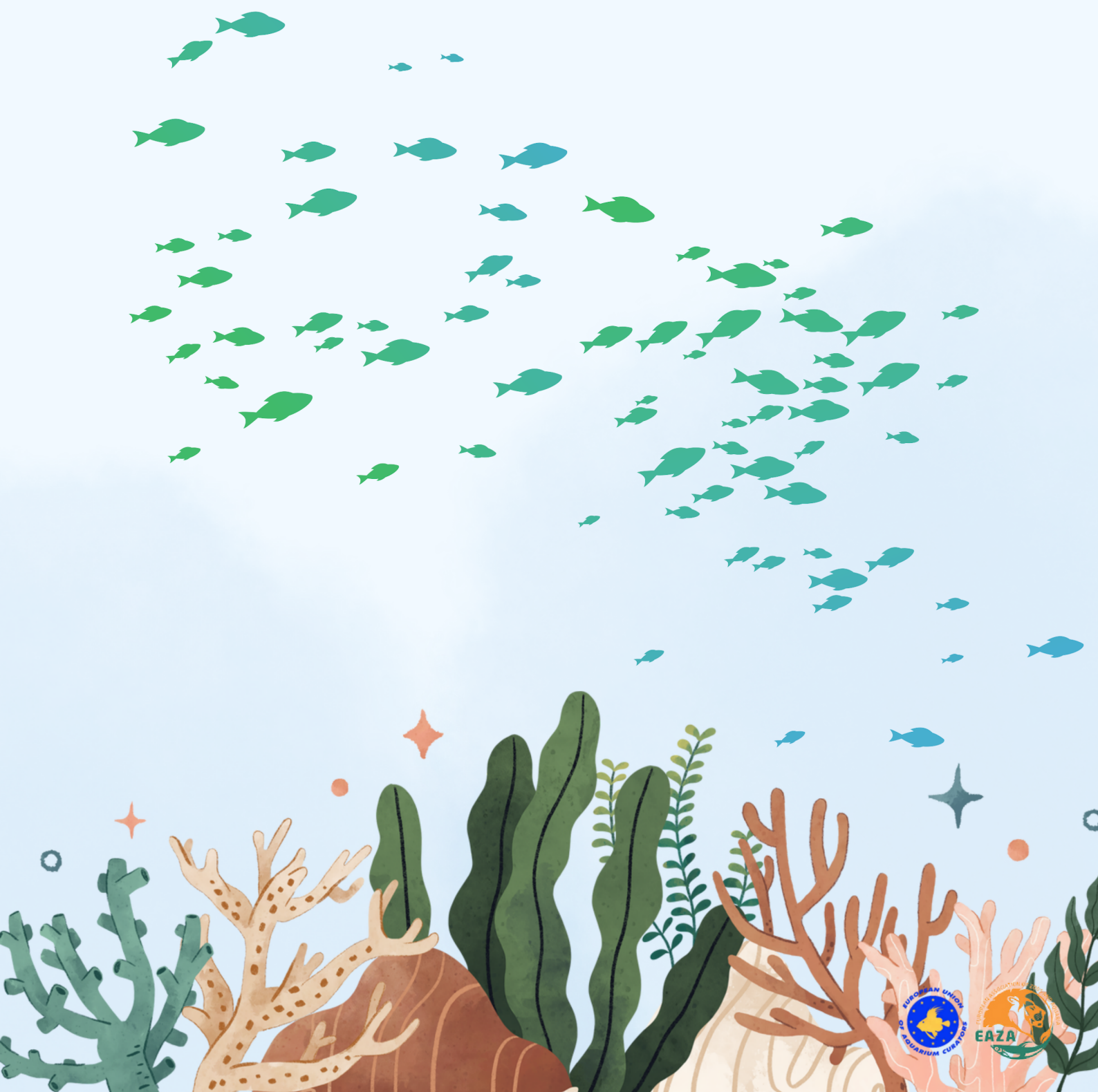


Overfishing

Activity 3:

A marine protected area





FÉDÉRATION
WALLONIE-BRUXELLES

This activity was created by the Aquarium-Museum of the University of Liège thanks to the financial support of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels.



The sustainable exploitation of resources represents one of the greatest challenges we will have to face in the upcoming years. The oceans are full of riches, but if we are not careful, they could quickly disappear...

This activity aims to understand the divergent points of view around fishing and the protection of the environment.



Introduction

A marine protected area is an underwater area in which human activities are restricted by regulations to protect the environment and its occupants.

There are different levels of protection, ranging from total protection – where collecting samples is prohibited – to basic regulation of nautical activities and fishing to promote sustainable use of the environment.

If their location is wisely chosen, these protected marine areas present different interests:

- ecological interest (protecting and restoring the natural environment);
- touristic and cultural interest;
- halieutic interest (fish are more numerous and larger near marine protected areas).

The success of a marine protected area depends on its acceptance and respect by the community. It is important to work in consultation with the various users of the area.

We suggest that you set up a role-playing game allowing students to slip into the shoes of the inhabitants of Belleplage, a coastal town whose main resources are fishing and tourism and where the establishment of a marine protected area is considered.



Game rules



Before starting the game, students must read the notice of **public inquiry** and then choose a **role-play card** in order to put themselves in the shoes of a Belleplage resident. Some cards are blank and allow you to create a role.



After 15 minutes of preparation, the meeting begins and everyone can give their opinion on their **interest** in creating a marine protected area, its **location** and the future **regulations** that will control its use. They must justify their opinion thanks to the arguments imagined during the preparation time.



If necessary, **stimulus cards** can bring new ideas into the debate. Some provide arguments in favor or against the creation of a marine protected area, while others have ideas on the rules to adopt. Blank cards make it possible to imagine other arguments.

Note: the arguments presented are not always correct.



At the end of the meeting, the goal is to have found an **agreement** that satisfies all the “inhabitants”. Students can fix the **location** of the marine protected area on the map and create **rules** for the activities that will take place there.



ENQUÊTE PUBLIQUE

Dear residents,

We hereby inform you that in relation to the project of creating a marine protected area on the territory of the town of Belleplage, a public enquiry has been opened. Fishing will not be authorized. Nautical leisure activities will be authorized under certain conditions.

All interested persons will be able to give their opinion during the meeting which will be held next Friday at 8 p.m. in the main hall of the Town Hall.

Meeting goals:

- define the location of the future marine protected area;
- setting up the rules applied to human activities in this marine area and its surroundings (fishing, sailing, construction, etc.) ;
- decide whether additional protective measures should be applied ;
- allow residents to make comments and suggestions about the project.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Lamart



Canning factory

Fish auction

Fishing port

Hotel

Nautical leisure
centre

Seagrass meadow



Draw your character here

She thinks it's beneficial for the city because the city will receive subsidies to create the marine protected area and it will attract tourists. But she recognizes that it may cause difficulties for some, and she does not want to upset her constituents.

Mrs Grandville

MAYOR OF THE CITY



Draw your character here

He thinks it's a good idea because he hopes it will attract more tourists, which will be financially beneficial to the city and create new jobs.

Mr Nightwalker

HOTEL OWNER



Draw your character here

He's afraid that he will no longer be able to rent his boats to tourists or take them on jet skis if certain water activities are prohibited.

Mr Lefort

MANAGER OF NAUTICAL
LEISURE CENTER



Draw your character here

She thinks that the marine protected area will bring more customers to her diving center in order to discover the underwater world under nice conditions and see lots of fish. She thinks that we should allow divers access to the marine protected area, because they do not harm the environment.

Mrs Deepsea

DIVING INSTRUCTOR



Draw your character here

He regularly sees damages underwater after the passing of bottom trawls; he therefore hopes that the creation of the marine protected area will prohibit destructive fishing methods in the area.

Mr. Bubbles

RECREATIONAL DIVER



Draw your character here

Her factory mainly produces canned fish, and she gets her supplies at the fish auction. She fears that she will run out of provisions and must close the factory if fishing is banned around the city.

Mrs Smith

OWNER OF THE CANNING
FACTORY



Draw your character here

His clients are mainly workers from the canning factory, and he fears losing many customers if the factory activity decreases following the ban on fishing in the marine protected area.

Mr Brown

SUPERMARKET OWNER



Draw your character here

Many residents depend directly or indirectly on fishing, and she fears they will lose their jobs if fishing is banned.

Mrs Jones

ALDERWOMAN



Draw your character here

She thinks that rather than wasting money on a marine protected area, the city should spend the money more efficiently by expanding and modernizing the port.

Mrs Williams

EMPLOYEE AT THE FISH
AUCTION



Draw your character here

He owns a small fishing boat, and he is afraid of losing his job if fishing is banned around Belleplage. His parents and grandparents were fishermen, and he does not understand why fishing is a problem now, although it has always been practiced in the region.

Mr Martin

FISHERMAN



Draw your character here

He owns a small fishing boat, but he can no longer make a living from fishing because there are less and less fish. According to him, the problem is the large fishing boats that compete with him. In addition, these large boats catch a lot of bycatch, which means, they catch unwanted species that are thrown overboard.

Mr Connor

FISHERMAN



Draw your character here

In recent years, she has modified the menu in order to offer her customers products from sustainable fishing. She buys products from traditional fishermen and avoids certain species. For example, she refuses to serve prawns because these are fished with bottom trawls.

Mrs Miller

RESTAURANT OWNER



Draw your character here

She was the one who launched the petition to request the creation of a marine protected area. She thinks it is our duty to protect biodiversity so that future generations benefit from it.

Mrs Parker

TEACHER



Draw your character here

He has been fishing with a rod from either the harbor jetty or his boat since he was a child. He finds less and less fish in the area. He hopes he can continue fishing in the marine protected area, as he believes he only catches a few fish and his activity does not harm the environment.

Mr Bernard

RECREATIONAL
FISHERMAN



Draw your character here

She thinks it is pointless and unfair because if she is banned from fishing, other boats still will come and fish illegally. She thinks that the city is doing nothing to support her activity although she is creating jobs.

Mrs Leroy

OWNER OF A FISHING
FLEET



Draw your character here

He hopes that the protection measures of the marine protected area will not restrict him from spreading fertilizer and insecticides on his fields.

Mr Garcia

FARMER



Draw your character here

She hopes that the creation of a marine protected area will attract many tourists because it would increase her profits.

Mrs. Fournier

MANAGER OF A GROCERY
STORE



Draw your character here

Her job is to observe fish stocks in the region, in particular in an underwater seagrass bed close to the coast where many fish come to breed. She believes that the creation of the marine protected area will increase the number of fish in the whole region, because the fish might be able to reproduce.

Mrs Martinez

MARINE BIOLOGIST



Draw your character here

He is often called by the city as a specialist when animals are found stranded dead or alive on the beaches. Often these animals show signs of having been caught in fishing nets.

Mr Delaporte

WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN



Draw your character here

Every weekend, she devotes a day to clean the beaches. Armed with garbage bags, she collects the waste that the sea reveals with each tide, in particular pieces of fishing nets, lost or discarded by the boats. She is very upset because she knows that these are deadly traps for many marine animals.

Ms Delange

VOLUNTEER IN A BEACH
CLEANING ASSOCIATION



Draw your character here

Vegetarian for several years, he worries about overfishing and the conditions under which fish are caught and killed. He wonders if sustainable fishing respecting animal welfare is possible.

Mr Brown

SECRETARY



Draw your character here

Who?

PROFESSION OR
INTEREST?



Draw your character here

Who?

PROFESSION OR
INTEREST?



Draw your character here

Who?

PROFESSION OR
INTEREST?



Draw your character here

Who?

PROFESSION OR
INTEREST?



Draw your character here

Who?

PROFESSION OR
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Draw your character here

Who?

PROFESSION OR
INTEREST?



Draw your character here

Who?

PROFESSION OR
INTEREST?



Setting up a marine protected area could create new jobs, as it will require coastguards for protection and scientists to study it.



If all the fish hide in the marine protected area, there will be nothing left to fish in the area.



If tourism increases in the region, land and buildings will increase their value.



A marine protected area could beautify the coast and attract more tourists.



We must protect the marine area as much as possible and prohibit all activities. Boats, divers and fishermen just have to go elsewhere!



If many animals grow and reproduce in the marine protected area, some will eventually leave the zone in order to colonize the rest of the area and the whole region will benefit.



If tourism increases in the region, new jobs will be created.



Creating a marine protected area is not enough. It is also necessary to protect the beach and the surrounding land because everything diffused there, ends up in the sea.



If we protect fish populations now, they will be able to recover, grow and support future generations.



If fishing is prohibited on the coast, the port, the auction and the canning factory will have to close.



How will we monitor and protect the reserve? How much is it going to cost?



Activities that do not damage the environment in the marine protected area must be tolerated. Let's allow pleasure boats, divers and traditional fishermen.



Healthy seagrass protects the beaches against erosion in case of a storm, which prevents the sand from returning to the sea.



Traditional fishing should not be confused with industrial fishing. Maybe we could allow some fishing boats in the marine protected area?



There are hardly any fish left in the region and the seabed is too damaged by bottom trawls. It is too late to act.



Having a marine protected area makes a good impression of the city abroad.



Trawling damages the seabed the most. Other types of fishing should be allowed.



Can we share the space fairly, with a protected area and a separate area in order to continue fishing?

