

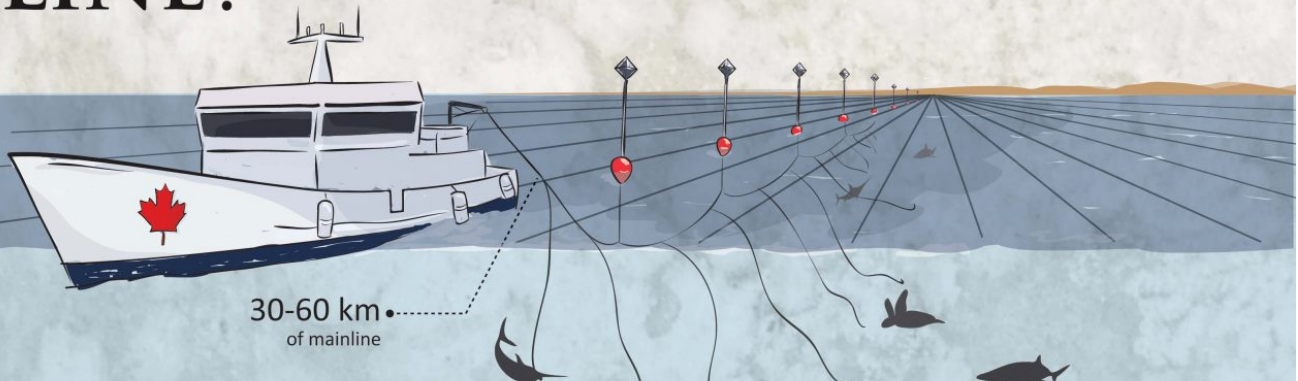
WHAT'S ON THE LINE?

Every year 100,000 sharks and 1,400 sea turtles are caught and thrown back injured or dead in Canada's surface longline fishery for swordfish.

Surface longlining is a notoriously destructive fishing method that indiscriminately catches non-targeted species like sharks, sea turtles, sea birds, and marine mammals.

It has been cited as the main cause for their catastrophic global population declines in only a few, short decades.

---• Canada's fleet is no exception.



THE NUMBERS

This fleet is one of the most wasteful fisheries in Canada. More than **half** the weight of what is caught is unwanted animals – including endangered sharks and sea turtles – instead of the targeted swordfish.

500-1500
baited hooks

i SURFACE LONGLINING

Surface (or pelagic) longline fishing is a non-selective, passive gear type.

A mainline is rolled out from the boat stretching between 30-60km long.

This mainline floats near the top of the water column with between 500-1500 baited hooks hanging off of it.

After hours in the water, the line – and anything on it – is hauled back in.

The Fleet's Annual Catch

To catch about 20 000 swordfish, 100 000 sharks and 1400 sea turtles are also hooked every year.

TARGET CATCH

20,000

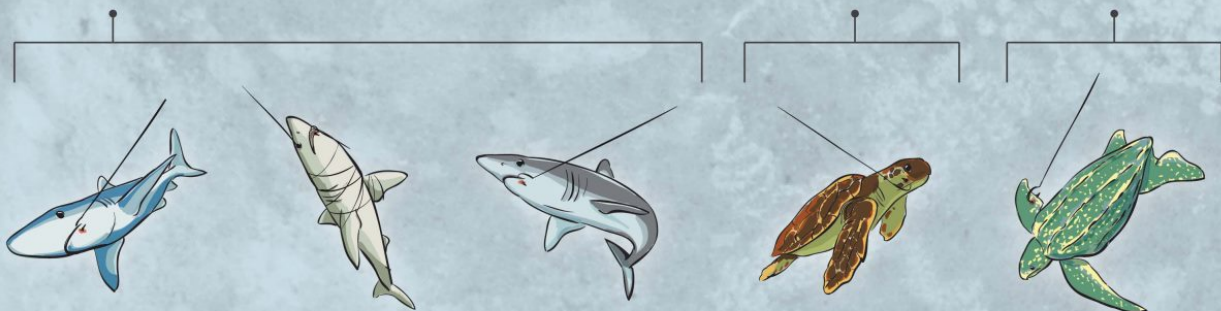


UNWANTED CATCH

100,000

1,200

170



BLUE SHARKS

SPECIAL CONCERN

SHORTFIN MAKO SHARKS

THREATENED

PORBEAGLE SHARKS

ENDANGERED

LOGGERHEAD SEATURTLES

ENDANGERED

LEATHERBACK SEATURTLES

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

* COSEWIC status: Canada's independent science advisory body for species at risk

! THE PROBLEM

Canada has no rules in place to stop this wasteful way of fishing.

Around the world, shark populations have declined by 90%. As top predators, they are extremely important in balancing marine ecosystems and sharks are in trouble. Sea turtles have declined by up to 75%.

✓ A BETTER WAY

1. Biologically **meaningful limits** on each **bycatch animal** that can be caught.
2. Gear modification and other strategies that **reduce catch of non-target animals**.
3. Policies and incentives that **support harpooning** – a thriving, alternative gear used in Atlantic Canada.

! TAKE ACTION

Join Hector, our blue spokeshark, to change how this fishery works and to make sure Canada acts to protect vulnerable species in its waters.

Visit www.friendsofhector.org to help.