What is cast-netting?

The cast net consists of a cone-shaped net with weights around the bottom edge and a rope tied around the top tip. The net is thrown so that it spreads out over a large area, then drops to surround any fish under it. As the net is pulled in, its edges also pull in, trapping the fish.

Cast nets are a technique common to artesanal and traditional fisheries in many freshwater and shallow coastal areas. They require considerable skill to use well, and can then be quite effective.

What is caught by cast-nets?

Cast nets are used for a large variety of fish in the developing world. In Canada and the US, they are sometimes used to catch bait by sport fishers.

What are the issues?

Cast-nets are sometimes prohibited because they can catch up on things on the bottom, such as corals, that can be damaged. The noise created by the weights dropping into the water is also considered, by some, particularly stressful to fish and has created conflict between the artisanal and sports fishers.