

What is caught in the Mediterranean Sea?

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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 elasmobranches 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.

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PROJECT PARTNERS :



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée



UN
environment



SPA/RAC
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

TUNISIAN PARTNERS:



INSTM

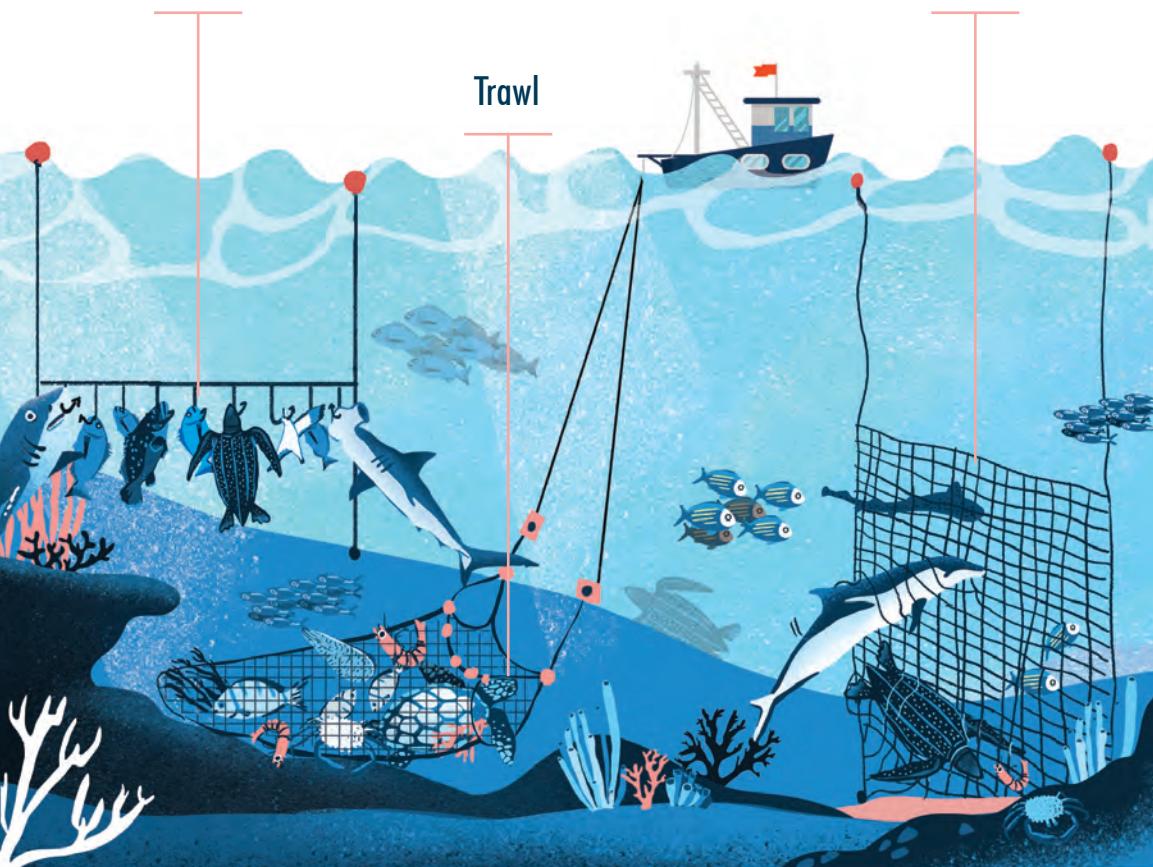
WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF



*MAWA Action Plan n°4 (M4): Reconciling fisheries and biodiversity

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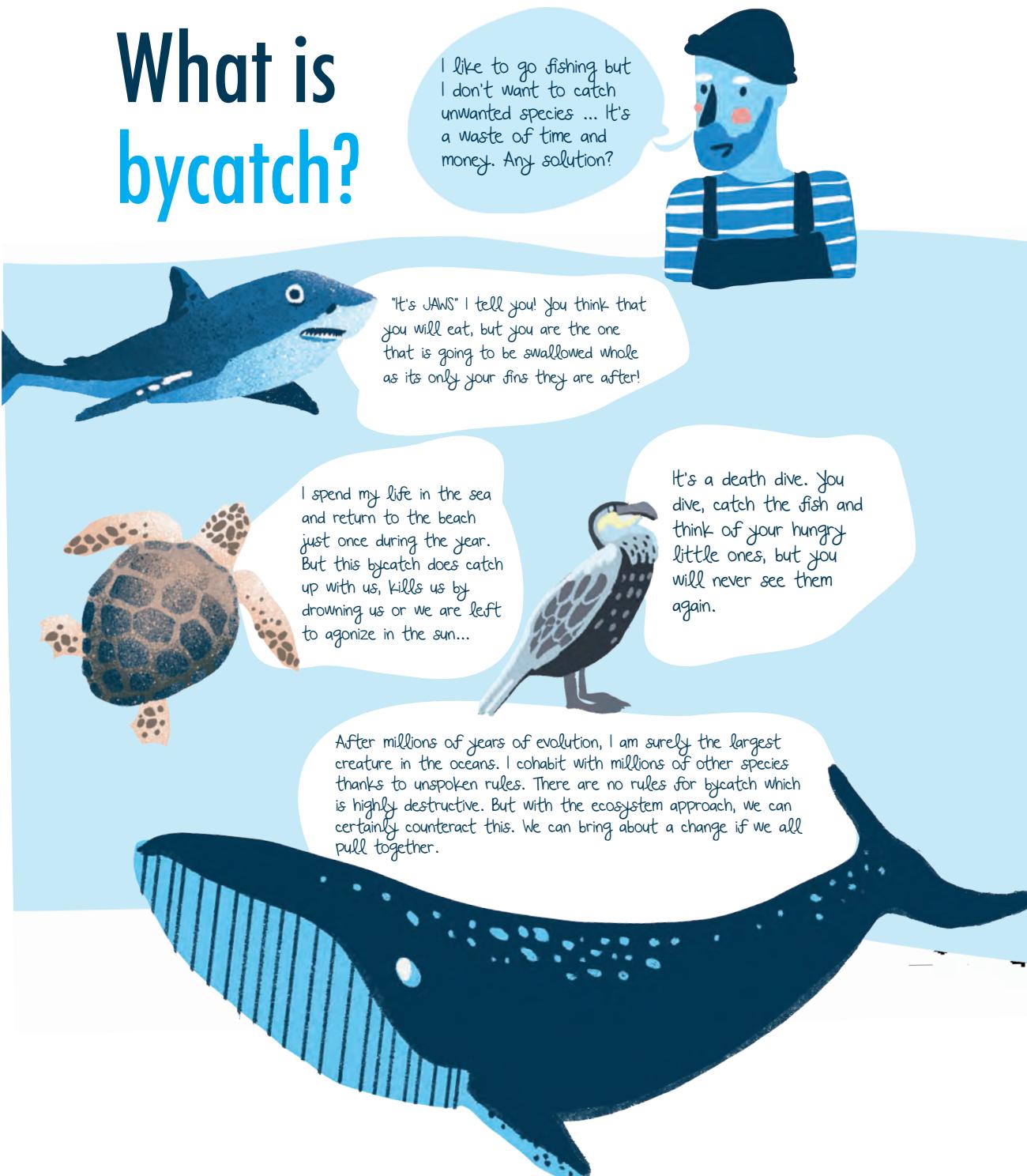
Longlines



Gillnets



What is bycatch?



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