



Lessons Learned during 8 Years Producing the Documentary Feature Film ‘A Plastic Ocean’

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In January 2009 after leaving the BBC Natural History Unit I decided to make an environmental documentary about the ‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’ and how it could be cleaned up using a fleet of decommissioned fishing boats. It was a simple story and finally an environmental film with a positive outcome.

Everything changed when I joined a scientific expedition to the centre of the North Pacific Gyre and discovered the insidious reality of the ocean plastic problem and from that encounter, the film took on a completely different angle and purpose.

My talk will include stories from some of the 22 locations we filmed in around the world, footage from the film including sequences that were dropped because they did not fit the storyline. It will give an insight into the importance of awareness, how powerful it can be and why I never gave up when the funding ran out.