*You live in a developing country and make your living by fishing. You must pay for a boat, nets, bait, fuel—everything that is a necessity of fishing. Often your materials need to be repaired, the weather is bad or you don’t catch fish. Any of these things mean that your family does not eat. You represent all of the families of the fishermen.*

**Background Information:**

* The work you do is very dangerous. You leave early in the morning, often venturing far out to sea. Your boat is often unmotorized, with little to no navigation equipment, communication ability, or safety features. Most of you are untrained in safety, ecology, or sustainable fishing. Your main concern is making enough money to feed your family.
* You know that you have to venture further out from shore every year because the inshore resources are generally overfished and highly stressed. The need to diversify fishing is great, but you lack skills and equipment to do so.
* The open ocean is a dangerous place. You run the risk of breakdown, collision with larger vessels, sudden bad weather, etc. However, your need is greater than your risks.
* Fish is a far more important source of food in the developing world than in industrialized countries.
* Trade in fishery products, developing nations contribute 17.4 billion USD to the 56 billion dollar industry and over 50% of the world’s fish exports come from developing nations.
* 97% of all people on the planet engaged in fisheries live in a developing nation.
* 300-500 million people in developing countries rely directly or indirectly on fisheries for economic survival.
* Exports of fishery products generate more revenue than the combined earnings from all other agricultural exports.
* Global export and trade in fish and fishery products bring money into your country, but are also having some negative side effects. The prices of some high-value fish have climbed so high that poor fishermen opt to sell their fish rather than eat them, substituting less nutritional food instead of the fish for their families.
* Another consequence is the overfishing of waters, forcing fishermen out further in search of high-priced fish. Because of this, many developing nations are encouraging farmers to start aquaculture farms along with traditional crops. This removes income from traditional fishermen.
* Often pollution and parasite infestations from aqua farms cause damage to traditional fishing grounds, leading to further decrease in fishing.
* Large fishing companies also tend not to cooperate with the code of conduct for responsible fisheries set in place by the United Nations, and practice non-sustainable fishing methods, adding to an increasing level of poverty in independent fishermen. Co-management practices are needed to protect fisheries worldwide.



http://www.fao.org/focus/e/fisheries/img/20326.jpg