

# Healthy Oceans Sustainable Seafood Vocabulary for Students



- **Aquaculture:** The farming of water organisms.
- **Bycatch:** Any fish or other organism that is unintentionally caught. These items are often wasted.
- **Farmed fish:** Fish that are raised for commercial purposes, usually for food. Fish can be farmed in a variety of environments, including self-contained tanks or enclosures in the open ocean.
- **Food chain:** A series of events in which one organism eats another and obtains energy.
- **Food web:** The pattern of overlapping food chains in an ecosystem.
- **Gillnet:** A wall of netting that hangs vertically in the water and catches fish that try to swim through by the gills. Gillnets can unintentionally entangle a variety of marine animals, including sea turtles, whales, and dolphins.
- **Longline:** A central fishing line that can range from one to 50 miles long and strung with smaller lines of baited hooks, dangling at evenly spaced intervals. The many lines, however, can hook bycatch that are attracted to the bait.
- **Mercury:** A toxic heavy metal that can enter the environment and contaminate water sources from human activities like coal burning. In the ocean, mercury is absorbed into the bodies of fish and accumulates in fish higher up in the food chain.
- **Purse seining:** A method of fishing that uses a large wall of netting to encircle schools of fish. There are several types of purse seines and, depending on which is used, some can catch other animals.
- **Sustainable:** Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Trawling:** A method of fishing using nets towed at various depths to catch fish or shellfish. Trawl nets, which can be as large as a football field, are either dragged along the seafloor or midway between the floor and the surface. Bottom trawling can result in high levels of bycatch.

