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STUDENT WORKSHEET

# Cause and Effect – Seasons of a Chesapeake Bay Waterman

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# Seasons of a Chesapeake Bay Waterman

## CAUSE

## EFFECT

People like to eat seafood.

→ Watermen can make a living harvesting seafood.

Pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

→ Decline in number of creatures/seafood living there.

Overharvesting of seafood.

→ Seafood disappearing – harvest declines.

No laws to prevent overharvesting.

Variety and abundance of seafood declines in Chesapeake Bay.

→ Watermen are out of work.

→ Seafood is imported from other states.

Extreme weather: droughts, hurricanes, excessive rain.

→ Upsets salinity balance in Bay – seafood population declines.

A drought year (little rain) makes the Bay saltier.

→ Oyster diseases thrive in saltier water.

→ More oysters die before the watermen can harvest them.

Watermen are catching lots of fish, but very few crabs.

→ The price of fish falls, the price of crabs rises.

Oysters are “handled well” by the cullers.

→ The better they are culled, the more oysters the buyer gets for his money, and the better price the oysterman gets for his catch.

New oystering technology, the dredge, allows

Northern oystermen to harvest lots of oysters.

Few oysters remain.

→ Oystermen (like Captain Avery) migrate to the Chesapeake Bay.

A new piece of technology (e.g. crab pots; hydraulic deep water oyster tongs) makes it easier to catch (crabs or oysters).

→ Watermen buy the new equipment to increase their catch.

New equipment increases harvest for watermen for a few seasons.

→ Seafood population declines/less seafood available for future seasons.