

Fishing for the Future: The Tragedy of the Commons

Your Name: _____ Ocean Group: _____

Record your group's catch and fish left in ocean after each season:

Type of Fishing Technology	Year	Catch						# Fish Left in Ocean
		High-Value Fish		Medium-Value Fish		Total Fish Caught		
		My Catch	Group Catch	My Catch	Group Catch	My Catch	Group Catch	
traditional	1							
improved	2							
	3							
	4							
	5							
	6							

1. Briefly describe of the status/health of your fishery as the "years" passed.

Year 1:

Year 2:

Year 3:

Year 4:

Year 5:

Year 6:

2. Determine YOUR OWN **gross profit** and **net profit** for your catch after each year. Show your work.

a. Each High-value fish is worth \$100, and each Medium-value fish is worth \$50.

b. Cost of fishing (bait, equipment, workers, etc) is as follows:

i. "Traditional fishing" (straw only) = \$100 per year

ii. "Improved fishing technology" (straw + hand) = \$200 per year

iii. "Drift nets fishing technology" (spoon) = \$300 per year

Year	Gross Profit	Net Profit
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

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1. In Year 1, did you make a **profit** or did you **lose money** (circle one)? Would you have fished differently if you had known that the "fish" had different economic values? Explain.
2. In Year 2, did you make a **profit**, or did you **lose money** (circle one)? To you, was the increase in technology worth the cost you had to pay? (think about the economic advantages and environmental disadvantages)
3. The ocean groups in class each had different fishing practices. Some groups experienced hardships. How did they impact other fisheries when they experienced these hardships?
4. What real-life factors or influences are missing in this game? (a bulleted list is fine)
5. Name a commonly owned resource in our region or community. Explain how the Tragedy of the Commons is (or could be) felt in that resource. How can the resource best be managed?
6. List at least 5 ways to have a sustainable fishery.
7. How does the following quote by John C. Sawhill relate to the fishing activity? *"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy."*
8. Read the excerpt from Garrett Hardin's essay "The Tragedy of the Commons." Discuss how it is reflected in this game in at least 5 sentences.