



SUPPORTED BY THE EFF (European Fisheries Fund)

RESEARCH ON LONGLINE HOOKS, BAIT, AND BYCATCH

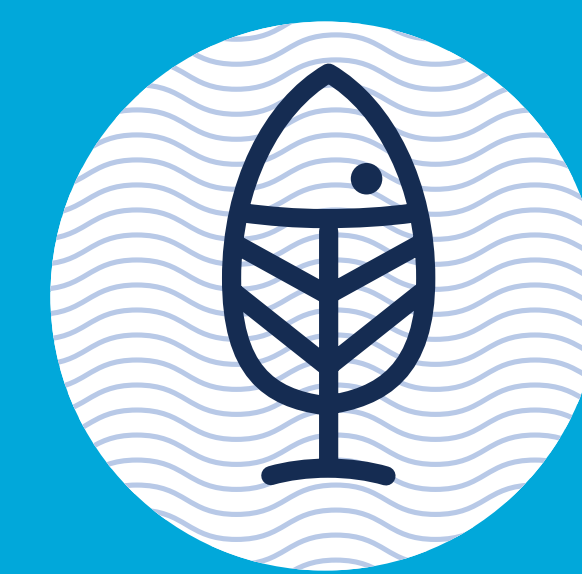
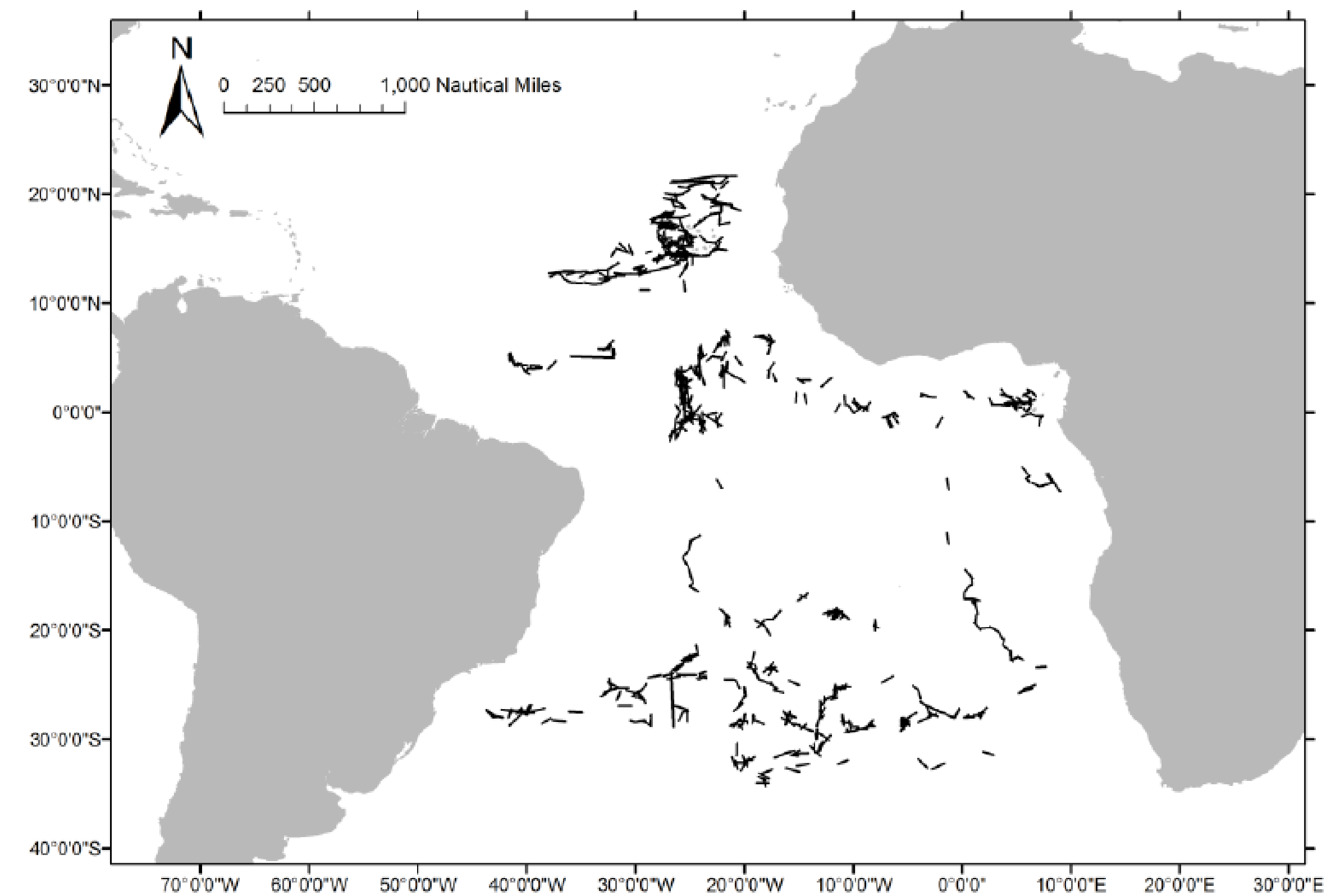
The SELECT-PAL Project evaluated the effect of hook style and bait type on the catches of target and by-catch species of the Portuguese pelagic longline fishery in different areas of the Atlantic Ocean.

More than a million hooks were set during 773 longline sets, with the trials testing traditional 'J' hooks and two types of 'circle' hooks (offset and non-offset), using mackerel or squid as bait for the different longline sets. The research recorded bycatches of turtles, and catches of target species (swordfish, and to a lesser extent shark, bigeye tuna, and yellowfin tuna).

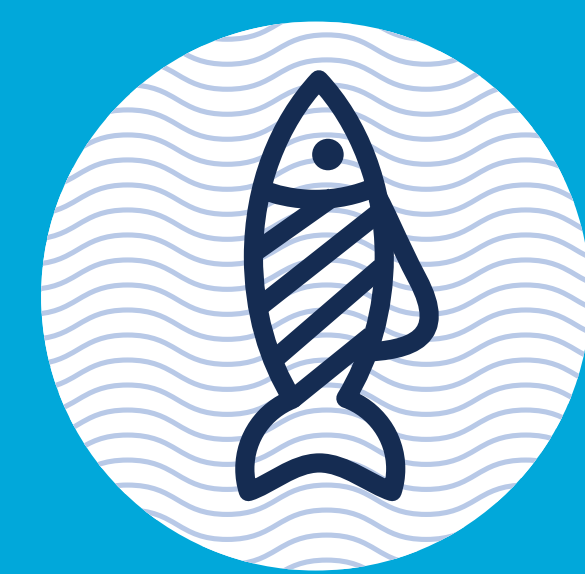
More information here:

<http://www.ipma.pt>

http://www.fc.up.pt/pessoas/ptsantos/teses/tese-SAmorim2013-effects_of_hook_and_bait_on_bycatch.pdf

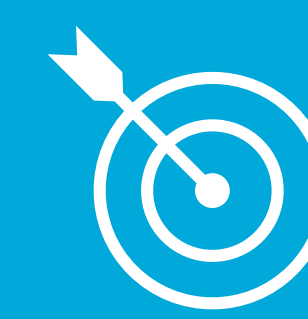


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RESULTS (2009 - 2013):

- Highest mean by-catch per unit effort (BPUE) values for sea turtle species occurred with the J style hook
- 10° offset circle hooks baited with mackerel provided the highest reduction of sea turtle by-catch rates
- Most turtles were caught by the mouth, the exception being leatherbacks which were mostly entangled or hooked by the flippers
- For swordfish the catch per unit effort (CPUE) was highest with J style hooks baited with squid



LESSONS LEARNED:

Long term research projects may be necessary to provide statistically robust findings. Reducing unwanted environmental impacts from fishing (such as turtle bycatch) may have negative impacts on catches of target species.



TOTAL OPERATION COST:

Total budget: 1 411 155 €
Union contribution: 793 775 €



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