

THE OBSERVERS' & FISHERS' BEST PRACTICE GUIDE TO REDUCE BYCATCH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



THE PROBLEM!

Bycatch – The incidental capture of vulnerable species in fishing gear is a key conservation issue in the Mediterranean.

- 37,230 Sharks and rays
- 463,469 Sea Turtles
- 6,751 Sea Birds
- 143* Marine Mammals

*This number has declined significantly since the ban of drift nets (2005). Research has increased for this issue on direct interactions with fisheries, which also includes assessing the economic damage inflicted on fishers.

FAO, 2020. The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2020. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Rome.

The project

Experiences and Knowledge Sharing for Building Strong and Maintaining Collaborations Between Fishery Observers and the Fishing Community creates opportunities so that experiences gained from the observer programmes can be shared nationally and internationally.

Total number of On-Board Observations
3,638
completed in 5 countries from 2019 – 2022

Total number of Port-Based Questionnaires
12,100
completed in 5 countries from 2019 – 2022

THE SOLUTION

Working together to reduce bycatch in the Mediterranean!



it's a MATTER of TRUST

1.

Be OPEN



2.

Build a RELATIONSHIP

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

- Turkish Fisher:** "Observers should work not only because of the [survey] but also for loving it and wanting to be in contact [with fishers]"
- Moroccan Observer:** "Don't just be an observer, be a friend"
- Tunisian Fisher:** "Provide mutual trust, frankness [and] respect for the fishers"

3.

Work TOGETHER



"Oh Captain, my Captain" (respect the dynamics on the vessel)

- Explain** the data collection process (what, how, why)
- Be one** with the team, offer help if needed
- Establish** healthy boundaries

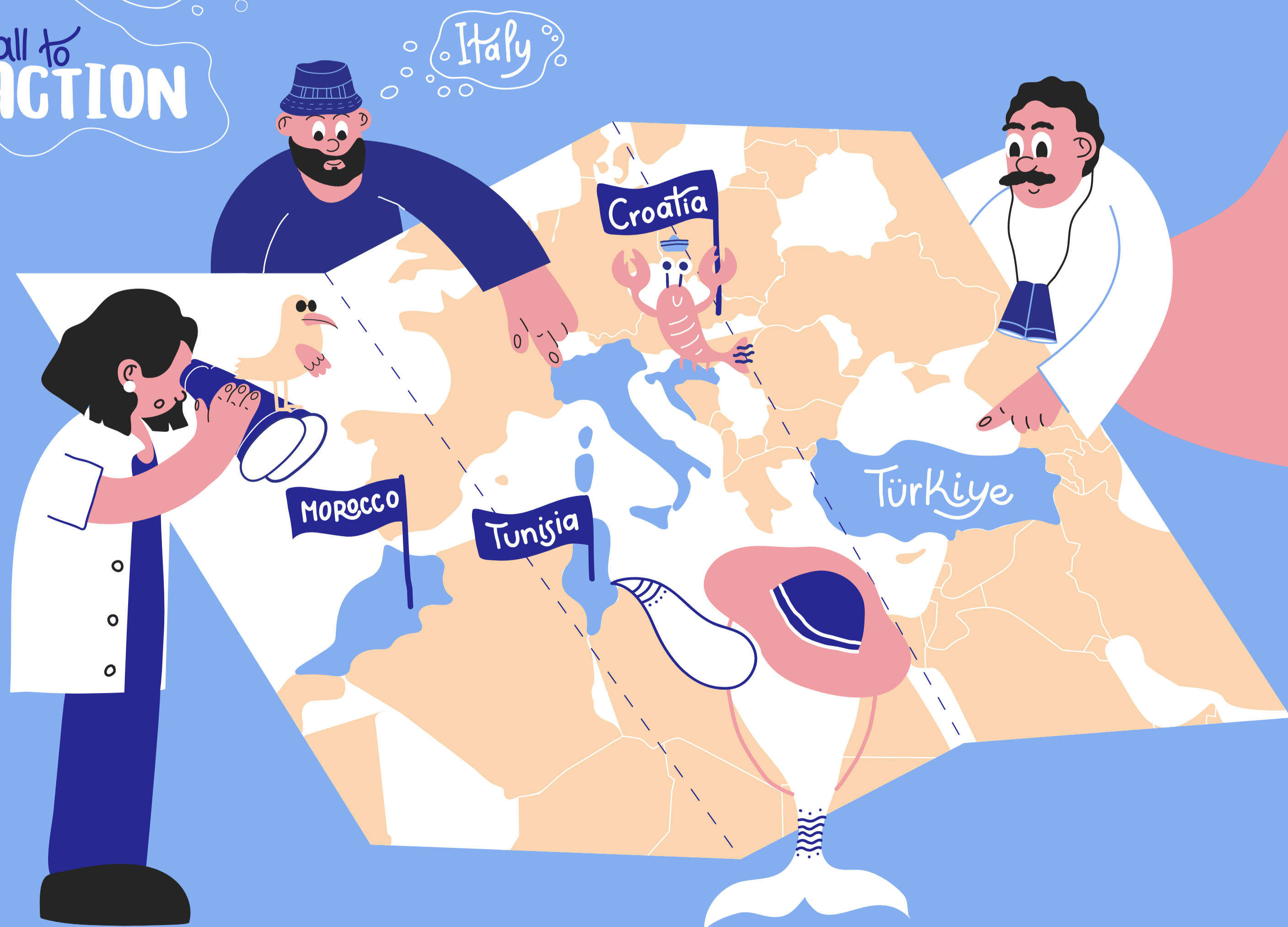
- Come prepared** (questionnaires, FAQs)
- Reach Out:** introduce yourself & the project
- Invest time** & show genuine interest
- Explain** the project's purpose & why it benefits fishers & marine life
- Approach** fishers when they have time
- Avoid** presenting yourself too officially
- Offer** a helping hand (AND PERHAPS A DRINK AFTERWARDS)

KEEP THE MAGIC ALIVE

- Visit often** / and invest in nurturing relationships
- Share project information** / celebrate achievements and results
- Share contact details** / & keep in touch - even after the survey has ended.



4. Call to ACTION



DOWNLOAD

THE MEDBYCATCH LEARNING & SHARING PACKAGE

FOLLOW

#MedBycatch

