



PROJECT OCEANOLOGY



Squid Fishery Symposium

From Only One Ocean: Marine Sciences Activities for Grades 5-8

Engage:

Have students reflect on what they've learned about squid. Do they appreciate squid more than they did before? Why? Why do people eat squid? Who are the people involved with catching and eating squid?

Optional add-on: Prepare and serve squid. Discuss how the squid got from sea to plate, and where the recipe originated. Respect any student who chooses not to eat the squid.

Introduce the problem: **The demand for squid is going up, while the squid population is going down. What should be done?**

Explore:

1. Divide the class into 6 groups. Explain to students that they'll represent different squid fishery "interest groups," at a Squid Fishery Symposium, and that the main purpose of the conference will be to discuss the problems with the fishery and consider possible solutions. They'll be given a description of the point of view of their "interest group," and then answer questions from that viewpoint.
2. Within each interest group, assign (or they can choose) someone to do each of the following jobs:

Reader: read to the group the "interest group viewpoint" provided by the teacher

Recorder: take notes about the group's viewpoint as they discuss it

Presenter: present the group's viewpoint at the culminating Squid Fishery Symposium.

3. After the groups have had time to discuss, each Presenter should paraphrase or act out their viewpoint. This can be followed with questions from the rest of the class.

4. Following presentations, lead a class discussion to complete this chart:

	Squid Fisher	Consumer	Restaurant Owner	Sport Fisher	Biologist	Environmentalist
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How would we know if squids were overfished?						
How can we prevent squids from being overfished?						

After completing the chart, ask students to generate a definition of overfishing, and explain why it is becoming a global problem.



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Squid Interest Group ***Squid Fisher***

I've spent my life fishing for squid along the California Coast. My boat used to be one of just a few squid boats in Southern California-- now there are hundreds. I'm proud of what I do. I work hard, and my catch helps to feed people. I love being on the ocean. I own my boat and support my family with the money I make fishing. My dad and grandfather were fishers too, but they didn't fish for squid; they fished for salmon and halibut. Those fisheries are now closed to all but a few boats each year because most of the fish are gone. A lot has changed since my dad and grandfather were fishing--including the fact that now there are women like me out there hauling nets. I have two kids, and I want them to go to college. I don't know what I'd do if the squid fishery collapsed, because there aren't any open fisheries left in California to go into. Maybe they should limit the number of boats that can fish for squid-- as long as they don't limit me! I don't know what else I'd do if I couldn't fish. Don't I have a right to support my family and make an honest living?

Squid Interest Group ***Sport Fisher***

I have that bumper sticker on my truck, "A bad day fishing is better than a good day working." I've always loved to fish, especially on the ocean. There's nothing like spending the day on a boat. I don't catch enough of anything to damage any whole populations of fish. Sport Fishing doesn't need to be regulated. It's those big commercial boats that do the damage, the ones that catch tons of fish. I'm worried about how big the squid fishery is getting. It seems like every time I go out, there are more and more squid boats out there. Some of the fish I like to catch feed on squids--if people overfish the squids, those fish might go away.

Squid Interest Group ***Consumer***

I really like calamari. I order it whenever it's on the menu at a restaurant, and sometimes I even cook it at home. It's not expensive, it's healthy, my kids like it, and you can cook it a thousand different ways. I heard a story on the radio the other day, though, that said that the squid-fishing industry was growing so fast that squids were being overfished, just like salmon, and that dolphins and seals that eat squids could starve if that happens. Another environmental disaster. Now I feel guilty buying squid. I feel like I have to do a research project on my entire shopping list to find out if things are ethical to buy. I wish more foods had clear labels, like the tuna cans that say, "Dolphin Safe" on them.

Squid Interest Group ***Restaurant Owner***

Listen, running a restaurant is hard work. Not all restaurants make it. If I don't have things on



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the menu that my customers want to eat, and if my food isn't reasonably priced, my restaurant won't make it either. I can't keep track of how every fish in the ocean is caught and whether it's being overharvested. A woman came in the other day and told me I shouldn't serve calamari any more until the fishery is better regulated. I told her, ya, when her conscience won't let her eat calamari, fine, she doesn't have to order it, but it's not my job to make that decision for everyone who walks in here for dinner.

Squid Interest Group ***Environmentalist***

It's hard to believe that another fishery is on the verge of collapsing. This has happened so many times, but we never seem to learn from our past mistakes. If we put strong limits on the squid fishery now, it's still early enough that we can save it-- and all the other animals that depend on squids for food--dolphins, seals, sea lions, birds, and fish. I know the fisher are trying to make a living, but if the fishery collapses they'll really have trouble making a living. Everyone wants to "study the situation" before we make any decision. But by the time we're finished studying, the squids will all be gone. For once, let's take action before we have disaster-- not after. I think we should have an immediate halt: not let any more boats join the fishery until we know how much can be safely caught each year.

Squid Interest Group ***Biologist***

It seems like the fishers and the companies they sell to are only interested in making money... and that the environmentalists will never be satisfied until everyone is a vegetarian... and that the public is mostly unaware that the issues even exist... and that government agencies are just trying to keep everyone happy without taking a strong stand on anything. It seems no one is interested in the facts. If I just had the funds to put together a team to study squid biology for a couple of years, I could probably figure out a way to allow the fishery to continue without overfishing it. That doesn't seem likely, though. I hate to say, "I told you so," but it wasn't hard to predict that the cod, abalone, salmon, and halibut fisheries would collapse. I'm afraid squids are going the same way. The trouble is, if squids are overfished, it's hard to predict what'll happen to the ecosystem-- there are so many animals that depend on squids for prey, it could throw the entire ecosystem out of balance.