



The Egyptian Navy has detained three trawlers illegally fishing on or near coral reefs in the Red Sea.

As well as fishing on coral reefs, the vessels were also found to be carrying out trawling activities at other well-known diving sites.

The Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) has said it is concerned that fishermen are using this time of unrest in Egypt to further their gains at the expense of the marine environment and thus the livelihood of local fishermen as well as the tourism industry.

Trawling is banned by law in the Egyptian Red Sea as it has disastrous effects on coral reefs and the fish population.

HEPCA revealed it was relieved that the Egyptian Navy had stepped in to enforce anti-trawling laws before going on to thank the Egyptian Navy and all Navy personnel for their commitment and efforts.

The organisation has called on all policy setters and decision makers in all authorities and institutions to put in place an effective mechanism which would implement the Sharm El Sheikh recommendations of 2009 as well as the tenets of the Hurghada Declaration of 2010.

Both agreements regulate fishing activities in the Red Sea and were agreed upon by all the relevant governmental bodies and agencies - the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Environmental Affairs as well as the Governorates of the Red Sea, Suez and South Sinai.

{comments on}