

Stop Bottom
Trawling Campaign

Bottom Trawl Gear

Deep Sea Corals:
The Cradle of Sea Life

What You Can Do
to Save the Oceans

Oceana Solutions

Oceana's Pacific
Deep Sea Coral Initiative

Federal Regulation of Roller
and Rockhopper Gear and
Bottom Trawling

Regulation of Roller and
Rockhopper Gear and Bottom
Trawling in State Waters

About Oceana

Oceana's Pacific Deep Sea Coral Initiative

From the Bering Sea in Alaska to the southern tip of California, Pacific Ocean seafloor coral and sponge habitat is at risk of destruction by bottom trawling.

The goal of Oceana's Pacific Deep Sea Coral Initiative is to change laws, regulations, and Fishery Management Plans to prohibit the destruction of corals and other important living seafloor habitat of North America's Pacific coast. General strategies include convincing policymakers, forming strong constituencies, and educating the media about the crucial economic, environmental, and social importance of protecting deep sea coral gardens and sponge seafloor habitat from destructive bottom trawling.

Deep sea coral gardens are among the most diverse, vulnerable, and oldest marine habitats in the world. Recent research off the Pacific coast of North America has revealed exquisite, abundant, lush deep sea coral and sponge gardens resembling the famous Great Barrier Reef. An essential part of the marine ecosystem that supports hundreds of species of fish, millions of seabirds, and dozens of species of marine mammals, these rich and unique deep sea coral gardens are an international treasure. Attempts to age deep sea corals revealed that they are some of the oldest animals alive on Earth, living for hundreds to thousands of years. Also among the discoveries were species that had never been seen or identified before. Oceana is committed to making sure that these species and all others that depend on them are not destroyed by reckless fishing.

Coral and sponge habitat is an essential component of the system that supports fisheries that generate thousands of U.S. jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars to the U.S. economy. However, destructive bottom trawling on delicate seafloor coral and sponge gardens is eliminating the habitat these fisheries depend on - costing our nation both dollars and jobs.

Oceana is working to protect deep sea corals and sponges through science, advocacy, the law, public education, and public involvement. If we can protect these deep invaluable deep sea communities today, we can help ensure that we will all have healthy oceans and healthy fisheries tomorrow.



Pacific Regions of the US and Canada