



Using lighted nets reduced bycatch without reducing the market value of the target fish caught | Photo source [NOAA Fisheries](#)

[Innovation](#) > [Sustainability](#) > [Illuminated fishing nets benefit fish and fisheries](#)

ILLUMINATED FISHING NETS BENEFIT FISH AND FISHERIES

  SUSTAINABILITY

Researchers now have evidence that using lighted fishing nets can reduce both unintended by-catch and fishers' workload

Register for full access

Our library content is no longer freely available. Please register to gain access to more than 12,000 innovations, updated daily. Our content is global in scope and covers solutions to the world's biggest challenges across 18 sectors.

[REGISTER](#)

[SIGN IN](#)

23rd February 2022

Website: [wcs.org](#)

Contact: [newsroom.wcs.org/Contacts](#)

[Download PDF](#)

Takeaway:

The researchers published their findings in the journal *Current Biology*, detailing how the lighted gillnets reduced total fisheries bycatch by 63 per cent, including a 95 per cent reduction in sharks, skates, and rays, an 81 per cent reduction in Humboldt squid, and a 48 per cent reduction

SIGN IN

infish. At the same time, the research demonstrated that using the lighted nets led to no any decrease in the catch rates and market value of the target fish. The evidence that lighted nets make a real difference for both fisheries and fishers is vital to convincing fishers to take up the technology. According to WCS, “This work provides a possible means of safeguarding threatened megafauna in their final strongholds around the world, and will be explored further as part of WCS’s global marine conservation efforts.”