

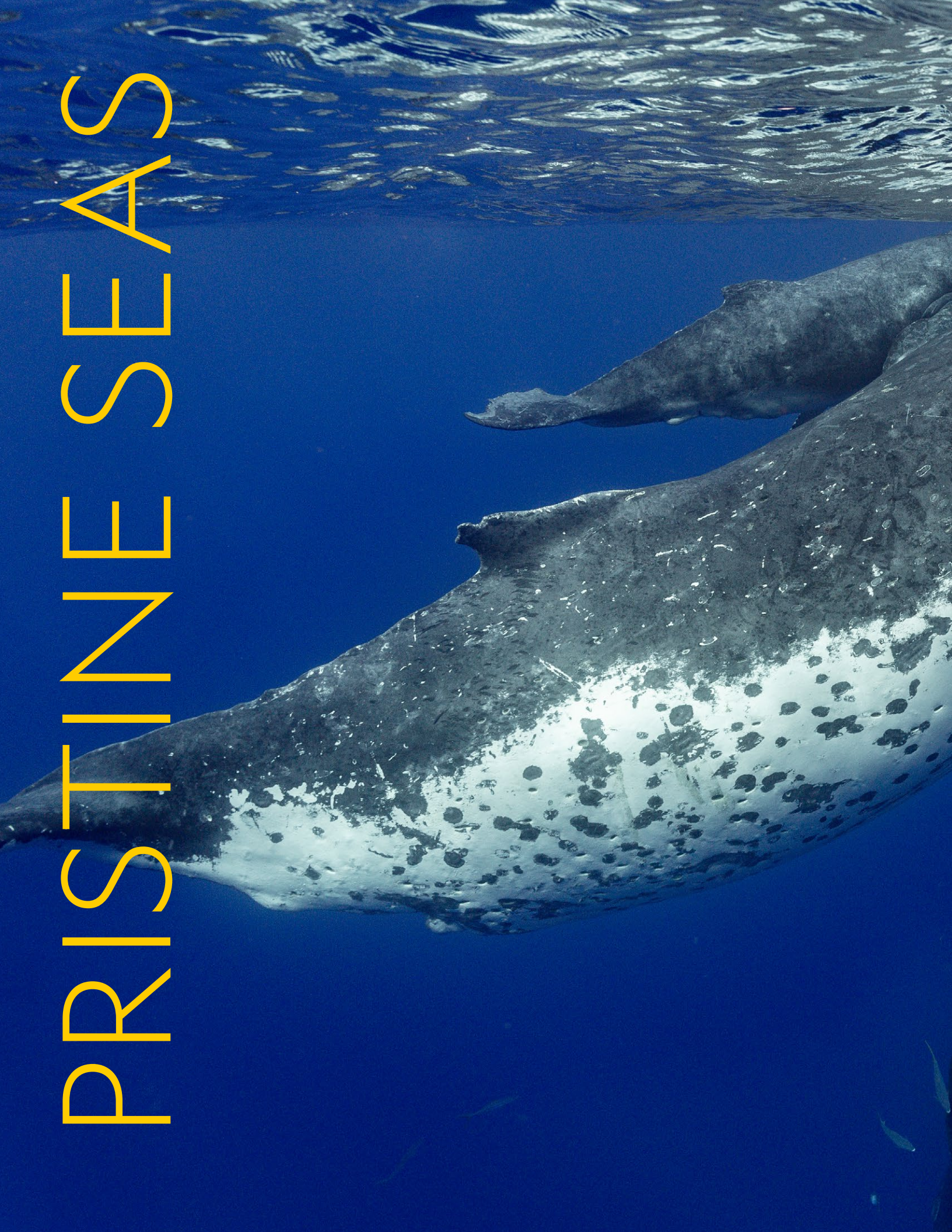


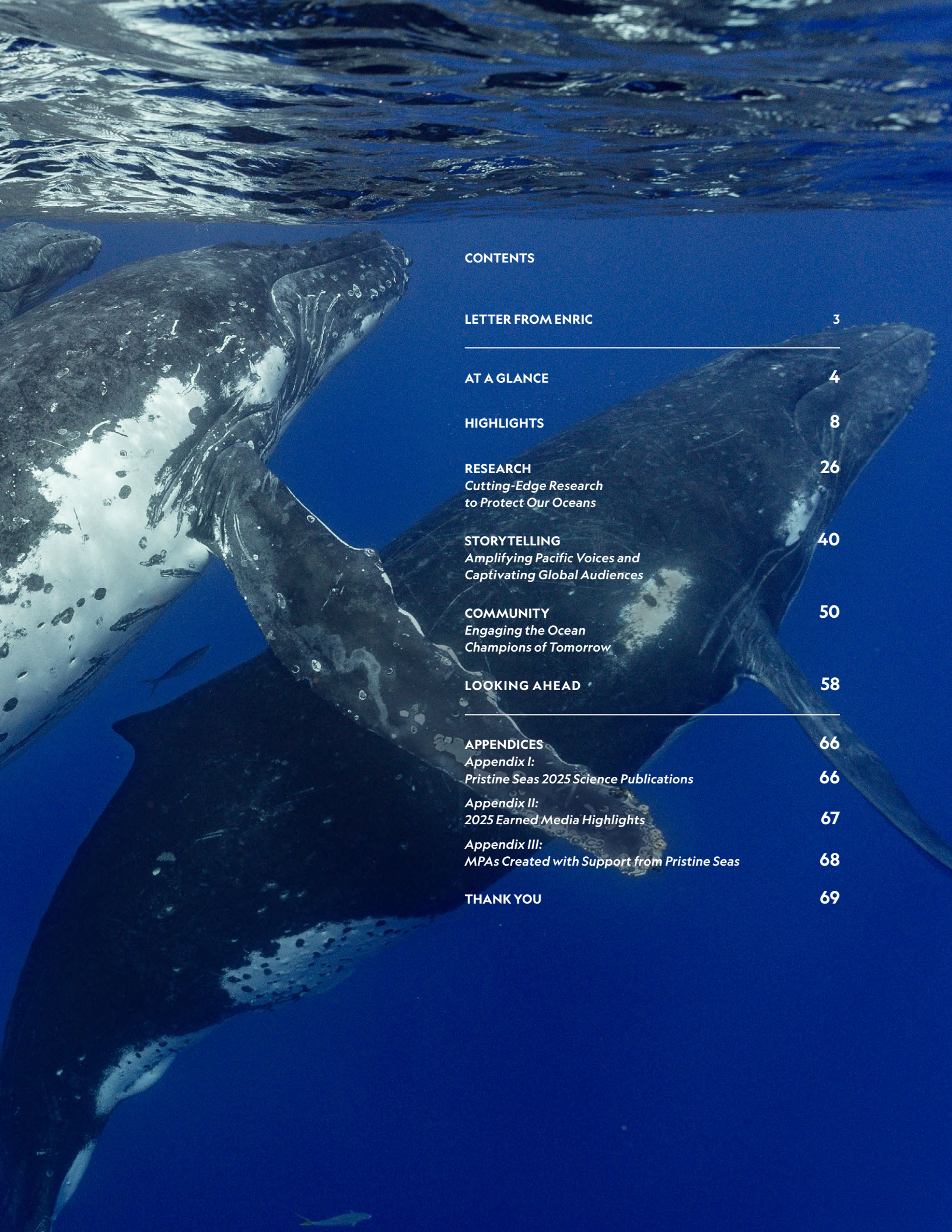
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

PRISTINE SEAS



PRISTINE SEAS





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Dear Friends,

It's been three years since the global agreement to protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. While the world is still far from that goal, our contributions to this ambitious effort have been significant. Thanks to your generous support, Pristine Seas has helped to establish 31 marine protected areas (MPAs), covering nearly 7 million square kilometers of ocean—two-thirds of all the ocean that is highly protected globally. These reserves harbor vital coral reefs, kelp forests, seagrass beds, seamounts, and Arctic ecosystems.

In 2025, we celebrated new MPAs in the stunning atolls of the Marshall Islands, the coral havens of the Colombian Caribbean, and the blue depths of Dominica. We published groundbreaking research to demonstrate the economic power of ocean conservation that reached audiences far and wide. We were particularly proud to co-produce the film, *Ocean with David Attenborough*, alongside our partners at the Don Quixote Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and Revive Our Ocean. Our accompanying research highlights the devastating climate and economic consequences of bottom trawling, and we are now calling on policymakers to ban this practice within marine protected areas.

At the forefront of driving meaningful change, we focus on impact—and are able to do so thanks to the communities we work with and support from our donors.

Our new submersible, the Argonauta, has been a boon to deep-sea exploration. Diving into the mysterious waters of Tuvalu, Fiji, and Vanuatu, our scientists have been able to study places that have rarely, if ever, been seen and discover species new to science. Even better: Our sub takes decisionmakers deep into the sea, allowing them to experience the ocean in their own backyard. Most shed tears, in gratitude for the experience and in awe of the waters they'll strive to protect.

Our work in 2025 underscored a fundamental truth: Robust research, inspired storytelling, and genuine community engagement are the pillars upon which lasting ocean protection is built. This model works. With five more years left before the 2030 deadline, we are hopeful about how much more we can achieve. Now is the time to accelerate our work to secure vital ocean areas for generations to come.

Thank you for being on this journey with us. We couldn't do it without you.



ENRIC SALA

*National Geographic Explorer in Residence
Executive Director, Pristine Seas*

AT A GLANCE

PRISTINE SEAS
FOUNDED IN 2008

49 EXPEDITIONS



6.9 MILLION
SQUARE KILOMETERS
HIGHLY PROTECTED



39
DOCUMENTARY
FILMS



2.7 MILLION
FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

300+
PEER-
REVIEWED
PAPERS



13
ECONOMIC
REPORTS

31 MPAs
CREATED WITH OUR HELP

84,000+
NAUTICAL
MILES AT
SEA




12,700+
HOURS UNDERWATER

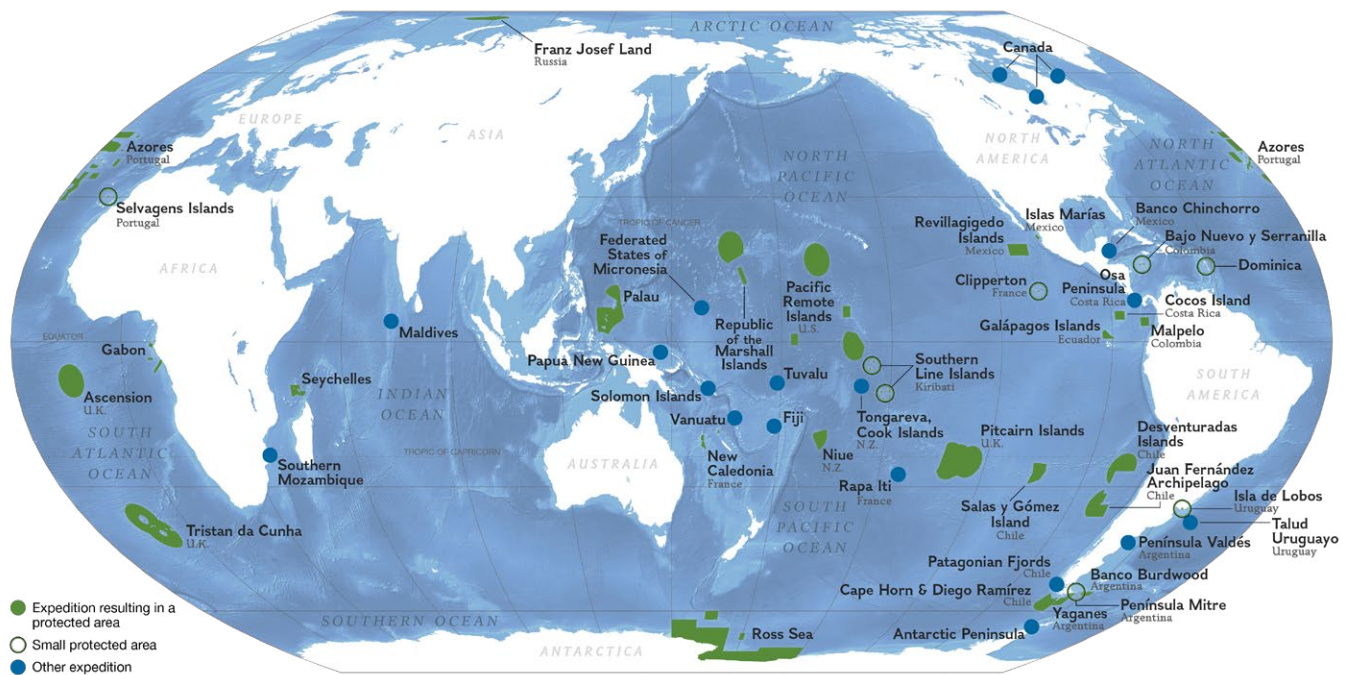


48
SCIENTIFIC
REPORTS TO
GOVERNMENTS



12,800+
SCUBA DIVES

National Geographic Pristine Seas supports governments and communities in their efforts to protect their ocean. We join local experts to assess the health of marine ecosystems from shallow to deep, from microbes to sharks. Since 2008, we have helped countries establish 31 marine protected areas (MPAs), covering more than 6.9 million square kilometers of ocean—an area equivalent to the size of the Amazon region.

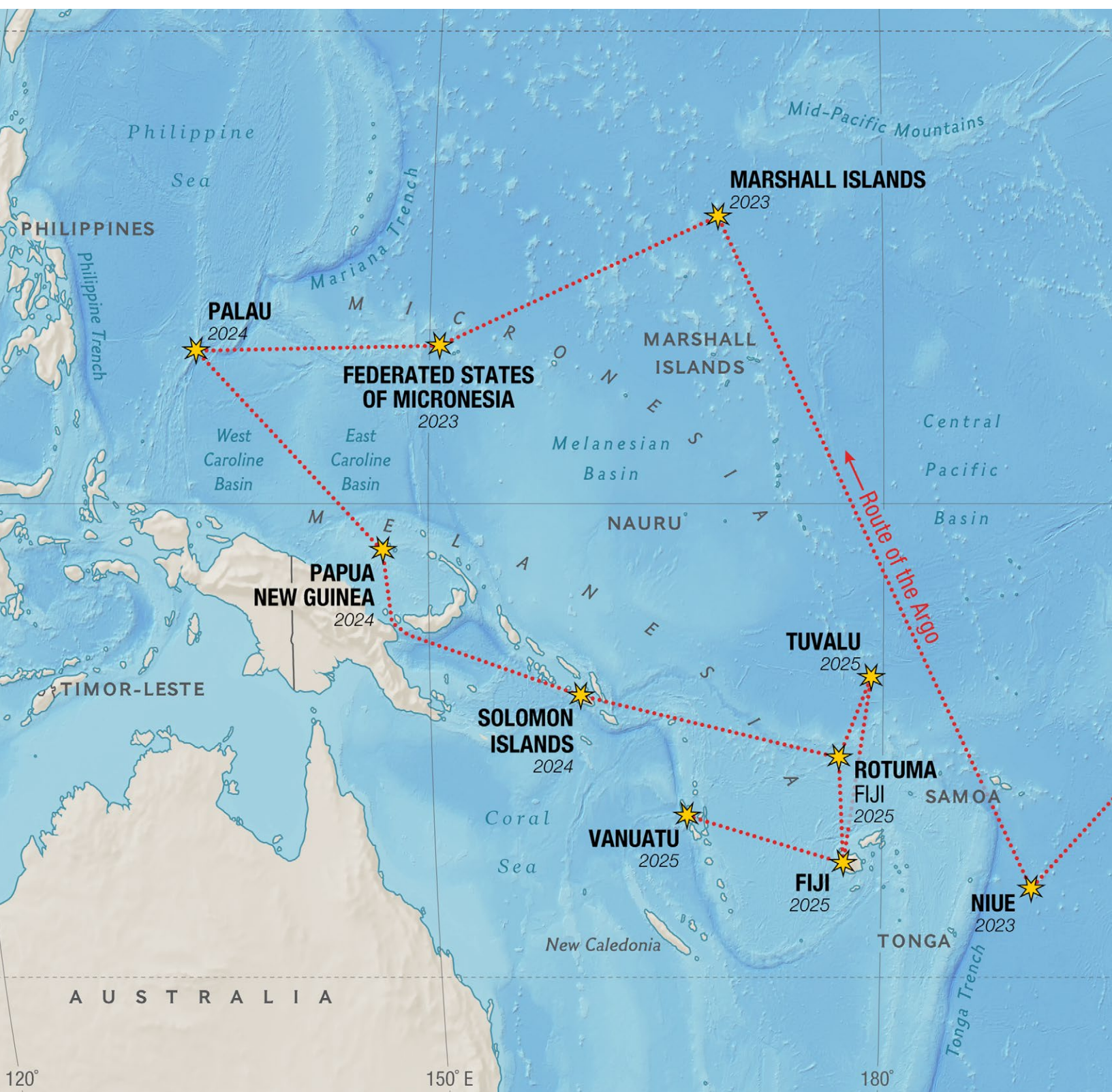


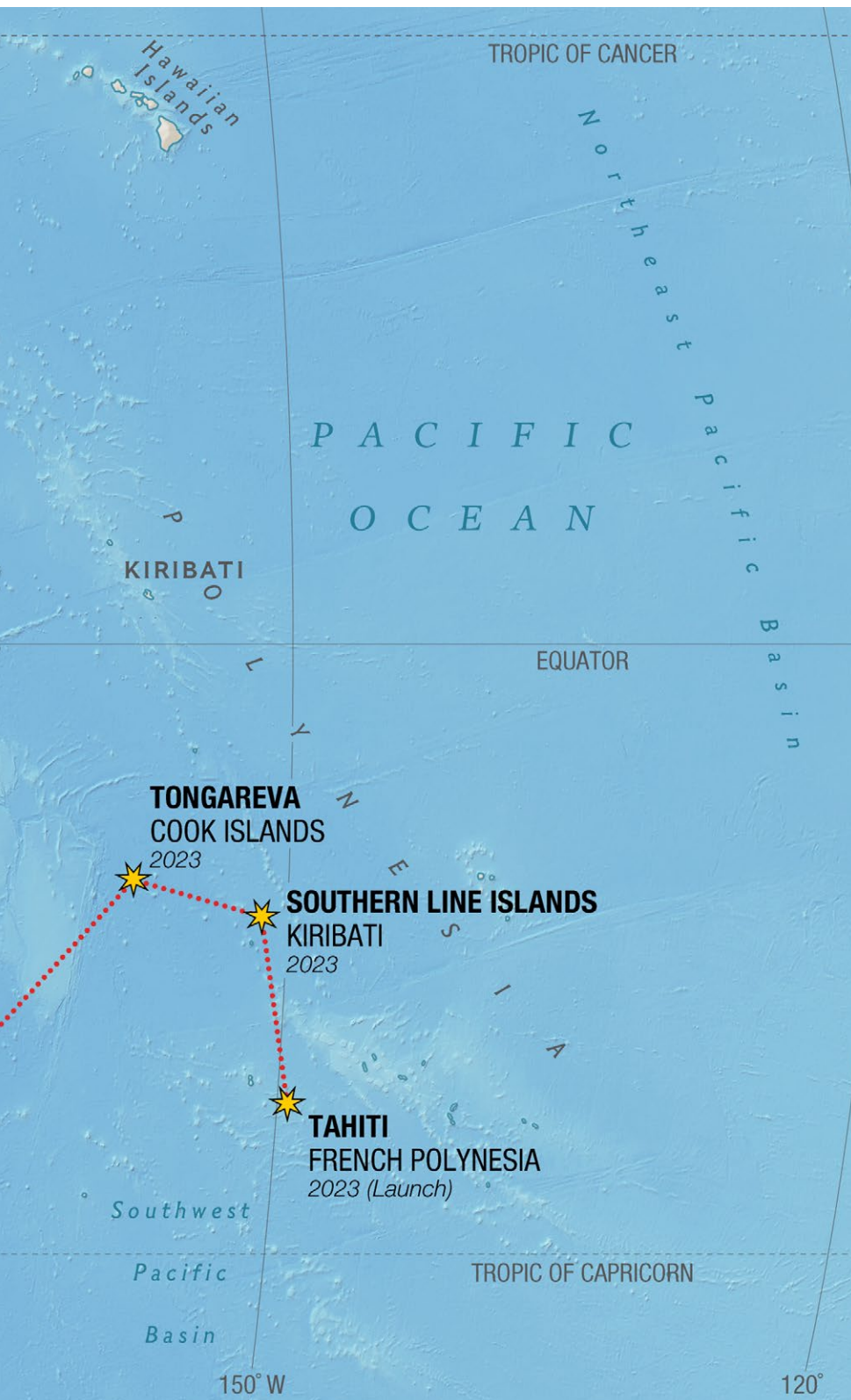
“

The ocean is our livelihood, our home and our connection to our ancestors. In order to effectively protect our ocean, we need robust marine biodiversity data, particularly in areas that have not yet been studied. It is important that we come together to ensure a healthy ocean for future generations here in Tuvalu to continue to enjoy.”

THE HONORABLE FELETI TEO
Prime Minister of Tuvalu







In May 2023, Pristine Seas launched The Global Expedition: a multi-year journey to explore the tropical Pacific Ocean and support local conservation efforts. Our cutting-edge research tools and filming technology have equipped us to study and document the world's most diverse ocean ecosystems like never before.



HIGHLIGHTS

2025



In 2025, Pristine Seas supported the creation of three new MPAs; co-founded a bold new initiative to help local communities establish coastal marine reserves; made headlines with groundbreaking new research; and co-produced a globally-acclaimed documentary film that sheds light on the destructive nature of bottom trawling and shows the benefits of MPAs.

3 marine protected areas created with the support of Pristine Seas



National Sanctuaries of Bikar and Bokak



Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo



Dominica Sperm Whale Reserve



3 expeditions in the tropical Pacific Ocean



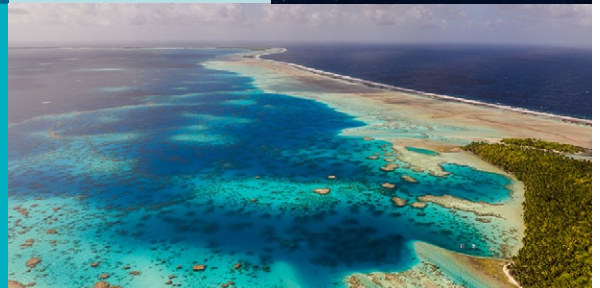
1 record breaking documentary



53,167



square kilometers of ocean protected with the support of Pristine Seas





PROTECTING PRISTINE ATOLLS IN THE

Marshall Islands

This January, the Republic of the Marshall Islands established its first national marine sanctuary, encompassing the remote northern atolls of Bikar and Bokak. The sanctuary fully protects the atolls, their surrounding waters, and the nearby deep sea. Harboring the most pristine ecosystems in the central and western Pacific, Bikar and Bokak epitomize the “amazing haven untouched” at the heart of the Marshall Islands’ conservation vision. The extraordinary biodiversity of these marine ecosystems encompasses most of the country’s conservation targets, including its largest green turtle nesting colony, abundant reef sharks and deep-sea sharks, as well as mature *Pisonia* forests in excellent condition.

Pristine Seas surveyed the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ waters in Autumn 2023 in collaboration with the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA). During this time, we conducted the country’s first comprehensive surveys of the marine ecosystem at both atolls, from the surface to a depth of 2,340 meters and from the lagoons to offshore areas. Equipped with new data and inspired by our visuals, local leaders decided to protect over 48,000 square kilometers of these waters from all forms of destructive human activity.





SCAN
for video:

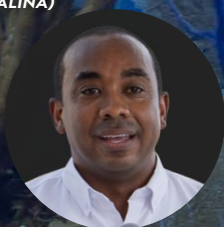




“

This new reserve will strengthen our capacity to protect the biodiversity of the territory against pressure caused by fishing and preserve this territory for our Raizal ethnic community and for the benefit of all. We are contributing our grain of sand to the commitment to protect 30% of our oceans by 2030.”

QUINCY ALBERTO BOWIE GORDON
Director of the Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the
Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia, and Santa Catalina (CORALINA)



SCAN
to read the
press release:





SAFEGUARDING A SHARK AND CORAL HAVEN IN

Colombia

At the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice, France, leaders from Colombia announced the protection of two remote coral reefs in the Caribbean Sea, remarkable for their diverse marine life. Together, the new Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo MPA encompasses 3,800 square kilometers.

In 2022, Pristine Seas partnered with the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Colombian Ocean Commission to study the health of ecosystems that had rarely been assessed. The team documented a dazzling array of seafloor life: Bajo Nuevo and Serranilla are home to over 150 species of fish and 40 species of coral. Researchers observed a remarkable diversity of sharks, including four endangered species. Given the dire status of sharks across the Caribbean, the sightings signal that the reefs in Bajo Nuevo and Serranilla are among the best conserved in the region.





SECURING THE WORLD'S FIRST SPERM WHALE RESERVE IN

Dominica

In October, lawmakers officially greenlit the world's first sperm whale reserve in Dominica. The new marine protected area will help sequester carbon and generate tourism income while also safeguarding a species under increased threat from human activity. After years of work on the refuge's legislation, Parliament recently passed the Sperm Whale Reserve Bill, ensuring waters off the Caribbean (western) side of the island nation remain protected into the future.

Sperm whales have the largest brains on earth, matrilineal societies, and a complex language. They are the largest-toothed predator on our planet, with males measuring 16 meters (52 ft) long on average—bigger than a school bus. They are found in waters worldwide, from Iceland to New Zealand. Based on a study of carbon sequestration by sperm whales, and assuming 250 sperm whales currently in Dominica's waters, the protected whales could sequester 4,200 metric tonnes of carbon every year—equivalent to the carbon sequestered by 18,000 acres of U.S. forests in one year.

Pristine Seas conducted an expedition to Dominica in 2022 and advised the Government of Dominica on the establishment of the reserve, alongside our partners Dynamic Planet and the Dominica Sperm Whale Project. Now, it is up to Dominica to strictly regulate human activity inside the reserve, ensuring the wellbeing of the whales for years to come.





“

The community of sperm whales which use the waters off Dominica are at risk. These ‘island whales’ live alongside humans, preferring this island over others, making our actions in their ocean home their biggest threat.”

SHANE GERO
National Geographic Explorer, Founder of The Dominica
Sperm Whale Project and Lead Biologist for Project CETI



SHOWING THE BENEFITS OF MPAs TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE THROUGH

Ocean with David Attenborough

Pristine Seas made waves by co-producing the groundbreaking film *Ocean with David Attenborough*, on which Enric served as an executive producer and scientific advisor. The film premiered in theaters in May and started streaming on National Geographic Channel, Disney+, and Hulu in June. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Don Quixote Foundation and Revive Our Ocean were also co-producers of the film.

Featuring the most detailed, cinematic footage of bottom trawling ever captured, the film shocks audiences as they witness the industrial fishing technique ripping up the seafloor and all its living creatures. Despite its well-documented ecological impacts, bottom trawling remains permitted in many marine protected areas.

While *Ocean with David Attenborough* highlights the alarming decline of marine biodiversity over the past century, the film also reinforces that recovery is possible, showcasing examples of marine life rebounding when left alone.

Pristine Seas leveraged the film's global premiere, which took place at the Royal Festival Hall in London on May 6, to elevate the issue of bottom trawling. The film served as a catalyst for serious conversations in the press, on social media, and with policymakers who may consider banning bottom trawling in MPAs. Together with Revive Our Ocean, we are hosting screenings across Europe to keep the critical issue of ocean conservation at the forefront. And Enric's [op-ed in Le Monde](#) in the lead-up to the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) kept the issue top of mind as leaders gathered to make decisions about marine protection.

Moving forward, Pristine Seas will use this film as part of our work to inspire leaders around the world to ban bottom trawling in existing MPAs. National Geographic is providing the film free of charge to educators worldwide for use in the classroom. Revive Our Ocean is facilitating screenings for nonprofits looking to raise awareness about ocean protection.



“

This is the first feature documentary that shows not only the ravages of industrial fishing underwater, but also the benefits of marine protected areas to ocean life, people, and climate. It creates outrage but also hope, and inspires people to protect more of our ocean.”

ENRIC SALA
Executive Director, Pristine Seas



2,200
PEOPLE ATTENDED
THE FILM'S WORLD
PREMIERE IN LONDON
ON MAY 6



850+
EDUCATORS SCREENED
THE FILM FOR THEIR
STUDENTS, FOR FREE

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC'S
MOST-WATCHED
DOCUMENTARY/
SPECIAL ON DISNEY
STREAMING IN NEARLY
4 YEARS

SCAN
to read the
press release:



REVEALING THE COST OF BOTTOM TRAWLING TO

Europe

New research released by Pristine Seas this spring (and currently under peer review in a scientific journal) shows that bottom trawling—a damaging fishing practice subsidized by taxpayers—costs European society nearly €16 billion annually, largely due to the social cost of massive carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from churning the sediment on the seafloor. This practice is not only expensive but also wasteful, as bottom trawling provides only about 2% of the animal protein that Europe consumes. Currently, 60% of European marine protected areas (MPAs) are bottom trawled—legally. Forbidding the practice in MPAs (and not relocating that fishing effort elsewhere) would help restore Europe’s overfished seas, mitigate global warming and make European fishing more sustainable.

“

All told, bottom trawling imposes a net cost to European society of up to €16 billion annually, mostly due to the social costs of the enormous amount of CO₂ that is emitted from disturbing the seafloor sediment.”

KAT MILLAGE
Pristine Seas Scientist and lead author of the study





“

Despite overexploitation, the ocean has an incredible ability to recover—if we take action now. To meet the 30×30 goal, we need to quadruple ocean protection in the next five years. Now we need all coastal communities in the world to create their own marine protected areas, because they work for everyone and can also be a good business.”

KRISTIN RECHBERGER
CEO of Dynamic Planet and Founder of Revive Our Ocean





CREATING TOOLS FOR COASTAL MPAs BY CO-FOUNDING

Revive Our Ocean

Research shows that to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030, the world needs tens of thousands of small, coastal protected areas to achieve 30% protection of the territorial seas alone. In an effort to make progress towards this ambitious goal, Pristine Seas helped launch an exciting new initiative called Revive Our Ocean. Led by our partners at Dynamic Planet, Revive Our Ocean is a community-focused conservation initiative that aims to inspire, enable and equip local communities to establish their own marine reserves—as regenerative businesses.

Pristine Seas will continue to focus on large marine protected areas designated by governments, while Revive Our Ocean supports local groups who are taking action to protect their ocean backyard. The initiative, which engages best-in-class ocean conservation organizations, is initially focusing on seven countries: the United Kingdom, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Mexico, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

SCAN to read
the Reuters
feature:



CHARTING OUR COURSE THROUGH 2025

JANUARY

- ▶ The Republic of the Marshall Islands designates the National Marine Sanctuaries of Bikar and Bokak, marking the 29th MPA created with the help of Pristine Seas
- ▶ Expedition film premieres in Majuro, Marshall Islands
- ▶ National Ocean Policy workshop in Tuvalu
- ▶ Policy engagement in the Solomon Islands



FEBRUARY

- ▶ Policy meetings in Cape Horn, Chile
- ▶ Research published in *Scientific Reports* shows that marine protections can double scuba diving revenue globally
- ▶ Valentine's Day gift guides encourage readers to buy Niue ocean credits
- ▶ Scout trip to Tuvalu
- ▶ Policy engagement in Papua New Guinea



MARCH

- ▶ *Palau's Ocean Stewards* film premieres in-country
- ▶ Scout trip and community outreach in Fiji
- ▶ Pristine Seas in-person team retreat
- ▶ DC Environmental Film Festival "Filmmaking for Impact" event
- ▶ SOS Ocean hosts leaders and changemakers in France, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies
- ▶ Study shows the huge cost of bottom trawling to European society
- ▶ Pristine Seas' economic research makes headlines in 70+ outlets from 10+ countries

APRIL

- ▶ Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) screening of *Palau's Ocean Stewards* in NYC
- ▶ Our Ocean Conference, South Korea
- ▶ Pacific Ocean Ministerial, Fiji
- ▶ Bezos Earth Fund's Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity Workshop in Palau
- ▶ Fiji expedition begins with deep-sea research in Rotuma
- ▶ Launch of Revive Our Ocean



MAY

- ▶ Global premiere of *Ocean with David Attenborough*
- ▶ *Ocean with David Attenborough* screening in Genoa, Italy (organized by Rolly Van Rappard)
- ▶ Pristine Seas marks two years of The Global Expedition
- ▶ Fiji's Minister for Environment and Climate Change dives in the Argonauta submersible with Ted Waitt off Port Denarau
- ▶ Policy engagement in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands
- ▶ *The Guardian* publishes a feature on our Rotuma partner, Charlene Erasito
- ▶ Pristine Seas searches for the elusive Fiji petrel off Gau Island
- ▶ Tuvalu expedition begins with launch event in Funafuti



JUNE

- ▶ *Ocean with David Attenborough* becomes available to stream on Disney+ and Hulu
- ▶ Blue Economy & Finance Forum, hosted by HSH Prince Albert II in Monaco
- ▶ United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice, France
- ▶ Le Monde publishes an op-ed by Enric on bottom trawling in France
- ▶ *Bays of Life* film screening at Gimli International Film Festival
- ▶ Colombia announces Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo Marine Protected Area, marking the 30th MPA created with the help of Pristine Seas
- ▶ Pristine Seas exhibit opens at Puke Ariki in New Plymouth, New Zealand
- ▶ *Ocean with David Attenborough* screening in Amsterdam (organized by Postcode Lottery Group)
- ▶ Tuvalu expedition ends with a government event and screening in Funafuti



JULY

- ▶ Fiji expedition resumes in Rotuma
- ▶ Scout trip to Vanuatu
- ▶ Pristine Seas exhibit opens at Gallery Yeulmaru in Yeosu, South Korea
- ▶ Press briefing and Argo tour for journalists from Fiji
- ▶ Pristine Seas co-hosts a Teaching and Learning Summit in Nadi, Fiji
- ▶ Science publishes research revealing that strict protections work at curbing illegal fishing activity
- ▶ Nature publishes research on cryptobenthic crab assemblages in the Hawaiian archipelago



AUGUST

- ▶ ABC Australia reporter embeds on Fiji expedition and is first journalist to dive in the Argonauta submersible
- ▶ Pacific Science publishes paper on a new coral species found in Colombia: *Distichopora yurupariensis*
- ▶ Researchers aboard our Fiji expedition find never-before-seen species



SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Educators from Fiji join the expedition for three days of learning exchanges
- ▶ Fiji expedition ends with a presentation and screening in Suva
- ▶ Pristine Seas wins the Audience Choice Award at the Pacific Island Film Festival in NYC
- ▶ Expedition to Vanuatu begins
- ▶ Guinness Book of World Records publishes mega coral piece
- ▶ Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Summit
- ▶ UN General Assembly (UNGA) and NYC Climate Week



OCTOBER

- ▶ Scout trip to Samoa and Tokelau
- ▶ Papua New Guinea film premieres and policy workshop
- ▶ Expedition scientific report delivered to the Government of Papua New Guinea
- ▶ Vanuatu Photo Camp
- ▶ Vanuatu expedition ends with a presentation and screening in Port Vila
- ▶ *Ocean with David Attenborough* screenings to governments in Athens and Lisbon
- ▶ Dominica designates the Sperm Whale Reserve, the 31st MPA established with the help of Pristine Seas
- ▶ *Environmental DNA* publishes paper on metabarcoding primers for Indo-Pacific Fishes



NOVEMBER

- ▶ Expedition scientific report delivered to the Government of the Solomon Islands
- ▶ Solomon Islands film premiere and in-country screenings
- ▶ Pristine Seas Council of Advisors Meeting in Washington, DC
- ▶ *Pale Blue Dot: A Musical Voyage Inspired by Nature* premieres at the Kennedy Center
- ▶ Pristine Seas Education delivers keynote address at the Development and Education Conference in Melbourne, Australia
- ▶ *PLOS One* publishes research on shark abundance in remote protected areas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific
- ▶ *Euractiv* publishes bottom trawling op-ed from Enric in the leadup to COP30



DECEMBER

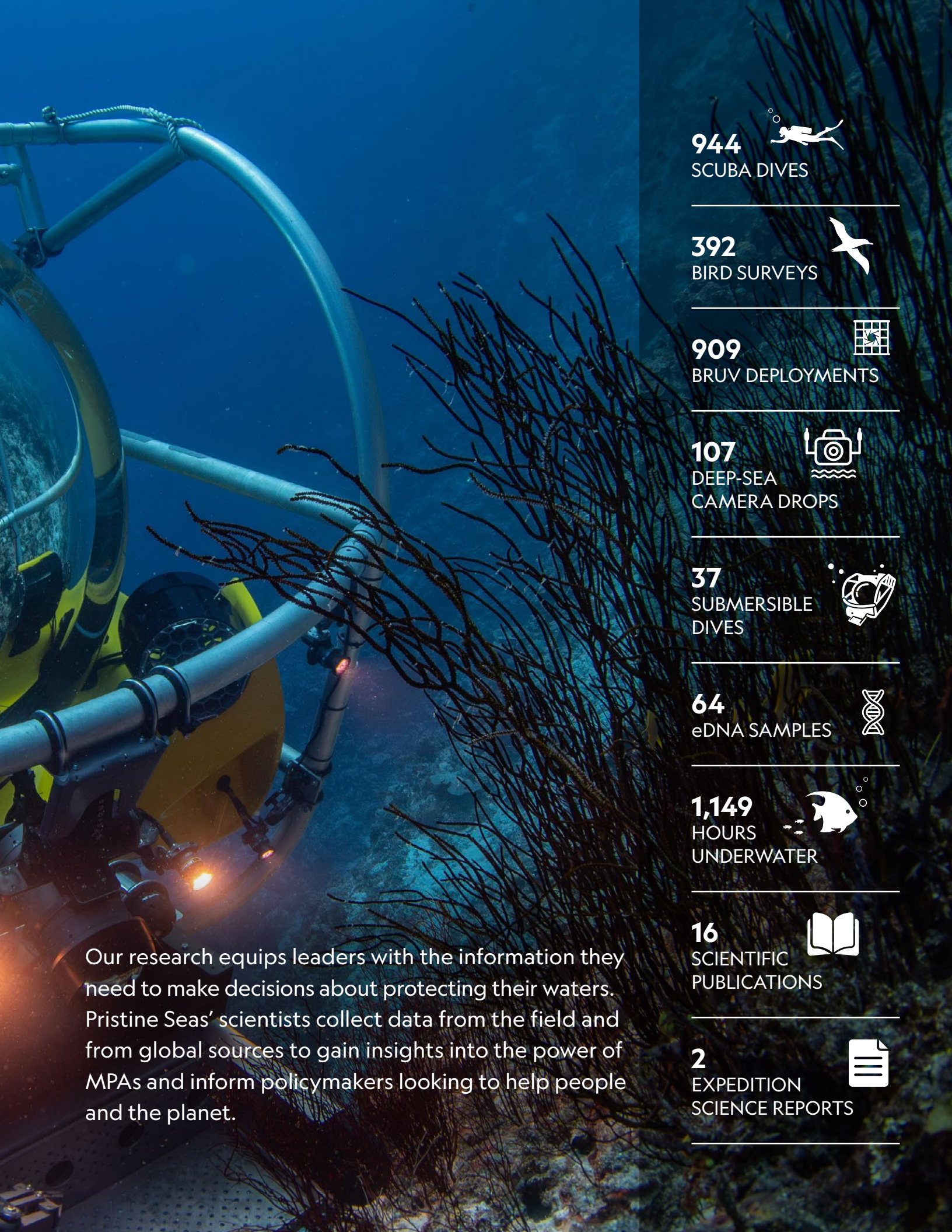
- ▶ Scientific symposium in homage to the late Kike Ballesteros in Spain
- ▶ Papua New Guinea film premieres on National Geographic YouTube
- ▶ Pristine Seas Council of Advisors Meeting in Monaco
- ▶ Researcher receives the Kike Ballesteros Predoctoral Fellowship to analyze patterns of marine biodiversity on rocky seabeds in the Mediterranean to be carried out at Centre d'Estudis Avançats de Blanes



RESEARCH

CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH
TO PROTECT OUR OCEANS





944

SCUBA DIVES



392

BIRD SURVEYS



909

BRUV DEPLOYMENTS



107

DEEP-SEA
CAMERA DROPS



37

SUBMERSIBLE
DIVES



64

eDNA SAMPLES



1,149

HOURS
UNDERWATER



16

SCIENTIFIC
PUBLICATIONS



2

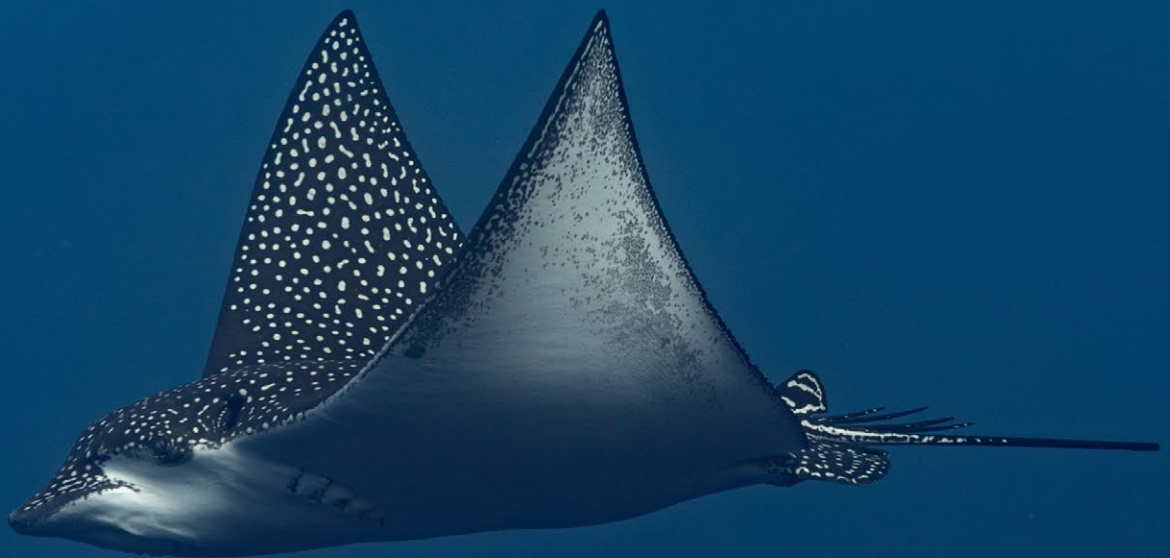
EXPEDITION
SCIENCE REPORTS



Our research equips leaders with the information they need to make decisions about protecting their waters. Pristine Seas' scientists collect data from the field and from global sources to gain insights into the power of MPAs and inform policymakers looking to help people and the planet.

RESEARCH

Our science and economic research helps global leaders protect high-priority marine areas that benefit biodiversity, food security, and climate resilience.



Demonstrating that Protection of Dive Sites Can Boost Economic Revenue

Pristine Seas' new peer-reviewed research in *Scientific Reports* identifies the positive effects of protecting the world's most popular scuba diving sites. Most notably, the study finds that more fully protected dive sites would double direct diving revenue in communities where the dive sites are located, as well as generate another potential \$2 billion in user fees paid by divers to the entities managing the reserves. As a result, better protecting the areas frequented by scuba divers could not only help marine life bounce back, but also generate a new source of income for coastal economies. The Global South, which hosts approximately 62% of recreational dives, is poised to gain the most. This research demonstrates that safeguarding recreational dive hotspots around the globe would deliver a host of benefits to tourists, local communities, and marine life.



If you protect a marine area, more recreational divers will show up – and they'll pay more for the privilege of seeing sensational underwater life. Communities and businesses are leaving money on the table by overlooking the benefits of marine sanctuaries."

RENIEL CABRAL
Senior Lecturer at James Cook University
and the study's lead author



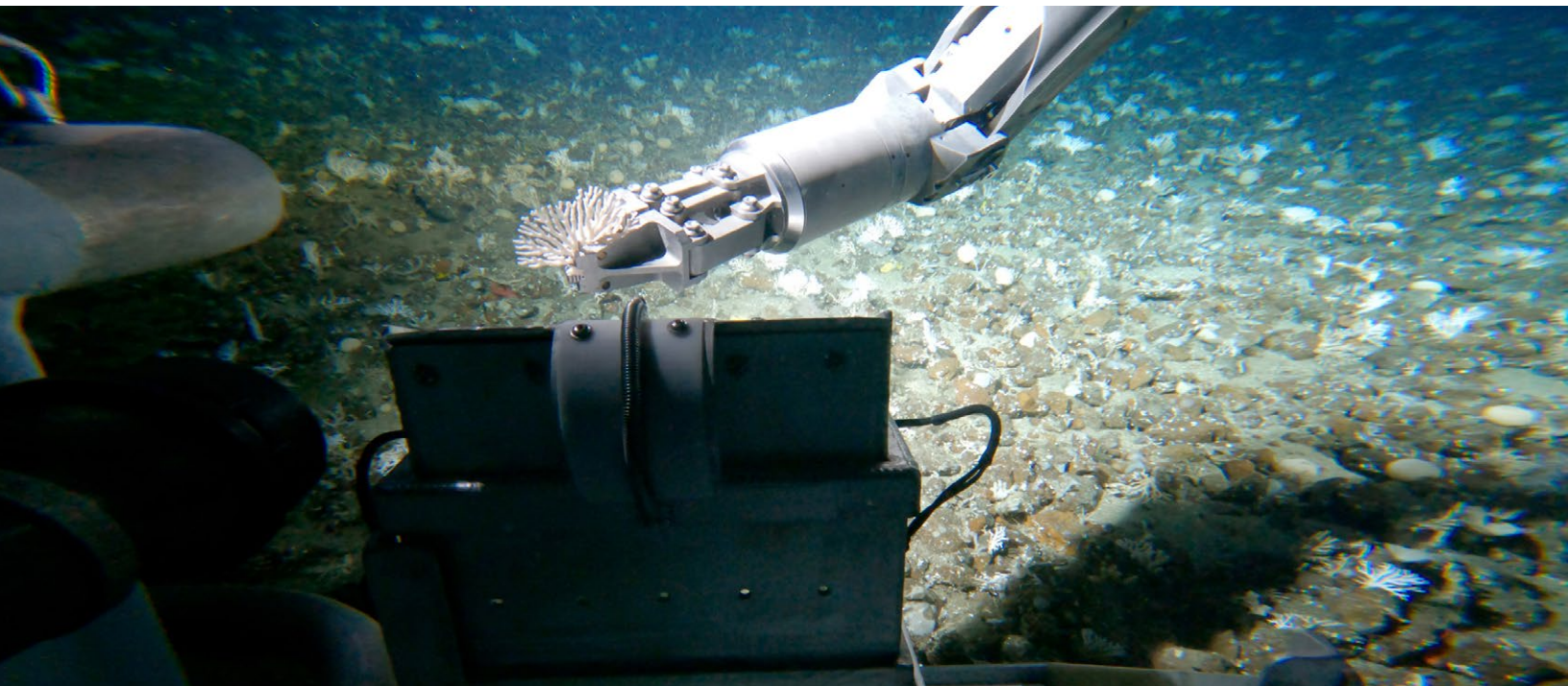
SCAN
to read the
full study:



33 MILLION
SCUBA DIVES ARE
ESTIMATED TO OCCUR
ANNUALLY IN MARINE
ENVIRONMENTS
WORLDWIDE

ONLY 10%
OF MARINE SCUBA
DIVING TAKES PLACE
WITHIN HIGHLY OR
FULLY PROTECTED
MPAs

6,600+
DIVE CENTERS AND
RESORTS SURVEYED
FOR THE STUDY



Discovering a New Species of Coral in Colombia

While on expedition in Colombia, Pristine Seas marine scientist Juan Mayorga and marine biologist Luisa Dueñas from the National University of Colombia discovered a species of coral new to science. Their findings were published in *Pacific Science* in August this year.

The new coral species, *Distichopora yurupariensis*, is a pale pink color with a unique skeleton structure created by tiny overlapping plates. Its small, narrow

pores, known as coenosteal slits, enable the movement of water, nutrients, and waste products within the coral tissue. The team found this coral to be surprisingly common in the deep waters of Navigator Bank, often regarded as the most remote marine ecosystem in the Colombian Pacific.



OVER 90%
OF THE 1,380
HIGHLY AND FULLY
PROTECTED MPAs
STUDIED HAD NO
OR INSIGNIFICANT
COMMERCIAL
FISHING ACTIVITY

Proving that Highly Protected Marine Areas Deter Illegal Fishing

A recent Pristine Seas publication in the journal *Science* highlights the power of strict legal bans on industrial fishing in MPAs. The analysis, which combines satellite imagery and artificial intelligence technology to detect previously untraceable vessels, reveals that most of the globe's fully and highly protected MPAs successfully deter illegal fishing. The study is the first of its kind to demonstrate that the

most strictly protected marine reserves are well respected and are not simply "paper parks." To this end, researchers found that strongly protected MPAs had, on average, nine times fewer fishing vessels per square kilometer than unprotected coastal areas.

“

The ocean is no longer too big to watch. With cutting-edge satellites and AI, we're making illegal fishing visible and proving that strong marine protections work.”

JUAN MAYORGA
*Pristine Seas Scientist
and co-author of the study*



SCAN
to read the
NYT feature:





Diving into Rotuma's Rich Waters

As part of our larger Fiji expedition running from April to September, Pristine Seas spent four weeks researching and filming the waters of Rotuma, a remote volcanic island and self-governing dependency of Fiji led by the Council of Rotuma. Our scientists were invited to fill gaps in existing knowledge about the waters beyond the island chain's fringing reef.

While surveying the deep sea, the team found the northwest banks of Rotuma to be especially biodiverse, teeming with apex predators like oceanic whitetip sharks, silky sharks, tiger sharks, sixgill sharks, and false catsharks. At shallow depths on top of banks, the waters were filled with fishes like snappers and emperors, species that are often absent in heavily-fished areas. These banks serve as a valuable example of what a healthy ocean can look like.

Our nearshore research around Rotuma was completed in July 2025. Along with healthy reef ecosystems, our team discovered a previously undescribed manta aggregation site with dozens of the pelagic giants gliding through the rugged reef canyons. We presented initial findings and a short film to community members before continuing on to additional research sites across mainland Fiji for the remainder of the expedition.

“

My only goal here has been to learn as much as possible about how we can safely monitor and protect our oceans within the ever-changing times. It is inspiring to see some healthy coral reefs and healthy fauna populations, including sharks and mantas. Working with National Geographic scientists, local partners, and the Council of Chiefs, I know the outcome of the expedition can be used to serve the people of Rotuma, the island, and the ocean.”

ALICIA EMBERSON-SEMISI
Local scientist



SCAN
for our field
notes from Fiji:



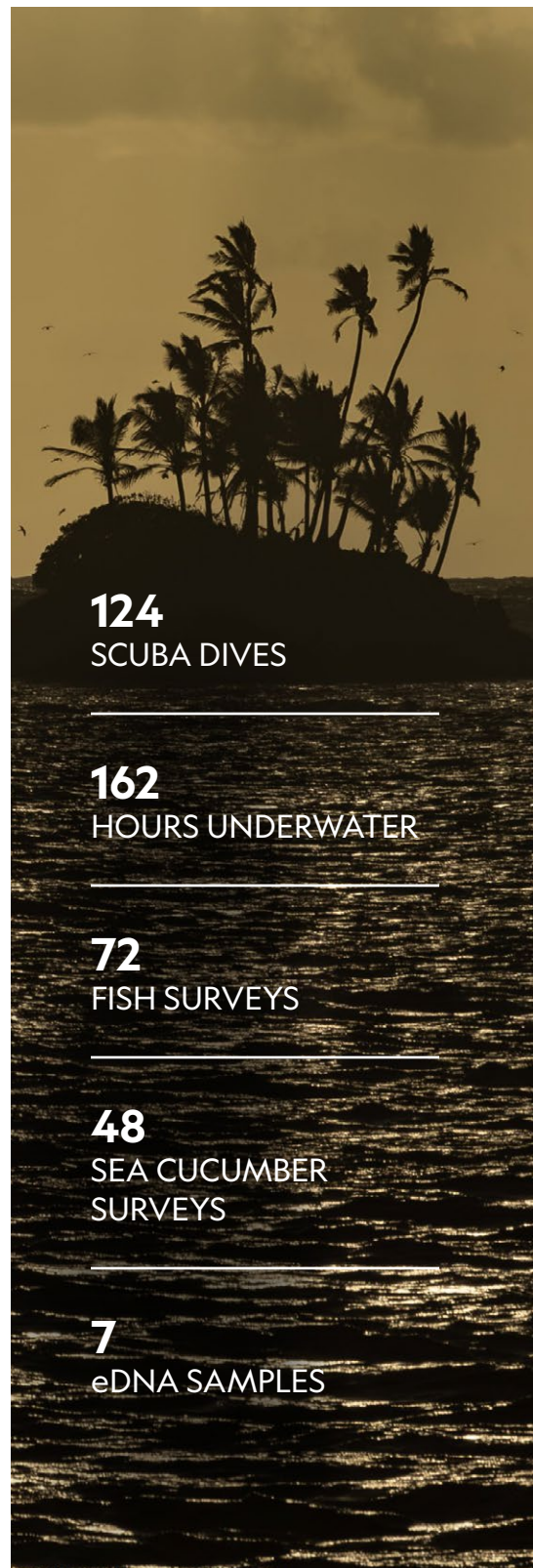
124
SCUBA DIVES

162
HOURS UNDERWATER

72
FISH SURVEYS

48
SEA CUCUMBER
SURVEYS

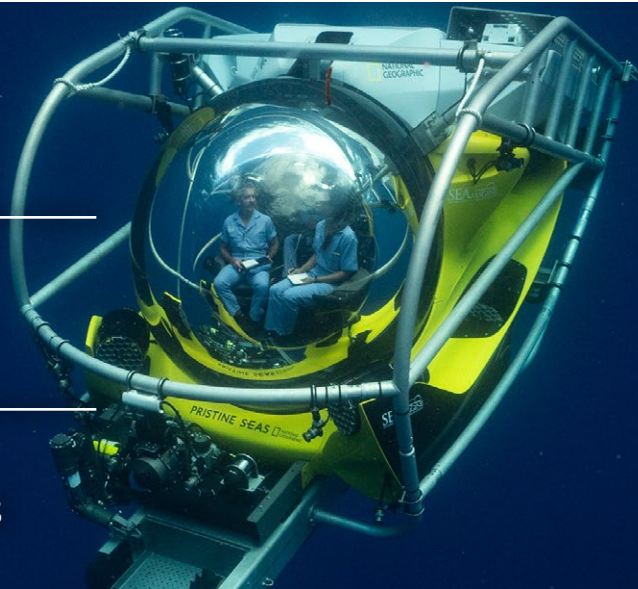
7
eDNA SAMPLES



120
PELAGIC CAMERA
DEPLOYMENTS

28
DEEP-SEA CAMERA
DROPS

12
SUBMERSIBLE DIVES



Unlocking Mysteries of Fiji's Deep Ocean

In partnership with Fiji's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and Blue Prosperity Fiji, Pristine Seas dove deep into Fiji's waters to fill data gaps about marine life in the Yasawas, Great Sea Reef, and the Ringgolds. Dedicated deep-sea legs allow our scientists to focus on revealing secrets of the planet's least studied and least known ecosystem. In Fiji, we dropped cameras to the bottom of the sea to observe the slow-moving creatures that call this dark habitat home, spotting gulper sharks, chimaeras, eels, and other

fascinating marine life. In our submersible, the Argonauta, we collected bits of matter to aid in species identification via eDNA analysis. Our floating pelagic cameras captured creatures on film that we'll soon count and measure—and our bird surveys provided insight into the critical seabirds inhabiting Fiji. Our data will be compiled into a scientific report for the government, which will help leaders make informed decisions about which parts of their ocean to protect.

“

The Great Sea Reef is a world of its own. Its vertical walls extend hundreds of meters down, covered in fan and black corals. To witness such abundance on dives in our submersible, the Argonauta, has been profoundly moving. This biodiversity, revealed for the very first time, left me in awe.”

ANA BELÉN YÁNEZ SUÁREZ
National Geographic Explorer



Exploring the Stunning Reefs of Kadavu

Beyond its deep sea, Fiji's leaders identified the nearshore waters off Kadavu as an area of interest for potential protection, and one for which they needed a more complete picture of ocean health. To create a snapshot of the ecosystem, our scientists dove into Kadavu's clear waters to conduct SCUBA surveys, deploy seabed and floating cameras, and collect eDNA samples.

Two leaders joined us aboard the Argo to contribute to our data collection: The Honorable Lenora Qereqeretabua, Fiji's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Dr. Sivendra Michael, Fiji's Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Engaged and enthusiastic about a week at sea, they participated in aspects of our scientific work and brought

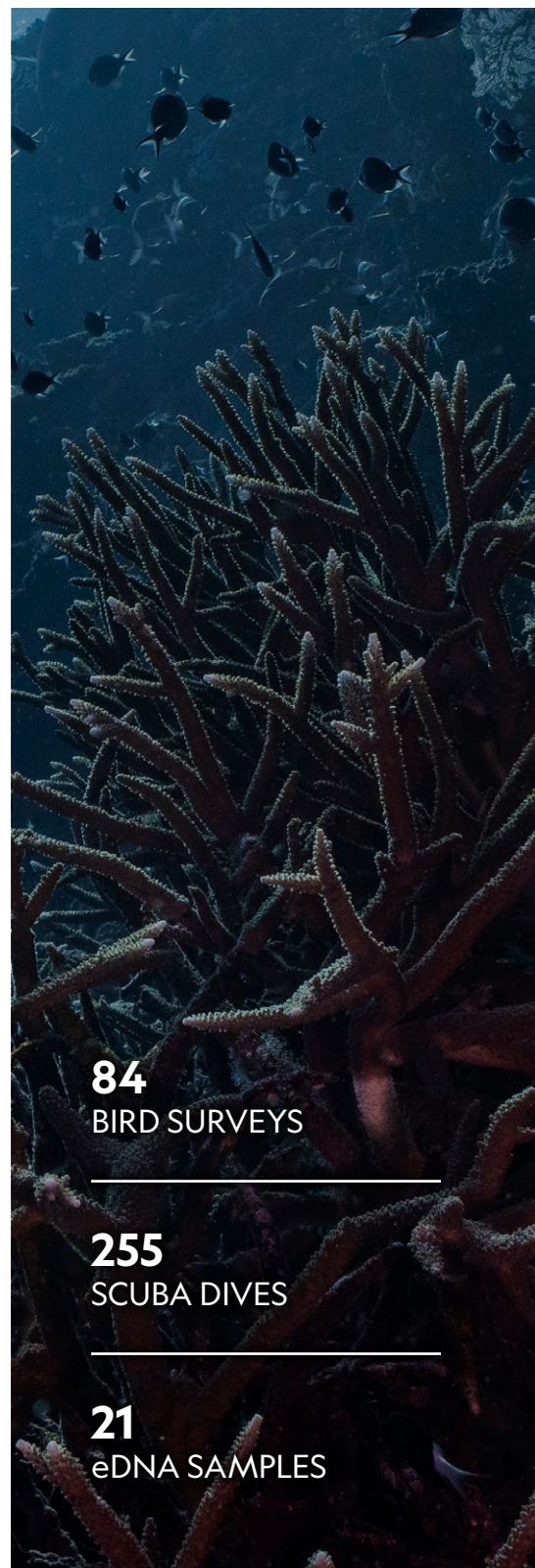
their experiences back to land, speaking publicly about the beauty of the sea and the need for expanded protections. We are confident they will continue to support the conservation of Fiji's waters now and far into the future.

Overall, our initial insights revealed Kadavu's reefs to be in better shape than many across the Pacific, but we saw warning signs that can't be ignored, such as extensive bleaching and large swaths of reef with only coral skeletons remaining. The good news is that protecting what's still healthy—and helping depleted areas recover—may be more achievable here than in places where reef systems have already collapsed. Kadavu's reefs still have the ingredients for resilience; now it's a matter of safeguarding them for the future.

“

The important thing is that data is translated into policies that will benefit the fisheries and the ocean around Fiji.”

THE HONORABLE LENORA QEREQERETABUA
Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs



84
BIRD SURVEYS

255
SCUBA DIVES

21
eDNA SAMPLES



Observing Resilience and Warning Signs in Tuvalu

At the invitation of Prime Minister Feleti Teo, Pristine Seas embarked on an expedition of Tuvalu's waters this spring to support the government's goal of protecting 30% of the country's waters by 2030. The month-long research expedition—conducted in partnership with Tuvalu's Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Fisheries—explored areas ranging from shallow lagoons to the deep ocean.

Preliminary findings revealed widespread coral mortality, with live coral cover often below 5-10%. We observed small pockets of resilience and signs of recruits, particularly at Nukulaelae and parts of Nanumea and Funafuti. Despite the widespread coral

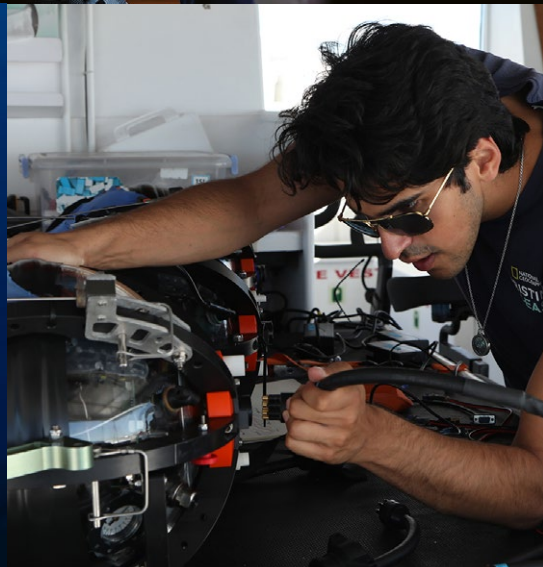
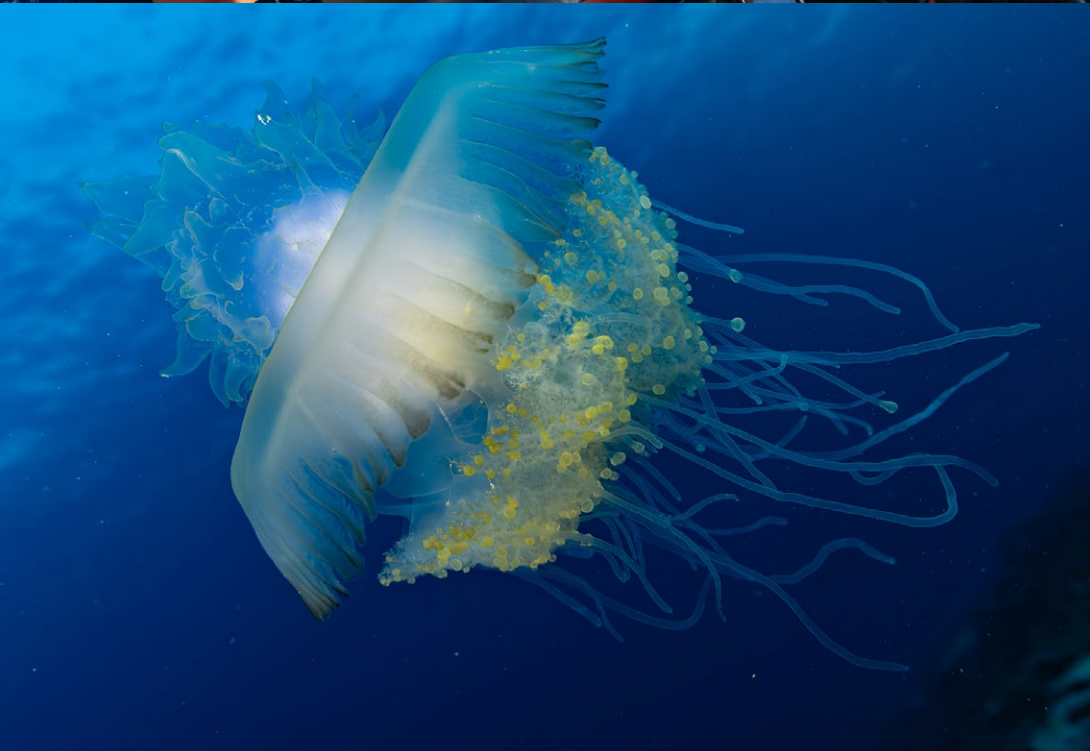
decline, reef fish abundance exceeded expectations, with large communities of parrotfish, surgeonfish, and iconic species like Napoleon wrasse, suggesting positive impacts from local management. Still, the pressures from global warming are intense and coral collapse seems imminent, a circumstance that would leave reef fish without much hope of continuing to thrive.

In pelagic waters and deep-sea habitats, our team frequently sighted tuna, dolphins, and whales, especially around Niulakita's southern banks, which also contained abundant seabird populations. Our submersible dives and deep-sea cameras revealed diverse ecosystems

featuring benthic corals, unique fauna such as sleeper sharks and giant sea spiders, and a range of microhabitats, including new and rare species records. The tops of the banks were teeming with sharks and large fishes. The findings highlight that while Tuvalu's ecosystems are under stress from global warming, particularly in the nearshore, they retain the potential to recover if offered protection.

SCAN for our
field notes
from Tuvalu:





336
HOURS UNDERWATER

130
BIRD SURVEYS

14
SUB DIVES

347
BRUVS DEPLOYED

18
eDNA SAMPLES



Monitoring Vanuatu's Threatened Seascape

In our third and final expedition of the year, Pristine Seas spent four weeks studying Vanuatu's ocean, which is known for its high biodiversity and at-risk species. Under threat from frequent cyclones, warming temperatures, and overfishing, the nation is a leader for climate justice and is hoping to safeguard its waters from the pressures it faces. Our team documented the ocean's stunning biodiversity and geology, providing data for Vanuatu's marine spatial planning efforts. Exploring ecosystems ranging from shallow coral gardens to depths of 1,300 meters, the team assessed places for which little scientific data is currently available and identified areas for protection. In partnership with Blue Prosperity Vanuatu and key government ministries, the team used tools

like environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling to identify organisms invisible to the naked eye.

Preliminary findings across the archipelago painted a diverse picture of an ocean under pressure, but resilient. While areas like the Reef Islands lagoon showed signs of environmental stress and overexploitation, we documented thriving biodiversity in locally managed tabu (protected) areas in Ureparapara and West Gaua, which were teeming with fish, turtles, and dugongs. The team also explored the unique volcanic waters of Tongoa, discovering high fish biomass and spectacular underwater walls. Beyond the science, the expedition fostered future leadership through a National Geographic Photo Camp in Pentecost, where professional photographers mentored young

“

We are working toward establishment of large Marine Protected Areas to enable our Solwara to revive and recover, to ensure that our people will have access to abundant marine resources to support our lives for all future generations of Ni Vanuatu.”

HON. JOTHAM NAPAT
Prime Minister of Vanuatu



people keen on documenting their community's relationship to the ocean. We hope these activities will help Vanuatu, a nation of “Solwara” (meaning “salt water” or “ocean”) people, make informed decisions to heal and revive their marine space.

Next year, we will return to Vanuatu and present our scientific findings and look toward the future as the country takes its next brave steps toward protecting 30% of their ocean by 2030.

SCAN for our
field notes
from Vanuatu:





“

Our elders want us to know about how the ocean is conserved here. They want us to understand how we are connected to the environment. When we protect the sea, we are showing that we have respect for her and a responsibility to protect her.”

LORANCE BATENA
Photo Camp Student



Portrait of Margaret Lini on the background of red mat Bwana used for traditional ceremonies of Hano people. Portrait assignment for National Geographic Photo Camp. Photographer: Steward Lomahuri.

285
SCUBA DIVES

31
HOURS IN THE
SUBMERSIBLE

200
UNDERWATER CAMERA
DEPLOYMENTS

40+
RESEARCH SITES

300+
VISITORS ABOARD
THE ARGO

STORYTELLING

AMPLIFYING PACIFIC VOICES AND
CAPTIVATING GLOBAL AUDIENCES





500



TB OF FOOTAGE
SHOT BY FILM TEAM
(EQUAL TO 106,000
STANDARD DVDs)

2,500+

PRESS MENTIONS

17.9B



POTENTIAL
AUDIENCE OF
PRESS STORIES

38.7M

SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS

Stories and visuals not only draw people in, but inspire them to take action. Pristine Seas combines hard data with messages of hope and beauty to move the needle on ocean conservation. In 2025, we elevated the stories of conservation heroes through film, the press, and on social media.



1.2M

SOCIAL MEDIA
ENGAGEMENTS

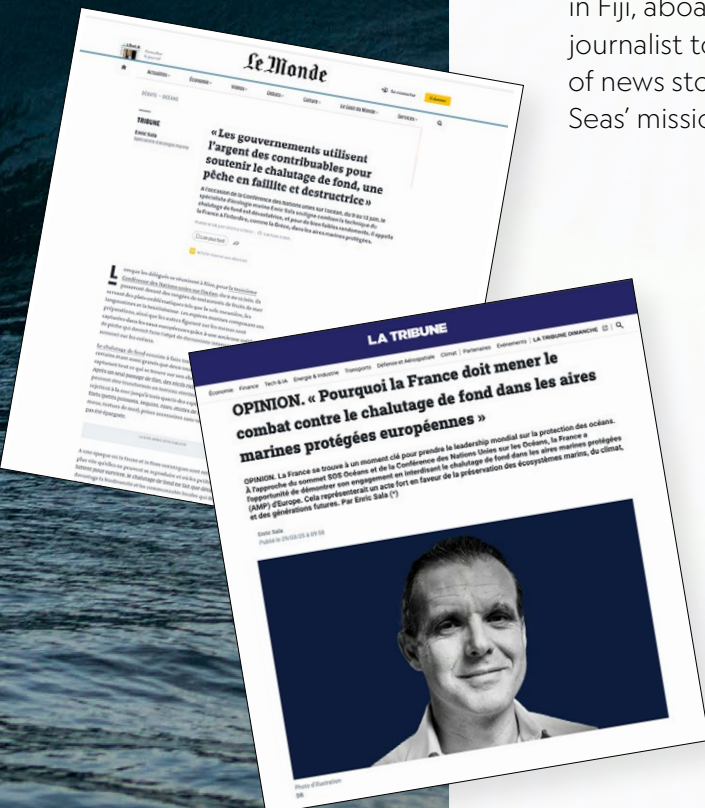


Making Waves in the Press

Despite a crowded news environment, Pristine Seas has kept marine conservation in the headlines and served as an effective thought leader on all things ocean throughout 2025. Most notably, we have used our voice, our research, and our role in co-producing *Ocean with David Attenborough* to advocate for an end to bottom trawling in MPAs in both public and policy forums.

In March, the preprint of our [research paper](#) on the economic costs of bottom trawling anchored an advocacy campaign against the fishing technique in Europe and garnered coverage in over 70 outlets from more than ten countries. Press briefings, strong visuals, and an op-ed by Enric in [La Tribune](#) contributed to the chorus of voices pressuring leaders to prioritize ocean conservation over industrial fishing. Targeted engagement of journalists during UNOC and the Blue Economy & Finance Forum resulted in placements in outlets such as *The Associated Press*, *Reuters*, *The Guardian*, *BBC*, and *Bloomberg*—totaling a potential audience of more than eight billion in June alone.

In August, we welcomed Lice Movono, *ABC Australia's* premier journalist in Fiji, aboard the *Argo* to embed with our expedition. She became the first journalist to dive in the *Argonauta* submersible and has created a series of news stories that radiate with enthusiasm for the ocean and Pristine Seas' mission.



OUR SOCIAL
ENGAGEMENTS HAVE
GROWN LEAPS AND
BOUNDS OVER THE
SAME TIME FRAME
LAST YEAR WITH:

222%
MORE IMPRESSIONS

414%
MORE ENGAGEMENTS

279%
MORE LINK CLICKS

60%
HIGHER
ENGAGEMENT
RATE

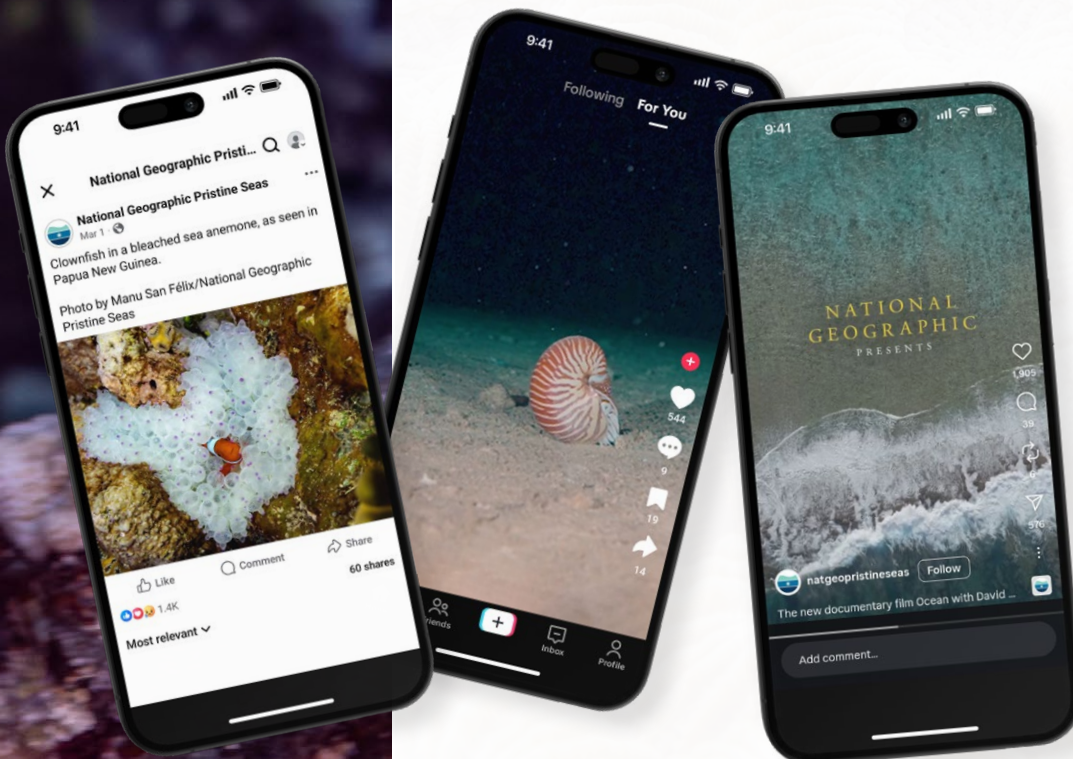


Engaging a Global Audience on Social Media

Pristine Seas' nearly 3 million social media followers come from over 100 countries, but they all share one thing: A fascination with the ocean. Around the world and most notably in the Pacific Islands, our audience loves to interact with posts featuring partners and community members from the Pacific, such as a spotlight on the Honorable Lenora Qereqeretabua, Fiji's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, who joined our expedition in July.

To combat the saturation of AI on social media, we started a new series called #NotAI, which showcases the incredible, almost unbelievable beauty of the ocean and has been a hit with our audience.

Over the past year, we've focused on using social media to engage decision makers around the globe. One example of this tactic is a video we posted of Enric speaking from the heart at UNOC, which deftly spoke to policymakers and key players in ocean conservation at just the right moment.



SCAN
for video:





Bringing Ocean Stories to the Screen

Our film team has had a remarkable year, with nine documentary films in production and several more in development.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands expedition film premiered in Majuro in January and was well-received by a full house. The event was attended by the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the high chief of Bikar and Bokak, and dignitaries from various embassies in Majuro.

In early March, Pristine Seas hosted the public premiere of its second Palau documentary, *Palau's Ocean Stewards*, in Koror—celebrating the nation's commitment to ocean conservation. The film, which was also screened for local schools, is the result of our 2024 expedition studying Palau's gorgeous underwater ecosystems. The premiere was a huge success and has helped to deepen our relationships and work in Palau.

Our film from Pristine Seas' 2022 expedition to the Hudson and James Bays of Canada, *Tasiujarjuaq & Weeneebeg: Bays of Life*, first premiered to partners in late 2024 and was featured again as part of the Gimli Film Festival in Canada this June.

We expanded our footprint at other film festivals, including Jackson Wild, the NYC Pacific Island Film Festival, and the DC Environmental Film Festival in 2025. We're also working on short films and collaborations in the coming months, including what will be the definitive short outlining the need and arguments for marine protected areas.

We've partnered with the official National Geographic YouTube channel to make our entire back catalog of nearly 40 documentary films available worldwide, reaching over 25 million subscribers and more. These titles will roll out gradually with promotion over the next year.

Looking ahead to 2026, we'll be completing and premiering three films based on our Rotuma and Fiji expeditions, a film about our time in the Nunatsiavut region of Canada, and one covering our Tuvalu expedition.





Debuting Films and Sharing Data with Communities

This autumn, we fulfilled a crucial promise to partners in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands: That the communities who opened their waters to us would be the first to receive the data and watch themselves onscreen. From the capital of Port Moresby and the islands of Manus to the remote classrooms of Temotu Province, we hosted film screenings and events to hand-deliver bespoke assets—including final reports, datasets, documentary films, and educational materials—directly to local stakeholders. By facilitating workshops with partners and engaging directly with chiefs, students, and government officials, we ensured that the people most connected to these waters possess the tools and data necessary to advocate for their future.

The response to our time in both countries was transformative, proving that seeing one's own heritage on the big screen is a powerful catalyst for change. In Papua New Guinea, government officials were moved to tears and crowds of nearly a thousand gathered to celebrate their ocean. While in the Solomon Islands, the reception was so enthusiastic that it led to an invitation to present directly to the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Across both nations, the reaction was consistent: deep emotion at seeing the beauty and fragility of their home, followed by a renewed energy for stewardship. These trips were not just formalities; they solidified relationships and turned cinematic storytelling into tangible momentum, reinforcing support for active MPA reviews and inspiring large-scale ocean protection across the region.





COMMUNITY

ENGAGING THE OCEAN CHAMPIONS
OF TOMORROW



750
STUDENTS
ENGAGED
ACROSS 6 SHIP DAYS



62
EDUCATORS
PARTICIPATED IN
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES



66,000+
STUDENTS
WATCHED OCEAN WITH
DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



Just as a single expedition can uncover the secrets of a reef, one educator can inspire thousands of new ocean guardians. Our work is based on this ripple effect: investing in local champions to boost ocean literacy and inspire protection long after our expedition ends. We keep expanding educational initiatives focused on co-creating resources with teachers, connecting youth to expeditions and ocean literacy, and fostering a generation of informed and active ocean advocates.





Ship Days to Inspire Students

In 2025, we hosted “Ship Days” in Rotuma, Fiji, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, offering unique educational experiences to over 750 students aboard the Argo. Students and community members enjoyed coming onboard for hands-on learning about marine science, conservation, and maritime careers. The positive response and involvement from participants at all locations highlight the impact of these direct outreach efforts. As one student in Rotuma shared about what they learned: “How exciting it can be to explore and learn the types of cameras that can go underwater to see the various fish...then participate in environmental community projects.”





Film Screenings at Schools

Our expedition films have been successfully premiered at schools in places such as Palau, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. A particularly notable success was in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, where the government screened the film in all 14 secondary schools. These screenings facilitated direct engagement with over 1,000 students, sparking discussions and interest in critical environmental topics.





Educators Come Aboard for a Multi-Day, Immersive Experience

In Fiji, we welcomed educators aboard the Argo for a vivid, multi-day glimpse into our expedition. Together, we immersed ourselves in hands-on experiences and learning about local ecosystems, culture, and marine conservation—a model we successfully replicated from the Solomon Islands. A key takeaway from the participants was an urgent need for more experiential learning opportunities and ocean literacy resources in the curriculum that connect students in Fiji to the ocean.

We are thrilled to support the co-creation of new marine science resources, which will be used by educators in the classroom. The Fiji Ministry of Education commented on the project's impact: "Thank you once again for facilitating such a powerful and enriching expedition. It has deepened our understanding and appreciation of marine ecosystems, and will undoubtedly inspire how we teach and advocate for ocean stewardship moving forward."



Teaching & Learning Summit for Long-Term Education Impact

This summer, Pristine Seas partnered with The Pacific Community's (SPC) Education team to host a landmark Science Teaching and Learning Summit, bringing together 42 educators and ministry officials from 14 Pacific nations. Over five days, participants collaboratively shaped the future of ocean literacy in the Pacific—leaving not only with new knowledge but also with tangible action plans to develop culturally relevant science resources for their countries. The summit generated a significant regional ripple effect,

empowering local leaders to become champions of ocean literacy in their communities.

The “Resetting Baselines” initiative, which debuted at the summit, includes a series of ten short videos accompanied by a comprehensive facilitator guide to support Pacific educators in learning and teaching ocean literacy. These resources provide engaging content that can be integrated into curricula, deepening students’ understanding of marine science, biodiversity, and ocean conservation.



Ocean with David Attenborough Film Impactful for Educators

National Geographic is making *Ocean with David Attenborough* available, for free, to educators looking to screen the film in their classrooms. So far, we have granted access to over 850 educators worldwide. This film and the accompanying learning materials are versatile tools that can be incorporated into lessons to help students gain a deeper understanding of oceanography, biodiversity, and the importance

of ocean conservation. As one educator noted, “I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity to share this film with my class. My students were thrilled, and it related to many topics we’ve covered this year in Life Science: Biology. If possible, please extend my thanks to David Attenborough. We truly appreciate his work and consider ourselves his #1 fans!”

SCAN for
educator
resources:



LOOKING AHEAD







2026 Goals

1

Support the designation/implementation of at least one new MPA:

Based on the efforts of previous expeditions, we will support the designation of at least one new MPA in 2026, and hopefully more.

2

Complete three expeditions:

Conduct efficient, effective, and safe expeditions to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Tokelau in support of expanded marine protection in each country.

3

Develop and implement a 5-year plan:

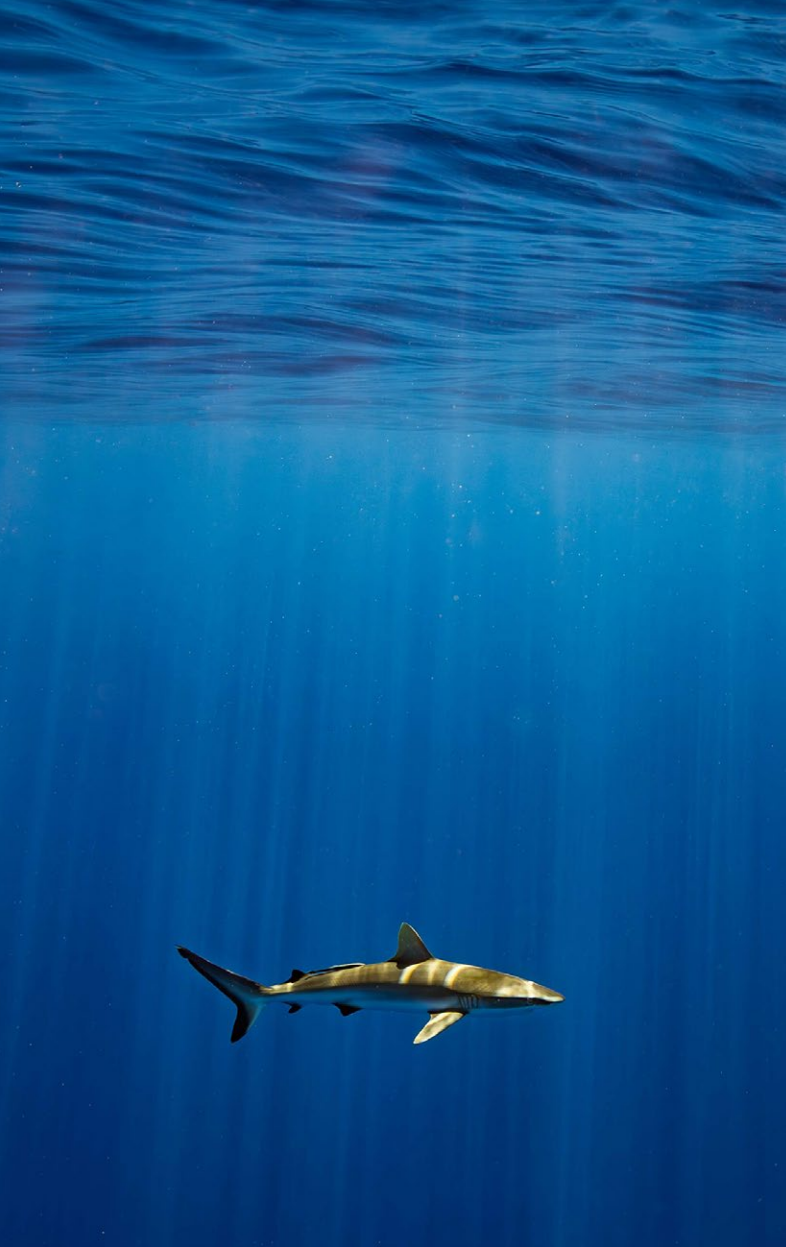
We will create and carry out a new plan to protect the 30 last wild places in the ocean.

4

Embody the Pristine Seas Ethos and National Geographic Code of Ethics:

Pristine Seas' values are embodied in our Ethos and NGS Code of Ethics. In 2026, we will continue to implement the Ethos in all of our team interactions, internally and externally. This includes holding all staff and contractors accountable for upholding and embodying the Pristine Seas Ethos in their everyday work across all position levels.





2026 Expeditions

Marshall Islands

Following its January designation of the National Marine Sanctuaries of Bikar and Bokak, the Marshall Islands remains committed to *Reimaanlok*, a national framework for planning and establishing community-based conservation areas.

Our 2026 expedition to the Marshall Islands will survey seven uninhabited atolls for future protection opportunities. In the first half of the new year, we plan to spend significant time in the country's waters to conduct research, film, and support educational activities.

Samoa

In June 2025, Samoa announced legal protection of 30% of its ocean by enacting a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP). This plan will establish nine new fully protected MPAs totaling 36,000 km². The law also commits the country to sustainably manage 100% of its national waters by 2030. After announcing its MSP, the Samoan Government requested Pristine Seas' support to survey its priority sites for protection. Our 2026 expedition to the country will establish baseline biodiversity data for these newly protected areas and identify additional locations for protection that would yield optimal biodiversity benefits. We hope our engagement will serve as a valuable demonstration to other Pacific Island countries on what the road to success for 30×30 looks like.

Tokelau

At the invitation and endorsement of the Tokelau Government, Pristine Seas will study the country's marine ecosystems and pinpoint vital areas for protection in 2026. Tokelau does not have existing integrated ocean management plans, but has begun early planning for the development of a National Ocean Policy. We hope to provide biodiversity data to support Tokelau's National Ocean Policy and its MSP.



Our Partners

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Samantha Campbell
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2025 EARNED MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- **ABC Australia**, National Geographic scientists explore Tuvalu waters
- **ABC Australia**, 'Completely captivating': Researchers explore Fiji's deep sea for the first time to collect data for ocean protection
- **Agence France Presse**, Pêche au chalut: un coût écologique et économique impressionnant...
- **Associated Press**, As the UN Ocean Conference opens in France, a push to turn promises into protection
- **BBC**, Prince William calls for protection of world's oceans in Monaco
- **BBC Wildlife**, "It's like a glimpse of a world before people arrived"
- **BBC Wildlife**, "It's hard to imagine a more wasteful way to catch fish" never-before-seen footage of bottom trawlers
- **Bloomberg**, UN Ocean Summit Tries to Prevent Seas From Becoming "Wild West"
- **CNN**, On his 99th birthday, David Attenborough's 'Ocean' documentary highlights 'the most important place on Earth'
- **Deeper Blue**, Scientists Find Scuba Divers Willing To Pay More To Dive Marine Protected Areas
- **Deutsche Presse Agentur**, Schleppnetz-Fischerei verursacht womöglich Milliarden Schäden
- **Dialogue Earth**, 'Reimaanlok' puts Indigenous voices at the heart of ocean conservation
- **Dive Magazine**, Study: turning dive sites into MPAs would both protect and provide
- **EFE Verde**, Colombia announces the creation of a new Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo marine reserve in the Caribbean
- **eKathimerini**, 'Revive Our Ocean' initiative launched to protect coastal waters
- **Euronews**, Bottom trawling in European waters costs society up to €11bn a year, new study finds
- **Euronews**, World lagging behind on goal to protect 30% of ocean by 2030: Here's what's needed
- **The Fiji Times**, New marine expedition for Fiji and Rotuma's ocean by National Geographic
- **France 24**, Diver Paul Rose describes 'brilliant feeling' of world's largest coral
- **Forbes**, The \$15.8 Billion Gap: The Smart Economics Of Ocean Protection
- **The Guardian**, Is the ocean 'having a moment'? This was the UN summit where the world woke up to the decline of the seas
- **The Guardian**, The woman unlocking the mysteries of the deep sea in Fiji
- **Le Monde**, Les gouvernements utilisent l'argent des contribuables pour soutenir le chalutage de fond...
- **Mongabay**, Protecting coastal waters may be the best investment you've never heard of, says Kristin Rechberger
- **National Geographic Magazine**, Fish flee for their lives in rare, chilling video of bottom trawling
- **New York Times**, At U.N. Conference, Countries Inch Toward Ocean Protection Goal
- **Oceanographic**, Scuba diving holds secret to economic and environmental boom, says study
- **Oceanographic**, New AI study leaves "industrial fishing's bad guys nowhere to hide"
- **Pacific Media Network**, Tuvalu's coral reefs under stress, yet signs of life offer hope
- **Papua New Guinea Post-Courier**, Expanded Protection of World's Scuba Diving Sites Would Safeguard Biodiversity, Bolster Food Supply and Generate Billions in Revenue
- **Radio New Zealand**, Safeguarding reefs: Marshall Islands establishes 48,000 sq kilometres marine protected area
- **Reuters**, 'Revive Our Ocean' initiative launched to protect coastal waters
- **Reuters**, Sea change needed at global talks to save ocean from disaster
- **Smithsonian Magazine**, New Marine Protected Area in the Marshall Islands Brimming With Life
- **La Tribune**, Pourquoi la France doit mener le combat contre le chalutage de fond...
- **La Vanguardia**, La pesca de arrastre: ¿un bosque convertido en un erial?

MPAs CREATED WITH SUPPORT FROM PRISTINE SEAS

AREA	MPA NAME	EXPLORED	ESTABLISHED
Northern Line Islands	<i>Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument</i>	August 2005, August 2007	January 2009
Southern Line Islands	<i>Southern Line Islands Marine Protected Area</i>	March 2009, October 2021	April 2015
Cocos Island	<i>Cocos Island National Park</i>	September 2009	Expanded December 2021
Easter Island / Salas y Gómez	<i>Motu Motiro Hiva Marine Park</i>	February 2010	April 2010
Pitcairn Islands	<i>Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve</i>	March 2012	September 2016
Gabon	<i>Gabon Marine Protected Area Network</i>	October 2012	June 2017
Nazca-Desventuradas	<i>Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park</i>	February 2013	August 2016
Franz Josef Land	<i>Russian Arctic National Park</i>	July 2013	August 2016
New Caledonia	<i>Natural Park of the Coral Sea</i>	October 2013	August 2018
Palau	<i>Palau National Marine Sanctuary</i>	September 2014	October 2015
Seychelles Outer Islands	<i>Aldabra Group Marine National Park</i>	March 2015	February 2018
Selvagens Islands	<i>Selvagens Islands Nature Reserve</i>	September 2015	Expanded November 2021
Galápagos Islands	<i>Darwin and Wolf Marine Sanctuary</i>	November 2015	March 2016
Clipperton Atoll	<i>Clipperton Marine Protected Area</i>	March 2016	November 2016
Revillagigedo Islands	<i>Revillagigedo National Park</i>	March 2016	November 2017
Niue	<i>Niue Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area</i>	September 2016	April 2020
Tristán da Cunha	<i>Tristán da Cunha Marine Protection Zone</i>	January 2017	August 2021
Cape Horn	<i>Diego Ramírez-Drake Passage Marine Park</i>	January 2017	January 2018
Juan Fernández Archipelago	<i>Juan Fernández Marine Park</i>	March 2017	January 2018
Ascension	<i>Ascension Island Marine Protected Area</i>	May 2017	August 2019
Yaganes: Tierra del Fuego / Isla de Los Estados	<i>Yaganes Marine National Park</i>	February 2018	December 2018
Yaganes: Tierra del Fuego / Isla de Los Estados	<i>Peninsula Mitre Natural Protected Area</i>	February 2018	December 2022
Namuncurá-Banco Burdwood II	<i>Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank II National Marine Reserve</i>	November 2018	December 2018
Malpelo	<i>Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary</i>	April 2018, February 2022	Expanded June 2022
Islas Marías	<i>Islas Marías Biosphere Reserve</i>	May 2018	Expanded August 2021
Ross Sea	<i>Ross Sea Marine Protected Area</i>	Diplomacy Only	December 2017
Uruguay	<i>Isla de Lobos National Park</i>	December 2021	August 2023
The Azores	<i>Azores Marine Protected Area Network</i>	June 2018	October 2024
Republic of the Marshall Islands	<i>National Marine Sanctuaries of Bikar and Bokak</i>	August–October 2023	January 2025
Colombia	<i>Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo Marine Protected Area</i>	April 2022	June 2025
Dominica	<i>Dominica Sperm Whale Reserve</i>	November–December 2022	October 2025

An underwater photograph showing sunlight rays filtering through a cave opening at the top, illuminating a coral reef below. The scene is deep blue with some darker areas near the cave and the reef.

THANK YOU

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This report was written and produced by Enric Sala, Jenelle Eli, and Courtney Lorey. Photography by Andy Mann, Bailey Garton, Beth Pezzoni, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Brett Kuxhausen, Caitlin Bailey, Dan Beecham, Darryl MacDonald, DevEd Conference, Doug Simpson, Enric Sala, Federico Pochet, Iñigo San Félix, Jason Houston, Jenelle Eli, Jon Betz, Juan Mayorga, Kyle McBurnie, Lindsay Young, Madison McClintock, Manu San Félix, Marino Evans Vakatini, Mark Thiessen, Mary Nail, Maurizio Martorana/ Wall Street Journal, Michael Lees, National Geographic Pristine Seas, Ollie Velasco, Olly Scholey, Open Planet Studios, Silverback Films, Ryan Jenkinson, Shina Woi, Steve Spence, Steward Lohmahuri, Sydney McDonald, Tane Sinclair-Taylor, Tess Goldhagen, The Pacific Community (SPC).
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