

## PALICA project to reduce bycatch in French Guiana



PALICA project (*Pêcheries Actives pour la Limitation des Interactions et des Captures Accidentelles*) – Fisheries working towards the Limitation of Bycatch – began in September in French Guiana. This project was initiated by WWF French Guiana in partnership with the French Guiana Regional Fisheries Committee (CRPMEM Guyane) through European Funds for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (FEAMP). This region has rich marine natural resources, but some protected species are now endangered by human activities such as leatherbacks (the number of nests decreased by 60% over the last 8 years). As the only French/European department of South America, French Guiana could represent a model of sustainable fisheries in the region as bycatch mitigation techniques developed in French Guiana could be duplicated in neighbouring countries.

PALICA aims at evaluating and developing the technical, technological and logistical capacities of the artisanal coastal gillnet fisheries in order to reduce the bycatch on protected species such as marine turtles, dolphins and sawfishes. This work is realized hand in hand with professional fishers using the Collaborative Fisheries Approach and therefore involving them in the process of developing ideas and potential solutions that will harmonize fishing practices and transforming them to become compatible with the preservation of marine megafauna.

Since September, 44 boat owners and fishers from the entire French Guiana coast have been interviewed in order to better understand the coastal fisheries context, complexities and issues. This collaborative process seems to be appreciated by the stakeholders of the fisheries sector who feel that their voice is being heard and taken into account.

Today, some solutions considered by the fishers are:

- the modification of fishing gear and methods: for example, by reducing the vertical profile of drifting gillnets, or/and testing red floats instead of white one (because marine turtles can't see the color red)
- the diversification of the targeted marine resources (tuna, sea-bream, lobster,...) to reduce pressure in time and space, particularly during the marine turtles nesting period

PALICA aims to highlighting the proactivity of the French Guianese fishermen whom wish to improve their situation and move to more sustainable practices.



Picture taken by a French Guianese fisherman



# MARINE TURTLES HANDLING AND RELEASE GUIDE FOR LARGE GILL NET BOATS

Sea turtles are protected: even when dead, they must be put back at sea. Penalty: 9 000 €  
Les tortues marines sont protégées : même mortes, elles doivent être remises à l'eau. Amende : 9 000 €  
As tartarugas marinhas são protegidas: mesmo mortas deverão ser devolvidas ao mar. Multa : 9 000 €



Retrieve net, avoiding yanking motions. Consider the size of the turtle, determine if it can be boated. All turtles should be boated if possible.

Récupérer le filet, en évitant de l'arracher. Déterminer si la tortue peut être embarquée. Si possible, embarquer toutes les tortues.

Tirar a rede sem rasgá-la ou tirá-la. Ver se o tamanho da tartaruga permite de subí-la a bordo ou não. Embarcar todas as tartarugas si possível.

## DO NOT / NE PAS / NÃO



Do not cut towards the turtle.  
Ne pas diriger la lame vers la tortue.  
Não dirigir a lâmina para a tartaruga.



Do not pump the chest, it will injure the animal.  
Ne pas appuyer sur sa poitrine, cela blessera l'animal.  
Não amassar o peito, pode ferir o animal.



Do not cut the turtle.  
Ne pas couper la tortue.  
Não cortar a tartaruga.

## If boated / Si embarquée / Se abordo :



Do not use gaffs to retrieve the turtle. Try not to injure or drop the animal.

Ne pas utiliser de gaffes pour récupérer la tortue. Ne pas blesser ou faire tomber l'animal.

Não usar objetos que podem ferir para pegar a tartaruga. Não ferir, não jogar o animal.

If not easily disentangled from the net, cut the net off. Cut away from the turtle to prevent any injuries. Do not leave any lines or nets attached to the turtle.

Si la tortue n'est pas libérable facilement, couper le filet. Diriger la lame à l'opposé de la tortue pour ne pas la blesser. Ne laisser aucune corde ou filet attaché à la tortue.

Se a tartaruga está presa na rede e que não consegue sair, cortar a rede. Cuidado ao não cortar (ferir) ela : cortar para cima e dirigir a lâmina ao lado oposto da tartaruga. Não deixar nenhuma corda e rede amarrada na tartaruga.

## If non boated / Si non-embarquée / Se não abordo :



Try to work the turtle free. If necessary, cut all net from the turtle. Cut away from the turtle to prevent any injuries. Do not leave any net on the turtle.

Libérer la tortue du filet, et si nécessaire, couper le filet et tout enlever. Diriger la lame à l'opposé de la tortue pour ne pas la blesser. Ne laisser aucune corde ou filet attaché à la tortue.

Tenta de liberar a tartaruga. Si necessario, cortar a rede para liberar ela. Cuidado ao não cortar (ferir) a tartaruga : cortar para cima e dirigir a lâmina ao lado oposto da tartaruga. Não deixar nenhuma corda amarrada na tartaruga.



## 1 Weak or dead turtle / Tortue faible ou morte / Tartaruga morta o com fraqueza



If turtle seems dead or weak, drain the water from the lungs by inclining the turtle with its head down and gently shaking it. If the turtle is big, have two persons hold it.

Si la tortue est morte ou faible, lui vider l'eau des poumons en l'inclinant tête en bas et en la secouant doucement. Si la tortue est grosse, la porter à deux.

Se a tartaruga está morta o com fraqueza, tirar a água dos pulmões inclinando a cabeça para baixo e agita ela com cuidado. Se a tartaruga é grande, sustentar ela com duas pessoas.



Drain the water and place turtle on an incline (15-30 degrees) with back legs elevated and neck clear from objects. Place in the shade with moist cover on. If not reanimated after 24 h or if you're returning to port, release it.

Egoutter puis incliner la tortue (à 15-30 degrés), pattes arrière élevées et son cou débarrassé de tout objet. La placer à l'ombre, et la couvrir d'une couverture humide. Si après 24h elle n'est pas réanimée ou si vous rentrez au port, relâchez-la.

Terla enxagoad e inclinar (15-30 graus) a tartaruga com as patas para cima e para o alto, e seu pescoso sem nenhum objeto. Botar na sombra, e cobrir ela com uma cobertura húmida. Si depois de 24 h a tartaruga está morta, o si o barco retorna ao porto, liberar a tartaruga.

## 2 Live turtle / Tortue vive / Tartaruga viva



Set free keeping it away from the propeller (if possible put engine in neutral).

Relâcher la tortue loin du moteur (si possible au point mort).

Deixala longe das hélices o do motor (si possível deixar o motor desligado).

Thank you !  
Merci !  
Obrigada !

