

**Exploring Natural Resources**  
SMILE Winter Teachers' Workshop  
February 3-4 2006

# Exploring Natural Resources



The ocean is a natural resource just like any other – rivers, lakes, forests, water supplies, minerals, etc. As a result, the issues surrounding ocean management, and fisheries management are closely related to those encountered in other areas. The resource may change, but the management is basically the same because it is not the resource that needs managing, but the people who use the resource.

What are the natural resource issues in your town or general area? As a club choose a natural resource in your area to investigate. You could go visit the area, or contact a local extension or forest service agent to come talk to you about the natural resource, and/or talk to other community members who have an interest in the resource.

Refer to the handout on “Position versus Interest” to help sort out some of the complicated issues that arise when discussing natural resources. Why is it helpful to talk about a person’s interest and not their position? Have club members discuss examples of positions and interests surrounding the natural resource they have chosen.

What are the issues surrounding your natural resource?

Who in the community cares about this natural resource?

Why do people care? Different people may have different reasons for caring about the natural resource.

How has your community tried to deal with issues about this resource? Have the methods been successful? Why do you think they have or have not worked? What are alternative ways to deal with conflicts surrounding your natural resource?

How can SMILE club members get involved in helping to work through the issue?

What are some of the difficulties that people have run into when trying to come up with a management plan for your natural resource?