

Fisherman



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You are a fisherman with a 50-foot vessel. Your boat is equipped for purse seine fishing, allowing you to fish for squid and other wetfish (e.g., sardine, anchovy, mackerel). Your livelihood depends on the size of your catch. You are a part of a multi-boat fleet fishing in shared waters in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

1. In the first season, only a single fishing boat (one student “fisherman”) goes out from each fleet.
2. Gather as many paperclips (squid) as you can using your left hand, and placing them in your paper cup (boat hold).
3. After the fishing season, count your catch (1 paperclip = 1,000 lbs of market squid).
4. As a fleet, calculate your seasonal earnings using the Fishing Fleet Computation Worksheet.
5. As net profits allow, you may choose to buy additional boats. When additional boats are purchased, additional student “fishermen” are allowed to fish in the next season.

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Marine Scientist



Regulatory Agency Representative



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Regulatory Agency Representative

You are an employee of the California Department of Fish and Game. You are responsible for maintaining a balance between the economic health of the fishing community and the ecological health of Monterey Bay. You develop and enforce regulations that define fishing boundaries, specific catch limits, types of gear allowed, etc. Your decisions are informed by assessing past environmental policy and reviewing, analyzing, and incorporating the most current fisheries, habitat, and water quality data generated by scientists.

1. Announce the start and stop time for each fishing season.
2. Monitor the fishing fleets for fair fishing practices.
3. Choose 1 fleet each fishing season and count their catch when they return to port to ensure accurate reporting of the catch.

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Marine Scientist

You are an employee of NOAA’s (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) National Marine Fisheries Service. You are responsible for monitoring the marine **ecosystem**. You assess and predict the health and vigor of local and national fish populations, work to limit **bycatch**, and educate fishermen about the biology and ecology of the resources they are harvesting.

1. Before each fishing season begins, choose an Ecosystem-based Challenge Card and read aloud to the class. All fishing fleets must adhere to this challenge.
2. After the Fishermen have completed their computation worksheets, record the pounds of squid caught for the entire fishing community each season on the Community Fishery Summary Sheet.
3. Based on the number of paperclips collected in the previous season and the Ecosystem-based Challenge Card directions, calculate the number of paperclips to return to the fishing grounds for the next season.