The Past and Future of Animal Loss in the Oceans

Presented by

Dr. Douglas McCauley, Assistant Professor, Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology

From elephants to monarch butterflies, the news is full of stories about the health of wildlife on land - but what is the status of animal life on the other 71% of our planet: our oceans? How are whales, sharks, and corals fairing relative to terrestrial wildlife? Douglas McCauley, an assistant professor in UC Santa Barbara's Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, will provide a brief history of the ways we have changed our oceans and will examine what the future of our impacts on the seas are likely to be. Prof. McCauley compares the health of ocean wildlife to the health of life on land and shows that there is urgent need to help the oceans, but great hope for success if we proceed intelligently. McCauley will discuss what he believes to be the next biggest, but largely unrecognized, threat to marine life. He will lay out what things, large and small, we can each do to help ensure a healthier future for animal life in the oceans. Prof. McCauley's research on the future of ocean wildlife has been featured in the New York Times, National Public Radio, and Time. He has researched topics ranging from manta rays and bumphead parrotfish to pirates and fish spying satellites. Dr. McCauley is a Sloan Research Fellow in the Ocean Sciences.

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