



Maddalena Bearzi, Ph.D. and president of the Ocean Conservation Society

Understanding the Beauty of Marine Life and the Importance of Conservation

Maddalena Bearzi, a dedicated marine biologist, has spent a significant portion of her life studying marine animals both above and below the waves. Her firsthand experiences have shown her the astonishing beauty of marine creatures, reinforcing her understanding that healthy oceans are vital for sustaining life on Earth. From the air we breathe to the water we drink, everything is connected to the oceans and their inhabitants. Maddalena's passion for marine life has become the driving force behind her commitment to ocean conservation.

Giving Birth to the Ocean Conservation Society

Recognizing the urgent need for action to protect our oceans, Maddalena, along with her husband Charles Saylan, co-founded the [Ocean Conservation Society](#) in 1997. Their vision was clear: to conduct long-term research on marine mammals and educate the public about the importance of ocean conservation. Through their scientific research, they gather valuable data to influence policies and raise awareness for marine wildlife conservation. The Ocean Conservation Society has become a beacon of hope for the preservation of our oceans and the creatures that call it home.

Empathy and Connection: The Power of Maddalena's Words

Beyond her scientific research, Maddalena uses her literary talents to connect with people and inspire action for ocean conservation. Her books, including "Dolphin Confidential: Confessions of a Field Biologist" and "Stranded: Finding Nature in Uncertain Times," offer profound insights into marine life and the urgent need to protect it. Through her writing, she aims to foster empathy and understanding towards marine creatures, emphasizing the importance of treating them with respect and care.

Empowering the Surfing Community for Ocean Conservation

The surfing community has a unique and close relationship with the oceans, making them natural allies in ocean conservation efforts. Maddalena urges surfers to go beyond raising awareness and to take concrete action. Supporting reputable ocean conservation organizations, promoting environmental stewardship, and advocating for policies that protect marine environments are all crucial steps. In addition, Maddalena encourages individual responsibility, suggesting that consuming less and making sustainable choices can collectively contribute to the well-being of our oceans.

Hope in Action: Inspirational Voices for Change

Maddalena named several prominent figures in the environmental community who have made significant contributions to protecting our planet. Environmental champions like Sylvia Earle, Jane Goodall, Carl Safina, Ed Young, and Greta Thunberg. For Maddalena, hope is not a passive sentiment; it requires action and commitment from all of us to address the pressing challenges of climate change and ocean conservation.

Conclusion: Uniting for a Thriving Ocean Future

Through our conversation with Maddalena Bearzi, we are reminded of the intrinsic connection between humanity and our oceans. Her dedication as a marine biologist and her powerful words inspire us to protect marine life and preserve the oceans for future generations. Together, we can take action to safeguard our oceans, ensuring that they remain teeming with life and beauty for generations to come. The time to act is now, and with hope, empathy, and collective effort, we can make a lasting impact on ocean conservation.

Recommendations:

Books: One book about the oceans: [The ocean and its inhabitants](#) and one for better understanding how non-human animals (marine or otherwise) think and feel: [What animals feel and think](#). And of course we recommend everyone to take a look at [Maddalena's own books](#) about becoming a marine biologist, working with dolphins, whales and other creatures, appreciating nature, and learning more about ocean conservation.

Brands: [Patagonia](#)

People: Sylvia Earle, Jane Goodall, Carl Safina, Ed Young, and Greta Thunberg.

More about Maddalena Bearzi

Maddalena Bearzi is President and co-founder of Ocean Conservation Society. She has a Ph.D. in Biology and a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the University of California, Los Angeles. Maddalena has been actively involved in studying the ecology of marine mammals with a strong conservation bias since 1990. Her research work on dolphins, whales, and pinnipeds off Southern California has been ongoing for over twenty-five years, and represents one of the longest studies on these animals worldwide. She has published many scientific peer-reviewed papers, she is co-author of the book "Beautiful Minds: The Parallel Lives of Great Apes and Dolphins" (Harvard University Press, 2008) and author of "Dolphin Confidential: Confessions of a Field Biologist" (University of Chicago Press, 2012), as well as "Stranded: Finding Nature in Uncertain Times" (Heyday 2023). Her new children's book for Roaring Brooks is forthcoming. Maddalena has experience as a photo-journalist and she has been a blogger for the National Geographic. Her scientific research and books have been covered, among others, by CNN, KPCC, PRI, the Los Angeles Times, the New Scientist, American Scientist, and The Huffington Post.

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By Lucas Wijkhuizen • July 29, 2023

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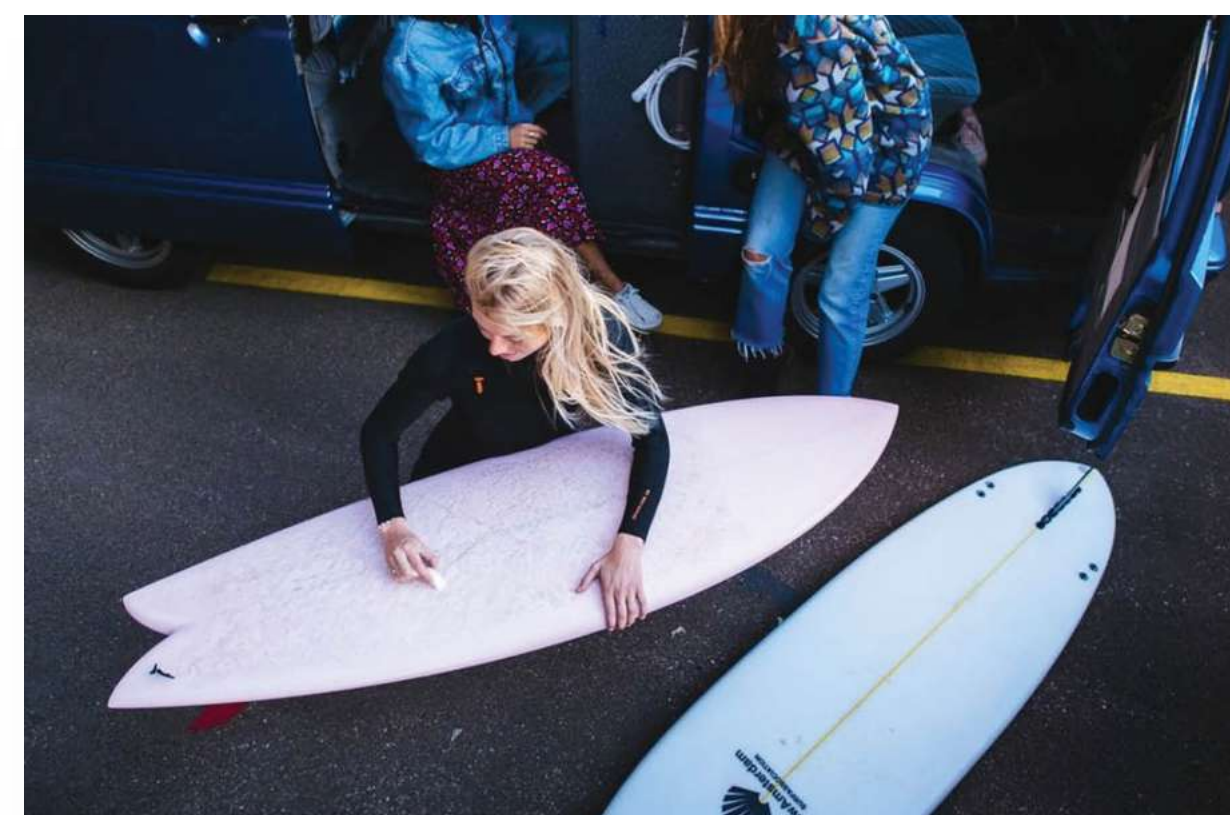
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By Lucas Wijkhuizen • July 29, 2023

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