

Sustainable fishing

A setting based in Greece

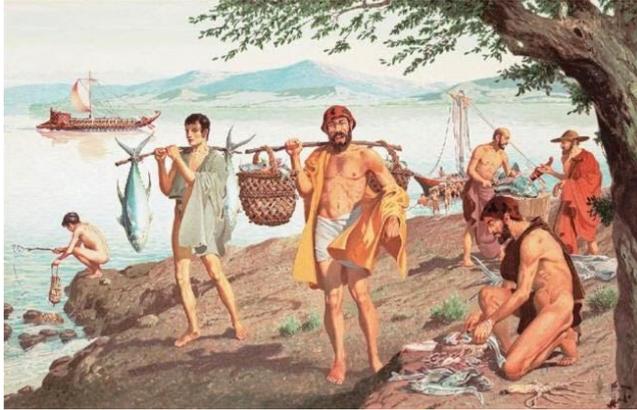
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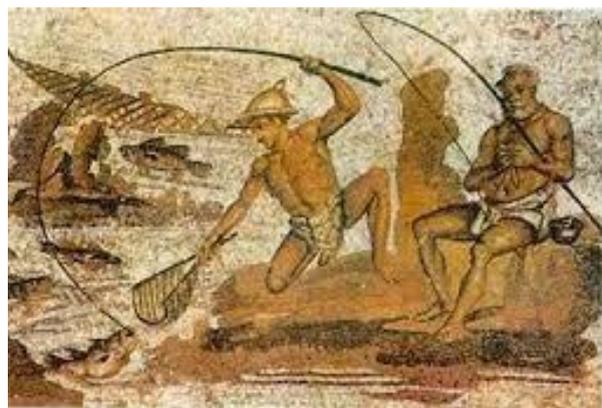
Fishing in Ancient Greece



The sea has always been a major supplier for inhabitants of the mainland and island of Greece – with an abundance and variety of sea food correlating. A perfect combination leads the ocean to be such a

unique supplier: the shallow, accessible, and populated sea around mainland (and obviously islands). These conditions allow/allowed the potential of species such as fish, molluscs, and crustaceans to be extremely accessible, and live among the ancient Greeks daily. Ancient scripture has led us to these facts, along with the cooking methods they used. Due to the tremendous population of fish in the ancient days, the Ancient Greeks used to hunt with spears – a very sustainable way of fishing. In addition, they also used the more common hooks, made from copper, which were attached to a line made with animal hair, or other fibres found. Techniques such as the above are relatively sustainable, as there is a typically one on one interaction, meaning that an individual can only catch one fish at a time.

Contrarily, the Ancient Greeks also used nets, which are far less sustainable, as the target group is much larger than spearfishing, or using a single hook with line. It is important to understand the overlap in purposes of fishing. The Ancient Greeks used to fish for survival, along with trade. Just like today, there was a fish market, and trade used to occur in that area. Of course, there were the Ancient Greeks who simply lived off the fish they caught.



Types of fishing in Greece – Modern day

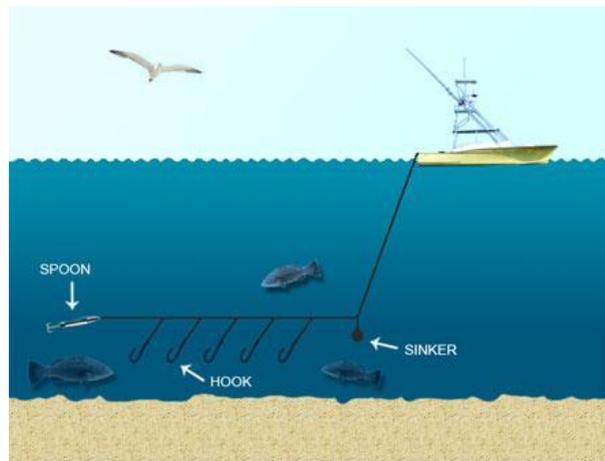


From personal experience, there are many fishing methods used in Greece, most of which stem from a traditional perspective, and others which involve newer technology and newly established techniques as well. A method which I am familiar with, is the “Paragadi”. The Greek word means a long line

consisting of 30-80 hooks, which are baited and left in the sea overnight. This way of fishing is one which I have stopped participating in, as I could not have any control of what I caught, along with the immense overkill that could potentially occur. “Paragadi” is a rare type of fishing, as fishermen focus on the rays of the moon to depend on whether they should fish the night of or not. Contrarily, two methods of fishing which I do participate in, are trolling, and spearfishing. I consider Spearfishing the fairest, and sustainable fishing, as you can pick any fish you want, along with using a piece of technology which was also used in the ancient times. Spearfishing allows you to pick the exact number of fish as well, in order to either feed your family, or feed yourself. Similarly, to spearfishing, trolling is also a relatively sustainable way of fishing, however what fish you catch is based on location, and luck sometimes. This results in an unexpected

result sometimes, which you can always release after catching. Unfortunately, there are fisherman who use methods such as the picture located on the right.

This method is called “gri gri”, in which large boat essentially drags a net along

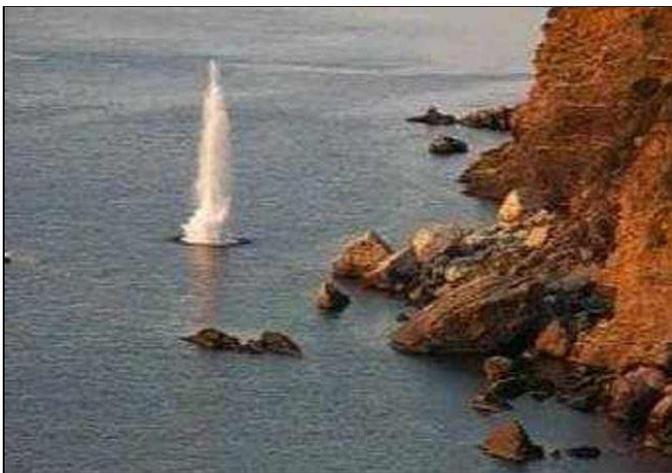


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the ocean floor and scoops up any species located in the nets diameter. The species they want are kept, and many times the unwanted species are thrown back into the sea, usually dead.

This type of fishing is greatly frowned upon in Greece as it scoops up oysters, and sea urchins which act as the filtration system of the sea. This type of fishing focuses on a mass scale disaster. Furthermore, another frowned upon method is “pyrophani”. This method is used at night and includes a kerosene lamp to see the fish from the boat, through the water. This is an unfair method due to the lamp blinding the fish, along with the fish being inactive at that time, however it is efficient for the outcome of fishermen.

Ecological effects – Personal anecdote



Although the provided examples above are truly harmful to the oceanic environment, the use of dynamite is much worse than all. To this day, there are many fishermen who utilize dynamite to kill the fish and let them naturally float to the surface for an

easier day “on the job”. The use of dynamite started straight after World War 2, and has since been a enormous problem in the ocean life in Greece. In the area which I live in Greece, there has been a large depletion in fish populations, along with the disappearing number of species increasing. The thought of this is scary to say the least, especially when many fisherman, and common citizens of Greece use these harmful methods to hunt, and supply for Greece’s economy – without truly knowing the implicit damage.

Personal anecdote

One summer, I woke up and ran to the beach in excitement as usual. However, something unexpected and shocking awaited me: a school of baby tuna flooded the beach, and made the water seem like the minority. Later on, the locals found out that a fishing boat had

accidentally scooped up the school of tuna with an unprepared net. The net was not made to pick up such heavy weights, resulting to a rip in the nets, and the tuna being dropped at a height of 10 metres. Most of the tuna died, and nothing was done about this happening. This was a tragedy to say the least, however these fishing methods will never end if a strict law isn't emplaced.