Supplementary Material to:

**A small fishery with a high impact on sea turtle populations
in the eastern Mediterranean**

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Zoology in the Middle East, 61, 2015

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2015.1101906>

Appendix 1

Serial number _____

Date _____

Location _____

Interviewing student _____

Projects 2012

Fishermen Survey

Questions for all fishermen

1. How long have you been a fisherman?
2. Is fishing a hobby or a main source of income?
3. In your experience, how many days a week do fishermen work?
4. How many hours each day?
5. Where do fishermen from this port sail to? Where do you go?
6. What sort of fishing methods do you practice?
7. At which distance off shore do you leave your fishing gear?
8. Are these methods seasonal?
If so, what are the preferred seasons?

Trawling

1. What is the opening height of most trawler nets? What is yours?
2. In your experience, how long does one tow last?
3. Do you often use shrimps nets?
4. Is there a difference in towing depths between day and night? Yes/No
5. If so, what is it?
6. If not, what is the common towing depth?

Long- Line

1. How many sets of Long-line are usually used during one fishing day?
2. How many hooks are on each set?
3. What is the distance between the hooks?
4. What kind of hook is usually used?
5. What kind of bait is usually used?
6. What are the working depths?
7. How long are the Long-Line sets left in the water?
8. Do Long-Line fishermen usually fish above reefs or sandy bottom?

Gill-net

1. What is the eye size in the nets that are usually in use?
2. How many layers compose the net?
3. Which material are the nets made out of?
4. How many packs of nets are usually in use?
5. For how long are the nets left in the water?
6. What are the working depths?
7. Does fishing with gill-nets usually occur in day or night?

Turtles

1. In your opinion, how many sea turtles are caught by a fishing vessel, over a period of one month, using your fishing technique?

Fishing technique_____ How many_____?

(If it is difficult for the fishermen to point out a number, you can ask him about ranges)

- a. None
  - b. As many as 5
  - c. 5-10
  - d. 20-10
  - e. Over 20
2. Could you please point out the species? (Fishermen will point out from photos showing the sea turtles: Loggerhead, Green, Flatback, Softshell and Leatherback).

3. What are the sizes of most of the sea turtles caught?

Loggerhead sea turtle

- a. Above 50 cm
- b. Below 50 cm

Green sea turtle

- a. Above 70 cm
- b. Below 70 cm

- 4. During which months, in your opinion, are most sea turtles caught?
- 5. Where are most sea turtles caught?
- 6. At which distance from shore are most sea turtles caught?
- 7. At which depths are most sea turtles caught?
- 8. Are sea turtles caught mostly at day or night?
  - a. Day
  - b. Night
  - c. Both
  - d. Can't decide
- 9. Is there a difference between day and night in the depths at which most sea turtles are caught? Yes/No

Day____ Night____

- 10. If a sea turtle is caught, what is the action taken?
  - a. Whether the turtle is dead or alive, it is thrown back overboard.
  - b. Fishermen wait as long as two hours, then throw the turtle back overboard, dead or alive.
  - c. Fishermen wait as long as 2-5 hours, then throw the turtle back overboard, dead or alive.
  - d. Fishermen wait until the turtle recovers and then throw it back overboard.
  - e. Fishermen call ISTRC / the Sea Turtle Rescue Center or IMMRAC (Israeli Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center).
  - f. Other_____
- 11. If there is a line hanging out of the sea turtles mouth, fishermen:
  - a. Will pull the line.

- b. Cut the line close to the turtle's mouth, and then release the animal.
  - c. Cut the line far from the turtle's mouth, and then release the animal.
  - d. Leave the turtle the way it is.
  - e. Cut the turtle in order to extract the hook, and then release the animal.
  - f. Extract both hook and line without harming the turtle and release the animal.
  - g. other_____
12. if a sea turtle is entangled with fishing equipment, fishermen will:
- a. release the turtle free from all equipment
  - b. release the turtle still entangled
  - c. other_____
13. Could you estimate how many sea turtles you have caught during you career as a fisherman?
14. Of all fishing techniques, in which do you think most sea turtles are caught?

If the fisherman is cooperative, it is worthwhile asking the following:

15. The amount of sea turtles today compared to ten years ago:
- a. Today there are more, how many more _____
  - b. Today there are less, how many less _____
  - c. Can't decide
16. Do you know a time, place or depth where you are sure to see turtles?
17. What do you think mostly harms sea turtles?
Pollution/fishing/ accidents/ swallowing garbage/air pollution/ other_____
18. What do you think could be done to prevent damage to the sea turtle population?