

because a lot of people do not realize how much impact they have on the ecosystem and why it's important to conserve our species.

The first reason I mentioned, keystone species, means balance when referring to an ecosystem. The reason this is important is because all animal and plant life relies on keystone species. An example I'd like to use for this is the otter population in rivers years. Otter's decline in other populations, even here recently had to introduce food sources. The otter's role using crabs which are considered keystone species, which are species that help maintain the ecosystem they live in by helping to control population growth density and indirectly. The reason this is important is because without these species something called a trophic cascade can occur, which is when other parts of the food pyramid are affected by the loss of the keystone species.

The reason that this relates to the other populations is because the crabs are the keystone species maintaining their ecosystem. When crabs were taken for protein and started feeding on the other populations the population declined and was having trouble keeping the other population under control. This then allowed the crabs to increase in population rapidly and start decreasing the amount of help to the sea.

This is a problem that relates to my second reason, climate change. Help absorbs a lot of carbon, which we as a society want to produce a lot of. This help helps to balance out carbon in the environment to a certain degree, and plays a vital role in the carbon cycle. Though, with a lowered population of otters, the carbon that they as help are not being maintained, allowing there to completely decrease help levels near their environment. This decreases the amount of carbon the help can absorb and furthering the effects of climate change. Though this is not all the fault of the sea, the responsibility lies in our the actions in the first place is because of human hunting practices in the point of extinction in the 1970's due to whale oil poisoning the US during the industrial revolution.

To conclude, I believe that human impact on the environment is a lot greater than people realize. Just as much as we can help if we save species we removed. Humans can indirectly cause these cascades years down the line based on a single decision that seems very not even realize is harmful. But I also believe that with enough awareness we can fix our mistakes and continue to move forward with our planet in mind. After all, where else are we going to go? We need to take care of the planet we have because we only have one Earth.