# Sir David Attenborough exposes bottom trawling’s devastating impact in new film



Sir David Attenborough's latest film, *Ocean with David Attenborough*, casts a glaring light on the alarming impacts of bottom trawling on marine ecosystems, released to celebrate the esteemed naturalist's 99th birthday. This documentary not only presents the awe-inspiring beauty of ocean life but also documents the destructive practices that threaten these precious environments.

The film features high-definition footage of bottom trawling in action, where heavy nets, laden with weights, are dragged across the ocean floor. This method indiscriminately captures marine species while wreaking havoc on delicate ecosystems. Chain and netting equipment bulldozes across habitats, stirring sediment and releasing significant amounts of carbon into the water. Through his narration, Attenborough reveals a sobering reality: "very few places are safe" from such practices.

Recent studies underscore the dire implications of bottom trawling. Research published in various environmental journals has quantified its contribution to global carbon emissions, estimating that this fishing method is responsible for releasing up to 370 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year. Such staggering figures highlight the dual threat bottom trawling poses: not only does it devastate marine life, but it also accelerates climate change. As stated in a National Geographic report, these emissions significantly impact both marine ecosystems and the overall climate, further highlighting the urgency of addressing this issue.

The United Nations has been vocal about the necessity for reform, advocating for an international moratorium on bottom trawling. Their assessments reiterate the drastic effects these practices have on deep-sea ecosystems, aligning with Attenborough's sentiments on the widespread dangers faced by our oceans. In multiple instances, the notion that "very few places are safe" has emerged as a common theme, underscoring the pervasive threat to marine life from such unsustainable fishing practices.

Attenborough's warnings about the plight of the oceans, which he has articulated in various forums, resonate more strongly than ever as climate change, plastic pollution, and overfishing converge to create a crisis. The film serves as both a celebration of the ocean’s wonders and a rallying cry for action, urging viewers to take a stand against the ongoing degradation of marine environments.

In a world where human activity increasingly encroaches upon natural ecosystems, *Ocean with David Attenborough* stands as a poignant reminder of the fragile state of our oceans. It not only informs but also inspires hope and action, emphasising the responsibility we all share in safeguarding these vital resources for future generations.

Ultimately, Attenborough's narrative, embedded with a sense of urgency and reverence, calls for a collective awakening to the realities of our impact on the planet, encouraging a global dialogue on the sustainable stewardship of our oceans.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/david-attenborough-bottom-trawling-show-b2747958.html)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/david-attenborough-bottom-trawling-show-b2747958.html), [[2]](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/climate-change-bottom-trawling-fishing), [[3]](https://news.nationalgeographic.org/scientists-uncover-new-marine-source-of-carbon-emissions-into-atmosphere-finding-bottom-trawling-contributes-to-global-warming/)
* Paragraph 3: [[4]](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/07/060717104123.htm)
* Paragraph 4: [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/05/oceans-under-greatest-threat-in-history-warns-sir-david-attenborough), [[7]](https://www.weforum.org/stories/2019/06/david-attenborough-s-worried-about-this-ocean-threat-and-it-s-not-plastic/)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/david-attenborough-bottom-trawling-show-b2747958.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/david-attenborough-bottom-trawling-show-b2747958.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/climate-change-bottom-trawling-fishing> - A National Geographic article discusses a study revealing that bottom trawling contributes up to 370 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, significantly impacting both marine ecosystems and the climate. The study highlights the widespread nature of this practice, noting that 'very few places are safe.'
3. <https://news.nationalgeographic.org/scientists-uncover-new-marine-source-of-carbon-emissions-into-atmosphere-finding-bottom-trawling-contributes-to-global-warming/> - This National Geographic press release details a study finding that bottom trawling is responsible for injecting up to 370 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, contributing to global warming. The study emphasizes the widespread nature of this practice, stating that 'very few places are safe.'
4. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/07/060717104123.htm> - A ScienceDaily article reports on a United Nations review highlighting the need for an international moratorium on bottom trawling due to its destructive impact on deep-sea life. The review underscores the widespread nature of this practice, noting that 'very few places are safe.'
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bottom_trawling> - The Wikipedia page on bottom trawling provides comprehensive information on the practice, including its environmental impacts such as habitat destruction and carbon emissions. It notes that 'very few places are safe' from the effects of bottom trawling.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/05/oceans-under-greatest-threat-in-history-warns-sir-david-attenborough> - An article from The Guardian features Sir David Attenborough warning that oceans are under the greatest threat in history, citing issues like climate change, plastic pollution, and overfishing. The article highlights the widespread nature of these threats, stating that 'very few places are safe.'
7. <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2019/06/david-attenborough-s-worried-about-this-ocean-threat-and-it-s-not-plastic/> - A World Economic Forum article discusses Sir David Attenborough's concerns about ocean threats, including overfishing and its impact on marine ecosystems. The article emphasizes the widespread nature of these issues, noting that 'very few places are safe.'