

## **Major Fishing Grounds and its commercial viability**

Welcome students,

My name is Dixita Shingadi, Assistant Professor in Geography from Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Quepem-Goa. In this module we will be learning about major fishing grounds in the world and its commercial viability.

### **Learning outcomes**

At the end of this session, students will be able to:

- Describe the major fishing grounds in the world.
- Analyze the commercial viability of all these fishing grounds.

### **Introduction**

Fishing is carried out almost all along the coastline in the world. But it is commercially developed only in the certain parts of the world. There are a lot of geographical factors which plays a very important role in the formation of the fishing grounds. You have already learnt about those factors in the last module. Based on those geographical factors, it is well understood that the temperate region in the northern hemisphere is the best place for the fishing. Infact all the major fishing grounds are located in the temperate region. Those fishing grounds are Northeast Atlantic, Northwest Atlantic, Northwest Pacific and Northeast Pacific.

### **Major Fishing Grounds in the world**

#### **1. North East Atlantic fishing ground**

This fishing ground extends from Iceland to Mediterranean shore. Here all the three types of fishing are carried out on a larger scale that too in a well organized manner; pelagic, demersal, and inshore fishing. The countries which are involved in fishing over here are Spain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, UK, and Ireland. Out of which, Norway is the leading fishing country in this particular region. Dogger Bank in the Northern Sea is the most exploited area for fishing. The important fish caught over here are Herring, Cod, Mackerel and Haddock. The fishing over here is highly mechanized. There are certain geographical factors which have played an important role in the formation of this fishing ground which includes indented coastline, wide and shallow continental shelf and the cool climate.

#### **2. Northwest Atlantic fishing ground**

It extends from Labrador coast of Newfoundland to North East coast of USA. There are lots of fishing banks over here, out of which Georges and the Grand Bank is the important one. Traditionally, this fishing region was famous for Cod fish, but over the years the catch of the cod fish have declined. The other fish

which are caught over here are Sardine, Haddock and Halibut. Fishing is highly mechanized over here, and it is carried out on a larger scale. The fish caught over here are exported to mainland of America, South America, Southern Europe, and even in the northern part of the Africa. The important geographical factors which are responsible for the formation of this fishing ground are wide continental shelf, the meeting of cold Labrador and the warm Gulf Stream current.

### **3. Northwest Pacific fishing ground**

It extends from Bering Sea to East China Sea. It is the world's largest fishing region. The countries which are involved in fishing over here are Japan, China, USSR, North Korea and South Korea. Inshore and deep sea fishing is carried out on a larger scale in this fishing region. The most intensively fished areas are Sea of Okhotsk, Sea of Japan, Yellow sea and East China Sea. The important fish caught over here are Cod, Tuna, Bonito, Mackerel and Herring. The meeting of cold Oyashio and the warm Kuroshio ocean current is the main geographical reason for the development of this fishing region as meeting of the cold and warm ocean current favors the development of planktons, which is very important for the production of fish.

### **4. Northeast Pacific fishing ground**

This fishing ground extends from western coast of Alaska, Canada and USA. Long, irregular and indented coastline is one of the main reasons for the development of this fishing ground. This fishing region was traditionally famous for Salmon fish, but over the years the catch of the Salmon fish have declined due to overexploitation, damming of the rivers and the pollution of the river waters. The other fish which are caught over here are Herring, Cod and Flounder.

These are the four major fishing grounds that we have discussed. But apart from this there are some other fishing grounds like Southeast Pacific or West Central Pacific, which are also famous for the fishing activity.

These are the references.

Thank you.