

# Call for experts to define destructive fishing



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## WHAT IS DESTRUCTIVE FISHING?

While the global fisheries and conservation community is strongly committed to tackling “overfishing” and “IUU fishing”, much less attention has been paid to reducing “destructive fishing”. This is in spite of the presence of the term in multiple global and national fisheries & conservation policies.

**“Destructive fishing” is the problem that ecosystem-based fisheries management is trying to solve. By better defining the problem and its scope, we can better tailor the solution.**

Starting in 2021, a team of three non-governmental organisations (Fauna & Flora International, BirdLife International, UNEP-WCMC) and one academic institution (the University of Cambridge) are leading a two-year consensus-based expert review process to better define this term.

**We would like to invite experts from across the fishing industry, fisheries management, academia and civil society to complete a short survey to help begin to construct this shared definition.**



## THE EXPERT REVIEW PROCESS

The project team is collating a baseline of the term “destructive fishing” in the literature and designing a survey to seek expert opinion (using the ‘Delphi method’). We are currently seeking representatives of convening bodies across sectors, to contribute to the process.

While firm dates are being finalised (see provisional timeline below), we anticipate launching the initial Stage 1 survey in **mid-April 2021**. We anticipate initial involvement to be straightforward; contributors would complete a short online survey and ideally speak to the project team.

Contributors would then be asked about their interest in remaining involved (i.e. Stage 2 review of anonymised first stage comments and then Stage 3 workshopping) and can select whether to join these further stages. We plan to present the results of the project at various fora in late 2021 and into 2022.

**Please note, our definition of an expert is broad and inclusive; it applies to anyone with 5 years+ experience in a relevant field related to either fishing itself, fisheries management, broader marine management or marine/fisheries advocacy.**

1. Expert survey  
Apr-May

2. Survey review  
July-Aug

3. Workshops  
Sept onwards

We are reliant on representative and convening bodies to help us to identify experts. **We would be grateful to receive offers to take part in the expert review process and also to coordinators of convening bodies to cascade this request to relevant networks.** For more information on the project please visit [www.destructivefishing.com](http://www.destructivefishing.com)