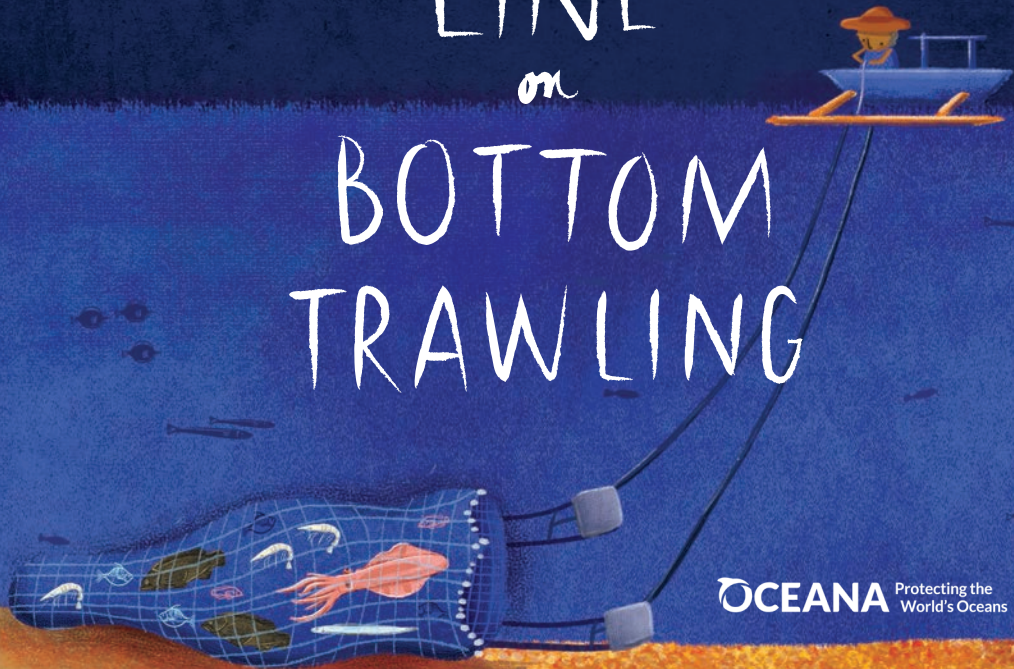


the
BOTTOM
LINE
on
BOTTOM
TRAWLING





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Published by Oceana Philippines International

Copies of the book may be requested from the publisher, Oceana Philippines International, at PO Box 255, UP Post Office, University of the Philippines Campus, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 or by email at philippines@oceana.org

ISBN 978-621-95364-3-1

Printed in Manila by Wavelink Design Unlimited

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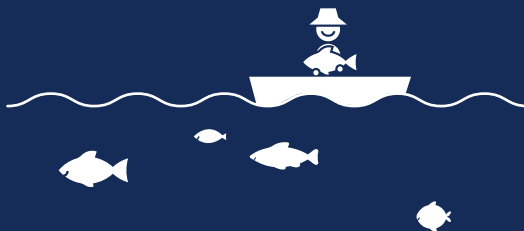
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WHO IS OCEANA?



We are a science-based ocean conservation group and the largest global organization focused solely on protecting the world's oceans.

Our offices span North, South and Central America, Europe, and Asia—focusing on countries that deliver up to 25% of the world's wild marine fish catch.

Our goal: foster healthy, abundant, and scientifically managed oceans through science-based policies.

Who benefits from this? Everybody. It benefits the global ecosystem, marine wildlife, and people—whether or not you live by the sea.

Well-managed oceans and fisheries can increase yield by around 40%. Nearly 1 billion people rely on the ocean for sustenance.

Oceana is working to create policies that could increase fish populations in various countries by as much as 40%.

SAVE THE OCEANS, FEED THE WORLD

Through our collective efforts, we have protected more than 1 million square miles of ocean around the world. We aim to contribute as much positive impact in the Philippines.



Oceana Philippines is our only office in Asia. The Philippines is at the apex of the Coral Triangle which feeds and employs millions of people and is the center of the center of global marine biodiversity.



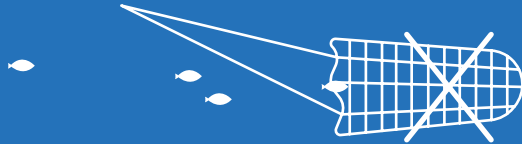
We are among the world's top 15 fishing nations. Yet 75% of the country's fishing grounds are overfished.



Fish probably ranks next to rice in satisfying the Filipinos' diet. The ocean is an affordable source of food and income.



Unhealthy oceans threaten Filipinos' food security and livelihood, among other concerns.



Oceana Philippines' main goal: achieve sustainable fisheries and healthy oceans for the Philippines. To do this, a destructive fishing operation, known as bottom trawling, is of primary concern. Bottom trawling takes place in soft, sandy bottoms which make up to 60% of marine habitats in the Philippines.

WHAT IS BOTTOM TRAWLING?

Bottom trawling refers to fishing using a cone-shaped net to catch bottom-dwelling creatures and invertebrates. In the Philippines, trawlers operate on soft, sandy, and muddy seabeds. Their target catch: bottom-dwelling fish like shrimp and prawn.

How does bottom trawling work? A wide, heavy net is attached to weights called otter boards to submerge the net to the bottom. The nets can be up to 200 feet wide, 40 feet tall; while the otter boards weigh several hundred pounds. As the boat moves across the ocean, the trawl scrapes across the seafloor to catch its target.

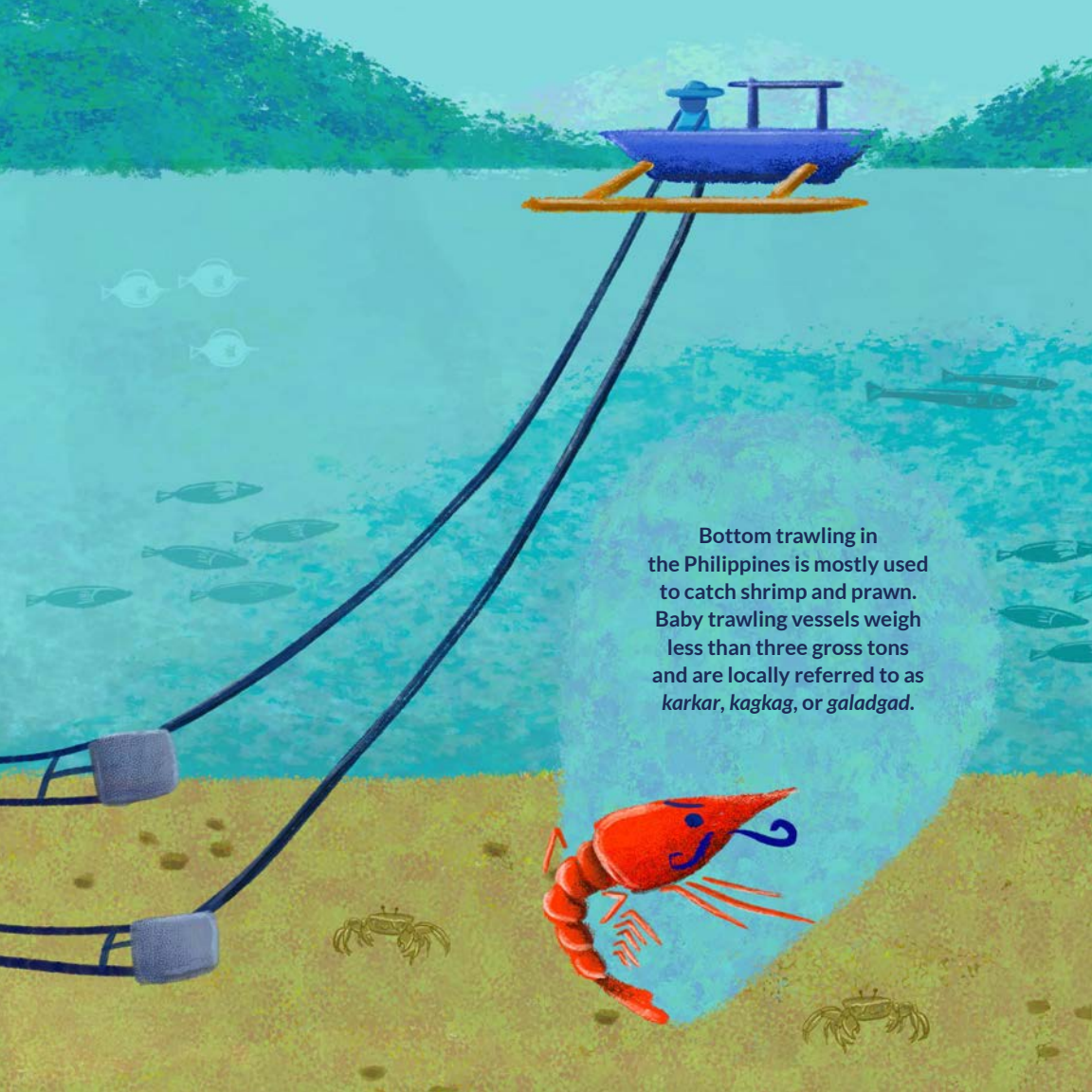
Yet, although trawl target specific species, its wide, weighted net catches any creature in its trail. These creatures are simply discarded dead or dying.

It also greatly disturbs the ecosystem. As the trawl and its heavy otter boards scrape the seafloor, it can leave grooves on the

seafloor up to 30 cm deep. This movement also creates large amounts of sediment, leading to disturbance of marine habitats.

Thus, although bottom trawling is highly productive for trawlers, it is unsustainable for the ocean and the people that rely on it.





Bottom trawling in the Philippines is mostly used to catch shrimp and prawn. Baby trawling vessels weigh less than three gross tons and are locally referred to as *karkar*, *kagkag*, or *galadgad*.



BOTTOM TRAWLING: BAD EFFECTS

Bottom trawling is highly efficient for the fisher, but very destructive to marine life.

Let's take a closer look as to why it's unsustainable for both people and planet:

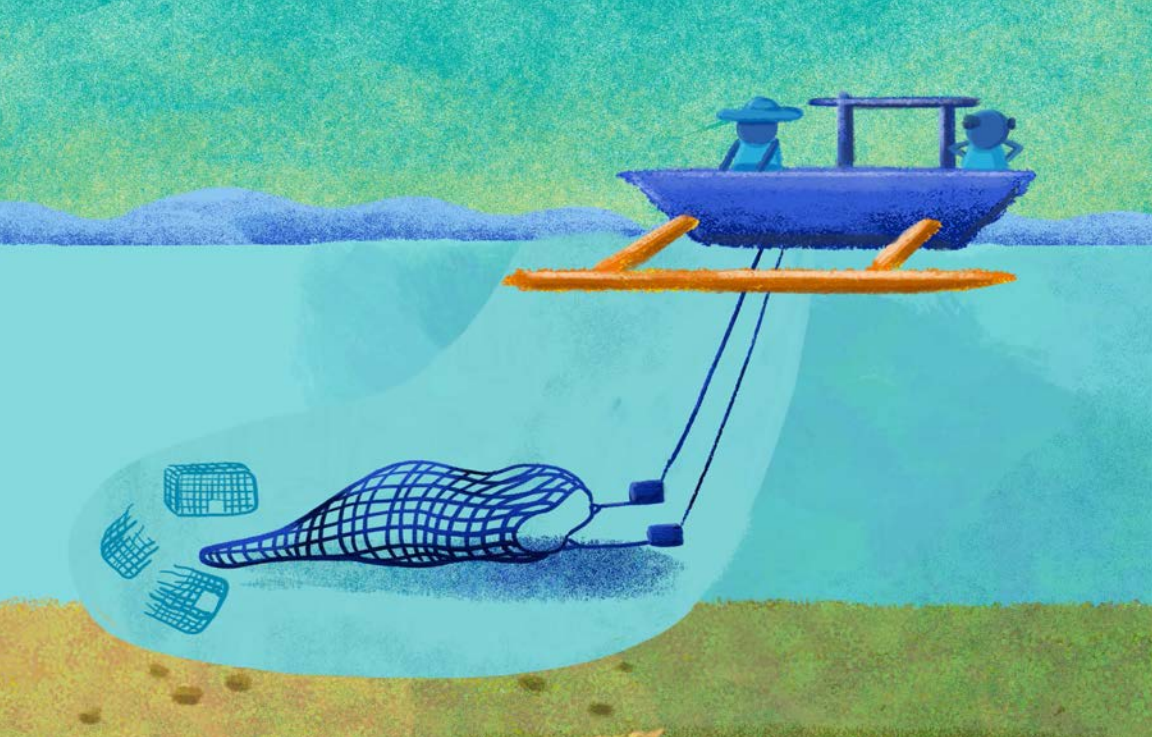
It threatens local livelihoods; displacing or destroying other

fishing gear like fish traps. The result: communities that rely on fishing for their livelihood suffer. Conflicts arise between local fishers and bottom trawlers.

It diminishes marine populations. Trawls catch more than they need such as non-commercial species

like starfish, sea urchins, pufferfish, and sometimes, sea turtles.

It contributes to overfishing. We are fishing faster than nature can provide. Most bottom trawler catch consists of young, not yet sexually mature fish, known as juvenile fish.



Several reports in the Philippines, since 2012 to 2017, show declining trawl catch rates per hour; reflecting the depletion of the ocean's resources due to trawling, among other factors.



WHAT CAN BE DONE

Oceana is calling for a total ban of all types of bottom trawling in municipal waters. An existing Philippine law already states it is unlawful to engage in active fishing gear like trawling.

In a study conducted in Northern Iloilo, it was projected that almost a billion pesos will be lost in a span of five years due to the continuous operation of bottom trawling.



What can be done?

The DILG and BFAR should issue a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) enjoining local government units (LGUs) and other law enforcement agencies to enforce the ban on bottom trawling.

Consider alternatives for trawling fishers (livelihood options, credit opportunities).

Establish a scientific advisory group for better management of fisheries.

Provide support for the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR)'s research.

For LGUs and DA-BFAR to create a complete inventory of boats and gear.



How can you help?

Educate your community about the impacts of bottom trawling.

Report observed fishing violations to your local authorities.

Spread awareness and share Oceana Philippines' social media posts.

OCEANA'S CAMPAIGNS AND ACHIEVED MILESTONES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Since 2014, we have worked towards making fisheries management in the Philippines more sustainable. We actively collaborate with national government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, and coastal communities.

These are our other campaigns apart from the bottom trawling ban implementation:

Stop commercial fishing in Tañon Strait

Oceana and its allies are committed to reduce—and eventually eliminate—illegal commercial fishing within Tañon Strait, one of the Philippines' largest protected seascapes, as a model for effective enforcement of the ban on commercial fishing in municipal waters.

Protect Benham Bank

Benham Bank is perhaps the only place in the Philippines covered 100% with corals. To preserve this biologically rich and unique area, Oceana worked with the government and allies to have it declared as a protected site in 2018. A science-based management plan for Benham Bank and its adjacent areas is the compelling next step among stakeholders.

Implement vessel monitoring technology


All Philippine commercial fishing vessels are required to have Vessel Monitoring Measures. To support its use, Oceana conducted pilot testing of this technology in Tañon Strait and other major fishing grounds. A milestone was reached when DILG issued on April 23, 2018, the Memorandum Circular No. 2018-59, requiring all coastal local government units to effectively monitor fishing in their municipal waters and adopt an ordinance requiring vessel monitoring for commercial fishing vessels, among others.


Manage and protect sardine fisheries

Oceana and its partners from government and civil society work towards sustainable sardine management. Collaborative efforts are being piloted in the Visayan Sea as a key fisheries management area.



To know more about how we save the oceans and feed the world, visit ph.oceana.org
Email philippines@oceana.org on how you can help restore ocean abundance.
Follow our social media accounts to connect with us.

 Oceana Philippines

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