

M3 Cards “Fishing”

The depletion of fish stocks

Overfishing in our seas and oceans means that fish stocks are continuously shrinking. Fish are caught in large numbers, often before they have had a chance to reproduce, meaning stocks are not replenished.

Many fish which are not part of the target catch fall victim to fishing practices as ‘bycatch’. Worldwide, up to 40% of catches can be bycatch; in Senegal the figure is up to 75%.

Bycatch is usually thrown back into the water, but by this time it is already dead.

- What do you think about these facts? What do you feel as you read them? Can you think of any potential solutions? Imagine you worked in wildlife protection. Which arguments would you put forward to try and change things? What if you were conservationists, concerned with protecting the environment in general? How would you argue for change then?

International trawlers versus local fishing boats

Our seas and oceans have become the scene of intense competition, with international trawlers catching all the fish and leaving very few or no fish for local small-scale fishers to catch.

This forces fishers to travel further and further from the coast to find fish, as the waters near the coast are depleted.

Overfishing has led to an unemployment rate of 80% in the fishing sector in Senegal.

Many fish factories in Senegal have had to close down.

- What do you think about these facts? What do you feel as you read them? Can you think of any potential solutions?
- Imagine you are the children of a fisher in Senegal. How do you think you would feel about the situation? What impact might these facts have on your life?

Illegal fishing

Illegal fishing practices include catching fish using banned fishing devices, during periods when fishing is prohibited or in conservation areas. Other instances involve catching species of fish for which the fisher does not hold a licence or catching too many fish.

Not all states strictly monitor their fishing fleets. International maritime law contains enough loopholes for those operating illegal fishing vessels to escape detection and punishment.

Estimates have put the proportion of illegal catches in West Africa at 37%.

Senegal loses 300 million US dollars per year due to international trawlers fishing illegally.

- What do you think about these facts? What do you feel as you read them? Which do you think are the key problems here?

Fisheries agreements with the EU

In 1979, Senegal became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to sign a fisheries agreement with the EU (then European Community). Its fishing industry collapsed due to overfishing and the agreement was not renewed in 2006.

In 2015, the EU and Senegal entered into a new agreement which permitted the EU to fish (mostly for tuna) in Senegalese waters using up to 38 fishing vessels in return for payment of 8.69 million euro.

Local fishers were not involved in the negotiations leading up to this agreement.

- What do you think about these facts? What do you feel as you read them? Do you think it is acceptable to leave

local fishers out of negotiations of this kind, or not? Why do you hold this view?

- Imagine you are fishers from Senegal. How do you think you would feel about this situation?



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

EduSkills+
Reflections

This project has been funded with support from the European Union. The author exclusively is responsible for the publication content. The publication does not reflect the views of the European Commission and the European Commission is not responsible for usage of the data contained therein.

© 2018-2020 eduskills.plus



All contents of this website, in particular texts, pictures and graphics, are protected by copyright. Unless expressly stated otherwise, copyright is held by eduskills.plus and is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution - Non-commercial - Distribution under the same conditions 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/). They may be subject to the terms of the license.

URL: https://eduskills.plus/modules/interconnected_world/sustainable_consumption