



OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

YEAR ONE





OLIVE RIDLEY **PROJECT**

The Olive Ridley Project, founded in the Maldives in 2013, attempts to identify key factors contributing to ghost net production in the Indian Ocean.



WHAT ARE GHOST NETS?

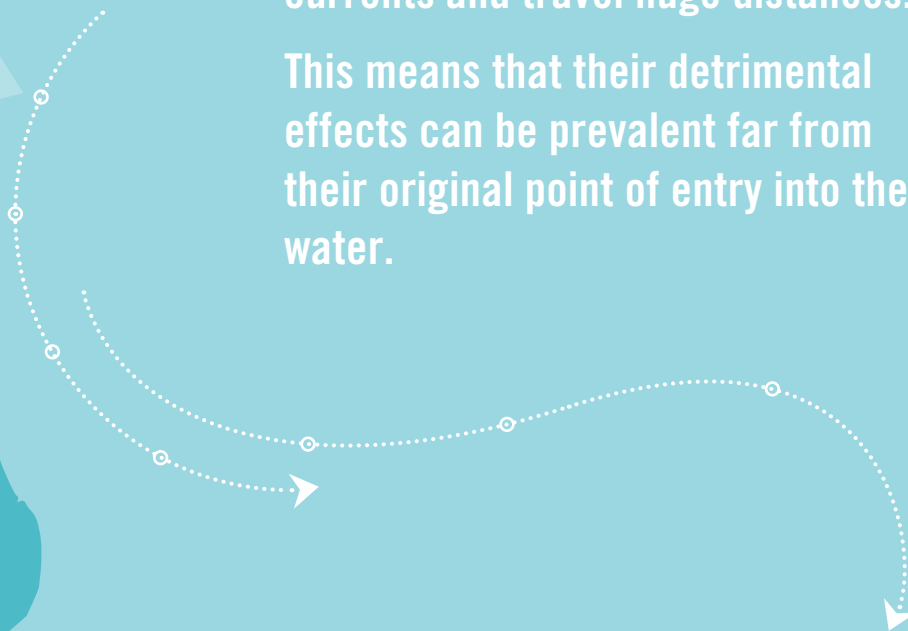
Ghost nets are fishing nets that have been discarded, abandoned or lost in the ocean.



SILENT KILLERS

Nets will often be taken by oceanic currents and travel huge distances.

This means that their detrimental effects can be prevalent far from their original point of entry into the water.



They will entangle many threatened animals along the way.



MANATEES



RAYS



SEA BIRDS



SEA TURTLES



SHARKS



DOLPHINS



WHALES

Coral reefs can also be smothered and fouled by nets causing further loss of life.





ACTION

The Olive Ridley Project is working to tackle the ghost net problem in the Indian Ocean using four main focus areas:
Research, awareness, removal and recycling.

ARABIAN SEA

BAY OF BENGAL

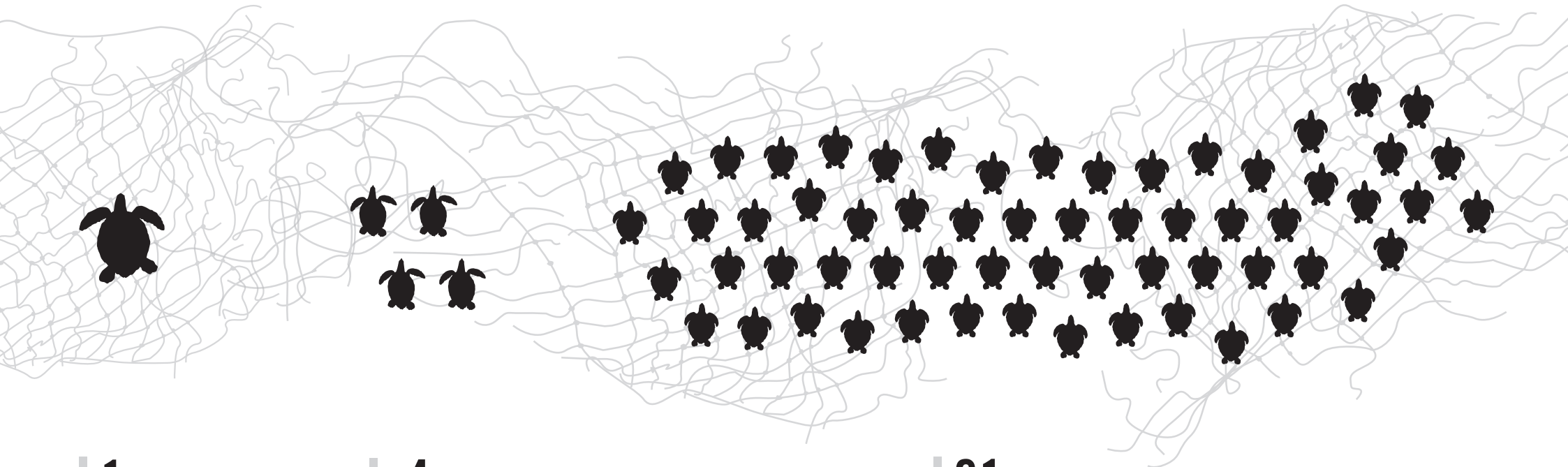
INDIA

SRI LANKA

MALDIVES

SEYCHELLES

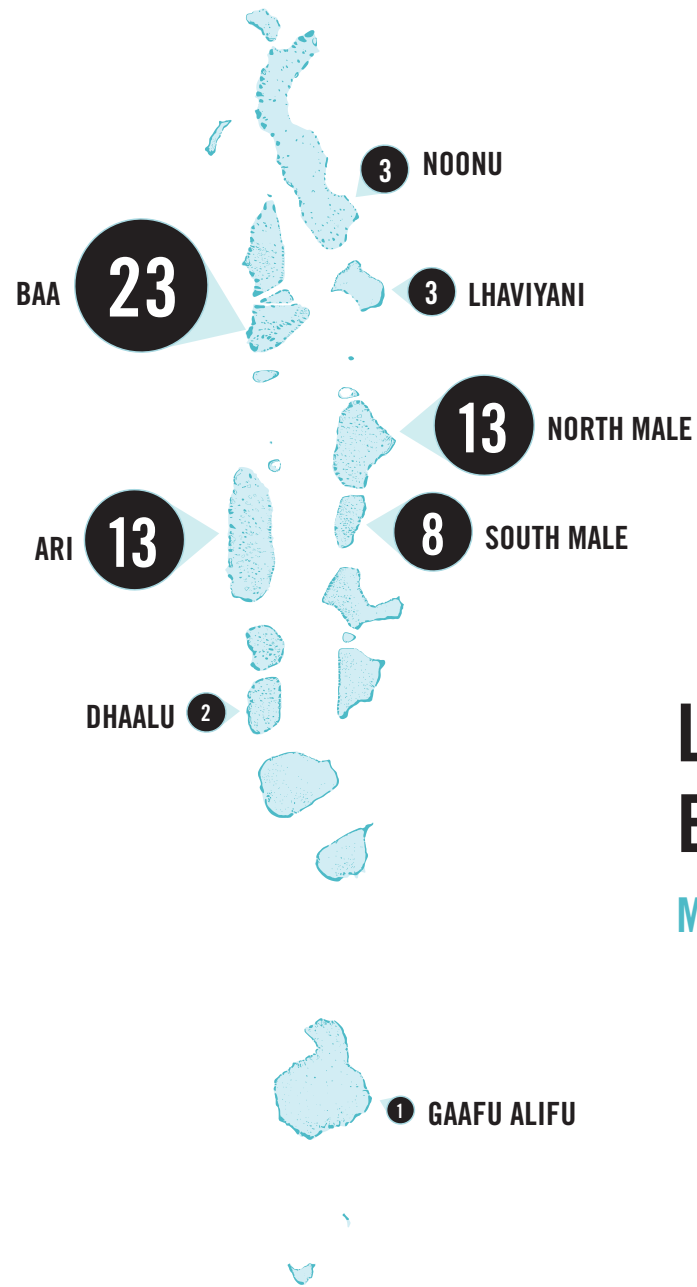
66 TURTLES ENTANGLED IN GHOST NETS



1 GREEN TURTLES

4 HAWKSBILL TURTLES

61 OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES



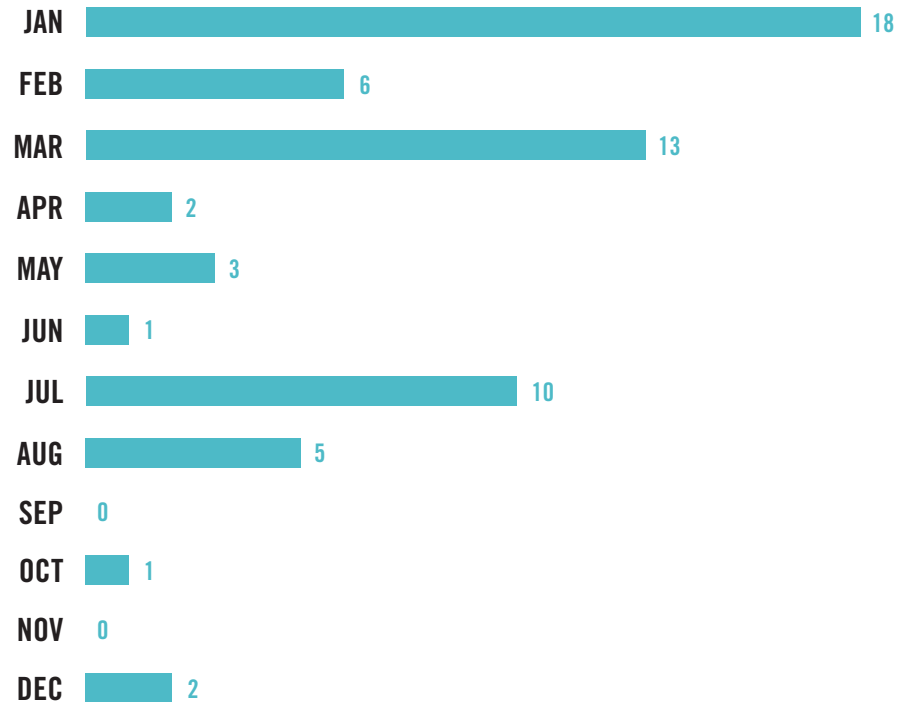
LOCATIONS OF ENTANGLEMENTS

MALDIVES

66 TURTLES ENTANGLED IN GHOST NETS

TURTLES FOUND ENTANGLED

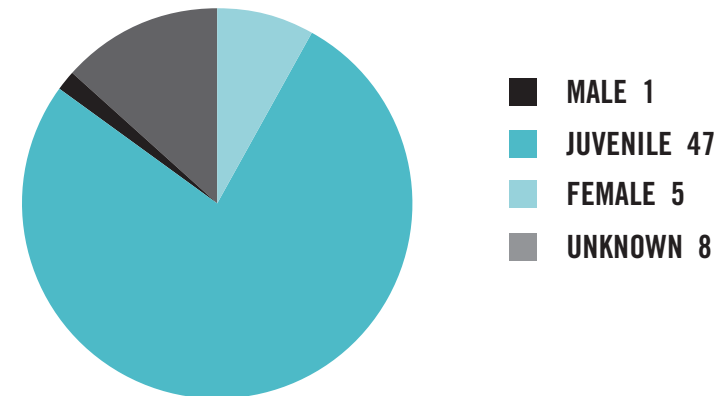
Olive Ridley, Hawksbill and Green

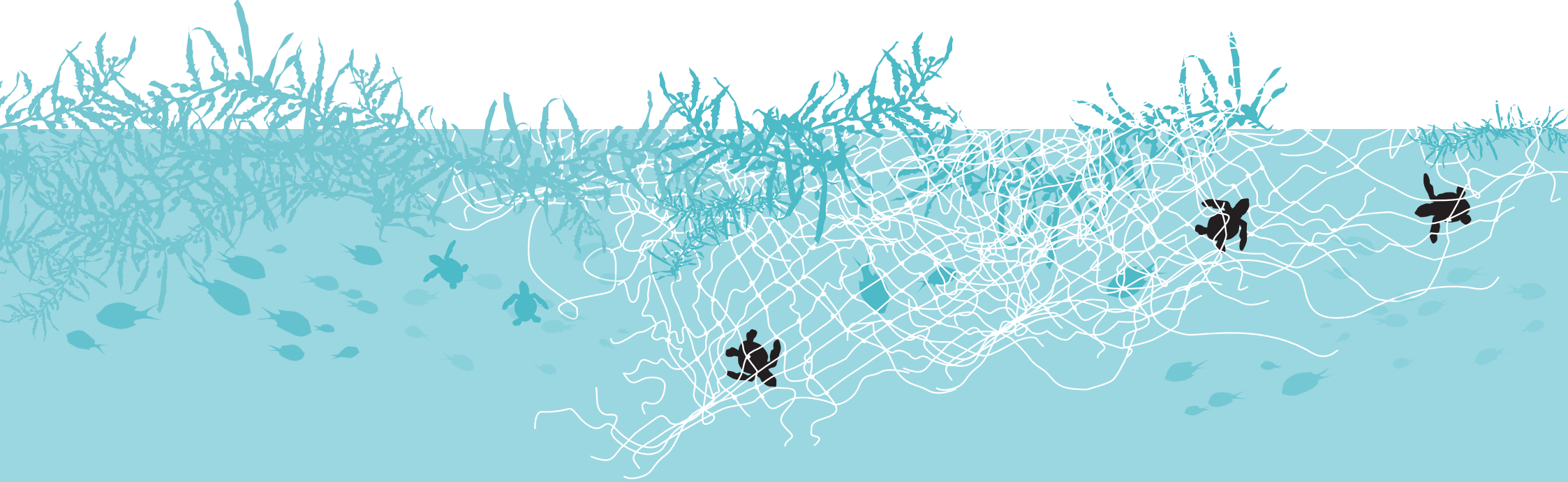


61 OLIVE RIDLEYS ANALYSED

SEX/AGE

Olive Ridley





77%

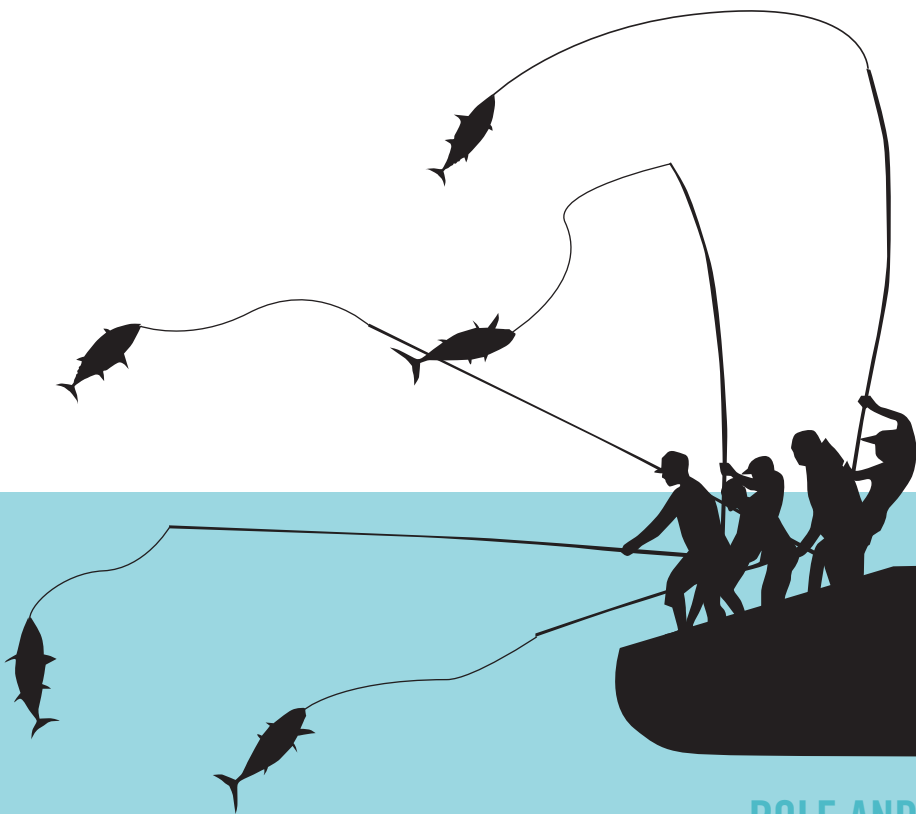
In its first year, the Olive Ridley Project found that 77% of turtles recorded in ghost nets were juveniles.



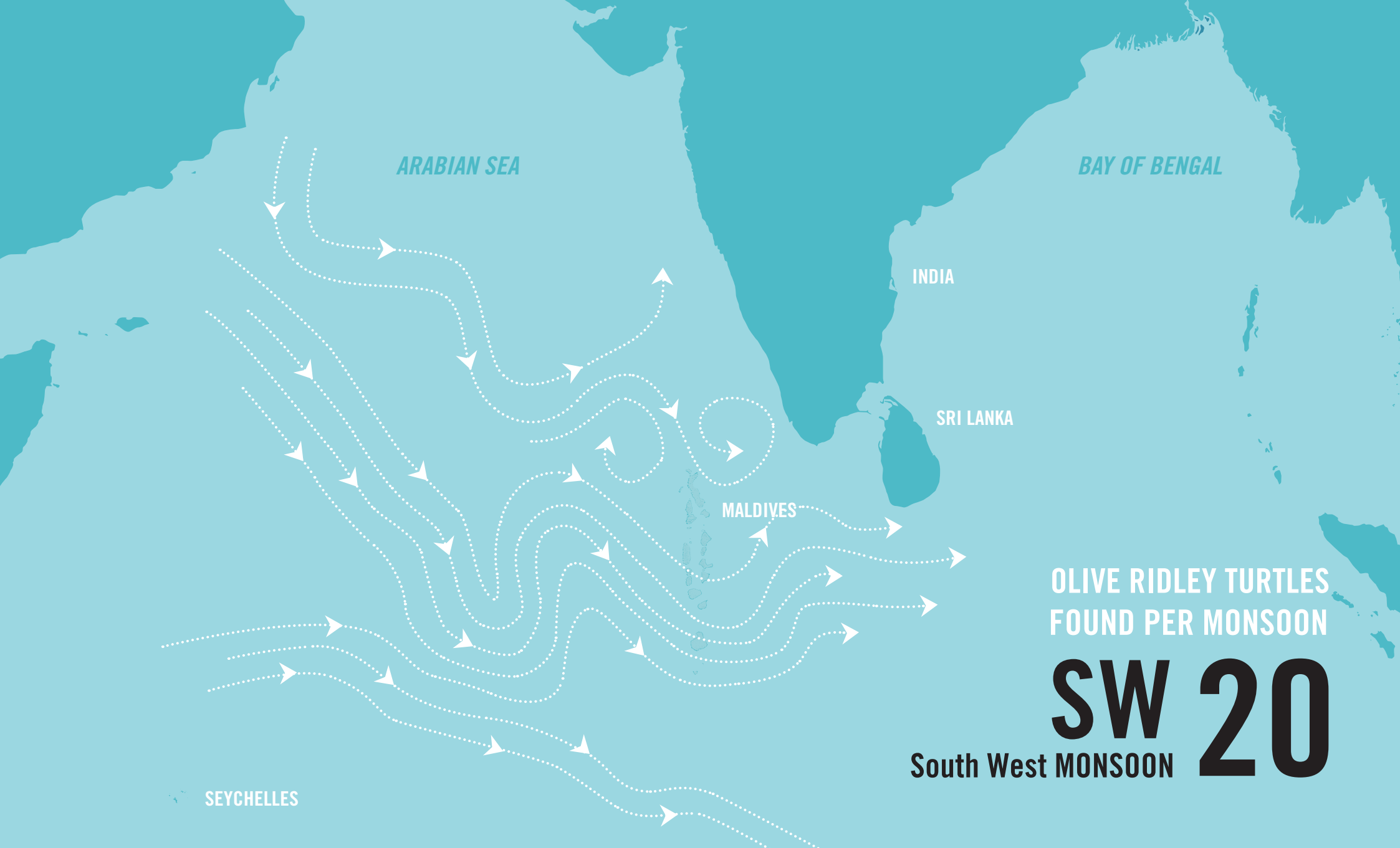
It is illegal to fish using nets within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Maldives, so where do the ghost nets we find come from?



HANDLINE



POLE AND LINE



ARABIAN SEA

BAY OF BENGAL

INDIA

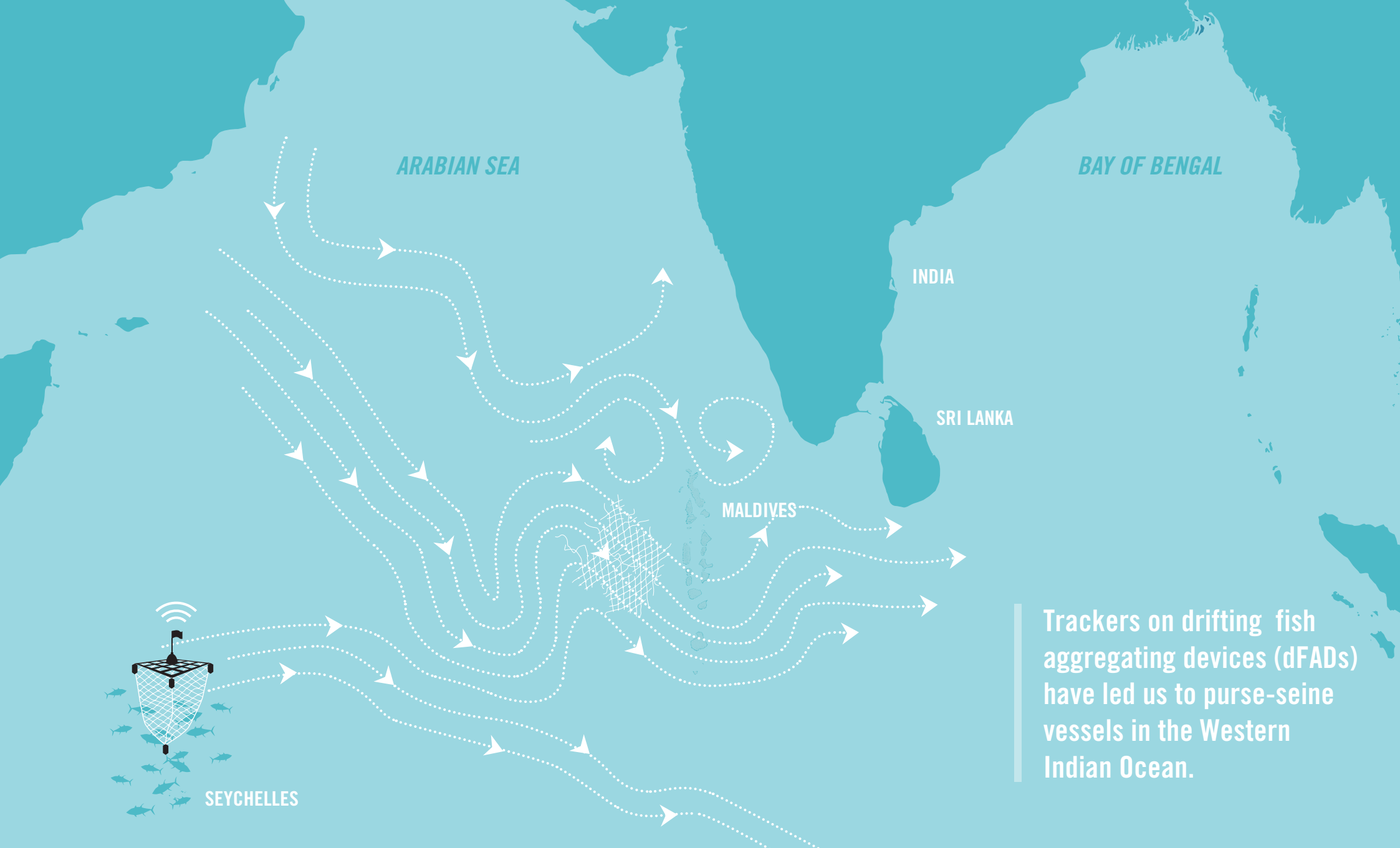
SRI LANKA

MALDIVES

SEYCHELLES

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES
FOUND PER MONSOON

SW 20
South West MONSOON



ARABIAN SEA

BAY OF BENGAL

INDIA

SRI LANKA

MALDIVES

SEYCHELLES

Trackers on drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs) have led us to purse-seine vessels in the Western Indian Ocean.

ARABIAN SEA

BAY OF BENGAL

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES
FOUND PER MONSOON

NE 41

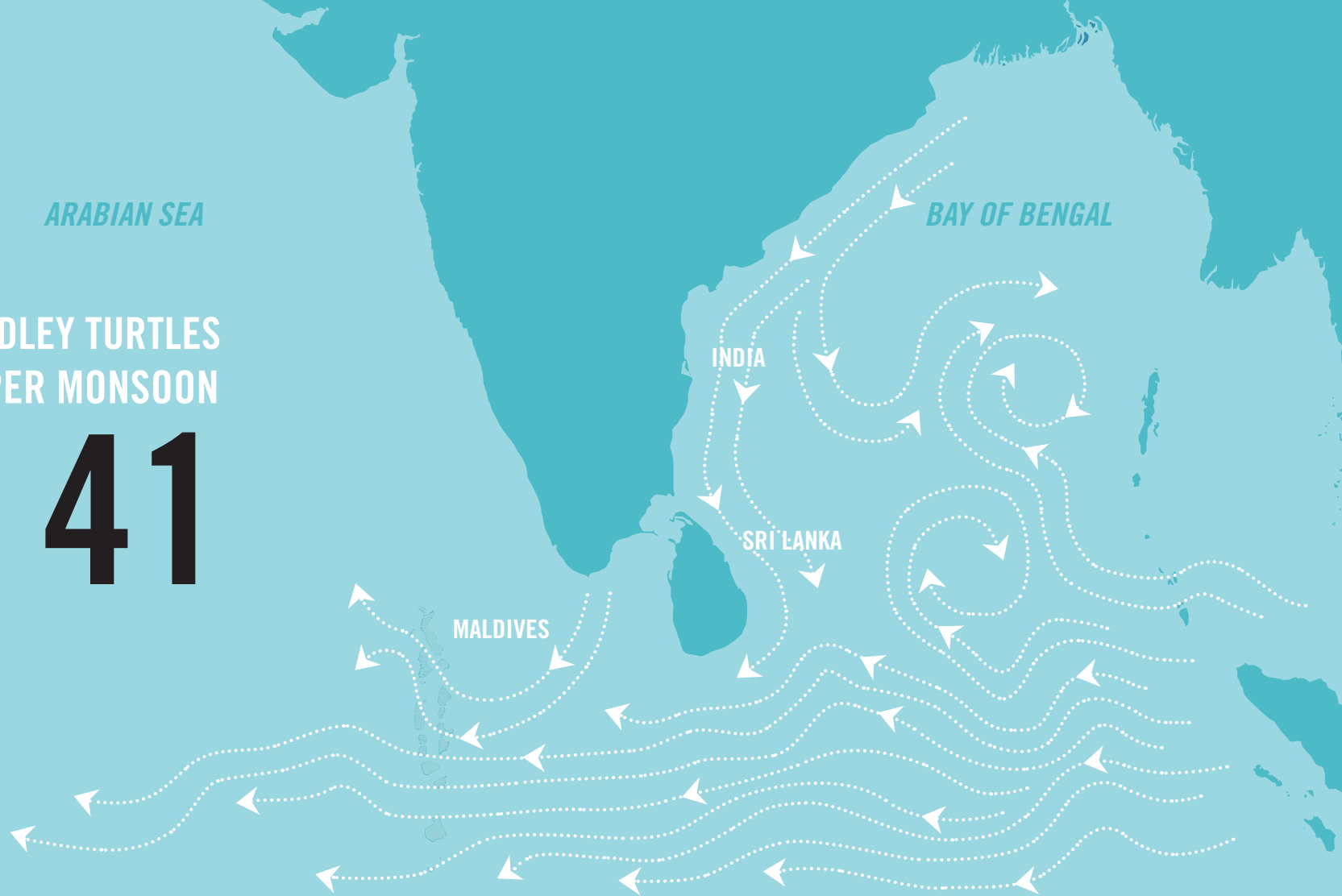
North East MONSOON

INDIA

SRI LANKA

MALDIVES

SEYCHELLES



Ghost nets from the Maldives have been found to have the same measurements of nets used in India. Markings on bottles and floats also point to a South East Asian origin.

ARABIAN SEA

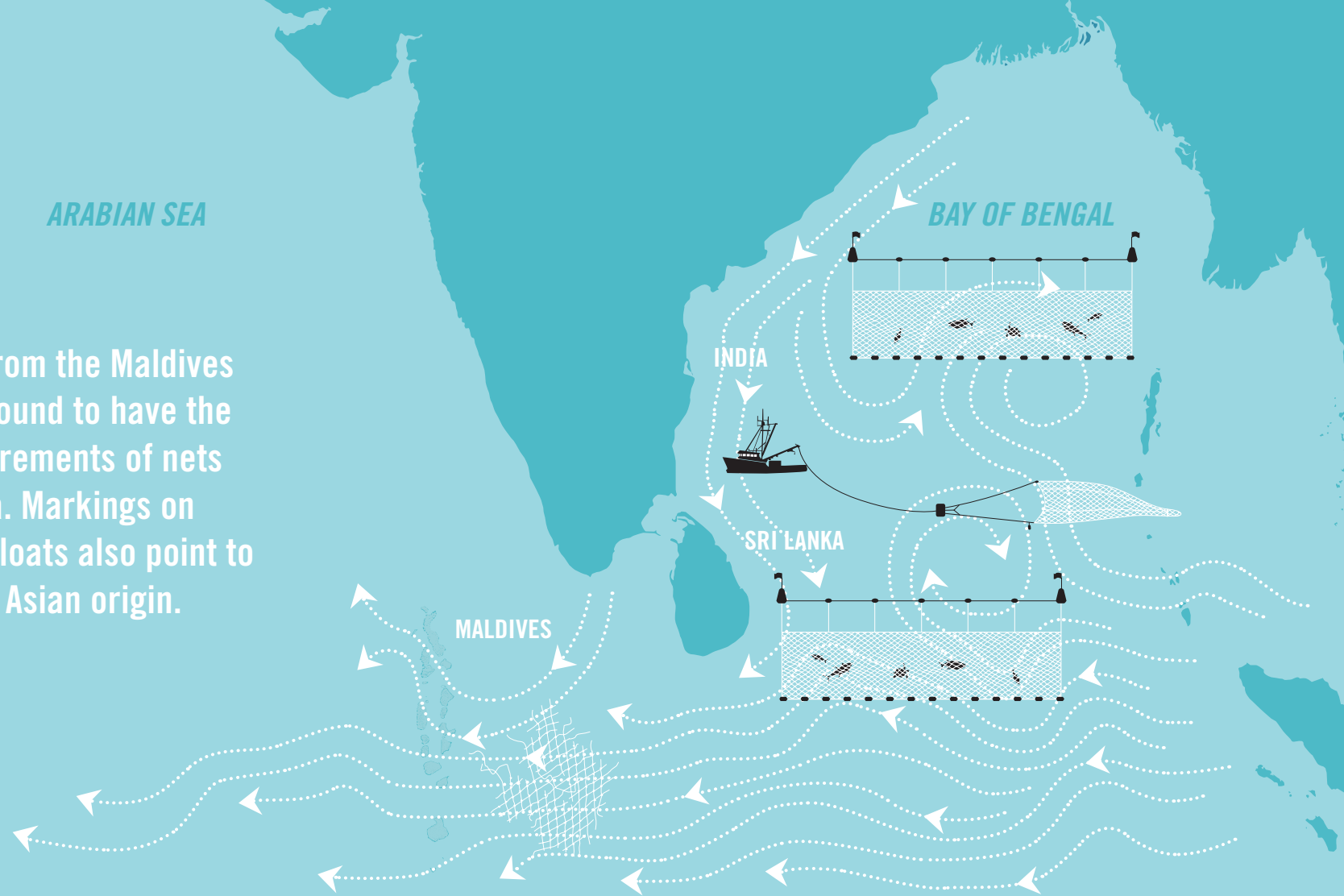
BAY OF BENGAL

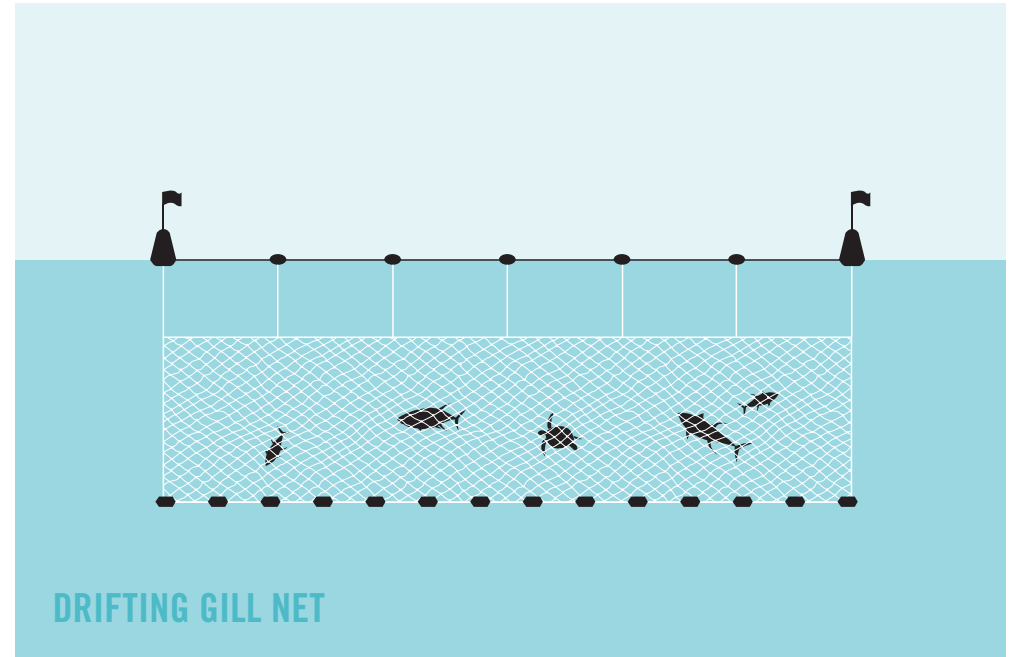
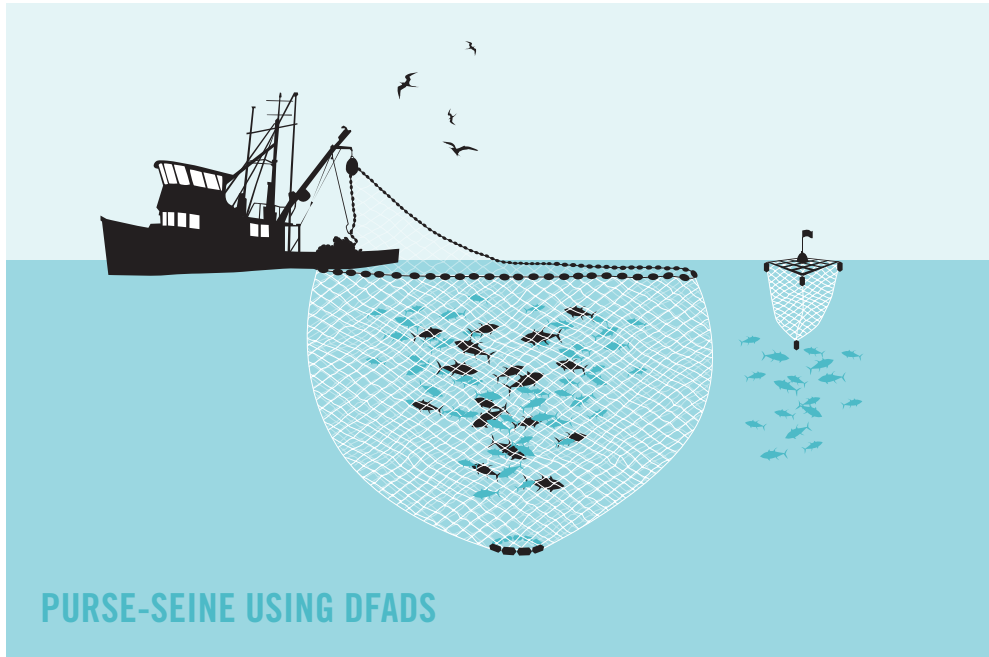
INDIA

SRI LANKA

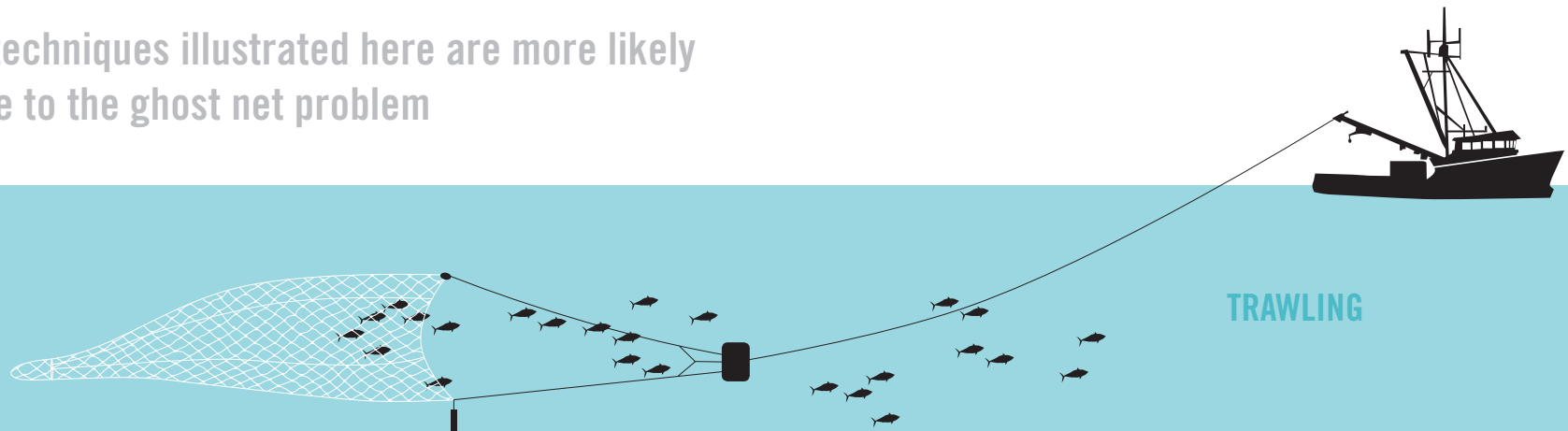
MALDIVES

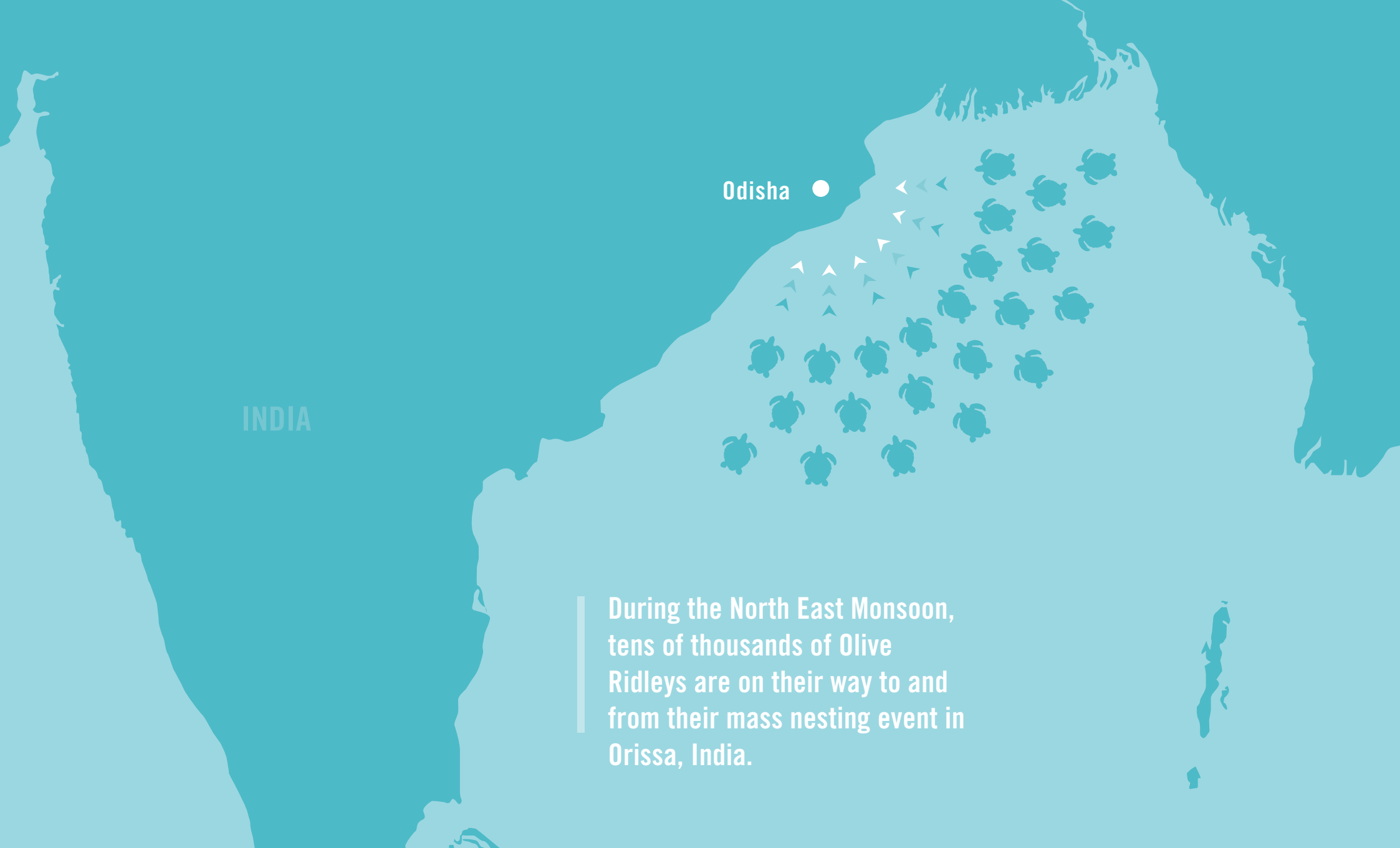
SEYCHELLES





The fishing techniques illustrated here are more likely to contribute to the ghost net problem





Odisha ●

INDIA

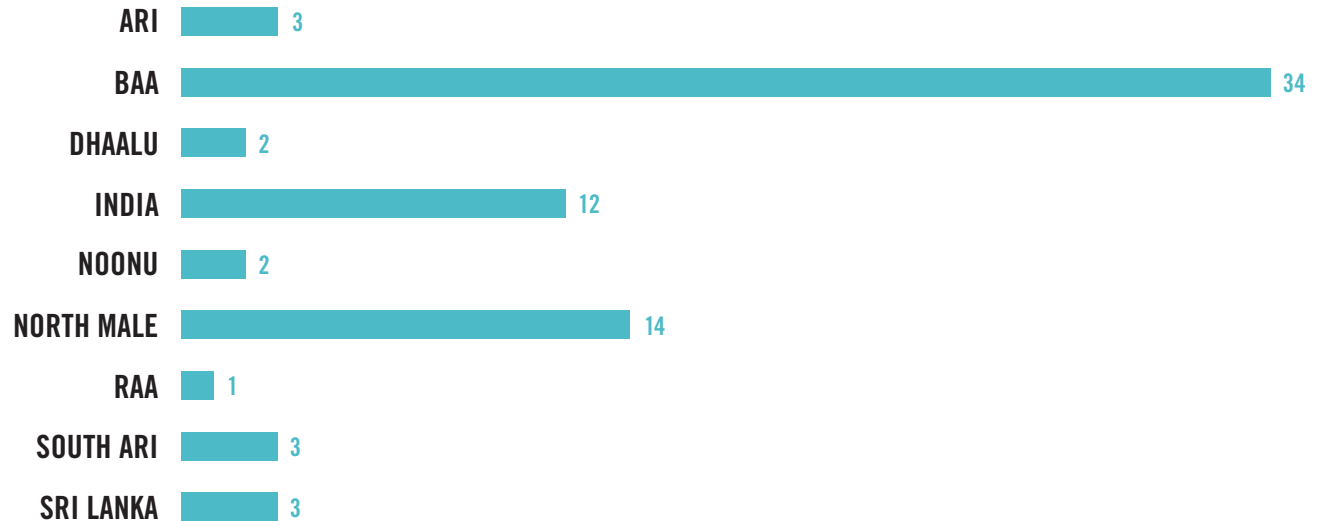
During the North East Monsoon, tens of thousands of Olive Ridleys are on their way to and from their mass nesting event in Orissa, India.

74 NETS ANALYSED

Between July 2013 - July 2014

At least 107 nets were found and 74 analysed (in the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka). It is likely that many more floated by unseen.

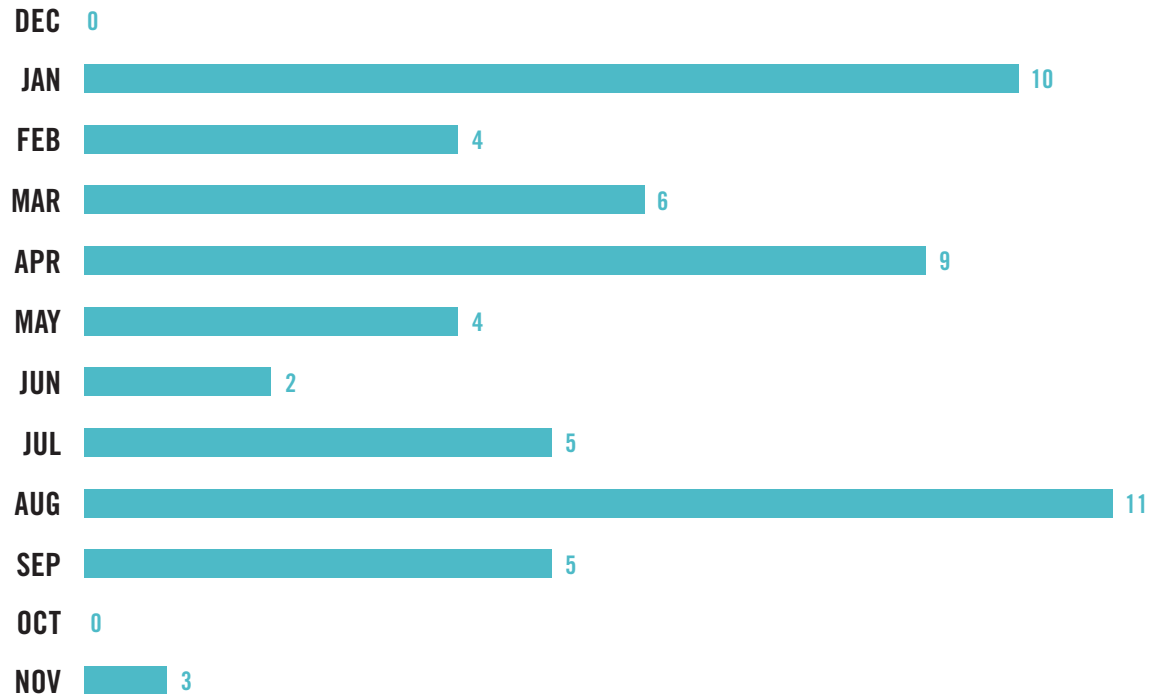
NETS FOUND BY AREA



59 NETS FOUND IN THE MALDIVES

NETS FOUND PER MONTH MALDIVES ONLY

North East MONSOON



South West MONSOON

MIN 2mm
MESH SIZE

MAX 1200mm
MESH SIZE

AVERAGE 195mm
MESH SIZE

MESH SIZES (mm) of NETS WITH ENTANGLED TURTLES

35 50 72 75 80 91 115 170 180 190 241 281 295 300 350 380 385 490 510 590

The most dangerous mesh size
for turtles is 35-590mm.





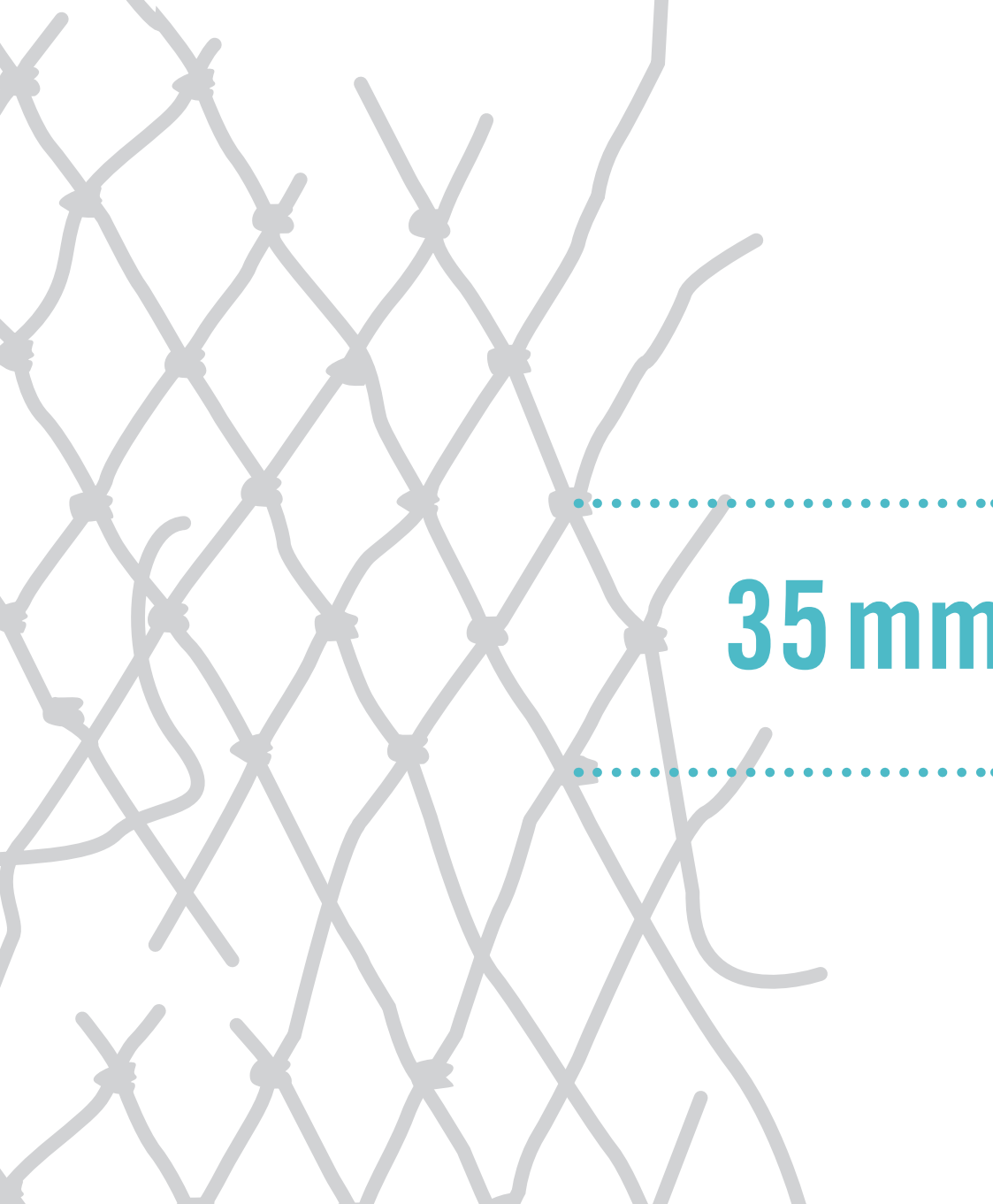
OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

The Olive Ridley Project is a citizen science-based project where anyone can contribute to the prevention of ghost nets.

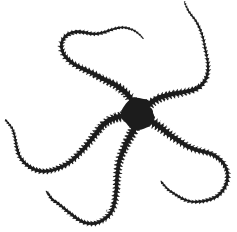


If you're in the Indian Ocean region you can get involved by removing any ghost nets you find when snorkeling or walking the beach.





You can collect valuable information on the design of ghost nets and about associated marine organisms to help scientists identify where these nets are coming from.





OLIVE RIDLEY
PROJECT

www.oliveridleyproject.org