

Fish Landings

Objective

To calculate the profits made by three fishermen catching fish and shellfish in the Moray Firth.

Experiences and Outcomes

MUNU 2-03a

Having determined which calculations are needed, I can solve problems involving whole numbers using a range of methods, sharing my approaches and solutions with others.

MNU 2-09c

I can use the terms profit and loss in buying and selling activities and can make simple calculations for this.

Background Information

The fishing industry has been important to the people of the North East of Scotland for hundreds of years and has experienced times of prosperity with high employment rates and profit, followed by times of serious deprivation and poverty due to the lack of employment. These high and low times have been the result of a number of influences, such as the decline in herring or cod numbers or government incentives to catch specific species, such as during the whaling era. More recently, fishermen have been affected by EU regulations that protect fish and prevent overfishing.

In the North East of Scotland and the Moray Firth fishing is an important part of the economy for some of the large towns such as Peterhead, Fraserburgh and for the smaller villages such as Macduff and Buckie. The produce from the sea is sold to the rest of the UK and Europe and brings money into the local area, creating jobs and developing communities.

In 2011, £300 million worth of fish was landed in the towns and villages of the North East of Scotland. The fishing industry supports a range of people including the fishermen themselves, net makers, boat builders, harbour staff, fishmongers and many more occupations even though individuals may never step on a boat.

For a fishing business to be profitable the fishermen have to make enough money from selling fish to cover the costs of taking a trip to sea, and then must be able to take some money home at the end of a trip to pay for rent, buy food and clothes.

Activity

Fish Landings Activity Worksheet

Use the information in the Activity Worksheet to calculate how much the fishermen made from their fishing trip and decide if they made a profit or loss from their trip.

Discussion Points and Follow-on Activities

Use the internet to look up what has been landed at your local harbour. Most harbour authorities post details of what fish came in and how much it sold for.

Discuss the types of people who work in the fishing industry; this can lead on to discussions about the social aspects of towns and villages. If fish numbers decline, what would happen to the people who work in the fishing industry? Where would they go to find work?