

# What is Coastal Shelf Fishing Pressure?

The Coastal Shelf Fishing Pressure indicator measures the intensity of gears such as trawlers that operate on the shelf.

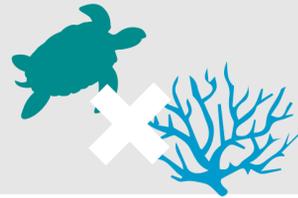
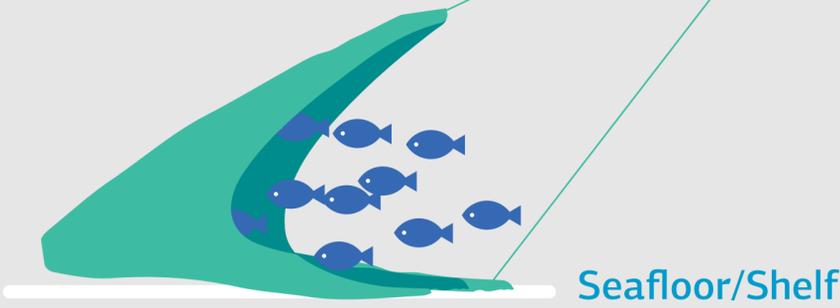


## Benthic Trawling

A fishing method that targets fish and invertebrates that inhabit ocean floor (or benthic) ecosystems.

## Trawler

A fishing vessel equipped with large heavy nets that are dragged across the living seafloor.



## Effective

It catches large quantities of cod, scallops, shrimp, and flounder.



## Destructive

This fishing method is considered one of the most destructive fishing gear in use today. It breaks off brittle bottom flora and fauna such as sponges and corals. Marine species such as turtles that try to escape the gear suffer stress, injury, and quite frequently, death.

# How do we know?

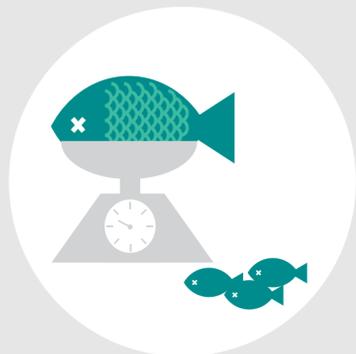
## Data Collection



The Sea Around Us spatial database is based on several major data sources, such as:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) capture fisheries and its regional bodies
- the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)
- STATLANT database
- the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- data provided by Canada, the United States, and other governments

## Calculation Method



### Catch from Trawling and Dredging Gear

The catches in each spatial cell are associated with the appropriate fishing gear code to determine the catch from trawling and dredging gear.



### EEZ Area by Country by Year

An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a seazone prescribed by the United Nations Convention on the Law & the Sea over which a state has special rights over its marine resources within 200 nautical miles from its coast. In some cases, countries have rights to their continental shelf if it extends beyond those 200 nautical miles.

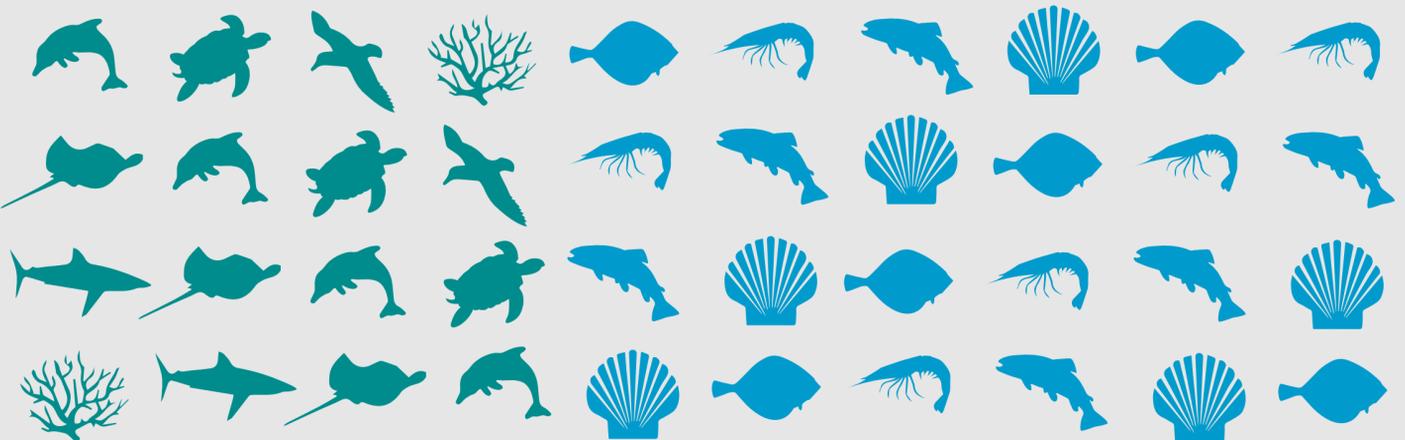


### The Coastal Shelf Fishing Pressure Indicator

The 2014 EPI calculates the score for every country and ranks countries based on the scores.

# Why does it matter?

Intensive practices like seafloor trawling affect many species and their habitats.



**40%**

It's estimated that 40.4 percent of all global catches are bycatch, the unwanted sea life that gets caught in fisheries operations.

**10:1**

In some areas, juvenile 'trash fish' can outweigh the catch of targeted shrimp by more than 10 to 1 in shrimp fisheries.

## References

- World inventory of fisheries. Destructive fishing practices. Issues Fact Sheets. Text by S.M. Garcia. In: FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department [online]. Rome. Updated 27 May 2005. <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/12353/en>.
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- Tackling fisheries bycatch. World Wildlife Fund (WWF). [http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/where\\_we\\_work/coraltriangle/solutions/tackling\\_fisheries\\_bycatch/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/coraltriangle/solutions/tackling_fisheries_bycatch/)