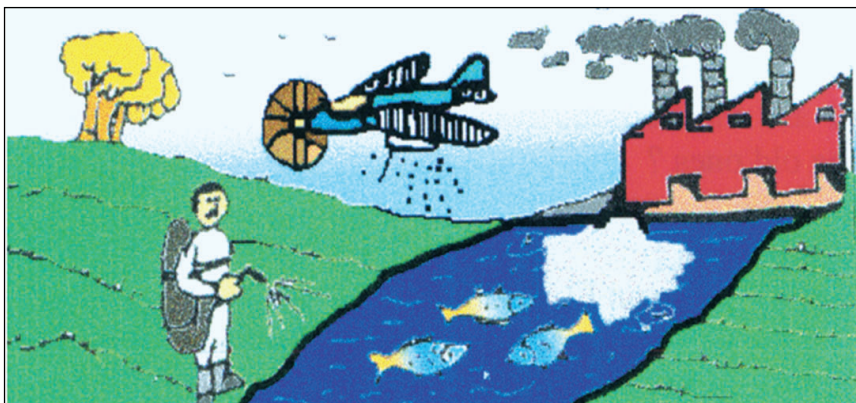




## OVEREXPLOITATION OF MARINE RESOURCES



### Size of water areas

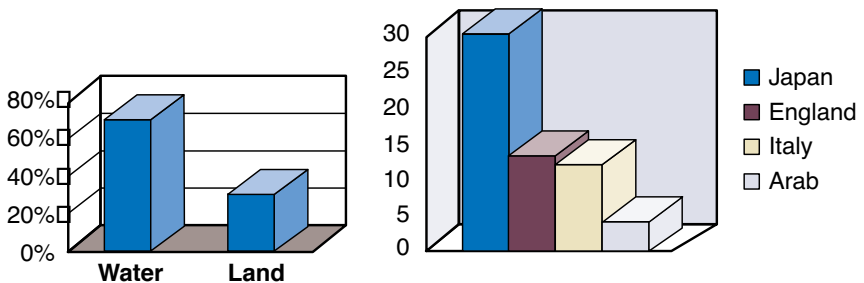
Water areas cover nearly 70 percent of the Earth's surface and contain diverse living things in different places and at different depths.

### Fish is food for man :

No wonder that man has showed his concern with fish since the down of history as fish represents food for millions of people. Knowing that fish represents 60 percent of

the protein that man has, and 17 percent of the animal protein in particular, we can simply recognise the amount of loss that takes place as a result of overexploitation of marine environment.

Our knowledge of the threats that face marine species is very important for the conservation of biodiversity and for preventing its degradation.



Knowing how to protect marine species is vital these days because the degradation rates of destroying fish catch and extinction of some marine creatures in this age are faster than they were in the previous ages. As a result, the share of the individual of the fish catch is decreasing instead of being increasing. In the Arab area, the share of the individual of the fish catch has decreased compared to other similar areas of the world.

## Aspects of Overexploitation of Marine Resources :

The main problem of environment is man ; he destroys it through his unaware behaviours, his overexploitation of its resources and his hunting of living things using rates

that exceed the ability of the environmental system to replace them .

Marine environments are the most exposed environments to change and degradation. As a result many marine living things are exposed to extinction and destruction.

The following are some of the aspects of overexploitation of marine environments and their consequences.

- Building dams at the river ways prevents fresh water which carries fertile materials from reaching estuaries. This leads to the degradation of fish catches at the estuaries.

- Building dams prevents the seasonal migration breeding of fish and thus leads to the destruction of fish catch.

- Building night-lighted coastal roads leads to decreasing the breeding chances of marine species.

- Coastal development including the building of houses and parks causes a noticeable change in marine environments which in turn leads to the destruction of marine biodiversity.

- Overfishing using explosives and technological fishing equipment poses threat to marine life.

- Pollution from oil, municipal, industrial and home wastes leads to a decline in the breeding ability of marine living things.

### **Do you know ?**

- That the overbidding of jelly fish on our coasts is due to the decrease in the numbers of sea turtles which feed on it.

- That a number of marine living things has begun extinction such as dolphins and seals.

- That there are 343 fish species endangered to extinction world wide because of the unaware behaviours of man.
- That more than 70 percent of marine pollution comes from land-based sources.

## Topics for Discussion :

- The High Dam which was built on the River Nile has its positive and negative aspects ... discuss showing its effects upon the fish catch in particular.
- Present your own point of view concerning the issue of discharging municipal sewage into the sea and river.
- What are the consequences of building new harbours and deepening old ones ?

## Further Readings :

- *Kamal El-Din Hassan El-Batanouny. Biodiversity (7) : «Reasons for Its Decrease and Destruction,» The environment Magazine, Jan. 1994, P 34 - 37.*
- *Mohsen Abdul-Hamid Tawfik and others. Sustainable Development and Environment in the Arab World. Tunisia: The Arab Organisation for 1992.*

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