

BANNING BOTTOM TRAWLING

Bottom trawling is a widely used method of fishing from the sea, in the colder waters of the world and has come under scrutiny from marine scientists and ecologists as it damages the cold-water reef systems of the worlds.

The fishing trawlers drop nets to the bottom some as deep as 1 mile (1.6 kms) and scoop everything from the bottom as the net is dragged behind the trawler. The main prize fishermen are in search of is the Orange Ruffly, which is a bottom dweller.

Bottom trawling destroys 90% of all the corals and leaves the bottom looking like a desert. Scientists estimate that it takes up to 1000 years to recover and some of these corals have been estimated to be 8,000 years old. Most of the trawling takes place in the colder waters of the world, where two-thirds of all the seas corals are found. There are even species of fish and animals that have not even been categorised by scientists.

Only 11 nations are responsible including Russia and Spain and scientists are trying to get a United Nations ban before its too late.

[Source: ABC News]