

OCEANS AT RISK WORKSHEET



Oceans are essential to life on Earth. They cover more than 70% of the planet's surface, regulate the climate, and supply the oxygen we need to survive.

34% of global fisheries are thought to be overfished (FAO SOFIA 2020)



Map of the oceans

Source: Global Fishing Watch

The oceans are home to a huge variety of life. Much of this life is important to sustain people's livelihoods (jobs) and ensure people have food to eat. Millions of people rely on fish as a source of protein. Seafood is one of our last major wild food sources.



The stakes are high when we consider how closely linked the health of our oceans is to our environmental, social and economic wellbeing.

The percentage of fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels have decreased from 90 percent in 1974 to 65.8 percent in 2017 (FAO, SOFIA 2020)

It is believed that [34%](#) (that’s about one third) of global fisheries have been fished beyond sustainable limits¹. And ironically it’s estimated that a third of fish is lost or wasted each year, as it travels from the ocean to our plates².

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.

What is the Marine Stewardship Council doing?

The Marine Stewardship Council works with fisheries, scientists and industry to make sure our oceans are fished sustainably and it’s easy to find and buy certified sustainable seafood. Sustainable seafood is seafood that is caught in such a way that it can continue being caught for generations to come. Fisheries that are certified as sustainable are can display the Marine Stewardship Council blue fish tick label.

Test your knowledge: Answer the questions (next page) and then take the Kahoot “[MSC Oceans at Risk](#)” Quiz

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

Create your own map: Draw your own ocean map or create using [scribble maps](#)

¹ SOFIA 2020 [Report](#)

² SOFIA 2020 [Report](#)



QUESTIONS

How well did you read?

(1) Oceans cover more than _____ of the planet's surface, regulate the _____, and supply the oxygen we need to survive.

- a. 70%, climate
- b. 40%, sunshine
- c. 10%, tides
- d. 5%, moon

(2) _____ of fisheries are thought to be overfished.

- a. 10%
- b. None
- c. 33%
- d. 1%

(3) Seafood is our last major _____ food source.

- a. Saltwater
- b. Wild
- c. Freshwater
- d. Harvestable

(4) The size of marine populations has declined by _____ between 1970 and 2012.

- a. 1%
- b. Hardly any
- c. A little bit
- d. Almost half

(5) Key factors contributing the problem are [Tick the correct answers]

- a. Overfishing
- b. Illegal and destructive fishing
- c. Climate change
- d. Pollution

(6) The Marine Stewardship Council works with fisheries, scientists and industry to make sure our oceans are fished _____.

- a. Sustainably
- b. Unsustainably
- c. Too much

(7) Fisheries that are certified as sustainable are given a _____ Marine Stewardship Council label.

- a. Green
- b. Red
- c. Orange
- d. Blue



FOR TEACHERS: ANSWERS

- (1) ANSWER: a.
- (2) ANSWER: c.
- (3) ANSWER: b.
- (4) ANSWER: d.
- (5) ANSWER: ALL
- (6) ANSWER: a.
- (7) ANSWER: d.