**Glossary**

This table defines abbreviations and terms commonly used throughout this tool. Sources provided in this table pertain to the definition of the abbreviation or term. See the answers in the ‘FAQs & Data Sources` section above for the sources of the raw data used in the underlying analysis.

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| Term | Definition | Source |
| AIS | Automatic Identification System: a system that transmits a ship’s position and identifying characteristics so that other ships are aware of its position. AIS is mandated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for vessels larger than 300 gross tonnes that travel internationally, but many countries require other vessels to have AIS onboard as well. | Global Fishing Watch – [What is AIS?](https://globalfishingwatch.org/faqs/what-is-ais/) |
| distant water fishing | Vessels fishing in all FAO major fishing areas other than those adjacent to the flag State, including on the high seas. | R.J.R. Grainger and S.M. Garcia. *Chronicles of Marine Fishery Landings (1950-1994): Trend Analysis and Fisheries Potential*. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper 359 <http://www.fao.org/3/W3244E/w3244e09.htm> |
| EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone: 200 nautical mile area under full rights and jurisdiction of the coastal state. | [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – Part V](https://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/part5.htm) |
| fishery subsidies | Financial transfers, direct or indirect, from public entities to the fishing sector, which help the sector make more profitable than it would otherwise be. | Sumaila, U.R., Khan, A.S., Dyck, A.J. et al. *A bottom-up re-estimation of global fisheries subsidies.* Journal of Bioeconomics 12, 201–225 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10818-010-9091-8> |
| fishery subsidies, capacity-enhancing (harmful) | Programs that lead to disinvestments in natural capital assets, developing fishing capacity to a point where resource overexploitation makes it impossible to achieve maximum sustainable long-term benefits. | Sumaila, U.R., Khan, A.S., Dyck, A.J. et al. *A bottom-up re-estimation of global fisheries subsidies.* Journal of Bioeconomics 12, 201–225 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10818-010-9091-8> |
| fishing effort | A measure of the amount of fishing. For example, the number of hours or days spent fishing, numbers of hooks used (i.e., in long- line fishing), or kilometers of nets used. In this tool, we express fishing effort in units of kilowatt-hours (kWh). | Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries: [Glossary](https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=994), February 1998. |
| flag state | The State having registered a vessel under the national flag for fishing purposes. | FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO, 2014. |
| kWh (or kW hours) | Kilowatt-hours: amount of time spent fishing (hours) weighted by the engine power of the vessel (kW). Expressing fishing effort this way provides a better metric for comparing fishing effort across vessels with different gear types and/or sizes. | Kroodsma, D. A. et al. Tracking the global footprint of fisheries. Science 359, 904–908 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aao5646> |