*You are the voice of the fishermen of the developed nations of the world. This includes the recreational fishermen and the commercial fishermen who make a living fishing in the waters of the world. Some of these people are very concerned about the environment and others are only concerned about being able to feed their families.*

**Background Information:**

* China is the largest consumer population of fish in the world, with 33.6 million tons of fish consumed per capita per year.
* Consumers in the developed countries demand greater variety, higher quality, and greater safety in handling and freshness.
* Consumers in developed nations tend to be wealthier, older, more educated, and more health conscious, therefore being willing to pay more for better quality, fresher fish.
* More of these consumers are demanding wild-caught, environmentally friendly and sustainable sources of fish.
* Eating fish presents a very different environmental challenge than raising land based stock. Fish do not produce as much green house gas. Fish produce 4.14 kilograms of CO2 equivalent per kilogram of edible salmon compared to chicken, one of the lowest producers at 1kg consumed chicken per 6.87 kg of CO2.
* Biggest ecological impact is overfishing and farm-raising. 75% of fish species are over exploited with the possibility of collapse of all fished species by 2050.
* Fishermen of wild caught fish must compete with aquaculture-produced fish, and are often at an economic disadvantage on the competition due to processing and distribution advantages that aquaculture farmers enjoy. Aquaculture may have a potential advantage in providing raw material for higher-value processed products.
* Protein consumption in the form of fish is increasing proportionally to increases in wealth in developing and developed nations alike.1
* Policy makers often disregard the experiences and wishes of the active fishermen, listening instead to industry spokespeople and lobbyists.
* Governments put limits on pounds of fish caught and fishing seasons, often in response to fish population numbers. These policies limit the time and amount of income fishermen can earn and carry stiff penalties if ignored. However these catch limit and season regulations are ignored and violated by fishermen from other countries, without penalty.



<http://www.alaska-summer-jobs.com/deckhand_jobs.htm>