



Alumni Book Club: The Underworld by Susan Casey

Chapters 7, 8, and 9



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Session Three: Fisheries - Themed discussion prompts and breakout groups

“Waterfall” Icebreaker: Which creature from the Abyss is your favorite? Share an image if you can

1. **Exploring Mining and Fishing in the Deep Sea**

What aspects of deep-sea mining and fishing are you curious to learn more about? Begin by sharing what you currently understand on this topic, then expand on it. Consider questions like: Who has ownership or rights to the deep ocean’s resources, structures, and spaces? Who currently governs these spaces, and should this change?

2. **Current Deep Ocean Research**

Who are the leading researchers in deep ocean studies, and what are their main goals? Are there any areas or topics that you feel deserve more research attention? What are the limiting factors to this research and how are people finding innovative ways around those limits?

3. **Classroom Connection: Ecoservices and Stewardship**

What ecosystem services does the deep ocean provide, and how can we encourage stewardship for these “common-pool” resources? Do you think your students view fisheries and ocean resources as something that should be owned, explored, or preserved for future generations? Despite its remote nature, does the deep-sea hold significance as a resource, and how does it impact our lives?

4. **Reflecting on Quotes about the Deep Ocean**

Consider these two quotes:

- a. *Ray Dalio, founder of OceanX (pg. 211):* “The capacity of humanity to save the things they fall in love with... can be great.”
 - i. Do you believe this to be true? How can we inspire more people to “fall in love” with the deep ocean?
- b. *Casey, after her dive on the Neptune (pg. 233):* “[It is like] falling in love with someone and then never seeing them again.”

- i. Do you think everyone feels this way after a once-in-a-lifetime experience? As experiences become more common, do we lose some of the passion we initially felt? How do these feelings influence conservation efforts?

Shared Resources:

[Underworld Wakelet](#) (work in progress): Feel free to build on these resources by sharing links

This week's update is sponsored by your friendly neighborhood assfish. Feel free to choose another critter for the icebreaker!

