

Amy Cogan Wares

Regional Development in Yorkshire and the Humber (G)

Darwin's Nightmare

After receiving the Cluster Mark Award, the fish processing industry became the local hero in the Humberside region; the local newspapers featured the representatives of the industry collecting the price in London with pride.

But also some critical voices appeared, portraying the industry as global predators that were not only depleting fish reserves overseas, but also in some cases creating social and environmental problems, as a recent film by Austrian director Hubert Sauper, "Darwin's Nightmare", nominated for the Academy awards, had denounced.

It exposed the situation of fish processing plants in Mwanza (Tanzania) that were filleting Nile perch and flying the prime cuts to Europe, while the local population had to eat the discarded carcasses and heads, fried in an open air filthy set up (See film excerpt in audiovisual part).

Questions for discussion

Please prepare the answer to the following questions with your group, and be ready to discuss them with the rest of the teams:

- Why the disposal of the carcasses creates a problem in Mwanza?
- What are the flaws in the "fish industry development project" that the EU representative presents as a success?
- It was not easy to Humberside airport to create the conditions so Icelandic Airlines would increase its flights. How is it possible that Mwanza airport has been able to establish the cargo flights?
- Should the Humber Seafood cluster worry about the development of a fish cluster in Mwanza?

This case was prepared by Amy Cogan Wares on 2011 based on a real experience at the Yorkshire and the Humber Region (England), as the basis for class discussion rather than to illustrate the effective or ineffective handling of an administrative situation. Some situations, characters and companies have been disguised to preserve confidentiality.
Last edition: June, 2011.

This material is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivatives 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>). In plain language, that means you can share it but not modify it and don't use it for commercial purposes.