

Harpooning

Fishing Methods Fact Card

What is harpooning?

Harpooning is a traditional method for catching large fish—and it's still used today by skilled fishermen. When a harpooner spots a fish, he or she lunges or shoots a long aluminum or wooden harpoon into the animal and hauls it aboard.

What do harpooners catch?

Harpooners catch large open ocean swimmers such as bluefin tuna and swordfish.

What are the issues?

Harpooning is an environmentally responsible method of catching fish. Bycatch of unwanted marine life is not a concern because harpoon fishermen visually identify the species and size of the targeted fish before killing it.



Mathew Squillante 2002

To learn more about how fish are caught and farmed and to get a guide to seafood choices that are good for the environment, visit www.seafoodwatch.org.

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Hook and Lining

Fishing Methods Fact Card

What is hook-and-line fishing?

Hook-and-line fishermen use a pole (rod) and fishing line with one to several hooks. Handliners don't use a pole—they simply hold a line in their hand. To attract fish, hook and liners use artificial lures or bait, "jigging" or jerking the line to simulate the motion of smaller fish. Sometimes they toss baitfish into the water to start a feeding frenzy among the fish. The catch is hauled in manually or with a mechanized reel.

What do hook-and-line fishermen catch?

Hook and liners target a variety of fish, ranging from open ocean swimmers, like tuna and mahi, to bottom dwellers, like cod.

What are the issues?

Hook and lining is an environmentally responsible fishing method. Fishermen can quickly release unwanted catch from their hooks since lines are reeled in soon after a fish takes the bait.



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