Greenpeace UK supertrawlers investigation methodology 2025

Step one:

Download a list of fishing vessels 100 metres or longer in length from Lloyds Intelligence at https://www.seasearcher.com/ and then filter them to remove fish processing and other support vessels that do not actively catch fish.

Step two:

Download all fishing activity identified as occurring inside the UK's EEZ from the Global Fishing Watch events API between January 31, 2020 and January 29, 2025.
This includes the UK EEZ proper as well as the Joint Regime Area United Kingdom / Denmark (Faroe Islands) in the North Sea.

Step three:

The data extracted from GFW is merged with the Lloyds sourced list of fishing vessels in order to identify the large industrial fishing vessels which have been observed fishing in the UK's EEZ. This list is then further filtered to include only those events which include fishing within the boundaries of an MPA in the UK's EEZ.
The cumulative time between the start and end of all the remaining fishing events is taken as our total amount of fishing observed.

Notes on data sources:

EEZ and MPA boundaries are included in Global Fishing Watch's data and their original sources are detailed in the API documentation.

EEZ boundaries are taken from marineregions.org. A detailed explanation of the methodology for creating these boundaries can be found on their website
https://marineregions.org/eezmethodology.php

GFW's MPA boundaries and details are taken from Protected Planet "the authoritative source of data on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)"
https://www.protectedplanet.net/en

We have filtered the Protected Planet list of MPAs to only include those designated by the JNCC, the official source of "information on the MPAs designated in UK and Crown Dependency waters."
https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/marine-protected-area-mapper/

Global Fishing Watch's identification of fishing events and their location is based on their ongoing analysis of millions of gigabytes of data from satellites and other sensors which are constantly observing human activity at sea.
Global Fishing Watch's own explanations of their methods are available in several places on their website; some notably useful articles can be found at
https://globalfishingwatch.org/global-ocean-mapping/
https://globalfishingwatch.org/faqs/difference-between-fishing-effort-and-fishing-events/
https://globalfishingwatch.org/data/reading-tracks-on-the-water/