

Marine fisheries & the Sargasso Sea

Sargasso Sea fisheries account for less than 0.5% of global high-seas catch but target ecologically important pelagic species like tuna and billfish.



Taiwan, Spain and the US are the main fishing flag states.

Taiwan and Spain can only reach the Sargasso Sea with subsidies.



Fisheries of squid and mesopelagic fish are currently unregulated.

Distruption of these populations would have disturbing knock on consequences for higher trophic level species and climate mitigation provided by the Sargasso Sea.

Shark, turtle and seabird bycatches are a major concern.



Ecosystem based management approaches to fisheries needed in order to preserve the functionality of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem.