



# OLIVER THE OYSTER

## 小蠔的一生

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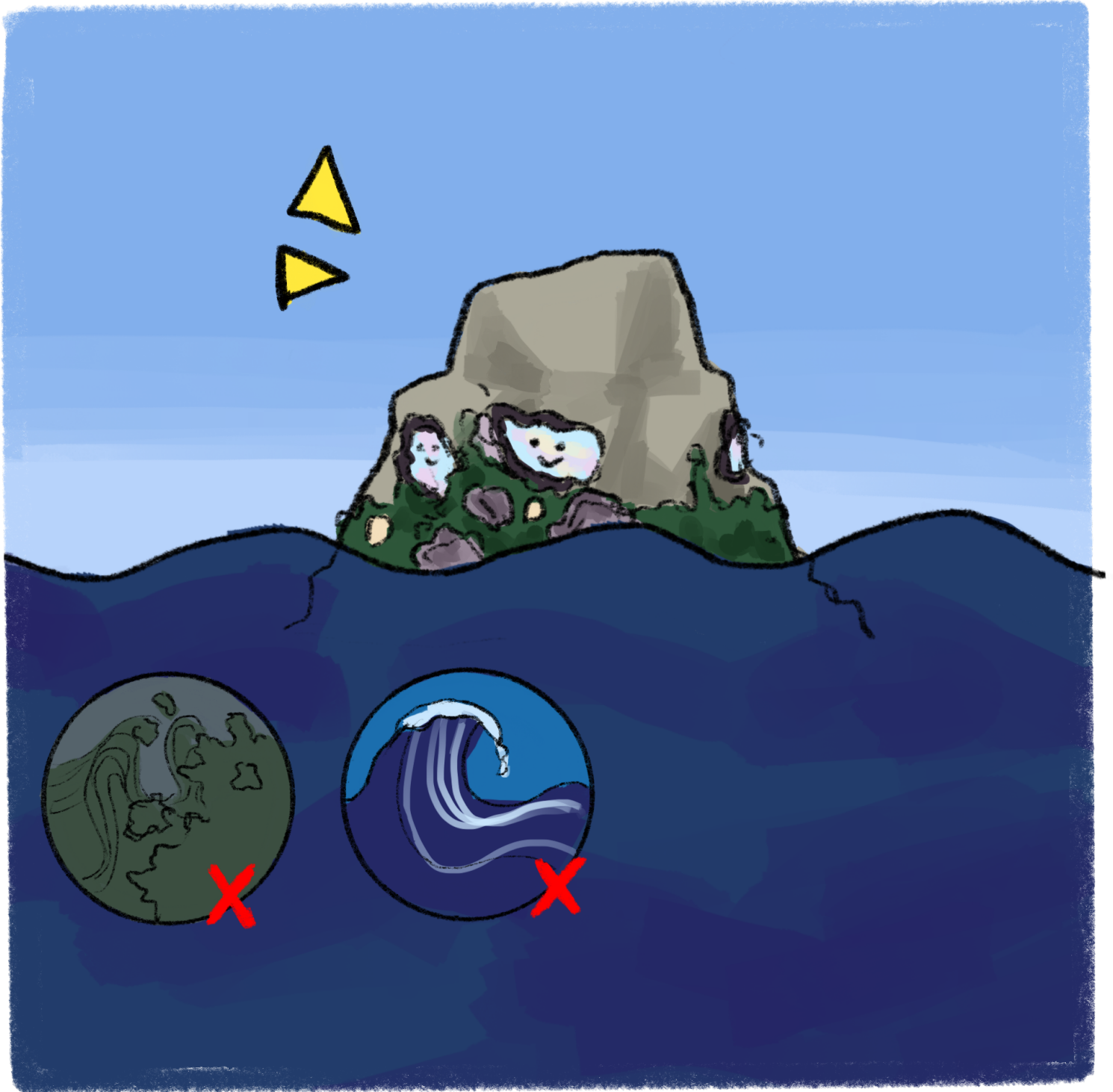
My name is Oliver the oyster. I live in the **brackish** waters of Hong Kong. I have been attached to this rock for nearly ten years ever since drifting here as an oyster larva.

I lived happily alongside the other oysters, growing together to form an oyster reef. We became good friends with other species here, creating a nursing habitat for them.

我叫小蠔，居住在香港的鹹水裡。十年前，當我還是蠔苗的時候，我隨著海水漂流到這石頭上，然後定居了。

我與其他的蠔朋友們和諧共處，互相依靠，團結地成為了蠔礁。我們不但跟其他海洋生物是好朋友，也創造了一個適合形形色種種海洋生物的棲息地。

Vocabulary: Brackish means salted water

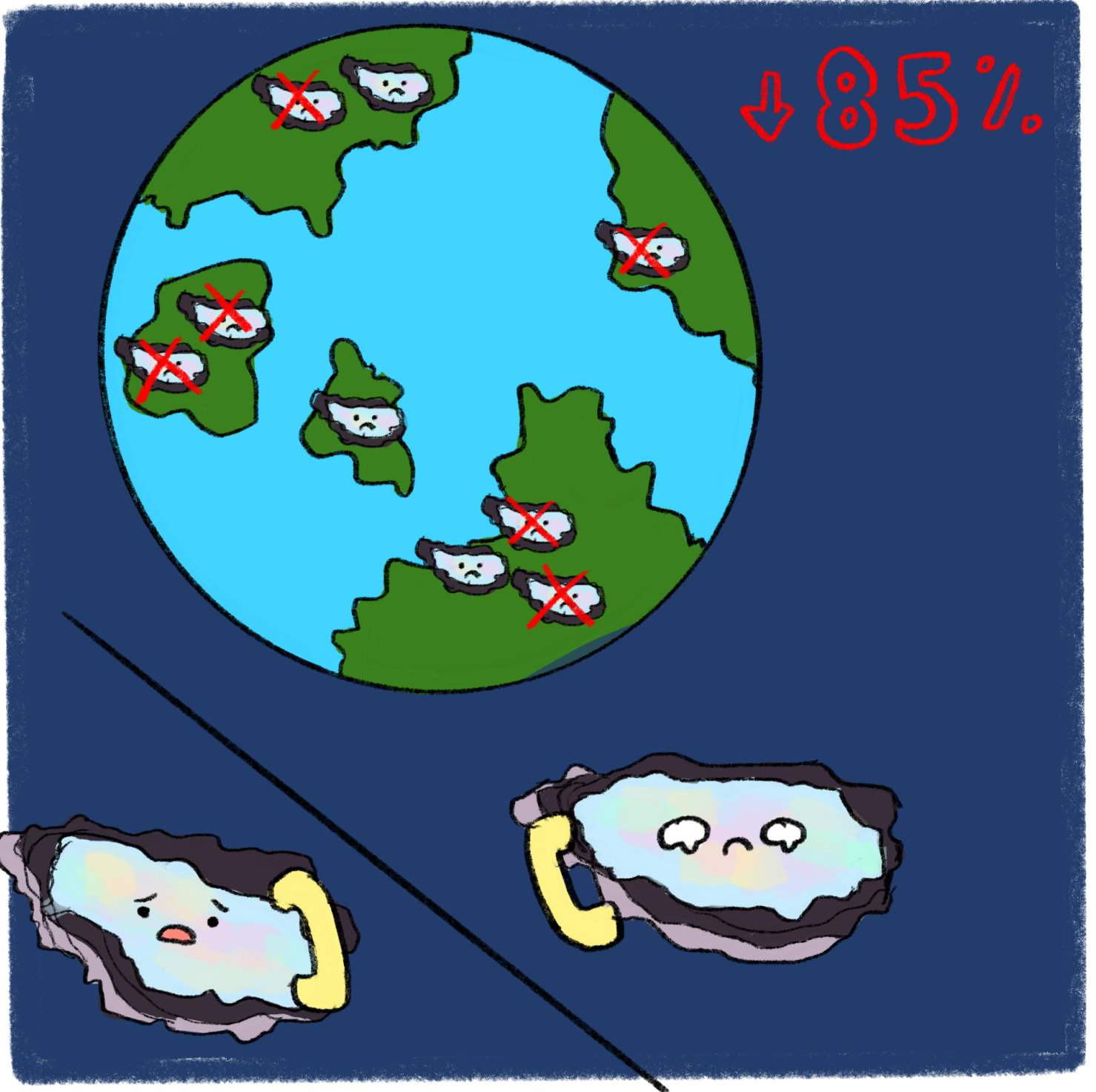


Everybody has a job in our community, and one of our jobs is to improve water quality and prevent **eutrophication**. Each of us can filter water up to 30 litres of seawater per hour by removing organic pollutants in the water! Aside from filtering water, we also help stabilise the shorelines and reduce the strength of big waves caused by storms.

共獻社會，人人有責。我跟我的蠔朋友是一個天然的過濾系統，減少海水中過多的有機物，防止「**富營養化**」，保持水質清澈。單是我一隻小蠔就可以每小時過濾三十升海水！此外，蠔朋友能鞏固海岸線，在驚濤海浪中作為防波堤。

What is eutrophication? Eutrophication is when there is too much minerals and nutrients in the water, causing a lot of algae to grow. This is bad because they take up all the oxygen in the water, which other species need to survive.

富營養化是什麼？當海水存有過度的有機物，污染水質，導致含氧量下降，變成一個動植物不能生存的環境。



But in recent years, I have noticed a lot of changes in our environment. There are less and less oysters in our oyster reef, and it is getting harder to breathe each day. This is because of the polluted water, coastal development and the over-harvesting of oysters.

A few months ago, I received a phone call from one of my oyster friends in another oyster reef. They told me that their oyster reef has shrunk a lot and they are scared that they won't have a place to live in. Sadly, this problem is more common than you think. There is an 85% loss of oyster habitats around the world, making oyster reefs the most endangered habitat today.

近年，我留意到環境的種種變化。蠔礁上的蠔朋友越來越少，而我呼吸時也越來越難。除了因為海水被污染，還有數不勝數的填海工程與人類過度捕撈我的蠔朋友。

數月前，住在其他蠔礁的蠔朋友致電給我，哭訴他們的蠔礁已經消失，現已無家可歸。可怕的是，這悲劇大家都難以倖免——全球百分之八十五的蠔礁已經消失，成為最瀕臨滅絕的棲息地。





I was really worried about my friends and the future that lies ahead of us. Luckily, TNC has helped restore some of our homes by using recycled oyster shells for new oyster larvae to settle in and grow new homes! I was very happy to meet some of my new neighbours and make more friends!

我十分擔心自己與蠔朋友們的將來。幸好，大自然保護協會幫助我們重建家園，利用回收的蠔殼來提供蠔苗新的安樂窩。能夠認識新鄰居，結交新朋友，令我心花怒放！



TNC can only do so much, we really need your help too!  
Although you may think that you can't do much, even the smallest actions can help us and the rest of the ocean a lot. Something as small as using less plastic, can improve our lives!

Did you know? About 80 percent of marine pollution comes from land-based activities! This is because the land and ocean are interconnected, pollution from the land travels to the ocean through streams.

Oysters have been living in Hong Kong for more than 700 years, and it would be really sad to say goodbye to all of you. If land and water are interconnected, that means so are we!  
Let's work hard together to save our home!

我期望大家的小小善舉，這個要求並不過分。別看小一個人的力量，你在岸上做的一件小事，絕對能影響偌大的海洋。簡單如減少生活中使用塑膠，便能進步提供蠔朋友生活質素。

你知道嗎？百分之八十的海洋污染是源自陸上活動！地海相連，息息相關，因此陸上污染，殃及池魚。

我和我的蠔朋友已經在香港生活了七百年，大家也不想告別。既然地海相連，也代表著人類與蠔的生存也是互聯的。請大家共同努力拯救地球！