

Appeal to decision-makers to address destructive practice of bottom trawling

BY THE
TRANSFORM
BOTTOM
TRAWLING
COALITION



Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing are problems in Africa that need to be fixed. This is one of the goals of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap. To solve the problem of IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices, it is important to find the scientific gaps and to collect and analyze more data on IUU fishing, destructive fishing, and their effects. It's also important to have local communities help keep an eye out for bad fishing practices that hurt their livelihoods and fishing areas and bring them to light.

Photo: Large trawler operating in Madagascar's waters © Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition. - photographed by Garth Cripps



A special session at the 12th WIOMSA symposium brought together partners [Bahari Hai](#), [Secure Fisheries](#), [Fauna & Flora International](#), [Blue Ventures](#) and coastal fishing community representatives to highlight the impacts of bottom trawling on fisheries and ecosystems in Kenya and Somalia.



“ This WIOMSA session helped get those direct opinions and sentiments of the fishers heard by those who have the power to do something about it.”

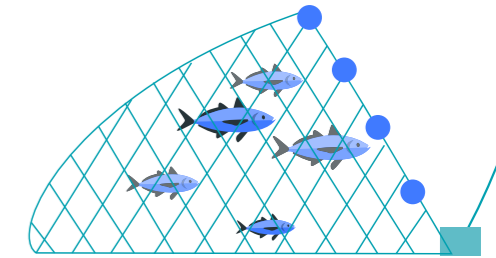


Photo above: Salim Ali (SWIO Tuna) and Kahindi Changawa (Bahari-Hai) provide their perspectives in a live question and answer session facilitated by Jack Murphy (Fauna & Flora International)

Pre-recorded testimonies of community members from Watamu and Malindi-Ungwana Bay in Kenya and Bander Beyla in Somalia, as well as a live question-and-answer session with Kahindi Changawa (Chair of [Bahari Hai](#)) helped to inform the session.

Presenters from Bahari Hai, Secure Fisheries, Fauna & Flora International and Blue Ventures then explored the relationship between bottom trawling and fisheries conflict, turtle bycatch, small-scale fisheries decline and wider destructive fishing practices.

Ali Salim Mohammed, artisanal fisher and SWIO Tuna, explained how **bottom trawling affects coastal fisher community livelihoods and called on decision-makers to address this destructive practice.**

BOTTOM TRAWLING AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The ocean is **critically important** in the fight against **climate breakdown**

Bottom trawlers land... **19m** 19M TONNES OF SEAFOOD EACH YEAR*

... **40** coal-fired power stations

The footprint of **BOTTOM-TRAWL FISHERIES** IS THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN **NON-TRAWL FISHERIES****

Bottom trawling disturbs **the world's largest carbon stores**

1bn TONNES OF CO₂ RELEASED FROM THE SEABED EACH YEAR BY TRAWL NETS**

54 TONNES OF CO₂ RELEASED EACH YEAR PER TONNE OF SEAFOOD LANDED

Bottom trawling can **reduce its contribution** to the climate crisis in **six key ways**

- 1 Rebuilding fish stocks and reforming management
- 2 Prioritising lower-fuel fishing gears over bottom trawls
- 3 Strengthening inshore exclusion zones for small-scale fishers
- 4 Transitioning to low-emission technologies and reforming subsidies
- 5 Limiting bottom trawling in marine protected areas
- 6 Freezing expansion into untrawled habitats

FOOTPRINT OF ANIMAL SEAFOOD AND PLANT-BASED FOODS**

PELAGIC SPECIES (Mid-water trawls)

POULTRY

TOFU

DEMERSEAL SPECIES (Longline & branching nets)

DEMERSEAL SPECIES (Beam trawls)

PORK

BEEF (Beef herd)

SHRIMP

LOBSTER (Bottom trawls)

LAMB & MUTTON

BEEF (Dairy herd)

Emissions from **food and fisheries** are one of the biggest drivers of the **climate crisis**

FOOD CAUSES UP TO 40% OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS**

159m FISHING VESSELS RELEASE 159M TONNES OF CO₂ EACH YEAR**

This is **equivalent to CO₂** from...

40% OF ALL CARBON EMITTED EACH YEAR CAPTURED BY THE OCEAN

THE **carbon footprint** of bottom trawled seafood is among the **highest of all foods**

Bottom trawling can **reduce its contribution** to the climate crisis in **six key ways**

Download the Report

transformbottomtrawling.org

* IPCC 2018. ** Amoroso et al 2018. iii Cripps et al 2021. iv Greer et al 2019. v EPA greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator. vi Clark & Timan 2017. vii Gephart 2021. viii Poore & Nemecek 2018. ix Quire et al 2017. x Salo et al 2021

Paucity of research into the impacts of bottom trawling

The session highlighted the paucity of research into the impacts of bottom trawling in Kenya and Somalia.



Photo above: Kahindi Changawa ends his talk with a powerful visual illustrating that red flags are once again being flown for Malindi-Ungwana Bay

Photo below: Small scale-fishers and large trawlers compete in the same waters. © Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition

“We know that bottom trawling is pervasive and destructive, but more research is needed to understand how the practice impacts fishing communities and coastal ecosystems.”

“This understanding is key to informing policy decisions and regulations,” said **Agatha Ogada**, *Blue Ventures’ Regional Partner Support Coordinator*.

The session provided a unique opportunity for decision-makers, scientists and community members to discuss perspectives and ideas about how to achieve more robust protection from the harmful effects of bottom trawling for small-scale fisheries and marine biodiversity.



“

The bottom trawlers are like a broom that sweep up everything in their path. It takes everything and destroys the rest. The areas where fish spawn and live are being uprooted and destroyed.



Ahmed Ismail Abdi
Fisherman and Liaison for the Bander Beyla Fishers’ Cooperative

”

“

I remember the prosperity of our ocean, full of fish and life. It was useful to us and we could benefit from it. But these days the ocean is getting less prosperous.



Nadifo Mohamud Jama
Fishewoman, Bander Beyla Fishers’ Cooperative

”

Raising a red flag

“My active work in Malindi-Ungwana Bay started when I was alerted about the high turtle mortalities in 2019. This was a major red flag, to which we responded. I see another red flag being raised right now and I call upon others to please pay serious attention and take action,” said **Kahindi Changawa**.

“The issue of bottom trawling is felt hard by the local fishers in Malindi-Ungwana Bay. These fishers are feeling the issues

directly with regard to their fish catch and livelihoods. But they feel unheard, that no one cares, and they are receiving no support to address the issues. This WIOMSA session helped get those direct opinions and sentiments of the fishers heard by those who have the power to do something about it.”

“Addressing the trawler issue is complex. The WIOMSA Symposium attracted a diverse audience of key stakeholders,

it allowed these voices to be heard by these stakeholders, including government, conservationists, funders and academia. All these players need to be aware of the seriousness of this issue and my hope is that with the information and knowledge that was shared in the session, the bottom trawling issue will be prioritised. It needs to be prioritised!” added **Changawa**.

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Photo: Dredge marks clearly visible on ocean floor.
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Transform
Bottom
Trawling
Coalition
represents
58
organisations
from
27
countries
worldwide

The “Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition,” works to amplify these discussions and voices, extending this unique opportunity to tackle bottom trawling.

The Transforming Bottom Trawling Coalition is actively working towards the Ocean Decade outcomes of a healthy and resilient ocean where marine ecosystems are understood, protected, restored and managed; a productive ocean supporting sustainable food supply and a sustainable ocean economy and an inspiring and engaging ocean where society understands and values the ocean in relation to human wellbeing and sustainable development.

To learn more about the coalition, visit www.transformbottomtrawling.org