

THE MUMBAI DIARIES

CHAPTER III: THE MUMBAI COAST

OCEAN
FOR
LIFE



OCEAN FOR LIFE:
The Mumbai Diaries
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Introducing Gotzon Mantuliz

Gotzon Mantuliz is a Spanish natural born adventurer, known for his popularity on social networks as well as for his collaborations with charitable causes in favour of the environment, and also for being one of the collaborators of the Spanish television show Operación Triunfo.

In the previous chapters of OCEAN FOR LIFE: The Mumbai Diaries by North Sails, we've seen how poor waste management allows plastic waste to wind up in the ocean during rainy periods or through rivers. Now, we want to discover the coast of Mumbai. Here, when Monsoon arrives, the place turns into a mess. 'What we give, eventually we get back' is a statement proving itself true here.

Local fishermen will explain to Gotzon how this area is characterized by intense tidal changes. 15 years ago, the tide would leave behind incredibly large amounts of fish and jellyfish on the ground. Now, it brings bags, bottles and plastic wrapping.

In this chapter, we will learn how surprising it is to see the fishing community coexist with plastic in a natural way, despite the health issues that its accumulation inevitably generates in the area, where abounding micro-plastics also float imperceptibly on the river-banks. Meanwhile, oceanic plastic pollution is estimated to kill millions of marine animals every year. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by it. The problem gets manifold with sea debris in the form of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear that greatly affect marine life, with reports of turtles entangled in ghost nets in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.

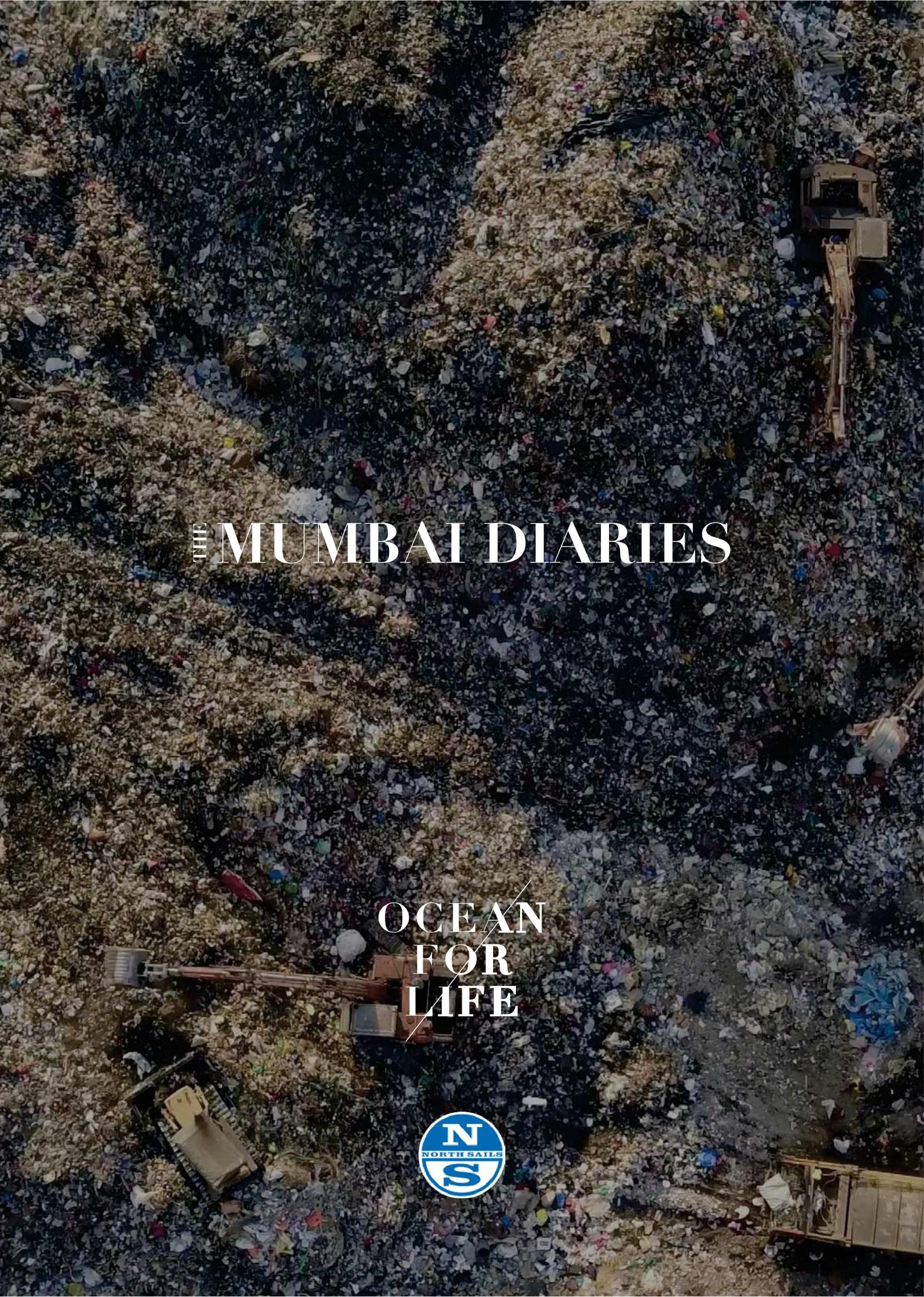
Following the coast of Mumbai, Gotzon will arrive to Chowpatty beach, one of the main beaches in Mumbai and a tragic mirror to the reality of our planet. The beach sees many clean-ups happening throughout the year: in just one day, cleaners can collect thousands of kilos of debris. But oceans move fast, and just as a dirty beach can be cleaned in a few days, so can a clean beach get dirty in less than a week.

Many initiatives are carried out to clean these beaches, but the key thing is ensuring that plastic does not reach the sea in the first place. The problem has to be eradicated at the root, through reducing, recycling and properly managing waste. Today we are in Mumbai, but this is a global problem, one in which we can all help, we can all make a difference. Discover this chapter, get inspired and spread the word... Ocean for life!

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