

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](#).

Lift Nets

Lift nets are nets that are submerged into the water. Bait or lights are used to attract fish over the opening of the net. The net is typically attached directly with rope to support poles or booms, which are then used to lift the net from the water once the targeted fish are above the netting. The net may be retrieved by hand in small fishing operations, whereas in larger operations, winches or other mechanized equipment may be used to lift the nets from the water. Lift nets are generally used to catch small **pelagic** species, fish and squid, a few meters below the surface. These nets are also used often to catch baitfish or crabs.

Boat-operated lift nets can be used on vessels as small as canoes (2 m, 6 ft) and as large as **lift netters** (See Fishing Vessels – Lift Netters) (45 m, 148 ft) designed specifically for fishing with lift nets. Lift nets are used in both **artisanal** and **commercial fisheries** in Southeast Asia and Africa. Larger lift net operations occur in Japan and Russia.

The [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear](#) classifies three basic types of lift nets:

1. [Portable hand lift nets](#)
2. [Boat-operated lift nets](#)
3. [Shore operated stationary lift nets](#)

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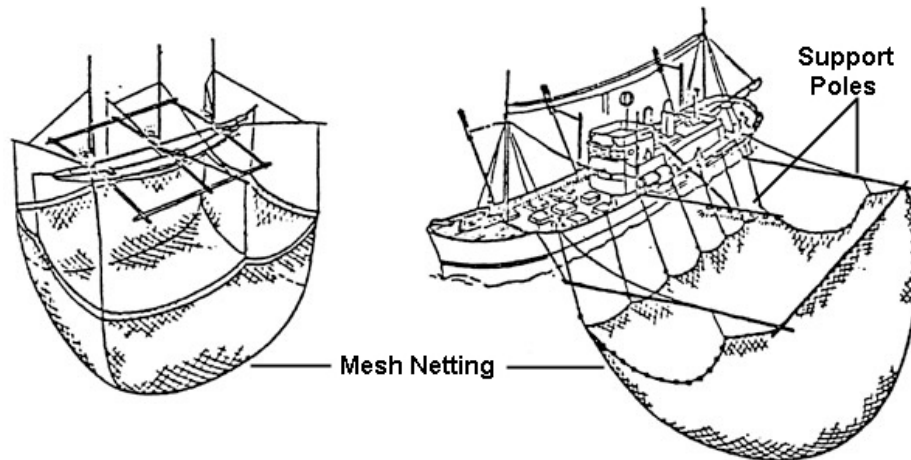


Illustration of a basic lift net designs that can be operated from boats. (Credit: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

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](#)