

Fishery Basics — Fishing Gear

Gear Types

All types of fishing gear, regardless of how it might be used, are designed to lure and capture fish. Fishing gears are defined as tools used to capture marine/aquatic resources, whereas how the gear is used is the **fishing method**. Additionally, a single type of gear may also be used in multiple ways. Different target **species** require different fishing gear to effectively catch the target species.

Fishing gears fall under two general categories, active gear and passive gear. Active gears are designed to chase and capture target species, while passive gears generally sit in one place allowing the target species to approach the capture device. The [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) further classifies fishing gear into 11 categories primarily based on how the gear are fished, we have provided detailed information about each category [See Fishing Gear](#). To browse a partial list of fishing methods and marine zones where they might be used [click here](#).

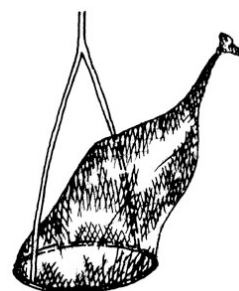
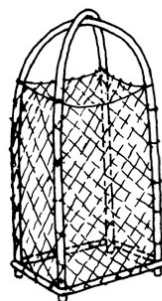
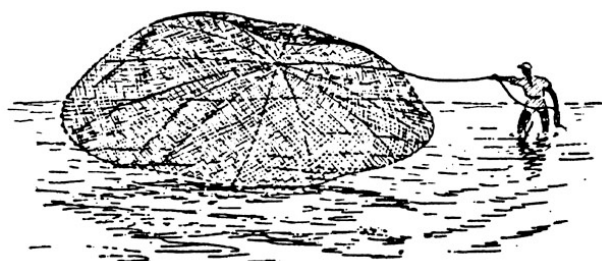
Falling Gears

Falling gears are designed to capture prey from above, by falling on them and closing in around them. Falling gears can be used from shore or from a boat, but are generally operated in shallow waters.

There are two general types of falling gears:

1. **Cast nets** are used to capture shoals of fish at the surface. Cast nets are used in both marine and **inland waters**.
2. **Cover pots** are used to capture individual fish on the bottom. Cover pots are generally used in freshwater environments.

Falling gears are used in shallow waters throughout the world, but are primarily used in **fisheries** in Asia and Africa.





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Illustrations of basic falling gears, a cast net being deployed from shore (left) and two variations of cover pots (right). (Credit: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

References

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Additional Resources

FAO – [The Use of Technical Measures in Responsible Fisheries: Regulation Of Fishing Gear](#)

Marine Conservation Society – [Fishing Methods](#)