



## **No water, No life.....!! No blue, No green.....!!**

**“No matter how far from the shore that you live, oceans still affect your life”**

Oceans are the lifeblood of planet Earth and humankind. Throughout history humans have been directly or indirectly influenced by the oceans. They flow over nearly three-quarters of our planet, and hold 97% of the planet's water. They produce more than half of the oxygen in the atmosphere, and absorb the most carbon from it. About half of the world's population lives within the coastal zone, and ocean-based businesses contribute more than \$500 billion to the world's economy. Ocean waters serve as a source of food and valuable minerals, as a vast highway for commerce, and provide a place for both recreation and waste disposal. Increasingly, people are turning to the oceans for their food supply either by direct consumption or indirectly by harvesting fish that is then processed for livestock feed. It has been estimated that as much as 10% of human protein intake comes from the oceans. Nevertheless, the food-producing potential of the oceans is only partly realized. Other biological products of the oceans are also commercially used. For example, pearls taken from oysters are used in jewellery, and shells and coral have been widely used as a source of building material. Because the oceans are the largest ecosystems on Earth, they are the Earth's largest life support systems. They're the most promising source of new medicines to combat cancer, pain and bacterial diseases. Living oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce the impact of climate change. The diversity and productivity of the world's oceans is a vital interest for humankind. Our security, our economy, our very survival all require healthy oceans. Ocean water is processed to extract commercially valuable minerals such as salt, bromine, and magnesium. Although nearly 60 valuable chemical elements have been found dissolved in ocean water, most are in such dilute concentrations that commercial extraction is not profitable. In a few arid regions of the world, such as Ascension Island, Kuwait, and Israel, ocean water is desalinated to produce freshwater. Thus over all our security, our economy and our survival all require healthy oceans.