Most people don’t think of the West Coast of North America as a hot spot for corals and sponges. One reason is that scientists are just starting to understand how much coral exists and how much has been destroyed. Between 1975 and 2002, NOAA Fisheries collected more than 30,000 pieces of data about the location and amount of coral destroyed by trawlers. This data revealed single tows where more than 10 tons of corals were destroyed in a single trawl. The map on this page was developed by Oceana and Ecotrust, based on information collected by NOAA.

**KEY:**

Places where coral was caught by trawlers, found or seen.

Source: Oceana