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Sea Life joins campaign to end overfishing

Sea Life Helsinki will mark the 13th annual 'World Oceans Day' on Wednesday, June 8th, by launching a major new campaign to safeguard dwindling fish stocks.

Sea Life visitors will be encouraged to sign a petition urging EU Fisheries ministers to allocate sensible fishing quotas that will enable severely depleted fish stocks to recover.

Visitors will also be urged to police their local stores to make sure the fish on sale comes from only sustainable sources. Atlantic cod, halibut and salmon and European hake are just a few of the popular food-fishes decimated by fishing in the last few decades.

Schoolchildren are being urged to paint their own emotive overfishing pictures and send them to the Centre to appear in a special 'Last Chance To Sea' gallery set up as part of the campaign.

Of all the many threats facing the world's oceans, the problem of overfishing is without doubt the most serious. Recent reports reveal that stocks of many of the world's most important food fishes have been reduced by 90-per-cent since the onset of industrialised fisheries in 1950.

If we don't do something about this soon, fishing industries worldwide face total collapse and the whole eco-system of the oceans will change completely, with who knows what consequences?

The Centre will be unveiling a special information panel later this month, spelling out the plight of fish stocks and urging visitors to support the campaign. There will be a special board advising people which seafood's they should avoid and which they can eat with a clear conscience.

World Oceans Day was created 13 years ago by the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and has grown steadily year on year. Its theme this year is 'Discover the Ocean in Your Backyard,' and the object is to make people aware of their dependence on the seas, no matter where they live.

The overfishing campaign is the latest project undertaken by the Sea Life network's own SOS environmental programme. SOS has already successfully lobbied the European Parliament to improve safeguards for vital loggerhead turtle nest sites in the Mediterranean, to outlaw the grisly 'shark-finning' industry in EU waters, and to speed the introduction of dolphin-friendly fishing nets.

Any children inspired to create their own overfishing pictures...be they simple portraits of some of the threatened fish species, or elaborate scenes of trawlers and factory ships on the high seas... should send their work to:
SOS Stop Overfishing, Sea Life Helsinki, Tivolitie 10, 00510 HELSINKI.



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