

Fish and Fishing

Water and Ocean Reflection Series

Photo: Kristin McDermott

MESSAGE FROM

POPE FRANCIS

'The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation... For example, the depletion of fishing reserves especially hurts small fishing communities without the means to replace those resources; water pollution particularly affects the poor who cannot buy bottled water; and rises in the sea level mainly affect impoverished coastal populations who have nowhere else to go. The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas.'

Pope Francis, Laudato Si #48



CONNECTIONS AT THE UN

On the 7th of December 2016, the **United Nations General Assembly proclaimed** that the **2nd of May** would be **World Tuna Day**. The purpose is to primarily focus on this widely-consumed fish around the world. Due to its popularity, much of tuna fish stocks globally, are under threat of collapse due in part to unsustainable and illegal fishing practices.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 focuses on conserving and sustaining ocean, seas and marine resources for Sustainable Development. One of its targets the sustainable management of fisheries:

'14.7- By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through the management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.'

<https://oceanconference.un.org/sdg14>

TAKE ACTION

- RESEARCH HOW YOUR GOVERNMENT MONITORS THE FISHING INDUSTRY (BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FISHING COMPANIES) IN YOUR COUNTRY'S TERRITORIAL WATERS. IS IT SUSTAINABLE?
- CHECK YOUR COUNTRY'S SUSTAINABLE FISH GUIDE. COMMIT YOURSELF TO ONLY EAT FISH THAT IS SUSTAINABLE.

Reflection



Take a walk along a drain, stream, river, estuary or beach....notice pollution and pick up rubbish.

Study the creatures that live in the drain, stream, estuary and beach...Are they numerous? Are they healthy? Could their environment be better?

From your walk, draw or take pictures.

Write a poem, short story or reflection on what you discover on your journey.



Prayer

Jesus,

You had friends who were fisherman....who's livelihood was the sea.

We ask for your protection today for life that lives within water...for all the fish, the mammals, the corals and plants and microscopic life that is hidden from most of us on the land.... Protect the vulnerable

species of life from human exploitation. Change the hearts and attitudes of those who view the ocean as commodity, profit and there for the taking. Protect the livelihood of those fisherman who only take what is needed...much like your friends along the Galilee Sea.

Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

- All three Bluefin tuna species (Atlantic, Southern, Pacific) are endangered or critically endangered and yet they are still fished commercially.
- Another three tuna species (Bigeye, yellowfin, albacore) are in serious decline and are listed as 'threatened species'.

Source: Greenpeace International.