

Seamounts-bottom trawling update #4 - 26 April 2006

Atlantic expeditions uncover secret sex life of deep-sea nomads

New research from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge Ecosystems program (MAR-ECO), found that contrary to previous scientific understanding of deep-ocean pelagic fish they are not nomadic wanderers but may gather at deep ocean features such as ridges and seamounts to spawn. Even slight disturbances to the deep ocean seafloor could lead to a loss of biodiversity and therefore widespread bottom trawling could have major impacts on deep-sea life.

The new findings were presented at an Ocean Sciences Meeting in Honolulu on 21 February 2006.

Read the whole story here: http://www.mar-eco.no/mareco_news/2006/sex_life_of_deep-sea_nomads

It is a fascinating tale of deep-sea life and why we need to allow time to discover these unknown worlds before they are destroyed forever by bottom trawling.

Green Senator talks on bottom trawling in Parliament

On 28 March Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert again spoke on the positive role that the Australian Government could play in establishing a global moratorium to ban the highly destructive fishing practice of bottom trawling on the high seas.

Read the full speech:

http://www.rachelsiewert.org.au/500_parliament_sub.php?deptItemID=43

April meeting of parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity fails to adequately tackle bottom trawling

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity met in April. Once again they failed to recommend specific action to address high seas bottom trawling while still recognising the need for immediate action to protect vulnerable deep-sea corals and underwater mountains.

Read the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition report:

<http://www.savethehighseas.org/display.cfm?ID=103>

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