

Global Fishing Watch launched

 By [Sindy Peters](#)

16 Sep 2016

[Global Fishing Watch](#), an online tool that allows anyone with an internet connection to monitor fishing activity anywhere in the world's oceans in almost real-time, was launched on Thursday, 15 September, at the [Our Oceans Conference](#) in Washington, US.



Image source: [Global Fishing Watch](#)

Satellite technology, together with radar on boats, is used to trace the paths of 35,000 commercial fishing vessels. Data is now available to the general public, journalists, researchers and others who may act as watchdogs in ensuring world fisheries are sustainably managed. A tutorial is available on [Globalfishingwatch.org](#) to help users get the most out of the free tool.

Project partners and funders

The project was created by Oceana, SkyTruth and Google, with funding partners including the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Marisla Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Wyss Foundation, The Waterloo Foundation and Adessium Foundation.

"Global Fishing Watch can drive science and innovation, and improve decision-making about the effective management of the world's fisheries and oceans. It will harness the power of citizen engagement to help rebuild and maintain abundant oceans and provide a powerful tool to show consumers where and by whom their fish are being caught," said Andrew Sharpless, CEO of Oceana, in a [blog post on Huffington Post](#).

With overfishing threatening a vital food supply and the livelihoods of millions of people, Global Fishing Watch is a timely answer to hold those plundering the oceans accountable.

ABOUT SINDY PETERS

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