



Glossary

Aquaculture - Also known as fish or shellfish farming, this refers to the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of fish, shellfish, and plants in all types of water environments including ponds, rivers, lakes, and the ocean.

Bottom trawlers - Boats that drag nets along or very close to the sea floor to catch fish and other marine life that live on the bottom; they can cause damage to ecosystems and habitats as they contact the ground.

Bycatch - Marine life inadvertently caught during commercial fishing for other targeted species. Examples are dolphins caught in tuna nets and seabirds that are accidentally hooked.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) - A sea zone prescribed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) over which a state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources. The EEZ extends 200 nautical miles from the state's coast in all directions.

High Seas - The part of the ocean that lies outside of any nation's EEZ.

High Seas Pockets - High seas pockets were created in some parts of the world when countries established their EEZs. They are areas of international waters that are completely surrounded by EEZs and are open to fishing by anyone unless there are specific laws in place forbidding it.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU) - Fishing that is conducted contradictory to legal conservation and management measures currently in place including fishing without authorization in another country's EEZ.

Multilateral - Involving more than two countries.

Nautical miles - The unit of measurement used for air and sea travel. One nautical mile is approximately 1.15 statute miles.

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) - A not-for-profit organization that is independent of government and is often involved in human rights, the environment, health, and/or development.

Overfishing - Catching fish faster than they reproduce, which in turn drives the fish population lower and lower.

Stakeholder - A person, organization, or government who has an interest in a specific event or issue.

Sustainable - Practices that allow for the regeneration of natural resources over a long time.

