

SUSTAINABLE FISHING

WHY IS THIS A GLOBAL JUSTICE ISSUE?

Overfishing, as a response to the growing demand for cheap seafood, has forced local fisherman to travel farther to find viable fish stocks or board illegal fishing vessels for little or no pay. Due to climate change, the oceans of the world are facing higher rates of salt in the water- leading to less diversity and fewer fish. Fish that once seemed an inexhaustible source of food are now almost everywhere in decline. Human induced climate change has caused ocean temperatures to warm, sea level to rise, and storms to surge, forcing coastal communities to flee their homes and seek livelihoods elsewhere with minimal financial or international aid.

The world's misuse of the ocean's resources and the increasing output of carbon emissions has only exacerbated the presence of illegal ocean activities. In the words of author Ian Urbina "It seems prudent to consider not just the fish but also the fishers" when exploring the human consequences of sustainable fishing. Unfortunately, human rights violations occur not only on land, but also at sea. Human trafficking, corruption, exploitation, and other illegal violations, combined with a lack of policing and proper enforcement of international laws, is the deplorable reality of much ocean activity. This ever growing presence of human rights violations at sea and the direct and indirect mistreatment of the ocean go hand in hand.

The lack of enforcement, regulation and monitoring of the ocean is not a new theme. It has been a constant challenge to international bodies who hold some of the responsibility for ocean monitoring. The first step towards finding a solution to the abundant human rights abuses on the ocean is awareness. In this resource sheet, we have compiled some of the best resources relevant to the topic of human rights and the ocean. Sustainable fishing guarantees there will be populations of ocean and freshwater wildlife in the future. By reducing the intensity of fishing activities, we're helping to conserve the natural environments that we all depend on. A sustainable fishery is that it is one that is harvested at a sustainable rate, where the fish population does not decline over time because of fishing practices.

GLOBAL GOAL INDICATOR:

GOAL no. 14 – Life below Water

By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics: <https://www.globalgoals.org/14-life-below-water>

EDUCATIONAL TOOLKITS:

Questions to ask:

1. Are there enough fish left in the Ocean?
2. How can we ensure that fishing can continue indefinitely and the fish population can remain productive and healthy?
3. How can fishing activity be managed so that other species and habitats within the ecosystem can stay healthy?
4. What are the recommended sustainable practices for the fishing industry?
5. How can fisheries be encouraged to comply with the relevant laws and develop new ways of conserving marine resources for future generations?

USEFUL WEBSITES:

1. **Organisation:** Human Rights at Sea
Link: <https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/>
2. **Seafood from Slaves - An Associate Press investigation helps free slaves in the 21st century.**
This series was one of the first intensive investigations into the seafood industry, in the US and abroad. Over the course of eighteen months, four journalists with The Associated Press tracked ships, located slaves and stalked refrigerated trucks to expose the abusive practices of the fishing industry in Southeast Asia. The investigation has led to the release of more than 2,000 slaves, and the immediate reaction of major retailers and the Indonesian government. The four journalists won the George Polk Award for Foreign Reporting in February 2016 for their work.
3. **Organisation:** The Associate Press
Link: <https://www.ap.org/explore/seafood-from-slaves/> and <https://www.ap.org/press-releases/2016/ap-wins-pulitzer-prize-for-seafood-from-slaves-investigation>

Seafood Slavery – Human Trafficking in the International Fishing Industry

Organisation: Centre for American Progress

Link: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2016/12/15/295088/seafood-slavery/>

What is Sustainable Fishing?

Organisation: Marine Stewardship Council

Link: https://www.msc.org/what-we-are-doing/our-approach/what-is-sustainable-fishing?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIoLPX6dL25QIVVODtCh1GCQTNEAAYAAEgKDSvD_BwE

Sustainable Fishing Tourism: – when tourists pay professional fishers to show them what life at sea is really like – is an increasingly popular way of diversifying fishers’ activities. By following a regulatory framework and complying with legal requirements, this can help fish stocks and the marine environment, spread understanding of the sea and its traditions, and bring in alternative income for fishers.

Organisation: WWF

Link: http://www.wwfmmi.org/what_we_do/fisheries/transforming_small_scale_fisheries/sustainable_fishing_tourism.cfm

Why there is really no such thing as a ‘Sustainable’ fishery

Organisation: One Green Planet

Link: <https://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/no-such-thing-as-a-sustainable-fishery/>

The Environmental Justice Foundation

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is the UK’s leading charity for the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife. For over thirty years MCS has achieved major successes in protecting special wildlife, tackling sewage problems, helping the seafood-buying public, and influencing Government and industry.

Link: <https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/app>

WEBPAGES:

Sustainable Fishing (National Geographic)

Link: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/sustainable-fishing/>

Sustainability in Irish Fisheries

Link: <http://sta.ie/lesson/sustainability-in-irish-fisheries/>

ARTICLES:

1. **Article:** ‘Lawless Ocean: The link between human rights abuses and overfishing’
Writer: Ian Urbina
Link: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/lawless-ocean-the-link-between-human-rights-abuses-and-overfishing>
2. **Article:** High Seas, low deeds
Writer: Vanessa Baird (New Internationalist)
Link: <https://www.humanrightsatsea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/New-Internationalist-HRAS-Profile-Article-Sep-Oct-19.pdf>

SHORT VIDEOS:

The Environmental Justice Foundation has an array of videos on the repercussions of fishing our seas today and the human consequences

Link: <https://ejfoundation.org/films>

Fishing For Answers: What Is Sustainable Seafood?

Link: <https://youtu.be/Ck-qTntBXCu>

How important is sustainable fishing when it comes to what you eat?

Link: <https://youtu.be/pmnkSqsGMqs/>

DOCUMENTARIES:

Thailand’s Seafood Slaves – a short video about the human trafficking, slavery, torture, murder and human exploitation on Thai seas – documented by the Environmental Justice Foundation.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bo35uvxPXPw>

The End of the Line: The World Without Fish

Scientists predict that if we continue fishing as we are now, we will see the end of most seafood by 2048. Oceans without fish. Imagine your meals without seafood. Imagine the global consequences. This is the future if we do not stop, think and act. The film lays the responsibility squarely on consumers who innocently buy endangered fish, politicians who ignore the advice and pleas of scientists, fishermen who break quotas and fish illegally, and the global fishing industry that is slow to react to an impending disaster.

PODCASTS:

1. Protecting Our Ocean: Make Change Happen

Link: <https://www.iied.org/protecting-our-ocean-make-change-happen-podcast-episode-1/>

2. Will we really have fish.. forever? (Mark and Eav)

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an independent non-profit which sets a standard for sustainable fishing. Mark and new Climactic member Eav talk to Matt Watson, Senior Fisheries Manager.

In this episode you'll learn about how fisheries are being affected by marine heatwaves, and how changing ocean temperatures are affecting fishing grounds.

Link:

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cub21ueWNvbnRlbnQuY29tL2QvcGxheWxpc3QvZGQxYTAyYjMtNmNIMS00ZWm4LTk0NjQtYWY4YzAwMDQ3ZjA4L2UyMmM2ZTIxLWU5MTUtNDViZC04ZmY3LWFiZTkzMGI5ZGIyNy8xMGVjMGZIOS1kNTI0LTQyZGYtYmU5MC1hYmU5MDBiOWRiMzUvcG9kY2FzdC5yc3M/episode/MjRiYjYkNDUyZ2EzYy00ODE5LWI2MzItZDk4ZDE0ZTgwMTUz?hl=en-IE&ved=2ahUKEwiW4O-BidTqAhXTWhUIHXg9BX0QjrkEegQICxAI&ep=6/>

TEDTALKS:

Will the ocean ever run out of fish?

When most people think of fishing, we imagine relaxing in a boat and patiently reeling in the day's catch. But modern industrial fishing -- the kind that stocks our grocery shelves -- looks more like warfare. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Jennifer Jacquet explain overfishing and its effects on ecosystems, food security, jobs, economies, and coastal cultures. [Directed by Anton Bogaty, narrated by Pen-Pen Chen].

Link:

https://www.ted.com/talks/ayana_elizabeth_johnson_and_jennifer_jacquet_will_the_ocean_ever_run_out_of_fish#t-52938/

The Four Fish Were Overeating - And What To Eat Instead

The way we fish for popular seafood such as salmon, tuna and shrimp is threatening to ruin our oceans. Paul Greenberg explores the sheer size and irrationality of the seafood economy, and suggests a few specific ways we can change it, to benefit both the natural world and the people who depend on fishing for their livelihoods.

Link:

https://www.ted.com/talks/paul_greenberg_the_four_fish_we_re_overeating_and_what_to_eat_instead/

How I Fell In Love With Fish

Chef Dan Barber squares off with a dilemma facing many chefs today: how to keep fish on the menu. With impeccable research and deadpan humour, he chronicles his pursuit of a sustainable fish he could love, and the foodie's honeymoon he's enjoyed since discovering an outrageously delicious fish raised using a revolutionary farming method in Spain.

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_barber_how_i_fell_in_love_with_a_fish

BOOKS:

The Outlaw Ocean: Journeys across the Last Untamed Frontier

Author: Ian Urbina - an investigate reporter for the New York Times, a regular contributor to the National Geographic and member of the High Seas Initiative Leadership Council.

BLOGS:

Commerical Fishing: Methods Behind the Madness

Blogger: Gentle World for the Vegan in everyone

Link: <https://gentleworld.org/commerical-fishing-methods-behind-the-madness/>

What is Sustainable Seafood and Hoe do I choose it?

Link: <https://www.oceanicsociety.org/blog/2181/what-is-sustainable-seafood-and-how-do-i-choose-it-your-top-questions-answered/>

ACTION:

Individual Actions

- signing petitions and spreading awareness through social media platforms around sustainable fishing
- spreading awareness and starting conversations with friends and family
- Staring online new and information, connecting with youth activists around the world and empower people to do online petition regarding fish sustainability.
- Public speaking - speaking at event, during during street action and hosting debates on the topic.

Collective Action

Create Awareness

- creating awareness throughout school and your community through organised events, social media and educating people by creating change as a school unit about the sustainability of fish.
- Delivering talks/workshops to other classes, sharing information through assembles and displays about fishing and its sustainability.

Advocacy and Lobbying

- writing letters and emails to your local TDs and councillors to push for change regarding fishing sustainability.
- lobbying your government to support victims and threaten change
- invite local TDs and councillors to your school to talk about the sustainability and overfishing

Protests and events

- through action and events like protesting, marches and creating petitions can help spread awareness about overfishing and support sustainability.

A whole-school approach

- meeting with staff, students and management to agree how to incorporate fish sustainability, educational materials and action into school policies and classroom activities about it.

KEYWORDS:

Human rights abuses
Seafood slaves
Climate refugees
An inexhaustible resource
Ocean acidity
Marine life
Large-scale commercial fishing
Unsustainable fishing
Coastal fishing communities
Certified sustainable fisheries
Marine ecosystems
Blue MSC label/MSC labelled seafood
Certified sustainable seafood
Offshore fishing
Inshore fishing
Human rights violations
Human trafficking
Corruption
Human exploitation
Lack of policing
No proper enforcement of international laws
Mistreatment of the ocean
Sea level rise
Misuse of the ocean's resources
Increased output of carbon emissions
Illegal ocean activities
Human induced climate change
Overfishing
Viable fish stocks
Illegal fishing vessels
Lack of enforcement, regulation & monitoring
Abusive living conditions
Lack of safety and sanitation facilities
Abusive working conditions
Excessive overtime
Illegal deductions of salary
Scant laws
Frequently ignored
Environmental abuses