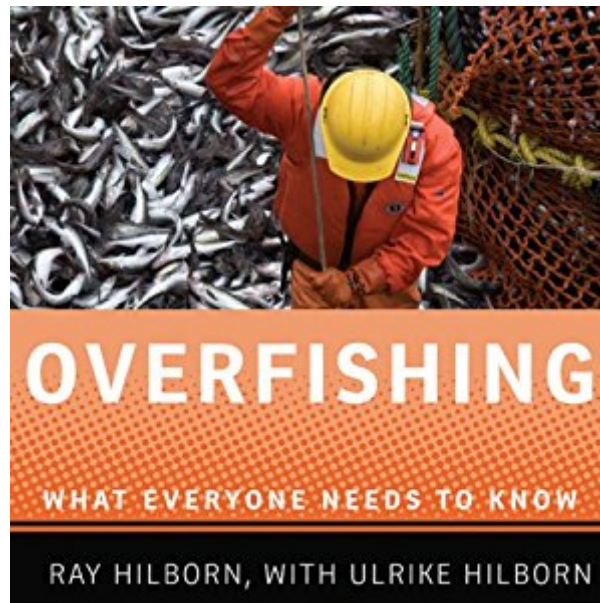


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Overfishing: What Everyone Needs To Know



Synopsis

Over the past twenty years considerable public attention has been focused on the decline of marine fisheries, the sustainability of world fish production, and the impacts of fishing on marine ecosystems. Many have voiced their concerns about marine conservation, as well as the sustainable and ethical consumption of fish. But are fisheries in danger of collapse? Will we soon need to find ways to replace this food system? Should we be worried that we could be fishing certain species to extinction? Can commercial fishing be carried out in a sustainable way? While overblown prognoses concerning the dire state of fisheries are plentiful, clear scientific explanations of the basic issues surrounding overfishing are less so - and there remains great confusion about the actual amount of overfishing and its ecological impact. *Overfishing: What Everyone Needs to Know* will provide a balanced explanation of the broad issues associated with overfishing. Guiding readers through the scientific, political, economic, and ethical issues associated with harvesting fish from the ocean, it will provide answers to questions about which fisheries are sustainably managed and which are not. Ray and Ulrike Hilborn address topics including historical overfishing, high seas fisheries, recreational fisheries, illegal fishing, climate and fisheries, trawling, economic and biological overfishing, and marine protected areas. In order to illustrate the effects of each of these issues, they will incorporate case studies of different species of fish. Overall, the authors present a hopeful view of the future of fisheries. Most of the world's fisheries are not overfished, and many once overfished stocks are now rebuilding. In fact, we can learn from the management failures and successes to ensure that fisheries are sustainable and contribute to national wealth and food security. Concise and clear, this book presents a compelling "big picture" of the state of oceans and the solutions to ending overfishing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ray Hilborn's commonsensical 2012 book "Overfishing" is a necessary and carefully reasoned corrective to the apocalyptic rhetoric that sometimes accompanies environmentalist debates about the status and future of fishing. Hilborn, an experienced authority on fishing resource management and conservation, uses a highly readable question-and-answer format to define terms and provide context to the complex challenge of maintaining fish stocks and fisheries around the world. In sixteen concise chapters and just one hundred forty pages, Hilborn addresses such topics as the different types of overfishing and why the definitions matter, some historical background, and the proven ways that fisheries can be better managed. In the process, he goes behind the headlines to look at feasible solutions to overfishing that must vary by geography, climate, species and human governance. He notes the current shortfalls and challenges in gathering accurate data on fish populations. He also addresses the additional challenge of illegal fishing and the impact of recreational fishing. His concluding chapters offer some key takeaways on the future of managed fisheries. "Overfishing" is highly recommended to those interested in fisheries management.

Good book. Doesn't derive its information from subjectiveness and emotions like organizations GreenPeace & PETA. Considers fishery related topics logically and realistically. Easy read, and not very long. Keeps you interested.

This is an excellent overview of fisheries issues in a question-and-answer format. It's a fairly fast read, with sundry arcane technical terms explained well. The book takes a middle ground. Some of the published material on fishing is doom-and-gloom, and some is sunny and optimistic. Here, some fisheries are in trouble and some are sound. Most interesting to me is the idea of artisanal fisheries, that is, giving fishing rights to locals, who thereby gain sustenance and act to preserve the fishery in question. It seems to work. He also argues that trawling is not always so bad, because it is efficient and we need food. Used well, it is not the environmental calamity some seem to think (such as accounts of trawling in coral). He also emphasizes that there is a lot we simply do not understand well, such as long term effects of oceanic cycles.

Personally I found this book very interesting and I learned a great deal of important information regarding our oceans, human impacts, and fish. This book makes you rethink your own personal impacts on specie life underwater and personal intake of fish from our oceans. Not only did this book discuss many environmental and human effects on the oceans, but he also emphasized the disturbance in our ocean's food chain. I would have to say I agree with the majority of the author's ideas and arguments and again I was able to read this book and understand what exactly I was reading. I like the fact Hilborn did not include a bunch of confusing terminology that wasn't described, the authors provided well thought out questions and explanations for all of the language they were speaking in regards to Overfishing. I definitely feel that this was done intentionally, as the title states that the content of the book is "what everyone needs to know". Reflecting back on the various concepts of the book, I feel like Hilborn's main argument was a representation of a positive feedback loop. The author concentrated on specific effects that essentially have grown to disturb our underwater species, ocean food chain, and ocean water temperatures. The system here being the ocean, and the reoccurring patterns in increased ocean temperature in addition of human impacts by fisheries on the ocean floor serving as the inputs that have affected the future outputs of our ocean (and life beneath its surface).

This is a really good primer for anyone interested in or studying fisheries management. It gives a very general introduction to all the issues. The discussion of marine protected areas and protected species is rather limited and could be rounded out. However, it's an easy read and thoughtful overview of all the major issues facing global fisheries

I bought this because my ESL student is attending an International Fisheries conference where one of the keynote speakers is Ray Hilborn. We are studying it together and I find it well written & informative! Very interesting! English is my first language and it's written in a wonderful, informative style. I think ESL persons need at least an intermediate to advanced level of English comprehension to grasp the book in its entirety.

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