

Discussion questions for the Sixth Extinction for the November OPAS Book Club:

1. What was your overall impression of the book? Was it well written? Were the arguments presented easy to understand and convincing? Did the book deserve to receive a Pulitzer Prize?
2. Did you find what you learned in this book alarming?
3. How do you feel about the description of humans as "one weedy species"?
4. Did the book change your views on climate change, invasive species, or acidification of the oceans? Which of these do you think is the most severe threat, or is it something else?
5. Are there any signs of hope that the rate of extinctions will decrease?
6. How much effort should we expend to prevent a species from becoming extinct? Is there a minimum population size we should try to save?
7. Do you think that humans will survive the sixth extinction?
8. The graph on page 16 shows the way the number of species decreased during the first five extinctions. The planet eventually recovered from each of these events. Is it likely that the same will be true for the sixth extinction?
9. Will you make any changes in the way you live as a result of reading this book?