

## Worksheet 15 - Overfishing

### What do you need?

- Two different types of small sweets (e.g. M&Ms as in the example below) or marbles
- One small cup and a straw per student
- One medium-sized serving bowl and one spoon per group
- One copy of the logsheet per student

### Setting up:

- Divide your class into groups of 4-5 students. Give each group a bowl with 20 plain M&Ms and 10 peanut M&Ms. Groups can choose to name themselves after an ocean
- Make sure every student and group have all the above resources

### The game:

1. Explain that today everyone is going fishing and that they will be thinking about how we use our fishstocks.
2. The rules:
  - a) Each student is a fisherman whose livelihood depends on catching fish.
  - b) Peanut M&Ms represent large, valuable fish (e.g. tuna) and plain M&Ms smaller fish (e.g. cod).
  - c) In order to survive a 'season', a fisherman must catch at least two fish.
  - d) During a round students must hold their hands behind their backs and only use their fishing poles (straws) to catch fish (suck) from the ocean (bowl).
  - e) The fish that are left in the ocean (bowl) at the end of the round, represent the breeding population; at the end of each round you add one new fish for every remaining one.
3. Each round represents a season of fishing – allow about 30 seconds per round
4. After each round, make sure students record how many fish they have caught. If someone didn't reach the two fish minimum, they need to sit the rest of the game out. Add new fish to the bowl after each round – for every fish left you add one new one.
5. In the second round, students can hold their straws with their hands to represent new technology.
6. In the third round, give one fisherman from each group a spoon which represents further advancements like trawling nets.
7. When a group runs out of fish, they are out. Continue fishing until the fishstocks are depleted.

## Worksheet 15 – Overfishing (cont.)

Rounds	Number of fish caught by you	Number of fish caught by your group	Number of fish left in the ocean
Season 1			
Season 2			
Season 3			
Season 4			
Season 5			
Total			