

The fishing fleets in Maritime Spatial Planning Challenge NorthSEE edition provide a simplified snapshot of the diversity of real-life fishing activities in the North Sea. Fishing fleets in the game are divided in three categories: Bottom trawl, Industrial and pelagic trawl, Drift and fixed nets. These fishing fleets represent the most important real-life fishing activities in the North Sea, grouped by similarities in targeted species and environmental impact.

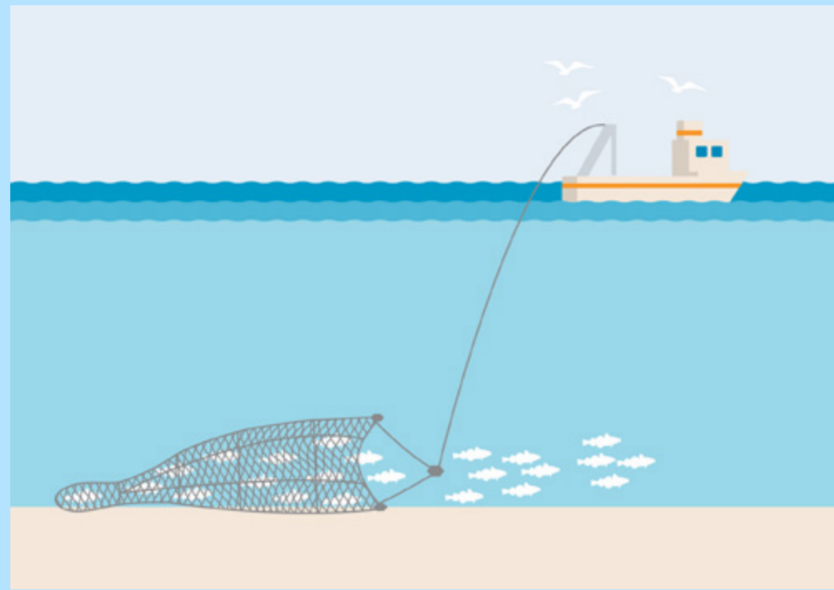
BOTTOM TRAWL

BOTTOM TRAWL

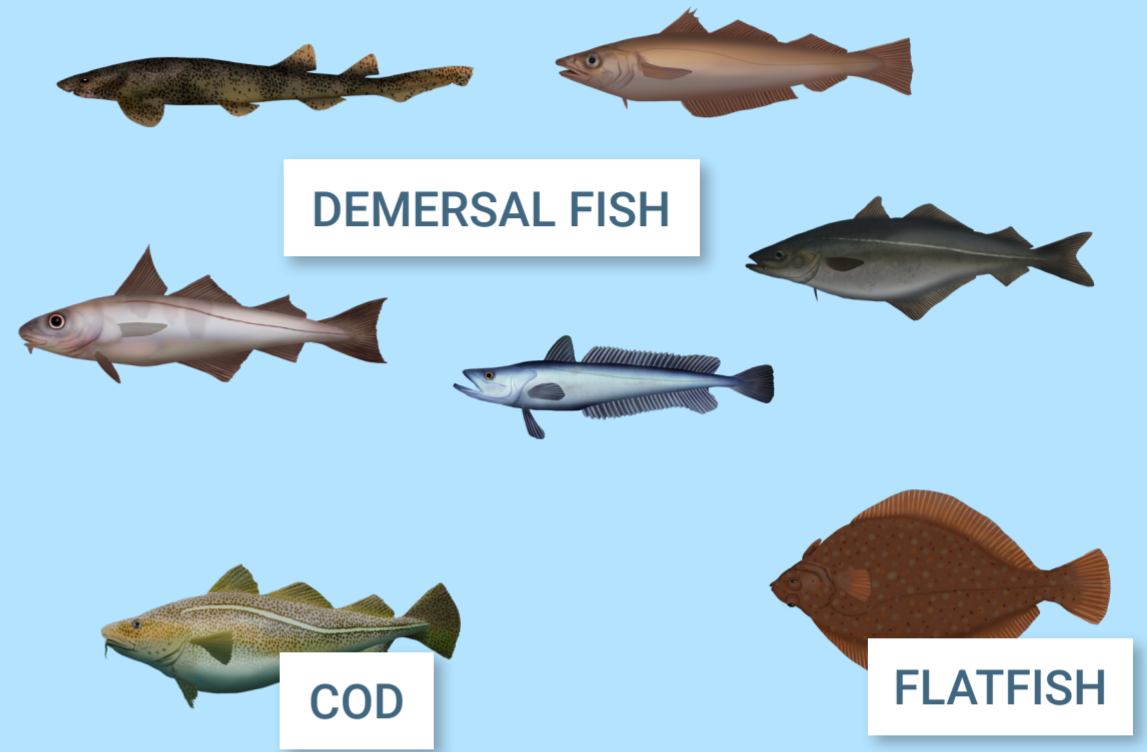
Demersal & benthic trawl - Beam trawl - Shrimp trawl - Nephrops trawl

Bottom trawl fisheries are considered quite damaging to the environment because of their impact on the seafloor: the nets damage slow-growing invertebrate communities and habitats that take years to grow and recover. They capture large quantities of "by-catch": fish and invertebrates that are of no commercial interest, and too young and small to be marketed. These are thrown back at sea as discards, which rarely survive.

FLEETS

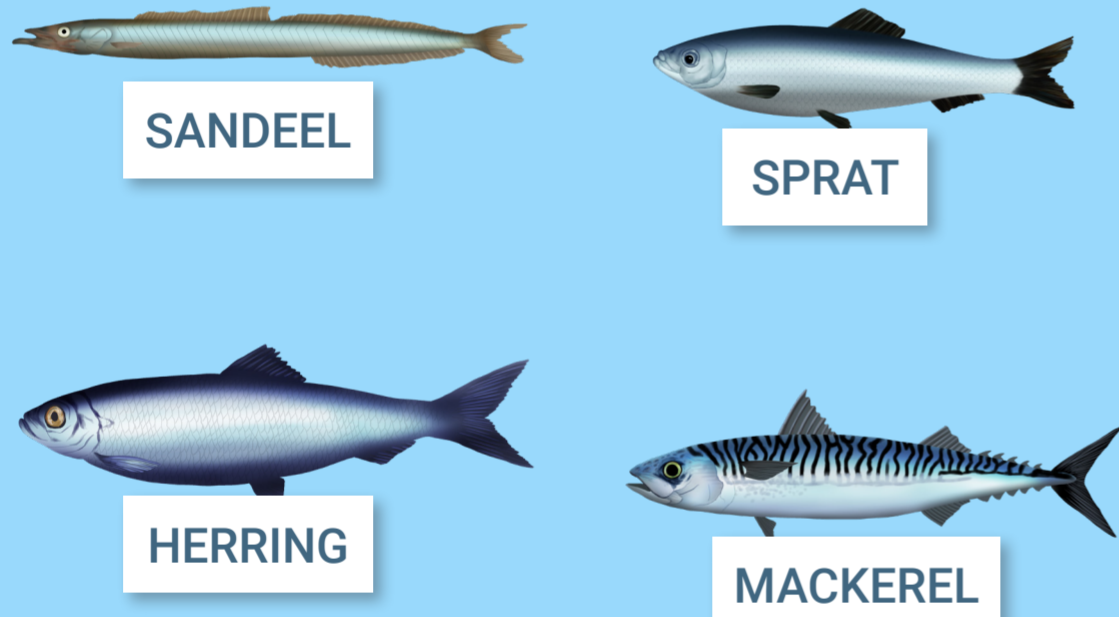


SPECIES AFFECTED

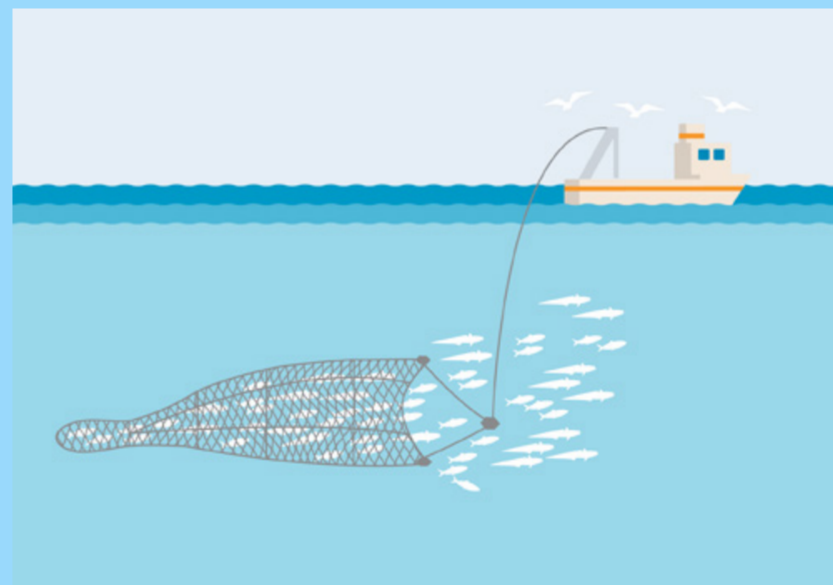


INDUSTRIAL TRAWL

SPECIES AFFECTED



FLEETS



INDUSTRIAL TRAWL

Sandeel trawl - Pelagic trawl

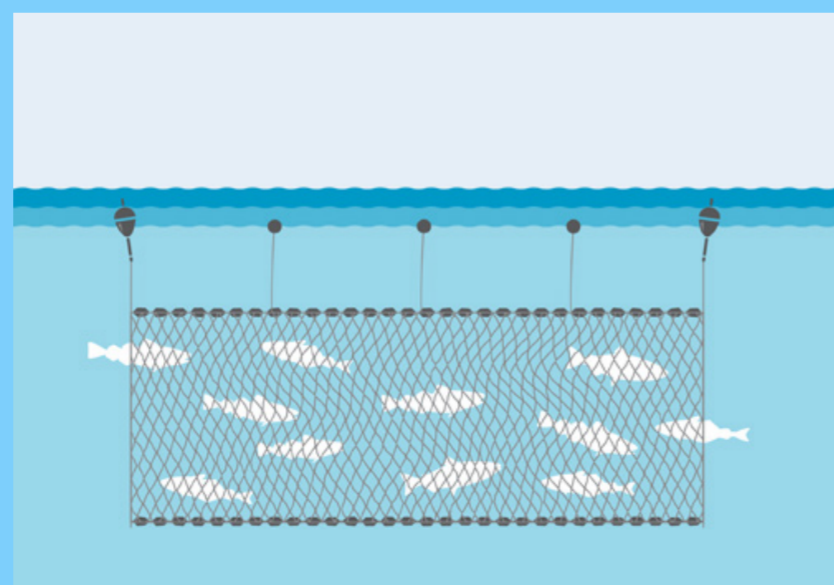
Pelagic trawlers tend to have a limited impact on the ecosystem due to their low discards and lack of habitat damage. However, since they can scoop up huge schools of fish, they can locally deplete small pelagic fish communities, which can be an important food supply for top predators.

DRIFT & FIXED NETS

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The drift and fixed nets fishing fleet is much smaller in terms of total catches than the other two fleets. Since this method allows targeting the desired species and size, with reduced by-catch and discard, this fleet has a lower ecosystem impact compared to the trawl fleets. Drift nets are deployed in the current and are allowed to float freely, while fixed nets are anchored to the sea bottom.

FLEETS



SPECIES AFFECTED

