



Photo: Shawn Heimanns

Protect Our Catch

Ban bottom trawling in EU marine protected areas

Only One | December 2024

What is Protect Our Catch and what do we want to achieve?

What is it?

- **Protect Our Catch** is a campaign to ban bottom trawling in marine protected areas across the EU. It is pro-sustainable fishing, and wants to reduce the impacts of destructive fishing on marine ecosystems and local communities.

Why does it matter?

- Bottom trawling causes damage to marine ecosystems and threatens long term productivity. It diminishes fish stocks, and puts local jobs and economies in jeopardy.
- It disproportionately affects small-scale fishers and local economies reliant on sustainable practices.

Our Goal:

- To put small-scale fishing at the centre of the conversation on protected areas to ensure a sustainable and equitable future for both Europe's seas and local communities.



How are we going to achieve change?

Engaging Policymakers:

- Launching a digital and media campaign in Brussels and other EU capitals to raise awareness among decision-makers about the impacts of bottom trawling and the demands of small-scale fishers.
- Partnering with NGOs, scientists and fishers to host events, petitions, and meetings with EU policymakers.

Partnering with Fishers:

- Showcasing the voices and stories of small-scale, local fishers as champions of sustainable fishing.
- Highlighting the local impacts of bottom trawling on livelihoods, economies and communities.

Activating Public Support:

- Raising awareness in the public on the impacts of bottom trawling through the website, storytelling, digital campaigns, and testimonials.
- Mobilizing supporters across Europe to sign petitions, contact decision makers, and participate at in-person events.





Protect Our Catch

We're fighting for the future of Europe's fisheries and coastal communities

European waters are the most bottom-trawled in the world, threatening the sustainability of Europe's fisheries and the families and communities of the small-scale fishers that make up the overwhelming majority of the EU fishing fleet. Destructive large-scale fishing is taking away their catch and concentrating the economic benefits in fewer and fewer hands.

What

We must secure a ban on bottom



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Appeal EN

Urge the EU Commission to Ban Destructive Fishing in Protected Waters

71,579 signatures. Let's get to 75K

with Oceana and Seas at Risk

First name

Last name

Email



Protect Our Catch - Spokespeople

We are seeking to work with fisher spokespeople who are supportive of the campaigns objectives.

If you are interested in learning more about [Protect Our Catch](#) and ways to get involved please contact:

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We appreciate that across the EU the impacts of trawling are felt differently by different stakeholders and we respect that some of us may hold different views on this topic.





Thank you!

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