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POSTER PRESENTATIONS
SESSION 4: THREATS

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THE EVALUATION OF THE FISHERIES INTERACTION BETWEEN THE SEA TURTLES AND THE FISHERMEN IN MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF TURKEY

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Fisheries interactions are one of the most important threats to sea turtle populations. The conservation measures are well implemented at the important nesting beaches in Turkey, the studies on fisheries interactions with sea turtles are inadequate. In this study, we made field surveys and used questionnaire to assess the reciprocal interactions between sea turtles and fisheries in the Mediterranean coast of Turkey from Muğla to Mersin during 2017. A total of 176 interview made with fishermen and asked 52 questions. Surveys were conducted at 18 fisheries ports. The main income of 156 fishermen (88.6%) was fishing. The mean age of fishermen was 54.1 (± 10.42). All fishermen were male. The average fishing time is 35.8 (± 10.50) years. A total of 34.1% of the fishermen identify themselves as fishermen, 58.0% of them identify as retired from different occupation, 5.1% identify as tourism professional, and 2.8% are actively works in other occupations. A total of 112 fishermen (63.6%) declares economic loss as a result of damages to the fishing gears from sea turtle entanglement.

The most common fishing gear is gillnet (61.9%). Other fishing gears are pelagic longlines (19.3%), demersal longlines (19.3%), seine net (17.6%), trawl (16.5%), hooked lines (1.1%), and others (3.4%). The level of knowledge on sea turtles and the number of turtles caught in the fishing gears were also investigated by surveys. Considering the all coastline in Turkey and the limited interviewed individuals, the results show that fishermen often observe sea turtles and entanglement rate is high, especially during the nesting season. A total of 131 fishermen that 1.4 (min: 1; max: 25) sea turtle per set is entangled to their fishing gear. Most of the fishermen are ready to modify their fishing gear to reduce bycatch due to the economic loss from sea turtle entanglement. Therefore, a larger scale study in the Turkish coastline to assess the actual effects of fisheries and determine the hotspot areas for sea turtles is required.

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SEA TURTLE MORTALITY ASSESSMENT IN VALENCIA REGION (SPAIN) FROM 2010 TO 2018

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Valencian Community Coast, on the western Mediterranean, has been established as a feeding area for mainly juvenile and subadult loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*), additionally it has been reported that Valencia waters hold individuals from Atlantic and Mediterranean rookeries. On this study, we focus on the establishment of the cause of death of stranded or by-caught turtles from this area. A complete post-mortem analysis was performed in 80 individuals in good preservation condition been admitted through the local stranding network from 2010 to 2018. In this period, the main mortality cause was associated to incidental capture, being decompression sickness, the most common by-catch consequence pathology followed or combined with drowning. Intestinal blockage, sepsis, entanglement or boat strikes

were also reported but in very low numbers. During the late years important efforts had been made to improve the relationship with the fisherman communities. This has led as to an increase of the number of calls reporting incidental captures and carcasses examined. These results provide valuable information to take into consideration in sea turtles conservation programs and could serve as an orientation when dealing with death stranded turtles in poor preservation condition. It is also highlighted the needed of global conservation measures, as local threats could affect different sea turtle populations.

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