



I LIVE BY THE SEA

International Youth
Photo and Film
Contest 2020

Izabela Kotynska-Zielinska
Today We Have

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Results of the Contest

I LIVE BY THE SEA

International Youth
Photo and Film Contest
2020



POLAND

2020

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I LIVE BY THE SEA

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTEST

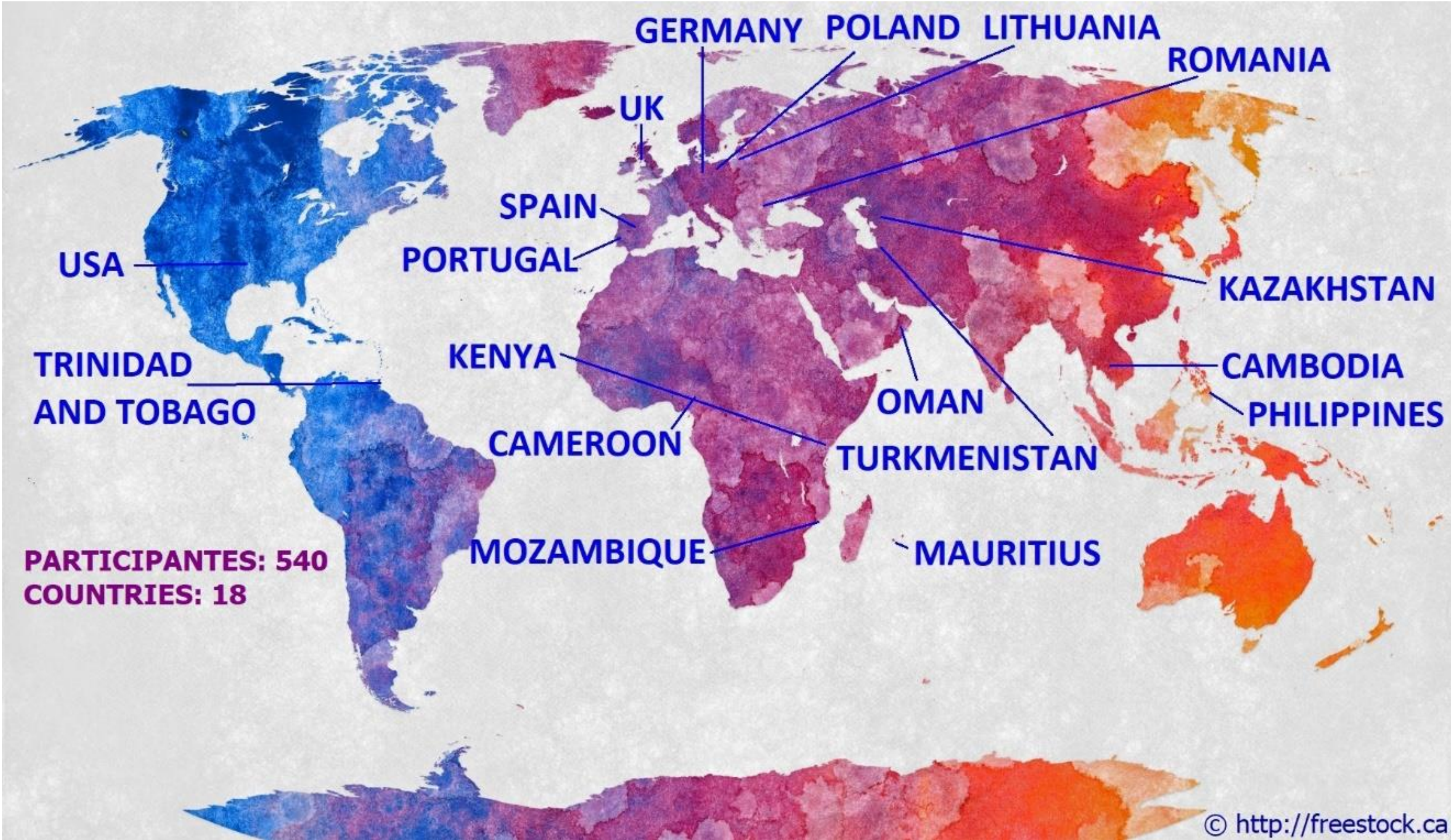
Send a photo or a film of „your sea”
along with a short text related to your entry;

description of your region,
a special feature of the place,
an explanation of the depicted problem, etc

Best photos, films and stories will be presented as a part of the celebrations
of the European Maritime Days and the World Ocean Day in June 2020 in Lisbon

Detailed information can be found at: <http://todaywehave.com/CONTEST>

Since 2017, a total of 540 great works from 18 countries were presented as part of the I live by the Sea International Youth Photo and Film Contest.



Our first edition was closed with an exhibition, alongside many others, during the UN Ocean conference in New York in 2017, which was a great experience for us. Following, we had fantastic exhibitions in Brussels (2018) and Lisbon (2019). With time, we have managed to raise the level of our contest and became a partner for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

This success could not happen without our partners’ work, the engagement of the jury, and of course, your great contributions!



As a result, our exhibition gained the rank of one of the major events for this year’s UN Ocean Conference, which was supposed to be held in June in Lisbon. It was confirmed,, but due to the COVID-19 situation, the conference has been postponed and thus, while waiting for better times to host the exhibition, we are presenting you with all the winning works of this year’s edition of the I live by the Sea Contest in the online format..

This year we received 81 contributions from 11 countries. As always, the Jury members had a tough task to choose the best ones, but we managed! So, without further delay, we present the results of the 2020 edition of the I live by the Sea International Contest

All participants' texts are original and not modified by the jury of the competition.



BEST PHOTOS



ADAM NIEBRZYDOWSKI, 10

MARINE CRABS

USA

Invasive species of crabs in Maine have been destroying clam beds. Because of that, they are causing coastal erosion. As more green crabs move into Maine, there will probably make more damage.

Coastal erosion can create floods that can destroy buildings and roads. Also, the land under the building or road can be destroyed so it will be hard to rebuild. Coastal erosion can cause natural disasters such as hurricanes, tsunamis, and landslides. Tsunamis are more common than hurricanes and landslides.

The coastal erosion, tsunamis, landslides, and hurricanes can cause a lot of damage to cars, roads, buildings, and other things near bodies of water.

Coastal erosion can happen in all bodies of water, but the most damage caused will usually be caused by the largest body of water.

Coastal erosion can destroy property that can be worth about \$500 million. All of this can be hard to rebuild all because of coastal erosion. All because of crabs.

.



ANASTASIA YAKIMENIA, 12 HEY! DO YOU WANT DANCE WITH ME POLAND

...seagulls like dance ...in March
seagulls like dance because they
think if they dance they will have a
lot fishes for eat. We can say they
dancing ritual dances. But for lucky
fishy days they need partner so they
looking females but if seagulls don't
dance every year in March coming
mermaid and they very angry and
hungry. Mermaids hunt to seagulls.
And seagulls fly away and look new
island or new country when they be
safe. So dances for seagulls is very
important because they are afraid
for their safety.



AURORAZIELIŃSKA, 6

RAINBOW LURE

POLAND

WU



BARTOSZ BABIUCH, 13

THE STORY OF FORGOTTEN BOAT

POLAND



CONSTANÇABATISTA,12 WHEN ALL ARE FRIENDS OF THE SEA PORTUGAL

On a beach in Santa Cruz every saturday there is a beach cleanup! Each time there are more people joining . Inormally participate in the cleanup with m y family. We always spend a great time there, we have so much fun and we save the environment at the same time! I took this picture after a cleanup from my house. Me and my family were enjoying the fantastic view of the beach and the fantastic sunset!



DIANA SKOWRONSKA, 13

CALL SIGNS ARE LIFELINES. COASTAL ZONES

USA

Call signs are lifelines. Call signs are a separation of land and Sea. They are fragile sloppy is Sandy or high energy rocky cliffs shorelines are part of our lives. Oceans influence on the climate and provide us with food energy oxygen medicine and even more resources. Coastlines, rivers and more require a careful management. So if we litter and it goes near the coastlines it could mess up the coastline. In the 1970s there was a period of environment awareness and stewardship, and it produced very important pieces of the environmental legislation like the Magnuson fishery conversation on and management act. The endangered species act, the marine mammal protection act, the coastal zone management act, and the clean water act.

So coastlines made people act on the problems. Most recently the New York harbor industry was named industry of natural significance by the environmental protection agency.

Most of marine life lives near the coastal zones. And it is coastal lines and zones get ruined a lot of animals could die and could be dangerous to humans. Salt marshes and beaches also support a diversity of plants, animals and insects crucial to the food chain. These zones are important because a majority of the world's population inhabit such zones. Coastal zones are continually changing because of the dynamic interaction between the oceans and the land. Coastal zones are comprised of a continuum of coastal land, intertidal area, aquatic systems including the network of rivers and estuaries, islands, transitional and intertidal areas, salt marshes, wetlands, and beaches. Littering will damage everything and the boat in the picture will not be able to sail. Sailing helps us get food and helps get information on the ocean.



FIONKUNZ, 19

MOON RISE

GERMAN

I always had a strong connection to nature. Born on Norderney, an island in the North Sea, I experienced the sea with its rumbling waves, the stormy winds and the little treasures the sea calls a day. On the island Föhr, where I now live, the most special event is the tide. By that, the gravitation of the moon pulls the water towards itself and the seafloor is getting dry on massive areas around the coast twice a day. This returning process creates a unique ecosystem called “Wattenmeer”. For me, this place is fantastic because with every tide, the relief of the Watt changes and new objects are called a day, especially after storm. But the storm also changes the coast and that’s a big problem for our coast protection, especially in connection to climate change and increasing sea level.

The last Storm was the one with the biggest effects on the islands coast I’ve ever seen. Nearly the half dunes are gone now. I hope that the rising tide won’t completely destroy this unique place. It’s on us to act. The picture I choose for the contest shows one of the pictures I did at night - that are the most unusual and interesting moments I captured by now. The picture shows the rising full moon, stars and stormy clouds above the Watt with its unique relief and the beach of my hometown Wyk. I called this experience “Moon Rise”.



JAKUB KOWALIKOWSKI, 15

THE SMALL GREEN LIGHTHOUSE

POLAND

The lighthouse has always been very supportive for sailors. At night, when the frosty wind does not let sleep, the light from this small building shows them the way to the port, home, family and peace. The small, green lighthouse on the Gdańsk breakwater is the gateway to our beautiful city. Crossing it, we set off on a fantastic journey through the colorful history of Gdańsk - from Westerplatte, through the port quays, the Wisłoujście Fortress, to the symbol of commercial splendor - the Crane on the Motława River. The 1000-year history of the city is integrally connected with the sea - it has been the place where merchants from all over the world have been coming for centuries, to get the greatest treasure of Gdańsk - Baltic gold, Amber. I am proud to live in a city - the Amber Capital of the World.

The city's showcase is the amber stadium, where the local team Lechia Gdańsk plays its matches. On match days, the whole city is "drowning" in white and green club colors. Like a small, green lighthouse on the background of white waves and the blue Baltic Sea.



JOHN RAFAEL B. FRAGA, 18 PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE BAY PHILIPPINES

For so many years, Manila Bay's marine resources are in crisis, including the huge significant decrease of local tourists visiting park by the bay because of stinking air, presence of wastes and garbage. Fishing industry is also slowly depreciating due to overfishing and illegal fishing. All these evidences can be attributed to the acts of mankind. This year, the local government unit of Navotas City saved the place in its degrading condition. Now, it is clean, no traces of trash alongside the baywalk, birds get back, fishermen catch fish nearby because they don't need to go beyond the bay for fishing, and no foul-smelling air. Everyday, sightseers flock in this place to capture a glimpse of breath-taking sunset. This is the new home for photography enthusiasts in the city.

Indeed, everyone must work together to bring back the glory: of a clean, safe, and productive ecosystem for the rest of the future generations.



MAJA PAŁUBICKA, 14

EVERYTHING I NEED

POLAND

The boy, that had everything Elio never was like other boys in his age. He wasn't owner of any newest toys or pair of shining boots with the logo on undersole. When the other boys came back home, where they can relax after exhausting day in school, he as fast as possible run to farmer field to earn some money. He need them to preservat himself and his 7 year old brother.

This job definetely wasn't good for soult kid. Elio's job depend on 6 hours, every day, (no matter what weather is, no matter what his mood is) planting seeds. When he was done, it comes to his least favorite thing. Coming back home. The smell of tobacco and alcohol was the first scent he sense. He mantle his mother with blanket and go upstairs, straight to his little brother room.

- What about going on a walk?
- He said grabbing his hand and then they walk out. After a while of walk. When they come out from forest in front od them show up amazing view. They were looking with pride and emotion at picture in front of them. In this moment they realised that even if life wasn't polite for them, they had everything anyway.



MARIA STACHURA, 20

INTO THE UNKNOWN

POLAND

Have you ever seen mermaid? I do. And I will tell you about her. My mermaid has smooth and wavy hair. She also has a lovely voice that is always inside my head when I close my eyes. Her one eye is bright like sun and other one is cold as a moon, but they can met only for a moment. My mermaid is fearless and silent at the same time. She can flow or she can crash. It is my escape and my biggest dream. And I can see her only there, I just need to focus and wait, a little, and in a moment I will see her again...

And what mermaid do you have?



OSKAR SKOWRONSKI, 13

OXYGEN – DEPRESSED FISH

USA

Since 2003, scientists have been arguing about the oxygen loss in the world's oceans. However, recent information has shown that ocean oxygen levels have been dropping even faster than normal. From 1960 to 2010, ocean oxygen levels dropped by about two percent, however, this percentage has gone up to nearly 40% in some areas. According to the IUCN, even if all of the world's biggest carbon emitting countries started drastically cutting carbon emissions, the deoxygenation of the oceans wouldn't stop. The ones most harmed by the deoxygenation are deep sea fish like the bass or the great white shark. Their bodies require more air than smaller fish, so the decrease in oxygen has led many deep sea fish closer to the surface for more oxygen, and straight into fish nets. If we don't do something soon, fish won't be the only ones affected, since the oceans are responsible for about 70% of the world's oxygen, which would harm us humans as well.

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PAWEŁ ŁAGOSZ, 9 A WATERY WEREWOLF POLAND

One day, in my village by the sea, a watery werewolf came out of the egg and could breathe under the water. Five years later he could extract food himself from the sea, because he lived in it. A year later, fishermen came to get food, but he did not allow them and killed them. In the end I decided to fight him, keep my fingers crossed to win!



RUBÉN TORRENTE GALLUR, 18 WHERE NATURE AND MANKIND MEET SPAIN

This is “El Pont del Petroli”, a pier in my hometown Badalona. It is a symbol of our city in which people have gathered to share good moments with their loved ones at sea. It has witnessed storms and wonderful sunsets. It is home to a wide variety of marine wildlife. Mankind and nature are united in this wonderful place.



SEBASTIAN ZAK, 9

BIRDS

USA

READY, SET, GO!!! My name is Sebastian and I live in New York City. I'm like this bird. I want to fly high above the ocean. For me, the ocean is very exciting. You never know what is beyond the horizon. Maybe you find there ship, island or another bird. Sometimes the ocean is very calm, sometimes very rough – just like me. I like to play on the beach and bike along the shore. I'm very happy that I live by the ocean. New York City is also a large seaport. Every day hundreds of ships, container ships, and cruise liners sail in and out of the port. Ferry cruises between Manhattan, Staten Island and Long Island. The ships pollute the area. They scares the wild animals.

The worst pollution for oceans is plastic garbage. It gathers together and makes islands of garbage. Often wild animals eat it and die. I am very happy that NYC makes a law to forbid using plastic shopping bags. This is the first step to better protection of the ocean.



STAN MIRELA, 15 PIPER GIANI, 15

JUPITER RESORT

ROMANIA

Jupiter Resort is a small and chic resort with a special charm, located between the Black Sea coast and the Comorova Forest. The cliff of the resort is fragmented into numerous coves and cross-dams that give a lacy appearance to this part of the coast. The resort is suitable for rest, heliomarine treatment, curative treatment, water sports, leisure, beach, bathing in the sea etc.



SZYMON VASCONCELOS, 10

MERO PINTAS

PORTUGAL

A Clean Ocean is an Ocean full of life.
My father teach me to dive and I
discover a new world that I love and
take photos to show my friends what
we need to protect.



TOMASZ BALICKI,14

LONELY CRAB

POLAND

In the North Sea, 25 meters below water surface, lived the crab. This crab was little and lonely. Area where it lived was littered by waste thrown by people. Crab didn't feel good there. Other crabs were far away. One day a strong storm appeared. It easily grabbed tiny crab and threw it on a rocky, Norway shore. Sky cleared after few hours, and the crab started to look around and admired the sea in which it have lived until now. That was a very beautiful view. The water was clean and calm. Suddenly a seagull flew , sat down nearby it and told a story about a countries and travels. For crab it was interesting and amazing.

Every now and then different birds visited it and told different stories of life, world and people. Each one of them was interesting for the crab. It was never alone again. One day a little and lucky crab thought: „The world is wonderful”.



WERONIKA ADAMIAK, 14

SEAGULLS

POLAND

Seagulls – The symbol of freedom and natural purity, friends of nature and human. Save them.



ZUZANNA MENTEL, 12

WINTER TIME

POLAND

One sunny windy day I decided to go to the beach in Gdynia and then a beautiful view of the sea and wooden logs appeared to me. The beach in Gdynia is beautiful regardless of the season.



BEST PHOTOS
WITH
BEST STORIES



FRANCISZEKLASKOWSKI, 5

NATURAL BEAUTY

POLAND

My name is Franio. I am 5 years old. I live in Poland. There is The Baltic Sea in the north of Poland. Although I live in the center – in Lodz, I visit Polish sea several times during the year. I love admiring the beauty of the endless water with waves and miracle sunsets. I always feel fantastic there because I can sunbathe, build sandcastles and collect unique stones and shells. I know that our sea is the home for millions of creatures. Therefore, I cannot understand why people destroy it so easily. We should behave as a guest at the seaside.

Do we allow our guests in our houses to destroy our homes? So we should take care of our planet and protect the seas in order to admire them each time we want to. Nobody wants to spend time surrounded by rubbish, empty bottles, broken plastic bags, dangerous chemicals. Let our seas and their surrounding develop in not disturbed natural way.



MARTAFRAGA, 12

THE SEA

PORTUGAL

I choose this photo, taken on the beach, to tell you about a topic that for me is very important, mainly to the young people out there that have the power to change the world.

In the image I showed you, I'm at the beach. I chose this picture, because I think it shows how much I love it.

Spending summer holidays at the beach is something very common nowadays. No one goes on a summer holiday without going to the beach, right? What would the beach be without the sea? I guarantee you that the beach wouldn't mean anything without the sea. How would you refresh yourself at the beach without the sea? How would we have water fights at the beach without water?

The sea is something we take for granted. And what if it had plastic on it? What if, in a sunny day, you would get to the beach, and there was a sea full of plastic?

I would be selfish if I spoke only about how the plastic in the sea would affect us, the human being, so now I'll ask you: What about the life that lives in it? What have they done to you to deserve that? Why can't we refuse and reduce the use of plastic? Life would be so much easier! We would live in such a civilized society. Let's all think about this. Young people and modern society have the power of changing everything. The future is in our hands!



MIA GILLINGHAM, 11

WHAT I FEEL ABOUT THE SEA

UK

I love the sea because so many beautiful and weird animals live there and the plants that live there are like no others. But it upsets me to know that all these amazing things are in danger, we are over fishing, we are drilling oil out of the sea, the earth is warming, all these things are affecting sea life. I think we should do more to help the sea and its amazing marine life stay forever.



SOFIADUARTE, 12

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS OURS

PORTUGAL

The oceans constitute a large part of our planet and that's the reason why we need to take care of them, because we don't have a planet B. Unfortunately, these days humanity seems to have no notion of it. There are lots of animals living in the oceans and we constantly destroy their homes. How would we humans, be alive if we spent our lives constantly at risk? If our homes were constantly full of plastic? We are fortunate to have these incredible oceans on our planet, whenever we are going to do something that could harm them, the animals and plants that live in them, we should think that: "We must preserve the seas and oceans, because water is not manufactured."



URSZULA SOLARZ, 16 ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD USA

“All that glitters is not gold.” I thought of this quote when I was recently on a tour of Port Miami in Florida and I saw a big cargo ship flashing its lights. While the shipyard was not the tour’s main attraction, it’s what I remembered most. After all, Miami is known for its beaches, not its boxes! Eventually, I learned that Port Miami is the “Global Gateway for Cargo.” Located in beautiful Biscayne Bay where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Miami River, the port links the United States to world markets. However, the port’s economic importance remains unmatched to the importance of the port’s natural environment. In 2013, the port underwent dredging, or a process removing 50 feet of sediment from the port’s bottom, so that bigger cargo ships could bring in even more shipments. According to the University of Miami, the operation buried between half to 90 percent of Miami’s staghorn coral reef in sediment.

In fact, the Endangered Species Act now identifies staghorn reefs as threatened species. Unfortunately, Miami’s reef is one of the only coral reefs in North America, so we have to protect it. The reef is more than something pretty to look at; it provides flood risk reduction amounting to millions of dollars annually. Therefore, it’s critical for Port Miami to continue supporting sustainability by relocating the reef to safer coral habitat areas. We have to vow to carefully balance economic and environmental factors. Miami’s gold is hidden in plain sight.



ZOFIANIEBRZYDOWSKA, 12

ANIMALS VS. POLLUTION

USA

My picture is of a shark lying on the beach, dead. The shark most likely died of either pollution or a wave carried it far up the beach and the shark could not get back in the water. 12,700,000 tons of plastic reach our oceans every year. 500 marine species are known to be affected by plastic pollution. This is because of all the plastic we use and trash we waste. Plastic water bottles and plastic straw affect the amount of pollution that goes into our environment and so do many other types or products made of plastic. More than 8 million tons of plastic enter the oceans each year, equal to dumping a garbage truck of plastic every minute. As much as 80 percent of all litter in our oceans is made of plastic.

According to a report presented at the 2017 United Nations Marine Conference, as many as 51 trillion micro plastic particles, 500 times more than the stars in our galaxy, litter our oceans and seas, seriously threatening marine wildlife. This shows that soon many species will die, and we're too late to save them.



BEST FILMS

DESIRE WAINAINA, 19, KENYA
PLANET'S OUTCRY

Planet's Outcry is a short documentary of 3 minutes describing and fighting aggressively for climate action. Following too many unpredictable weather patterns, increasing thermal rates and global warming then it is the high time a fight for climate action begins. The film focuses on the negative impacts by human beings and how much damage they are inflicting on Mother earth. The film was shot in Kenya via mobile phone and won an award in SDG championship. As the voice in that film,, I am acting as the voice for mother earth hoping my message will travel far and wide and action will follow.

HANNA DMOCHOWSKA, 15, POLAND
I LIVE BY THE SEA

The film pictures marine life around the world. The intention is to emphasize urgent issues and problems associated with preserving the oceans. It shows how crucial it is to act upon polluting water by releasing trash, plastic, chemicals, sewage and oil into the seas and how those actions affect the life of sea animals and contributes to increasing the number of endangered species. The problem does not only apply to fauna and flora as it also affects people. By eating contaminated fish or seafood a lot of people are exposed to serious health problems and diseases. The idea of this video was to show how our actions have a direct impact on the environment and also the other way round the environment has a huge impact on our lives, so we should treat it with an immense respect in case to live in a harmony with nature.

JAKUB PALUCH, 14, POLAND
MARINE TRE A SURE

I love birds and I love the sea. Over the last few years I've been travelling to different countries to watch and photograph seabirds. In each place, I was amazed by the fact how birds depend on the sea, how beautiful and happy they are in clean marine environment. This video shows birds filmed by three different seashores in three different countries. You'll see Turnstones and Purple Sandpipers bathing, preening and foraging on rocks in Dutch harbours (The North Sea). There is also a Great Black-backed Gull eating a crab, Oystercatchers defending their territory, Shags, Gannets, Razorbills and Puffins on huge Norwegian cliffs (The Norwegian Sea). Finally, a Cormorant diving and a Common Tern flying in slow-motion, Turnstones and a Little Stint, a Broad-billed Sandpiper, a Bar-tailed Godwit and a Curlew Sandpiper, together with a Ringed Plover and a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers on Polish seaside (The Baltic Sea). I've showed this amazing variety of birds connected to the sea to make people admire and protect these beautiful creatures. My aim is also to show that no matter in what country, every sea is homeland to our feathered friends. I believe that if people get to know the beauty of seabirds, they'll start to protect them. I hope I'll be able to watch these and other endangered bird species when I grow up.

MELVIN YORICK COENEN KONO, 21, CAMEROON
LIVE BY MY SEA

My short film is know an Live by my sea ,I am trying to show everyone of us how we can live by the sea .It is something which needs to be natural to us.Even though we face difficulties its should not withstand our mind.

My film try's to highlight that where ever you are,whom you are and what ever the situation LIVE by your SEA.Show love to YOUR SEA and YOUR SEA Will Give it back to you in abundance.



BEST STORIES



ALAN KOSZELAK, 13, USA

WE ARE ALL RESPONS-IBLE FOR THE OCEAN AND ITS LIVING ITS LIVING CREATURES

Saving the environment is very crucial, yet many neglect on how harmful things are to the environment when people throw out their garbage. Each and every single day, thousands of pounds of plastic are dumped into trash bins, and get swept away by the wind into the surface of the oceans. This increases the loads of pollution destroying our trees and hurting the animals that live on land or under the sea. In fact, states in the U.S.A banned plastic items, like plastic straws, plastic bags, etc.. This decreased the amount of sea animals harmed, but, many animals and trees are still being harmed. This brought the attention towards many, including some kids. Students in schools around the world have stopped bringing plastic bottles to school. Instead, they bring reusable metal bottles, to prevent animals from being endangered.

Large amounts of people have also began to post on social media videos or pictures of them quitting plastic items, for the sake of our environment. A very famous video of a marine specialist prying out a plastic straw from a turtle's nose gained many supporters to help "Save the Turtles". When any sea animal sees a polluted item floating on the surface of the ocean, they could mistakenly think that it's just a delicious snack for them to enjoy. But, the plastic would severely harm the animal. Everybody must help rescue our environment, they can save the planet from losing these beneficial sea creatures living in our planet's oceans.



ALEKSANDRA TREPCZYK, 14 MYSTERIOUS SEA CREATURE POLAND

One summer day I went to the beach with my sister to take some photos. We found a beautiful place where we wanted to take a photo when I suddenly found footprints in the sand. The footprints were very small, but they didn't look like animal prints. They were definitely human. Extremely curious, we followed the trail.

After 1 hour we came to strangely arranged stones forming something reminiscent of a pier or footbridge. On the shore sat a small person, looking like a little boy. Our curiosity won with fear, so we approached the sitting figure. He looked terrible, his clothes were torn and his face was dirty. When the child realized that we had noticed him, he shuddered.

He watched us with his open eyes as we approached, there was a clear surprise on his face. When we were about 3 meters away, he got up abruptly and started running towards the sea. We wanted to catch up with him but he quickly jumped into the water and swam away. He swam faster than any swimmer, and his style was more like a fish than a human. Surprised by the sudden coincidence, we watched the boy disappearing.

Then we returned home thoughtfully, for a long time wondering who the creature could be. Unfortunately, until today we have not found out who he was. The only memory of this meeting is a photo with the footprints we followed that day.



AMELIA BINDA, 10 DO YOU ABLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD? POLAND

My name is Amelia Binda. I am 10 years old. I come from Zamosc, in Poland. Last year ,I spent all my holidays in England. Together with my family and friends we went on the sea. The rustling waves were music to my ears ... Unfortunately, not everyone was interested the beauty of the surrounding nature. Everyone who was at the seaside certainly had the opportunity to meet seagulls soaring over the waves and our heads. Yes, gulls "disturbed" some people on the beach. I was very concerned about this fact. What have these poor creatures done to these people? After all, we leave garbage on the beach, which is easy prey for birds. Throwing plastic bottles at them to chase them away was not a good idea. I was wondering if these people behave the same way being at somebody's guests.

I don't know, if you know but in Poland the young singer Viki Gabor sings that together we can change the world. For the better. We are citizens of this world. Gulls too. Let's remember that.

„We are the superheroes, we can save the world.

So come together 'cause together we are one.

Let's build a home.

A place that we call home, a place that we know.

We are the superheroes, we can save the Word” – Viki Gabor



CAROLINA BAPTISTA, 13 NO TITLE PORTUGAL

The ocean is our home. Ours and to most plants and animals on Earth, from single-cell organisms to the White Shark. Marine plants provide us with 70 percent of the oxygen we breathe. The ocean controls the climate. The ocean gives us food. The ocean gives us transports. No matter who you are, where are you from, your life is dependent on the ocean. So it's very important to take care of it.

But we humans are not taking care! We throw plastic, rubbish, everything to our ocean. We produce greenhouse gases so much and so quickly that we are facing a huge climate change, The waters are rising, and the harmless animals are losing their homes, the ice is turning to water. We need to change!

We need to save our home! So do a beach clean-up, do not throw anything to the ocean. One person can't change the world but all together can. I believe that if nature was intelligent enough to make our organisms so well, I'm sure it made it for a reason. To survive, to save, to change.



EMILY CIOCZEK 13

MANGROVES IN MUD

USA

Mangroves in Mud. As you can see in the Picture, there is pollution surrounding the mangrove. Mangroves can live in different bodies of water. Mangroves stop oceans from flooding land, and prevent hurricane winds and waves from damaging shorelines. When boats create so much pollution, that the mangrove is surrounded by it, they can die, but mangroves can also keep the water clean. They purify and clarify the water. If they don't, the animals in the water will die. When mangroves are destroyed by boats or pollution, there is a higher chance of floods.

There is also a higher chance of erosion since mangroves stabilize it with their roots. Another thing mangroves do, is prevent red tide algae from growing. Red tide algae kills sea life and makes beaches shut down.

There are different animals that live on the mangroves. In the picture it shows the birds sitting on its branches. When the mangrove dies, the bird will have to find a new habitat. There are also animals that live in the water that is polluted. These animals can die from the pollution. Without mangroves the ocean can be lost. Mangroves help in so many ways for the land and water. Their roots help many things that harm ocean life. They give homes to certain animals, they try to clean water, and they save oceans and beaches.



JULIA KOBESZKO, 16

WHAT THE OCEAN BRINGS ME

USA

The beach is a place everyone goes to during the summer to enjoy the cool water and warm sand. Where they got to tan in the sun and build sandcastles. It's not often we get the chance to take in the world around us and look at how we impact and treat our environment. There are many things that wash up on our shores where we live. We are responsible for the things that we put in our waters and responsible for the damage done to the marine life, whether it be in the water or on land. We have to teach each other how to help the environment and clean up after ourselves. Teaching our youth is a great start to cleaning our world. By doing this we are creating strong relationships with each other. Seeing a grandmother and granddaughter together at the shore picking up shells along with trash and plastics is one of the purest actions to see nowadays.

They picked up the trash that washed up on the beach. If we all contribute to helping keep our marine environment safe then we will reach the goal of living in a healthy world. No action is too small when it comes to the steps towards a positive society. If we all take responsibility for the damage we have done, then we can turn back time and return our earth to the prospering planet it was years ago.



KACPER WROBLEWSKI, 7 JUST FOOTPRINT, NO TRASH USA

There is no trash, just footprint, it means people cleaned the beach after themselves. My mommy and daddy taught me that it's so important to leave the beach clean, so animals don't get hurt by trash. That's why I leave just my footprint!



KAMILE FOKAITE, 17 FRAGILE SEA SONG IN MY IMAGINATION LITHUANIA

The salty wind slightly ruffles my hair. I'm here again, near the sea. I close my eyes and try to imagine how it was before. I imagine blue waves washing the shore. My feet sank into the warm, clean sand. I think I can smell the clear air mixed with a scent of pines and even hear a beautiful sea waves' song and seagulls voices. I dip my feet in the water and feel clear water wrapping all me. I immerse my whole body in the sea. Through clear water I can see sea soles and little fishy passing me. And as soon as I open my eyes I face the reality. Immediately, the smell of rotting mud reaches my nose. I can see green waves and a plastic bag, fag-end and fishing net passing in them. And now, not too long ago, the factory polluted the waters by plunging its ugly hose into the Curonian Spit and releasing its pollutants which sail to the sea. How people can be so cruel ?

Can't they hear that sea isn't singing anymore and it is crying for help. But I hope, that one day the sea will be clean again. That people will be much smarter and we could again be glad for those wonderful evenings near the sea, walk on clean sand and enjoy oscillation of waves, sparkling sea and clean wind.



LAURASHIGUTI, 14

HOW I SEE THE SEA

PORTUGAL

Sea. It's funny how listening to the word gives me this sense of peacefulness and tranquility. Maybe it's because of how its deep blue gradually changes into a light green. Perhaps because it's so vast and seems so empty from above. Maybe because of the sound of the waves, a never-ending song to my ears, that never fails to please me.

I've always been fond of the sea. I guess that my love for it has never changed, what changed was my perception of it. When I was little, the sea was just another place I liked to play at. Now, I know it's not just a "playground". It is a lot more than that. It is a source of energy. It is the home to many living creatures. And most importantly, I believe it is a gift for us, humans, who can easily take its existence for granted, unfortunately. I think it's crazy that even though it seems as if I knew a lot more, most of it is still to be discovered.

What saddens me is how badly we are treating the sea. It pains me to know that some people don't understand how important it is to us, to the planet. This is why at the same time that it makes me calm, it also makes me bitter.

Bitter to know that maybe if we keep harming it, future generations won't be able to see the breathtaking beauty of this paradise called "sea".



MIKOŁAJ MIŁOSTAN, 19, POLAND
THE POWER AND BEAUTY OF THE WORLD, TOUCHED BY THE NEGATIVE ACTION OF MAN

The prepared work presents a piece of beach and on the other plan of the picture, the sea during the sunset. This painting shows the beauty and power of nature, which is disturbed by the negative influence of a man. In the picture we see human boots thrown out by the sea and left on the beach, which previously polluted the sea, and now they are littering the beach. The photo also presents a left-over, unfinished drink that pollutes the beach environment and destroys its beauty. On the waters of the sea is lifted a motor dinghy that is used by a man, which pollutes the sea water in this way. So we see that the beauty of the natural environment of the man - the beach and the sea, are disturbed by the destructive human action.

The conclusion of the photograph seems simple: it is a man that can and should take care of the purity and beauty of the surrounding marine environment, which he often does not do, putting his own comfort in the first place.



OLGAPEREZJIMENEZ, 15 WHAT HAVE WE DONE SPAIN

Unlike other planets, we live in one which is alive. But the cruel reality is that we are killing it. When we hear about this, it hurts so much that we disconnect.

Although we often forget, the problem never disappears.

The time has come to play another role, to open your eyes and react, to breathe, to think and to live.

It is time to click the play button and change.

My photo is an example of the melancholy we feel when we realize that it will be increasingly difficult to turn back our mistakes.



YANNILOURO, 12

I LIVE BY THE SEA

PORTUGAL

Lately, we have a lot of news about the effect of daily damage human activity has had on the ocean, affecting its fauna and flora. Unfortunately, millions of animal species are dying because of the plastic dumped in the sea, polar bears are losing their habitats because of global warming due to its impact on the glaciers, the planet is heating rapidly, the glaciers are melting. Thousands of whales die because of the amount of plastic they digest. Because of human activity, industries, construction of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon dioxide, has been contributing to high temperatures over the past years, which affect sea levels, resulting in climate disasters such as hurricanes and tsunamis.

We all depend on the sea to be healthy, mistakes we make today will have an impact tomorrow. Happily, there are some efforts to reduce gas emissions, communities are focused on pollution.

Once again, we thank all of you for contributions to the contest, all of the works are appreciated and precious to us. Once again, I congratulate the winners. Please enjoy the film on Today We Have Channel (<https://youtu.be/gFOoqDcGbt0>) and let's all keep our fingers crossed so that your fantastic works will soon be able to be displayed in Lisbon during the UN conference.

And, as always, please remember our motto:

We all live by the sea. No matter how far from the sea you live!

Considering the new circumstances related to the COVID-19 situation, we decided to open an I live by the Sea online Summer School. Starting the first week of July, we will organize a number of open webinars, dedicated to specific marine/climate issues.

The list of webinars will be provided in late June (www.todaywehave.com).

So, dear friends of the ocean, this edition of the contest is closed but our community is still active and please be with us during the summer and share the secrets of your sea with the rest of us!

