14 LIFE BELOW WATER – Selina Sampl

Goal 14 is about using marine resources sparingly and sustainably. The project was established by the United Nations in 2015. The sea is very important for us humans because it helps to eliminate poverty by providing things like jobs, food, and tourism. It is a sustainable livelihood. The sea has many other functions that are essential for human life. Many people are trying to restore the health and integrity of the Earth´s ecosystem.

DISADVANTAGES THAT BODIES OF WATER ARE FACING:

- → overfishing
- → acidification
- → eutrophication
- → ocean warming
- → plastic/marine pollution

The plastic population is suffocating the ocean. There are 17+ million metric tons of plastic. This value is from 2021. Scientists believe that the numbers are projected to double or triple by 2040. 90% of the world´s fishers are employed in small-scale fisheries who need accelerated support due the pandemic. The increasing pollution threatens marine life and the capacities of the ocean. The ocean absorbs by 1⁄4 of the global annual CO2 emissions.

There are many different projects to help the environment, but I have thought of something completely different: the ,,Seahelper“. The ,,Seahelper“ is a robot that looks like a fish. It is about 15 meters long and weighs 600kg. This robot swims through the oceans and collects the plastic. It is in the form of a fish so that the other sea creatures are not afraid of it. Once a week it would come back to the station and empty itself. Every week, about 2 tons of plastic are fished from the sea. The station would be located on the east coast of Canada. It was founded in 2020 and is financed with donations and volunteers. But how can you also help without travelling or donating to Canada? The robot fish is made of reusable plastic. You can easily help by donating, for example, empty plastic bottles or other things made of plastic. In almost every city there are boxes in which you can throw the plastic. This will then be delivered to us, and we will build new robot fish. You get a point for each donation and if you have 30 points you get 25% on your weekly shopping.

How does the ,,Seahelper“ work?

As mentioned before, the ,,Seahelper“ collects plastic and looks like a fish. He picks up the plastic through a kind of vacuum cleaner. A sensor is used to distinguish whether it is plastic or something else. The plastic comes into a large box where about 2,5 tons of plastic have space, while other things such as mussels or algae are excreted again through a small tube.