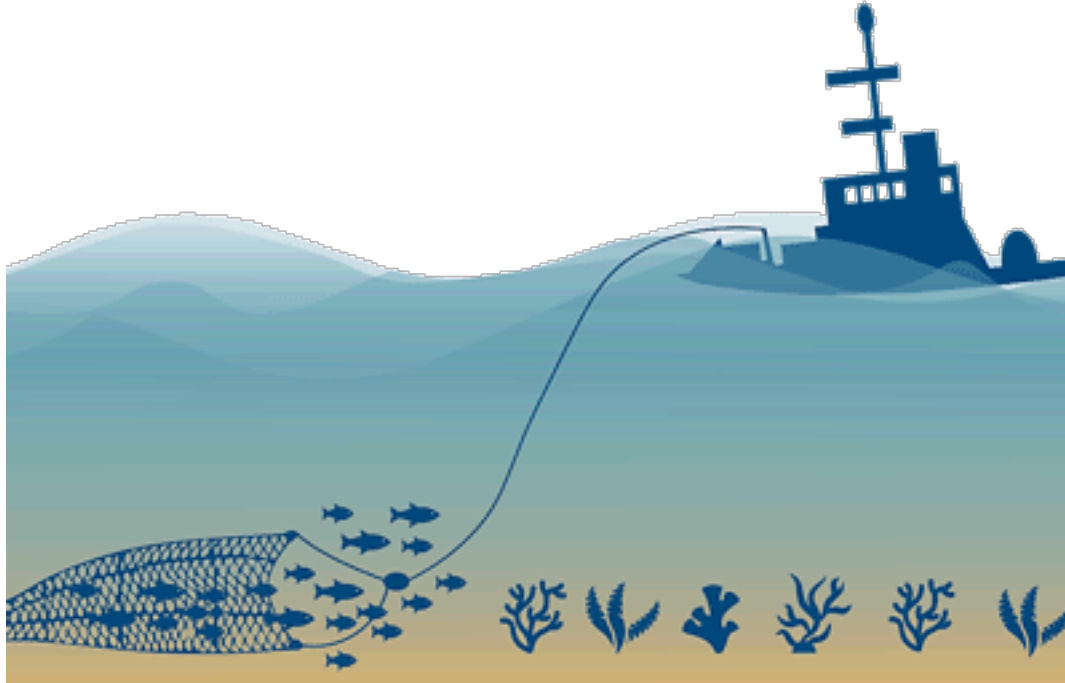


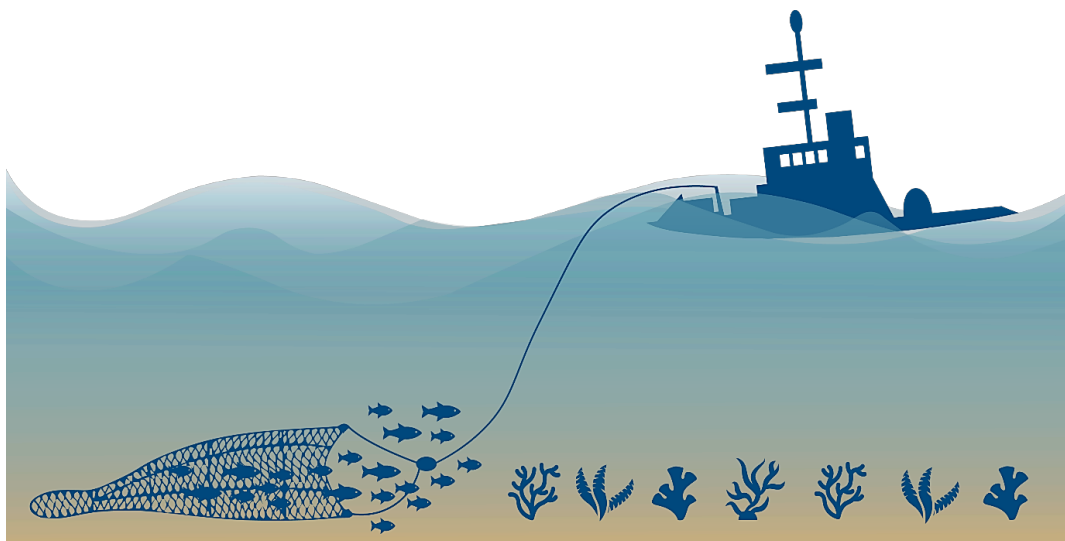
Bottom Trawling

By IASToppers | 2024-01-22 15:30:00



Bottom trawling

A recent study sheds light on the **carbon emissions** associated with the **Bottom trawling**, raising concerns about its contribution to **atmospheric carbon** and implications for climate change.



[ref-Transform bottom trawling]

Key highlights of the study:

- Nearly **25%** of the world's wild-caught **seafood** is obtained through **bottom trawling**.
- Bottom trawlers, dragging **heavy nets** over the seafloor, damages the marine ecosystems and leads to bycatch issues.
- Earlier estimates have stated that the bottom trawling releases about **1 billion metric tons** of carbon **annually**, as compared to global aviation emissions.
- **55-60%** of the stirred-up carbon enters the atmosphere within **9 years**, which is nearly **double** the **annual** emissions of the entire global fishing fleet's fuel combustion.
- Bottom trawling exhibits **higher carbon emissions** in specific regions, including the East China, Baltic, North, and Greenland seas.
- There is a potential of elevated **activity** and **carbon release** in **Southeast Asia**, the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, parts of Europe, and the Gulf of Mexico, although data gaps exist.

About the Bottom trawling:

- The Bottom trawling is a **fishing method** that involves dragging a large, weighted net along the ocean floor to capture fish and other marine organisms.
- It can catch **fishes** such as whitefish like cod, haddock, hoki and hake, and flatfish such as halibut and sole.
 - **Prawns, shrimp** and **squid** can also be caught through this method.
- It is a widely adopted **fishing technique** globally, which contributes significantly to the world's seafood supply.
- It is also referred to as "**dragging**".
- Efforts have been made to regulate bottom trawling through **international agreements**, such as the **United Nations General Assembly resolutions** and regional fisheries management organizations.

Environmental Impact:

- **Destruction of Habitat:** Bottom trawling causes severe damage to **sensitive marine habitats**, such as **coral reefs** and **seamounts**, by **physically scraping** the ocean floor.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** The method results in unintended **bycatch**, leading to the depletion of non-targeted species, including **juvenile fish** and **marine organisms** crucial for the ecosystem.
- **Long-lasting Effects:** The recovery of habitats from bottom trawling can take decades or even centuries, impacting the overall health of marine ecosystems.