

# 3 projects working together to build the future of sustainable fisheries



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# 3 projects covering all of the European Seas



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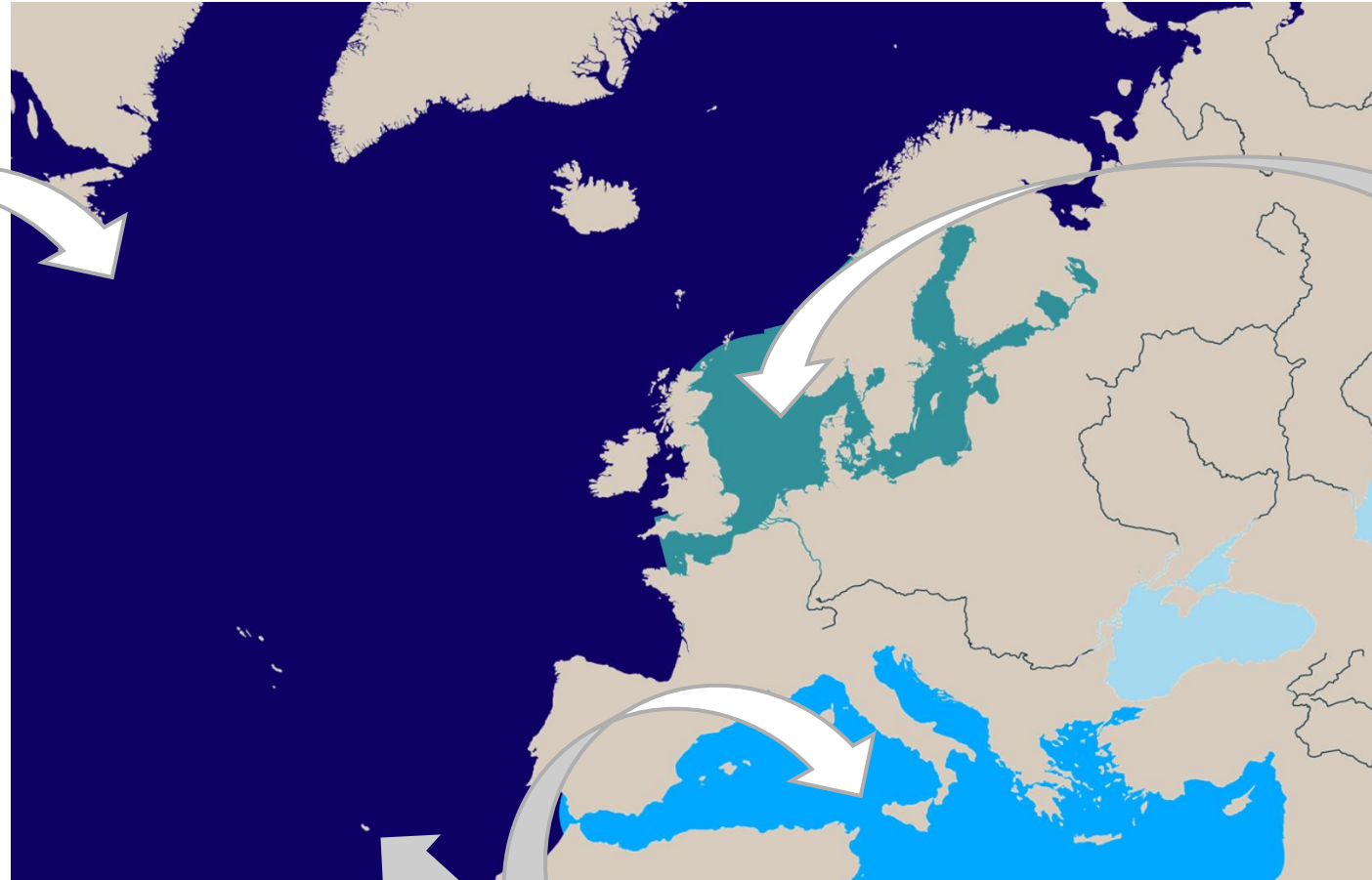


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Atlantic & Arctic  
Oceans



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North Sea &  
Baltic Sea



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Mediterranean Sea and the  
coastal waters of Madeira

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# Our goal ?

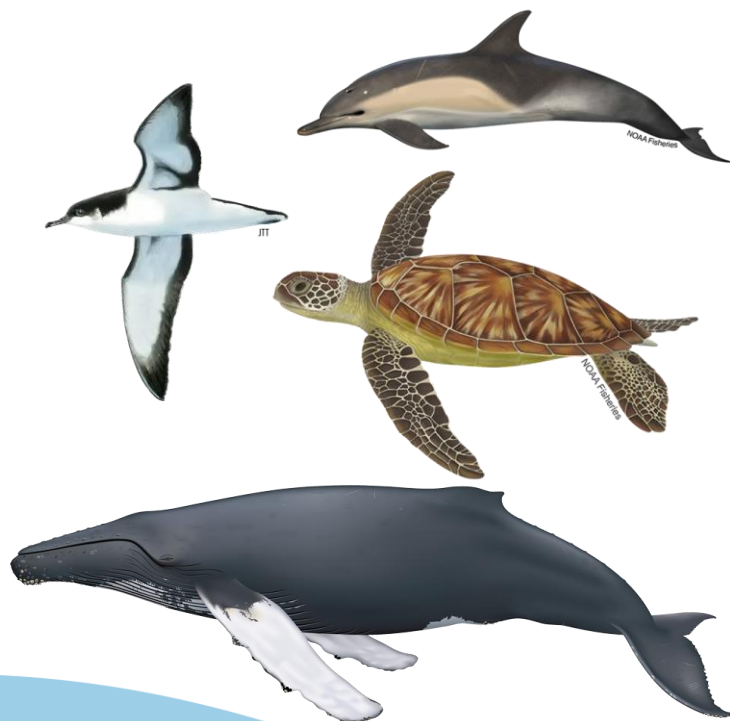
To reduce the environmental impacts of fisheries on marine species and habitats



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## Protecting sensitive species

*Dolphins, porpoises, seabirds, sharks, turtles... thousands are unintentionally caught every year. Our projects advance solutions to detect, deter and reduce these interactions.*



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# Our goal ?

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## Preventing the bycatch of juveniles

*When juvenile fish are caught, entire populations are at risk.  
We design new gear, AI detectors and real-time tools to help  
fishers avoid juvenile-dense areas or release them alive.*



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## Restoring habitats and increase recruitment

*Spawning grounds, seagrass meadows and sensitive seabed habitats as well as older and larger fish, are the foundations of healthy fisheries. Our projects help protect the critical habitats that fish and marine life depend on and advise on how to increase the reproduction rate of exploited species.*



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# Sustainable fisheries start with open discussions

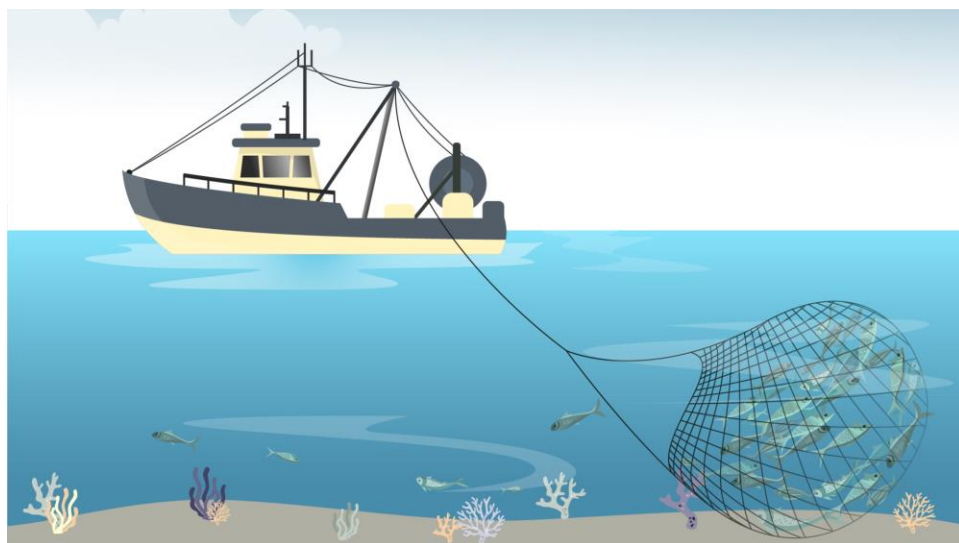


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The key pressures we are targeting:



## Trawling and seabed impact

*Trawls are among the most productive fishing methods but they can disturb sensitive seabed habitats, damage spawning grounds, and capture non-target species including juveniles. Improving their selectivity is one of the central challenges our projects address.*



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# Sustainable fisheries start with open discussions

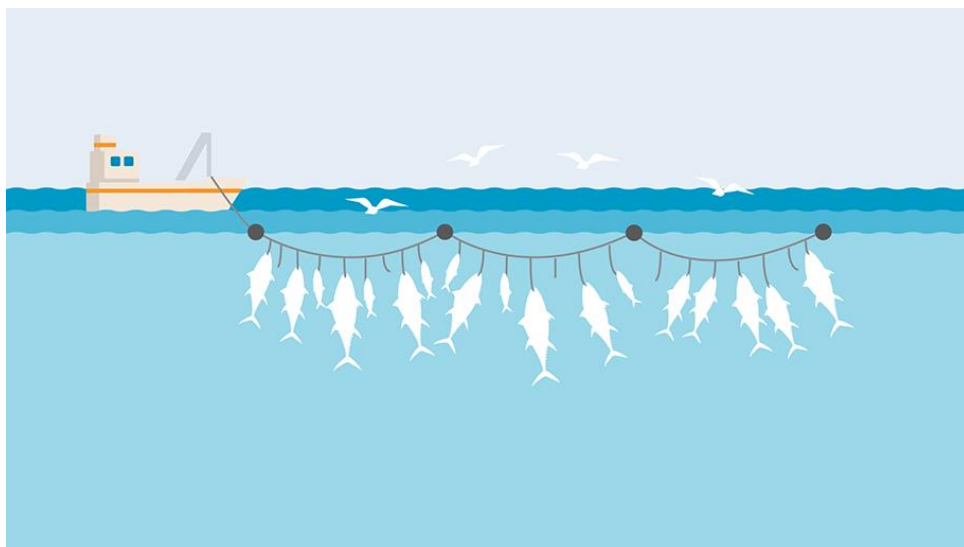


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The key pressures we are targeting:



## Static gears and bycatch

*Gillnets, longlines and other static gears are widely used across European fisheries, particularly by small-scale fleets. While generally low-impact in terms of fuel and habitat disturbance, they can have high bycatch rates of sensitive species, including cetaceans, seabirds and elasmobranchs.*



# Sustainable fisheries start with open discussions



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The key pressures we are targeting:



## Other pressures

*Lost or abandoned gear, plastic pollution, and the cumulative effects of fishing effort on ecosystem structure all contribute to the broader challenge of making European fisheries truly sustainable.*



# What makes this collaboration unique?



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- Different seas but similar barriers to overcome
- A common commitment to work with and for fishers
- Different approaches and tools using the same evidence based approach



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# 1. Fishers are at the centre of the projects



Credit: Marine Stewardship Council/ Fly Media

## 3 co-design strategies

- Stakeholder workshops mapping barriers to technology adoption across Atlantic fisheries
- Focus groups with fishers co-designing bycatch reduction gear in the North Sea and Baltic
- Living laboratories where Mediterranean fishing communities test and validate new approaches to reduce impact on sensitive habitats and species and promote fish stock recovery.

## 2. Tools developments are grounded in real conditions



Credit: DTU Aqua

### Innovation tested onboard commercial vessels:

- *AI systems detecting bycatch in real time*
- *Decision-support tools helping fishers find the lowest-impact, highest-return fishing areas*
- *New gear designs reducing juvenile fish and sensitive species capture across multiple fisheries*

### 3. We combine the gained knowledge to produce policy recommendations



#### One roadmap for innovative fisheries:

- *Combining the knowledge gathered from the 3 projects to produce policy briefs*
- *Enhancing the outreach towards DG MARE and DG Env through clustering*

# Our approach is recognised by the UN Ocean Decade



## The GEAR-UP Initiative: Clustering for impact

UN Ocean decade action: Gear-up towards sustainable fisheries



**2021**  
**2030** United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



**ICES**  
**CIEM**



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To learn more about the projects, flash the QR codes below:



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