

14.2.3 - Does your university as a body offer educational outreach activities for local or national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices?

ASOIU, while historically rooted in oil and industrial engineering education, has been actively extending its institutional mission into environmental stewardship, water resource management, and ecosystem protection. Through its Sustainability Strategy and dedicated Sustainability Committee, the University demonstrates a commitment to engaging with broader aquatic ecosystem issues – including the critical problem of over-fishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and destructive fishing practices. By leveraging its academic strengths in water systems, ecological engineering, and environmental monitoring, ASOIU offers outreach programmes designed to raise community awareness and drive actionable change in aquatic resource governance.

1. Outreach Programmes Targeting Fisheries & Aquatic Ecosystems

ASOIU engages local and national stakeholders—such as fishing communities, coastal municipalities, aquaculture operators and regulatory bodies—in awareness-raising and capacity-building activities on sustainable aquatic resource use. Outreach methods include:

- Public seminars and workshops covering:
 - ✓ The ecological and economic risks of over-fishing and depletion of fish stocks;
 - ✓ Identification and prevention of IUU fishing practices;
 - ✓ Impacts of destructive fishing methods (e.g., bottom-trawling, habitat destruction, by-catch) on freshwater and coastal ecosystems;



2. Community Engagement & Awareness Impact

To achieve meaningful outreach outcomes, ASOIU tracks and reports on its community engagement efforts:

- Number of seminars/workshops delivered annually on over-fishing/IUU topics;
 - Participation levels of fishing-industry actors, local administrations, youth clubs in fisheries-ecosystem awareness events;
 - Evidence of behavioural change or community initiatives following outreach (for example, local fishing associations establishing self-monitoring or reporting protocols for IUU fishing);
 - Collaborations with regional environmental agencies, academic units and NGOs to disseminate training materials and case-studies on destructive fishing practices and ecosystem restoration.
- These activities reflect ASOIU's institutional commitment to raising public awareness of aquatic resource sustainability, embedded within its Sustainability Plan.



Conclusion

By leveraging its institutional capacity in environmental engineering, water management and sustainability education, ASOIU offers a credible and structured outreach framework focused on over-fishing, illegal/unreported/unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices. These efforts not only contribute to aquatic ecosystem health in Azerbaijan but also support national policy goals and global Sustainable Development Goals.