

The Fishing Industry

Key Definitions

Fishery:

An activity leading to the harvesting of fish or invertebrate aquatic resources. A fishery can be classified by one or more of the following: target fish species and stock; geographic area of fishing; or fishing method, gear, practice, and/or vessel type

Sustainable Fishery:

A conventional idea of a sustainable fishery is that it is one that is harvested at a sustainable rate, where the fish population does not decline over time because of fishing practices

Commerical fishing:

Is the activity of catching fish and other seafood for commercial profit, mostly from wild fisheries. It provides a large quantity of food to many countries around the earth, but those who practice it as an industry must often pursue fish far into the ocean under adverse conditions.

Spearfishing:

A method of fishing that has been used throughout the world for millennia. Early civilizations were familiar with the custom of spearing fish from rivers and streams using sharpened sticks.

Seaspiracy:

Seaspiracy is a 2021 documentary film about the environmental impact of fishing directed by and starring Ali Tabrizi, a British filmmaker. The film examines various human impacts on marine life and advocates for ending fish consumption

Some Further Reading

- The [Philippines most deadly place in the world to defend environment](#) - CNN
- What is Sustainable Fishing - Marine Stewardship Council: Link to the information [here](#)
- Sustainable Fishing of Inland Waters - Link to the article [here](#)
- 5 facts about sustainable fishing - Link to article [here](#)
- 7 Things you need to know about the Sustainable Seafood Movement: Link to article [here](#)
- Supporting Sustainable Fishing: Link to article [here](#)
- How the digital wave is contributing to sustainable fishing: Link to article [here](#)
- Sustainable Fish Farming: Prove it: Link to article [here](#)

Check out Episodes #37 and #38 for the full interview with Jean Utzurum discussing Seaspiracy

Key Arguments

Jean Utzurum argues . . .

According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the percentage of fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels decreased from 90% in 1974 to 65.8% in 2017.

According to the FAO, aquaculture has expanded fish availability to regions and countries with otherwise limited or no access to the cultured species, often at cheaper prices, leading to improved nutrition and food security. In 2018, aquaculture provided 52% of the fish available for people to eat. With further growth in-store, the spotlight is on aquaculture's sustainability, which is at the core of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal number 14: "Life Beneath the Water".

Sustainable fishing is possible. Fisheries generally can be managed to a level where environmental impacts are much lower than without management interventions. This can be through a number of management tools but in the Philippines, the most popular tool is Marine Protected Areas.

The success of MPAs in conservation depends on several factors such as:

- MPA design (i.e. area of coverage, site suitability),
- Purpose (i.e. species/habitat conservation,
- Mixed-use resource, tourism), and governance (i.e. enforcement, institutional support).

What you can do

Educate yourself!

Here's a list of documentaries recommended to us by Jean Utzurum:

- **Taiji dolphin hunt?** The Cove.
- **Shark fishing and finning?** Sharkwater films. [side note: the two do not mean the same thing and Tabrizi fails to make this distinction]
- **Dolphins in captivity?** Blackfish.
- **Ocean plastic pollution?** A Plastic Ocean.
- **Coral reefs dying?** Chasing Coral.
- **Industrial fisheries?** End of the Line.
- The **Faroe Islands grind?** Literally, a spinoff series of Whale Wars.

Make sure you know where your seafood is coming from;

