

# Toward a Sea Ethic

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# Classical Philosophy

Virtue Theories

Utilitarian Theories

Deontological Theories

# Utilitarian Theories

“Maximize Happiness, Minimize Misery”



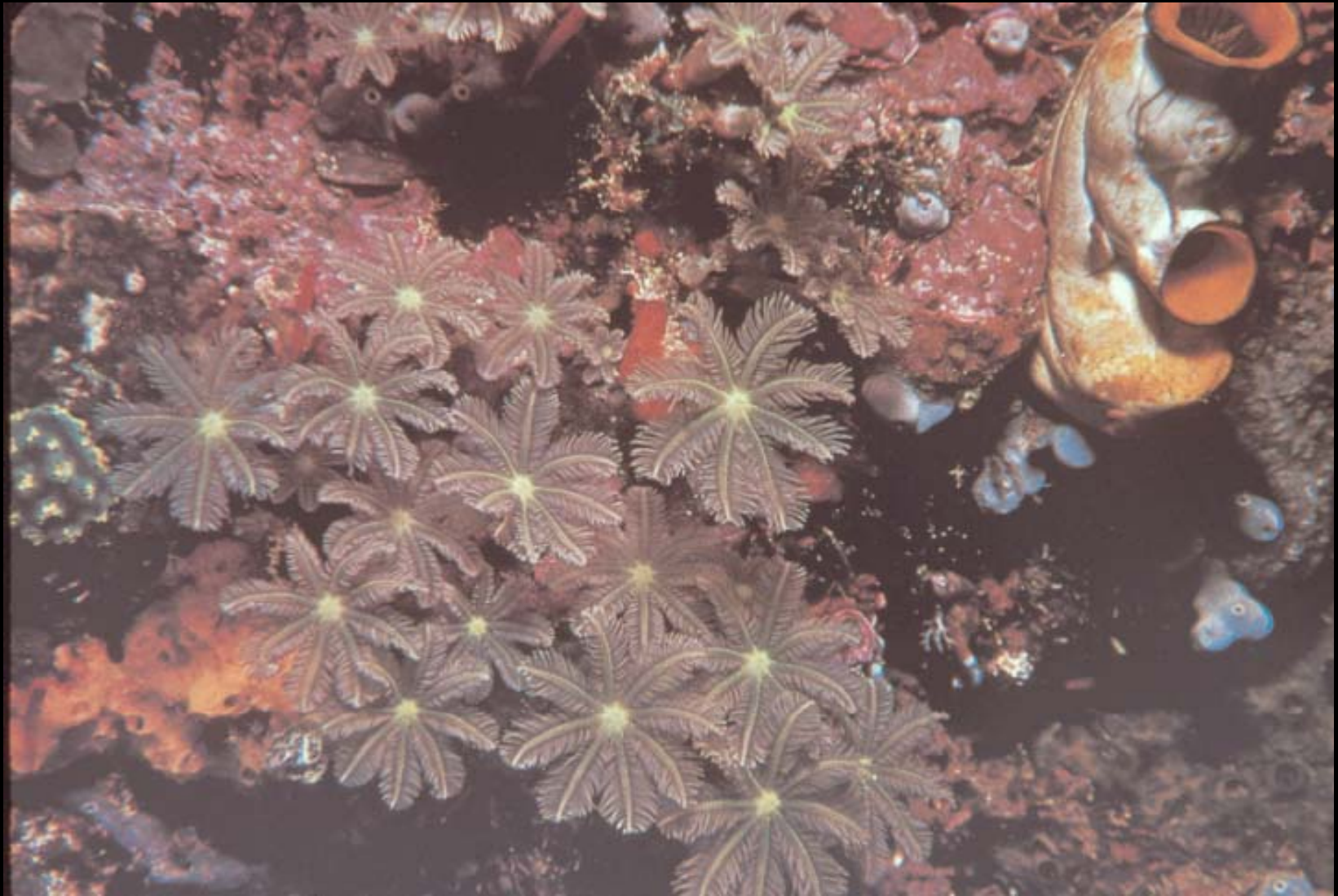
# Utilitarian Theories

Nature Primarily a Means to an End



BUT...

How do you measure the “happiness”  
of an ecosystem?



# Deontological Theories

## The Golden Rule

BUT...

Doesn't Extend to Non-Human  
Species

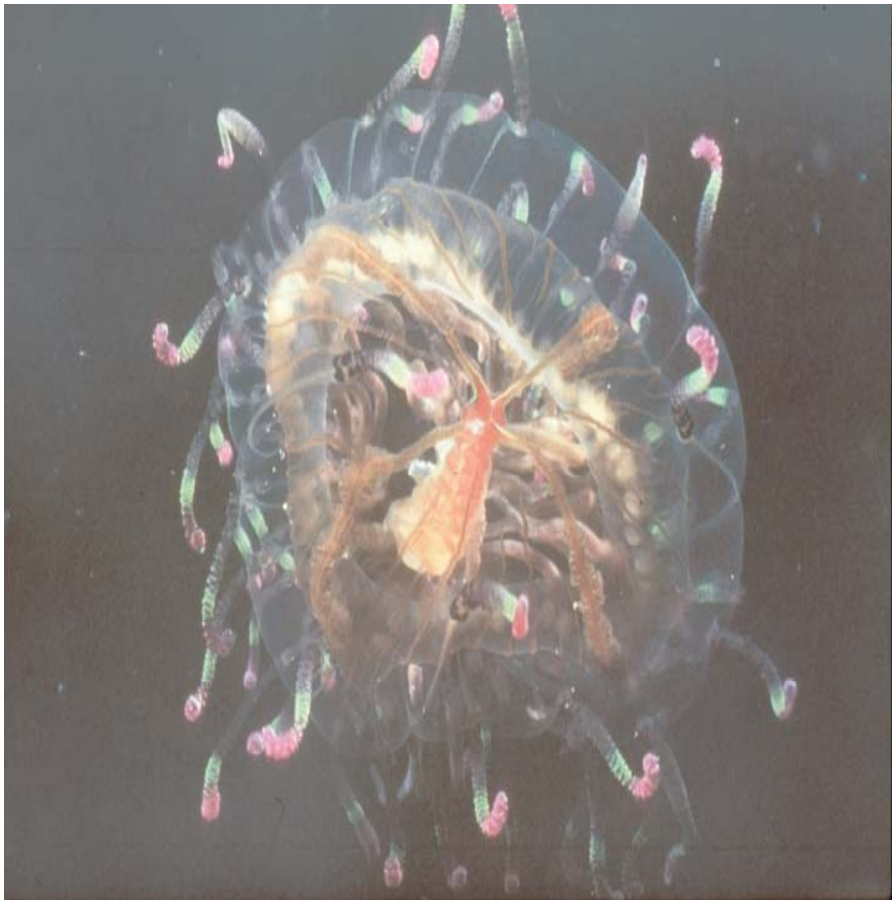
or to the

**Environment at Large**

# Problems with Classical Philosophy

Individuals Affected  
Are  
Non-Human  
“Non-Standard”

# What Duties are Owed to...





# Problems with Classical Philosophy

May be Dealing with  
More Theoretical Constructs,  
e.g., Ecosystems

# Problems with Classical Philosophy

What Should We  
Do About  
Duties to  
Generations  
Yet Unborn?



# Ethics from Resource Management

Anthropocentric

Ecocentric

# Anthropocentric Branches



“Conservationist”

Optimal Sustainable  
Consumption

Gifford Pinchot



# “Preservationist”

Utility + Aesthetic and Spiritual Needs

John Muir







# Ecocentric Branch



Humans Integrated into  
Natural Systems

“A thing is right when it  
tends to preserve the  
integrity, stability and  
beauty of the biotic  
community.”

*Aldo Leopold*



# ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

- Natural World has **Intrinsic Value** beyond Mere Human Utility
- Value Includes **Integrated Character** of System as as Whole
- Must Consider **Long-term Impacts** of Human Action

# AMERICAN PUBLIC

## ANTHROPOCENTRIC VALUES

Concern for Future Generations

Utilitarian Values

Aesthetic Values







# AMERICAN PUBLIC

## BIOCENTRIC VALUES

Humanity as Part of Nature

Right of Species to Life

Intrinsic Rights of Nature









# AMERICAN PUBLIC

RELIGIOUS  
TEACHING

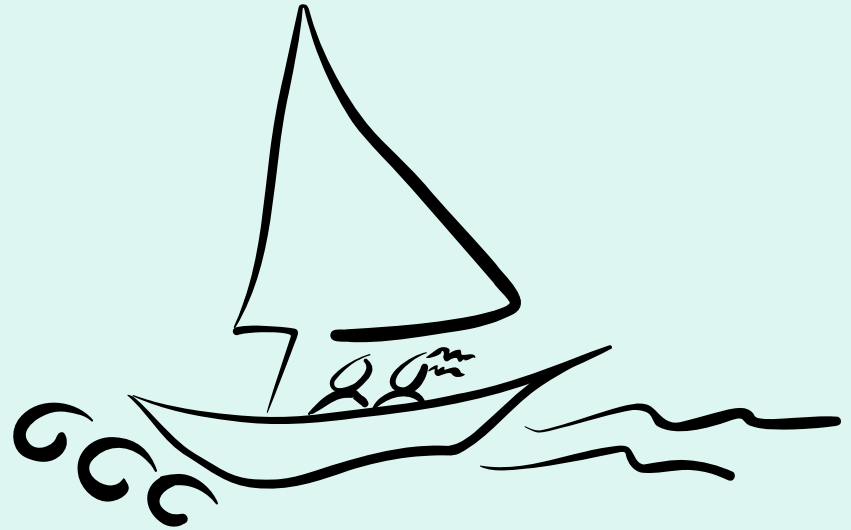
SPIRITUALITY





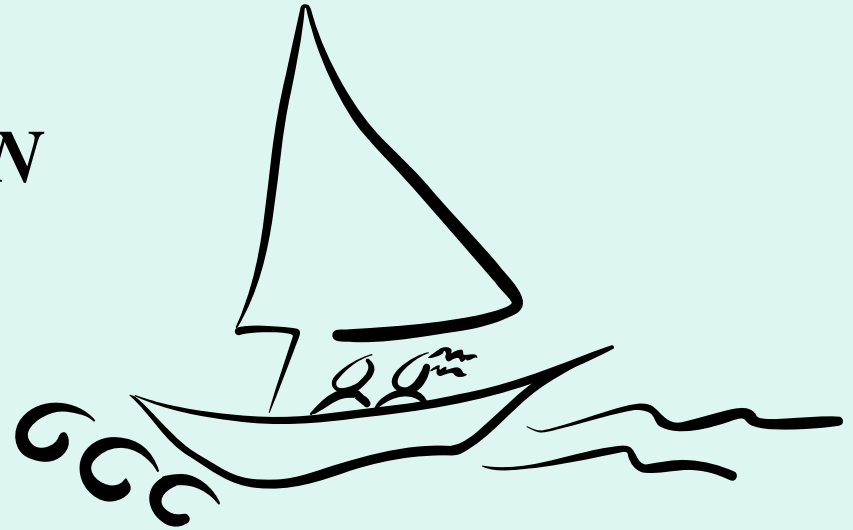
# Toward a sea ethic....

- Species Protection
- Wilderness
- Intergenerational Equity
- Legitimacy of Decision-making



# Toward a sea ethic....

- *SPECIES PROTECTION*
- Wilderness
- Intergenerational Equity
- Legitimacy of Decision-making













# Toward a sea ethic....

- Species Protection
- ***WILDERNESS***
- Intergenerational Equity
- Legitimacy of Decision-making







# Toward a sea ethic....

- Species Protection
- Wilderness
- ***INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY***
- Legitimacy of Decision-making





# Toward a sea ethic....

- Species Protection
- Wilderness
- Intergenerational Equity
- ***LEGITIMACY OF DECISION-MAKING***











