



Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)



Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)

Seventh Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS

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GOOD PRACTICE GUIDES FOR THE HANDLING OF ANIMALS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

*Delegates are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.*

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDES FOR THE HANDLING OF ANIMALS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES**Note of the Secretariat:**

Within the framework of the ACCOBAMS-GFCM Project on mitigating the negative interactions between endangered marine species and fishing activities, four guides on good practices to handle vulnerable marine species incidentally caught during fishing operations were produced in French and English:

- Good practice guide for the handling of **cetaceans** caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries
- Good practice guide for the handling of **sea turtles** caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries
- Good practice guide for the handling of **seabirds** caught incidentally in Mediterranean pelagic longline fisheries
- Good practice guide for the handling of **sharks and rays** caught incidentally in Mediterranean pelagic longline fisheries

These guides were also produced in Arabic by the SPA/RAC. Translation in Spanish and Turkish are foreseen.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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



GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF CETACEANS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

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TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - CETACEANS¹ SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES (1/2)

¹The illustrations are not drawn to scale

Sperm whale
(*Physeter macrocephalus*)



Solid body, stocky, dark gray to brown with light spots on the belly

Wrinkled skin especially on the rear two-thirds of the body

Mouth with white contours

Striped dolphin
(*Stenella coeruleoalba*)



Slim, slender and fusiform body

Flame-shaped pattern on the flanks, going from the eye towards the dorsal fin

Large, dark, curved dorsal fin in the middle of the back

Short-beaked common dolphin
(*Delphinus delphis*)



Prominent beak standing out from the melon

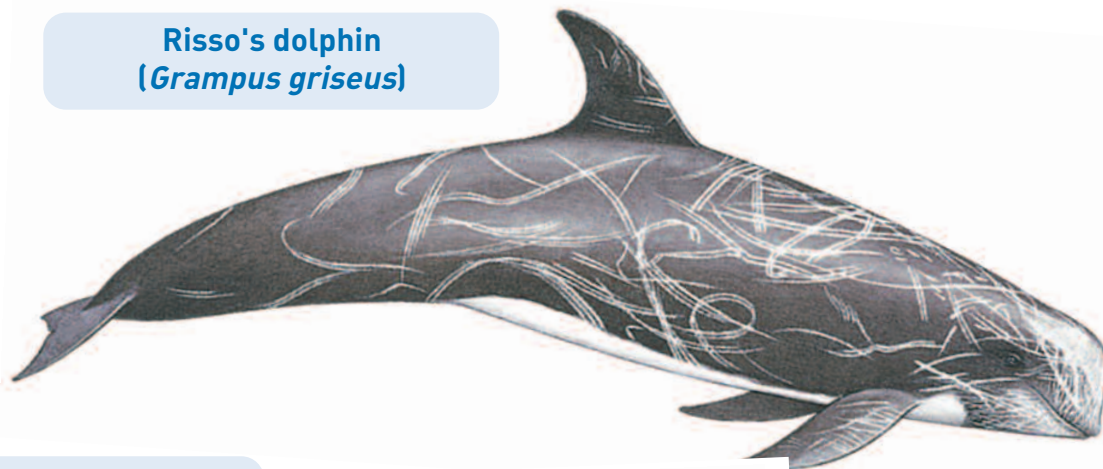
White, gray, yellow and black hourglass pattern on the flanks

Black, falcate dorsal fin, with a lighter patch in the center

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SPECIES OF CETACEANS¹ MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES (2/2)

¹The illustrations are not drawn to scale

Risso's dolphin
(*Grampus griseus*)



Robust, stocky body, immediately recognizable by its white stripes

Bulbous forehead, sloping vertically towards the mouth

Tall, pointed, falcate dorsal fin

Rough-toothed dolphin
(*Steno bredanensis*)



Conical head, slightly-domed forehead with a long narrow beak

Robust body ahead of the dorsal fin, becoming more slender towards the rear

Dorsal fin located mid-back, with a wide base, a pointed tip and sometimes a vertical rear margin

Bottlenose dolphin
(*Tursiops truncatus*)



Relatively short, stubby beak

Slightly-rounded melon

Dark gray, gray-blue or gray-brown back, lighter flanks, white, light gray or pink belly

Prominent falcate dorsal fin

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 2 - RELEASING DOLPHINS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN SET NET FISHERIES

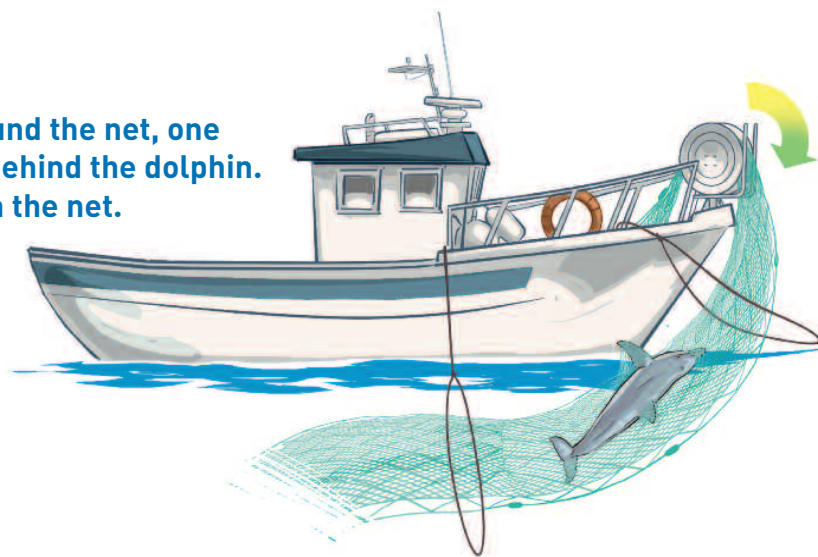
1



With the engine in neutral, gently pull the net up.

2

Pass two ropes around the net, one in front of and one behind the dolphin. Leave some slack in the net.



4

If the dolphin is small, slowly lift it on board and follow the guidelines in Technical Sheet 5.

If the dolphin is too big to be lifted on board, create an opening in the net wide enough to allow it to slide into the water, taking care not to wound it.

3

Using the ropes, slowly bring the dolphin alongside the vessel.

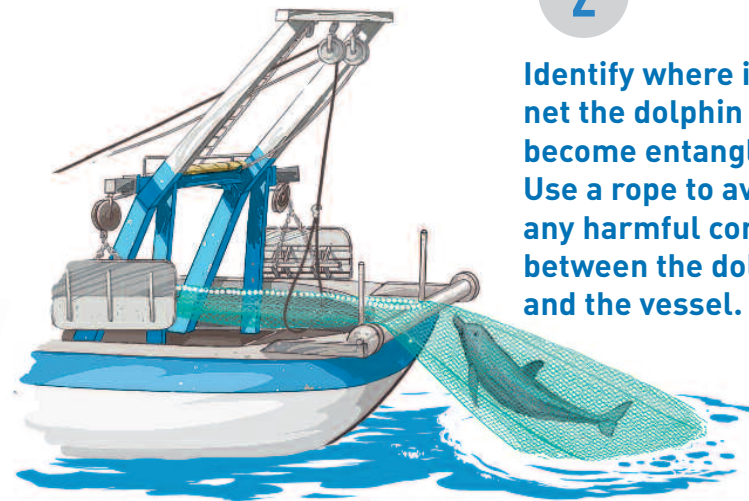


TECHNICAL SHEET N° 3 - RELEASING DOLPHINS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN TRAWL FISHERIES



1

With the engine in neutral, gently haul in the trawl net.



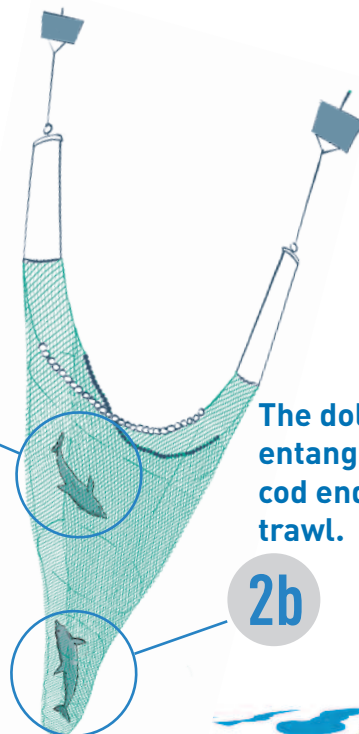
2

Identify where in the net the dolphin has become entangled. Use a rope to avoid any harmful contact between the dolphin and the vessel.



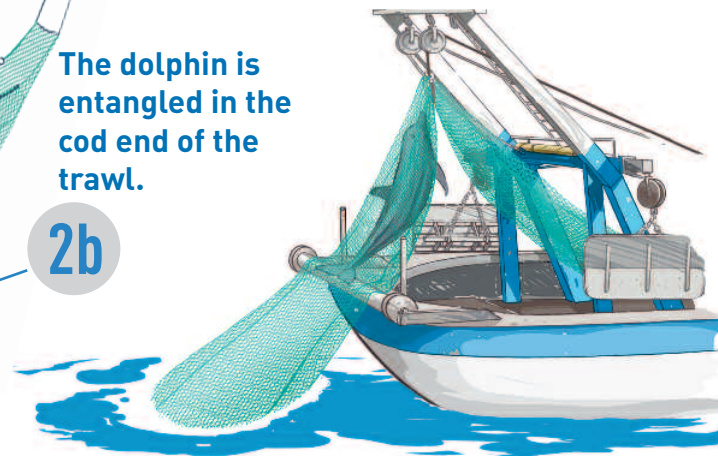
2a

The dolphin is entangled in the front end of the trawl: pass two ropes around the net, one in front of and one behind the dolphin, to hoist it on board more easily.



The dolphin is entangled in the cod end of the trawl.

2b



3

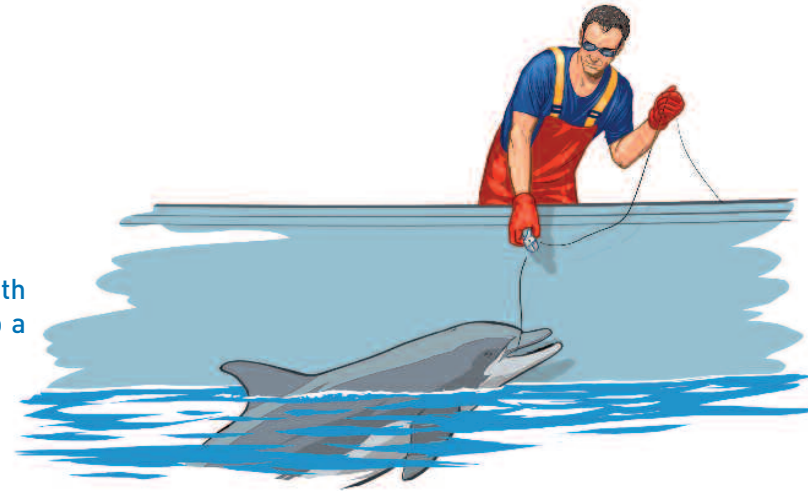
Hoist the dolphin, slowly bring it on board and follow the guidelines in Technical Sheet 5.

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 4 - RELEASING DOLPHINS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN LONGLINE FISHERIES

1

Bring the dolphin as close to the vessel as possible without pulling on the line to avoid wounding it.

Cut the line as close as possible to the dolphin's beak with a cutting tool (wire-cutters or with a blade attached to a long handle for large longliners)



pull the line

Do not:



use the boathook

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 5 - HANDLING DOLPHINS ON BOARD

1

Using a knife or wire cutters, gently release the dolphin from the net taking care not to wound it.



2

Whatever the condition of the dolphin, place it in the shade, in a quiet and safe place and put a wet cloth over its body, covering its eyes to avoid any additional stress.

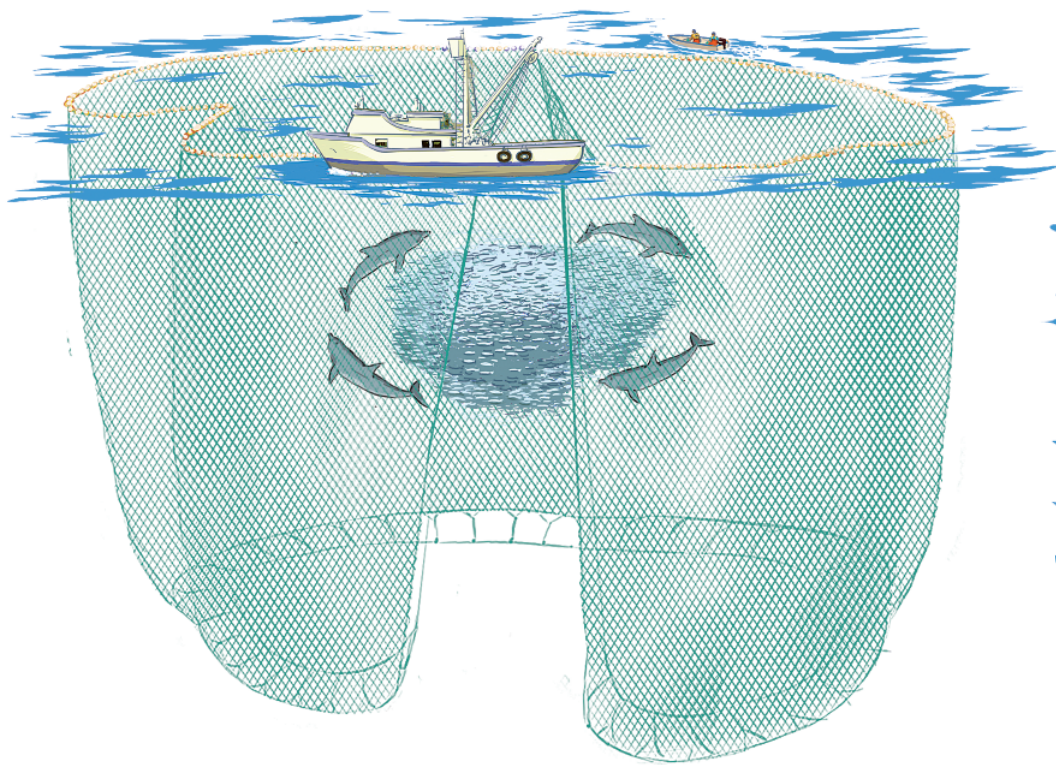


Keep it under observation and follow the guidelines in Technical Sheet 7.

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 6 - RELEASING DOLPHINS ENCIRCLED INCIDENTALLY DURING PURSE SEINE FISHING

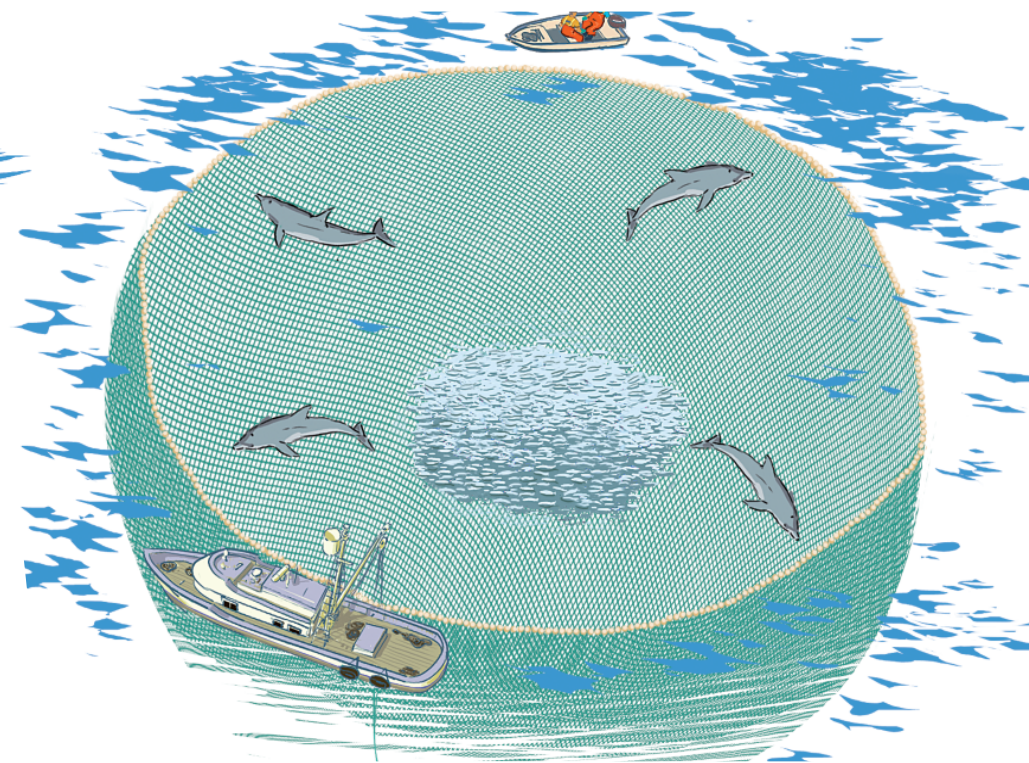
1

Attracted by pelagic fish, dolphins may become trapped in the net during encirclement.



2

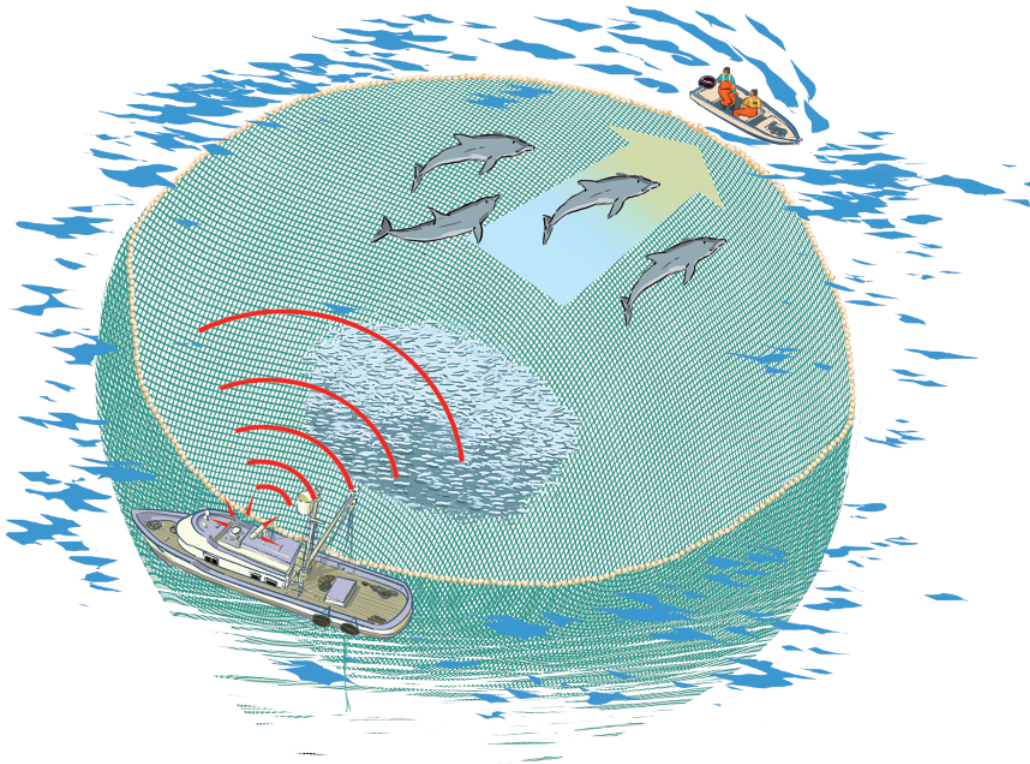
Trying to escape, they may dive and become entangled in the seine netting.



FICHE TECHNIQUE N° 6 - LIBÉRATION DES DAUPHINS ACCIDENTELLEMENT ENCERCLÉS PAR UNE SENNE AU COURS D'ACTIVITÉS DE PÊCHE (2/2)

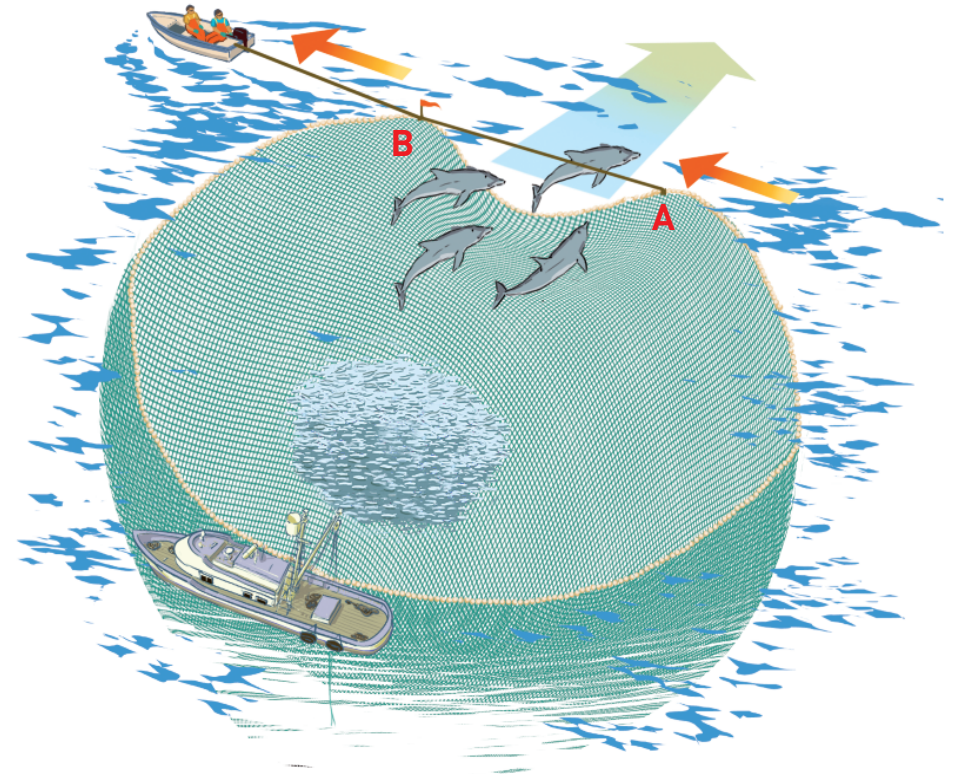
3

To avoid this situation, wait until the dolphins are on the opposite side of the vessel. They will tend to move away spontaneously from the vessel due to the engine noise.



4

Using a skiff, attach a rope to a net float (point A) and stretch this rope through a point B to create a U-shaped passage; then reduce the net tension to sink the floatline and allow the dolphins to pass over the net. If necessary, use a boathook to help lower the net.



TECHNICAL SHEET N° 7 - REPORTING INCIDENTAL CATCHES

CONTACT THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES



Contact the relevant national authorities to report each incidental dolphin catch.

Describe the dolphin's condition, especially whether it is alive and in good shape, or is injured, or shows no sign of life/is dead.

Organise with the authorities any follow-up care that will be necessary on return to port.

FOR THE CATCH OF ANY DOLPHINS, RECORD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THE LOGBOOK:



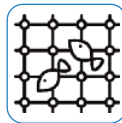
Date



GPS Position



Geographical subregion



Type of vessel (Fleet segment)



Fishing gear

Species caught

Total number of specimens caught

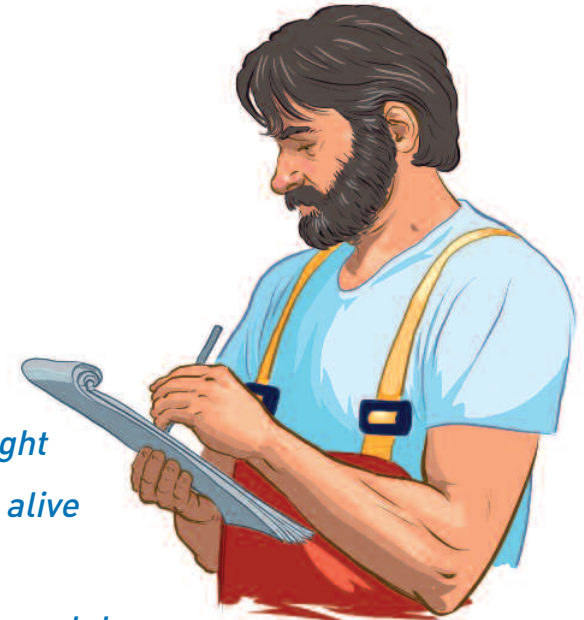
Number of specimens released alive

Number of dead specimens

Number of specimens in unknown status

And if possible...

Take photos of the dolphin(s)



The information above is extremely important! Please submit it, as soon as possible, to the relevant national authorities. If in doubt, ask for their help.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF DOLPHINS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

This guide was developed within the framework of a project which aimed to mitigate the negative interactions between endangered marine species and fishing activities. This project was implemented by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and by the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), in collaboration with the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The main objective of the project was to enhance the conservation of endangered marine species (cetaceans, sea turtles and seabirds, etc.) by promoting responsible fishing practices in the Mediterranean.

Technical and scientific contribution (in alphabetical order)

Aurora Nastasi, Julia Pierraccini, Jacques Sacchi

Illustrations

Massimo Demma (Technical Sheet 1)

Alberto Gennari (Technical Sheets 2-7)

Graphic design

Stile Libero Communication Monaco

Main bibliographic references

ACCOBAMS, 2012. Module d'enseignement relatif à la conservation des cétacés, Les espèces de cétacés – Identification des espèces pertinentes pour la zone géographique de l'ACCOBAMS. 51pp.

Claro F., Poisson F., Sacchi J. Guides pratiques pour la libération des tortues marines capturées lors des activités de pêches dans la mer Méditerranée.

Claro F., Poisson F., Sacchi J., Germain E. Aquarium La Rochelle. Guides pratiques pour la libération des tortues marines capturées lors des activités de pêches pour la façade Manche-Atlantique.

GFCM, 2017. GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF). Version: 2017.1

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GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF SEA TURTLES CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

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TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - IDENTIFICATION OF MEDITERRANEAN SEA TURTLE SPECIES

Identification key 1

General observation of the sea turtle: scales (present or not present)

Identification key 2

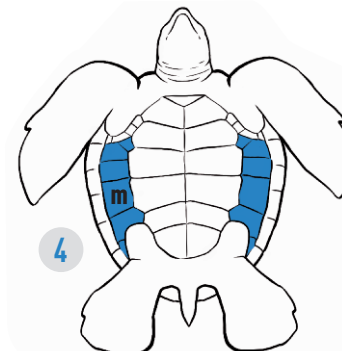
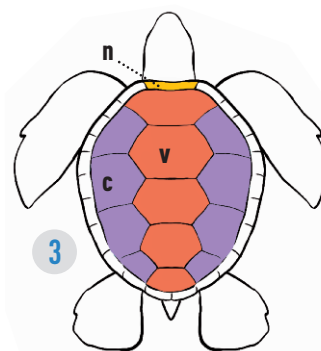
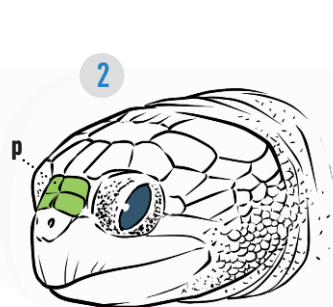
Observation of the head: number of prefrontal scales

Identification key 3

Observation of the carapace: number of scutes on the carapace and location of the nuchal scute

Identification key 4

Observation of the plastron: number of marginal scutes



Prefrontal scales (p)

Nuchal scute (n)

Costal scutes (c)

Vertebral scutes (v)

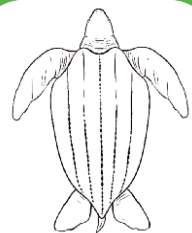
Marginal scutes (m)

Turtle with
scales plates

Leatherback sea turtle
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)



Beak with 2 cusps

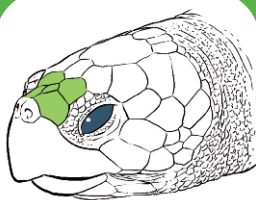


Leather-like carapace with 5 longitudinal ridges

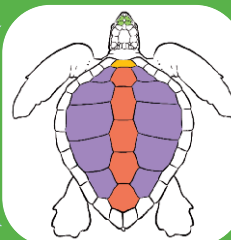
1

Turtle free of scale plates

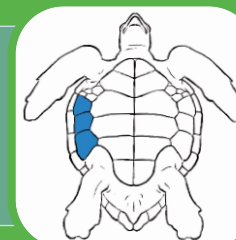
Loggerhead sea turtle
(*Caretta caretta*)



Head with 2 pairs of prefrontal scales

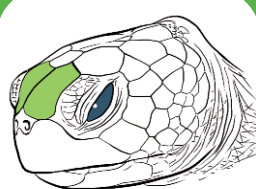


Carapace comprising 5 pairs of costal scutes with the 1st pair touching the nuchal scute



Plastron comprising 3 pairs of marginal scutes

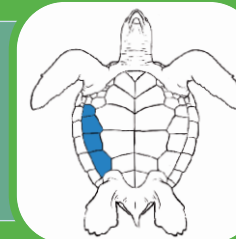
Green sea turtle
(*Chelonia mydas*)



Head with a single pair of prefrontal scales

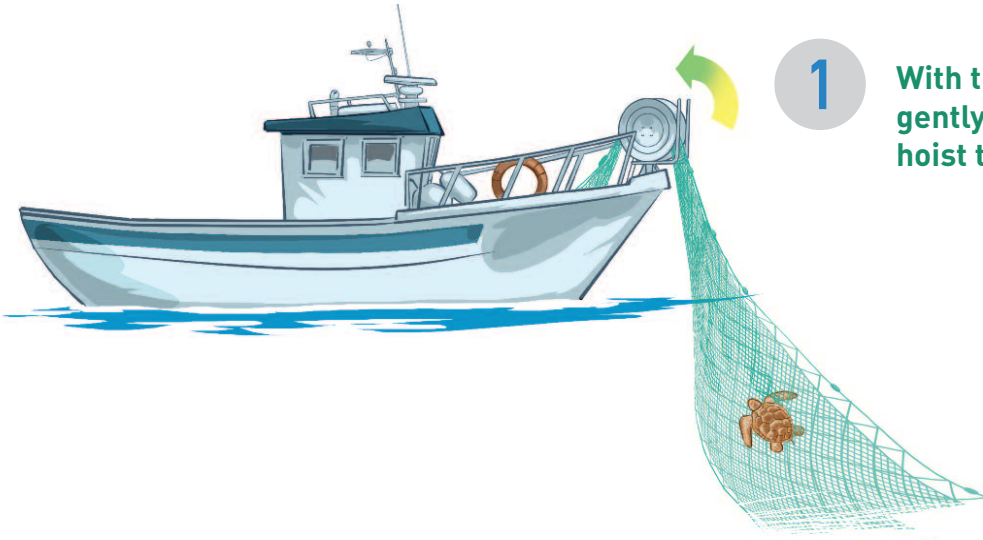


Carapace comprising 4 pairs of costal scutes with no contact between 1st pair and the nuchal scute



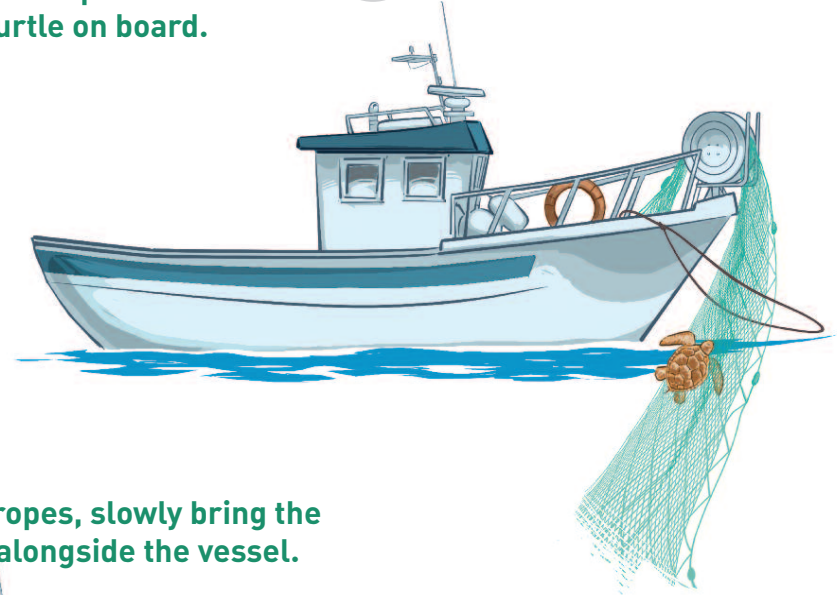
Plastron comprising 4 pairs of marginal scutes

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 2 - RELEASING SEA TURTLES CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN SET NET FISHERIES



1

With the engine in neutral, gently pull the net up to hoist the sea turtle on board.



2

Pass a rope around the net, in front of the sea turtle.



3

Pass a second rope around the net, behind the sea turtle. Leave some slack in the net.



4

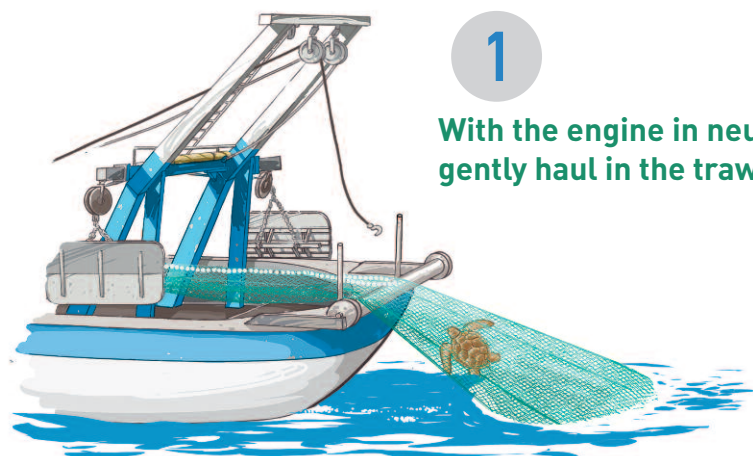
Using the ropes, slowly bring the sea turtle alongside the vessel.

5

Slowly lift the sea turtle on board. Free it from the net using a knife or wire cutters and follow the guidelines in Technical Sheet 5.

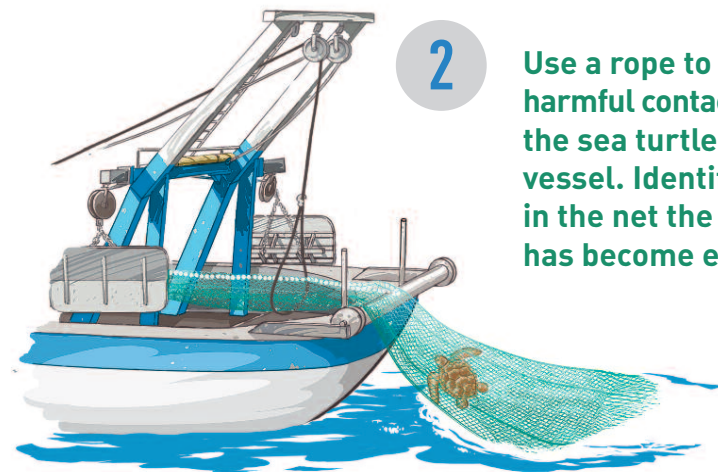


TECHNICAL SHEET N° 3 - RELEASING SEA TURTLES CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN TRAWL FISHERIES



1

With the engine in neutral,
gently haul in the trawl net.



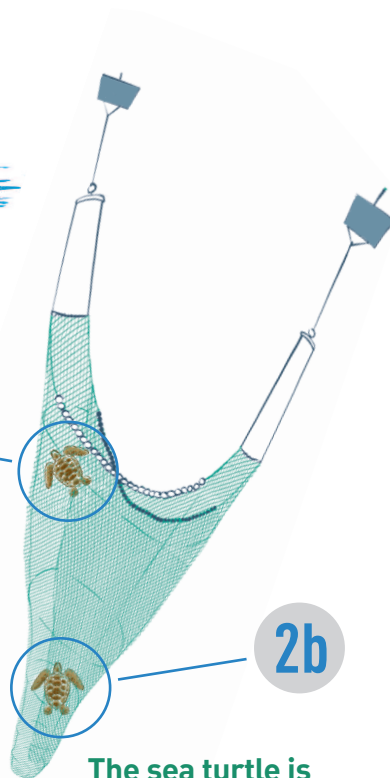
2

Use a rope to avoid any
harmful contact between
the sea turtle and the
vessel. Identify where
in the net the sea turtle
has become entangled.



2a

The sea turtle is
entangled in the front
end of the trawl.



2b

The sea turtle is
entangled in the cod
end of the trawl.



3

Hoist the sea turtle,
slowly bring it on board.
Free the sea turtle from
the net using a knife or
wire cutters and follow
the guidelines
in Technical
Sheet 5.



TECHNICAL SHEET N° 4 - RELEASING SEA TURTLES CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN LONGLINE FISHERIES

With the engine in neutral, lift the sea turtle on board.



If the sea turtle is small, lift it on board using both hands.

1



If the sea turtle is large, lift it on board with the help of a net and a rope.

2

Removing the hook



If the hook is visible and can be removed
Place a piece of wood or pipe in the sea turtle's mouth to avoid being bitten when removing the hook. Use the wire cutters to cut the hook into two and remove both parts.



If hook removal is not possible
Cut the line as close as possible to the mouth of the sea turtle. **Do not pull the line.**



If the sea turtle is too large to be lifted on board, bring it as close as possible to the vessel without pulling the line to avoid any injury.

Cut the line as close as possible to the sea turtle with a cutting tool (wire cutters or with a blade attached to a long stick for large longliners)

Do not:



Pull the line



Grab the sea turtle by its flippers

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 5 - ASSESSING THE SEA TURTLE'S CONDITION

TESTING THE REACTIVITY OF THE SEA TURTLE

Lift the sea turtle up, holding the edges of the carapace



1



The sea turtle moves: the sea turtle is alive. Follow the guidelines in Technical Sheet 6.

The sea turtle does not move: the sea turtle is either dead, or unconscious. Follow steps 2 and 3.

Slowly move your fingers towards the sea turtle's eyes

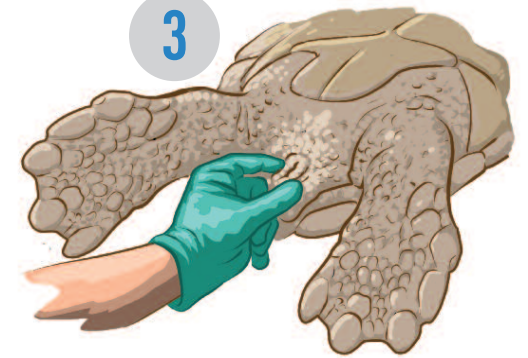


2

The sea turtle closes its eyelids.

The sea turtle is not dead; it could be unconscious with water in its lungs. Start reviving.

Pinch the cloaca



3

The sea turtle contracts the cloaca.

REVIVING THE SEA TURTLE



Put the sea turtle in the shade, in a safe place and place a wet cloth over its carapace, taking care not to cover its head.

If possible, raise the rear of the sea turtle about 20 cm (using a box or a tire, for example) to help drain the water from its lungs.

Keep it under observation in order to detect any sign of life. Follow the guidelines in Technical Sheet 6.

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 6 - REPORTING INCIDENTAL CATCHES

CONTACT THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES



Contact the relevant national authorities to report each incidental sea turtle catch.

Describe the sea turtle's condition, especially whether it is alive and in good shape, or is injured, or shows no sign of life/is dead.

Organise with the authorities any follow-up care that will be necessary on return to port.

FOR THE CATCH OF ANY SEA TURTLES, RECORD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THE LOGBOOK:



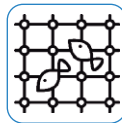
Date



GPS Position



Geographical subregion



Type of vessel (Fleet segment)



Fishing gear

Species caught

Total number of specimens caught

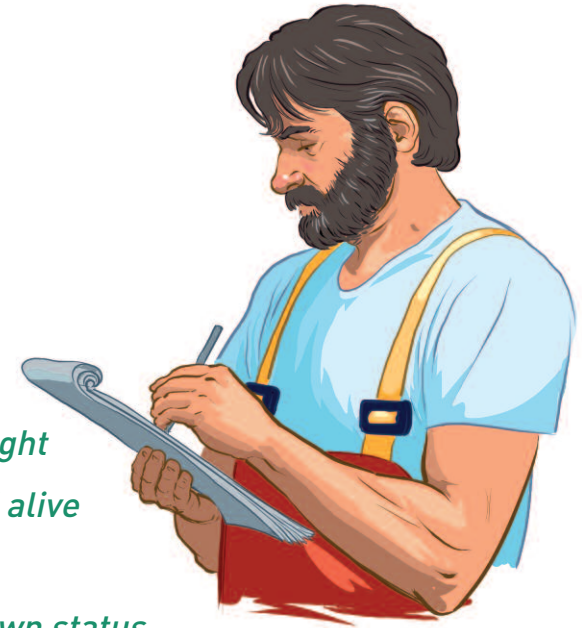
Number of specimens released alive

Number of dead specimens

Number of specimens in unknown status

And if possible...

Take photos of the sea turtle(s), head and carapace



The information above is extremely important! Please submit it, as soon as possible, to the relevant national authorities. If in doubt, ask for their help.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF SEA TURTLES CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

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FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations. Rome, FAO. 2009. 128pp.

GFCM, 2017. GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF). Version: 2017.1

UNEP/MAP -RAC/SPA, 2001. Sea Turtle Handling Guidebook for Fishermen–Teaching Book. By Gerosa G. & Aureggi M.

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Commission générale des pêches
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GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF SEABIRDS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

In collaboration with



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TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SEABIRD SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (1/2)

European shag
(*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)



Short crest
Slightly-hooked beak
Black plumage with a green tinge

Audouin's gull
(*Larus audouinii*)



Dark red beak with a black
bar near the tip
Dark gray-green legs

Yelkouan shearwater
(*Puffinus yelkouan*)



Wings with pale-gray edging
Legs protrude from the tail in flight
White breast and darker belly

Mediterranean gull
(*Larus melanocephalus*)



Black hood
Uniformly-gray wings

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SEABIRD SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (2/2)

Balearic shearwater
(*Puffinus mauretanicus*)



Long thin beak
Brown underwing covert
Grayish-beige belly and pink legs

Scopoli's shearwater
(*Calonectris diomedea*)



Yellowish, hooked beak
Pure white underwing covert
with darker edging
White chest and throat

European storm petrel
(*Hydrobates pelagicus*)



Black plumage
White rump
Small dark beak

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 2 - RELEASING SEABIRDS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (1/2)

1

Have the correct equipment:

A towel/blanket

A knife

A net

A box/tray with a lid

Pliers/bolt cutters

Gloves

Protective glasses

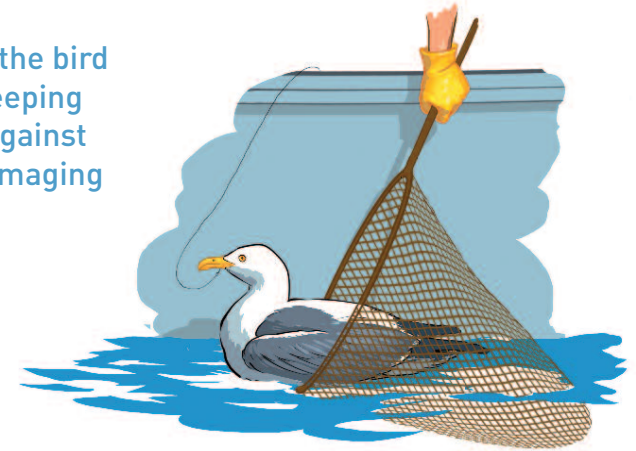


Pull the line

2

With the engine in neutral, use the net to lift the seabird on board.

Alternatively, grab the bird with both hands, keeping its wings pressed against its body to avoid damaging its feathers.



Do not:



Grab the seabird by the neck

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 2 – RELEASING SEABIRDS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (2/2)

3

Restraining the bird

Slowly bring the bird on board and gently fold its wings against its body. Wrap it in a towel/blanket (not too tightly) and, if possible, cover its eyes. Hold its beak gently shut but do not cover its nostrils. Make sure that it does not come into contact with oil on the deck.



4

Holding the bird firmly

Hold the bird firmly between your legs without squeezing. Keep its wings against its body to avoid any risk of dislocation or fracture.



5

Removing the hook

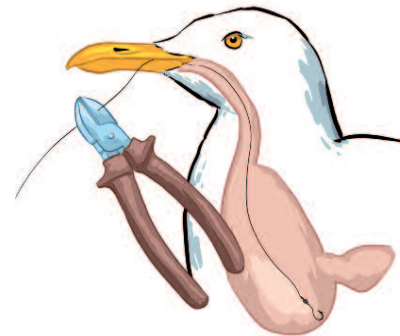
If the hook is visible and can be removed

Cut the hook using the pliers (or the bolt cutters for thicker hooks) and extract separately the two parts of the hook. **Do not pull the hook in the opposite direction as the barb could further injure the bird.** If you can see it, flatten the barb first with the pliers.



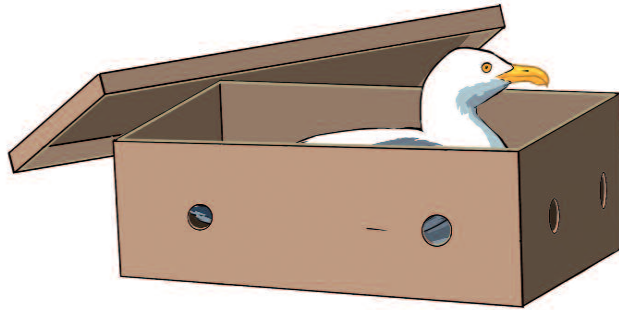
If hook removal is not possible

Because removing the hook might further injure the bird or the hook has been ingested, cut the line as close to the beak as possible and leave the hook in the bird. Follow the guidelines provided in Technical Sheet 3.



TECHNICAL SHEET N° 3 - ASSESSING THE BIRD'S CONDITION

LET THE BIRD REST



Place the bird in a ventilated box or tray in a quiet, dry, shaded place. Make sure that it is kept away from oil. Do not try to feed it. Wait for an hour or two.

If the bird has ingested the hook or is in bad shape, keep it on board and contact the relevant national authorities as indicated in Technical Sheet 4.

If the hook has been removed, the bird's feathers are dry, and the bird is alert and able to stand, it can be released.

RELEASING THE BIRD



Small vessels

Slowly lower the bird onto the water. The bird may remain on the water for some time after release.



Large vessels

Lift the bird and release it into the wind from the vessel deck.

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 4 - REPORTING INCIDENTAL CATCH

CONTACT THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES



Contact the relevant national authorities to report each incidental seabird catch.

Describe the seabird's condition, especially whether it is in good shape and has been released or it has swallowed the hook and/or is in poor shape and has been kept on board.

Organise with the authorities any follow-up care that will be necessary on return to port.

FOR THE CATCH OF ANY SEABIRDS, RECORD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THE LOGBOOK:



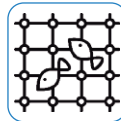
Date



GPS Position



Geographical subregion



Type of vessel (Fleet segment)

Fishing gear

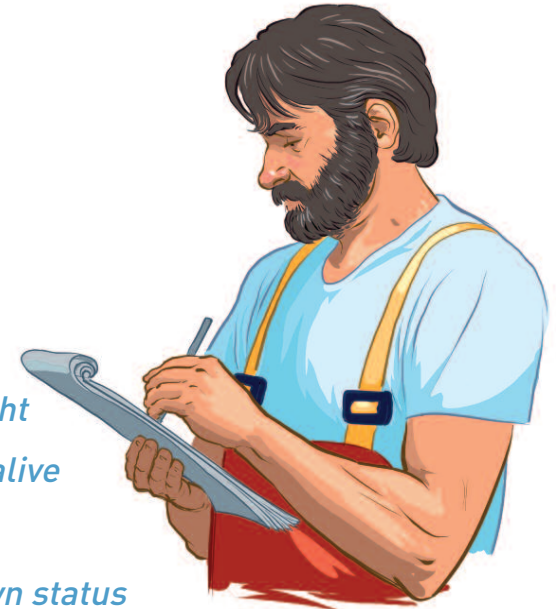
Species caught

Total number of specimens caught

Number of specimens released alive

Number of dead specimens

Number of specimens in unknown status



And if possible...



Take photos of the seabird(s). If a bird is ringed, note the ring number.

The information above is extremely important! Please submit it, as soon as possible, to the relevant national authorities. If in doubt, ask for their help.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF SEABIRDS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

This guide was developed within the framework of a project which aimed to mitigate the negative interactions between endangered marine species and fishing activities. This project was implemented by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and by the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), in collaboration with the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC). The main objective of the project was to enhance the conservation of endangered marine species (cetaceans, sea turtles and seabirds, etc.) by promoting responsible fishing practices in the Mediterranean.

Technical and scientific contribution (in alphabetical order)

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Cyril Girard (Fiche technique 1)

Alberto Gennari (Fiches techniques 2-3-4)

Graphic design

Stile Libero Communication Monaco

Main bibliographic references

ACAP 2014. Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. Hook Removal From Seabirds.

Cortés V. et Gonzáles-Solis J. 2015. Anuelos sin aves. Manual de buenas prácticas en la pesca de palangre de fondo. Universitat de Barcelona. Generalitat de Catalunya. España.

GFCM, 2017. GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF). Version: 2017.1

LPO. Comment manipuler un oiseau ? Programme Oiseaux en Détresse de la LPO, France.

Poisson F., Wendling B., Cornella D. et Segorb C. 2015. Guide de bonnes pratiques pour réduire la mortalité des espèces sensibles capturées accidentellement par les palangriers français en Méditerranée. Projet SELPAL et RéPAST. 60 pages.

UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA, 2017. Mise à jour du Plan d'action pour la conservation des espèces d'Oiseaux Marins et Côtiers inscrites en Annexe II au Protocole ASP/DB. By Sultana J. & Azafaf H.

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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



GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF SHARKS AND RAYS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

In collaboration with

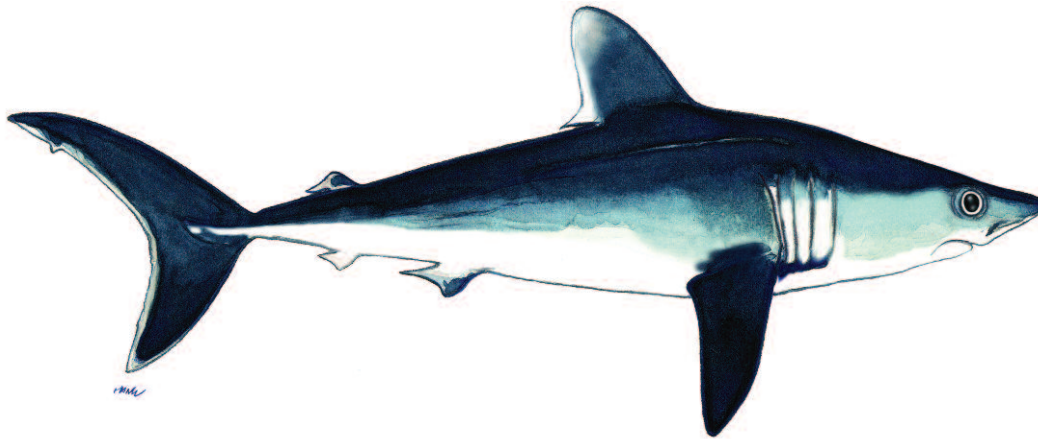


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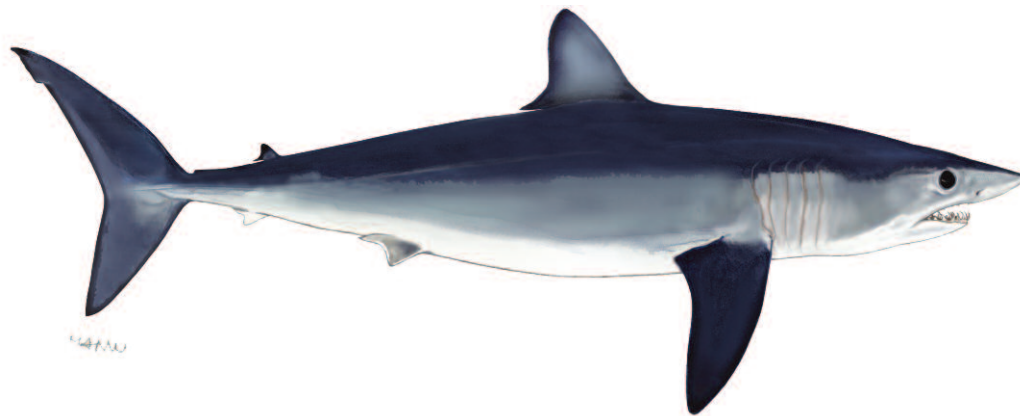
TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SHARK AND RAY¹ SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (1/3)

¹The illustrations are not drawn to scale



Porbeagle
(*Lamna nasus*)

Dorsal fin level with the pectoral fins
White patch at the rear of the dorsal fin
Pointed snout



Shortfin mako shark
(*Isurus oxyrinchus*)

Head longer than the pectoral fins
Wide mouth
Dorsal fin further back than the pectoral fins



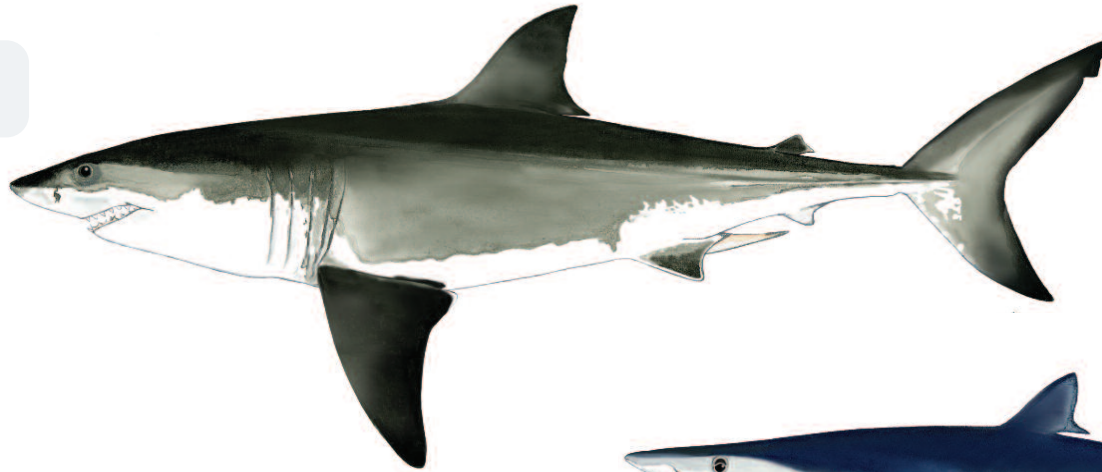
Protected species, fishing is prohibited in the Mediterranean Sea. The reporting of any incidental catch is mandatory (see Technical Sheet 6)

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SHARK AND RAY SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (2/3)



Great white shark
(*Carcharodon carcharias*)

- Wide mouth
- Long gill slits
- Large dorsal fin
- Long caudal keel



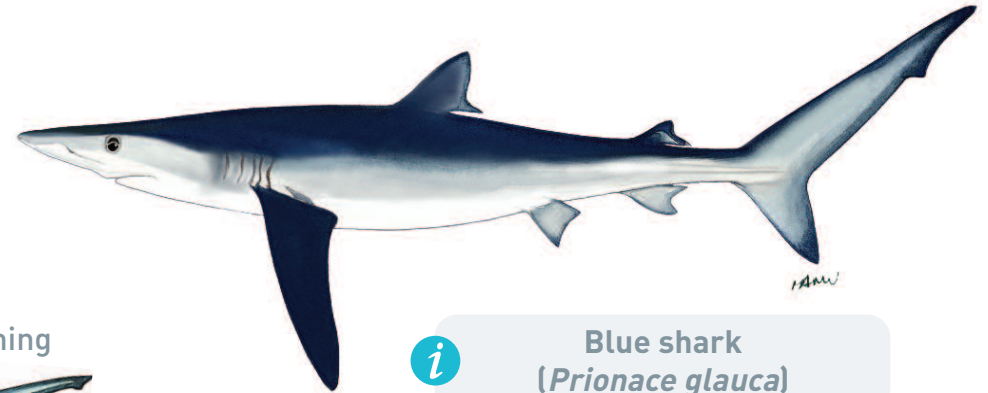
Common thresher
(*Alopias vulpinus*)

- Conical snout
- Small eyes
- White belly
- Dark brown and slate gray back becoming slate gray to dark blue on the flanks



Blue shark
(*Prionace glauca*)

- Very slender body shape
- Dark blue back and white belly
- Long and pointed pectoral fins



Protected species, fishing is prohibited in the Mediterranean Sea. The reporting of any incidental catch is mandatory (see Technical Sheet 6)



Fishing of this species is allowed in the Mediterranean Sea, but the reporting of any catch is mandatory (see Technical Sheet 6)

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 1 - SHARK AND RAY SPECIES MOST AFFECTED BY MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES (3/3)

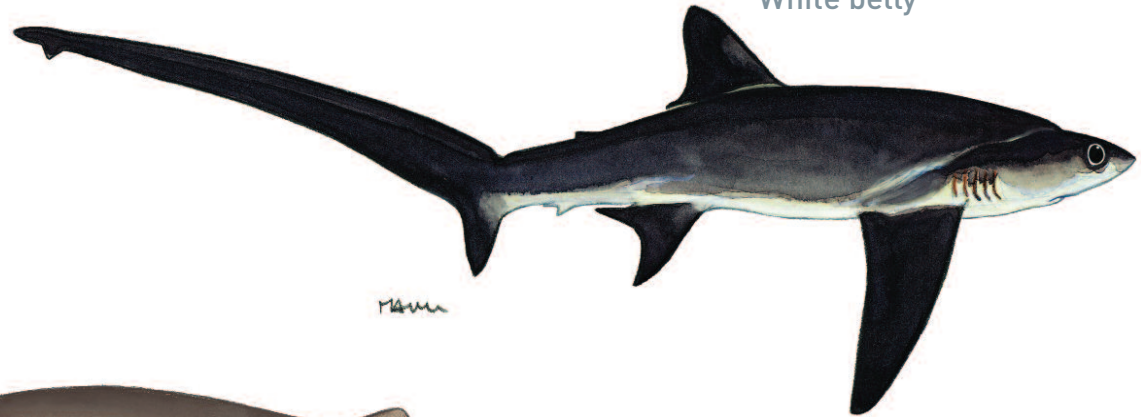


Pelagic stingray
(*Pteroplatytrygon violacea*)

- Rounded snout
- Back without spines
- Pelvic fins protruding from the disc

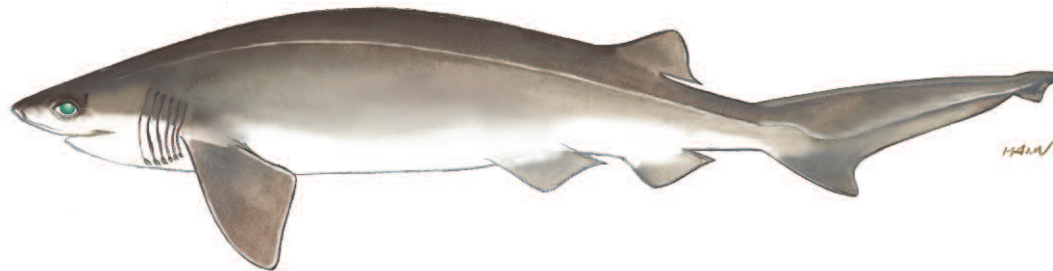
Bigeye thresher
(*Alopias superciliosus*)

- Deep frontal furrow
- Purple gray back
- Big eyes
- White belly



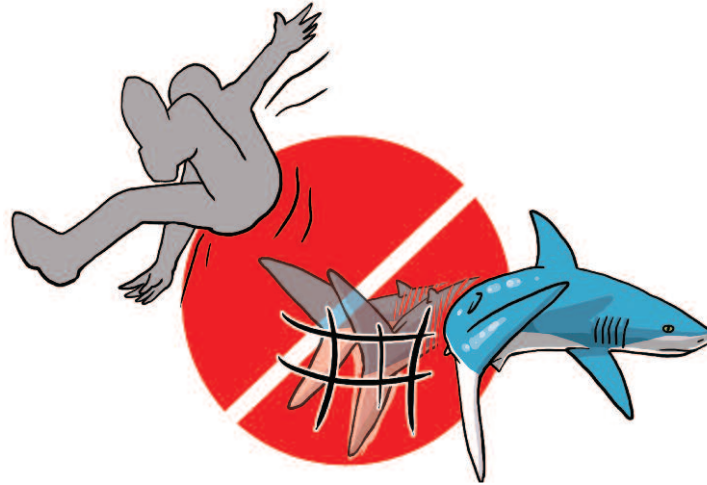
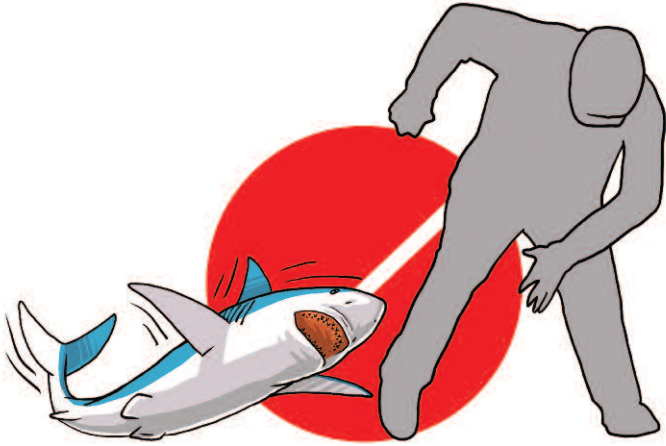
Bluntnose sixgill shark
(*Hexanchus griseus*)

- Small fluorescent green eyes
- Six gill slits
- Dorsal fin close to the tail



TECHNICAL SHEET N° 2 - PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN RELEASING SHARKS AND RAYS CAUGHT IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

ALWAYS WATCH OUT FOR BITES, BLOWS AND STINGS!



HAVE THE CORRECT EQUIPMENT:

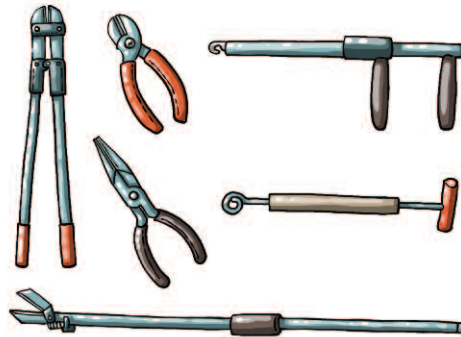
Hook remover

Pincers / Bolt cutters

Long-handled pruning shears

Gloves

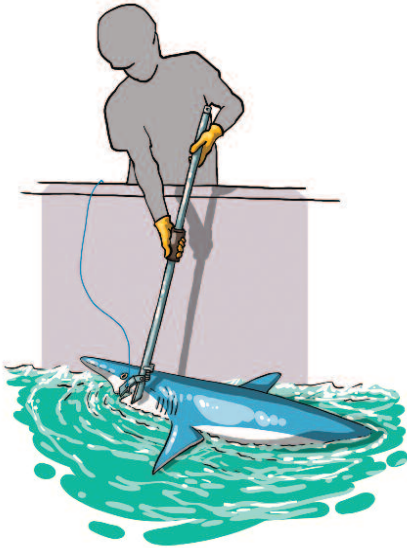
Protective glasses



TECHNICAL SHEET N° 3 - RELEASING SHARKS CAUGHT IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

1

Removing the hook from the shark



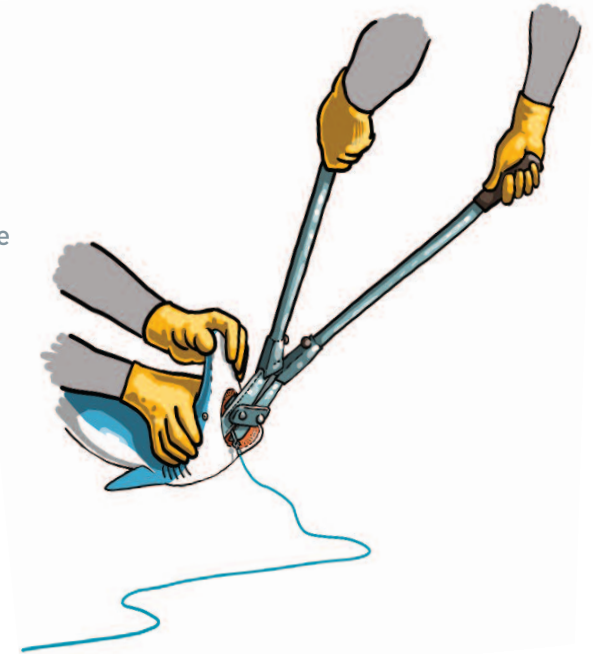
If the shark is in the water

Cut the line as close as possible to the shark's mouth

If the shark is on board

Cut the hook if possible or cut the line as close as possible to the hook ring

N.B. In order to release the shark as quickly as possible, it is best not to bring it on board.

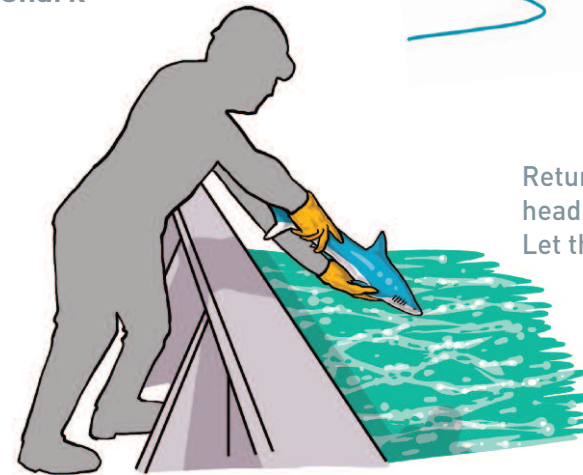


2

Releasing the shark



Handle the shark holding a pectoral fin with one hand and the tail with the other.



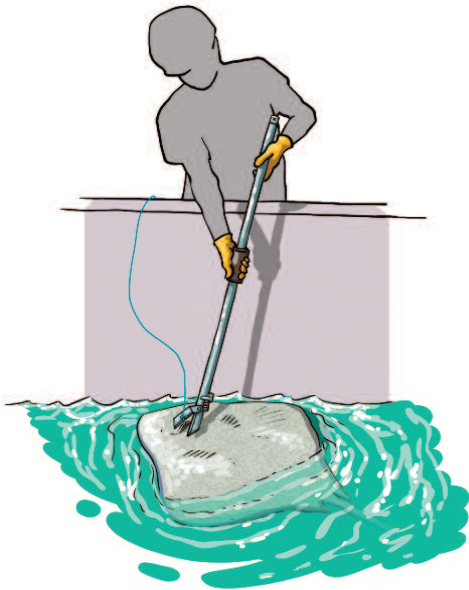
Return the shark to the water, head first, without throwing it. Let the animal slide.

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 4 - RELEASING RAYS CAUGHT IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

Removing the hook from the ray

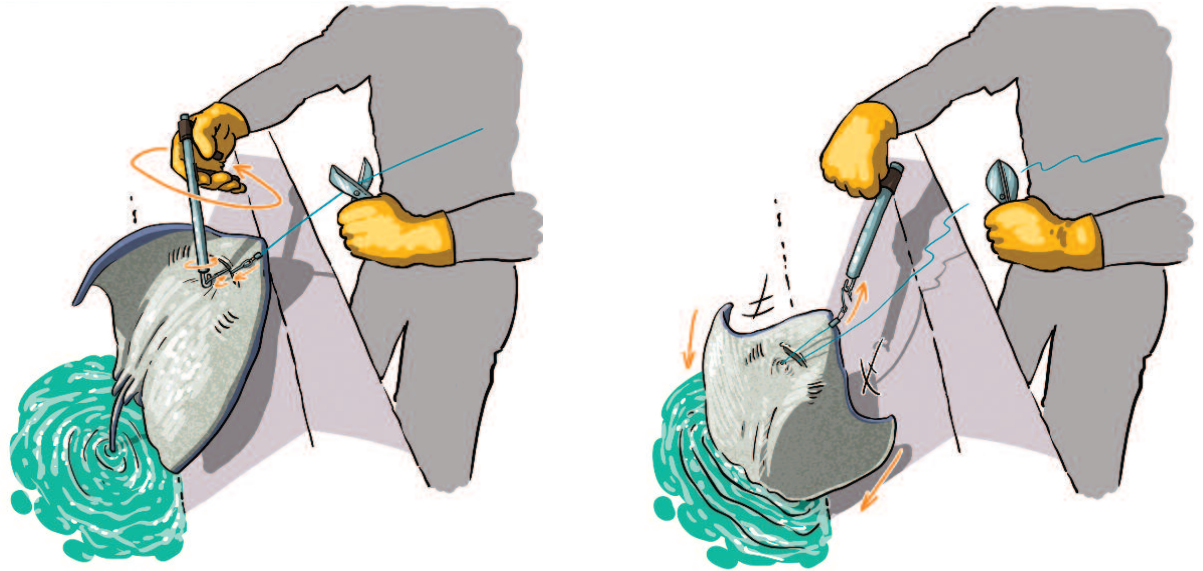
Rays rarely survive after release due to jaw damage. Although these animals are potentially dangerous, there are simple handling procedures that increase their chances of survival after release.

If the hook is lodged in the corner of the mouth



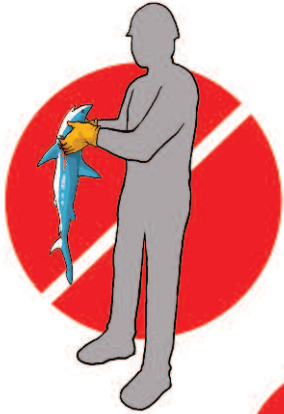
Cut the hook if possible or cut the line as close as possible to the hook ring.

If the ray is deep-hooked



Tie the end of line to a fixed point so as to have both hands free. Use a hook remover or a pair of pliers to grab hold of the tip of the hook and then rotate it in order to extract it. Cut the line to allow the ray to drop back into the water.

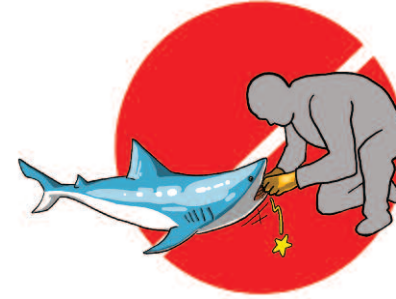
TECHNICAL SHEET N° 5 - "DO NOTS" WHEN RELEASING SHARKS AND RAYS CAUGHT IN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES



Do not lift the shark
by the tail or by the
head



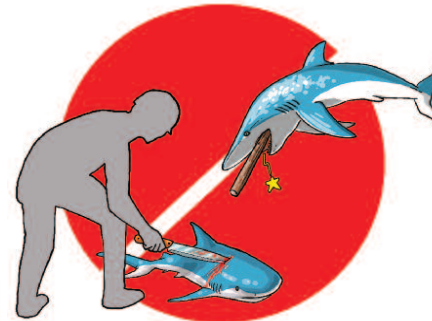
Do not carry the shark
by its gill slits



Do not put your hands in
the shark's mouth to
remove the hook



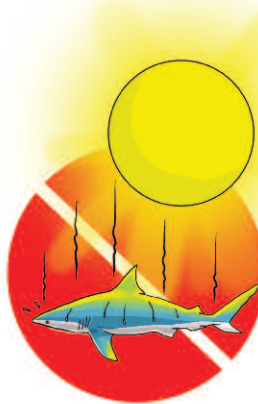
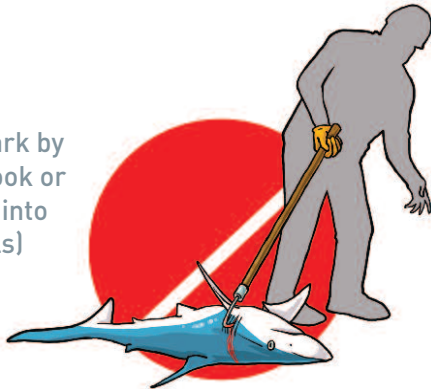
Do not incise the flesh or **cut**
the jaw of the ray to remove
the hook



Do not cause any trauma that might damage the
shark's internal organs (for example, do not put
pieces of wood into its mouth or cut its flesh)



Do not carry the shark by
inserting the boathook or
other sharp objects into
its body (jaws or gills)



Do not expose
the shark to the sun

TECHNICAL SHEET N° 6 - REPORTING INCIDENTAL CATCH

FOR THE CATCH OF ANY SHARK SPECIES MARKED  OR  IN TECHNICAL SHEET 1, RECORD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THE LOGBOOK:



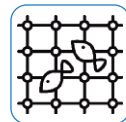
Date



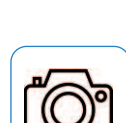
GPS Position



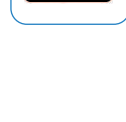
Geographical subregion



Type of vessel (Fleet segment)



Fishing gear



Species caught

Total number of specimens caught

Number of specimens released alive

Number of dead specimens

Number of specimens in unknown status

And if possible...

Take photos of the shark(s)

The information above is extremely important! Please submit it, as soon as possible, to the relevant national authorities. If in doubt, ask for their help.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR THE HANDLING OF SHARKS AND RAYS CAUGHT INCIDENTALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERIES

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Illustrations

Manuela D'Antoni, Organisation des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, illustrations scientifiques originales reproduites avec permission (Fiche technique 1), François Dolambi (Fiches techniques 2-5), Alberto Gennari (Fiche technique 6)

Graphic design

Stile Libero Communication Monaco

Main bibliographic references

GFCM, 2012. Recommandation CGPM/36/2012/3 concernant des mesures de gestion des pêches pour la conservation des requins et des raies dans la zone d'application la CGPM.

GFCM, 2017. GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF). Version: 2017.1

Poisson F., Wendling B., Cornella D. et Segorb C. 2015. Guide de bonnes pratiques pour réduire la mortalité des espèces sensibles capturées accidentellement par les palangriers français en Méditerranée. Projet SELPAL et RéPAST. 60 pages.

UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC, 2018. Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean: List of endangered or threatened species, SPA/RAC Ed., Tunis. http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/annex/annex_2_en_20182.pdf. Consulted on 29 March 2018

UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC, 2012. Annex III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean: List of species whose exploitation is regulated, SPA/RAC Ed., Tunis. http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/annex/annex_3_en_2013.pdf. Consulted on 29 March 2018

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