

Welcome to FIS Sponsored By

FIS Fish Information & Services SKRETTING Feeding your passion for fish

Subscribe to FIS | Register with FIS | Advertise with FIS | Newsletter | About FIS | Contact us Lenguaje

Search in FIS → World News

Search by date Go Search by country All Go



By-catch caused by bottom trawling. (Photo: Marine Conservation)

Over 400m tonnes of fish wasted due to bottom trawling

CANADA
Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 22:50 (GMT + 9)

ADVERTISE IN FIS
MORE NEWS
United States
May 18, 02:00 (GMT + 9): Overfished seafood stocks hit all time record low in 2017
Australia
May 18, 01:20 (GMT + 9): Tassal and Petuna create joint venture to improve marine farm biosecurity
United States
May 18, 01:00 (GMT + 9): IN BRIEF - Shifting Sands Trouble Commercial Fishermen: Town Seeks To Dredge Near North Inlet

FEATURED EVENTS
THAIFEX WORLD FOOD **TASTE THE WORLD SAVOR ASIA**
29 May - 02 June 2018
NOR-FISHING
21-24 AUGUST 2018
AQUA 2018
FRANCE AUGUST 26 - 29
Offshore MARICULTURE
CONFERENCE
2018
marel
follow us on

LOG IN
user
pass GO!
Forgot your pass?

PEOPLE WITH OPINION
 Marie Christine Monfort
Gender equality is an irrevocable element of seafood sustainability

Industrial fisheries that rely on bottom trawling wasted 437 million tonnes of fish and missed out on CAD 560 billion (USD 436 billion) in revenue over the past 65 years, a new [University of British Columbia \(UBC\)](#) research has found.

The study, carried out by the [Sea Around Us](#) initiative at UBC's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries (IOF), documents the growth of bottom trawling between 1950 and 2014.

The research suggests that bottom trawling generates the most waste of any fishing method because the unwanted catch is dumped back into the ocean.

"Industrial fisheries do not bring everything they catch to port," said Tim Cashion, lead author of the study and a PhD student at IOF.

"During the period we studied, they threw out more than 750 million tonnes of fish and 60 per cent of that waste was due to bottom trawlers alone," Cashion pointed out.

Cashion and his colleagues identified the fishing tools used by industrial and small-scale fisheries in each maritime country and territory and paired them with the millions of records in the Sea Around Us catch database that include reported and unreported catches by fishing country, fishing sector, year and species.

They found that globally, industrial and small-scale fisheries caught 5.6 billion tonnes of fish in the past 65 years. While almost 28 per cent of all fish was caught by industrial bottom trawling, this fishing method also generated the most waste, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of the fish dumped back into the ocean.

"They threw away fish that-- even though are not the most valuable-- are perfectly good for human consumption," said Deng Palomares, co-author of the study and Sea Around Us project manager.

In his view, the worst part is that, in general, bottom trawlers are so expensive to operate that the only way to keep them afloat is by giving them government subsidies. Ironically, had they landed that catch, they would have made CAD 560 billion according to their dataset of prices.

Small-scale fisheries, in comparison, were responsible for 23 per cent of the global catch or approximately 1.3 billion tonnes in the past 65 years.

However, their catch was worth significantly more because they use small gillnets, traps, lines, hand tools, and similar utensils to catch the fish they want.

"Catching fewer quantities of higher-value species, such as crabs and lobsters, made small-scale fisheries almost CAD 200 billion (USD 155.7 billion)," said Palomares.

According to the researchers, calculating the amount of waste generated by different fishing tools and practices, as well as knowing what's brought to shore and used is crucial to evaluating the costs and benefits of fisheries at national and global levels.

For his part, study co-author Daniel Pauly stressed that this information can also be used to boost artisanal fisheries, adding that as the data show, with very little infrastructure and support they already generate more value.

Pauly explained that based on these results, if artisanal fisheries received the CAD 35 billion in subsidies that industrial fisheries get every year, they would be able to employ more people than they already do, take better care of their catch, supply specialized markets with a superior product and provide nutritious food for the communities where they operate, all of this while reducing the amount of fish that are discarded or turned into livestock feed.

editorial@fis.com
www.fis.com

Link:

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=&day=16&id=97313&l=e&special=&ndb=1%20target=>