Industrial Fishery
Fishing Methods Fact Card

What is an industrial fishery?
An industrial fishery is sometimes defined as a fishery for non-food purposes. However, it more generally refers to the high level of technology, investment, and impact it brings to a fishery. These fisheries, with few exceptions in marine fisheries, use big boats that are worth many millions of dollars and often are equipped with technology capable of efficient, giant catches. Boats may stay out on fishing trips anywhere from a few weeks to years, and includes both local and foreign fishing fleets. It generally includes purse seiners, trawlers, mid-water trawlers, factory boats, and others – though a clear boundary to the definition does not exist.

What do industrial fisheries catch?
Many species are caught by industrial fisheries – the bulk of the seafood available on the global markets is caught by these fleets.

What are the issues?
The biggest issues with industrialized fleets are the questions of over-fishing, habitat damage, and market and resource control that is not favourable to small-scale fisheries and small coastal communities. Nevertheless, these are the main source of healthy seafood that we see on our grocery shelves, and many countries and organizations are working to make the fisheries more responsible and sustainable.