

EXAMPLE 6 Using Inductive Reasoning

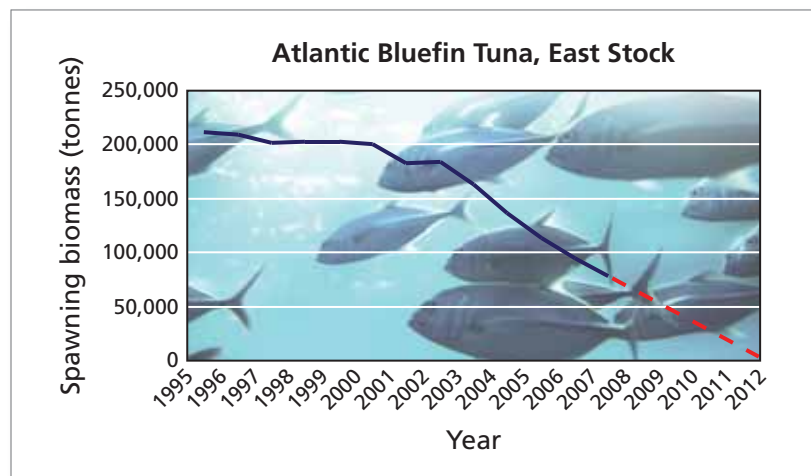
What comments can you make about the following article? Is the inductive reasoning valid? Explain your reasoning.



Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Stocks Collapsing Now as Fishing Season Opens (April 2009), World Wildlife Fund

“As the Mediterranean’s bloated fishing fleets ready themselves for the opening of the bluefin tuna fishery tomorrow, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released an analysis showing that the bluefin breeding population will disappear by 2012 under the current fishing regime.

Global conservation organization WWF reveals that the population of breeding tunas has been declining steeply for the past decade—and will be wiped out completely in 3 years if fisheries managers and decision-makers keep ignoring the warnings from scientists that fishing must stop.”

**SOLUTION**

Here is the basic argument.

- The Atlantic bluefin tuna breeding population has declined for 10 years.
- The decline is due to commercial fishing.
- Breeding Atlantic bluefin tuna will disappear unless commercial fishing stops.

This is a valid example of inductive reasoning. There are, of course, possible errors in the reasoning. Perhaps claiming that the breeding population will disappear is a bit alarmist. But common sense does indicate that the situation is dire.


Checkpoint

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Describe other examples of the use of inductive reasoning in environmental issues. In each case, clearly write the premises and the conclusion.