This lesson is part of the *Coral Reef Threats* unit, which describes the natural and anthropogenic threats to coral reefs. Below is a summary of what is included in the entire unit. **THIS UNIT IS STILL IN DEVELOPMENT.**

**UNIT CONTENTS**

A. Lessons

**Crown-of-Thorns Threat**

*Watch It! Crown-of-Thorns Crisis*  
- A worksheet to accompany the [Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Crisis](#) video

*Read It! Addressing Acanthaster*  
- A worksheet to accompany the [Addressing Acanthaster](#) field blog

*Read It! Life, Death, and Rebirth*  
- A worksheet to accompany the [Life, Death, and Rebirth](#) (Part 1 and Part 2) field blogs

**Overfishing Threat**

*Watch It! Ocean Alert: Overfishing*  
- A worksheet to accompany the [Ocean Alert: Overfishing](#) video

*Read It! The Man-eaters*  
- A worksheet to accompany the [The Man-eaters](#) field blog

*Read It! Best Wishes for Reef Fishes*  
- A worksheet to accompany the [Best Wishes for Reef Fishes](#) field blog

*Read It! Sea Cucumber Craze*  
- A worksheet to accompany the [Sea Cucumber Craze](#) (Part 1 and Part 2) field blogs

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**STANDARDS**

- **CCSS:** RST.9-10.1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10; RST.11-12.1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

**ONLINE CONTENTS**

- **Crown of Thorns Starfish Crisis Video** The crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS for short), named for its bristling helmet of sharp venomous spines. These giant starfish, found in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, have up to 21 arms and can grow as large as a meter in diameter. They are a major coral predator and eat coral by extruding their stomach through their mouth and excrete digestive enzymes that allow them to absorb the dissolved coral tissue externally.

- **Ocean Alert: Overfishing Video** The world’s oceans are the biggest source of food for the whole planet. Almost 35% of the world’s population gets most of their protein from ocean animals. Although seafood markets around the market appear to be full, they hide a crisis: overfishing. Overfishing occurs when people catch more animals than the ocean can sustain.
INSTRUCTIONS: Watch Ocean Alert: Overfishing YouTube video (https://youtu.be/eVJ7Pr5OdA) and answer the following questions.

1. What is the biggest source of food for the whole planet?

____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is overfishing?

____________________________________________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________________________

3. What are two reasons why it is problematic for only small fish to be available in the ocean?
   a. ________________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________________
   b. ________________________________________________________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________________

4. How has overfishing changed what people fish for?

____________________________________________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________________________________

5. What can countries do to help prevent overfishing?

____________________________________________________________________________________

   a. ________________________________________________________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________________
   b. ________________________________________________________________________________
      ________________________________________________________________________________
7. List 3 ways that individuals can prevent overfishing.
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________

8. Choose 2 examples from question #7 and explain why these practices prevent overfishing.
   a. __________________________________________
      __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
      __________________________________________

9. Why do you think it is important that we do not overfish organisms from the ocean?
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

10. How can overfishing affect you?
    __________________________________________
     __________________________________________
     __________________________________________
     __________________________________________
     __________________________________________