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# The Last Fisherman: Witness To The Endangered Oceans



## Synopsis

With breathtaking images and compelling stories, an underwater photographer chronicles the glory, and devastation, of our changing oceans. When author Jeff Rotman began his adventures as an underwater photographer more than 40 years ago, he relished the beauty of the deep sea and the thrill of the hunt. A member of an elite group of photographers, he has captured iconic photographs of sharks and other creatures of the deep that can be seen in National Geographic as well as the Discovery Channel's Shark Week television series. Rotman's passion for photographing marine life took a dramatic turn when he found a pile of sharks at the bottom of the sea stripped of their fins and left to die by rogue fisherman. The Last Fisherman documents the catastrophic changes in ocean wildlife and the people whose lives depend on hunting it. Rotman has witnessed the near commercial collapse of cod fisheries in the North Atlantic and the growth of illegal poaching in the protected waters of Cocos Island which threatens this fragile ecosystem long admired by divers for the shark and ray populations. His journey mirrors our view of the oceans as places of wonder, to the fragile hunting grounds they are today. In his introduction, marine biologist Les Kaufman discusses how the emptying out of the oceans has progressed over time. But he also includes stories of hope as scientists, fisherman and observers like Jeff Rotman come to agree that the time is now for a new approach to the most fundamental of human activities, finding sustenance in the water around us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *The Last Fisherman*: "Rotman...transform[s] information about the catastrophic changes in the ocean into a poignant personal narrative." #151; *Publisher's Weekly* "This book is not only a treasure to be cherished by nature enthusiasts but also an intriguing resource that ought to make its way into science classrooms." #151; *Publisher's Weekly* "Looks at the beauty and the tragedy&#133;Otherworldly stunning&#133;Wow." #151; *Chicago Tribune* "Among fellow photographers, naturalists and divers, Jeffrey L. Rotman is regarded with awe, so difficult is his specialty, so great his mastery of it." - *The Observer*, London "Jeff Rotman's images and words reveal our ocean ecosystems in collapse as one fish species after another is decimated. What is at stake is nothing less than our planet's very life support system." #151; Howard Hall, filmmaker, *Island of the Sharks*

Jeffrey L. Rotman is one of the world's leading underwater photographers. His award-winning work has been featured on television as well as in *National Geographic*, *Life*, *Time*, *Smithsonian*, *Natural History*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, and in many other publications. Rotman is the author of numerous books, including *Shark!* and *Underwater Eden: 365 Days*. Yair Harel is an author of books and materials on popular science. Harel, also a diver, lives in Tel Aviv, Israel. Les Kaufman is professor of marine biology at Boston University. Kaufman is also a marine conservation fellow for Conservation International and research scholar at the New England Aquarium. He won the Parker Gentry Award for Conservation Biology in 2011 and recently received a MacArthur grant.

Great book by someone clearly knowledgeable and also part of the ocean. Thank you for bringing this to those of us who dwell on the earth's surface...I highly recommend this to anyone who wants to see into another world. Also to anyone who cares about what our impact is.

Really cool book. Unfortunately mine had one bad page.

Excellent

Jeffrey Rotman's compelling *THE LAST FISHERMAN, WITNESS TO THE ENDANGERED OCEANS* chronicles his 40-year career as an underwater photographer. Brimming with hundreds of color photographs of sea life that are alternately inspiring and saddening, *THE LAST FISHERMAN* reveals, through Rotman's lens, the on-going decimation of much of that wondrous sea life by man.

A 2014 Abbeville Press release, Rotman's book is an illuminating look at our 'ocean Eden' and its future. THE LAST FISHERMAN follows an arc. Topping off at 276 pages, the first pages feature Rotman's marvelous pix of sea life such as Sea Ravens, Red Anemones, Goosefish, Jewel Groupers and Rainbow Wrasses. Increasingly though he discovers the 'emptying of the oceans' resulting from indiscriminate, industrial over-fishing. He documents the terrible waste taking place such as the decimation of the shark population solely for their fins; the rest of the body being dumped back overboard. It is yet possible to stop the slaughter and Rotman discusses several possibilities yet reading THE LAST FISHERMAN was ultimately a saddening experience. Such tragic, unnecessary waste. In any case, THE LAST FISHERMAN is an eye-opening photographic love poem to the world's oceans and a cautionary expose of its troubled existence and hopes for the future. Recommended.

A Spectacular Collection of Photographs and Stories!!!!

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