

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization  
Topic: International Waters and Fisheries Management  
Delegation: Chile  
School: Example High School

Fish is a natural resource often underestimated for its value. Fish is an enormous source of protein, it helps subsistence fishers survive and feed their families, it has a huge impact on marine life and many ocean ecosystems, and it provides a huge profit for many nations, even those that are landlocked. However, fish are being over hunted mainly by commercial fishing, especially on the high seas where it is extremely difficult to monitor. Chile is one of the world's largest exporters of fish, exporting around \$736.9 million each year. Though Chile benefits greatly from commercial fishing, much of its population is subsistence fishers who depend on fish for their survival. In the mid-1990s, Chile netted 4.5 million tons of fish. The overfishing that happened over the past two decades is so dramatic that in 2014 Chile hauled in only 300,000 tons of fish. Over 70% of Chile's fish species are overfished. For these reasons as well as preserving Chile's marine ecosystem and its fish-reliant economy, monitoring the over-hunting of fish in international waters is very important to Chile.

Based on the current state of various species of fish, Chile has taken measures against illegal fishing and the over hunting of fish. Chile was a signatory and ratifier of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which officially determined exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of nations. Chile in 2015 has also announced its accession of the 1995 United Nations Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement (FSA). On a national level, Chile in 2013 passed a law that outlawed trawling. Though this does hurt subsistence farmers, this legislation was meant to slow down and decrease overfishing as well as prevent illegal fishing. Chile has been concerned with this growing problem and has taken action to address it, but not enough was done to address overfishing on the high seas, and Chile aims to change that.

Taking into account actions taken by Chile and other nations on the topic of international waters and fisheries management previously, much more can be done to address the issue. For the benefit of subsistence farmers, trawling should not be banned in exclusive economic zones, but instead on the high seas. More Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) should be organized to monitor the area of the international waters nearest to EEZs to make sure that no illegal fishing is taking place. These RFBs would also monitor what vessels are entering the high seas and their size, nation, and purpose. As for straddling fish and over hunted fish species in general, a separate UN committee should be created to research and experiment on both migratory and nonmigratory fish to see in which EEZ they spend most time in and are hunted more in. This committee could also establish no-fishing zones where it feels the fish in that area are strongly endangered. Obviously not all species are hunted equally, so establishing which fish must be hunted less can establish a balance that will in the end benefit national economies, commercial fishing, subsistence fishing, and marine life.