

International Fisheries Management Meeting: Preparation Tips

In this activity, you will be representing one of the countries where bonefish DNA was collected in an international fisheries management meeting. Bonefish are a very important resource to many countries, bringing in tourists from around the world and contributing millions of dollars to local economies. With the new information that bonefish (*Albula vulpes*) are all connected, we now know that if we want to maintain healthy populations, we need to manage this species on an international scale.

In this simulation, it is your job to represent the best interests of your country while trying to work together with other countries. Your goal is to preserve the fishery through fisheries management, habitat preservation, and water-quality protections. Some countries make more money from the flats industry than others, and some countries will likely be negatively impacted by attempts to protect the species. Below are some tips on how to prepare for this simulation.

1. Get to know your country

Do some basic research and find your country, look at a map of ocean currents and think about:

- Is there a large flat fishery?
- Are bonefish caught for other reasons?
- Are bonefish targeted?
- What habitats support bonefish? Does your country have any of those habitats?

2. Focus your rulings

Consider rulings that will protect habitat and water quality, and manage the fishery

3. Think about conservation plans that would benefit you

- What plans have the biggest impacts for your country?
- Are there negotiations you could make with other countries?
- If you emphasize a particular plan, like a habitat preservation plan, would it help you in other ways? For example, will it bring in more tourists? Or will it prevent other industries from operating?
- Think deeply and critically about what industries your country relies on while formulating your plans.

Structure

Once all countries have established their positions in their individual groups, all will meet together in an open forum. Approach other countries, explain your plans for preserving bonefish, and listen to their ideas. Talk until you agree on a plan, then approach other countries and ask their opinions. Work with as many countries as you can, and specific rulings (laws to enact your plans) should start to emerge. Fifteen minutes before the end of class, return to your seats and the moderator (your teacher) will hold a vote for each ruling.

