

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: Welcome to "Doing What Works: Exploring the Blue Economy," a podcast series that dives deep into the vast potential and challenges of the blue economy. I'm your host, Ashanti Blaize Hopkins, Interim Associate Dean at Santa Monica College's Center for Media and Design. Together, we'll navigate the uncharted waters of this exciting and rapidly growing sector.

Joining us on the podcast today is someone who has spent almost her entire career in Environmental Education and communication. She is an oceanographer, educator, activist, self-described mermaid, and a newly minted Doctor of Philosophy in Earth System Science. Currently, she serves as the Director of the California Center for Climate Change Education, based at West LA College. Jo Tavares, congratulations and thank you so much for joining us on the podcast.

Jo Tavares: Oh my gosh, Ashanti, thank you so much for the introduction. It's so fun to hear someone describe you know what you've done for, and I had forgotten about the whole self-described mermaid. That's right, I wrote that somewhere, didn't I? Man, the things we write around the internet. Yes, a self-described mermaid. I love it. I'm gonna reconnect with that. My sense of identity might need to be restructured again around the mermaid.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: So Joe, our first question for everyone on our "Doing What Works" podcast is always the same: Tell me your first job ever and what did you learn in that job that helps you do the work that you do now?

Jo Tavares: Wow, what a great question. It takes us all the way back to, oh my God, back when I was a youngster in Brazil. So, I'm originally from Brazil. I started my first job teaching English as a second language in Brazil to people of all ages, including little kids. And I did that, I think I was 17 when I started teaching. And I taught English as a second language through my college education, which was also in Brazil. I got my undergraduate degree in oceanography in the south of Brazil. I'm not from the south of Brazil; I'm from the Northeast. And that was a way for me to pay rent, you know, and support myself on top of scholarships that I got as a student of oceanography.

But wow, Ashanti, that made me like re-like rescue these memories now of me teaching tiny little kids how to speak English. Great, what did I learn? Huh. I think for me, it really helped me initiate this long commitment to education in general as a way for us to all really understand humanity, like this process of learning and teaching each other things, whether they are science things or language or whatever it is that you teach or learn, right? That process of exchanging information with another human being is so important as part of growing up, as part of being included, as part of being a community.

And so, for me, teaching English as a second language at that time was a gig that I did for money, but it was also a way for me to learn how to become a better person, a better human being, more a person that can be more patient, and who understands that by teaching others something that you know, you also learn in that process way more than what you even realize. So teaching for me has always been this opportunity to learn. I always feel like I get a lot more out of the experience. I learn a lot more than what I am giving, and I'm a good teacher, I should say. So I'm giving a lot, mind you. So, you know, you can then you can then gauge that I'm actually taking really a lot of goodness from these experiences.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: I can completely see that, and you know, I've been able to see some of the work that you've done, so I can completely see that through the line between where you started and where you are now. Going to where you are now, you are the first person to hold this position of Director of the California Center for Climate Change Education. Talk to me about this role and how critical it is for this Center to exist here in Southern California.

Jo Tavares: Oh, it's been such an honor to be the first director of the center. This center is really something that is very needed. It's an initiative that was spearheaded by the president of West LA College, which is the college that hosts us. It was an opportunity that that president was able to act on. Like, there was an opportunity for getting the funding, and he had a complete idea, vision for what he felt was needed. So that's President James Limbaugh, president of West LA College. And so there was an opportunity to get the funding, he knew that he wanted to do more for climate change. It's something that he has been championing for many years in the college where he's the president of. He had already initiated with faculty and with the amazing community that is present there because West LA College has really been a great place to work at. Everyone is just so collegial, and there's a sense of community and collaboration there that's really remarkable.

And so that community had already initiated a process of acting on climate by creating a climate studies program, which is an AA degree, and there's also a certificate degree dedicated to climate change, and it's the only one that exists in the nation at a community college level. It's really cutting edge. And so when the opportunity came up to fund the center, that president, in the, you know, with support from that, from the community in that college, was able to then put out the application really quickly and get funded to start that.

So that's kind of like the backstory, you know, like the creation story for the center. And we now have an opportunity to really co-create what we want to be moving forward, which is beautiful. We can really have conversations with the community, with students, with staff, and of course, with faculty, and really decide what it is that we want to do here that will help the cause, right? That will help us curb carbon emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, that will help us prepare the workforce for this new economy that we need to rebuild, to create, right? And what is it that we can also do that will significantly change the circumstances of what we call the climate injustice, right? Like, that's how we call it. It's the situation in which we have around the world, and here in the United States as well, that we know that the people who have been causing the problem, right, the folks who are responsible for the largest amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, they are not necessarily the ones paying the cost of it.

We know that folks who live in what we call frontline communities, low-income communities normally, that's going to be mostly people of color, women, the elderly, children, they suffer the effects of climate change disproportionately. And so that's one of the things that at the center we're able to now discuss, how can we address all those things in an integrated way.

So yeah, this is a long answer to tell you that I'm one, super happy to be the director of this Center, as you can see, I'm really excited about our mission. And two, I am inviting everyone who's hearing this recording right now to come, you know, if you have ideas of how is it that we can make this Center the most effective mechanism to address climate injustices, to promote climate action at a community level that will reverberate through, you know, the country, the world, come, come talk to us because we're in the process of building this together.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: You mentioned funding in part of your answer, and I want to kind of dig deep into that. Both the federal government and the state of California really seem to be going all in with funding the growth of the blue economy, and it's a term that many are really just hearing for the first time. Can you tell me what the blue economy means to you, and how this influx of funding might impact what you're doing at the center, and what is this funding supposed to support?

Jo Tavares: Absolutely. So let's define the blue economy. So, blue economy is a term that has been used to kind of match another term that people might have heard before, which is the green economy, right? So, we've kept hearing about the green economy, the green economy. That's sometimes also referred to like clean tech. There's all these terms floating around. And these are all terms related to this need to switch the way we operate, the way we do things. Our economies, our workforces, and our activities in

general, human activities, have to be realigned with a decarbonized world. We need to move away from the combustion of fossil fuels. That's the cause of climate change, the climate change that we are experiencing right now.

The planet has already warmed by 1 degree Celsius. Just this past summer, we had, we broke all records. We already surpassed the so-called 2 degrees Celsius threshold for warming, temporarily, right? So, on average, the planet has warmed one degree Celsius, but then from time to time, we might peak, we might go over the 2 degrees Celsius limit, and that's very worrisome. So, we know we're on this trajectory that in order to address this, we need to decarbonize our economies. We need to replace all the industries, and our daily lives need to be adjusted to the fact that we can no longer be combusting fossil fuels, right?

So, sometimes we hear people talking about the electrification of systems. That is one way to talk about it. There's more to it; it's not just electrification, but electrification is a big part of it. Of course, we already heard about EVs, right? Most people are already familiar with electric vehicles and how we're going to have to create a new infrastructure for that. Our houses and our businesses, our schools, our places of worship, they also need to be retrofitted to be able to be powered by alternative sources, so either solar or wind, right, but something else besides fossil fuel.

So, all this is going to require a massive adjustment, right? And we don't have a lot of time. This is going to have to happen really soon. So, that's the green economy. Now, the blue economy is its counterpart. It is doing all those things, or maybe I should say it is adapting all these same principles that I just described, general principles, to parts of the ocean or parts that are near the ocean.

So, for example, one of the very effective ways to generate electricity is by installing wind power farms offshore. So, those big windmills that we see, right, those turbines that we see, most of us are familiar with them on land, but really, a very effective way is to place them on the ocean. Some of them are floating structures. That's what was recently approved for the coast of California, the floating station, floating turbines. And then you have, in other places, the more traditional turbines that have to be actually attached to the bottom of the ocean.

So, all this infrastructure requires a workforce, because laborers, they're trained to develop these projects, to implement these projects, to maintain these types of infrastructure. So, we have that, that's kind of like the classic example. Then you have these emerging areas that we're still not sure exactly where they're going to go, but

they're really important in terms of research and development, R&D. And so, the blue economy would include that too.

We know that the ocean can serve as a source of energy in other ways. So, for example, wave energy, in certain ocean areas, can be done in a very effective and safe way. It's not something that can be done everywhere, but it's something that we should continue exploring. And then you have, you know, things that might not seem like they are helping to combat climate change, but they are if you learn a little bit more about them. So, for example, aquaculture, right? Aquaculture is something that most people don't think about as a solution for climate change, but it is. It's part of a group of solutions for climate change because it can actually serve to remove carbon from the atmosphere. If you are growing algae, for example, kelp or any other sort of algae, that's a direct connection. Like, these are photosynthesizers; they take CO₂ from that is in the ocean, and they trap the CO₂. So, if it's trapped in the plant, it cannot be in the atmosphere, warming up the planet.

And then if you have other organisms that will be growing, like, think of like oysters or mussels, then you can also have other benefits like cleaning up of the water and creating a chemical cycle, like we call the biogeochemical cycle. So, it gets more complicated. The more you study, the more, the deeper, sorry, pardon the pun, but the deeper you go into the blue economy, into the, we like it, it gets more technical, it gets more complex. It requires people to spend more time learning about it.

But everything that has to do with this new era that we're all embarking on, hopefully, that we can continue developing at a pace that matches the need to adapt, everything that has to do with this new era and that has to do with the ocean, we put that into this blue economy category. And for me, I'm personally really excited about it because my background is marine science, right? I am a marine scientist by training. You mentioned that my PhD, I just finished my PhD, I'm still celebrating, and that was, you know, that is with Earth system science and marine biogeochemistry. So, that's where we really look at all these connections between the ocean, the atmosphere, the climate of the planet, and how pollution can affect all these different parts of this, of these cycles.

So, for me, the blue economy is fascinating. As a scientist, I'm very curious about all the knowledge that is associated with these areas, but also, from a practical perspective, as someone who cares a lot about the planet, ourselves, I'm a mom. I love talking to people about ways to solve climate change because a lot of times, I talk to folks who are really just feeling really down and really discouraged. And so, the blue economy is an opportunity for us to talk about solutions that can be scaled up, that can be further developed. So, that's my personal motivation to think and discuss the blue economy.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: You work at a center that is based at a higher education institution. Why is it so important for the education sector to be intimately involved in the growth of the blue economy in California, and specifically in Southern California? And how important do you think collaborations between education, industry, and government will be in this space?

Jo Tavares: Yeah, and you had asked me about funding too. Absolutely. So, that collaboration is crucial, right? We will not be able to overcome all these challenges that we have to meet those deadlines. And, you know, we are hearing now there's an event happening right now in Dubai called COP 28, which is a really big deal. It's like the most important international conference dedicated to talking about climate matters. And we're hearing a lot of crazy stuff coming out of that meeting, like there's just a lot of talk that just does not match with reality.

So, one of the things we're hearing is that there's no scientific consensus on how we should go about dealing with the reduction of greenhouse gasses and these thresholds of temperature that we talked about. There's a lot of nonsense being said. So, back to your question, collaboration is so important because there are so many different aspects of this problem that we're not going to be able to solve with one area of expertise only, right?

So, for example, I'm bringing up this issue at COP 28 because we know that this kind of tactic that is used, this strategy that is used to confuse public opinion is a strategy that's been used over and over. It's on the playbook. It was used by the tobacco companies years ago, and now the oil companies are using it. It's called misinformation. It is done on purpose, right? And so, that, I bring that up because we need communication experts, people like you, Ashanti, people who are developing materials out there to counteract these paid misinformation campaigns. A lot of times, these are paid campaigns. They pay big bucks to marketing experts to confuse public opinion.

So, that's just one example, right? So, if you think about that, you can then go in every field because climate change is gonna affect everything we do in our human experience. And so, the same way is true the other way around. If you want to solve it, you're also going to have to tap into expertise from all different fields. You're going to need people with business degrees who are versed in climate change and climate solutions as well. You're going to need people who work with human health. You're going to need people who work with political science. It's not just about physical scientists, people like me who have a background in specific aspects of climate science. No, no, you're going to need everyone.

So, community college gives us an opportunity to have these two-way conversations with the community at large, right? We're closer to people than the other institutions can be. And there is this fact of urgency. We do have a deadline. It is informed by science. Do not believe anyone who says that, oh, that, oh, phasing out fossil fuel and it's not supported by, it is. We have reports, studies that have been written over and over. They just keep getting updated over the years. They're called the IPCC, the International Panel on Climate Change, where most, all these really fantastic scientists from all over the world come together and prepare this report.

So, we know we have to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by the year 2030 in order to stay under the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold that was something that we all humans agreed we would do many, many years ago, doing something called the Paris Agreement. It's like years ago, and we're way behind on this. And so, there's a lot of scientific basis for all of that.

So, going back to your question, we need these spaces, such as community colleges, where the public, the government, right, the public itself, the community, come together and really work on tangible ways to attain the reductions of emissions that we need to attain at a local level. And so, that's why. And then going back to your first question about funding, well, that's where the funding comes in. We're in a hurry. We can't be waiting for the regular pace of transforming the labor force that we're used to. We are going to have to kind of accelerate that. That's where the funding comes in. That's where community colleges come in. And most importantly, the collaborations.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: Clearly, educating the public about what's coming in regards to the blue economy is critical, but there's also a policy piece to this that is equally important, if not more so. Tell me, how do you see the ability to influence policy as a centerpiece to growing the blue economy in California?

Jo Tavares: Wow, that's a great question. So, yes, policy is one of those things that is, like you said, really important. It's tricky because most people, most everyday people, right, most of us, we don't feel like we have a great effect on policy. We, you know, like most of us, we don't see ourselves as policymakers, right, stakeholders, as we call in a policy space. But we are. We are, each one of us is. And if we understand the power that we have, especially when we are well-informed and when we can join forces with other well-informed members of our communities, then we understand, well, we really can make a difference in these policy spaces.

So, taking, for example, here in California, we have really interesting participatory systems in place in which people can take, from like going to their City Council meetings

all the way to actually giving feedback to state-level policymakers. There will always be processes which these policies have, by law, they have to be open for public opinion. And so, if you are able, if you have the time, if you have the means to join a group that is actively engaged in these participatory systems, that's a great way for you to make a difference right there.

There are many nonprofit organizations that you can join, and that will allow you to be, again, putting your efforts with other people's efforts, and so that you're not, like, you know, by yourself, like in a picket line, or not in a picket line, but like, you know, protesting by yourself. It's always better to, if you can, join a group. So, that's one way.

But, you know, it's really important that we understand that to solve climate change, we are going to have to reach a balance between individual actions, change in individual behaviors. They are going to be necessary, but they're not enough. So, of course, like, if you have the ability to, if you own a house, I don't. I still rent. I don't have the means to purchase a house yet, so that's something that I would love one day to be able to afford. I don't know if I will, you know, the economy being, um, not, not the economy right now. The economy right now is actually doing pretty well. But in general, like, in terms of the trajectories that we're seeing, uh, from generation to generation, we know that it's much harder around nowadays to purchase a home.

But if you do own a home and you have the means to install solar panels on your rooftop, great, go ahead and do that. If you have the means to switch your appliances and change your gas heater for an HVAC, you know, or heat pump, that's great, do that. If you can change your gas stove for an electric stove, do that. If you can bike instead of riding a car, if you can switch your car for an electric, those are all great things that if most people who have the means to do so, if the, you know, middle class, upper middle class can do that, that's great, especially in a country like the United States, it will make a huge difference, right?

But there are certain things that most of us cannot do, and we cannot do by ourselves. That's when we need policy change. We need the government and private firms, private companies, to also do their share in changing systems so that it's not so hard on individuals to be able to see the kind of emission reductions that we need to be seeing. We need to be working on two things right now. We need to be reducing the amount of emissions that we are putting into the atmosphere, but at the same time, we need to be investing in ways to remove greenhouse gasses that are already accumulated in the atmosphere. Just stopping the bad habit is not enough. We're also going to have to clean up the mess that we already made. And so, those two things cannot be accomplished by individual action only. They must be addressed by policies.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: LA County, we have 13 community colleges working together for what's called the Blue Economy and Climate Action Pathways project. This is an example of that education and industry collaboration. What's the main goal for the BCAP project, because I know that you were involved, and how do you hope to see this collaboration move forward for maximum impact?

Jo Tavares: Oh my goodness, what a great question. Yes, I was involved. I have to credit, give credit where it's due. I was invited to join this by the amazing Patricia Ross, Dean at Santa Monica College, a force of nature, right? Someone with an amazing vision. And then, once part of the group that was developing the proposal for this program, I got to work with other amazing people.

And this is a collaboration with an organization called ALASE, and they have been doing work in a space between private and public sectors, which is an interesting area to be working in. It's something that is relatively new to me, right? I don't have a lot of experience working in these hybrid spaces in which you have public and private companies working together. So, it's been a learning curve for me as well. But I have a lot of high hopes for this project because it will allow, for, you know, specifically focusing now, putting my community college director hat on, right, the 13 colleges that you mentioned are a part of this project.

The cool thing about it is it gives our community college students a lot of opportunities to learn and to experiment with possible career paths, right? I can tell you, from my own experience, there is no better way for you to understand what you want to be doing for the, not, not, I always tell my students, you know, don't try to figure out what you're gonna be doing for the rest of your life. That's crazy. You're, you know, that's just too much. But you do need to decide what you're going to be doing for the next five to ten years, right? You're going to have to pick something to be doing with your time. Not just to make money, most of us do need jobs because we need to pay the bills and all that good stuff, but on top of that, it is what you're going to be spending most of the hours of your day doing. And so, you might as well do something that you're excited about, right?

And so, it's really hard for us to understand what that means unless you try, unless you try a little bit on. And so, I can tell you, again, from my own personal experience, when I first started, I was, you know, teaching English as a second language in Brazil, and I was a student at this really tiny university in the south of Brazil. And I saw a poster, like a flier, that had an opportunity for an internship in a laboratory where they were looking for an undergraduate student to help with some phytoplankton samples. And I had never heard, I mean, I had heard of phytoplankton, but I had never actually understood what it meant to work with phytoplankton, you know? I went into oceanography thinking

I was going to study whales and penguins and all those things the marine scientists want to study, and, you know, you're young, like in your early 20s, you don't know what you're doing.

So, I had the really unique opportunity to start working in a lab really early on, and that was life-changing because it gave me a perspective that most of my classmates did not get a chance to actually, you know, explore. I understood what it meant really early on to be in that space, to do the day-to-day work. That's what I think the BCAP will give us, will give faculty, professors, an opportunity to expose community college students to an array of possibilities in terms of career development. And it will give students, hopefully, with, you know, the opportunities that we're going to be creating down the road, we're going to be creating internships, we're going to be creating apprenticeships, and just, you know, even if it's just field trip, like a day that you get to spend with these professionals. That is the kind of, like, horizon opening, or like, you know, like opportunity creation that we see in this BCAP project.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: dream state for the blue economy in the state of California, what would that look like for you?

Jo Tavares: Oh my goodness, Ashanti, you are asking all the good questions. These are so good. Oh my magic wand, hold on, let me actually look for my magic wand in my purse. I have one here. It's probably a mermaid magic wand. Well, you know, I'm a mermaid with some witch, witch, yeah.

So, all right, let me see. I think the first thing that I would like to see happen is for all the processes and all the systems that are created in this space, as well as in the green space as well, I just had a bunch of, like, thoughts, one after the other right now, but, you know, what we want to see, this future that we're co-creating right now, is the ability to have everyone participate in it, right? We want it to be as inclusive as possible. We want it to be as democratic as possible. And that takes work. That takes effort. It's not something that's going to happen just naturally because it is not, it's not something that the current systems are designed to be, right? The current systems right now are like this cutthroat, cutthroat competition in which there is no time for nothing, and you just keep, like, pushing forward, bulldozing over, like, any kind of, like, system that needs to be reinvented. Pretty much, what we need is to reinvent these procedures to be more inclusive.

So, with my magic wand, I would definitely prioritize projects that center communities that have been historically underserved, that have been historically excluded from these conversations that need to be happening. So, in the coastal space, of course, we know

that there are many Indigenous groups here in California that have been stewards of these lands for thousands of years, thousands of years. I don't know if people know this, but we've had, on the coast of California, we've had communities of ocean explorers that have lived here for really longer than the pyramids in Egypt have existed. So, we're talking about over a thousand years. I said thousands of years; it's about, you know, 1500 years that we know that we have records of these sea goers.

We have several communities that used to occupy the coastal land of California, and, you know, many of these communities, they're still around. That knowledge is still here. We still have lots of valuable knowledge, and these people need to be included in all these conversations. We are seeing progress. We're seeing more of an attempt by the state and federal government to include the voices of Indigenous groups in the decision-making process, but it is a process. It's going to take that. But with my magic wand, that would just create systems to make that easier, I guess, and to make that more robust, more robust systems of inclusion, I guess. I would be, my magic wand would probably be very busy all the time, combating greenwashing.

Okay, so this is another thing that we must talk about because it's important. A lot of times, we see projects or solutions or whatever, like investments that are presented to us as necessary or beneficial, and it turns out, in the end, when you look closer, they're not. They are what we call greenwashing. They are attempts to be either distracting us with something that looks good, while that same company is, on the other, is behind the scenes doing something awful, and they're using that cute little good project as a way to kind of just not let us see what they're doing in the, you know, in the back room. Or sometimes, they really are just something that, sure, it looks good, it sounds good, but it's not fully developed. It cannot be scaled, right, or it has, like, an extremely dangerous side effect that nobody's really talking about yet, or. So, there's a lot of that that still exists, and my magic wand would be, like, zapping them around, making them disappear.

Again, identifying greenwashing and then, like, having, bringing them up to light, making sure that these problems are understood by everyone, takes time. It takes investment. It takes science. And so, I guess those are the things that I would be prioritizing. And, and of course, all that is to always protect those that are most vulnerable and also the ocean itself. The ocean has been taking a huge toll. The ocean is huge, right? Covers over 70% of the surface of the planet, and we take it for granted. And the ocean has been really serving us in many ways that we don't even understand. Over, you know, 90% of the heat that has been created on this planet because of human activities has actually gone into the ocean. If it weren't for the ocean, the planet would already be boiling up. We would already be way past those thresholds because, um, like, 98% of the heat has

gone into the ocean, and that's affecting marine life and ocean currents and those biogeochemical cycles that I mentioned in many ways. The ocean is becoming more acidic, and that's also because of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. And then, of course, combine the effect of climate change and ocean acidification to overfishing and other forms of pollution, and really, the ocean has gone through a lot. So, my magic wand would go and ch-, clean everything up.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: What do you think is working well in California in terms of growing the blue economy, and what can other regions learn from what we're doing here?

Jo Tavares: That's a good question. Let me think. I think I would take as examples some of the coastal areas that have been restored, and I'll call out some wetlands and estuaries that have been managed recently because, for the most part, we've been destroying wetlands everywhere in the world, but especially here in California, we lost like, again, over 90%, that seems to be the number I keep repeating. I promise I'm not making this up. It's like, I think the number is like 95% of coastal wetlands have been lost over the years in California to development, something like that. But we've lost a lot of these wetlands, and wetlands are extremely important for several different reasons. They create a buffer system for when we have extreme weather events, which are going to be more frequent and more intense for sure, no matter what we do. We are going to have to deal with these events because of the heat that is already in the system. And so, when we hear about sea level rise, and when we hear about these storms that we get that are, you know, like when you have a big storm system that comes, that arrives, and it coincides with a high tide, like king tides, then you have flooding events. So, wetlands protect coastal areas and coastal residents from these, creating a buffer, right, from these extreme weather events. It filters the water, so it makes sure that the existence of wetlands can create a filtering system to clean water that's coming from wet, from watersheds, so from like urban spaces, for example, or farmland. It will filter that water so that it reaches the ocean in a cleaner state. And then most importantly, for us, for this conversation about climate change, they serve as a sponge for carbon. They actually lock, they trap carbon really well. They're very efficient at trapping carbon, what we do, we call it carbon sequestration.

So, I would say that the projects that I've seen in different wetland areas or estuaries around California are remarkable and worthy of celebration. So, I'll mention, for example, in the area of San Luis Obispo and north of here, we have Morro Bay, right? We, it's an estuary, and that has become the center of attention for lots of scientists and coastal managers, and they're doing amazing work there, restoring the native

population of oysters and really creating economic opportunities for people who live there. It's helping the water get cleaner. It helps the birds. It helps the fish. It helps the whole ecosystem by doing that.

And then here, more locally, I used to work for a nonprofit at Bolsa Chica, which is a wetland area in Huntington Beach. You also have, here near LA, you have Ballona Wetland. So, all these spaces in which you see people working really hard, sorry, in Newport Bay, you have the Newport Estuary. The Back Bay Science Center is located there. Lots of people are working really hard to restore these habitats, and I think that that's worthy of celebration.

Ashanti Blaize Hopkins: Jo Tavares, thank you so much for sharing your insights and your expertise with us, and thank you for joining us on this incredible journey through the blue economy. We hope this episode has inspired you to explore further and learn more about this vital sector. If you enjoy "Doing What Works: Exploring the Blue Economy," be sure to subscribe to our podcast and leave us a review. Stay tuned for more exciting episodes that push the boundaries of knowledge and open new possibilities. Until next time.

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