

# OCEANS AT RISK



**Teacher resources - Lesson plan**



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## Australian Curriculum Objectives

### Years 5 & 6 (Stage 3) - English

- [AC9E5LY05](#)  
Use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning to evaluate information and ideas
- [AC9E5LY04](#)  
Navigate and read texts for specific purposes, monitoring meaning using strategies such as skimming, scanning and confirming

### Extension Activities

- [AC9E5LY07](#)  
Plan, create, rehearse and deliver spoken and multimodal presentations that include relevant, elaborated ideas, sequencing ideas and using complex sentences, specialist and technical vocabulary, pitch, tone, pace, volume, and visual and digital features
- [AC9E6LY07](#)  
Plan, create, rehearse and deliver spoken and multimodal presentations that include information, arguments and details that develop a theme or idea, organising ideas using precise topic-specific and technical vocabulary, pitch, tone, pace, volume, and visual and digital features
- [AC9E5LY06](#)  
Plan, create, edit and publish written and multimodal texts whose purposes may be imaginative, informative and persuasive, developing ideas using visual features, text structure appropriate to the topic and purpose, text connectives, expanded noun groups, specialist and technical vocabulary, and punctuation including dialogue punctuation







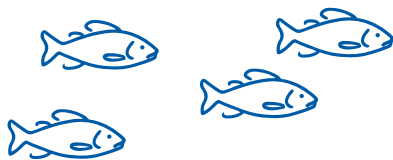
In this 40-60 minute lesson for learners aged 10+ students consider how the ocean is essential for life on earth. Learners discover how the oceans are at risk from overfishing, and discuss what they can do about it.

### Key terms

- Overfishing
- Decline
- Livelihoods
- Ecosystem
- Species
- Marine populations
- Sustainable fishing
- Marine Stewardship Council

### You will need

- Access to the clip [Overfishing](#)
- Printed or shared digital copies of the Oceans at Risk factsheet pg 5 - 6



### Key questions

- What does the ocean mean to us?
- Why is the ocean essential to life on earth?
- What does 'overfishing' mean?
- How can we help prevent 'overfishing'?
- What does sustainable fishing mean?
- Why is maintaining our marine ecosystem important?

### Class Activities

- Learners watch a video to understand the concept of Overfishing
- Learners read a factsheet about our Oceans at Risk and write creative responses on how to prevent overfishing
- Learners participate in a memory activity surrounding key words
- Write a narrative piece about The Northern Prawn Fishery (Extension Activity)
- Learners present their ideas on how to prevent overfishing and protect our oceans (Extension Activity)





# LESSON PLAN: OCEANS AT RISK

## Starter (5-10 mins)

Introduce students to the concept of **overfishing** by showing students the video clip [Overfishing](#) (2:55) from the short film [My Dad the Fisherman](#).

Discuss as a class

- *What does overfishing mean?*
- *What impact does overfishing have?*



## Main activity (30-40 mins)

Learners read through the Oceans at Risk factsheet (pages 5 and 6) and work in groups of 3 to 4 to answer comprehension questions. After reading the factsheet and answering the questions, come up with a definition for **overfishing** and consider what **sustainable fishing** might mean.

Here is an example definition of overfishing:

*When a certain species of fish (usually one which people like to eat most) are fished too much they are unable to reproduce their numbers and begin to decline.*

In groups, learners brainstorm creative ideas on ways to prevent overfishing and protect our oceans. Individually, learners reflect on these ideas in a half-page written response. Reflections should be creative and communicate the learner's ideas effectively.

## Memory activity (5-10 mins)

Write a word relevant to the lesson on the board (for example, sustainable). In groups, learners take turns coming up with another relevant word that starts with the previous word's ending letter (for example, ecosystem). Points are assigned to the length of words (1 point for words with 1 to 4 letters; 2 points for words with 5 letters or more). The group with the most points at the end of the 5-10 minute activity wins!



## Extension Activities



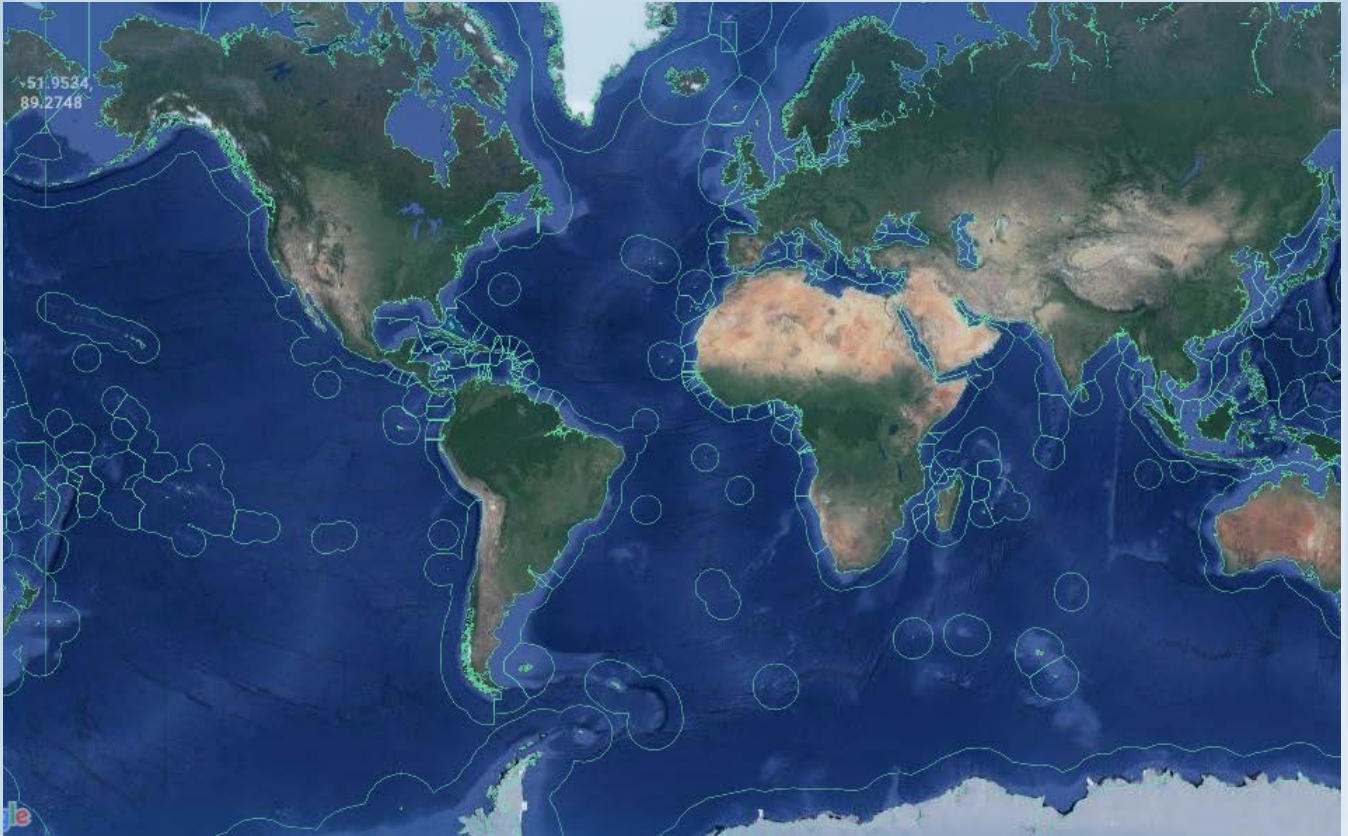
1. Show students this 9-minute video [Born Free. Caught Wild](#) (8:40) about a sustainable prawn fishery in Northern Australia. The Northern Prawn Fishery is an example of a sustainable fishery that is certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Learners will write a short creative story about The Northern Prawn Fishery. Learners should consider what the narrative perspective of the story is. For example, is it written from the perspective of the workers at the fishery or perhaps even the prawns?
2. In groups, learners present their creative ideas on how to prevent overfishing and protect our oceans. Learners use a variety of elements to support their ideas including graphs, images, digital and/or print sources. Presentations should be a maximum length of 5 minutes. Learners write a short reflection on how using supporting elements (such as imagery, graphs and other sources) is helpful to convey ideas.







## OCEANS AT RISK FACTSHEET

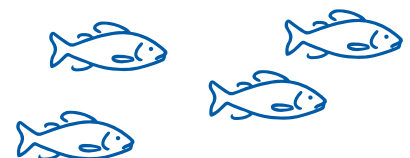


**Map of the oceans**

Source: Global fishing watch

### **Oceans are essential to life on Earth.**

They cover more than 70% of the planet's surface. They regulate the climate, and supply more than half of the oxygen we need to survive. Every second breath we take comes from the ocean.





## Oceans at Risk

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### 1. The Problem of Overfishing

The oceans are home to a huge variety of life. We currently know of at least 226,400 different marine species that live in our oceans, however there are likely to be many more - perhaps millions - that we have not yet discovered. In fact, scientists believe that 95% of the ocean is still undiscovered today. This marine life is interconnected in an **ecosystem** and is essential both to life below the water and on land.

The marine ecosystem is important to sustaining people's **livelihoods** (jobs) and ensuring that people have food to eat. Millions of people around the world rely on fish as a main source of **protein**. Seafood is also our last major **wild** food source. The stakes are high when we consider how closely linked the health of our oceans is to our environmental, social and economic wellbeing. According to the United Nations, **33.1% of global fisheries have been fished beyond sustainable limits**. That's almost one third of fisheries that are being **overfished**. Between 1970 and 2012, the size of **marine populations declined by 49%** (that's almost half!) Key factors contributing the problem are overfishing, illegal and destructive fishing as well as climate change and pollution. It's not just the loss of marine creatures and environments, the problem has a serious impact on communities.

#### Questions

- *Why are the oceans so essential to life on Earth?*
- *Why is maintaining the marine ecosystem important?*

### 2. What is the Marine Stewardship Council doing?

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is a Non-Profit Organisation that works with fisheries, scientists and industry to prevent overfishing, and make sure our oceans are fished sustainably. The MSC's vision is for oceans teeming with life, and seafood supplies that are safeguarded for future generations! The MSC makes sure that it's easy for everyone to find and buy certified sustainable seafood. That means seafood that is caught in such a way that it can continue being caught for generations to come, without the fish populations being depleted. Fisheries that are certified as sustainable are given a blue fish tick label by the Marine Stewardship Council.

#### Questions

- *Who does the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) work with to make sure our oceans are fished sustainably?*
- *What is the MSC's vision?*

**Read more:** Read [WWF's Living Blue Planet Report](#)

