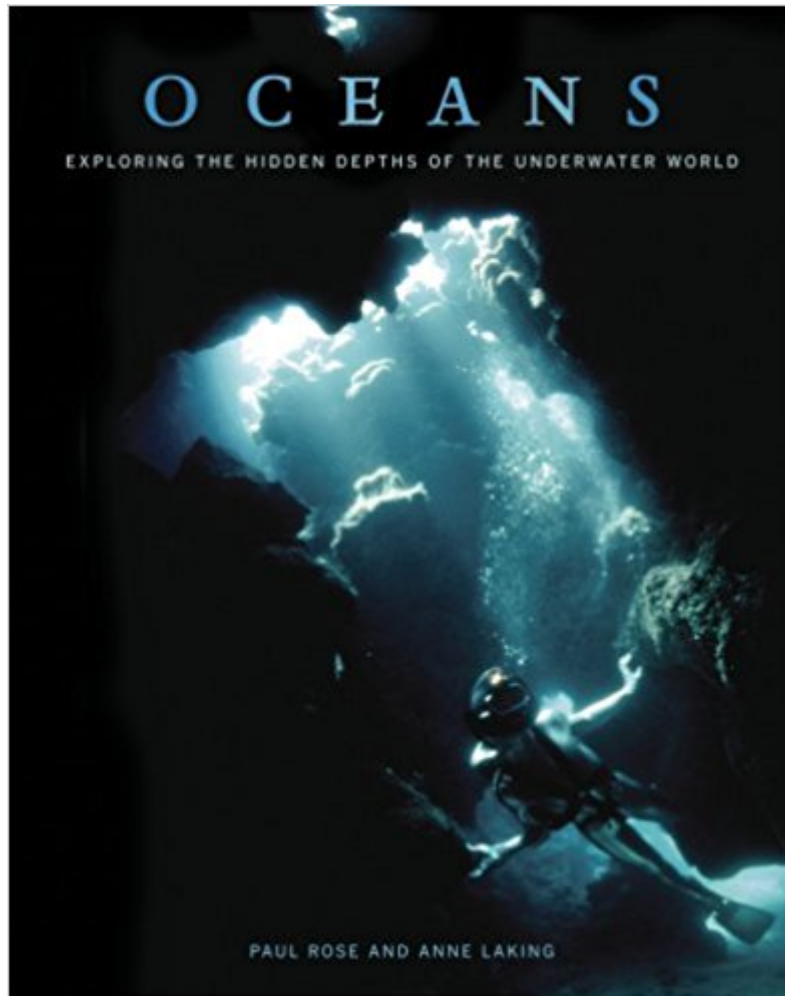




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Oceans: Exploring The Hidden Depths Of The Underwater World



Synopsis

The oceans are the single most important feature of our planet. They shape our climate, our culture, and our future. Yet their depths have remained a mysterious and uncharted expanse. This book, which accompanies a major BBC television series, draws on the most exciting stories from the fields of subaquatic archaeology, geology, marine biology, and anthropology to reveal an astonishing landscape of forgotten shipwrecks, submerged volcanoes, and hidden caves. For *Oceans*, explorer Paul Rose and his team of expert divers filmed fluorescence in Red Sea corals for the very first time and explored the undisturbed waters of the Black Hole off the Bahamas. They witnessed rarely seen behavior in sperm whales in the Sea of Cortez and discovered a potentially unknown species below the arctic ice pack. Undertaking thrilling and often dangerous dives, Rose and his team reveal the importance of the oceans to human existence and at the same time trace the possible consequences of climate change on their delicate balance. Beautifully illustrated with more than 160 color photographs, *Oceans* unravels the mysteries of the deep and provides illuminating insights into this vast undersea domain. "It is my sincere hope that this work will make more urgent the chorus of voices crying out to save the oceans." From the foreword, by Philippe Cousteau

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Customer Reviews

As reflected in the number of companion books being published (e.g., Deborah Cramer's *Smithsonian Ocean*), the world's oceans appear to be a hot topic for television specials and

museum galleries. This latest volume accompanies a series recently broadcast by the BBC (which will likely be seen on U.S. television in the near future), and it has a twist. Instead of basic oceanography, this title examines "anthropological oceanography," the impact of humankind and the oceans upon each other; one member of the dive/production team is even a maritime archaeologist. The emphasis here is on the team's experiences, rather than on the science in which they might be engaged, as they explore their filming locations in each of seven oceans and seas of the world. The light tone and lack of a bibliography and further reading suggestions don't recommend this for academic libraries, but abundant beautiful photographs and extensive, well-written text will make this a good addition to public libraries (willing to deal with its large size, 29 1/2" x 23 cm) where there is interest in diving or the oceans. —Margaret Rioux, MBL/WHOI Lib., Woods Hole Oceanographic Inst., MA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Geologist Wohl writes clearly and with appreciation about the western landscape — the rock formations and canyons, while her references to the region's literary and historic canon are equally relevant. From Willa Cather and John Wesley Powell to Arizona territorial historian Sharlot Hall, Wohl reaches back for early thoughts on the West and weaves them into her own observations and discoveries. Modern writers are not ignored, nor are modern problems as she notes the impact of damming on the Colorado River, frequency of fires and droughts, and the hazards of snowmaking on nearby streams. Wohl's vast study of both the physical nature of Colorado and the historic and geologic record of the land weighs equally the thoughts of those who came before with the scientific findings of those active in the field today. She defies the notion of "pristine wilderness," dismissing it as myth from its earliest incarnations. With respect and expertise, Wohl aims toward achieving sustainability in the West, something that has not been tried since Europeans first discovered its riches so long ago. —Colleen Mondor

This book is a companion to the BBC series of the same title (It has not been shown on U.S. television; not sure why?) The premise of this 21st century expedition reminded me of the premise of the 1996 Ivan Tors motion picture, "Around the World, Under the Sea". Adventurers, including a famous Cousteau, plus a very sexy female marine biologist comprise the "crew". The book is chock full of beautiful photographs and information. If you love the sea, diving, or even deep-sea fishing, it is good reading for young and old.

When the rough cut for the first episode of Oceans dropped into the commissioning editor's DVD player, he must have cried the Pacific. It is titanic, sink-with-all-hands television and was spectacular in its empty nothingness. They must have shot an albatross on day one. This is a big, expensive co-production that has come back with film that looks like a second-marriage honeymoon from the Red Sea. The bar for underwater nature has been set pretty high by The Blue Planet and that mermaid lady who holds her breath and frots dolphins. Failing to get any aquatic film of interesting fish, they decided to point the camera at each other. The crew were an overexcited group of challengeable "experts", as vocal and coherent as seagulls and about as likeably watchable as a get-to-know-you party of Cornish swingers in a Jacuzzi. I can just about understand that the idea was to get as involved in the derring-do of an attractive pod of enthusiasts as they have adventures, but what came across was a bonding weekend for a team of environmental-health officers. Worse than the empty Sea of Cortez, worse than the horrible presenters, was the utterly bereft script. A sea of intellectual plankton, an ocean of clichés, truisms, non-sequiturs and the mood music of happy-feely words. It was chronically embarrassing. The hug-a-halibut environmental message was depressingly childish; the anthropological element, showing us happy Indians collecting clams by hand then wagging a finger, telling us this was a model of sustainability for the world, was cretinously idiotic. Altogether, it was dispiriting and depressing. One of the presenters is the grandson of Jacques Cousteau, the man who first drew our attention to the ecological degradation of the seas and invented television's attitude to nature. The difference between then and now couldn't be better illustrated than by the difference in these two generations. Grandpa Cousteau led what looked like legionnaires in Speedos to discover an element that was as strange and awe-inspiring as outer space. Grandson Cousteau has a beach-bum American accent and talks with a dim sentimentality, with meaning-neutered exclamations about his feelings. Things are great, because he's seen them. They're marvellous, because he's here. It's the hideous solipsism of the vain gap-year blog, and this is what you get when you make co-productions with the Discovery Channel.

I'm very disappointed - there's not nearly enough photo's of Paul Rose in this book. How about some more photo's, like "Paul Rose looking in the mirror", or "Paul Rose posing for the camera", or even "Paul Rose looking at his picture in this book", or the ultimate "A front and side view of Paul Rose, to enable you to identify him on the street and worship him as the God-amongst-men that he truly is, and not mistake him for some other smelly little nonentity". But constructive criticism aside, if you are

scanning the horizon for a truly astounding book on the world's oceans, buy "The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Ocean" from Dorling Kindersley, and consign this flotsam to Davy Jones' Locker where it belongs.

The recently televised (in the UK) BBC series "Oceans" was a disaster and this book is the obligatory work which automatically follow such events. The front cover describes that series of programmes as a "Landmark" series. They were no such thing!! I was first contacted about this series over 3 years before the final episodes were screened on British television. Along the way I submitted considerable material on those aspects which I knew in great detail. Consequently, my name appears on the "credits" of certain episodes. My submissions included text and photographs and came from my extensive experience and detailed knowledge as an award-winning shipwreck historian. At no time did the BBC ever mention a book to me or indicate that my work might also appear in anything other than the television project itself. Nevertheless, my own copyrighted words have been reproduced verbatim in this book and are credited to others! I was not even given the simple courtesy of an acknowledgement. Such behaviour begs the question; How much more of this book is based on the work of people who are not credited as the authors? Personally, I have reached the conclusion that none of the so-called "facts" in this book may be trusted. NM

Absolutely wonderful!!! It offers lots and lots of information regarding the ocean and its creatures. Thank you again BBC, for a wonderful book!! Also check out ã Æ Blue Planet - Seas of Life

This book is full of amazing information, and is loaded with beautiful photos. I only regret the fact that I did not have a chance to see the television series. I would buy this book again.

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