

Paul Young

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Red Seas, Dead Fishies

I have been fishing all my life. Since I was young I have had the urge to get on the water. For me it's all about the "what if", every time I go out. I think what if I catch a 40 pound mahi mahi, or what if I catch a 40 inch snook? Even if I get skunked, I always think of next time. Lately I have noticed the red tide. This is a discoloration of seawater caused by a bloom of toxic red dinoflagellates. This means bad fishing. During this red tide, marine life I fish for get sick and die. I recently went to Matlacha Florida, and the fish there were so hungry that they ate anything. They would eat dead bait, lures, and trash. Before this town had a great fishery, now these fish are fighting for survival. It's like a war, the big snook will eat smaller snook, and big redfish will eat smaller redfish. Red tide is causing a catastrophe. There were clean oceans before this red tide. Marine life was naturally sustaining supporting charters, tourists, and fisherman. People were enjoying a beautiful beach, and fishery. The red tide just completely turned our ecosystem around. If you were to ask, what do clean oceans mean to me, it means happiness. It means I can enjoy a sunny day at the beach. It means the fishing will be great no

matter what, and after I can just go to the sandbar. To me that's just everything. I can't explain how the ocean makes me feel. I just love it.

In the Bible it states, "Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no Commandment greater than else (Mark 12:31)." The ocean is our neighborhood here in South Florida, and marine life are our neighbors. We are watching our neighbors die, and our neighborhood be destroyed right before our eyes. Our whole ecosystem is being thrown out of whack. Thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, the number of lives lost could go on and on. God created all life equal, so what if we were in their situation. If we lived a fish's life just imagine all your friends dead, family dead, now you are on your final breath, then your dead. It's pretty easy to realize that we're not helping our neighbors like we could be. If we put ourselves in the shoes of marine life, we can see they are going through a strenuous time. Fighting against an unbeatable source, caused by us. Seems pretty bad right? Well, we've been ignoring these facts for plenty of years. Not only the red tide, but the north pacific garbage patch, the abundance of oil spills, and global warming. We as humans, inhabitants of this earth have to look at our selves and what we've done. Let's take responsibility for what we've done, and fix it!

