



Exhibit Reads at the Haggin Museum
December 21, 2024 | 1:30 – 3 PM

Connecting Oceans and Ecosystems: Guided Questions for *The Nature of Nature and Pristine Seas*

Understanding the Central Themes

1. What is the primary message of Enric Sala's *The Nature of Nature* regarding the importance of protecting natural ecosystems? How does this message align with the goals of the *Pristine Seas* project?
2. Sala argues that conservation is not only a moral imperative but also an economic necessity. How does the *Pristine Seas* project demonstrate the economic benefits of protecting marine environments?
3. In the book, Sala discusses the concept of "natural capital." How is this idea reflected in the *Pristine Seas* project's efforts to preserve marine ecosystems? What examples from the project illustrate the value of maintaining healthy oceans?

Ecological Concepts and Their Applications

4. Sala provides a "crash course in ecology" in his book. How does understanding ecological principles, such as predator-prey relationships, help to explain the success of marine reserves created by the *Pristine Seas* project?
5. The concept of "boundaries" in ecosystems is crucial to understanding how energy flows between different environments. How does the *Pristine Seas* project protect these boundaries in marine ecosystems, and why is this important for ocean health?
6. In *The Nature of Nature*, Sala emphasizes the importance of biodiversity. How does the *Pristine Seas* project work to preserve or enhance biodiversity in marine environments, and what are some specific outcomes of these efforts?

Rewilding and Restoration

7. Sala discusses "rewilding" as a way to restore ecosystems to a healthier state. How does the *Pristine Seas* project apply rewilding principles in marine environments, and what are some examples of success stories from the project?
8. The book mentions the role of keystone species in maintaining ecosystem balance. How does the protection of apex predators like sharks within *Pristine Seas* reserves illustrate this concept in action?

Human Connection and Conservation

9. Sala argues for the intrinsic value of all species and the concept of biophilia, a natural human affinity for the natural world. How does the *Pristine Seas* exhibit aim to foster this connection in visitors, and why is it important for conservation efforts?
10. Both the book and the *Pristine Seas* project emphasize the role of storytelling in conservation. How does the narrative approach used in the *Pristine Seas* project align with Sala's belief that emotional connections can drive conservation action?

Addressing Global Challenges

11. Sala links the degradation of natural ecosystems to the emergence of pandemics, including COVID-19. How does the *Pristine Seas* project contribute to the prevention of future pandemics by protecting marine biodiversity?
12. The book argues for a planetary ethic that includes the protection of oceans. How does the *Pristine Seas* project embody this ethic, and what challenges does it face in achieving global marine conservation goals?

Reflection and Action

13. What lessons from *The Nature of Nature* can be applied to the ongoing work of the *Pristine Seas* project? How can these lessons inform future marine conservation strategies?
14. Sala advocates for the protection of 30% of the Earth's surface by 2030. How does the *Pristine Seas* project contribute to this target, and what are the implications for global biodiversity conservation if this goal is achieved?
15. Reflecting on both the book and the exhibit, what actions can individuals take to support the conservation efforts outlined by Sala and the *Pristine Seas* project? How can public awareness and education play a role in these efforts?

16. Sala discusses the importance of resilience in ecosystems. How does the work of the *Pristine Seas* project contribute to building resilience in marine environments, and why is this resilience crucial in the face of climate change?

Deep Dive into Specific Examples

17. Explore a specific marine reserve highlighted in the *Pristine Seas* project. How does this reserve illustrate the ecological principles discussed in *The Nature of Nature*? What outcomes have been observed since its establishment?
18. Consider the role of local communities in the success of *Pristine Seas* projects. How does this collaboration reflect Sala's broader message about the need for global cooperation in conservation? What are the benefits of involving local populations in marine conservation efforts?