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Preserving the Catch

With two-thirds of the world's fisheries either over-exploited or collapsed, researchers warn that we may soon be saying "so long" to seafood. Preserving the Catch tells the story of over-fishing in California and shows how government regulation has impacted the livelihoods of local fishermen. While government officials push to further restrict types of fishing gear and allowable days at sea, fishermen fear they may soon be in the red. Preserving the Catch features Mr. Duncan McLean, a commercial fisherman for over forty years and President of the Half Moon Bay Fisherman's Association, who offers unique insight into his love for fishing and the independent lifestyle it exemplifies. Mr. McLean shares with the audience his fear of increasing government regulation over numerous fisheries, particularly salmon. Buzz Thompson, Professor of Law and Director of the Woods Institute at Stanford University, offers a policy perspective on the severity of fishery depletion and potential ways in which commercial fishermen might adapt using more sustainable catch methods. Both Professor Thompson and Mr. McLean recognize the rapid decline of fish stocks, but Preserving the Catch highlights the tension surrounding how best to sustain revenues versus resources and offers testimony to the importance of building solid relationships among stakeholders.