



Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: How will we conserve species diversity?

Nautilus conservation

The nautilus is prized for its decorative shell and for its meat. In this debate, you will take the side of parties involved in nautilus fishing and conservation to examine the different perspectives.

Role play

In this role play, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority wishes to assess whether it needs to revise its position on the protection of waters known to be prime nautilus habitat off the tropical coast of Australia. Currently the area is protected and nautilus fishing prohibited, however, nautilus shells from the region have been spotted for sale online. Although not dependent on the nautilus, the local islands have a thriving tourist industry based on the excellent diving on a nearby reef. The area is fished commercially which has impacted on the local fish stocks significantly. Recently local island residents have been eating nautilus because they can't catch their usual fish anymore. Researchers have been monitoring the numbers of nautilus offshore and have noted their decline in recent times.

Divide the class or group into the following points of view:

- > Local island fisherman using traditional fishing methods
- > Conservationists
- > Divers
- > Commercial fisherman
- > Researchers
- > Representatives from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Allow each group time to research their interest and to establish their position. Ask each group to present their position and provide a written 'submission' (as a group or individually).

Following the presentations have a class discussion and try to reach a consensus about what should be done.