



NATURE_AND_SOCIETY2021

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Introduction:

- Our oceans have been over fished for the past decade and it is just coming to light.
- Because people cannot see under the ocean, a survey shows that they are still in a misconception that there are bountiful amount of fish in the ocean.
- Which is far from true rather most of the fish species in our oceans are depleting some at the brink of extinction.
- If species were caught at the same rate as in the oceans on land then there would have been mass protests around the world but in this case hardly some people know about this.
- According Nat Geo scientists expect seafood to oceans to be almost fish less by 2048
- Fishing practices are also declining the populations of marine mammals, turtles, sharks
- Fishing garbage is also one of the largest contributors to plastic pollution in oceans.



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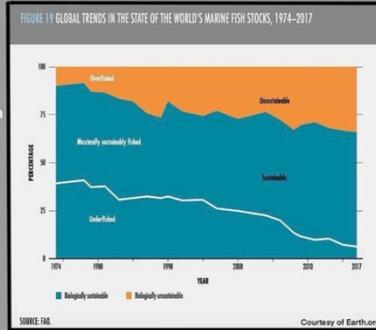


Impact

-Overfishing can impact entire ecosystems. It can change the size of fish remaining, as well as how they reproduce and the speed at which they mature.

-When too many fish are taken out of the ocean it creates an imbalance that can erode the food web and lead to a loss of other important marine life, including vulnerable species like sea turtles and corals.

-According to Natural Geographic, seafood might be gone by 2048 if humans continue to fish at the current rate



-Corals and kelp in oceans play a huge role in recycling the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into oxygen but erratic fishing methods such as bottom trawling are uprooting these systems

- Bycatch is thrown back into the sea which pollutes the oceans.

-Nets get lost in sea and form a significant amount of plastic waste in water bodies furthermore fish get stuck in such loose nets.



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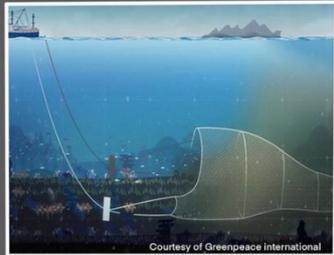




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Causes:



Overfishing

- Overfishing is a situation where one or more fish stocks drop below predefined levels of acceptance by fishing activities
- This leads to imbalance in the oceans bio-diversity the extreme impacts of which we are yet to see but one of them can be the breaking of the food chain
- Erratic methods of fishing such as bottom trawling and cyanide fishing are one of the biggest contributors of depleting fish populations.
- Such methods also create a lot of bycatch. Bycatch means catching fish species that you have not intended to be caught
- If you think farmed fish are sustainable they are not instead are another major contributor as the food for the farm fish is sourced from fishing other fish.

Subsidies and poor regulation of shipping vessels

- Despite plummeting fish stocks overfishing is accelerating around the globe, encouraged in part by \$30 billion in annual subsidies for fishing boats, fuel and other assistance, with the biggest subsidies found in Asia and Europe.
- Subsidies, or support provided to the fishing industry to offset the costs of doing business, are another key driver of overfishing.
- Subsidies can lead to overcapacity of fishing vessels and skewing of production costs so that fishing operations continue when they would otherwise not make economic sense. Today's worldwide fishing fleet is estimated to be up to two-and-a-half times the capacity needed to catch what we actually need.
- There also a great need for proper fishing laws that limit the amount of catch a ship can carry also decreasing the amount of fishing vessels that enter fishing grounds.



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What can we do about it?

- Gather knowledge about overfishing and suggest to stop more trawling
- Educate and spread the word to everyone
- Make to have a smart consumer choices and Suggest governments to set science-based catch limits for all of its managed species
- Work together to protect and revive the marine ecosystems
 - As a consumer, make a difference, you should only buy sustainably certified fishes by knowing if it has been sourced correctly within safe limits before bought.
 - As a consumer, you can help by eating less of the fishes which are overfished. This will cut down the demand for overfished and vulnerable
- Advice to eliminate subsidies to reduce the incentive of fishing such huge quantities
- Advocate for top down strategies to reduce overfishing
- Know bycatch intensity of certain fisheries is believed to have decreased in recent years due to the wider use of selective fishing gear and best practice fishing techniques



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A blind eye: The truth about our oceans

By Rohan Karmarkar

The UC Davis Press

Our oceans have been overfished for over a decade, yet it is just now becoming apparent. Overfishing occurs when the acceptance of one or more fish populations by fishing activities falls below predetermined levels. Despite the fact that humans are unable to see under the waves, a survey has revealed that they nonetheless maintain the illusion of having a large number of fish¹. Because the majority of fish species in our waters are dwindling and some are on the verge of extinction, the aforementioned assertion is far from accurate. There would be massive protests throughout the world if the species were taken at the same rate as creatures trapped on land.

Unfortunately, in the case of overfishing, individuals are scarcely aware of the problem. According to Nat Geo experts, by the year 2048, seafood will be devoid of fish². Marine mammals, turtles, sharks, and a variety of other species are all declining as a result of fishing. According to research, fishing trash is one of the most significant sources of plastic contamination in the oceans. Furthermore, the nets become dislodged in the sea, contributing to plastic pollution and trapping fishermen in their frayed ends. This condition causes an imbalance in the ocean's biodiversity, with extremes yet

to be seen, but even one such event might destabilize the food chain. Erratic fishing practices such as bottom trawling and cyanide fishing are major contributors to declining fish populations and bycatch. Bycatch happens when fish species that aren't intended to be captured are caught by mistake. Furthermore, bycatch is thrown back into the sea, contributing to ocean pollution.

People frequently believe that farmed fish are sustainable because the farmed fish eat other fish. Despite declining fish populations, overfishing is at an all-time high throughout the world, aided in part by \$30 billion in yearly subsidies for fishing boats, fuel, and other support, with Asia

and Europe receiving the most subsidies. Another significant driver of overfishing is the support offered to the fishing industry to offset the expenses of doing business. Subsidies can lead to overcapacity of fishing vessels and skewing of production costs, allowing fishing operations to continue even when they are not profitable.

The global fishing fleet now is projected to have up to two-and-a-half times the capacity required to catch what we need. Proper fishing rules are desperately needed to limit the quantity of catch that a ship may transport while also reducing the number of fishing vessels that enter

¹ "What Is Overfishing? Facts, Effects and Overfishing Solutions." WWF, World Wildlife Fund, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/overfishing.

² Roach, John. "Seafood May Be Gone by 2048, Study Says." *Animals*, National Geographic, 4 May 2021,

www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/seafood-biodiversity.

the fishing zones. Overfishing has a negative influence on entire ecosystems. It has the potential to alter the size of surviving fish, as well as how they breed and develop. When too many fish are removed from the ocean, a polarity is created, which can destroy the food chain and result in the extinction of marine creatures such as turtles and corals. Corals and kelps perform a critical role in recycling carbon dioxide and converting it to oxygen³ in the water, but bottom trawling and other fishing tactics are uprooting these natural capacities.

To help alleviate this predicament, the very least we could do is gather information on overfishing and prohibit

more trawling for the sake of mankind. Suggestions include adopting science-based catch restrictions for all of the government's controlled species. As consumers, we should only buy sustainably certified fish, knowing that it has been sourced responsibly and within acceptable limits. Additionally, reducing the consumption of overfished fish would reduce demand. Moreover, we should advocate for the elimination of subsidies to lessen the motivation to fish in such large amounts.

Let the fact that we cannot see under the oceans not blind us towards these devastating facts and let's rise up together to combat this global issue.

³ Hulda, et al. "Webpage Footer for the Coast News Group." *The Coast News Group*, 21 July 2015, thecoastnews.com/kelp-forests-are-one-of-the-most-productive-ecosystems/.

Works cited

1. "Avoid Overfishing ." *Seafood Watch.org*, www.seafoodwatch.org/seafood-basics/sustainable-solutions/avoid-overfishing.
2. Hulda, et al. "Webpage Footer for the Coast News Group." *The Coast News Group*, 21 July 2015, thecoastnews.com/kelp-forests-are-one-of-the-most-productive-ecosystems/.
3. Roach, John. "Seafood May Be Gone by 2048, Study Says." *Animals*, National Geographic, 4 May 2021, www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/seafood-biodiversity.
4. "What Is Overfishing? Facts, Effects and Overfishing Solutions." *WWF*, World Wildlife Fund, www.worldwildlife.org/threats/overfishing.

Reflection:

Why did I choose my specific genres?

While choosing genres, I tried to choose genres through which I could maintain continuity yet were quite different in their nature and format.

The first genre I chose was digital art. The subject I chose for my composing in multiple genres assignment according to me is one that should be addressed globally. Thus, I felt that art was a genre that is not restricted to any language for conveying the desired message. The second genre was an Instagram post. Like forementioned, I chose a subject that has an effect globally. In recent years the impact of social media in bringing about change has been huge. For this reason, I was sure that I wanted to do a genre based on social media. An Instagram post was the perfect fit as I could give enough information with the correct visual aid to bring about the desired impact. The final genre was a newspaper article. Both my other genres were more visual based which were not very content heavy. A newspaper article fit the content heavy genre perfectly as it was written or printed with almost no visual aid.

Do the genres I chose differ in nature? If so, how?

I think that digital art, Instagram post and newspaper article are quite different genres in their nature.

According to me digital art is the most visual in its nature that the rest, with the Instagram post coming second with some visuals and then the newspaper article finally having some or no visual aid. As for being content heavy that is written or direct content the newspaper article fits the description as for the digital art it has a few sentences.

Do I feel that some of the genres I chose were closely related? How would I have changed this?

While choosing genres, I tried to choose genres through which I could maintain continuity, but I don't think any of the genres chosen are too closely related. I use the digital art that I made as a cover picture in my Instagram post. However, in the Instagram post it holds the same position as a obtained picture and is not the genre in its entirety. Also, some of my content in the newspaper article overlaps with the content in the Instagram post but this is inevitable as both are based on the same topic.

How did the impact change from genre to genre? Which one did I think was the most and least impactful?

I think first I need to address what would have been my desired impact, for me I think effectively conveying the message (stopping overfishing and educating people about its adverse effects) I have chosen to people not just in one country but globally as I think this is a global crisis which needs to be addressed in that manner. I think how this impact changes from genre to genre is that some of the genres have some restrictions. For example, the genre that I think is the least impactful is the newspaper article this is because the article is in English which even though is an internationally known or what you would say "a global language" is not known by a lot of people especially those who go on the ships which are carrying out these overfishing practices thus fails to create intended awareness. That is, I would say one of the few flaws of the newspaper article is that it is restricted to one language until someone takes the effort to translate it. On the other hand, the genre I think is effective is digital art. This is because it is a genre that is not restricted to any language and is a genre that uses emotion instead which is universally the same.

What was the biggest challenge in this assignment?

The biggest challenge for me in this assignment I think was sticking to the genre formats. Especially in the genre of the Instagram post I struggled hard to decrease the written content to try making space to put more visual aid like graphs and pictures. This I think was also reflected in my peer review where some of my comments were about this mistake. The comments mostly addressed the part where in my first draft I had more written content than pictorial representation. Another challenge I faced while making the digital artwork was that I had to put visual cues so that the reader or the audience would not perceive it incorrectly. I struggled in bringing out the actual message to the forefront.

What is a significant lesson I learnt during this assignment?

An important lesson I learnt during this assignment was that a particular message can be delivered through various modes of communication. While this is true it is necessary to consider the format of the genres and the intended purpose of your text while choosing the genre for delivering your message. In addition to this I also learnt that methods of communication don't have to be written or verbal, they can be a picture, an artwork or even a comic strip.

How does this assignment differ from the ones done in the past? Was this beneficial? If no, then why not?

This assignment first differs in nature from other assignments in this course where we had to produce three individual texts whereas in the others only one was asked to be produced, keeping in mind that the time allotted was also significant than the rest. Another way in which it differed was that we had the choice of choosing the genres we wanted. This was beneficial because the fact that we chose the genres gave us the drive to create better results than what we would have obtained on a regular assignment. It was also beneficial in the sense that we could experiment with different modes of communication rather than the boring old essay.

If I had more time on this assignment, what would I do differently?

If I had more time to complete this assignment, I would have definitely added more features to artwork and also would have tried experimenting with color schemes, a chosen one that fits perfectly for the effectiveness of the piece. I would also have tried to reduce the overlap of content that exists between the Instagram post and the newspaper article.

How will this assignment carry into other classes?

In all honesty I do not know how the genres I selected will carry into the other classes that are required for my major but if nothing one thing that will carry into other classes is the ability to try fitting the format of the genres asked to produce. Also I will be able to mold my content in accordance with the respective genres.