



Number of trawl tows (1990–2014)

Title	Number of trawl tows (1990–2014)
Publisher	New Zealand's Environment Reporting Series: The Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand
Description	Seabed trawling and dredging (where fishing gear is towed near or along the ocean floor) can physically damage seabed (benthic) habitats and species. These fishing methods can also stir up sediment from the seabed, creating sediment plumes that can smother sensitive species. Recovery times for affected habitats and species depend on their sensitivity and the area affected by trawling or dredging. 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 marine creatures such as scallops. This measure focuses on deepwater areas (waters deeper than 200m).
Source	Ministry for Primary Industries
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Coverage	1990–2014; Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone
Identifier	https://data.mfe.govt.nz/table/53487-number-of-trawl-tows-19902014/
Type	Dataset
Language	eng-nz
Subject	benthic impacts, fisheries