



Learning Activities

Overfishing the Ocean

We have overfished the ocean to the extent that over 90% of global fisheries have now been exploited or overexploited. Which means, according to United Nations data, that less than 10% of global fisheries are deemed to have healthy numbers of fish.

90% of the predatory fish, including sharks, tuna, albacore, icefish, swordfish and grouper are gone.

Two of the reasons for overfishing are illegal fishing and by-catch. Globally an average 30% of the commercial fishing catch is taken illegally and around 25% is by-catch (unwanted and mostly unused catch).

Another reason is the types of fishing methods being used around the world. Some of the most destructive fishing practices are:

- Purse seine nets,
- Gillnets,
- Blast fishing, and
- Bottom trawling.

To find out how they are impacting the ocean ecosystem:

1. Investigate how these fishing methods work and when they are used.
2. Analyse these fishing methods and identify the damage each could do to the environment and marine wildlife.
3. Determine which of these methods would have the greater impact over the long term.

Don't forget our online learning platform has lessons [Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Lesson 3](https://www.lessonup.com/en/channel/sea-shepherd/lesson/Tb3EuLR3BTTucjRS9) (<https://www.lessonup.com/en/channel/sea-shepherd/lesson/Tb3EuLR3BTTucjRS9>) includes information on by-catch and fishing methods.

Take action for the Ocean

Given the extent of overfishing and illegal fishing activity, what do you think we should do to help save the ocean and marine species?

How would you create awareness of this issue?

Create your campaign – think about how you will convey your message and who your audience will be. You can share messages with friends, on social media, write a news story and ask your local newspaper to consider publishing it.