

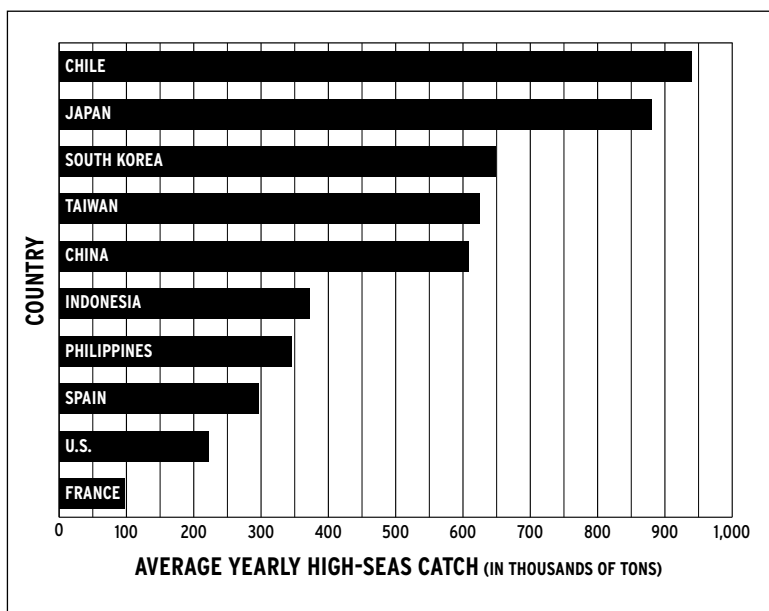
For use with "Saving the World's Oceans" on p. 12 of the magazine

GRAPH

Who's Fishing the High Seas?

As the United Nations seeks to protect the world's oceans, one main issue is overfishing in the high seas. Fish populations are declining in coastal areas, so commercial fishing fleets from many nations are turning to international waters. Concerned that these fleets are depleting fish populations and damaging the seafloor with their nets, the U.N. hopes to create protected areas that are off-limits to fishing. Some conservationists are even calling for a complete ban on fishing on the high seas. According to the Global Ocean Commission, eliminating or seriously reducing high-seas fishing could help fish rebound in coastal areas, benefiting nations around the globe. But for the nations with the biggest high-seas catches (see *graph*), either might mean the loss of millions of dollars a year.

The bar graph shows the 10 nations that catch the most fish on the high seas.



SOURCE: GLOBAL OCEAN COMMISSION (AVERAGE IS BASED ON 2000-2010)

ANALYZE THE GRAPH

- The majority of the countries listed on the graph are on which continent?
 - Europe
 - North America
 - South America
 - Asia
- Which country's average annual high-seas catch is about 300,000 tons higher than South Korea's?
 - China's
 - Chile's
 - Japan's
 - Indonesia's
- According to the graph, China's average annual high-seas catch is about ____ times France's catch.
 - two
 - four
 - six
 - eight
- Spain's and France's combined catch is _____.
 - about 535,000
 - higher than Indonesia's
 - about the same as China's
 - all of the above
- If Japan's high-seas catch is 15 percent of its total fish catch, you can calculate that it catches almost ____ tons of fish per year.
 - 6 million
 - 8 million
 - 9 million
 - 10 million

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- High-seas fishing requires expensive equipment, like boats with powerful engines and sophisticated navigational systems. How do you think that affects which countries engage in high-seas fishing? What other factors might be involved? Does the graph seem to support your conclusions? Explain.
- Do you believe that commercial fishing fleets should be able to fish in international waters? Why or why not?