GHOST NETS OF THE MALDIVES
What are Ghost nets?

- **Ghost Net**: Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear
- **Ghost fishing**: Continued trapping and killing of marine life in ghost nets
Introduction – Olive Ridley Project
Awareness

* Spreading the word on Ghost nets
Workshops/Lectures

* Schools and Public talks
* Workshops.
Removal
We rely on people like you 😊
Research

Currently no research exists within the Indian Ocean regarding Ghost nets

- Development of data input protocol – Analyzing ghost nets and associated marine life

- Recycling – Nylon 6 used for recycling

- Consolidating datasets – report results to the IOTC in Japan
Origin of Ghost Nets
Types of Ghost Nets in the Maldives
POLYPROPYLENE

Density = 0.85 – 0.95g/cm³

SEA WATER

Density = 1.03g/cm³

NYLON

Density = 1.3g/cm³
A Closer Look at the Fisheries of the Indian Ocean

- Species Being Caught
- Fishing Techniques Used
- Areas of Concern
Purse Seine Fishing

- Free School
- Associated Schools (FAD – Fish Aggregating Devices)
Longlining
Gill Net Fishing
Trawling
Pole and Line
Who Regulates Tuna Species in the Indian Ocean?

IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) 32 members

WP (Working Parties) – scientific advisors to the IOTC currently 7 different WP

* WP on Data collection and statistics
* WP on Ecosystem and Bycatch
* WP on Method
* WP on Billfish
* WP on Temperate Tunas
* WP on Tropical Tunas
* WP on Neritic Tunas
Tropical Tunas

Neritic Tuna
Tropical Tuna | Skipjack

Data: Fourteenth (large) and Fifteenth (Right) session of the IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tunas

314,000 MT
Data: Fourteenth (large) and Fifteenth (Right) session of the IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tunas

368,000 MT
Tropical Tuna | Big eye

Data: Fourteenth (large) and Fifteenth (Right) session of the IOTC Working Party on Tropical Tunas

115,000 MT
Average catches of neritic tunas in the Indian Ocean between 2009–11

Courtesy of Working party on Neritic Tunas | available 19 June 2013.
Iran – Estimated 90% Gill nets
Indonesia – Estimated 45% gill nets
Pakistan – 100% gill nets
Oman and India – Estimated 80% gill nets

139,971 tons per year average
Indonesia about – Estimated 40% gill nets
India - Estimated 60% gill nets
Iran – Estimated 95 % Gill nets
Pakistan - 100% gill nets
Small percentage of gill nets in Indonesia
India estimated 60% gill nets
Iran 100% gill nets
Merchant vessels
SW Monsoon (May – November)

 Courtesy of Seaturtle.org | Maptool
NE Monsoon (December – April)
Where are they coming from

- SW Monsoon
Where are they coming from

* NE Monsoon
Ghost net figures in the Maldives

Ghost Nets encounters in the Maldives

- 68 individual cases in 1 year.
- 150 Fishing net samples measured.
- 42% Chance of encountering turtles entangled.
- Average mesh size of 249mm - Entanglement.
- Entanglement are with multifilament nets.

Data courtesy of Olive Ridley Project.
Thank you 😊

Any Questions?