, which is any good farming practise. We value our staff, and as I've said, many of them have been with us 20 or 30 plus years.

How would you feel if you / your community couldn't visit / use these places or do these activities

Dave Jenkins: Cetacean surveyor, Woolacoombe (SW): I can't imagine, because I've done it all my life. But, where I live, Woolacombe, I live right beside the sea, and even just yesterday I was looking out the window, thinking "Wow! Look at that surf, the colour and the shape and the roar of the wind" and thinking that I would miss it. I can't imagine living away from the sea. I have done it, but I've always been happy to come back.

David Ainsley: Sealife Adventures, Seil (WCOS): - I think that would be very very serious. Yes. If we lost a lot of the wildlife, look at how many boats in this area, something like 10 boats, maybe each taking maybe 24 people out a day, even more in the summer. There's a huge financial value to the people who come up here. And that feeds onto local businesses and it helps to give this area prosperity. So yes, so it we didn't have the wildlife, if we allow the landscapes to quietly deteriorate, people will go elsewhere.

Stephen Perham: Fisherman & Harbour master, Clovelly (SW): In Clovelly especially, there aren't many people coming up to continue these activities, so there will come a time where these things are gone, and then it's just like going to be a museum, isn't it? There'll be places, they'll have the history, they'll have the pictures, but they'll be sort of empty and soulless. That's the sort of thing you need to try and avoid, is that. It'll just be a shame, really.

How are these activities important for your identity?

Chris and Annabelle Lowe: Atlantic Diving, Newquay (SW): - I don't think it's important for our identity, it's who we are. I mean that is who we are. You know we're not, that is our identity, really, isn't it? - Yeah. - Yeah, it's who we are, that's it really. It's not part of it, it's..- His nickname is actually the Whale Rider because he recently disentangled a whale that was quite tricky because it was so tightly bound, in Devon, and he went up and he was hanging off the fishing boat for a very long time, a number of hours, and eventually decided the only way to do it was to actually step forward onto it and cut it free. And he did. And the feeling of that, and the amount of people that contacted us afterwards thanking him, it was just like, but it's just what we do, it's what we are, and the people that we work with. It's not just us, so the people that come on our boats, doing surveys, certainly there, repeatedly going to these places, and they have that same passion. So it's not just us, it's a whole family of teams of people that are doing this, yup.

Marine environment

What recent changes have you noticed in the marine environment around here?

Dirk Campbell: Scallop diver and fisherman, Oban (WCoS): So dredging and trawling is prohibited in that area. And within the last nine years, it is, it's been very lucrative and it's been a joy to fish. And interestingly enough, because it is so lucrative, I actually fish less. Because I see a future in the fishing, and I don't need to work my body that hard anymore, because fishing, diving, or lifting pew, or dredging, what have you, has a tremendous toll on the physical body. And you have to meter it. And if I can meter it, so that I can still be walking when I'm 70, then that's a good thing. You know.

Paula Ferris: Coastwise, Braunton (SW): I am noticing some changes as a result of climate change: the amount of sediment moving about the shore is hugely greater than I noticed 10 years ago, and it's because of the extreme weather instances we're getting. This morning, there was a huge amount of sand shifted around Combe Martin Beach, which means that the marine life underneath... Keith Hiscock will tell us it will survive, but it's not there when we're surveying it, so we can't record it. I take his word for it, he's an expert, and I'm not. I find it difficult to believe that all of it will survive, and clearly, there are occasions just from the amount of mussel debris on the shore, you can see that lots of it hasn't.

Ailsa McEllan: Shellfish and seaweed farmer, Gairloch (WCoS): A lot of the fish farmers on the west coast are now creeling for wrasse, so you'll see an awful lot of little creels from that unregulated

fishery. I'm sure that's impacting the environment. I hope the marine protected areas is going to fix this. In the short time that I've lived up here for 16 years, I've noticed a lot less terns a lot less gannets coming in.

How effective is current marine management in addressing any concerns you may have?

Paula Ferris: Coastwise, Braunton (SW): Well, I would say there isn't any current marine management, I'm probably upsetting dreadfully two or three local officers who are doing a phenomenally good job, but they've just got far too big a brief, pulled in far too many directions, and relatively little support, and wondering what's going to happen year-in and year-out to their budget.

Peter Cunningham: Skye & Wester Ross Fisheries Trust, Gairloch (WCOS): It's really poor at the moment. They're trying to take an ecosystem approach to looking at the whole system but it gets over complicated and a lot of the basic information isn't recorded. No, so the basic ecology information because some of the science has become much more complex. We're still working with the hunter-gatherer fishery. Where every fishermen's in competition with every other fishermen. So the levels of cooperation that you would need to maximise your harvest are not there. For example, with creeling and trawling, there's a lot of conflict still, it's in the news a lot.

How would you describe your vision for the future of the marine environment here?

Brett Grosvenor: Environment Agency, Bodmin (SW): Protect and enhance, I think and try and facilitate the enjoyment of the coast by as many people as possible sustainably and I think that's the key. Sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment again is a big challenge. The Biosphere is a good example of a designation and an organisation behind that committed to sustainable development. I think communicating policy response and forming policy around people's values is made a lot easier I think, with concepts like natural capital. In terms of the more diverse range of people and sectors and industries that could understand the concepts behind sustainable development through that principal.

Values

What values could be used to guide management of the marine environment?

Dougie Chirnside: Fisherman and diver, Tayvallich (WCOS): Yeah. Well, obviously, protecting the environment in a balanced sort of way which lets communities still work and use it, and make a livelihood from it. But also, preserves what's there that needs to be to maintain the diversity of this area.

Noel Hawkins: Scottish Wildlife Trust, Ullapool (WCOS): Respecting the Earth, harmony with other species. Again, it's hand in hand, I think. That doesn't mean you can write off fishing for example. And things that, farming, use the land and sea. But it's doing it in a way that's respectful and allows it to be genuinely sustainable. I think sustainability's bounced around too often these days and it's actually losing meaning. Real sustainability is not just the nature, it's the community, the people, it's the whole ecosystem.

Tim Robbins: Devon and Severn IFCA, Brixham (SW): As far as the unity with nature and fitting with nature, I think we try too often to bend nature to deliver. You know, we talk about, and I'm as guilty as anybody, we talk about fish stocks. Whereas no, it's a fish population. But we treat it as something that's of value to us. And treat it as something that is a croppable resource, that the Earth is a croppable resource, and so we need to think more about how we fit in and how we work with populations rather than just a croppable resource.

How could we better represent the interests of marine species and habitats in this area within management decisions?

Derek Roxborough: Former inshore fisherman, Gairloch (WCOS): Well like I say, when we had a three mile limit here, there was enough fish to go round. Put it that way. There were a lot more white fish boats fishing the Minch and making a living without having any, or any serious impact on the environment. But when they took the three mile limit off, Within a matter of years you know, pomp! It was gone.

Zoe Hutchison: Recreational diver, Oban (WCOS): Well, I think it has to have a scientific basis. Like you have to assess whether or not there is an issue. And if there is then come up with a well-backed answer to the solution. I know that's not very easy to come by. But it does need to be based on

evidence. I think asking the right questions. And finding answers in a scientific manner, with evidence to support it. And then informing management is probably the part that I think needs most attention.

John Balls: Skipper and inshore fisherman, Clovelly (SW): So what we're talkin' about here today needs to be managed, and in my opinion, we need in the Bristol Channel on the fisheries side, a grid system which can be worked the same as what Norway uses, and what Iceland uses. If an area's lookin' a bit weak, shut the area down and leave it alone. How long you would leave it, I don't know. But that's where the scientific side'll come in. That's where your IFCAs will come in, that's where the MMO will come in.

Protected areas

What do you think about this protected area and how it should be managed?

Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area of Conservation

Struan Smith: Coastal Connections, Oban (WCOS): Yeah, suppose it depends how extreme it is. If it's totally closed to fishing and that, or to dredges, then that'll cause, quite a bit of an uproar just like this Firth of Lorn and the Sound of Mull did when it extended both sides of that. From our point of view, the tourisms, we're not really affected that much 'cause we can sort of go where we want as long as we keep distances from eagles' nests and all the usual sort of stuff.

Sue Pomeroy: Sea Change Wester Ross, Little Loch Broom (WCOS): I think the area could be expanded more. I think it needs to take in some more of these islands and these special breeding grounds and special maerl beds, specialist areas. But it's only going to be effective if it has effective laws that go with it and effective policy. A no-take zone would be fantastic.

North Devon Marine Pioneer

Steve Guilbert: Devon Maritime Forum, Exeter (SW): So indirectly there's lots and lots and lots of people are dependent, one way or another, on the marine environment. And if we can draw those constituencies in saying well actually you have a degree of dependency on this, you have a stake in this marine environment, then that might be an opportunity to think about different ways of funding the management, the protection, of these resources.

Helen Booker: RSPB, Exeter (SW): So we know there's an ocean frontal system that runs along out in western Lundy and along the north Devon coast. Some frontal systems often aggregate seabirds at those areas because they're good for food. So perhaps if it's an opportunity to understand better about how seabirds are using this area, and then, thinking about their protection, that could be a really good opportunity too to have this as a focus, because we know it does contain all the important seabird colonies.

Worldviews

Opinions on the consequences of 4 contrasting, future, socio-political regimes for the marine environment and people's quality of life: Local Stewardship; Nature@Work; National Security; and World Markets

Local stewardship: people feel responsible for sustainably managing the environment for the long term. Political power has been devolved. The sea is largely managed at a regional level Dirk Campbell: Scallop diver and fisherman, Oban (WCOS): - Okay, my overall of this future is that people get to work less and live more. Okay, they, there's a real pressure now in modern society to make people work too much so that they don't look up and enjoy life. And this allows people to do that, to get a work-life balance, to take what they need for their own life and to live as well.

Andy Bell: North Devon Biosphere Reserve, Barnstaple (SW): Yeah, very much with the line to be seen working for the Biosphere Reserve is that accountability, people living very close with their ecosystem services that they're in and managing those, recognising that they do get a value from them, whatever those values are. A local stewardship to me implies that you're actually working it at its best. You're optimising each of those ecosystem services to their best. It fits in with that visualisation.

Alastair McNeill: West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group, Dumfries and Galloway (WCOS): The island communities, fishing can be extremely important. Maybe 20-30% of the population depend upon it and they would like to have a bigger say in the management of the local, what they would class as being a local fishery, which they haven't got at the present time. They can feed into processes through the IFG, but they would like to see, or have the opportunity to have a greater say in the management of what they perceive to be their local fishery.

- It could be seen as protectionism, and again, in a fisheries context, because you have people who maybe live in an island and see a fishery run that island as being a local resource, and it is, of course, a local resource to them. At the present time, people from further afield are perfectly entitled to come and fish there. Therefore, if you did segregate an area and say, "Only the local fishermen will manage the site "and they will have access to it," it could be seen as protectionism from those who come from further afield and are excluded from fishing that particular area.

Ben Bengey: Fisherman and charter boat skipper, Ilfracombe (SW): So I'm liking the fewer people travel far for leisure. They don't need to travel far, they don't need to go halfway across the country. We've got a lot of things locally that they can do. Diverse, different regional characteristics. I'm liking the look of the locally caught sustainable fish species more popular, and it's all managed by local quotas. Number of small vessels increases, but some over-- I mean, you'll get, you'll get a boom of fishermen coming maybe buying little boats, but then over time, as anything, it will just fizzle out. The strong will stay and then the weak will start to go. And it's, the great emphasis on farming and agricultural practises, it's just nice to see it. It would be nice, very nice to see in this local area. Almost like the renewable marine energy supported by government, that would be beautiful. That would be beautiful.

Margaret Ashton: Ilfracombe Dive Club, Ilfracombe (SW): People are gonna be looking to their local government more. They're not gonna be looking further afield. And it might encourage people to want to take more part in that and be more active in helping because they know what they do will actually have an impact on where they live and what they're seeing, and they might feel their views are more likely to be heard.

David Adams McGilp: Visit Scotland, Oban (WCOS): I still think Local Stewardship has the best prospects of delivering that critical combination of economic recovery and growth, social well-being and maintaining that important sense of place, sense of community, sense of belonging.

Nature@Work: conservation of habitats and species is important, but focus is on maximising benefits of nature to people.

Noel Hawkins: Scottish Wildlife Trust, Ullapool (WCOS): The two storylines here that jump out to me really is the Nature@Work with local stewardship. I kind of find them hand in hand really if they're

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gonna work. The Nature@Work, model, yeah that's great. Without local engagement being on board. Not just in terms of fishing boats and things but everyone engaged with it. So the Nature@Work one to me does look the positive one. You know, looking after the environment and us. But yeah, taking in the local emphasis in some ways that I think we need to really listen to that. It can't just come from an office in the town. It needs to be out and actually speaking to the people.

Richard White: Devon Wildlife Trust, Dartmoor (SW): I think the fact that it's got high levels of environmental awareness, high levels of human wellbeing, ability to adapt to climate change, I think those three bits are the fact that it's high up there are the key bit, and the fact that I was going to say before, it puts ecosystems much closer to the centre of decision making. I think we all need that. That's not just us wishy-washy greenies that hug trees. I think it's vital for everybody.

Shaun Galliver: Fisherman and local diver, Ilfracombe (SW): Other than I would like to see our marine environment continue to be exploited, but in a sensible way. I don't think we could just allow unrestricted access to everything. I think that would be a bad thing. But neither do I want to see so much regulation that we lose industry and that we lose people from the industry because that's what this place has grown up with. We don't just want to put it in the pure tourism category either. I mean tourism's great but as I just said I think people come here because, I don't know how many times I've been filmed towing the boat up the beach with the tractor. Maybe they're tractor enthusiasts, I don't know. But I've certainly been filmed loads of times and can I come and see what you've caught? And can I sit my little kid in the boat? And this sort of thing. People like to see it. They like to see that there is still a working industry here and it's exactly the same down the harbour. When one of Scot's trawlers come in, you'll see how many people are stood around watching what fish have been unloaded. And it's staggering how many people don't know what a cod looks like. But that's a different debate.

Andrew Bengey: Lundy Diving, Ilfracombe (SW): The attributes that relate to my own interests would be great, because we're looking along the lines of watching what we're doing with fishing, we're not going into the areas that we shouldn't be doing, leisure and tourism, because we're monitoring it more, we'll be able to put more information out there of what is available, what we can do. So, it should bring more money into the area. The one bit that I would really like to see which we see around the coast, is wind farms. So I'd like to see wave energy.

Keith Hiscock: Lundy Field Society, Plymouth (SW): I like the idea of marine habitats around energy farms increased so they're no-go for fishing grounds because we need fish recovery areas. We need areas where fish can thrive, where they can reproduce, and where they can spill out into the wider marine environment. And if those oil rigs, if they're wind farms, then so be it. They perform a double function. And I think that sort of a win-win situation is to be sought out.

National Security: food, fuel, mineral and energy resources are prioritised over nature conservation. Central government intervention is high

Steve Guilbert: Devon Maritime Forum, Exeter (SW): Now my characterization of that was kind of bring up the drawbridge of Britain, and more insular-looking. I suppose there's elements of that which would go hand-in-hand, or overlap with this notion of local stewardship, in terms of perhaps looking more inwards than looking outwards, and I can see how there could be positives in terms of that, in terms of the national scale self-sufficiency, focusing on the things that we do well, and valuing the products that we produce. Not exporting our fish, or whatever, overseas, but valuing the catch we have in the Southwest, which is incredibly diverse, and a lot of it goes out to East Asia.

Shaun Galliver: Fisherman and local diver, Ilfracombe (SW): Well there would be some people who would like the fact that you would ban foreign vessels from fishing anywhere within this area. But then whether the local boats could then catch those resources and still have a market for them is a different story. I don't know. It's back to trade, isn't it? It's a current buzz word. Trade deals and all the rest of it. I don't know, I think it's too simplistic to say if we stop a Belgian trawler from catching fish off Lundy, then a local boat could catch it and it will still be able to sell it. Because we might not have a market to sell it to. Especially in this scenario where we're increasing trade and trade tariffs and all the rest of it and that wouldn't help.

Dougie Chirnside: Fisherman and diver, Tayvallich (WCOS): National Security, I'm not quite sure quite what that means. Um ... But I can see, I'm reading through here and I can see that things like ... Offshore wind farms, tidal barrages, the need for renewable, sustainable energy is... I can understand that, and I wouldn't be against that if it was done at the right scale.

Wayne Thomas and Nick Phillips: Combe Martin Sea Angling Club, Combe Martin (SW): I was very concerned looking at that that it's very short term. We're not looking at the longer term benefits.

We're looking at short term commercial profit and in doing so, you very often destroy the future in regards to grandchildren and future generations. So I was very concerned at that.

Richard White: Devon Wildlife Trust, Dartmoor

(SW): I think to start with, both of them are low in the things I value about the nature at work, especially when we look at national security. Got human wellbeing being very low, environmental awareness being almost a minimum. Perhaps in the longer term both of them have got reduced ability to adapt to climate change. I think that is going to be very important, the ability to adapt to climate change. Even if we manage to stop increases in CO2 now, there's so much in the system to feed through the pipeline, that as well as making efforts to reduce carbon use we have to be aware that we need to adapt, and that's people and wildlife together, and again ecosystems and people are, to my mind, inextricably linked. We need to protect ecosystems.

Alastair McNeill: West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group, (WCOS): - It's real protectionism in many ways, isn't it? But as we come out of the EU, for example, if everything goes ahead, then perhaps national security in terms of fisheries will become important, because the fisheries, which are currently an EU-led resource, will become a UK or Scotland, if Scotland goes independent, a UK or a Scottish resource, and therefore national security, in that sense, could become very important. It may well be decided that what is a Scottish resource, as we were talking about local resources to a local island, the fishing resources could become a Scottish resource and they would want to exclude others from accessing that resource. In terms of Brexit, national security could become an important issue, which perhaps it isn't at the present time.

World Markets: there is a push to maximise economic growth through complete liberalisation of trade. The sea is largely 'open access' and seen as a resource for exploitation

David Adams McGilp: Visit Scotland, Oban (WCOS): - Well, World Markets, World Markets is a kind of a, it's the compromise between Local Stewardship and National Security, so, you know, maybe not so many draconian measures, maybe not so much restriction on the way people do business or can, again, exploit or use assets and resources for economic benefit, but I worry a little bit about the Nature at Work and just letting things go, back to, you know, that the ecosystem is somehow the, the overriding priority. And, I understand that ecosystems are absolutely critical, but, again, we're talking about development, not at any cost and that, to me, that applies equally to environment

protection as it does to commercial and industrial development I think there should always be a way, that these are not wholly incompatible.

John MacAlister: John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd, Oban (WCOS): And I feel that, I am all for the local stewardship and world markets. I have visited China, I have visited many parts of the world, done marketing. I know what market needs. We need continuity in markets. Not boom and bust.

Ben Bengey: Fisherman and charter boat skipper, Ilfracombe (SW): This would be, the world market would be for people in the city, who are out of touch with reality, who live in their fairytale worlds where everything's in shrink wrap, and you just buy it, put it in the oven, done. Instead of where we're actually 20 foot away from the sea and you probably could catch a fish, take it in tonight, and eat it for tea. And it's just out of touch with the 21st century. It's not what we want to see. It would kill most of the in-shore fishermen here. Some of the bigger boats would survive, you'd probably see the bio-hemisphere area decrease and be run by a higher company that wouldn't care as much as we do about it.

Keith Hiscock: Lundy Field Society, Plymouth (SW): If we're not careful that's the way it's gonna go. That commercial interests with all of their influence are going to reduce the possibility for sensible meaningful management of our marine resources.

Dirk Campbell: Scallop diver and fisherman, Oban (WCOS): I just feel that it should not drive the decisions of what's happening a stone's throw away from where I am now, because those, this is not interested in my well-being.

Margaret Ashton: Ilfracombe Dive Club, Ilfracombe (SW): Well, it's not gonna be good, is it? You're gonna have a community that's probably, if all these things happen and our water qualities and everything decline, they're not gonna be visiting our shores. You're not gonna have children rockpooling and looking at what's there and having the opportunities because there probably won't be the life. There won't be all the different seaweeds that are massively important for putting oxygen back in the atmosphere and things. Yeah. No, it's ... We'll probably all still be here and be working really hard, but it'll be a bit more, I see it as more of a grey future, if you know what I mean, not a very green and blue future.