

Ocean Country Discussion Questions

Prepared by Kerry Linderoth, Upper School Science Teacher, Rye Country Day School and her Oceanography Class

What is the significance of the metaphor “a body within a body” to describe the oceans? How does this emphasize the importance of ocean conservation?

What do most people do to pollute the oceans without knowing they are causing harm? How do you think individuals and small groups can improve and maybe absolve the negative impact this is having on our seas?

How do you think the fisherman’s view on fishing has changed over the years? Do the pros of unsustainable fishing methods outweigh the cons or vice versa? What could be done to improve the situation at big fish markets like Tsukiji fish market?

In Ocean Country, Liz Cunningham mentioned wondering about where the world will be by the end of the century. What do you think it will be like in 100 years?

As there has been a recent spike in the number of cases, how could we reduce the amount of domoic acid toxicosis in seals? Do you think the process of rehabilitation for seals could be expedited or made better in any way?

In Ocean Country, Liz Cunningham describes the beauty around her while scuba diving as “not just the beauty of seeing, it was also being seen.” It is clear that Liz had a profound experience in the Turks and Caicos, which inspired her life work and her desire to share her story. Many ocean conservationists tend to have a similar profound experience that led them to help protect the oceans. Have you had a deep connection with nature at any point throughout your life? If so, how has this experience changed your perspective? Is such an experience a prerequisite for caring about our planet?

After describing Marine Protected Areas, Liz Cunningham says that “We need to see our oceans as water gardens, in desperate need of care.” What is the meaning of this statement and how is this an important metaphor for ocean conservation?

The Tragedy of the Commons refers to the degradation of a shared resource, which results from putting profit and self-interest over long term resource sustainability. Give one example of the Tragedy of the Commons as described in Ocean Country.

Liz Cunningham met many individuals while researching for her book. Why do you think Liz chose to share the stories of the individuals she met? Who is one person that you resonated with, and why?

If you had the experience to meet Liz Cunningham, what would you ask her?