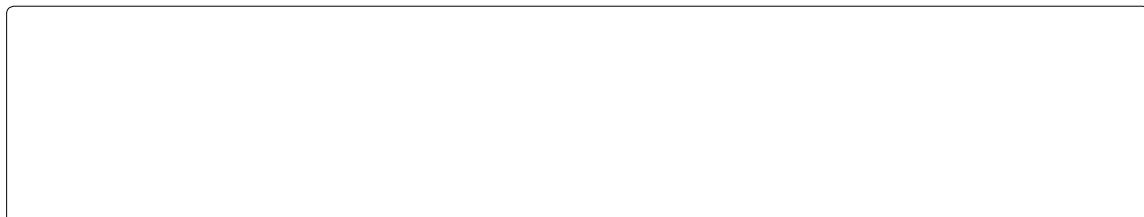




Sustaining the Bounty of the Seas: Challenges and Opportunities in Marine Fisheries Management

Department of Marine Biology, World Maritime University, Ethiopia



Key words: Sustainable fisheries management, marine biodiversity, ecosystem health, climate change, overfishing, fishing gear, marine protected areas, aquaculture, fisheries policy, international cooperation.

Introduction

The world's oceans are facing numerous challenges that threaten their health and productivity. Overfishing, climate change, pollution, and habitat destruction are just a few of the issues that have led to concerns about the long-term sustainability of marine resources. This paper aims to explore some of the key challenges facing marine fisheries management and discuss potential solutions to ensure the continued bounty of the seas.

Methodology

Challenge facing marine fisheries:

- 1. Overfishing: One of the most significant challenges facing marine fisheries is overfishing. This occurs when too many fish are caught, leading to a decline in population and ecosystem health. Overfishing can also lead to the collapse of entire fish stocks, which can take decades to recover.
- 2. Climate change: Climate change is another major challenge facing marine fisheries. Rising temperatures and acidification are changing the environment in ways that can affect fish populations and their habitats. For example, warming waters may shift the distribution of certain fish species, making it difficult for managers to predict where and when to catch them.
- 3. Pollution: Pollution from land-based sources, such as agricultural runoff and industrial waste, can contaminate marine waters and harm fish populations. Plastic debris, in particular, has become a major concern, as it can entangle and kill marine life or be consumed by fish, leading to health problems and even death.
- 4. Habitat destruction: Habitat destruction, such as through dredging, coastal development, and pollution, can also threaten marine ecosystems. This can lead to a loss of habitat for fish and other marine life, as well as changes in the way they interact with their environment.

Cumilla