Worksheet: Overfishing – Review

Task 1:

Solutions to overfishing issues:

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| --- | --- |
| Change mesh size of nets so small fish can escape | Have a minimum landing size allowed punishable by fines |
| Use of fishing permit or license – only give out so many. Perhaps could be traded | Use satellite surveillance to catch illegal fishing |
| Provide reimbursements for fishing vessels that are transferred to other uses eg. Whale watching boats instead of whale catching! | Restructure industry in areas dependent on fishing eg. Offer retraining or early retirement schemes for fishermen |
| Make fishermen pay a large fee for license to discourage small inefficient boats | Use marine reserves to allow fish to recover in certain areas |
| Invest in better fishing technology – fleet modernization. | Have a quota system and TAC (total allowable catch) punishable by fine |
| Invest in fish farming techniques | Invest in BRD technology“Bycatch reduction device” |

Highlight the following solutions above in different colours for each:

**Using technology to protect juveniles and breeding stocks**

**Restrict amount each boat can catch**

**Reduce number of fishing vessels**

* Which of these solutions are in use in the Bahamas?
* Do they work? Why or why not?

Task 2

<http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/FSPOL/AG5.php>

Using this website “1d. European Common Fisheries Policy” on stpgeography website, outline the positives and negatives of the **Common Fisheries Policy** in Europe.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Positives of CFP | Negatives of CFP |
|  |  |

Task 3

News article: BBC

**New nets could end fishing quotas: Fishermen throughout the South West of England are bracing themselves for the outcome of the latest fishing quota talks.**

The talks will decide what they can catch, where they can catch it and when.

Fishing quotas force fishermen to throw any extra fish over the side or be prosecuted.

But some believe an experiment they are taking part in could make quotas unnecessary.

**Controversial system**

As Fisheries Minister Huw Irranca-Davies prepares to debate the quotas in Europe, fishermen in Brixham hope a new type of fishing net that dramatically reduces the number of fish they have to throw back into the sea could lead to the end of the controversial quota system.

Fishermen and politicians are frustrated by the current Common Fisheries Policy that gives trawler crews strict quotas on what they can catch. They must throw away any extra fish or face prosecution.

"This is perfectly good quality fish and the Common Fisheries Policy says it has to be returned to the sea dead," says Rick Smith, a fisherman for 35 years who runs Brixham Trawler Agents.

With the wasted fish running into hundreds of tonnes, the practice is frustrating fishermen and damaging fish populations.

**Net trial**

But in Brixham they have done more than simply moan about the problem. They are using a new net with bigger holes as part of a Government-backed experiment to reduce what the industry calls "discards" or dead fish that have to be thrown back.

The larger mesh size means the juvenile fish aren't caught in the first place.

The trail has only been going six months but already one crew has reported a 67% reduction in the amount of dead fish they have to ditch at sea.

"It's opened a lot of people's eyes," says Darren Edwards of net-makers Langdon & Philip. "Before, everyone just though fishermen were arrogant and went out to catch fish and that was it.

"There's a lot of negativity towards beam fishing because of the way they think the fish is caught, the damage you do to the seabed, and the juvenile fish you catch.

"The fish you've got to chuck back is usually dead so that's why we thought it would be better to make a bigger mesh trawl and avoid catching the fish in the first place."

"I would get rid of the quota system because that is the destruction of the fishing fraternity. If you have a quota system where ultimately the fish become extinct, you don't have any fishermen."

"Our best attempts to reduce the size of our fleet have been largely neutralised by the constant development of new more powerful technologies which, though unavoidable, invisibly increase the harvesting capacity of modern boats," he says.

He also added “At the very least we should stop French and Belgian boats trawling inside Britain's 12-mile limit as the French authorities are not as strict as ours and they therefore have a competitive advantage”

**Too many fishermen, Too few fish**

1. **What are the disadvantages of the quota system for fishermen and for the environment?**
2. **What are the political problems with protecting fish stocks?**

**IB question: Evaluate a case study of a conservation policy implemented to provide sustainable fish yields. (10)**