



Fish Farms or Mass Commercial Fishing 'Most likely to be...' exercise

1. Many fish are carnivores and depend on being fed wild fish.
2. Tens of thousands of dolphins are killed each year by tuna fishermen.
3. Antibiotics are commonly used in order to prevent (or treat) a disease outbreak but overuse may lead to drug-resistance in these fish.
4. Fishermen should only take out as many fish as can be replaced by reproduction the following year.
5. Fish that are often genetically modified may interbreed with the wild fish and alter the natural genetic makeup of that species.
6. Most of the problems associated with overfishing have been caused in the last 50 years by the rapid advances in fishing technology.
7. Hundreds of trawlers and small fishing boats have now been replaced by huge factory ships which are able to stay out at sea for weeks at a time.
8. At least 20 of the world's most important fisheries have disappeared in the last 25 years, with many more suffering so badly from overfishing that they are unlikely to recover.
9. Some fish are omnivores and can be fed plant-based diets



10. As fishing catches have gradually become smaller, so the mesh sizes used in fishing nets have decreased, allowing smaller and smaller fish to be caught.

11. Many of the fish now caught are too small to be used as food, so they are crushed to be made into either animal food or fertiliser.

12. Many fish, including salmon, are raised in net-pens in the ocean where thousands of them are concentrated in one area - these fish produce tons of faeces which can significantly pollute the water.

13. Over 20,000 porpoises die each year in the nets of salmon fishermen in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

14. Fish that escape from net-pens can compete for food with the wild fish and take over a marine habitat area.

15. Fish which live in the mid-water and the bottom-feeders are caught by trawling, which involves dragging a large net through the water, catching whatever happens to be in the way.

16. It is vital for the conservation of fish stocks that nets with a very small mesh are banned, as these catch young fish before they have even had a chance to breed.

17. It used to be a matter of luck whether fishermen would catch any fish at all, as fish are difficult to find, but now modern radar technology has allowed them to be located much more precisely than was possible before.



18. The overfishing of a particular species does not just damage the population of that fish alone. It can have serious effects further up the food chain e.g. herring is a vital prey species for the cod. Therefore, when herring are overfished the cod population suffers as well.

19. Toxic chemicals (like pesticides and copper sulfates) have to be applied to the nets. The purpose of these chemicals is to kill off algae and shellfish.

20. Correct mesh size should be used in all nets to ensure that fish of the right age are caught, and to prevent as much as possible accidental catches of other fish.