



A Vision for Our Global Ocean

A shared endeavor to protect the ocean begins with transparency

Overview

The ocean is vital for life on earth. It creates oxygen, regulates weather, cycles fresh water and absorbs carbon. Home to huge reservoirs of biodiversity, the ocean provides essential nutrition and livelihoods for billions of people.

Today, the health of our ocean is under immense pressure from both intensive human activity and climate change. A third of the world's major commercial fish species are overfished and the United Nations estimates that two-thirds of the marine environment has been significantly altered by human actions.

Despite its importance and the threats it faces, the ocean remains the least observed part of our planet. As a result, there is no global picture of all human activity at sea and we cannot truly understand humanity's impact on life below water. This lack of visibility allows illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to thrive.



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Our Purpose

Recent advances in big data and technology are rapidly transforming our ability to generate new insights and make them public and visible. At Global Fishing Watch we believe it's vital to seize this opportunity.

Our purpose is to create and publicly share knowledge about human activity at sea to enable fair and sustainable use of our ocean.

We generate new knowledge by using cutting-edge technology to turn big data into actionable information. We share that information publicly, and for free, to accelerate science and drive fairer, smarter policies and practices that reward good behavior and protect biodiversity, fisheries and livelihoods. And we promote international cooperation and transparency around ocean data to enable a new era of ocean governance.

Our major focus is on commercial fishing because it is the most widespread human activity at sea, the most impactful on ocean health and the most crucial for global livelihoods and food security. It is also an area where technology and transparency can drive real change as fishing has historically been difficult and costly to monitor. As technology advances, we will track other human activities where doing so will make a meaningful contribution to better ocean stewardship.

The beauty of the ocean, the life it contains and the services and resources it provides are part of humanity's shared heritage and shared future. We believe human activity at sea should be common knowledge in order to safeguard the global ocean commons for the common good of all.

Our Mission


Global Fishing Watch seeks to advance ocean governance through increased transparency of human activity at sea. By creating and publicly sharing map visualizations, data and analysis tools, we enable scientific research and drive a transformation in how we manage our ocean. By 2030, we aim to monitor and visualize the impact of ocean-going vessels, both industrial and small-scale, that are responsible for the vast majority of the global seafood catch.

Contact

 info@globalfishingwatch.org

 globalfishingwatch.org

 [/globalfishingwatch](https://www.facebook.com/globalfishingwatch)

 [@globalfishwatch](https://twitter.com/globalfishwatch)

Global Fishing Watch is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing ocean governance through increased transparency of human activity at sea. By creating and publicly sharing map visualizations, data and analysis tools, we aim to enable scientific research and transform the way our ocean is managed. We believe human activity at sea should be public knowledge in order to safeguard the global ocean for the common good of all.

Our Approach



We create new knowledge by using cutting-edge technology to turn big data into actionable information.



We share information publicly, and for free, to accelerate science and drive fairer, smarter policies and practices that reward good behavior and protect biodiversity, fisheries and livelihoods.



We promote international cooperation and transparency around ocean data to enable a new era of ocean governance.