

Term	Definition
accidental catch	Or Incidental catch: a reference to non-target species captured during their attempts to take bait or other species already taken by fishing gear, or taken simply through being in proximity to the gear.; See bycatch
barrier nets	Gear of this type, made of various materials (stakes, branches, reeds, netting, etc.), are usually constructed in tidal waters. They differ from the fixed gillnets which, when the tide ebbs, may eventually allow the fish not entangled or gilled to pass freely underneath their bottom line. Include : Fences, Weirs, Corrals.
beach seine	A seine operated from land, which are generally used in shallow waters, near the shore; the bottom and surface act as natural barriers which prevent the fish from escaping from the area enclosed by the net. A distinction is made between beach seines with a bag and beach seines without a bag; the latter do have, however, a central part with smaller meshes and more slack, which retains the fish caught.
beam trawl	Trawl in which the horizontal opening of the net is provided by a beam, made of wood or metal, which may be 10 m long or more. Beam trawls are used mainly for flatfish and shrimp fishing.
beam trawler	A trawler in which the fishing gear is towed from outrigger booms. Commonly used for shrimp trawling.

boat seine	The type most representative of this category is the Danish seine. The design of these nets, consisting of two wings, a body and a bag, is similar in many ways to that of trawls. Operated from a boat, they are generally used on the bottom, where they are hauled by two ropes, usually very long, set in the water so as to ensure that as many fish as possible are driven or herded towards the opening of the net.
bottom otter trawl	Trawl towed by a single boat; their horizontal opening is obtained by otter boards, relatively heavy and equipped with a steel sole designed for good contact with the ground.
bottom pair trawl	Trawl towed by two boats at the same time, the distance between the boats ensuring the horizontal opening of the net.
bottom trawl	Trawls are designed and rigged to work near the bottom. According to the type used, one may distinguish: low opening trawls, especially adapted to the capture of demersal species, such as beam trawls and shrimp, sole or nephrops trawls; and high-opening trawls, suitable mainly for the capture of semi-demersal or pelagic species. In bottom trawls, the lower edge of the net opening is normally protected by a thick groundrope ballasted with chain sinkers and often covered with rubber discs, bobbins, etc.
cast net	Cast from the shore or from a boat, catches the fish by falling and closing in on them. Its use is usually restricted to shallow waters.

cod-end	The end of a trawl net which retains the catch and the part of the net where most size-selection takes place. Cod end mesh sizes and structure (including shaffers) are usually regulated and may be preceded by a sorting grid to reduce by-catch.
dredges	Gear dragged along the bottom, usually to collect molluscs such as mussels, oysters, scallops, clams, etc. The shellfish are held in a sort of bag or sieve which allows the water, sand or mud to run out. Boat dredges are dredges of varying weight and size, but are usually fairly heavy, equipped with or without diving boards.
drifting gillnet	Kept near the surface, or a certain distance below it, by numerous floats, the net drifts freely with the current, separately or, more often with the boat to which they an attached. A driftnet may be used close to the bottom (e.g. shrimp driftnet) or at the surface (e.g. herring driftnet) usually across the path of migrating fish schools. Aquatic animals strike the net and become entangled in its meshes. Large Scale Pelagic Driftnets are surface or sub-surface driftnets of large dimensions (exceeding 2.5 km and up to 50 kms) the use of which is banned by a UN resolution. Also referred to as driftnets.
drifting longline	Longline kept near the surface or at a certain depth by means of regularly spaced floats. Drifting longlines may be of considerable length, and the snoods are usually longer and more widely spaced than for the bottom longlines. Some drifting longlines are set vertically, each line hanging from a float at the surface. They are usually worked in groups of several lines operated by a single boat.
driftnet	

dropline	A weighted fishing line with one or more hooks, held vertically in the water, by hand (handline) or by a device (e.g. manual or mechanical reel). It is mostly used by small-scale fisheries, on the continental shelf and upper slope. Several droplines may be operated by one fisherman or one vessel.
dumping at sea	Disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous substances in the open sea.
encircling gillnet	This gear is generally used in shallow water with the floatline remaining at the surface. After the fish have been encircled by the net, noise or other means are used to force them to gill or entangle themselves in the netting surrounding them.
ex-vessel	Refers to activities that occur when a commercial fishing boat lands or unloads a catch. For example, the price received by a captain (at the point of landing) for the catch is an ex-vessel price.
factory trawler	A large stern trawler equipped with plant for gutting, filleting, freezing and storing fish, and for processing fish oil and fish meal. Such vessels usually have extensive superstructures.
falling gear	Cover pots and lantern nets, generally hand-operated in very shallow waters, are included in particular in this category.
fish aggregating device	Artificial or natural floating objects placed on the ocean surface, often anchored to the bottom, to attract several schooling fish species underneath, thus increasing their catchability.
fishery technology	"The equipment and practices for finding, harvesting, handling, processing, and distributing aquatic resources and their products".

fishery vessel	Any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft that is used for, equipped to be used for, or of a type that is normally used for the exploitation of living aquatic resources or in support of such activity. This definition may include any vessel aiding or assisting one or more vessels at sea in the performance of any activity relating to fishing, including, but not limited to, preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation, or processing (e.g. mother ships).
fishing gears	The equipment used for fishing, e.g. baitboat, gillnet, handline, harpoon, haul seine, longline, widwater trawl, purse seine, rod-and-reel, trap, and trawler. Each of these gears can have multiple configurations.
fishing pump	Pumps serve to catch fish, usually attracted by light; they should not be confused with the pumps used to transfer fish already caught. This method is limited to a small number of species.
fishing vessel	Any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft that is equiped and used for fishing or in support of such activity. For management purpose, particularly for monitoring and surveillance, may be considered to include any vessel aiding or assisting one or more vessels at sea in the performance of any activity relating to fishing, including, but not limited to, preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation, or processing (e.g. mother ships).
fixed gillnet	Used essentially in coastal waters, this net is mounted on stakes driven into the bottom. The fish are collected at low tide.

fleet	The aggregation of units of any discrete type of fishing activity utilising a specific resource. Hence, for example, a fleet may be all the purse seine vessels in a specific sardine fishery, or all the fishers setting nets from the shore in a tropical multispecies fishery.
fleet statistics	Data used to monitor the basic makeup of fishing fleets. Fleet statistics may be useful for measuring Fishing capacity.
freezer trawler	A freezer aboard which the fish is preserved by freezing. Such a vessel is fitted with refrigerating equipment and fish freezing equipment, and the fish holds are insulated and refrigerated. Most distant-water trawlers are freezer trawlers.
fyke net	Normally used in shallow water, consists of a cylindrical or cone-shaped bags mounted on rings or other rigid structures, completely covered by netting and completed by wings or leaders which guide the fish towards the opening of the bags. The fyke nets, fixed on the bottom by anchors, ballast or stakes, may be used separately or in groups.
gear	A fishing gear is a tool used to catch fish, such as hook and line, trawl, gill net, trap, spear, etc.
gear conflict	Conflicts between fishing gear on fishing grounds where one type of gear interferes with another type of gear. An example is where mobile trawling gear damages passive gear, such as lobster traps.
gear-restriction	A type of input control used as a management tool whereby the amount and/or type of fishing gear used by fishers in a particular fishery is restricted by law.

ghost fishing	The accidental capture of aquatic organisms by fishing gear (usually gill nets, or traps, pots, etc.) that has been lost or discarded into the sea and which continues to entangle or trap aquatic animals.; The capture of aquatic organisms by lost or abandoned gear.
gillnet	Or Entangling net. With this type of gear, the fish are gilled, entangled or enmeshed in the netting, which may be either single (gillnets) or triple (trammelnets). Several types of nets may be combined in one gear (for example, trammelnet combined with a gillnet). These nets can be used either alone or, as is more usual, in large numbers placed in line ('fleets' of nets). According to their design, ballasting and buoyancy, these nets may be used to fish on the surface, in midwater or on the bottom.
global positioning system	Global Positioning System, a low cost (\$1000 to \$5000) system for finding three dimensional coordinates on the earth using satellites.
gross registered tonnage; GRT	A measure of a vessel's size and capacity.
handgear	Handlines may be used with or without a pole or rod. For fishing in deep waters the lines are usually operated using reels. The bait used may be natural or artificial. This category includes the jigging lines, operated by hand and used on small boats. Handlines can be worked mechanically, using powered reels or drums. They are generally used on medium size vessels, but they may also be used on relatively small boats. Pole-lines can also be mechanised, e.g., for tuna catching, with the pole movement being entirely automatic.

handliner	A fishing vessel employing handlines. Boats, canoes and other small vessels may be used for handlining, and no special features are required for working the gear.
harpoon	Or harpoon gear means fishing gear consisting of a pointed dart or iron attached to the end of a line several hundred feet in length, the other end of which is attached to a floatation device. Harpoon gear is attached to a pole or stick that is propelled by hand or mechanical means into the body of the aquatic animal.
harvesting machine	Gear used to extract fish from the water by direct pumping or forced sifting. Its use is, however, limited to a small number of species.
haul net	A fishing gear similar to a Danish seine but operated from a small boat in shallow water (less than 5m). Unlike in a Danish seine, the ropes are short and the net is hand hauled while the vessel is stationary.
head rope	The length of rope or wire in a trawl to which the top wings and cover netting are attached.
hooks and line	The fish are attracted by a natural or artificial bait (lures) placed on a hook fixed to the end of a line or snood, on which they get caught. Hooks or metallic points (jigs) are also used to catch fish by ripping them when they pass near. This is in particular the case with the jigging lines for squids which are provided with artificial lures with multiple hooks. The line is given a jerky up-and-down movement which attracts the squid to the jig on which it is caught. Hook-and-line units may be used singly or in large numbers.
indigenous fishing	Fishing undertaken by peoples native to a land or region, for example, Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders

international radio call sign	The unique radio identifier assigned a vessel by the appropriate authority of the flag state.
jigging	A method of fishing using lures on a vertical line moved up and down (jigged) by hand or mechanically. Extremely efficient for fishing oceanic squids at night.
lampara net	A surrounding net with the central bunt in the form of a spoon and two lateral wings, making it possible to retain the shoal of fish when the two wings are hauled up at the same time. The ring net type is shaped more like a purse seine and most often fitted with bridles to help pull in the leadline. These nets are generally operated by a simple boat, relatively small.
length overall; LOA	A measure of the size of a fishing vessel.
lift net	Net in which the fish, which may be attracted by light or bait, are captured. It consists of a horizontal netting panel or a bag shaped like a parallelepiped, pyramid or cone with the opening facing upwards. After being submerged at the required depth, the net is lifted or hauled out of the water, by hand or mechanically, from the shore or from a boat. The fish which are above the net when hauling commenced are retained in it. Portable lift nets are small nets operated by hand, with no fixed installation. Boat operated lift nets comprises the bag nets ('basnig') and the blanket nets, operated from one or more boat. Shore or shallow water-operated lift nets are usually operated from stationary installations situated along the shore, the lifting system sometimes being mechanised.

lift-netter	A vessel equipped so as to operate large lift-nets which are held from the ships side and raised and lowered by means of outriggers. Sets of powerful lights, above and below the water are sometimes installed for attracting fish.
line fishing	A general term used for a range of fishing methods that employ fishing lines in one form or another (as opposed to nets and traps). It includes handlines, hand reels, powered reels, pole-and-line, droplines, longlines, trotlines and troll lines.
liner	A fishing vessel that uses lines and hooks, with or without a bait. Examples are: handliner, lonliner, pole-and-line vessels. Vessels of all sizes can be liners, depending on the method of line fishing, area of operation and species to be caught.
longline	A fishing gear in which short lines carrying hooks are attached to a longer main line at regular intervals. Longlines are laid on the bottom or suspended horizontally at a predetermined depth with the help of surface floats. The main lines can be as long as 150 km and have several thousand hooks (e.g. in tuna fisheries).
longliner	A fishing vessel employing longlines. Longlines can be operated from vessels of any size adapted to the length of longline to be set. Several automatic or semi-automatic systems are used on larger boats to bait the hooks and to shoot and haul the lines. Commission of the
mechanized dredge	This gear digs molluscs out of the bottom by means of powerful underwater jets. The molluscs collected are sometimes transferred into the boat carrying the dredge by a conveyor-belt type device or by suction.

mesh size	The size of holes in fishing net. Minimum mesh sizes are often prescribed by regulations in order to avoid the capture of the young of valuable species before they have reached their optimal size for capture.
midwater	Any part of the water column between the surface and the seabed. Fish living at the surface or on the seabed do not live in midwater.
midwater otter trawl	Trawl towed by a single boat. The horizontal opening of the net is controlled by otter boards, usually of a hydrodynamic shape, which normally do not touch the ground
midwater pair trawl	Trawl towed by two boats, thus ensuring the horizontal opening of the net, these nets are designed and rigged to work in midwater. Surface trawls are also included in this category.
midwater trawls	Trawls, usually much larger than the bottom trawls, designed and rigged to work in midwater, including surface water. Their front net sections are very often made with very large meshes or ropes, which herd the fish schools towards the net aft sections. The fishing depth is usually controlled by means of a net sounder (netsonde). They may be towed by one or two boats.
mother ship	Large vessel providing services to fishing vessels and on which these vessels "land" their catches for processing and transport to ports.
nautical chart	A chart specially designed to meet the needs of marine navigation. It depicts such information as depths of water, nature of the sea-bed, configuration and nature of the coast, dangers and aids to navigation, in a standardized format; also called simply chart.
operator	

otter trawl	Demersal (bottom) trawl operated by a single vessel in which the horizontal opening of the net is achieved and maintained by 2 otter boards (large rectangular 'boards' of timber or steel) and the vertical opening by a combination of floats on the headrope and weights on the ground line. Attached between the head and ground ropes and the towing warps, the otter boards operate by the hydrodynamic forces acting on them when the net is dragged.
otter twin trawl	This rather particular gear comprises two identical trawl nets ('twin') working together, opened horizontally by a single pair of otter boards. Their inner wings are attached to a sledge towed simultaneously with the otter boards from a common warp. They are generally used for catching shrimp (four trawls at the same time)
outrigger trawler	
pair trawling	Bottom or mid-water trawling by two vessels towing the same net. Very large nets can be towed in this manner by relatively small boats and the net is generally hauled alternately aboard the two vessels for processing of the catch.
pole-and-line fishing	A fishing technique in which surface schooling fish are attracted to the vessel and driven into very active feeding behavior by throwing live or dead bait into the water and spraying water onto the sea surface to simulate the escape behavior of small preys. The fish lured with a line and a hook attached to a pole and pulled off the water by manual or powered devices. This fishing method is used worldwide to capture surface-swimming tuna such as yellowfin and skipjack.

pole-and-line vessel	A fishing vessel used primarily for catching tuna and skipjack. The fishermen stand on the railing or special platforms and fish with poles, to which a line and hook is attached. Tanks with live bait and a water spray system for attracting fish are typical features of these vessels
pot vessel	A fishing vessel used for setting pots intended for catching lobsters, crabs, crayfish, and similar species. Pot vessels range from open boats operating inshore up to larger vessels of 20 to 50 meters operating out to the edge of the continental shelf.
pots	Traps, designed to catch fish or crustaceans, are in the form of cages or baskets various materials (wood, wicker, metal rods, wire netting, etc.) and have one or more openings or entrances. Usually set on the bottom, with or without bait, singly or in rows, connected by ropes (buoy-lines) to buoys on the surface showing their position made with
pound net	Usually large net, anchored or fixed on stakes, open at the surface and provided with various types of fish herding and retaining devices. It is mostly divided into chambers closed at the bottom by netting. In Japan this group of gears is usually referred to as 'set-nets' (not to be confused with the fixed gillnets).
pump fishing vessel	A fishing vessel provided with pumps of special construction. During fishing, the pump is lowered under the surface of the water. Small fish, attracted by light from a lamp situated above the suction side of the pump, are sucked and pumped with water on board where a fish separator is installed.

purse seine	Nets characterised by the use of a purse line at the bottom of the net. The purse line enables the net to be closed like a purse and thus retain all the fish caught. The purse seines, which may be very large, are operated by one or two boats. The most usual case is a purse seine operated by a single boat, with or without an auxiliary skiff.
purse seiner	A fishing vessel employing nets that hang vertically in the water, the ends being drawn as a purse so as to enclose the fish. The vessel is equipped with pursing gallows and pursing winches for hauling in the purse lines which close the net after setting.
ring net	
scouting	Any operation by a vessel exploring for the presence of fish by visual, acoustic, or other means that do not involve the catching of fish. Modified from:
seine net	Nets which are usually set from a boat, and can be operated either from the shore (beach seines) or from the boat itself (e.g., Danish or Scottish seines). The manner of capture is to surround an area of water with a very long net, with or without a bag at the centre. The net is usually operated by two ropes fixed to its ends, used both for hauling it in and for herding the fish
selective gear	A gear allowing fishers to capture few (if any) species other than the target species
set gillnet	Gillnet fixed to the bottom, or at a certain distance above it, by means of anchors or ballast sufficiently heavy to neutralise the buoyancy of the floats.
set longline	Longlines consist of a main line, sometimes of considerable length, to which snoods with baited or unbaited hooks are fixed at regular intervals. The main line is set either horizontally on or near the bottom or less commonly near the surface.

sonar	An apparatus that uses sound waves to detect objects underwater by measuring or classifying the echoes received from them. An echo sounder is a sonar that transmits vertically. In practice, a sonar is an apparatus other than an echo sounder, i.e., a sonar transmits horizontally.
stern trawler	A fishing vessel designed for trawling, in which the nets are hauled over the stern, up a ramp, or over a roller or the bulkwark, with the aid of a derrick or gantry.
stow net	This gear can be used only in rivers, estuaries or areas with strong - currents. Usually in the form of a cone or pyramid, these nets are fixed by means of anchors or stakes, placed according to the direction and strength of the current. The mouths are usually held open by a frame, which may or may not be supported by a boat.
super seiner	A large purse seiner, usually more than 70m long and equipped with considerable freezing and storage facilities, capable of undertaking extended transoceanic voyages for harvesting fish
support	Any operation by a vessel assisting fishing by foreign or national vessels, including supplying water, fuel, provisions, fish processing equipment, or other supplies to a fishing vessel

surrounding net	<p>Nets characterised by the use of a purse line at the bottom of the net. The purse line enables the net to be closed like a purse and thus retain all the fish caught. The purse seines, which may be very large, are operated by one or two boats. The most usual case is a purse seine operated by a single boat, with or without an auxiliary skiff.; A net which catches the fish by surrounding them both from the sides and from underneath, thus preventing them from escaping in deep waters by diving downwards. Apart from a few exceptions, it is a surface nets in which the floatline is supported by numerous floats. ; A surrounding net with the central bunt in the form of a spoon and two lateral wings, making it possible to retain the shoal of fish when the two wings are hauled up at the same time. The ring net type is shaped more like a purse seine and most often fitted with bridles to help pull in the leadline. These nets are generally operated by a simple boat, relatively small</p>
trammel net	<p>Bottom-set net made with three walls of netting, the two outer walls being of a larger mesh size than the loosely hung inner netting panel. The fish get entangled in the inner small meshed wall after passing through the outer wall. Gillnets and Trammelnets can be combined.</p>
trap fishing	<p>Fishing by means of devices able to trap fish in confined environment (traps, pots) often designed and baited to catch a particular species: Crap pot, lobster pot, tuna trap, fyke nets.</p>
trap setter	<p>A fishing vessel used for setting traps, pots, pound nets, fyke nets, stow nets, various kinds of barriers, etc.</p>
trawl	<p>A cone or funnel-shaped net that is towed through the water by one or more vessels</p>

trawl net	Towed net consisting of a cone-shaped body, closed by a bag or codend and extended at the opening by wings. It can be towed by one or two boats and, according to the type, are used on the bottom or in midwater (pelagic). In certain cases, as in trawling for shrimp or flatfish, the trawler can be specially rigged with outriggers to tow up to four trawls at the same time (double rigging)
troller	A vessel used for catching of pelagic fish by towing a number of lines fitted with lures
trolling	A surface and sub-surface fishing method in which lines with baits or lures are dragged by a vessel at a speed of 2-10 knots. Trolling is used to catch tuna and tuna-like fish (e.g. Spanish mackerel, Seerfish, Barracuda, marlin, spearfish).
trolling line	Simple line, provided with natural or artificial bait and trailed near the surface or at a certain depth by a vessel. Several lines are usually towed at the same time, by using outriggers.
turtle excluder device; TED	
vessel catch limits	A limit on the quantity each individual vessel can land per trip or short period of time (e.g., day, week).
vessel operator	The master or other individual aboard and in charge of that vessel
vessel owner	Any person who owns that vessel in whole or in part; any charterer of the vessel, whether bare boat, time, or voyage; any person who acts in the capacity of a charterer, including, but not limited to, parties to a management agreement, operating agreement, or any similar agreement that bestows control over the destination, function, or operation of the vessel; or any agent designated as such by a person described in this definition.