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FISHING INDUSTRY IN THE UK: THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The work is dedicated to the investigation of the importance of the fishing industry in the United Kingdom and the problems it faces nowadays.

It should be mentioned that the UK is one of European leading fishing countries and has some of the richest fishing grounds in the world. As for economic value, the fishing industry plays a key role in the British economy as it provides workplaces for a total of 24,000 people and contributes £1.4bn to the UK economy. Moreover, the fishing and fish processing industries are very significant to the coastal communities.

However, the fishing industry in the UK was once much larger than it is today. In fact, it has been in a long-term decline. As a response to declining stocks, the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) imposed quotas on the amount of catch permitted to be brought ashore. This prevented a collapse in the industry and the process of fishing has since been reclassified as sustainable, but on the other hand it led to a big problem known as “discarding”. The British fishermen started to throw back to water a million tonnes of fish, dead or alive, because caught fish were of low commercial value or because the crew had exceeded their CFP’s quota.

Unfortunately, the process of throwing back a million tonnes of dead fish has led to habitat destruction. It is of concern that “discarding” may disrupt food chains that is upsetting the ancient and delicate balance of the North Sea’s biologic system. In addition, it reflects badly on the ecosystem of North Sea which supports the livelihoods of its residents – the humans, birds and marine life.

From January 2015, the EU started reversing its policy on “discarding” and introduced a “landing obligation” on fishermen to keep the fish they caught. By January 2019, vessels weren't allowed to discard any species of fish. Nevertheless, there are some video and photographic evidence that vessels are still discarding fish. There is no verified information on how several fish were thrown out, but the numbers fluctuate approximately from 500,000 to 1,7 million tonnes.

The main problem is that the landing obligation’s requirements still allows the discarding of fish to continue due to its imperfection. Nowadays the British government, the European commission and environmental organizations try to come up with new measures and methods to control the “discarding” in a joint attempt. For example, the House of Lords recommend measures such as more selective fishing gear, better technology to track in real-time where shoals of particular species are in order to prevent vessels pursuing the wrong fish, and remote electronic monitoring of vessels, by CCTV and other means, to show whether they have complied with the rules. What is more, there should also be easier methods for fishers to swap quota among themselves.

Thus, the process known as “discarding” has long been a source of public concern as it can have a global and catastrophic impact. Indifferent people, the government and non-for-profit organizations struggle to find a solution-driven answer to this issue.

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BEING ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON UP-TO-DATE GADGETS: ALARM FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Today it is difficult to imagine the modern world without phones and gadgets because they have all the necessary functions that people use every day. According to research, almost 90 percent of Americans pull out their cell phones during social interaction, which worsens their conversation. It reduces the quality of what they are talking about and it reduces the empathic connection that people feel for each other.

All the research shows that when people are allowed to talk to each other, they do it better—they are more cooperative. More than 99 % of American households have at least one TV, and about 2/3 of them have two, three, or more TVs. People with more formal education watch less hours of TV than those with less education.

Scientists have conducted a study on how computers affect children. It was found that those who spend more time behind them lose the ability to recognize emotional nonverbal signals. It follows that eye contact plays an essential role. It was proved that 8/10 millennials feel they are often more vocal or able to express themselves in text or online than they are in person.

All this happens because the age of text messages, Twitter and Instagram has begun to really impair the younger generation’s ability to actually hold solid, professional conversations on the phone. Researchers and scientists insist that using social media can often become a risk for adolescents even more than adults realize.

The problem of selfies has even attracted the attention of various professional journals for plastic surgeons. A poll from the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons found that 42 % of surgeons were asked to perform procedures for improved selfies and pictures on social media platforms.

‘Facebook depression’ is a new term that refers to depression that develops as a result of children and teens spending a lot of time on social media sites and begin to experience depression as a result. This leads to the fact that Americans begin to spend more time communicating with friends through broadcasts and sharing secrets not with their friends, but with all Internet users.

As practice shows, it is almost impossible to give up social networks nowadays. It is necessary to reduce the use of gadgets, because this can lead to serious consequences for the new generation of Americans.