

Title	Fishing effort (number of trawl tows) by year (1990–2014)
Type	Dataset
Subject	fisheries
Source	Ministry for Primary Industries
Description	Seabed trawling is the practice of towing fishing nets near or along the ocean floor. The towing process can physically damage seabed (benthic) habitats and species. It can also stir up sediment from the seabed, creating sediment plumes that can smother sensitive species and change light conditions. This can affect marine species (eg by limiting their ability to generate energy through photosynthesis).
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Language	eng-nz
Issued	21/10/2015
Environmental reporting topic	Marine habitat modification by human activity
Environmental reporting category	Case study
Methodology (collection & analyses)	<p>We report on the number of tows and dredges over time, as an indication of changes in fishing effort and therefore pressures on the seabed.</p> <p>Bottom trawling is carried out on or near the seabed in both shallow and deep waters. Dredging is carried out on the seabed in shallow waters and targets creatures such as scallops.</p>
Limitations to data & analysis	The accuracy of the data source is of medium quality.
Changes to time series	