



Take Action: Dear Minister

People vote for politicians to be their voice, to say how they think their town, country or even the whole planet should be run. It is particularly important for governments to listen to children because many of the decisions they make already affect you, or soon will. Secondly, the choices made by the government today will shape the world you live in when you're an adult.

When you're old enough to vote, think about choosing someone who knows how to look after the planet. In the future, that someone could even be you! What do you think your government should be doing to protect the oceans?

We found out about some of the main threats to the ocean and the many ways that we can protect it better. Write a letter to your Minister for the Environment (or equivalent) and ask him or her to get the government to address these threats. The more of us who ask, the more likely the government is to act. Ask your family or teacher for your Minister for the Environment's name and address.

I want the government to do something about:

Unsustainable fishing methods.

Fishing of threatened species (such as bluefin tuna).

Protection of mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs. These habitats help capture carbon and provide homes for lots of animals.

The protection of my favourite sea creatures (which ones need your help the most where you live?).

Supporting small scale, inshore fishing communities who don't take too much fish out of the sea.

Removing ghost nets so animals like dolphins, turtles, sharks and seals don't get caught.

Building carefully around coastal areas so ecosystems don't get destroyed.

Plastic entering the oceans, which harms marine creatures and humans too.

