



MedBycatch

Working together to reduce bycatch in the Mediterranean



Co-founded by the European Union



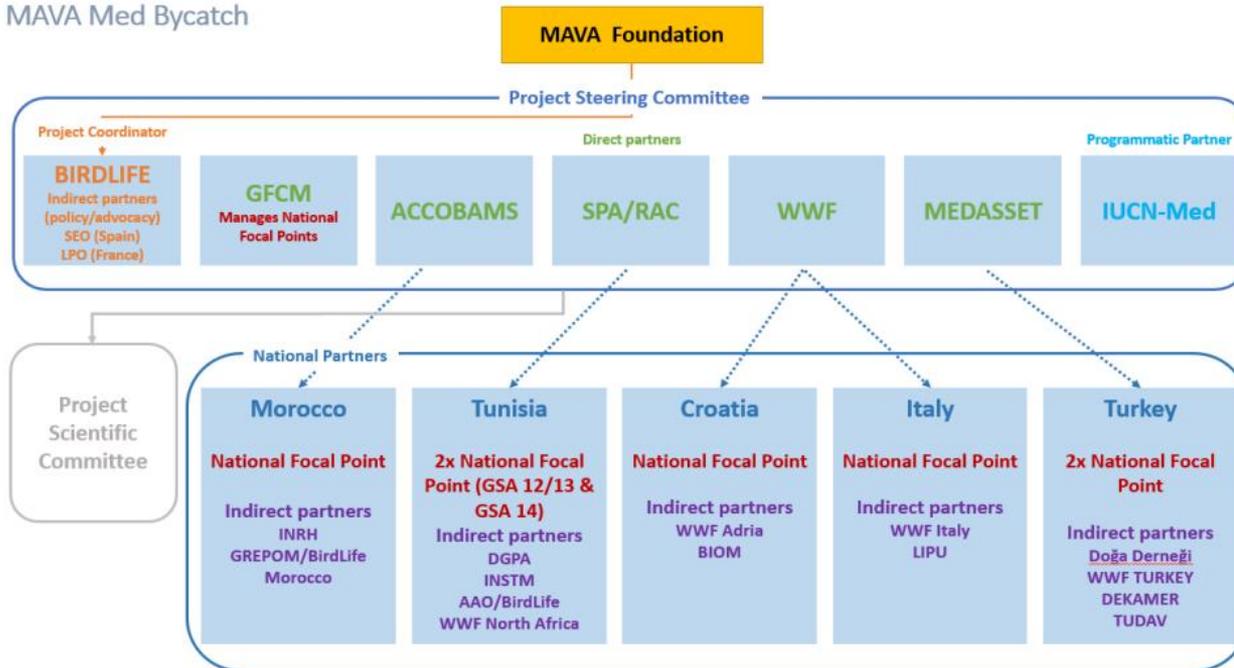
The MedBycatch Project (2017-2022): Understanding Mediterranean multi-taxa 'bycatch' of vulnerable species and testing mitigation – a collaborative approach

- Development of standardised protocols
- Establishment of National Observer Teams
- work on regional and national policy
- Mitigation measures trials



PROJECT INTERVENTION AREA

MAVA Med Bycatch





A unique methodology in the Mediterranean, the Adriatic and the Black Sea to monitor the incidental catch of vulnerable species (**seabirds, marine mammals, sea turtles, cartilaginous fishes, coral and sponges**)

Data collection across more than **42 ports** in **5 Mediterranean countries** through onboard observations, self-reporting and questionnaires at landing places, covering different bottom fishing gears (longlines, trawls, gillnets) and purse seines





First regional review on bycatch of vulnerable species and first regional database **for better knowledge sharing** in the Mediterranean, the Adriatic and the Black Sea

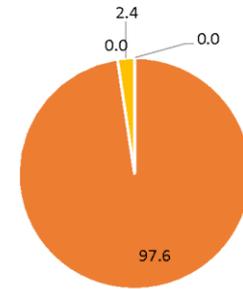
Bycatch mitigation measures defined through regional and national partnerships supported, by a scientific committee



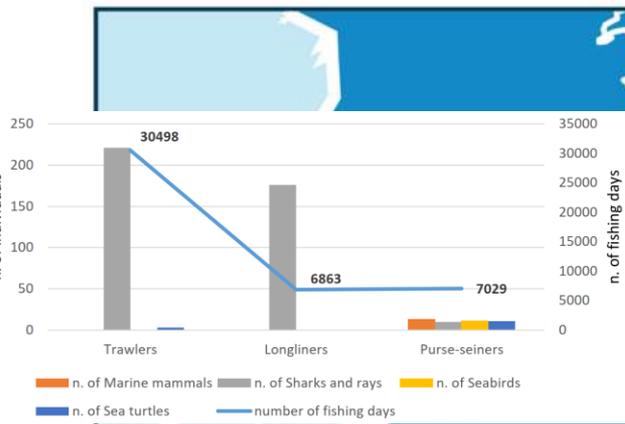
Regional and national advocacy and communication strategies **to mitigate bycatch of vulnerable species and contribute to sustainable fisheries**

Examples of results – Data collection

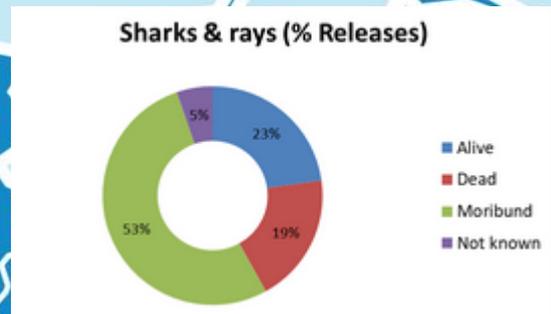
Total number (%) of bycaught individuals for GSA 24



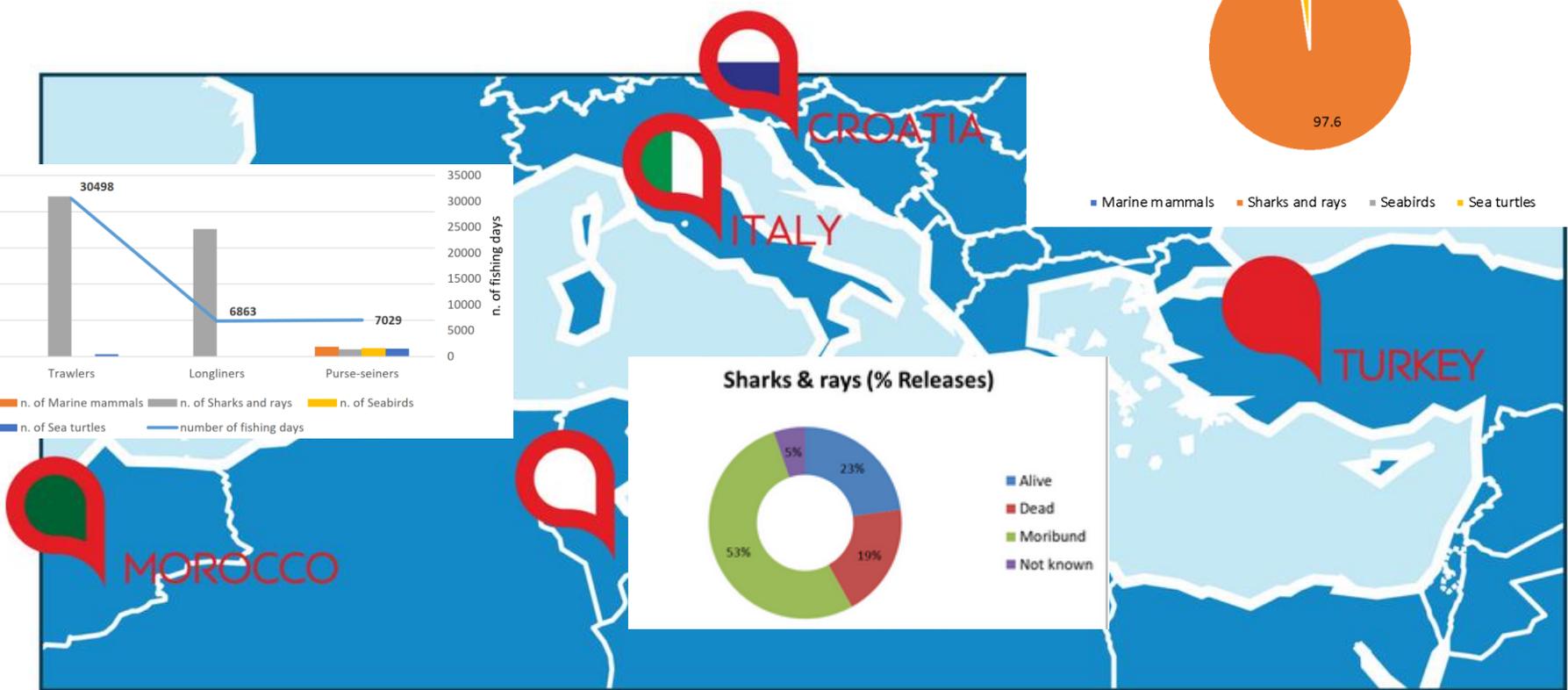
■ Marine mammals ■ Sharks and rays ■ Seabirds ■ Sea turtles



■ n. of Marine mammals ■ n. of Sharks and rays ■ n. of Seabirds
■ n. of Sea turtles — number of fishing days



■ Alive
■ Dead
■ Moribund
■ Not known

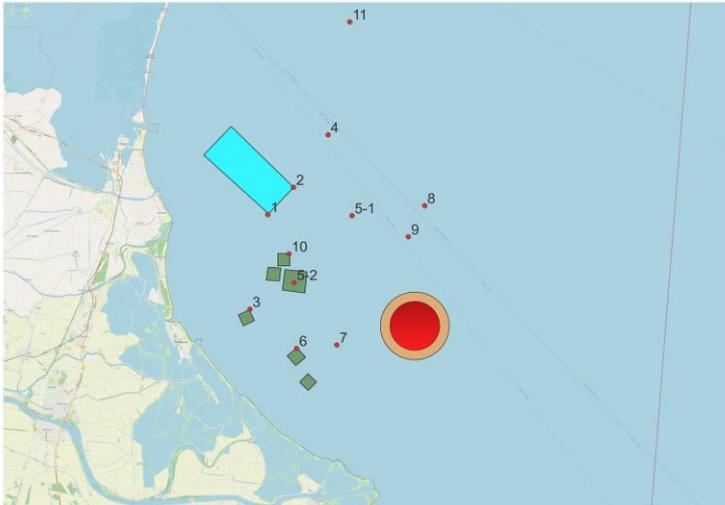


PROJECT INTERVENTION AREA

Examples of data collected (in validation)

Main results – Mitigation techniques

- Examples



Tests of

- soak time limits
- buoyancy band slackness changes
- survival rates with c-hooks
- Test with grids in trawls
- Baits
- Day/night strategy adaptation

New regional tools & instruments



- Standardized methodology for multi-taxa data collection “Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea methodology for data collection”
- Regional review on incidental catches of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
- Identification Guide and Identification Sheets
- Pocket guides developed for each project country
- Translated the Good practice guides
- Ad-hoc studies including on handling and post-release survival
- Pan-Mediterranean multi-taxa database

Targeted communication:

- Fishers
- Policy Makers
- General Public
- Port & MPA Authorities
- Marine Conservation Institutes
- NGOs & Organisations involved in marine conservation
- Marine Scientists



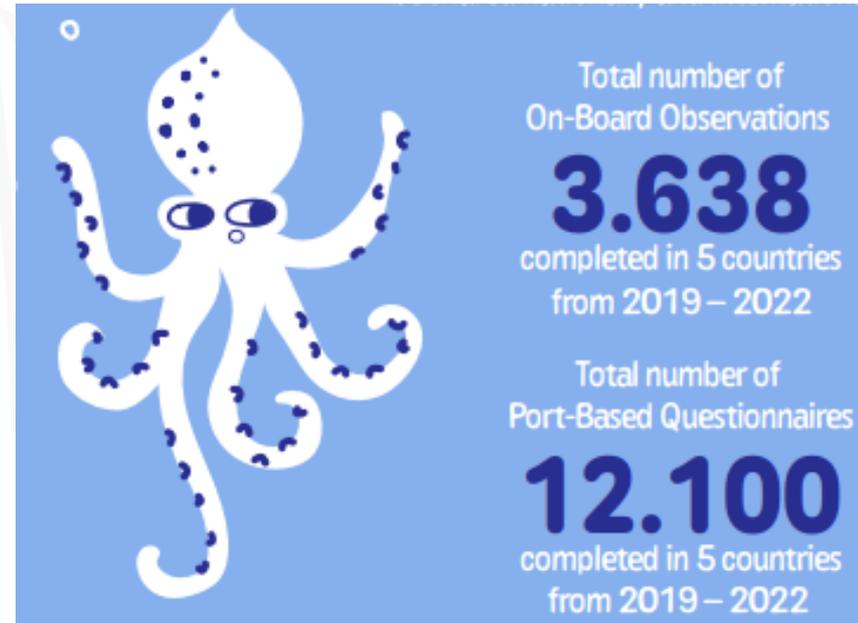
<https://artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/8921801/medbycatch-project-working-together-to-reduce-bycatch-in-the-mediterranean>

Fishers contributed to the collection of data:

- Providing photos of vulnerable species
- Assisting in the collection of biometric data
- Calling the observer
- Bringing dead specimens to port

Observers Best Practices

-  Connect on a **personal level**
-  Be **open** and **honest**
-  **Listen attentively**, with empathy
-  **Avoid jargon**
-  **Keep a secret?** (sensitive information)
-  Show **appreciation**



Come prepared
(questionnaires, FAQs)

Reach Out:
introduce yourself
& the project

Invest time
& show genuine
interest

Explain
the project's purpose & why
it benefits fishers & marine life

Approach
fishers when
they have time

Avoid
presenting
yourself
too officially

Offer
a helping hand
(AND PERHAPS
A DRINK AFTERWARDS)

- Implementation of GFCM Recommendations (2021)
- Continuation of data collection in collaboration with all stakeholders
- Mitigation trials
- Development of NPOAs
- Capacity building
- Final report will be developed
- New projects



Download:<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eRqVrOZk6UgZM1xrrkDLA6kWJZo8xPmy>



MEDAC

MEDITERRANEAN
A D V I S O R Y
C O U N C I L



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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



MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles



Thank you for your attention!

