

30 Minute  
Activity  
For  
Everyone

## Fishful Thinking & Snack Trawling

Canada has 243,042 kilometers of coastline making it the longest coastline of any other country in the world. With such abundant access to the oceans, Canada's fishing industry is one of the top 10 exporters of fish and seafood in the world. This activity allows you and your family to take a closer look at fishing industry practices and the impacts they have on their aquatic environments.

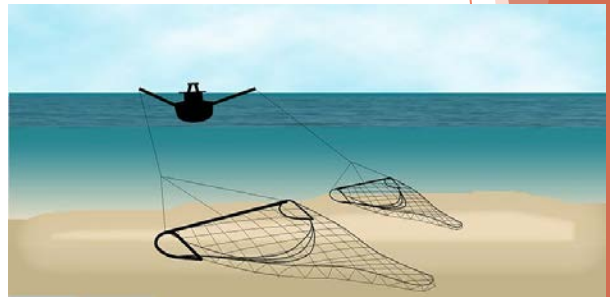
Some of the main fish and seafood that Canada exports are species of groundfish and shellfish, which all live and reproduce on the ocean floor. Trawling is one of the most common fishing practices used in Canada to harvest these types of fish. Trawling is the act of dragging a weighted net along the ocean floor catching almost everything in its path, damaging ocean floor habitat along the way. This fishing practice is efficient because of the area you can cover in such a short time. Though it's efficient, this fishing practice is one of the least selective fishing practices. Catching not only the target fish but various other species as well, damaging their populations. This is known as bycatch.

### Set Up:

Start by gathering 3-4 different types of snacks that go well together. *Examples: Popcorn, Goldfish, Animal Crackers, Pretzels, etc.* These snacks will represent different types of fish. Designate one snack to represent your target fish, with the other snacks representing bycatch or other fish species. Next, use a plate or sheet pan and spread a thin layer of your target fish snack down, covering the surface. Now, add additional layers of the other snacks on top of the target fish snack, making it the bottom layer. Find a large spoon as your trawling device and you're ready to start fishing.

### Discussion Questions:

- List and discuss all the impacts this fishing practice is having on aquatic environments?
- How can we support the protection of fish populations in Canada?
- What can we do to further educate ourselves on fishing practices and their impacts?
- How can we learn more about the fish we buy from a grocery store?



(Photo from: <https://www.commons.wikimedia.org>)

### Activity:

Using a large spoon as your trawling device, you will take part in five fishing sessions. Each fishing session will be 20 seconds in length. Record everything you catch at the end of every fishing session by writing it down. Start the timer and use your spoon to take large scoops of the snacks, scraping the bottom of the plate or sheet pan. Scoop all fish snacks caught into a cup to represent your harvest for the season. Repeat until you have completed five fishing sessions. Once complete, tally up all the fish snacks you caught. How many target fish did you catch in comparison to the amount of bycatch caught?

### Materials Needed:

3-4 Types of Snacks, A Plate or Sheet Pan, One Large Spoon, A Cup, Pen/Pencil, Paper, A Timer