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Altri autori (Persone)	MiyazakiNobuyuki AdeelZafar OhwadaKouichi
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Sommario/riassunto

The oceans cover more than 70 percent of the Earth's surface and play an important part in our lives by controlling climate and weather conditions; hosting shipping, transportation, recreation and tourism; and providing us with food, minerals and petroleum. The relationship between mankind and the oceans has been crucial since prehistoric times. With the growth of the human population, especially in coastal zones, there is a growing threat to oceans from land-based activities such as industrial effluent, municipal sewage, and runoff from agricultural areas, as well as antifouling agents used o