

# M2 Handout “Fishing”

## **Gathering by hand**

This highly selective method involves divers harvesting fish and seafood such as shellfish and lobster by hand, usually with the aid of tongs or rakes.

## **Angling/handlining**

These techniques are similar to traditional fishing. Fishers in boats use one or several fishing lines with hooks and bait attached. This fishing technique does not damage the environment and is considered relatively selective.

## **Purse seining**

Purse seines are nets 120 to 250 metres wide and up to 2 kilometres long which are set in a ring shape, like a bag, around a shoal of fish. Purse seining is relatively selective and has no negative impact on the environment. The bottom part of the net is drawn together, imprisoning the fish as if in a gigantic bag or pouch. Catches are boosted by means of what are known as Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs), objects that swim in the water and exploit the natural instinct of many species of fish to form groups around such objects. They attract small fish which are then followed by larger fish. The use of FADs produces large amounts of bycatch.

## **Gillnetting**

With the aid of floats and weights, rectangular nets are set up vertically in the water. Fish swim into this ‘wall of nets’ and become entangled in the fine netting. This method usually produces small amounts of bycatch and minimal impact on the environment.

## **Harpooning**

A highly selective technique involving the targeted spearing of individual fish.

## **Beam trawling**

Beam trawls are nets held open by a beam and dragged across the sea bed, causing damage there. It is a non-selective fishing method.

## **Trawling: Bottom trawling**

In this kind of trawling, the net is held open by floats (a floating object made of light plastic, cork or wood and attached to a fishing line). As a general term, trawling refers to fishing using nets dragged (trawled) behind a ship or boat. Trawls are the most important fishing devices used in deep sea fishing today. The dragging of the nets across the sea bed destroys it. This is a non-selective method.

## **Bottom longlining**

A longline (up to 150 km long) with baited hooks attached is sunk using weights and anchored to the sea bed. Longlining produces high amounts of bycatch and can be destructive to the environment when the lines are hauled in.

## **Trawling: Pelagic trawls**

Unlike bottom trawls, pelagic trawls are not dragged across the sea bed, but through the water. This means that the sea bed is not destroyed, but bycatch rates are high, so this is a very non-selective method.

## **Pelagic longlines**

This technique uses a longline with a large number of baited hooks attached to fish at the water surface. It does not damage the environment, but produces high bycatch rates and is very hazardous to sharks and marine turtles.

## **Trawling: Bottom trawls with otter boards**

These are bottom trawls held open, not by a beam as in beam trawling or a float as in conventional bottom trawls, but by boards known as otter boards attached at the sides to spread the net’s opening.

## **Mussel dredging**

In this technique, a sack-shaped net or metal basket fixed to a frame is dragged across the sea bed, taking with it everything that is in its way. This is another method with high bycatch and environmental impact.



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