Happy Fishing Lab – Tragedy of the Commons

**Discussion Questions**

1. Did anyone in your group take too many fish? How did that make you feel? Did everyone try to take as many as possible? Why or why not? **Does society reward those with the “most”?**

2 people took an excessive amount of fish in our group, not knowing the consequences. This made me feel like the people that took too many fish were not aware of the situation they were in. Most people in the group tried to take as many as possible. I think they did so because they wanted to earn as much money as they could so they could continue for the next season. Society rewards people with the most, but the more they reward, the more those people getting rewarded are convinced that they are doing the right thing.

1. Did anyone sacrifice the # of fish, *for the good of the community*? **Why or why not? Does society ever reward that type of person?**

No one sacrificed any fish for the good of the community, especially those who have collected the most. Those who kept it to a moderate amount of fish had nothing they could sacrifice because they wanted a chance of going on to the next season. Society **now** does not reward people who try to do the right thing because it is seen as doing something bad or against societies natural course of events.

1. In Game two... how did your did your strategy change, if at all? **Does it make a difference to know that the rewards are?**

We were not able to go on to game two because we had fished all the fish.

1. Is it possible to maximize the number of fish caught/person AND the number of fish remaining in the pond at the same time? Why or why not?

It is not possible because if you were to leave some fish in the pond so that they could reproduce, then someone would not have enough money to go on to the next season and if you were to try and get the most amount of money to go onto the next season, there will be nothing to fish anyways.

1. What are some natural resources that are common resources?

Some natural resources that are common resources are trees, water, and coal. We use trees to make paper, we use water to shower and grow crops and animals, and we use coal to power all our items that need electricity.

1. What are the global commons? Are these being used wisely? Why or why not?

The global commons are resources that all humans use for everyday life. They are not being used wisely because people do not watch for how much is left, but for how much they make or how much they have to use for themselves.

1. What can people do to use these resources most wisely?

People can keep their daily use of their resources to a moderate or a minimum so that they save their share of what they do not necessarily need.

1. Did a particular “type” of fish disappear faster than others? How does this relate to “economically valuable” species in nature and their extinction rates?

No particular fish disappeared faster than another. The idea of the most valuable fish being the most picked at relates to today where we always want the most updated and the most valuable thing we can get our hands on. The more we greed for resources, the less and less amount of certain species there are.