

CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN FUTURE SEAS RULES

Now we're going to talk you through a quick exercise about the future of the oceans, based on the Future Seas project conducted by the University of Tasmania and the Centre for Marine Socioecology.

Here's how it works.

In a moment, you're going to be divided up into groups. Each group represents a local authority responsible for managing a stretch of roughly 250kms of coastline, an area that includes several small coastal communities.

Each group is going to have 9 "tokens" – these tokens represent your local authority's capacity to undertake various projects, in terms of time, budget, human resources, and so on.

We're going to give you a list of twelve possible projects. Then, in your groups, you're going to discuss which ones you want to spend your tokens on. Some projects will be expensive, with more long term benefit. Others will be cheaper, so you can invest in more of them, but naturally the benefits will be more short term.


Each project will also give you "impact" points in different areas related to your coastline. These are the areas we're looking at:







- 1. Ecosystem health** - You want to restore and protect the biodiversity and health of your oceans.
- 2. Climate resilience** - You want to make sure that the local community and marine infrastructure is safe from increasing climate impacts.
- 3. Community development** - You want to empower the community to manage its own resources.
- 4. Food systems** - You want a sustainable food system that balances caring for the environment with ensuring everyone is well-fed.
- 5. Connectedness** - You want to encourage people's personal and cultural connection to the ocean so that they can become better stewards.

So for example, a project like "Establishing a climate emergency fund" will cost you three tokens, and it will give you three climate resilience points, and one community development point.

Once you've decided on your projects, you'll tally up your impact in each of the five categories – and you'll get a snapshot summary of what your coastline looks like in 2030 as an outcome of your decisions.

So, let's talk through the projects.

	PROJECTS	IMPACT
	<p>Indigenous management Hand over control of key marine protected areas in your region to traditional owners. Cost: 3 tokens</p>	<p>Ecosystem health - 1 Community development - 2 Connectedness - 1</p>
	<p>Research summits Organise a program of talks connecting scientists with government to ensure that research is being used in designing policy. Cost: 2 tokens</p>	<p>Ecosystem health - 1 Climate resilience - 1 Food system - 1</p>
	<p>Certification scheme Monitor fisheries and create a sticker that can be used to identify sustainably caught fish. Cost: 3 tokens</p>	<p>Ecosystem health - 1 Food system - 3</p>
	<p>Emergency fund Create a fund to help the community quickly respond to severe weather events. Cost: 3 tokens</p>	<p>Climate resilience - 3 Community development - 1</p>
	<p>Ocean education Run a series of workshops where experts can share knowledge with the community and vice versa. Cost: 1 token</p>	<p>Connectedness - 2</p>
	<p>Coastal clean-up projects Fund beach clean-up projects to remove garbage and restore the shoreline.</p>	<p>Community development - 1 Connectedness - 1</p>

	Cost: 1 token	
	Replant vegetation Restore key coastal vegetation such as mangroves and sea grasses. Cost: 4 tokens	Ecosystem health - 2 Climate resilience - 2 Food system - 1
	Remove fishing subsidies Lobby the national government to remove harmful subsidies that are damaging local fisheries. Cost: 4 tokens	Ecosystem health - 2 Food system - 3
	Renewable energy infrastructure Build locally-owned energy facilities such as offshore wind farms and wave energy generators. Cost: 3 tokens	Climate resilience - 1 Community development - 3
	Create community council Engage diverse local voices to contribute to all ocean management decisions. Cost: 2 tokens	Community development - 2 Connectedness - 1
	Apply traditional fishing limits Adopt traditional and First Nations practices to determining fishing quotas. Cost: 2 tokens	Food system - 1 Connectedness - 2
	Improve pollution standards Implement stricter laws prohibiting businesses from polluting ocean waters. Cost: 2 tokens	Ecosystem health - 3

Obviously, in a perfect world, you would invest in all of these projects, but that simply isn't possible. This game is really more of a conversation starter – there's no way to win, or lose. It's about exploring priorities, and examining trade-offs.

Don't try to simply score the highest number of impact points in the largest number of categories. Instead, discuss with your group which projects you think will have the most meaningful impact on your precious stretch of coastline, and spend your tokens accordingly.

A quick recap: you're about to be split up into groups – each group will have their own Google spreadsheet that has a list of projects, and a place to record your choices and tally up your impact.

Share link: https://davidfinig.com/room_assignment.pdf

You'll get fifteen minutes to talk through the projects, and decide what you want to spend your tokens on.

Then, once you've tallied up your impact points, at the bottom of the Google spreadsheet, you'll find another link – click on that and follow the prompts. This page will ask you how you scored in each category, and then tell you what your coastline looks like in each of the five categories in the year 2030.

You'll need to click through the results prompt and fill out your points for each of the five areas.

Once the full 20 minutes are up, we suggest you come back together, share your results, and have a conversation around why your group chose their projects.

Good luck!

FACILITATION NOTES

- At the end of a game session, check the Google spreadsheets and clear the decisions that the group has made, to ensure that the doc is ready for the next group of players.
- We've based these rules on the assumption of a group playing remotely using Zoom. If you're doing it in person, you can adjust accordingly.
- For your reference, the link for the results is here: <https://davidfinig.com/futureseas.html>
- Enjoy!