

The Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition's Compass

Principles for a Global Movement to Transform Bottom Trawling

Our movement to transform bottom trawling starts with common values and principles that are shared by all coalition members. This is our movement's DNA: a collective vision that aligns our different struggles and ensures we're tackling root causes, not symptoms.

In this work, we value

- **Human rights and dignity**
- **Inclusion and consultation**
- **Fish for food security**
- **Healthy oceans**
- **Sustainable fisheries**
- **Long-term impact and effectiveness**
- **Transparency and openness**
- **Evidence and accountability**

We follow these principles. They constitute the coalition's compass that keeps us true to our values and guides our work.

1. **We know that transforming bottom trawling is vital for ocean life and dependent fishers.**
2. **We believe in empowering low-impact and small-scale fishing communities.** In developing a collective, collaborative voice to defend and secure their rights. In mobilising wider civil society to inspire dialogue with governments and bring about lasting change through policy reform.
3. **We know that a just transition is vital for fishers and fishworkers** affected by restrictions to bottom trawling.
4. **We know that the vast majority of industrial bottom trawling is inherently destructive** and should be outlawed in coastal waters worldwide.
5. **We know that local stewardship of nearshore waters must be mainstreamed and incentivised;** this is one of the most effective ways of ensuring local food security and restoring ocean life.

6. **We know that bottom trawling must be prohibited in all marine protected areas**, to ensure vulnerable habitats and ecosystems are effectively protected and recovered.
7. **We know that fishing subsidies should promote both fisher welfare and healthy oceans**, not drive overfishing, habitat destruction and greenhouse gas emissions.
8. **We know that bottom trawling must not be allowed to expand**, in time or space.
9. **We know that fisheries transparency should be mainstreamed**; monitoring for all bottom trawling vessels should be mandatory.
10. **We know that foreign fleets should not be fishing** in coastal waters in the Global South.
11. **We know that participatory and co-created models, developed with Free Prior and Informed Consent**,¹ are the basis of effective local fisheries management.
12. **We know that gender equity is fundamental in fisheries management**; we will work to raise the voices of all women and girl fishers and fishworkers at national and global levels.
13. **We know that fisheries need to decarbonise** and that the loss of marine life due to climate change will shape how these industries function in future and may lead to inequitable outcomes for small-scale fishers and fishworkers.

¹ As articulated in [ILO 169](#).