



# Economic activities in the Thermal Dome



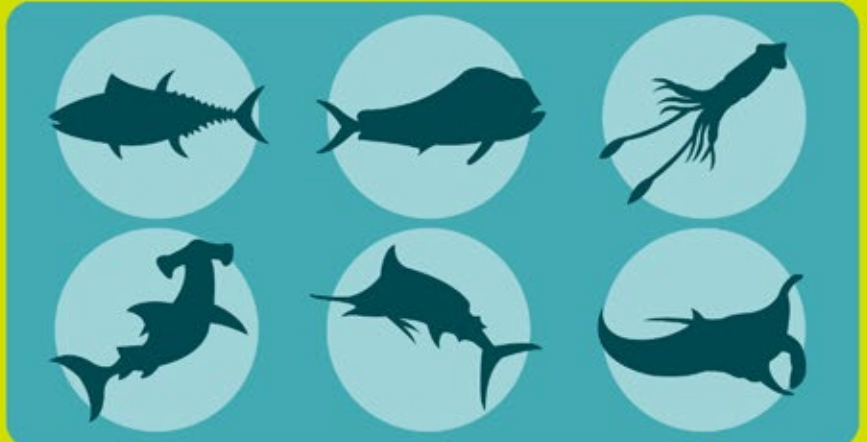
## Direct Uses

## Maritime transport



## Commercial Fishing

- The Thermal Dome is one of the main **tuna catching areas** in the world.
- Fleets from different parts of the world catch yellowfin tuna, billfish, mahi-mahi, giant squid and, unfortunately, highly vulnerable groups such as sharks and rays.



- Important maritime traffic routes cross the Thermal Dome, with ships sailing between the eastern and western coasts of the Americas, between North and South America, and between the Americas and Asia.
- Central America is an important region for maritime transport due to the influence of the Panama Canal.

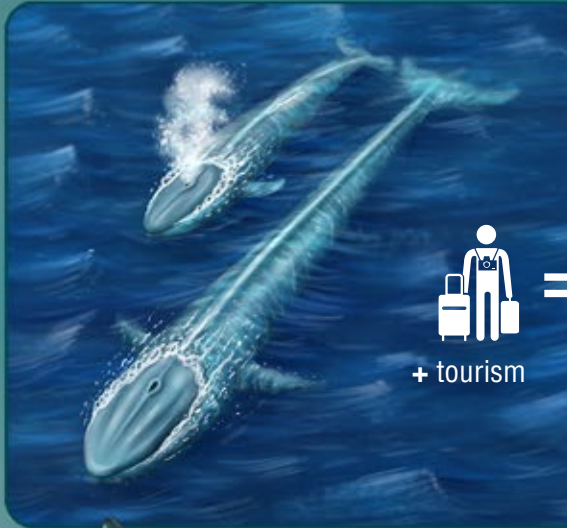
**40**  
ships cross the Panama Canal every day, equivalent to  
**13.000**  
average vessels per year.

- **Industrial fishing** is one of the human activities with the **greatest impact** on the Thermal Dome. Purse seines and longlines are the main gear used by fleets fishing in this area.





## Indirect Uses




### Dolphin and whale watching

Species most sought after by tourists in Central America:

- Blue whales
- Bottlenose dolphin
- Common dolphin
- Pantropical spotted dolphin
- Spinner dolphin
- Short-finned pilot whale

+ tourism = + socioeconomic development



### Shark watching

More than **10.000** jobs generated worldwide by this activity.

**USD\$314** million contributed by more than **590.000** tourists.

In the next **20** years it is estimated:

**X2** double number of tourists.

Income will increase **USD\$780** million.

### Sea turtle nesting

The Dome is relevant for species of sea turtles, especially the **olive ridley** and **leatherback**; both of great tourist importance.

More than **200 nesting beaches** in the Central American Pacific, which generates income for coastal communities.

**USD\$1.367.697** gross income generated by ridley sea turtle sightings in the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge (Costa Rica).

2013 ————— 2015



## Tourism

## Sport Fishing



**Billfish**, particularly marlin and sailfish, are of **great importance for sport fishing**.

Sailfish frequently move around the Dome and its periphery.  
Contribution of sport fishing to the economy:



**Costa Rica**  
**USD \$599**  
million per year



**Panamá**  
**USD \$170,4**  
million per year



**Guatemala**  
**USD \$25**  
million per year