

The Nature Library submission of 24 August 2022

PE1951/T: Reinstate inshore coastal limit on the use of dredge and trawl fishing gears

I support the petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to re-introduce a variation of the 3 mile coastal limit on the use of mobile dredge and bottom-trawling fishing gears. There would be, as Executive Director of Blue Marine Foundation, Charles Clover, points out in *Rewilding the Sea: How to Save Our Oceans*, a triple win from stopping these damaging activities:

"a win for climate, a win for biodiversity and a win for fish stocks."

As founder of The Nature Library, I know that there will be responses to this petition which thoroughly detail why the above statement is true. We know it's true. I would instead like to share words from those who were calling for better protection of earth's ecosystems and life-giving balances in the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s, 2000s, and urge you not to wait any longer. There isn't time to.

We are accustomed to look for the gross and immediate effects and to ignore all else. Unless this appears promptly and in such obvious form that it cannot be ignored, we deny the existence of hazard.

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, 1962

The effect of the trawls, as the trawler men know very well (although you have to go underwater to get the full enormity of it) is to give the seabed a strict military haircut and thereby destroy much of its potential breeding ground, from which it follows that the work is not merely unpleasant and dangerous but of limited profitability also.

Alexander McKee, *Farming the Sea*, 1967

Every day we count on some new technological miracle, we merely put off the day of reckoning.

Jonathon Porritt, *Seeing Green*, 1984

One thing we don't need is more studies. We know enough now to go

ahead. If we keep on studying the water system, Lake Okeechobee will be dead before we get through studying it.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, *Voice of the River*, 1987

Reiterating that she was not opposed to insect control but only the means used to do so, for the first time her speech focused on the political and economic forces that prevented changes in pesticide policy and the encouraging signs of grass-roots activities demanding reform.

“People are beginning to ask questions and to insist upon proper answers instead of meekly acquiescing in whatever spraying programs are proposed,” she said. “There is an increasing demand for better legislative control of pesticides.” Addressing the stream of propaganda issuing from pesticide trade groups that hid their affiliations behind research organisations or educational institutions, Carson again urged citizen vigilance. “As you listen to the present controversy about pesticides,” Carson told the audience, “I recommend you to ask yourself—Who speaks?—And Why?”

Linda Lear, *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*, 1994

What industry calls innovation, in other words, looks more like the final suicidal throws of addiction. We are blasting the bedrock of our continents, pumping our water with toxins ... endangering the deep ocean, and scrambling to exploit the melting Arctic — all to get at the last trips and the final rocks. Yes, some very advanced technology is making this possible, but it’s not innovation, it’s madness.

Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*, 2014

And we tell ourselves all kinds of similarly implausible no-consequences stories all the time about how we can ravage the world and suffer no adverse effects. Indeed we are always surprised when it works out otherwise. We extract and do not replenish and wonder why the fish have disappeared

Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*, 2014

There were also drawings of the creatures who live inside—how they eat, how they move, how they mate— because people forget about creatures who live in shells.

Delia Owens, *Where The Crawdads Sing*, 2018

You wonder how we ended up in a position where we measure

destruction as success ... The economic system is nonsense - what are we growing? Misery?

Tony Juniper, Edinburgh Book Festival, 2019

Continued fealty to economies based on competition for manufactured scarcity, rather than cooperation around natural abundance, is now causing us to face the danger of producing real scarcity, evident in growing shortages of food and clean water, breathable air, and fertile soil. Climate change is a product of this extractive economy and is forcing us to confront the inevitable outcome of our consumptive lifestyle, genuine scarcity for which the market has no remedy. Indigenous story traditions are full of these cautionary teachings. When the gift is dishonoured, the outcome is always material as well as spiritual. Disrespect the water and the springs dry up. Waste the corn and the garden grows barren. Regenerative economies which cherish and reciprocate the gift are the only path forward.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*, 2021

The sea belongs to everyone and no one.

Charles Clover, Edinburgh International Book Festival, 2022