

RECOMMENDED SUSTAINABLE FISHING GEAR TYPES

We recommend using these fishing techniques because they carry low levels of bycatch and remove fish from the sea at a rate that allows populations to remain healthy.

Trolling

Trolling draws a single lure and hook through the surface water behind a moving boat.



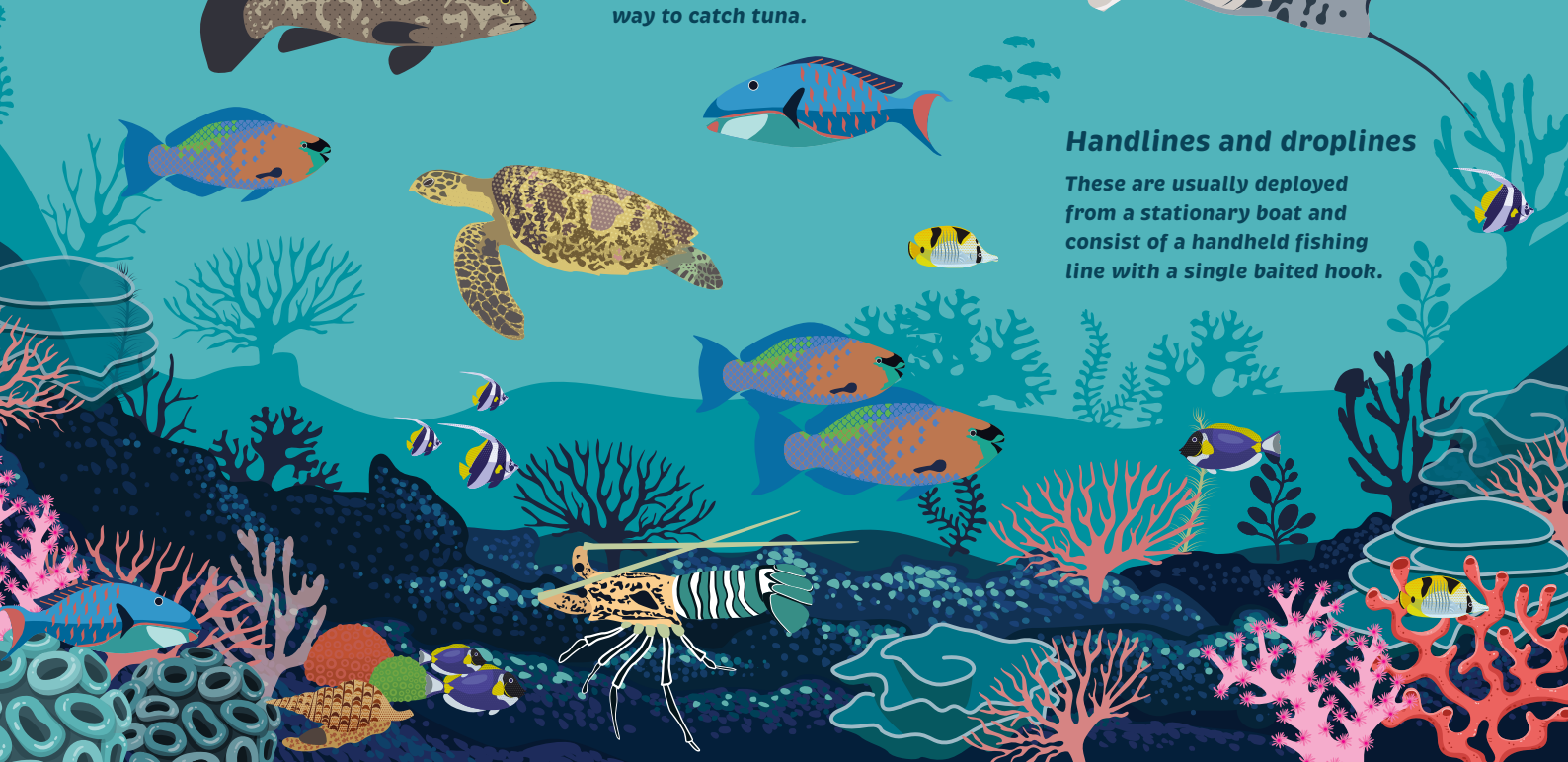
Pole and line

Each pole and line fisher has one rod with one hook. This is the most widely used and sustainable way to catch tuna.



Handlines and droplines

These are usually deployed from a stationary boat and consist of a handheld fishing line with a single baited hook.



BANNED FISHING GEAR TYPES



We must avoid using these fishing techniques which are banned by law in the Maldives because they are harmful to fish populations and the environment.

Drones or aircraft

Drones and aircraft can locate large schools of fish very easily, allowing fishers to catch too many fish at once.

SCUBA for groupers, lobsters and sea cucumbers

SCUBA gear allows fishers to stay in the water for a long time, reach deeper waters and select too many of the commercially valuable species.

Automated speargun

Automated spearfishing equipment allows fishers to selectively pick off the largest and most productive individuals, which is damaging to the population.

Nets

*Most fishing nets have high rates of bycatch and many damage the seafloor. Fishing with nets allows fishers to catch too many fish at once.**

Explosives

Blast fishing, or dynamite fishing, stuns fish and allows them to be easily collected. This technique is destructive to the reef and effects the health of all animals in the area.

**The only net fishing allowed in the Maldives is for bait fishing or personal consumption.*

DESTRUCTIVE FISHING GEAR TYPES

We must try and avoid using these fishing techniques which can be harmful to fish populations and the environment.



Powerful lights

Some fishers use powerful lights to attract baitfish and tuna during the night. This damages the reef ecosystem by interrupting fish behaviour.

Bleach or other chemicals

These are commonly used to flush octopus out of their burrows. Bleached burrows cannot be used by other octopus for a long time. The bleach and chemicals also cause damage to other animals, the coral reef and humans.

Longline

The use of long fishing lines with multiple baited hooks carries a high risk of bycatch. Sharks, turtles and seabirds often become entangled, and few survive, even if released.

Jigging

This popular new method uses a lure and sinkers to catch fish down to 100 metres or more, so vulnerable deep-sea species are often exploited.