

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 Solutions

Using science and an open public process, Oceana uses scientific data from National Marine Fisheries Service and other sources to develop and promote management approaches that protect sensitive habitat areas, which often serve as nursery areas, from bottom trawling and dredging. The Oceana approach has five objectives to achieve the goal of protecting sensitive habitat.

- I. Gather scientific information to locate and identify sensitive habitat.
- II. Gather information about the threat from bottom trawling in identified sensitive habitat.
- III. Close all areas not open to bottom trawling, and close “hotspot” areas with a profusion of threatened species and low commercial fish catch rates.
- IV. Limit how much of a threatened species, including coral and sponge, bottom trawlers can catch.
- V. Conduct a comprehensive research, mapping, and monitoring program.

COLLECT SENSITIVE HABITAT DATA

Oceana compiles and analyzes all information on the location of sensitive habitat, including the distribution, and abundance of corals and sponges, from three key sources: data from fishery observers, trawl survey and historical data, and direct observations by NOAA and other scientists using submersibles and remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

MAP THE DATA

Oceana enters the data into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database, which is then used to make specific and detailed maps of the precise locations of sensitive habitat, relative abundance of threatened species and the immediate threats from, or interactions with, bottom trawling. Oceana's data gathering activities also include collecting information on fishery effort and working with NMFS to identify areas of higher and lower relative catch of commercial fish in specific blocks throughout U.S. waters.

ANALYZE THE DATA

Oceana analyzes the data to determine locations of sensitive habitat including those with relatively high concentrations of coral and sponge habitat and the locations of significant deep sea reefs. This information is not only useful in identifying which areas must be protected, but also in determining the location of additional underwater areas for research. Next, by comparing the total commercial catch to the unintended catch of species from sensitive habitat, Oceana develops a scoring system that describes the rates of fisheries success and habitat destruction for specific areas. This reveals “hotspots” or problem areas for conservation priority.

