

The Ocean's Silent Killer

BYCATCH: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Why Does It Occur?

Bycatch often results when negligent fisheries prioritize profit over marine life. Poorly managed fishing vessels ignore rules and regulations by fishing in restricted areas and using unauthorized equipment.

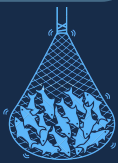


Negligent Practices

- Overfishing
- Outdated/Illegal Equipment
- Reckless Management
- Fishing in Restricted Zones

Non-Selective Fishing Gear

- Longlines
- Trawls
- Gillnets
- Dredging



What Is Bycatch?

Bycatch is the term used to describe marine species that are inadvertently caught by fisheries

Why Is It a Problem?

Nontargeted, endangered, and protected species frequently become trapped in fishing gear

Can Bycatch Be Returned?

Bycatch often sustains injuries and perishes once returned to the ocean

How is the Marine Ecosystem Impacted?



- Bycatch leads to the decline and endangerment of marine species like the vaquita porpoise, leatherback sea turtle, and the albatross

- It disrupts the balance of an ecosystem and slows or reverses conservation efforts

- Corals and sponges are also affected, threatening species reliant on coral reefs ecosystems



Why Should We Care?

The Ocean...

- Covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface
- Inhabits 99% of the living space on the planet
- Is home to millions of living organisms
- Is responsible for the majority of the world's oxygen production and climate regulation
- Provides food, medicine, jobs, transportation, recreation, and economic benefits for humans



Want to Learn More?

Scan the QR code to find these resources and more



[How to Limit Bycatch](#)

[Make a Difference With the Ocean Foundation](#)

[Safe and Humane Handling and Release of Bycaught](#)

Informational Artifact Supplemental Information

Audience: My informational artifact was created to bring attention to the hundreds of thousands of non-targeted marine animals caught and killed in the fishing industry. Bycatch continues to be a major danger to healthy fish populations, protected species as well as marine ecosystems around the world. The pamphlet was designed to target the general audience from kids to adults. It can be found hanging in aquariums and marine parks.

Purpose: The purpose of my artifact is to make people aware of the causes and consequences of bycatch. The artifact encourages the audience to investigate and analyze methods and practices used to reduce and prevent bycatch in commercial fishing. I included research to inform readers about why it is an important issue, and ultimately how people can prevent it.

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