

Unsustainable Fishing Practices

Globally, so much fish is being taken out of our oceans and at such a fast rate, that the global fish population cannot replenish itself naturally and therefore fish stocks are decreasing. The reasons for this huge decline are due to a number of reasons including unsustainable fishing practices. The 4 main unsustainable fishing practices are summarized below;

1. PURSE SEINING

A net that encircles schools of fish and then draws them up from underneath so they are completely surrounded and cannot escape.

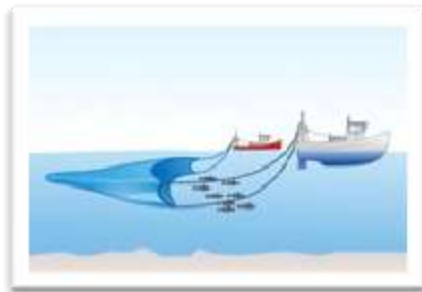
It is one of the most aggressive methods of fishing that often catches dolphins that are circling the school of fish as well.



2. TRAWLING

A large cone-shaped net which is dragged across the seafloor or suspended in mid-water for a considerable amount of time. The fish get exhausted and get pushed to the back where they are retained allowing for more fish to enter.

The dragging along the seabed causes marine wildlife (not necessarily the catch) to swim upwards into the net where they are also caught. This often includes turtles. Similar to purse seining, suspended trawls catch marine mammals such as dolphins when feeding on the same type of fish that the fishermen are catching. They are unable to surface regularly and often drown.



3. DREDGING

A metal framed basket with chains that carry it across the sea bed.

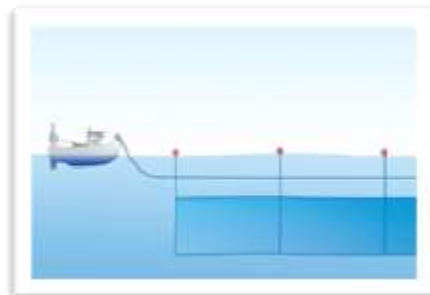
Dredging also disturbs marine wildlife that is not necessarily the catch. If dredging is repeated many times in one area it also leaves no time for re-growth of many species habitats.



4. DRIFT NET

Mobile nets that drift with currents

Due to the long length of these nets (often exceeding 2.5km) a huge amount of fish can be caught, not leaving much left to reproduce in order to keep the regeneration cycle working. They also often catch other marine wildlife that aren't part of the catch.



As well as all these methods, often fishermen, catch fish, realize they are over their 'sustainable' quota therefore chuck the dead fish back into the sea. This is extremely unsustainable as they often chuck small fish that have not reached adulthood, in order to have more space for bigger fish. This in turn decreases the population even more and seriously slows down the regeneration cycle.