

Ocean biodiversity

Both the levels of fish stocks and mammal biodiversity in the world's oceans have been declining in recent years as a result of overfishing and marine pollution. Yet new equipment and a return to more traditional ways of fishing have shown how this trend can be reversed. An example of this can be seen in the south Pacific where tuna fishermen have started to use deep sea nets to trawl the depths of the oceans in order to avoid catching and killing smaller fish. The amount of small fish caught with these nets has already been reduced in the south Pacific and fishermen in other oceans across the world are interested in exploring different techniques to minimize their impact on ocean biodiversity.

This is evident in the Gulf Stream where the seasonal warmth of the sea is an important factor in maintaining both quantity and diversity. A few fishing companies have been experimenting with monitoring chlorophyll levels of the Gulf Stream to identify areas which are likely to attract fish due to the increase in plankton generated by the increased chlorophyll levels. This makes the fishing companies more efficient and reduces their environmental impact by reducing the amount of travel. In addition, scientists have been working on identifying the swimming channels of whales in the Atlantic to ensure that ships do not cross the channels and interfere with the whales' communication. These scientists have discovered that disruption to the whales' communication channels from the noise of ships has a negative effect on their breeding patterns. Every innovation in this area is useful for protecting the diversity of the oceans in the future. With scientists, conservationists and fishermen all working towards solutions, some progress is being made in man's relationship with the oceans' inhabitants.

QUESTIONS 1-5

Complete the sentences with words from the passage. Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

- 1 Pollution and excess fishing have caused a decrease in amounts of _____ marine diversity and stocks in the world's seas.
- 2 The use of _____ has caused a reduction in the quantity of small fish removed from the sea by the fishing industry.
- 3 Ocean temperature is _____ in making sure that the sea continues to have both variety and sufficient stocks of marine life.
- 4 According to experts, the _____ is damaging to the reproduction habits of whales in the Atlantic Ocean.
- 5 In order to safeguard the oceans of the future and the variety of marine life that inhabits them, each creative idea _____.