

# TWHSMUN V



## Interpol

Preventing Overfishing in Seas across the World

BACKGROUND GUIDE

## Table Of Contents

Introduction of Chairs	3
Introduction of Committee and a Note on Research and Preparation	5
Introduction of Topic	7
History and Description of Topic	7
Current Status	8
Bloc Analysis	8
Committee Mission	9
Questions to Consider	10
Works Cited	11



# TWHSMUN V

Dear Delegates,

My name is Alejandro Saldivar and I am extremely honored and excited to be one of your chairs for the INTERPOL committee during TWHSMUN V. I am a senior at The Woodlands High School and have been a part of Model United Nations since Freshman year. I have been a delegate at TWHSMUN in the past in addition to multiple iterations of HAMUN, but this is my first time chairing a committee. I hope this committee will be a valuable learning experience for all of us, and I can't wait to hear the resolutions you will bring to the table!

I wanted to chair INTERPOL because international politics has always been a keen interest of mine as it has held, and will continue to hold, great importance in our lives. Being informed about the world around us is one of the most important qualities we can have, and this topic will open some of our eyes to some of the issues that are prevalent today.

The topic of overfishing in seas is becoming increasingly relevant as the effects it has on the environment are becoming more drastic. Legal questions are being asked about those who perpetually harm the environment via overfishing. One of the reasons we chose this topic is because we believe that this issue affects everybody, from world powers to smaller countries, which will allow for productive conversation throughout the committee.

For the best conference experience possible, I urge everybody to do their due diligence with their country and come willing to learn. Even though the work might seem daunting, I promise we will have a great time! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my email below.

Sincerely,

**Alejandro Saldivar**

[alexsaldivar2007@gmail.com](mailto:alexsaldivar2007@gmail.com)

INTERPOL Chair



# TWHSMUN V

Dear Honorable Delegates,

My name is Dylan Ail and I am very excited to be one of your chairs in the TWHSMUN V. I am currently a senior at TWHS and first joined MUN in my junior year. Since then I have gained many fun experiences with my peers during conferences like TWHSMUN IV and the most recent HAMUN which I was given an award for outstanding delegate. Although I haven't chaired before, I plan to work hard to make this an enjoyable experience for all of us and I can't wait to see how you all work together to resolve the issues presented at this TWHSMUN V!

I decided on chairing for INTERPOL because when I first joined MUN it was the first topic that caught my eye. I decided to go to INTERPOL during my first TWHSMUN because of my interest in more local enforcement and the way governments can work together to resolve issues concerning both sides. I believe that INTERPOL isn't a topic that a single country can work alone on, it is a topic that brings together countries for a common goal of ending a world issue. The thing that surprised me the most about INTERPOL was that it wasn't just local committees that worked together to stop the issues, countries all around the world group up, this fact shows the true nature of humanity.

Our topic this TWHSMUN is about overfishing in seas, this topic is a growing world issue because the more time we take to solve it the more drastic the effect on the ecosystem and the environment will be. Because of this reason, the entire world is grouping to solve this issue, and no matter how small a country may be they will always have a say in INTERPOL. I hope you all use this conference as a learning experience but don't forget to enjoy every step of the way!!

Sincerely,

**Dylan Ail**

[Dylan\\_Ail@hotmail.com](mailto:Dylan_Ail@hotmail.com)

INTERPOL Chair



## Introduction of Committee

Interpol, also known as the international criminal police organization, is the largest police organization in the world. It was founded in 1923 and provides support to law enforcement worldwide and combat transnational crime. Interpol also facilitates cooperation between member states via databases and networks. Interpol does not have agents with arresting powers, rather it works as a network of agencies working in tandem to achieve their goals. One way in which Interpol enacts legal action is via red and yellow notices. While red notices are issued to internationally request the location and arrest of a person, yellow notices are issued to help locate missing persons. The General Assembly meets once a year to meet, discuss, and make decisions. As crimes are becoming increasingly more international, there must be an organization that organizes the cooperation between countries to limit international crime.

## A Note on Research and Preparation

At TWHSMUN, position papers are **required** to be eligible for awards. Position papers should be no more than 4 pages in length, and will be due on **October 26th** through the Google Form that was emailed to your sponsor. They should be 12 pt. Times New Roman font, standard margins, and double-spaced. If interested, delegates may use the [NMUN guide](#) or [Best Delegate](#) for more detailed guidance on constructing a position paper. It is imperative that delegates write the papers utilizing their assigned country's perspective on the given topic. A good position paper will often include the following components:

1. **Heading:** Use the following format for your heading:

Committee Name:

Topic:

Country:

School Name:

Sponsor Name:

Delegate Name:

2. **Topic Background:** Describe the history of the topic as it would be described by the delegate's country. Include specific examples such as recent international action regarding the topic. If there have been examples of past UN action regarding the issue include them here.
3. **Country Policy:** Clarify the position of the delegation's country on the topic and what recent actions it has taken to enforce this position. Include the relevant statements by prevalent leaders of the state, statistics, and research that support the effectiveness of the policies enacted by the country.

## TWHSMUN V

- 4. Proposed Solutions:** Detail the delegation's proposed solutions for the issue thoroughly. Each idea should have a clear connection to the correlating problem that it aims to solve and also identify possible obstacles to implementation and how they can be avoided. The solutions should be natural extensions of the country's policy and perspective on the topic.
- 5. Works Cited:** Cite all of your sources in MLA format—if this page is not included then the delegate will have committed plagiarism which will disqualify them from receiving an award.



## Introduction of the Topic

The main objective of Interpol is to facilitate international cooperation regarding international crime, and the problem of overfishing in seas across the world requires action to be taken. Simply put, overfishing is the practice of removing fish from a population at a rate faster than the fish are reproducing, producing a decline in the fish population. This population change then affects the entire ecosystem, often leaving the body of water with low biomass. The reason overfishing has become such a prevalent issue in modern times is because of the growth of demand for fish products, leading to more extreme measures to be taken by fishing companies to meet those demands. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, the Secretary-General stated how the problem of overfishing “poses a major threat to the food supply of millions of people.” Even though this quote is from over two decades ago, the problem of overfishing still needs addressing. To properly address overfishing, one must know the types of overfishing and what can be done to mitigate their respective consequences. Growth overfishing is when fish are farmed from the ocean before they reach full maturity, reducing the maximum possible yield. Recruitment overfishing is when too many adult fish are harvested to the point that the population cannot recover due to the lack of reproducing fish. Ecosystem overfishing is when the practice of overfishing has a drastic effect on the balance of the ecosystem, usually resulting in the overpopulation of smaller, non-predatory fish. All these types of overfishing are contributors to the widely accepted notion that overfishing is leading to the extinction and defaunation of oceans.

## Topic History

Overfishing has been a problem since the early 1800s, with humans seeking blubber for lamp oil, leading to devastating drops in the whale population off the coast of Cape Cod. A similar event occurred in the mid-1900s which was the overfishing to near extinction of Atlantic cod, herring, and sardines. The most prevalent consequence that overfishing caused was harm to the food chain and ecosystem. Later on in the 20th century, laws were favorable towards the fishing industry, causing unregulated fishing to occur in oceans all around the United States. An example of the consequences of overfishing can be seen in the closing of the Newfoundland cod fishery in 1992. Decades of signs of overfishing went ignored, and the Canadian government was forced to issue a moratorium (temporary halting of fishing to allow populations to recover) on the fishery, devastating the job market in the area. Very recently, the Canadian government repealed the moratorium (more about this in the *Current Status* section). In 1976, the United States Congress took its first steps to prevent overfishing by passing the law named Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This act called for conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing, yet it proved to be a failure as many

## TWHSMUN V

fish species were still depleting, calling for a reauthorization of the act in 2006, mandating annual catch limits that cannot be exceeded. On the international scale, the Exclusive Economic Zone was introduced by the United Nations at the Law of the Sea Convention in 1982. EEZ can be briefly described as a zone in which a coastal state has exclusive legal and economic control over the area spanning out 200 miles past its coast. The main purpose of EEZ was to settle maritime territorial disputes between countries, but it also gave countries more sovereignty over the fishing activities happening within their EEZ. Another example of international action taken to help combat overfishing was the establishment of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Again, briefly, RFMOs are meant to facilitate cooperation between countries that share an interest in the same fish stock. The establishment of measures like EEZ and RFMO have helped in mitigating the effects of overfishing, yet the issue remains. Advances in technology, such as the development of models that can predict the growth of populations concerning fishing, allow for more accurate catch limits to be mandated.

### Current Status

As mentioned before, new technologies are being created to combat the threat of overfishing. In addition, the United Nations urged the international community to “effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices” by 2020. Of course, all of these issues are still extremely prevalent, yet there has been some improvement in recent years. A report by the General Fisheries of the Mediterranean (GCFM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) highlights this notion. The 2023 edition of *The State of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries* states that even though fishing pressure is twice the level that is considered sustainable, the percentage of overexploited stocks fell below 60%, a 15% reduction since 2020, and the lowest it has been in over a decade. While fisheries’ production and revenue have remained relatively stagnant since 2020, the production and revenue of aquaculture have nearly doubled during the same period. The report also highlights how, under management plans, certain species’ pressure rates have significantly decreased. To expand on the mention of the fisheries in Canada (see *Topic History*), the end of the moratorium also expanded the total allowable catch. The end of the moratorium has been met with mixed reception, with some supporting the decision by the Canadian government. Others, like the union representing inshore fish harvesters, are calling for the reversal of the decision. This split in opinion is a microcosm of the worldwide discussion that is taking place over the best course of action to take to combat overfishing.



## Bloc Analysis

The solution to the ongoing issue of overfishing is the increase of satellite surveillance and more active coast guard and even though many countries with high GDP can afford this change, what about the countries with lower GDP? Countries with lower GDP will not agree to the change in the security of the seas regarding overfishing because of possible bigger problems that their countries are facing. To be able to fully resolve this issue the different groups will have to include both poorer and wealthier countries to be able to withstand the economic burden as a group and not as sole countries because poorer countries would not be able to afford it. Another division is that countries with bordering oceans need the excess fishing in seas to stimulate their economies and keep them flowing. The Blocs will have to find different sponsors and wealthy countries to again support the cause and or lend technology to introduce newer forms of income for a country. The current countries working to stop overfishing are Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, and Portugal. The majority of these countries are bordering oceans, thus a large part of their economy consists of fishing. For this reason, these countries will fight against overfishing so they can preserve their ocean environment and continue to be able to fish for many years to come.

The main points of these divisions all lead to one solution. This solution needs many countries, rich and poor to work jointly to improve coastal security by sharing technology to be able to further stop illegal fishers.

## Committee Mission

After it was initially founded in 1923, Interpol rebuilt itself after the end of World War II. As mentioned before, the main goal of Interpol is to facilitate the cooperation of police agencies worldwide, allowing for the expansion of jurisdictions and, ideally, the prevention of international crime. Your goal as a delegate during this conference should be to present your ideas from your research, discuss and form blocs with fellow delegates, and write resolutions that follow the guidelines of Interpol. Remember, when drafting resolutions, there is rarely a wrong answer. Each country has its own needs and resources, changing the way that country views a resolution. Just because a resolution doesn't coincide with your country's view on the topic, does not mean that resolution is not worth something. Try to work with others rather than argue, as that is the best way to gain new understandings and make the experience better for everyone. The purpose of this committee is to prevent overfishing in seas worldwide, so of course there are multiple ways in which this issue can be resolved. If this is your first conference, don't worry too much about whether or not your ideas will be accepted. This is meant to be a collaborative experience, so don't be afraid to put yourself out there!

## Questions to Consider

1. Which countries' oceanic ecosystems are most affected by overfishing
2. What countries are currently battling against overfishing?
3. How will countries replace the surplus of income coming from fishing when stricter limitations are implemented?
4. Which countries can provide the required amount of technologies to sufficiently stop illegal fishing in poorer countries?
5. Which countries currently have active fishing limits?
6. How much longer can ocean ecosystems affected by overfishing have until permanent damage is done?
7. What is done to stop citizens from overfishing after the annual limit has been reached?
8. What areas are most heavily affected by overfishing?
9. Must many countries have to work jointly on stopping overfishing or can it be solved differently?
10. How will countries that have a focus on seafood and fish cuisine be accustomed to the change in the market of fish?
11. What if countries decline to make the change because of the effect on their economy?
12. What is the main cause of overfishing?
13. What are the main effects caused by overfishing?
14. How will the governments of countries that work against it make up for the money invested into the technology and security in the seas?



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