**Overfishing**

The decline in Irish Stock over the recent years is due to a number of reasons. Firstly when Ireland joined the EU in 1973 it agreed to share its fishers with other countries, this meant that the majority of the catch in Irish waters was caught by foreign trawlers. Cod is an example of a fish that is being overfished in the Irish waters. This fish is of high commercial value and is very much demand in Ireland and other European countries. As well as this during spawning season these fish move very slowly and are easily caught. Other reasons to do with overfishing are due to the number of foreign boats fishing illegally in Irish water, and the advances in technology, something as simple as a refrigerator means that people can go out and fish for days without the fish going off. This with super trawlers that have bigger nets, motorised winches, sonar technology and radar equipment make it easier and quicker to catch more fish.

One measure that has been introduced to tackle over fishing has been the quota system. Fishermen are only allowed to catch a certain amount of fish. All fish caught have to be carefully recorded and there are fines and penalties for trawlers that break these quotas. This allows for the conservation of fish stocks and protect the fish which might be in danger. The Irish conservation zone (100,000km) has been set up to protect spawning grounds of endangered fish. Another measure is to increase the mesh size of fishing nets. This allows younger fisher to escape and ensure that the species will not become endangered.