



# What is caught in the Mediterranean Sea?

## About the Bycatch project

Financed by MAVA, the project "Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa 'bycatch' of vulnerable species and testing mitigation - a collaborative approach (M4\*)" (Bycatch project) aims to support Mediterranean countries, and specifically Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, to identify and test measures to reduce impact of fisheries on marine mammals, birds, turtles and elasmobranchs and to develop and implement standardized data collection of bycatch across the Mediterranean.

The project builds on the positive cooperation between **BirdLife International** (project's coordinator), **ACCOBAMS**, **GFCM**, **SPA/RAC**, **IUCN-Med** and **MEDASSET**. It focuses on three demersal fishing gears: trawl, gillnets and longlines.

### Contact - Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre

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#### PROJECT PARTNERS :



#### TUNISIAN PARTNERS:

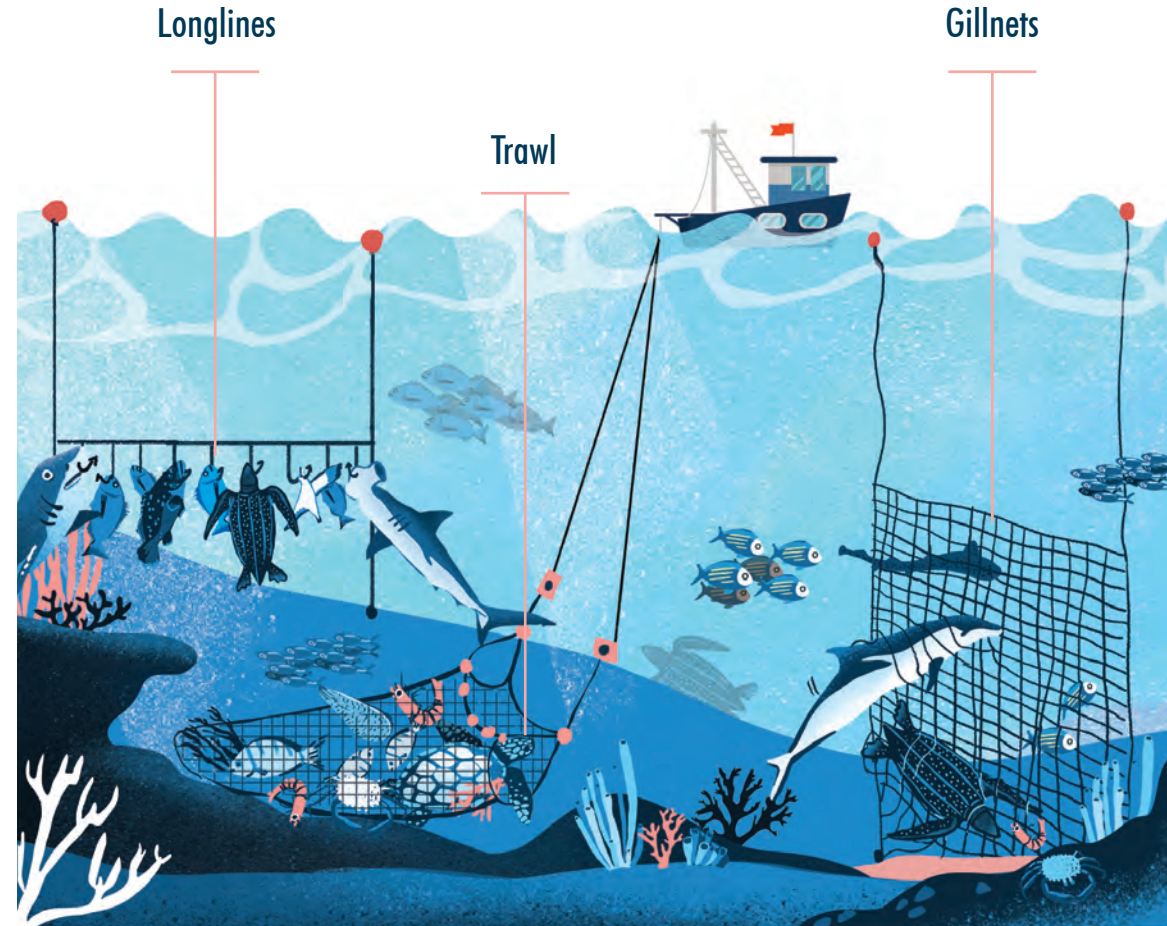


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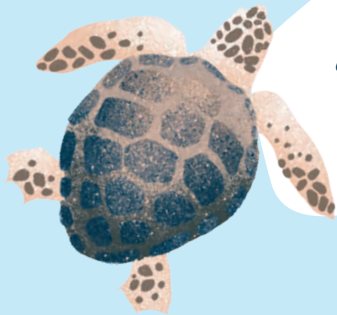
# What is bycatch?

I like to go fishing but I don't want to catch unwanted species ... It's a waste of time and money. Any solution?



"It's JAWS" I tell you! You think that you will eat, but you are the one that is going to be swallowed whole as its only your fins they are after!

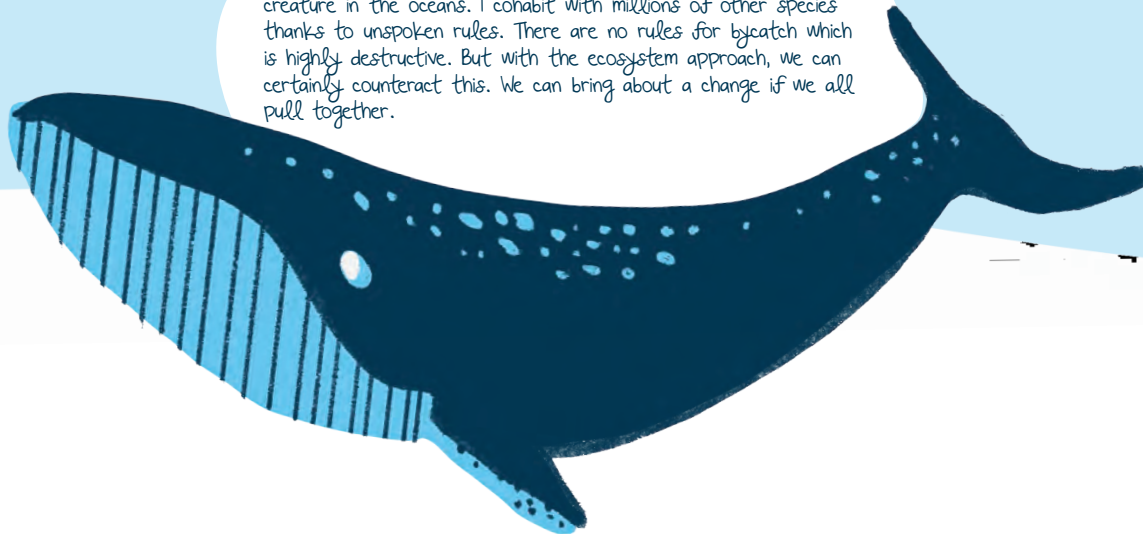
I spend my life in the sea and return to the beach just once during the year. But this bycatch does catch up with us, kills us by drowning us or we are left to agonize in the sun...



It's a death dive. You dive, catch the fish and think of your hungry little ones, but you will never see them again.



After millions of years of evolution, I am surely the largest creature in the oceans. I cohabit with millions of other species thanks to unspoken rules. There are no rules for bycatch which is highly destructive. But with the ecosystem approach, we can certainly counteract this. We can bring about a change if we all pull together.



## Why this project ?

More than 7 million tons of incidental catches of non-targeted species are recorded every year worldwide. The main victims are hundreds of thousands of sea birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, sharks and rays, millions of corals, sponges and other invertebrates and... thousands of fishermen with huge amounts of money lost.

## The project main activities

- 1 Improve knowledge on species and habitats affected by unsustainable fishing practices.
- 2 Raise awareness of fishers and other target groups.
- 3 Build capacities of relevant actors (NGOs, fisher organizations, administrations) for implementing sustainable fishing practices in the involved countries.
- 4 Implement demonstration projects on sustainable fishing practices.
- 5 Develop and implement an overarching Mediterranean strategy and communication campaign to reduce incidental captures of vulnerable species.

SPA/RAC is involved in the project transversal activities targeting all the beneficiary countries and manages the activities in Tunisia in collaboration with Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux", BirdLife Partner in Tunisia.

**WE NEED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF BYCATCH FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE FISHERIES**