

Climate Change

TR

Viking, Forties, Cromarty, Forth, Tyne, Dogger, Fisher, German Bight, Humber, Thames, Dover, Wight, Portland, Plymouth, Biscay, FitzRoy. Scarborough's more or less in the borderline between Forth and Tyne. So when you listen to the weather forecast, that's what we used to listen for.

EF

I don't know whether it's just me, but I do feel like the weather has kind of shifted a little bit.

JN

Practically all I know about climate change is everything's just jumbled up.

AB

Well, obviously the weather has changed quite a lot. And I feel like along the coast when I'm walking on the beach, I feel like it keeps getting destroyed and that's really sad to see.

MN

I was told in college actually doing my A levels, it's actually some of the fastest eroding coastline in the world.

BL

Flooding is normal, isn't it? And it shouldn't be.

CN

In Whitby town centre, it can flood and has done fairly recently as well.

MV

The tide is getting higher now. So they've got metal shutters to put against the shops. So it's going to get more difficult.

AV

On the seaside, we can see loads of pollution coming from the sea, from the beaches.

BL

For me as a child, I remember seeing some rubbish on beaches, but I think it was very minimal. But I know that in my lifetime, I have seen the amount of pollution just increasing steadily and steadily. And these days, I would never expect to walk down a beach and not see any litter.

MV

So I think we've just grown up in a culture where if you throw your crisp packet on the ground, you assume somebody is going to come and pick it up. It's very frustrating because there are plenty of bins and plenty of signs saying litter damages wildlife.

MN

And personally, I do think plastic in the sea is a very big issue and as a diver, I do see marine pollution from plastic you know if it's thrown in or washed in through water drainage systems.

WC

I've seen the Scarborough fishing industry change drastically. When I was a schoolboy, I started going to sea on the fishing boats from Scarborough catching white fish, almost universally white fish trawling. Last 20 years or so, those white fish trawlers have almost completely disappeared.

TR

Yes, I think the waters are warming up. If you were catching Dogfish, everybody in the North Sea was catching them. They disappeared. Now you're talking about a few boxes where you were talking about hundreds and hundreds of stones of them, easy catching.

WC

And now we have what in effect is the second largest shellfish fleet in the UK. The problem of course will come that now we're completely reliant on shell-fishing off the Yorkshire coast, that warming water can turn acidic when it gets carbon dioxide in there and the shellfish of course don't like this because it attacks their shells.

SC

A lot of people aren't aware about how dirty our seas still are.

MV

I know people that used to swim here in the 70s when they used to pump raw sewage into the sea. So it's a lot cleaner than that now, but we still haven't met that blue flag target.

BL

We know that the marine environment and the terrestrial environment faces a huge challenge because of human impacts. But there is an awful lot of really good work going on to try and tackle some of the challenges that we face.

RF

Close to the shore, there are things that we can do. In sheltered areas for example, we can replant marine plants, things like sea grasses, which used to be very abundant. And they're really good, they grow fast, they take down a lot of carbon and they store it in their roots. And they also trap sediments and sediments are rich in carbon. So you build up a bank, almost, you know a big reserve and people call that blue carbon.

WC

Seaweed is a great absorber of carbon from the atmosphere. And what's better than that is that while it does it, it releases oxygen into the surrounding seawater and oxygenates the marine environment that it grows in. Some studies have shown that it's three or four times more effective at absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than rain forest or woodland is. And of course it's much faster growing.

KA

From gaining a better understanding of climate change, I realised that I was doing things that could possibly contribute to climate change without even knowing that I was doing it.

RB

I do remember how like a few years ago, it became much more mainstream on what's happening to the world. That definitely made me want to help a lot more than I was currently doing.

RG

The sculptures are essentially reproductions of concrete shapes that are gigantic that you find scattered along coastlines. They're sea defenses, so the idea of them is that they prevent coastal erosion. And that they're made to compete with nature

I keep looking at and thinking how snow is really the material of our time and how significant it is. Because in 20 years, perhaps the climate of Britain will be that of Barcelona and snow won't fall anymore. So I thought what would happen if I was to produce a sculpture that could only be finished by snow. So we'd be waiting for nature.

When I was on the cliff at Whitby and the cliff at Scarborough, it struck me as being, like, completely obvious and a great way to remind ourselves of our responsibility and the way that we fit into the world. Purely because I felt incredibly vulnerable. There was this huge landscape and this huge sky and this huge sea, that were mighty and full of mystery and full of energy and power.

DB

One of the reasons I like the sculpture so much is that I think it raises awareness of the important role that the sea plays and the ecosystems in which we reside, in which we play a role.

RG

I like the idea that the work's called 'We Are Only Human, because it reminds us how small we are in relation to the problem.