

**Story #1 (1-minute read) – To catch a fish or not catch a fish**

There are a lot of fish in the ocean, but sadly, they are disappearing. As the world population is growing, more and more fish must be caught to satisfy the demand for food, especially in our coastal communities. But fish is a finite resource, and the fish cannot reproduce fast enough to keep up with the demand. Yet people who are professional fishermen also need a job and are not necessarily willing to cut back on the volume of fish they catch. There is a conflict here between what humans need versus what is best for the ocean.

What really is a fish, anyway? In 1818, a New York City jury declared that whales were fish, which means that whales also fall under the category of too many fish coming out of the water due to overfishing (Wills, 2017). But a professor from Columbia University spoke to the judge and said that whales are not fish but mammals, which means we should question the accuracy of the court ruling since it is not based on scientific facts. Another person questions why it even matters, as all creatures that live in the ocean should have some sort of conservation protection.

In northwestern Mexico, a few communities have decided to get together and do something about the shrinking fish population. They have decided to create micro-conservation areas to protect species such as tuna, turtle, and grouper. The Mexican government has not been helpful, as they have been encouraging unemployed workers to become fishermen. And the local fishermen were at first concerned about the local

whale population, but now upon learning that the whales were friendly to the small boats in the water, the fishermen are now making money bringing tourists to see the whales. Ecotourism is a growing industry that is now causing less local people to catch fish and having outsiders learn the importance of keeping the living organisms in the ocean (Peschak, 2017).

### **References**

Kolbert, E. (2015). *Field Notes from a Catastrophe - Man, Nature, and Climate Change*. Bloomsbury USA.

Peschak, T. P. (2017, August 15). Baja California's Recipe for Saving Fishing Communities. Retrieved August 19, 2017, from <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/09/baja-mexico-marine-conservation-tourism-fish-sharks-whales/>

Why Don't We Consider Fish Worth Saving? (2017, May 11). Retrieved August 19, 2017, from <https://daily.jstor.org/why-dont-we-consider-fish-worth-saving/>

### **Related Sustainable Development Goal**

Goal 1: No Poverty

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities