

Users of the data should note the following caveats:

- The outputs can only reflect the data submitted. Spain, Greenland and Russia did not submit data; Iceland and Faroe Islands submitted data that was unsuitable therefore the maps are incomplete for any areas where vessels from these countries operate.
- Many countries have substantial fleets of smaller vessels that are not equipped with VMS (< 12 m) or logbooks (<10 m for the EU fleet in the OSPAR area) and are therefore not captured by these maps. These occur mainly in coastal, nearshore waters.
- The methods for identifying fishing activity from the VMS data varied between countries; therefore there may be some country-specific biases. Additionally, activities other than active towing of gear may have been incorrectly identified as fishing activity. This would have the effect of increasing the apparent fishing intensity around ports and in areas used for passage.
- The fishing abrasion pressure methodology is based on broad assumptions in terms of the area affected by abrasion., which can lead to both underestimates and overestimates in actual surface and subsurface abrasion.
- The calculation of fishing intensity, as well as surface and subsurface abrasion needs knowledge of fishing hours and speed, and gear widths. Both fishing hours and speed were part of the data request, however fishing speed was not always supplied; in these cases, estimates of fishing speed were based on average supplied fishing speed values. Gear widths were estimated from relationships between average gear widths and average vessel lengths or engine power (kW).
- Some Contracting Parties submitted data with non-standard gear codes and therefore fishing effort from these gears could not be included. The fishing effort covered by these codes will have a minor effect on the overall results.
- Inconsistencies may occur in the gear coding. Examples include dredges coded as HMD (Mechanised Dredges including Suction Dredges) instead of DRB (Boat Dredge), and OTT (Otter Twin Trawl) coded as OTB (Bottom Otter Trawl). Gear codes were corrected when possible.