



FISHERIES RESEARCH

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HOW DID WE USED TO PRACTICE FISHING?

The way we used to practice fishing is very similar to how we fish today. With spears, nets, line and rod, and boats. Subsistence is a term used for “fishing by hand” which is what we did before creating tools to help us hunt.

Fishing first appeared in the 15th century however it wasn't popular until the steam boats were invented (19th century).

Fishing also became an activity for the richer people back then (not so much about having food, just having the title of catching the fish).



HOW DO WE PRACTICE FISHING NOW?

We practice fishing with the same techniques we did back then. The only difference is that we have boats that travel faster and farther and nets that are huge.

We have machines to help us too, for example, there's a machine that "sea catch quick release". This is basically a machine that secures a load of fish by quickly catching them in its net and bringing it up to the surface. This is a common machine used today (wasn't used back then, "advanced fishery")

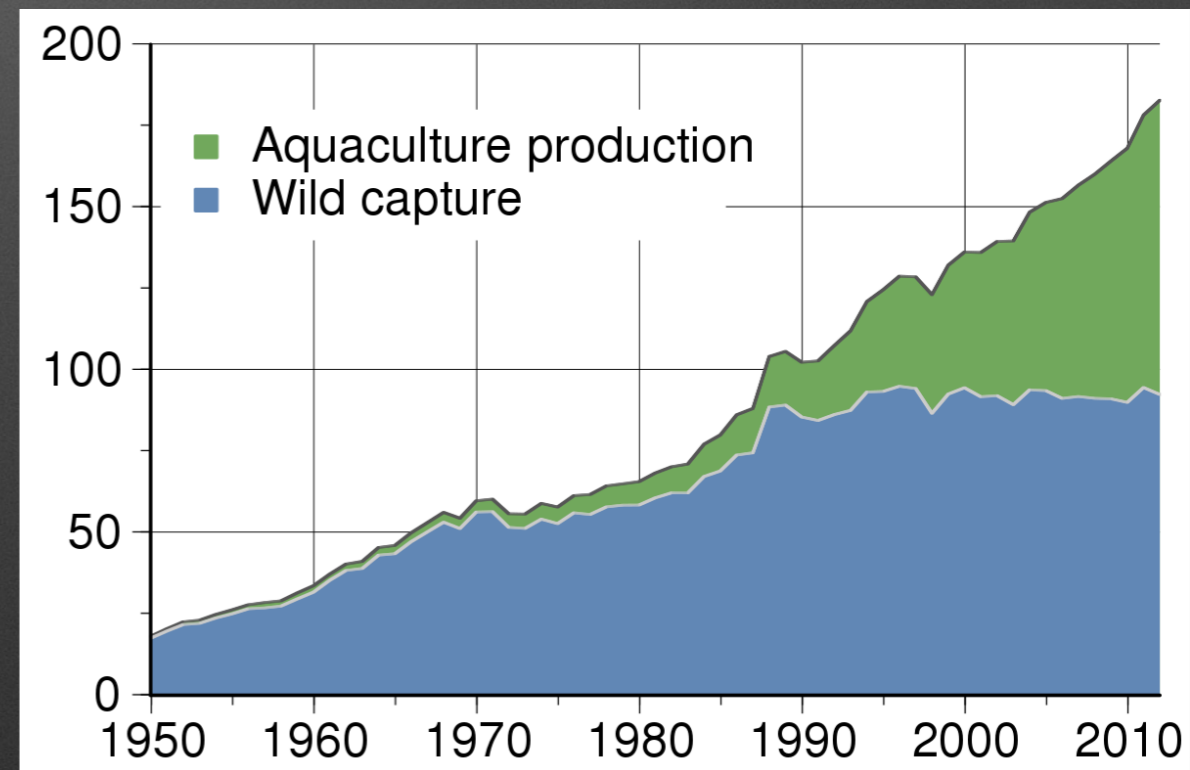


HOW IS THIS INDUSTRY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT? (GOOD OR BAD)

The fishing industry is impacting the environment in a bad way. We overfish due to popular demand. This decreased the number of species in our oceans and rivers, destroying mini systems in their communities that the living organisms use to survive.

In the early 2000's, people protested against fishing in the hopes of the fish population would be able to recover.

Without fish, other species will be affected and will decrease in numbers. We will not only lose one main source of food, but several others. The reefs would most likely die as well- since no living organisms would choose to stay in a dead area with no source of food.



- An example of how the fishing industry harms the environment is the situation in Newfoundland, Canada during 1992.
- To Newfoundland, the species of Cod is very important. Not only is it a source of food, but it opens up a lot of job opportunities.
- In 1992, there was barely any population codfish, this is the result of overfishing. The fishing industry crashed and it affected the people of Newfoundland greatly.
- They banned fishing for cods to hopefully let the species recover. To this day, the codfish haven't been big in numbers as they used to be.

WHAT ARE SOME SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES THAT WE CAN MODIFY OR REPLACE FOR FISHING?

Some sustainable alternatives we can use to reduce the harm we bring to the ecosystems are if we harvest the fish and maintain the fish populations.

This will give them time to replenish. We can also make it illegal to fish in certain areas, this way the fish can grow safe, big, and reproduce.

We should only be catching fish that we need for ourselves. The fish that isn't bought in the stores end up getting thrown away in the trash. This is very disappointing that a life had to be taken away for no good reason.



- We should also stop using techniques like bottom trawling. This is when fishermen/women put their nets on the bottom of the oceans and drag it so they catch everything in the ecosystems. Not only does this bring harm to their habitats, but it brings chemicals into the algae which can be harmful to those who share the space.
- Another thing we should get rid of is killing fish only for it not to be used. Fishermen/women will get a net load of fish and only take what they find valuable, later throwing the dead fish they killed and do not what overboard. This is unnecessary killing and should not be practiced.

WHAT CAN I AS AN INDIVIDUAL DO TO REDUCE MY IMPACT IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY?

As an individual, I can share my knowledge with others. I can educate those who don't realize their impacts in the ocean/rivers due to our fishing. That would open their eyes a bit and stop being so dependant on the fish thats always there in the grocery stores.

The consumer has power, since we are the people the industries are trying to sell their products too.

I don't have anything else to offer than my knowledge sadly. I'm not in the position to stop the fisheries myself. However by spreading the word we can create a community and collectively making a change.



- There are programs/communities online that you can find. An example is “Oceanwise”,
- Oceanwise is a program/community that supports a healthy ocean. They bring awareness to others and collaborate with restaurants to create sustainable seafood so we aren’t overfishing but still putting a source of food on the plate.
- On their webpage you can find “whats going on” & “how can we help sustainable seafood”. Highly recommend sharing that webpage/organization with friends and family.



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