SAVE THE ARCTIC

The melting Arctic is under threat from oil drilling, industrial fishing and conflict.

Yes, I want to Save the Arctic!

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GREENPEACE www.greenpeace.org
Drawing the line: fishing boundaries and Arctic Protection
Svalbard, in the Barents Sea
Sea pens 2.3 meters high

Basket stars and soft corals

In OSPAR’s List of threatened and/or declining species and habitats
C. Super EBSAs of the Northeast Atlantic Region: Greenland / Barents / Kara / Laptev Seas
Urgent action needed in the Arctic

- Sea ice changes: Between 1979 and 2013, the summer season in the Barents Sea became 20 weeks longer.

- Sea temperature increased 0.8 degrees since 1980, could increase another 4.5 during this century - according to IPCC models – will alter the sea dramatically.

- The Barents sea lost 50% of its ice coverage since 1980.

Surface temperature September 8th 2016 in relation to normal. Source The Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI)
Vulnerability of megabenthic species to trawling in the Barents Sea

Lis Lindal Jørgensen, Benjamin Planque, Trude Hauge Thangstad and Grégoire Certain

Abstract

The development of ecosystem-based fisheries management over the last two decades has increased attention on the protection of vulnerable resources that are of little or no economic significance including bycatch of benthos in bottom trawling. Current knowledge on the response of benthic communities to the impact of trawling is still rudimentary. In the present study, we used data collected in the Barents Sea during 2011 to assess the vulnerability of benthic species to trawling, based on the risk of being caught or damaged by a bottom trawl. Using trait table analysis, we identified 23 “high-risk” benthic species, which include “large weight and upraised” taxa as "easily caught" by a bottom trawl. We further identified a “low-risk” category containing 245 taxa/species and a “medium-risk” category with 80 species. A clear decline in biomass was noted for all three categories when comparing trawled vs. untrawled areas. This suggests that trawling significantly affects the biomass of all species, but...
Arctic marine fishes and their fisheries in light of global change

Jørgen S. Christiansen, Catherine W. Mecklenburg, Oleg V. Karamushko

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Abstract

In light of ocean warming and loss of Arctic sea ice, harvested marine fishes of boreal origin (and their fisheries) move poleward into yet unexploited parts of the Arctic seas. Industrial fisheries, already in place on many Arctic shelves, will radically affect the local fish species as they turn up as unprecedented bycatch. Arctic marine fishes are indispensable to ecosystem structuring and functioning, but they are still beyond credible assessment due to lack of basic biological data. The time for conservation actions is now, and precautionary management practices by the Arctic coastal states are needed to mitigate the impact of industrial fisheries in Arctic waters. We outline four possible conservation actions: scientific credibility, ‘green technology’, legitimate management and overarching coordination.
Recent warming leads to a rapid borealization of fish communities in the Arctic

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Arctic marine ecosystems are warming twice as fast as the global average. As a consequence of warming, many incoming species experience increasing abundances and expanding distribution ranges in the Arctic. The Arctic is expected to have the largest species turnover with regard to invading and locally extinct species, with a modelled invasion intensity of five times the global average. Studies in this region might therefore give valuable insights into community-wide shifts of species driven by climate warming. We found that the recent warming in the Barents Sea has led to a change in spatial distribution of fish communities, with boreal communities expanding.
Arctic marine mammal population status, sea ice habitat loss, and conservation recommendations for the 21st century

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AIS tracks showing vessels owned by Havfisk (yellow), Ocean Trawlers (orange) and connected to FIUN (pink) in the Norwegian portion of the Barents Sea above 78°N and travelling at a speed of 5 knots or below (typical trawling speed) on five or more days in total during the three years to 11 September 2015. Days were counted when at least three signals were recorded on the same day, to help rule out AIS transmission errors. These vessels’ tracks between 75° and 78° are also shown.

Map also shows official division of main areas (big squares) and locations (small areas within them) for the compulsory reporting of fish catches landed in Norway, overlaid with the identified Super Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSA).

Source: Greenpeace based on maps by the Norwegian Directorate for Fisheries, IUCN and NRDC in addition to AIS data.
FISHING INDUSTRY MORATORIUM ON EXPANSION OF COD TRAWLING IN THE ARCTIC

MAP: Coverage area of the industry-led agreement. Includes FAO area 27, ICES division IIb2 and part of Ib.

Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ) boundaries.

Scale 1:6,000,000

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CULTURE

GLOBAL BRANDS PLEDGE TO RESPONSIBLY SOURCE FISH IN THE ATLANTIC

Companies including Tesco and McDonald's have agreed to limit the fishing.

BY ELIZABETH PE

Greenpeace en visserijsector beschermen samen de Noordpool


Fishing

Major fishing deal offers protection to Arctic waters

Leading seafood suppliers, including McDonald's, Tesco and Birds Eye, say suppliers won't expand cod fisheries into pristine Arctic region.

Chip shops, Tesco and McDonald's 'refuse to sell cod from Arctic waters

Vis uit kwetsbare noordpoolzee beschermd

Fiskeflåten samlet om å bevare havbunnen i Arktis

Fylke store seilskapere har sammens med de norske og russiske havfiskene igjennom en avtale som kan få stor betydning for havbunnen i Arktis.

McDonalds vil beskytte torskene i Arktis

Norwegische Arktis

Fischereiindustrie verzichtet auf Kabeljaufang

Das Eis in der Arktis schmilzt, Fischereiflotte können immer weiter vorrücken. Unternehmen wollen die Fanggebiete jetzt freiwillig einschränken - darunter auch bekannte Markenhersteller.
Greenpeace brokers deal to stop some cod fishing expansion

Greenpeace en visserijsector beschermen samen de Noordpool

Historisk miljøavtale stanser Røkke-fisket i nord

Greenpeace en visserijsector beschermen samen de Noordpool

Historisk miljøavtale stanser Røkke-fisket i nord

Greenpeace: "McDonald's, Iglo en anderen grote bedrijven in de Arctische kustmijnen pompen niet meer op de vis."
What the agreement says

Freezing footprint

“We have agreed that from the 2016 season the catching sector will not expand their Cod fishing activities with trawl gear into those areas where regular fishing has not taken place before. This is a precautionary measure until through initiatives such as those mentioned below the fishing activity in future years will be determined by improved knowledge replacing the need for this precautionary approach.”

Process and Roundtable

“The objectives of the High-Level Roundtable will be to establish a transparent process that will continue to enable Cod to be sourced from the area but also to meet the MSC independent sustainable fishery standard for activities beyond 2016.”
Next steps to deliver on the industry commitment

- Define areas where regular fishing has taken place (footprint) for all fleets operating in the area covered under the agreement, where trawling activities will continue

- Establish a system to demonstrate stakeholders compliance

- Agree on criteria for expansion into waters not yet regularly fished, to apply to all fleets

- Sourcing criteria for the exclusion of fish sourced by companies in breach of the agreement and its monitoring.

Meantime – the Norwegian Government must act on the findings of this process and fast track formal protection of VMEs, including the creation of MPAs off limits to all extractive uses.
Marine protected area declared in Antarctica

Source: New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Antarctic Ocean Alliance, The Pew Charitable Trusts