Government of Uzan

Uzan, a country of islands adding up to about the physical size of California, is located along the Pacific coast of Asia, where it is well positioned for a vibrant fishing industry. The population of 145 million is majority Uzanese. Fish are Uzan's primary natural resource, but its economy is mainly supported by the export of automobiles and electronics.

Uzanese foreign policy has aimed to promote peace and prosperity by working closely with the West and supporting the United Nations. In following this policy, Uzan has been an active member of the UN and is a member to twenty-one UN organizations in addition to many other international organizations.

Uzan has agreements that give Uzanese vessels access to fish within the waters of some of its neighboring countries. In fact, much of the Uzanese fleet's success depends upon its right to use resources outside of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Fishing access is therefore a key concern. Notably, Uzan has historically fished in this region of the Pacific because of the wealth of fish resources. Hiroot was once a part of Uzan, and gained its independence in 1981. Uzan therefore holds strong economic and political interests in the Pacific.

Fish are an important part of the Uzanese diet and are central to Uzanese cultural heritage. As a result, Uzan maintains one of the largest fishing fleets in the world and accounts for over 15% of the global catch. Although the Uzanese have 2% of the world's population, they consume 10% of the global fish catch, amounting to 139.4 pounds of fish consumed per capita per year.

In the past 20 years, Uzan has exceeded its allowable worldwide catch by approximately 170,000 tons, the equivalent of $6-8 billion. In 2009, in an effort to correct its overfishing, Uzan agreed to cut its total tuna harvest by 10%. Many scientists have testified, however, that a cut of at least 30% is necessary to curb the large loss of this kind of tuna in the Pacific.

Uzan has made a small investment in aquaculture. However, the industries involved in fishing feel threatened by further growth of aquaculture. They make it difficult for new companies to get a foothold in the aquaculture industry.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing occurs both within Uzan's EEZ and by Uzanese vessels in other nations' EEZs, though most

FAST FACTS

Contributes

15%

of global fish catch

Consumes

10%

of global fish catch

$6-8B

of overfished catch in the last 20 years

ECONOMY

Exports

Automobiles

Electronics

IUU fishing currently goes undocumented. Many NGOs and other nations have called for the government of Uzan to allow greater enforcement of their fishing practices because of the IUU fishing and overfishing committed by Uzanese vessels, including the allowance of foreign observers on enforcement operations. Recent operations in the Pacific have spotted Uzanese vessels illegally fishing in the EEZ of Hiroot. The Uzanese government has continued to be resistant to closing high seas areas because it would further decrease the supply of tuna available to its people and its economy.

Opening Position

- Maintaining your food supply is a national priority.
- You need to make sure your population continues to have access to the food it needs.
- Uzan is an affluent and responsible country. It does not lack capacity to enforce regulations and laws and does not need assistance from other countries in this regard.
- You prefer self-enforcement mechanisms over internationalizing a regulation regime.

Questions to Consider

- What partnerships has Uzan created with other nations, businesses, or NGOs to combat its fisheries issues?
- How could the government of Uzan be influenced to maintain or alter its policies on fisheries?
- How can the government of Uzan better enforce regulations of laws and agreements regarding fisheries?
- What steps has the Uzanese government taken to reduce overfishing?
- What implications do the decisions made by Hiroot have on Uzan in the future?
- What are possible funding sources for the solutions?