Name:_____ Date:_____

The Threat of Overfishing

Task 1: Vocabulary in Context

Read the sentences below. Use the context to deduce the meaning of the **bold** word, then select the most accurate definition.

1. The **sheer scale** of the operation was hard to comprehend; they employed over 10,000 people globally.

a) relative complexity b) immense magnitude c) financial cost d) geographic location

2. We need to find a way to **stem** the flow of plastic into our oceans before it is too late.

a) restrict or stop b) navigate through c) carefully measure d) physically remove

3. Young, **juvenile** fish are often caught in nets before they are old enough to reproduce.

a) critically endangered b) fully developed c) not yet mature d) native to the area

4. Fish, birds, and mammals are all **vertebrates**, meaning they have a backbone.

a) creatures with gills b) animals with backbones c) oceanic plants d) microscopic organisms

5. The healthy coral reef provided an absolute **goldmine** of data for the marine biologists to study.

a) literal excavation site b) hidden danger c) rich source of something valuable d) depleted environmental area

6. Many **coastal** towns are at serious risk of flooding due to rising sea levels.

a) located near the shoreline b) deep in the ocean c) completely submerged d) floating on the surface

7. Global fish stocks have significantly **diminished** over the last 50 years, leaving far fewer fish in the sea.

a) sharply expanded b) completely vanished c) made smaller or less d) remained stagnant

8. The population of bluefin tuna is **plummeting** rapidly; numbers are dropping faster than anyone expected.

a) slowly adapting b) rapidly falling c) steadily climbing d) violently fluctuating

9. The government offered financial **incentives**, like tax breaks, to encourage companies to use sustainable practices.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

a) strict legal penalties | b) environmental hazards | c) things that motivate action | d) official corporate rules

10. The organization is **leveraging** its large network to pressure supermarkets into changing their suppliers.

a) systematically dismantling | b) permanently abandoning | c) ignoring completely | d) using to maximum advantage

11. Strict **auditing** of the ship's catch records ensures that the fishermen are following all the rules.

a) conducting an official inspection | b) secretly observing | c) generously funding | d) heavily polluting

12. The oil spill had a **catastrophic** effect on local wildlife, causing widespread devastation and death.

a) mildly inconvenient | b) involving sudden and immense damage | c) long-term but harmless | d) easily reversible

13. The documentary had a **profound** impact on the public, deeply changing how people view the ocean.

a) very severe or deep | b) highly predictable | c) superficially noticeable | d) completely irrelevant

14. The new sustainable nets are a **transformational** invention, completely revolutionising the fishing industry.

a) temporarily disruptive | b) maintaining the status quo | c) causing a fundamental change | d) marginally successful

15. Without the protection of the reef, the smaller fish are left entirely **vulnerable** to predators.

a) fiercely aggressive | b) naturally immune | c) largely invisible | d) exposed to being attacked or harmed

Task 2: Reading for General Idea 🕮

Read the text *Overfishing is as big a threat to humanity as it is to our oceans*. Decide whether the following statements are **TRUE**, **FALSE**, or **NOT GIVEN** according to the information in the article.

No.	Statement	T / F / NG
1.	Marine life populations have decreased significantly.	
2.	Dermot O'Gorman noticed overfishing issues while working in the Pacific fourteen years ago.	
3.	Local fishermen were catching more fish than before.	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4.	The world's population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050.	
5.	Pacific Island nations get 10% of their protein from fish.	
6.	Only local fishermen are responsible for the food security threat in the Pacific.	
7.	John West Australia is the only tuna company in the world with MSC certification.	
8.	The town fish market in Gizo sells mostly juvenile fish.	
9.	MSC is considered the world's most credible sustainability standard for wild-caught fish.	
10.	Canned tuna will become completely sustainable by the year 2030.	

Task 3: Reading for Details (Part 1)



Answer the following questions based on specific details provided in the text. Use full sentences where appropriate.

1. How much have populations of marine vertebrates decreased since 1970?

---

2. What kind of fish were making up the majority of the local fishermen's catches in the Pacific?

---

3. According to the author, overfishing is a threat to ocean biodiversity. What other major issue is it a threat to?

---

4. By how much did marine populations decline globally over the course of a single generation?

---

5. How much additional seafood demand is expected globally by 2050?

---

6. What percentage of their protein do Pacific Island nations source from fish?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. Which foreign nation does the author specifically mention as sourcing the majority of its tuna from the western and central Pacific?

Task 3: Reading for Details (Part 2)

8. What was the intent of WWF's regional tuna fisheries program?

---

9. What percentage of the Australian canned tuna market does John West Australia hold?

---

10. What does MSC stand for?

---

11. How many tins of tuna in Australia are now credibly certified as sustainable?

---

12. Name two non-target marine species mentioned in the text that are often killed during tuna catching.

---

13. Why is more rigorous auditing of fish catches necessary?

---

14. What catastrophic environmental threat to the oceans is caused by carbon pollution?

---

15. According to the conclusion of the text, what percentage of the canned tuna market must we now aim to make sustainable?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Answer Key

Task 1: Vocabulary in Context

b) immense magnitude

a) restrict or stop

c) not yet mature

b) animals with backbones

c) rich source of something valuable

a) located near the shoreline

c) made smaller or less

b) rapidly falling

c) things that motivate action

d) using to maximum advantage

a) conducting an official inspection

b) involving sudden and immense damage

a) very severe or deep

c) causing a fundamental change

d) exposed to being attacked or harmed

Task 2: Reading for General Idea 🕮

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F 6. F 7. NG 8. NG 9. T 10. NG

Task 3: Reading for Details (Part 1)

They have halved (decreased by 50%).

Juvenile fish.

It is a humanitarian issue and a threat to food security.

49%

50 million tonnes.

Between 50% and 90%.

Australia.

Task 3: Reading for Details (Part 2)

To promote market-based improvements to the way tuna was sourced by leveraging the purchasing power of big businesses.

43%

Marine Stewardship Council.

100 million tins.

Sharks, rays, turtles, and dolphins (any two).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

So that stocks are not overfished to the point of collapse.

Ocean acidification.

100%

LIVEWORKSHEETS