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The following text is the Summary excerpt of a 2013 IWMC publication on
Managing Fisheries and the Role of CITES.
The data is from 2010.

Question: Is our world better off now than a decade ago?

The many differences between countries must be factored into any action program on fisheries: cultures, traditions, standards of living, population mix, governance, food production and the amount of trade in fish products.

- Different management solutions apply to different sets of circumstances. If CITES – or any other international instrument – is not able to respond effectively in ways that improve the status of particular fish stocks, this does not mean that nothing should be done. It simply means that the right approach must be found.
- Fisheries must be properly and fairly managed to ensure that it is carried out in an orderly manner. International, regional, and national regulators need to base their decisions on sound science and with a full appreciation of local factors, so that fishermen are not carelessly disadvantaged.
- A balance must be found where nations work together on rules and regulations for fisheries. By designing and implementing national and regional management plans, officials can help to ensure optimal levels of fish production whilst also sustaining stocks.
- Any measures to limit fisheries must be seen within the context of food production and human welfare. Limits on fisheries – whether they arise from regulation or from over-fishing – can have a devastating impact on communities.
- Fisheries play a key role in ensuring sustainable livelihoods in many parts of the world. Much of the world's fishery activity is highly localized and is characterized by small-scale operators. Almost ninety per cent of the world's 4.3 million fishing vessels fish within twelve miles of the coastline. Less than two per cent of fishing vessels are industrial fishers.
- Fishing not only helps to provide us with essential nutrients, it also is an important component in the structure and welfare of many different societies, and cultures around the world, especially those with Indigenous peoples and fragile economies.

- The fisheries sector provides around 55 million jobs – roughly the equivalent of the entire population of the United Kingdom or France. The livelihoods of 10-12 per cent of the world's population depends on fisheries.

- Fish products are among the most widely-traded foods. Developing countries account for 55 per cent of world fish exports. In 2010, the global fish trade was worth US\$ 109 billion.

- Nations experience difficulties implementing CITES listings on marine species because of the complexity of what is being attempted through CITES. The listing of marine fish species by CITES could negatively influence livelihoods in some of the poorest parts of the world, whilst producing no positive results for conservation. If CITES continues to list commercially-exploited marine resources without having the necessary means to implement measures, the organization risks losing credibility.

The IWMC brochure on Managing Fisheries and the Role of CITES is available at :

<https://www.iwmc.org/~documents/route%3A/download/9/>