

# **A DETAILED RESEARCH ON THE OVEREXPLOITATION OF FISHING AND ITS POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE; WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FISHING LAWS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Our globe struggles and experiences have led to significant effect on some ecologies and biospheres as a result of the changes in society's lifestyle, the growth of urbanization, due to excessive consumption, and human waste. We are aware of how crucial the ocean is to the functioning of the planet and life on Earth. For example, the ocean regulates global weather patterns, cycles carbon (acting as a biological carbon pump) and sequesters it (acting as a carbon sink), and contributes nearly half of the planet's annual primary production. Human society depends on the commodities and services provided by marine ecosystems, yet ongoing population expansion and increased per capita consumption have a number of possible negative effects, including overfishing to satisfy demand and human-accelerated climate change.

Our oceans cannot sustain the level of fishing we are doing given the increased demand for seafood and the steadily growing global population. The world needs to pay attention to the problem of overfishing and the lethal bycatch of marine animals in some fisheries today. Although there have been many talks between overfishing and the loss of biological diversity, many people also perceive the decline in biodiversity as a sign of an impending crisis. The worldwide fisheries disaster, however, is very pertinent to the issue of biological variation. The factors of overfishing and its environmental risks are explained in length in this paper, with a particular emphasis on the countries that have engaged in the practice for a very long time. Three species, potentially the very first global marine fish extinctions brought on by

overfishing, are Critically Endangered (Potentially Extinct). This article has also been able to examine the existing International frameworks to address this issue and has produced useful policy recommendations. Our results suggest that fisheries and conservation specialists will typically agree on the condition of exhausted marine fishes, having left only the issue of the appropriate management actions to be done for species of shared concern.

**Keywords:** Overfishing, International law, Sustainability, Corporate Accountability.

## INTRODUCTION

Overfishing occurs when too many fish are caught all at once, depleting the breeding stock beyond its ability to recover. Overfishing frequently coexists with inefficient commercial fishing practices that bring in enormous quantities of undesired fish and perhaps other animals that are later abandoned. Nearly a third of the world's examined fisheries are currently in serious difficulty as a result of sustained and widespread overfishing, and that number is likely to be underestimated because so many fisheries are yet unstudied. Even with several preventive laws we can still see the prevalence of overfishing, controlling and enabling proper structure of fishing forms the need of the hour making fishing more sustainable.

One of the main causes of population decreases in ocean species is overfishing. Overfishing, which occurs when boats catch fish more quickly than stocks can restock, fishing is not necessarily detrimental for the ocean. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the number of overfished stocks worldwide has tripled in the past fifty years, and today, more than one-third of the world's evaluated fisheries are being exploited beyond their biological capacity. Bycatch, or the capturing of unwanted marine life while fishing for a different species, is directly related to overfishing. This is also a severe marine threat that results in the unnecessary extinction of thousands of sea turtles and cetaceans, as well as billions of fish.

Overfishing hurts more than just the marine ecosystem. Fish is a major source of nourishment for billions of people worldwide, and for millions of individuals, fishing is their main source of income. Fish catchers, sellers, and buyers are among the many people fighting to change how the world maintains and conserves ocean resources. With a focus on sustainable methods

that not only preserve ecosystems but also sustain livelihoods and provide food security, WWF collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders to change fisheries management internationally.

Regrettably, there is scant to no law to stop this behavior in the majority of nations. Most places lack any kind of oversight, particularly in international waterways. The main causes of overfishing's out-of-control growth are ignorance about the problem and its consequences. The fact that only 1.5% of oceans are designated as protected areas—and even then, fishing is still permitted there—additionally contributes to the convenience with which fishermen are able to disregard any attempts at rules.

Over the past few decades, more and more people have been striving for smaller and smaller fish in the ocean as a result of rising global population, increased commercial fishing efficiency, and a rapid expansion in globalization of the fishing sector.

Sadly, 85% of the world's fish stocks are thought to be strained, declining, or even dead, which is bad news for our oceans. In response to pollution, overfishing, and other environmental problems, the journal *Science* has forecasted that, if current trends continue, the globe would probably run out of seafood by the year 20482. Such a doomsday scenario can easily be avoided if humankind acts decisively right away to manage the world's fish reserves sustainable and resilient for future generations.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported in 2020 that one-third of all fish populations are overfished and that another roughly 60% cannot tolerate any increases in fishing. Overfishing is one of the biggest hazards to the ocean. In the meantime, the U.N. notes a decline in biodiversity, with sharks, marine mammals, and other species that are similar to them facing a 33 percent extinction threat.

## CAUSES OF OVERFISHING

Overfishing has a few reasons, but the main ones include rising human demand, subsidies, ineffective fisheries management, and a lack of protective measures. Some cause of overfishing are as follows:

### ***1.Mismanaged Aquaculture:***

The absence of effective managerial control and appropriate governmental restrictions has long been a burden on the fishing business. Verification of commercial fisheries has also been quite difficult. When it comes to reducing fishing capacity to levels that are sustainable, the laws and restrictions in place today have been found to be ineffectual. Additionally, the open seas are most impacted. In particular, there aren't enough fishing laws on the high seas. Additionally, the current laws are typically not followed. The majority of fisheries management organizations are unable to implement fish quotas as recommended by science. Additionally, it's not always possible for customs authorities and fish merchants to confirm that the fish entering their nation was caught legally.

### ***2.Inefficient Fishing***

The employment of nets, fishing techniques, and other fishing equipment that catch fish in such large quantities that they become endangered is considered unsustainable fishing.

Additionally, it might involve catching marine life besides fishes in the process. By-catch is the term used for the rejected animals. They are also known as "Discards" since they are typically obliterated and dumped into the ocean. Turtles, cetaceans, juvenile fish, sharks, coral, and seabirds may all be discarded. Brittle stars, crabs, starfish, sponges, mollusks, sea urchins, and warmth were among the invertebrates that might be collected, killed, and returned to the water.

Sometimes fishermen also catch little fish, denying them the chance to develop and procreate.

### ***3.Activities Related to Illegal and Unreported Fishing***

Poaching, capturing more fish than is permitted, and fishing outside of the season are all examples of illegal fishing practices. As per WWF, illegal fishing contributes to up to 50% of some fisheries' total catch and roughly 20% of global capture overall. By-catch (as discussed in the previous section) and trawling are two unregulated fishing methods that cause severe harm. Trawling is the practice of collecting fish by scrubbing the ocean floor. One of the main reasons for the devastation of marine environments is this behavior.

#### ***4. Food and Financial Needs***

The quantity of fish that fishing businesses bring ashore is mostly influenced by market accessibility and consumer demand. The number of people on earth has multiplied numerous times over the past century. The demand for food and seafood has consequently increased dramatically. These elements, when combined with the commercial goals of the fishing industry, have forced fishermen to kill a greater number of fishes than the ocean can replenish.

#### ***5. Governmental Subsidies***

Subsidies, also referred to as the financial assistance offered to the fishing activities by international governments to defray operating expenses, aid in keeping these sizable businesses afloat and exacerbate the issue. Subsidies cause fishing vessels to be overcapacity and skew production costs, allowing fishing operations to be persistent when they would otherwise fail. According to estimates, the current global fishing fleet is up to 2.5 times larger than what is actually required.

## **THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT OF OVERFISHING**

Overfishing in the ocean, or the taking of marine life at numbers too large for species to repopulate, has long been a cause for concern among scientists. However, efforts by world leaders to undo the harm have remained at a standstill for the past 20 years.

The start of widespread overfishing in the seas is known to marine experts. They also know when anything will go wrong if it isn't addressed. Here are some of the overfishing's most pressing problems, from its harm to biodiversity to the patchy performance of mitigation measures.

#### ***1. Imbalance in the Marine Ecosystem***

The long-term effects of targeted fishing for important predators like billfish, tuna, and sharks are ecosystem disruption. Below the food chain, there are more tiny marine species as a result. This ultimately has an impact on the ecology as a whole, leading to problems like an increase in algae growth. The health of corals is also harmed. One of the biggest risks to marine life is

bycatch, which is connected to overfishing and results in the needless extinction of large fish populations as well as other marine creatures like turtles.

## ***2.Bycatch***

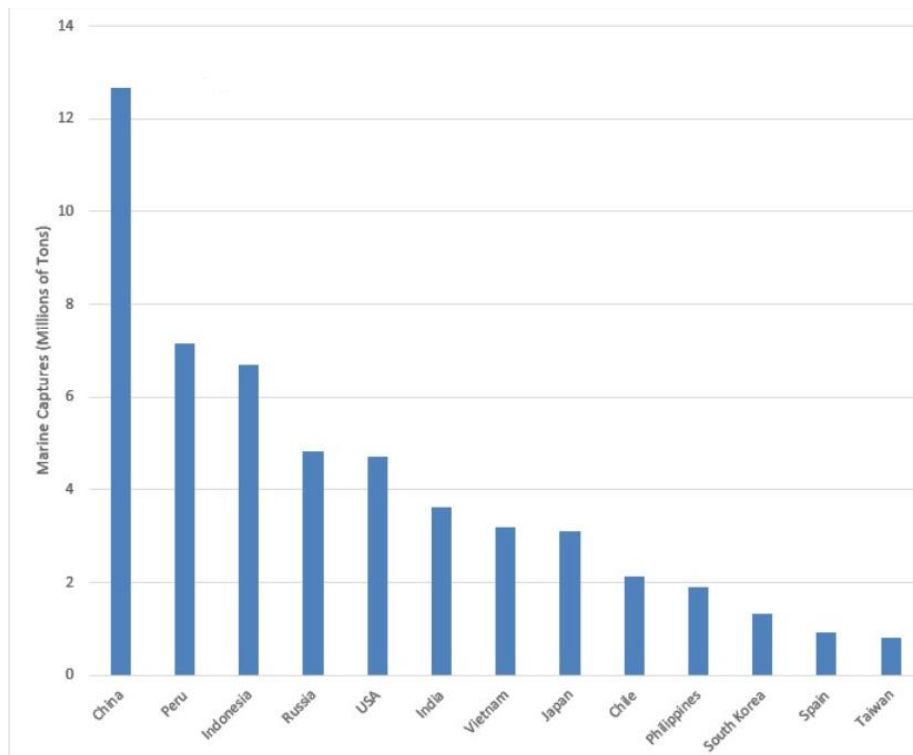
Aquatic creatures that are dragged up by people fishing for vast quantities of fish are often released to the ocean, only to perish from injuries. Unintentional capture of several kinds of aquatic life occurs frequently while fishing; those animals are known as "bycatch." For instance, sharks are particularly vulnerable to exploitation or becoming bycatch. Creatures lower on the food chain frequently suffer when huge predators are eliminated from the environments they help to control. Bycatch is frequently dolphins, sea lions, and turtles. Due to overfishing, more than perhaps one all rays, sharks, and chimaera species are currently in danger of going extinct.

## ***3.Impact on Socio-Economy***

Around the world, fishing is a major source of income and food for millions of people. For a long time, the oceans have been providing us with enough seafood, but this is not anymore the case. Over the past few decades, unsustainable fishing methods and overfishing have depleted the oceans' fish stocks. And this has had an impact on many people's daily routines and means of support. The fishing business is in danger of failing because there are no more valuable fish in the oceans to catch.



## WHO IS OVERFISHING?



*Figure*

The majority of world fishing is done by a handful of countries (Figure). It is now possible to evaluate fishing industry and fisheries using a novel method that was made possible by recent advances in artificial intelligence and satellite data. This method allows for a much more accurate estimation of fishing effort around the world at the level of specific vessels than was previously possible. In recent years, new technology have made it possible to follow individual vessel behavior, fishing activity, and other features in almost real-time by using Global Fishing Watch (GFW) database, which uses automatic identification systems (AIS) and vessel monitoring systems (VMS).

According to AIS databanks, the majority of fishing activity is carried out by ships flying the flags of higher-income countries, with 86% of it being attributed to Japan, China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Spain in that order, and only 3% to lower-income countries, both in marine area and on the high seas. The Pacific Ocean accounts for 61% of all fishing activity, followed by the Atlantic Ocean (24%) and the Indian Ocean (14%). For all countries except China, there is a clear discrepancy between disclosed marine captures shown in Figure and the ranked order

of fishing effort, indicating that correct fishing data are not yet available and that many semi, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing actions are taking place.

Vessels identified by elevated overseas nations were not just dominant within their own exclusive economic zones (EEZs), as well as in the EEZs of relatively low nations, where they managed to capture the vast bulk of fish to the disadvantage of local fishing industries. This is substantiation of the incredible inequities in the fishing industry. Maritime crime may rise when local fishermen resort to piracy and attempting to smuggle to survive as their local fish catches decline below what is economically viable as a result of these foreign fishing vessels.

## **COUNTRIES FEIGNING IGNORANCE**

Policy drafting and proper legislation of those policies which are being laid down forms the most effective way to curb this menace of overfishing but as we can clearly see no country is interested in drafting policies that is beneficial for the environment, countries like China, Indonesia, Peru , India etc.. has been on the top of the list.

### ***China***

China is a large nation with over 95% of their population consuming meat and their meat consumption is the highest in the world . They consume 30% of the total meat that is produced , this data shows us how vast the country is and the consumption pattern of people . The seafood consumption of China is record high. Over 45% of the global seafood is consumed by China , with more stomachs to feed China is now illegally fishing in other countries' territory and violating numerous international conventions. Estimates of the total size of China's global fishing line vary extensively. By some computations, China has between,000 and,000 fishing boats, counting for nearly half of the world's fishing. The Chinese government says its coastal fishing line, or vessels sailing far from China's seacoast, number about 600. Still, other studies similar to this one by the Institute of Overseas Development( ODI) put the number closer to 000, numerous of which are unnoticeable, like those detected by satellite data in North Korean waters. By comparison, the. US. Coastal fishing line has smaller than 300 vessels, this means the Chinese fishing boats are scavenging around resources of other countries and depleting their resources as well . Being the largest seafood consumer of China , the third of all seafood



is consumed by China . Chinese fleets can be spotted in Latin American countries and even the deep coast of the Australian bay . The technology accompanying their fleet sizes makes the Chinese vessels massive. These large vessels scoop up as many fish as they can in one week and these fishes they catch in one week account for the fishes caught by the fishermen in Mexico or Senegal in a year . The most caught seafood by China is squid and nowhere at sea China is dominant than in squid fishing . On average over fifty to seventy percent of total squid caught internationally is by Chinese fishermen , this means they control over half of the squid sold internationally and over forty percent of the squid caught by Chinese vessels are exported to countries like the US , England etc.. How they catch squid is an important question to ask, a method widely criticized by conservationists and animal activists - usage of trawling nets which is stretched between two vessels , a practice which not only destroys sea bed but also creates massive amounts of bycatch which are dumped away either killed or injured . The squid breeding ground has been a major ground where we can see Chinese intrusion , the overfishing of squid in chinese waters has led to little or no squid left in their seas this makes the Chinese fleets explore other options - intrusion into other countries' territory . Over these years China has intruded the waters of several countries including North Korea , China has been sending invisible armada boats into North Korean water forcing the local fishermen out of business . North Korean territorial water had an abundant squid population but with the Chinese intrusion there has been a decline of over 70 percent . These ghost boats have lead North Korean fishermen to venture to Japanese territory for squid but their vain search for squid has become unsuccessful

### ***Indonesia***

Nearly half of Indonesia's fish stock is obtained through overfishing , the country struggles to catch fishes to meet its target . Indonesia is one of the six countries that lies in the Coral Triangle, an area in the west of the Pacific Ocean. This area is threatened by extensive overfishing and illegal fishing and wildlife trade which is threatening the survival of the country as well as its people . Being the world's largest archipelago the country has over sixteen thousand islands. The country is renowned for their rich marine biodiversity and with several kilometers of coral reefs stretching from far and wide has been an area thriving with marine life . But with the changing climate and overfishing the story has turned the other way , once filled with lustrous life is just a barren ocean . With the marketing of fishes abroad the

overfishing or as we can call it destructive fishing has led to massive ecological problems in the country. With the global demand for seafood at an all time high the fishermen are exploiting the sea excessively and bluefin tuna is the most overfished in the sea food category. Bluefin tuna is considered as top predator in the marine food chain and the growing demand for this has led to severe overfishing of bluefin tuna . Indonesia's combined overcatch of bluefin tuna is 232.76 tonne and this has caused a perilous situation not just in Indonesia but also the whole world .

Illegal fishing has a major role to play in the depletion of the ocean . The Minister of Maritime Affairs of Indonesia stated that the illegal fishing in and around Indonesia has caused a loss of nearly three billion dollars , these illegal boats mainly come from neighboring countries like Malaysia , Philippines , China etc... The vessels from these countries exploit the serene coral reefs .

With several other countries in this list, what we can say is that the way these countries exploit the oceans is an act which not only sabotages the future of the planet but also the survival of human beings as a whole.

## **SEA SLAVERY**

The lawless ocean where who's laws prevail is never a question, This often- dystopian realm where laws that do exist are ignored because there is no one to implement them . This has led to overfishing , environmental abuses, illegal dumping and these are very closely connected with human rights that are getting violated in these thousand vessels . Think about the dangers that millions of people who work on one of the thousands of illegal fishing boats on the high seas face. Every three days, at least one ship perishes in the world. Private security forces operating at sea are a \$20 billion industry, and when mercenaries commit murder, governments hardly ever intervene because no nation has jurisdiction in international waters. The complex environmental threats that humans are responsible for pose no bounds. This crisis is urgent, and it is. Fleets from Spain, China, South Korea, Taiwan, and other nations are at the center of an illegal seafood trade that is thought to generate \$160 billion in annual sales and operates with essentially impunity on the high seas. Over the past ten years, the trade in illegal fish has

increased as technology advancements like stronger radar, larger nets, and faster ships have made it possible for fishing vessels to exploit the oceans with impressive efficiency.

In several countries this is very evident, in Thailand where this abuse is seen commonly. Here men and boys from Laos, Cambodia, or Myanmar are offered a job in a construction company as a contract worker or any other lucrative job, with a humongous amount of money they have to pay for Visa then they are trapped by these human traffickers. After reaching the country the worker quickly learns that he will actually be working on a fishing boat and not in the construction industry. The debt the worker accumulated is used to sell him to the fishing boat captain when he gets to port. These young men and boys are occasionally held captive at sea for a number of years before being either released or escaping. With increasing demand for seafood big corporations are looking for cheap labor and they obtain these cheap laborers from countries through the method mentioned above. Since 90% of all the goods we consume are transported by ships, we all benefit from the lawlessness on the high seas. Additionally, the commercial channels are typically unaffected by rules and regulations because they are usually not governed by the government. We now have access to products that are absurdly affordable and arrive on our shelves very quickly. Our reliance on the ocean is profound; it provides 50% of our oxygen and 70% of the protein consumed in some coastal communities in Asia and Africa. All of these wrongdoings, including environmental crimes and violations of human rights, are caused by a fundamental issue: there is inadequate regulation of maritime activities, particularly on the high seas.

## **USING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS TO COMBAT OVERFISHING**

By defining state-managed fisheries within the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and fisheries outside the EEZ on the high seas, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides a framework for fisheries regulation. It provides for species that migrate between multiple EEZs and high seas, such as tuna, fish that cross between EEZs and high seas, and fish that migrate between saltwater and freshwater, such as salmon and eels. Finally, in order to manage and conserve fish in the high seas, nations must work together. Policy and regulatory structures that link the government with corporate actors, as well as guiding concepts, define modern fishery governance.

Fishery governance is governed by both national and international conventions as well as prevailing social norms. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the "only source of worldwide fisheries and aquaculture statistics" on a global scale. The gathering and analysis of data on how countries manage their fisheries responsibly and sustainably across the globe informs this resource. By fostering greater cooperation in the administration of fisheries resources, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement surpasses UNCLOS. It offers recommendations on how countries should collaborate to professionally contact migratory fish stocks and emphasizes the significance of RFMOs (Regional fisheries management organizations).

International organizations known as RFMOs usually concentrate on the environmentally sound management of all fisheries resources or a specific species within a given region. Although RFMOs offer data on corporate actors, their information is frequently lacking or difficult to obtain since they establish shell firms that hide business actors, they do not always disclose vessel ownership, and/or they do not disclose public vessel registries.

Within the Indo-Pacific, there are nine RFMOs:

1. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
2. Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program
3. North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
4. Pacific Salmon Commission
5. International Pacific Halibut Commission
6. Ocean South East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum Of understanding
7. Inter American tropical tuna commission
8. Convention on the conservation and management of pollock resources in the central bering sea
9. International Pacific Halibut Commission

## USING INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION TO COMBAT OVERFISHING

Due to the expectation that deep-sea fishing would continue to be unprofitable, the UNCLOS agreement of 1982 did not include any protections for this industry. However, the unsustainable consumption of this fragile environment is the result of a combination of new harvesting methods and national subsidies. Technologies like learning algorithms and satellite data via GFW and AIS, which are starting to reveal previously hidden aspects and economics of high-seas commercial fishing, also have a positive impact.

Six nations (China, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Spain, and South Korea) are responsible for 77% of the world's high-seas fishing effort, according to a study on the profitability of high-seas fishing based on data from 2014. The study looked at information at the vessel level, including ship dimensions, capacity, gear, engine power, trip-level fishing, flag state, speed, and other variables that affect fishing costs. This information was compared to the entire high seas fisheries catch and its landing value in US dollars. 64% of the revenue from high-seas fishing was generated by five of the aforementioned nations: China (21%), Taiwan (13%), Japan (11%), South Korea (11%), and Spain (8%).

Governments employ subsidies to lower fishing costs and maintain the industry's viability; yet, they are causing overfishing due to overcapacity. The elimination of fishing subsidies will almost completely end high seas overfishing and spur international agreements (such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets) to confront capacity-enhancing subsidies.

An agreement will be sought to manage fishing subsidies to enable fishing more sustainable, eliminate IUU in high seas, and forbid subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing during the upcoming 12th Ministerial Conference WTO meeting in late 2021. How to maintain the overall goal of ocean sustainability without affecting the food safety and livelihoods of underprivileged and vulnerable artisanal fishermen in emerging and least developing countries WTO members has proven to be one of the most challenging problems.



## CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

To understand the crux of the issue of overfishing we need to look into a very major contributor of overfishing - Big corporations , their accountability . An investigation conducted by The Guardian revealed how big business exploited the sea for big fish in turn giving them big money . The vast expanse of seafood is being controlled by big corporations ie 40% of the total seafood is being controlled by 13 companies . If you ask someone for the name of a food company, they probably won't name a seafood company. How many of you have heard of Red Chamber Group, the world's leading shrimp trader? Or Mowi, which is the largest producer of farmed salmon? But the big fish companies are no small fish. They control a global industry worth more than \$400 billion annually, provide about 20% of the world's animal protein production, and provide employment for 60 million people. Awareness about these companies forms the challenging part. They are the main culprits of the oceans being industrialized and destroying the habitats of marine life , which is absolutely decimating the world's marine fauna. Plastic has been the greatest destructor of small-scale fisheries, the collapse of global fish stocks and the ocean pollution crisis. They also contribute substantially to the changes in the environment, especially that of the sea. The industry benefits from generous government subsidies , widespread corruption and labor exploitation. They do most of this under the radar, which means no public scrutiny or attention. Industrial fishing has destroyed the ocean , it has emptied the sea and sea life and wildlife population and several marine species are being threatened with extinction

Only one percent of the ocean actually protected from encroachment by people ,the rest 93% of our sea population are being heavily overfished , this essentially means the fishes cannot produce and there are not a lot of “fishes in the sea”

These big business houses have failed all of the people. Not only do they aim to make huge profits, they do it by completely destroying the environment in a way that its competitors cannot use it , this practice has been going on for a long time and the government has failed to address this issue . The governments across the world are giving more subsidies to these big companies just so that their economy grows . This shortsighted government objective has cost us both lives and destruction of marine life .

The Future of fishing and protection of marine environment depends on one word - Accountability



Ensuring that the companies and local fishermen don't overfish forms the thrust and the need of the hour . Ensuring that the fish caught doesn't come with a bycatch is also very important . How to ensure that these companies don't overfish ?

Establishment of Fisheries management council - Fisheries management council refers to a council which is responsible for preventing overfishing . They will set a certain target for fishing, this means that the fishermen cannot fish over the prescribed limit , this is done through the best available science about the stocks and breeding seasons of various fish .

These councils are formed to manage all the fishery and they need to check whether the fishes caught are below the limit prescribed . This includes the seasons length , qualitative control etc.. The major objective this policy is trying to bring is the proper use of technologies and sustainable fishing

## **POLICY SUGGESTIONS**

### ***Management Of Fisheries***

Manage fisheries more simply - Conflicting instructions from the several authorities involved in fishery resources, as well as a lack of communication between them, make monitoring and enforcement difficult and have an influence on compliance. For the purpose of minimizing the issues associated with acting in isolation, it is important to integrate fishing tactics into larger planning and governance frameworks.

Close geospatial management gaps - The spatial coverage of bottom fisheries and other species is only partially provided by protected marine areas, fishing bans, and RFMOs; tuna protection is largely complete.

### ***Protection of Fisheries***

1.Continue to push for the PSMA's ratification and implementation from all flag, market States, coastal, and port in efforts to prevent IUU fishing.

2.Established national Maritime Fusion Centers that can interpret MDA data on crimes involving fisheries, environmental dangers, and incidents at sea, and that can combine this data to produce fresh intelligence for law enforcement and decision-makers.

3. In order to safeguard fisheries and boost regional stability, persuade other countries to pursue cooperative Shiprider agreements with other similar partners and allies.

### ***Finances and Employment Practices in the Fisheries***

1. Implement the small-scale fisheries (SSF) recommendation to enhance SSF actor support, policies, information, and communication. To strengthen fisheries management within the perspective of the blue economy, this involves boosting financial assistance for this sector.

2. In order to protect a natural resource for those who rely on seafood for their nourishment and livelihoods, put greater pressure on the World Trade Organization to abolish capacity-enhancing subsidies and terminal networks that encourage unsustainable fisheries practices.

3. Reroute public funds that are currently being used for capacity-enhancing subsidies that exacerbate issues with resource exploitation to advantageous subsidies that encourage resource conservation and better management, or to expand economic potential in other sectors for locals in fishing communities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Government subsidies to the fishing industry continue to pose a serious obstacle to reversing this alarming trend. According to a global survey, nations spent \$22 billion in 2018—a 6% increase from 2009—on allegedly harmful subsidies that support overfishing. Ensuring proper legal and economic support given to the organizations combating overfishing is the need of the hour. Subventions that support activities that would not otherwise be profitable, like covering the fuel costs for industrial trawlers, are considered harmful. For instance, over the last ten years, countries like China are increasing the already subsidized fishing industry. China has subsidized this industry by over one hundred and five percent, a very threatening move by the country to change marine life just so that their economy will grow. Members of the World Trade Organization have been debating how to restrict these subsidies since 2001, but there hasn't been much progress. And even though the United Nations promised to reach a deal by 2020, that date has passed without a solution.. It's uncertain whether nations will muster the political will to carry out. However, it is evident to scientists that this is only one of many steps that are essential to saving the world's oceans. A strong international commitment is necessary

to fight the menace of overfishing . Understanding the consequences of overfishing and enabling fishermen to use methods to fish in a more sustainable manner . Creation of organizations to promote this cause and initiating awareness campaigns is the need of the hour. What we need right now is not just mere acknowledgement by the government that overfishing exists but what we need right now is a proper system of government regulation that helps us to not just protect marine life but also to sustain the resources for the next generations .

