## Lesson 6b

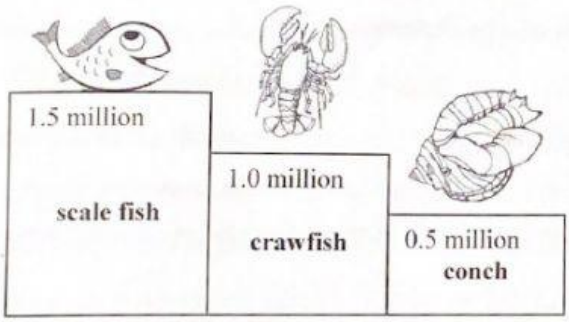
# FISHING

The vast areas of banks, reefs, and sea which surround the islands of The Bahamas provide our country with a valuable resource – many types of seafood. There are three major fishing grounds in The Bahamas, and every Bahamian fisherman goes to one or all of them. (see page 15)
These are:

- The Great Bahama Bank
- The Little Bahama Bank
- Cay Sal Bank

The major fishing islands are Spanish Wells, Long Island, Andros, and Abaco. Sufficient fish are caught by fisherman on these islands for export to other countries, and some are sold in New Providence and for local consumption. Our main fishing industry is to be found on the island of Spanish Wells.

Marine seafood is classified into three types, as shown in the bar graph.




We have to be careful not to overfish our waters otherwise there will be no fish for future generations of Bahamians. To do this, certain regulations have been put in place by the Department of Fisheries to protect our fishing resource. One method of protection is the enforcement of a **closed season** on the catching of fish.

**Job opportunities in the fishing industry**

Our fishing industry generates around $76 million in foreign exchange per annum and employs approximately 9,000 people. The average income of a fisherman at the height of the season can be as much as $700 per day. Bonefishing guides can make as much as $300 per hour. The crawfish industry is very **lucrative (profitable)**. Crawfish during a good year may sell for as much as $16 per pound. In 2009, the price of crawfish fell to between $7 and $8 per pound. Why do you think this happened? On an average two-week fishing trip, a fisherman can catch as much as 10,000 pounds of crawfish. Compare what he would have made during a good year to what he made in 2009.



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