**Handout- 4.**

**Tailing failure accident at the Baia Mare mine in Romania.**
In January 2000, a tailings dam at the Baia Mare mine in Romania split open, releasing more than 100,000 tons of wastewater laden with cyanide and heavy metals into the Tisza river, and eventually into the Danube. The spill killed 1,240 tons of fish and contaminated the drinking water supplies of 2.5 million people. Faced with skyrocketing cleanup costs and only partially covered by its insurance, Esmeralda Exploration Ltd, the Australian company that held the principal interest in the mine, went into a form of bankruptcy to protect its shareholders. Unfortunately, the citizens of the countries affected received no such protection. Economic Impacts - No Dirty Gold: www.nodirtygold.org/economic_and_financial_toll.cfm

Fish killed from cyanide
Spill at Baia Mare,
Romania.
*Photo by Tibor Kocsis*