

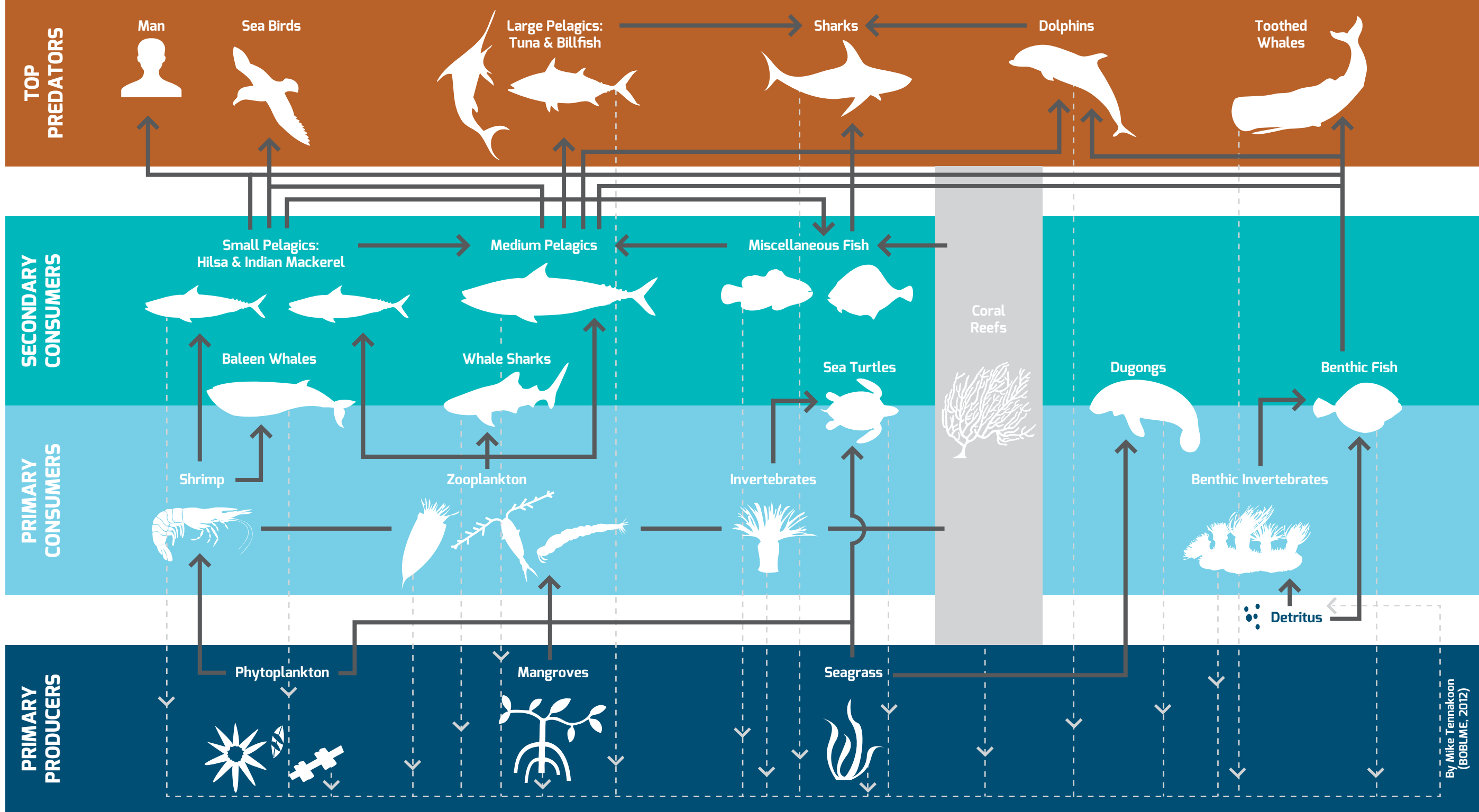


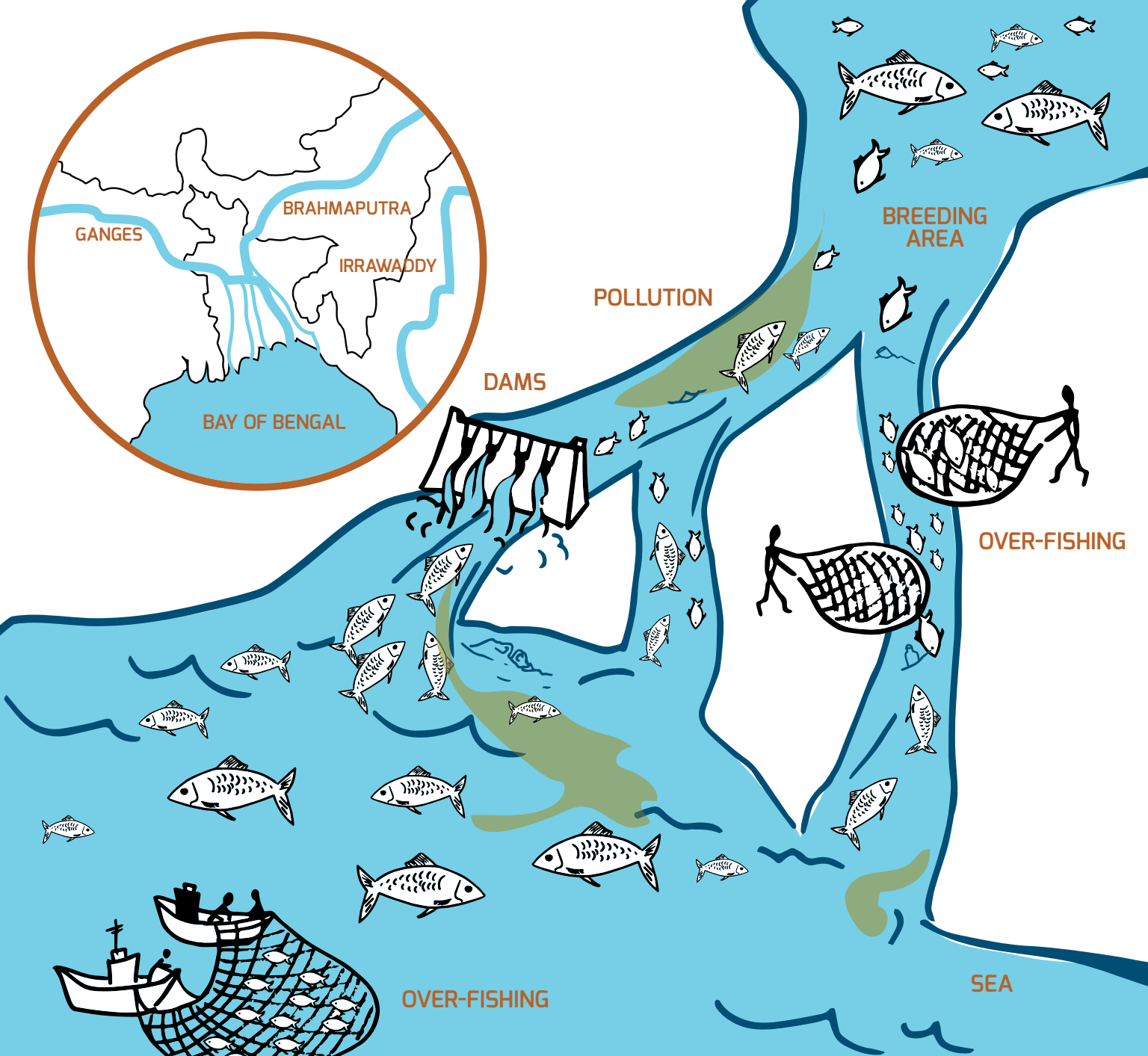
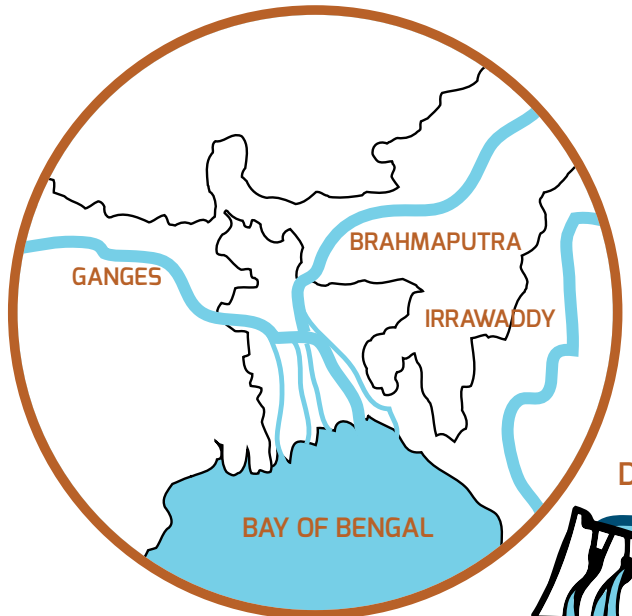
AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES (EAF)



An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)

The world is interconnected





LIFECYCLE OF HILSA



UPSTREAM POLLUTION

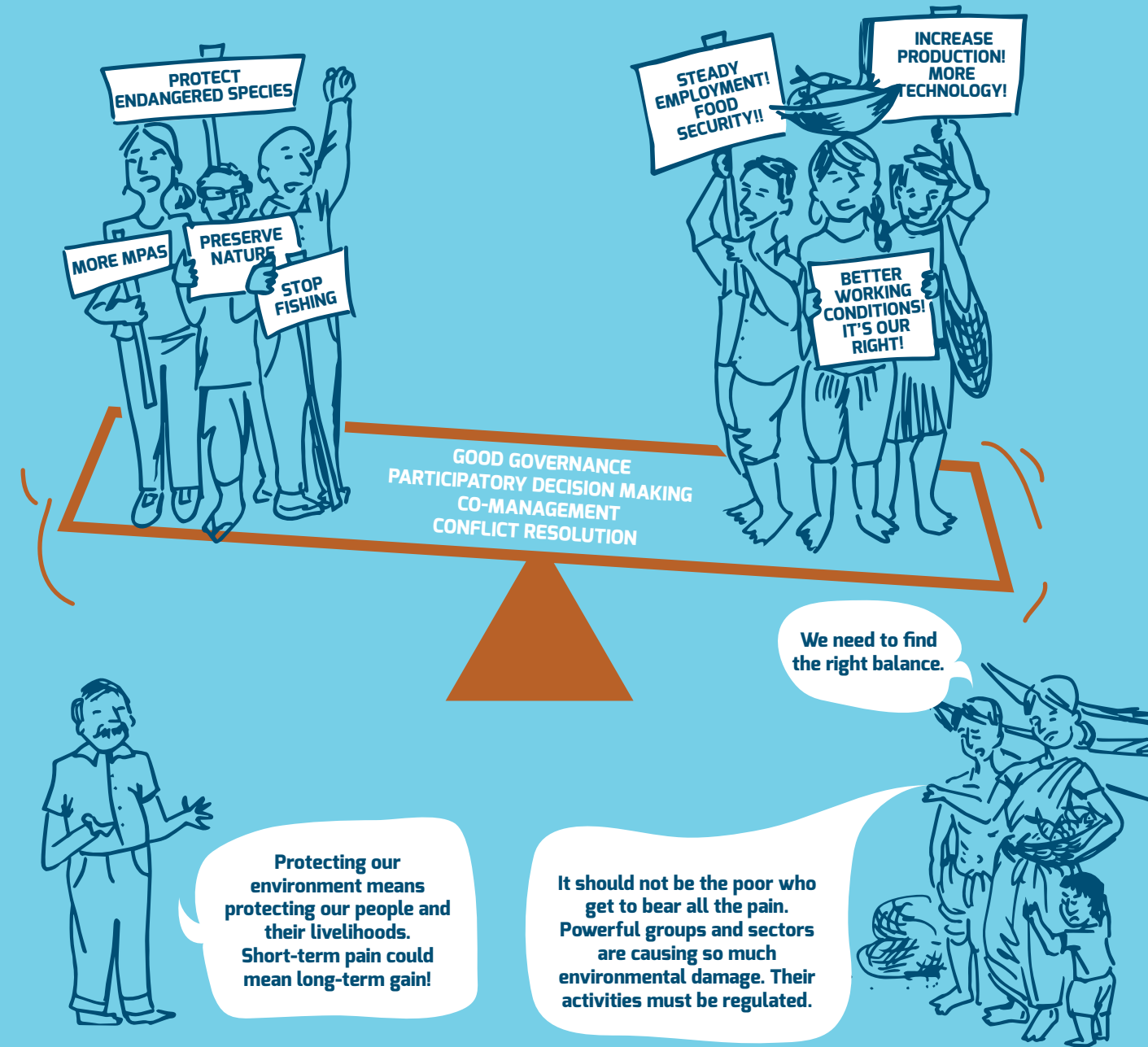
The world is interconnected

What the EAF promotes:

1. Balancing human wellbeing and ecological wellbeing
2. Taking account of impacts of fisheries on the ecosystem
3. Taking account of the impact of other activities on fisheries
4. Learning by doing (Adaptive Approach)
5. If there is possibility of harm, be careful (Precautionary Approach)
6. Recognizing the importance of traditional knowledge
7. Participatory approaches such as co-management
8. Coordination between different departments
9. Capacity building for improved governance

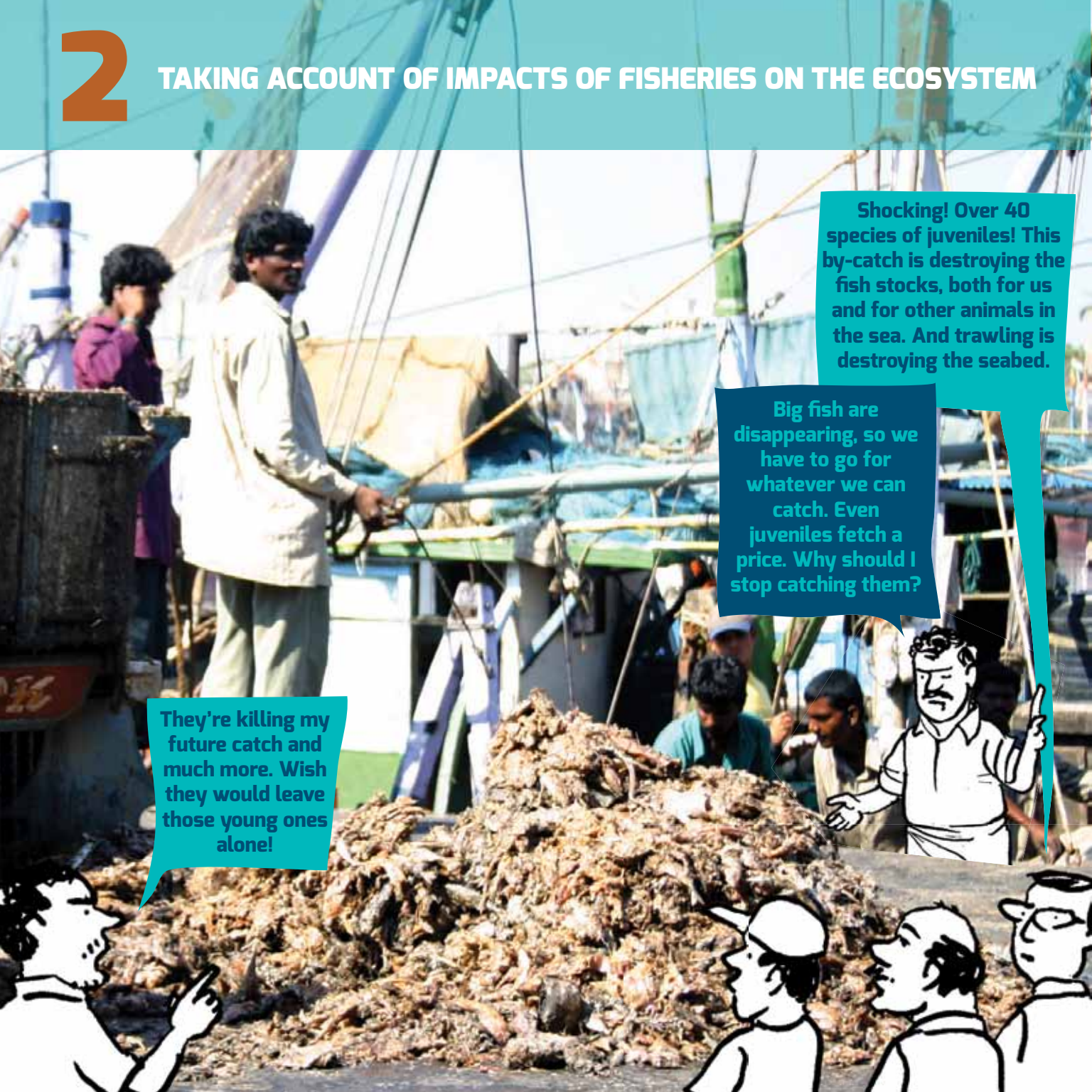
1

BALANCING HUMAN WELL-BEING AND ECOLOGICAL WELL-BEING



2

TAKING ACCOUNT OF IMPACTS OF FISHERIES ON THE ECOSYSTEM



Shocking! Over 40 species of juveniles! This by-catch is destroying the fish stocks, both for us and for other animals in the sea. And trawling is destroying the seabed.

Big fish are disappearing, so we have to go for whatever we can catch. Even juveniles fetch a price. Why should I stop catching them?

They're killing my future catch and much more. Wish they would leave those young ones alone!



It's not only the large trawlers. Gear used by us can also be as destructive.

We need to sort this out among ourselves. We cannot blame the large boats, if our own practices are destructive.

2

TAKING ACCOUNT OF IMPACTS OF FISHERIES ON THE ECOSYSTEM



Look at the problems being created by these fishing boats. They should not spoil the environment.

GLOBAL WARMING



ARE WE PART OF THE PROBLEM?

3 TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE IMPACT OF OTHER ACTIVITIES ON FISHERIES



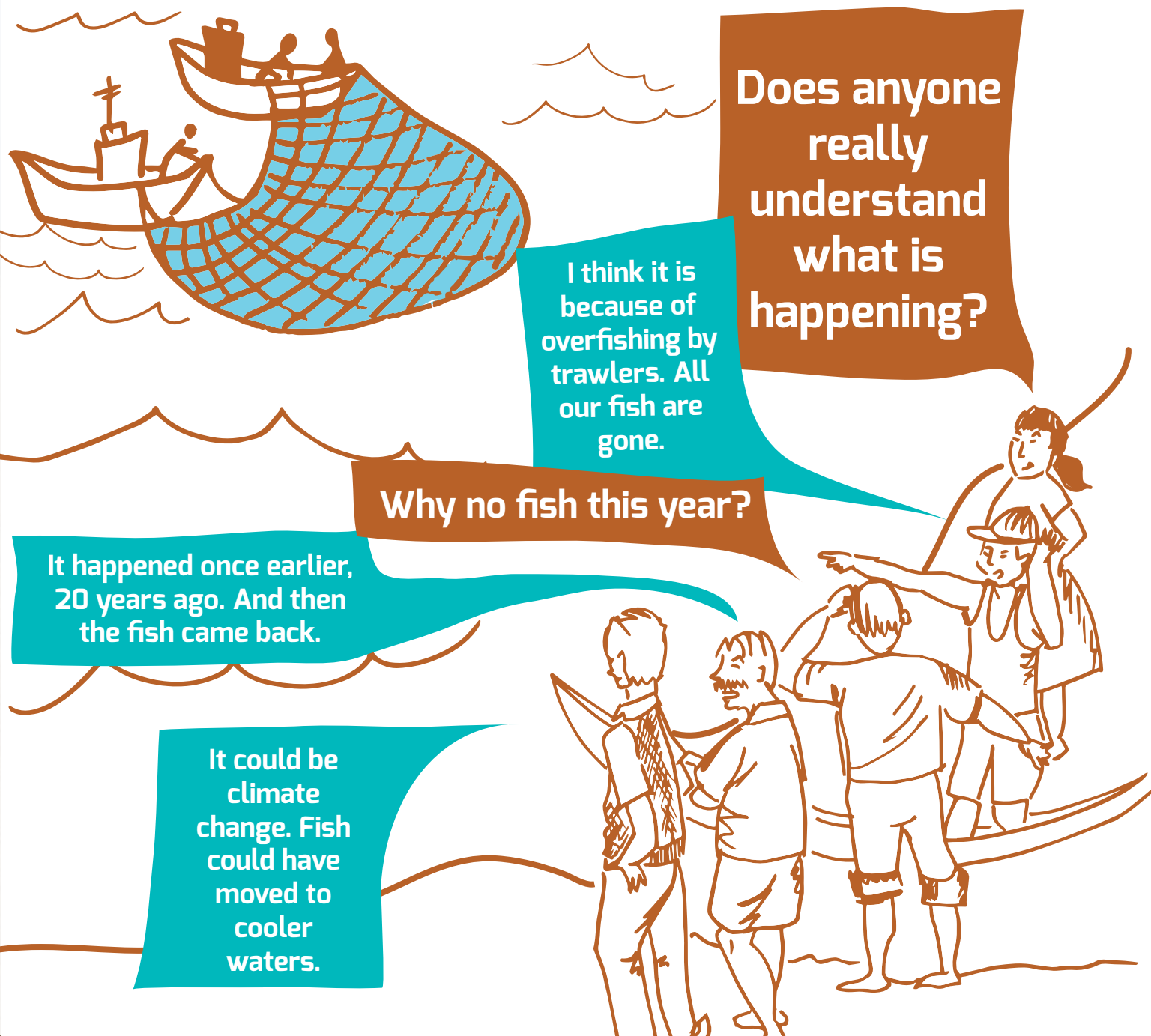
3 TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE IMPACT OF OTHER ACTIVITIES ON FISHERIES



Yesterday, part of my house crumbled into the sea during high tide!

With this new port, big ships are everywhere, pollution has gone up, catches are down. And our coastline is getting eroded everyday.

AND WHAT ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?



Does anyone really understand what is happening?

I think it is because of overfishing by trawlers. All our fish are gone.

Why no fish this year?

It happened once earlier, 20 years ago. And then the fish came back.

It could be climate change. Fish could have moved to cooler waters.

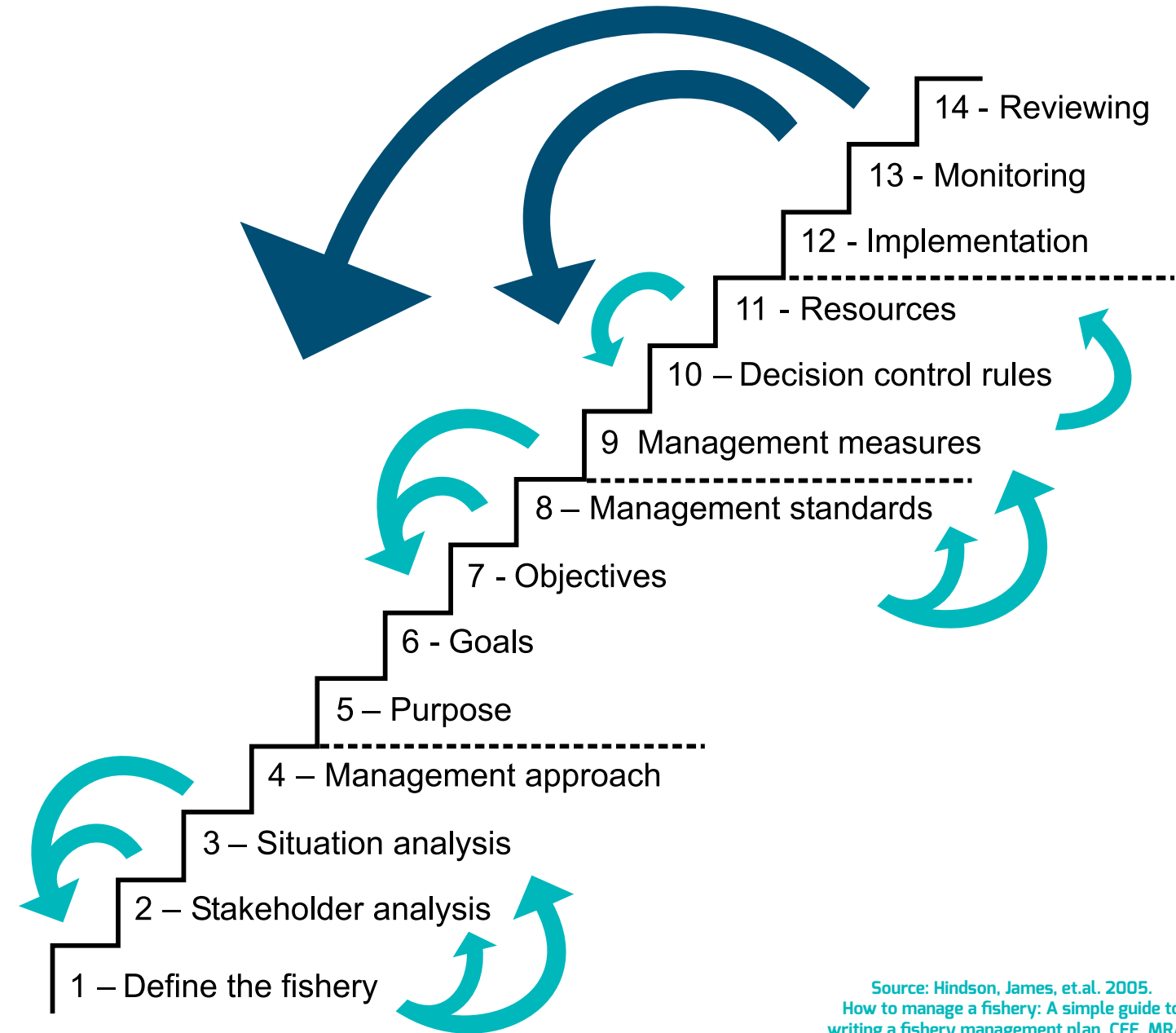
4 LEARNING BY DOING (ADAPTIVE APPROACH)

The no-fishing period is now from July to August. We need to shift it to May-June. This is the time that most fish spawn.

OK, let's shift it for one year and observe the impact.



ILLUSTRATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANNING AS A CYCLIC PROCESS



Source: Hindson, James, et.al. 2005. How to manage a fishery: A simple guide to writing a fishery management plan. CEE, MRAF, Scales, DFID, and FSC. London. 86p.

5 IF THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF HARM, BE CAREFUL
(PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH)

We have observed that fish catch reduces in areas where you fish.



But there is no evidence or study to say that the gear we use is destructive.

We have seen all the small fish you are catching - you should stop using this gear till you can prove it is not harmful. Better to be safe than sorry!

And that is the precautionary approach.



6

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Don't you know that the fish we catch breed on the other side, near the small bay. You should shift this no-take area there.

We have put a No-Take Zone here as this should be a good breeding ground for fish.



Yes he is right. He's been fishing for so many years. He knows.

There is so much to learn from our elders: about the waves, the winds, the currents, the fish...



At last they're asking us what we think, and not telling us what to do. We catch the fish. We know what can be done to sustain our resources.

If this is to work, we also have to play or part, fish by the rules.

We need to develop a proper management plan.

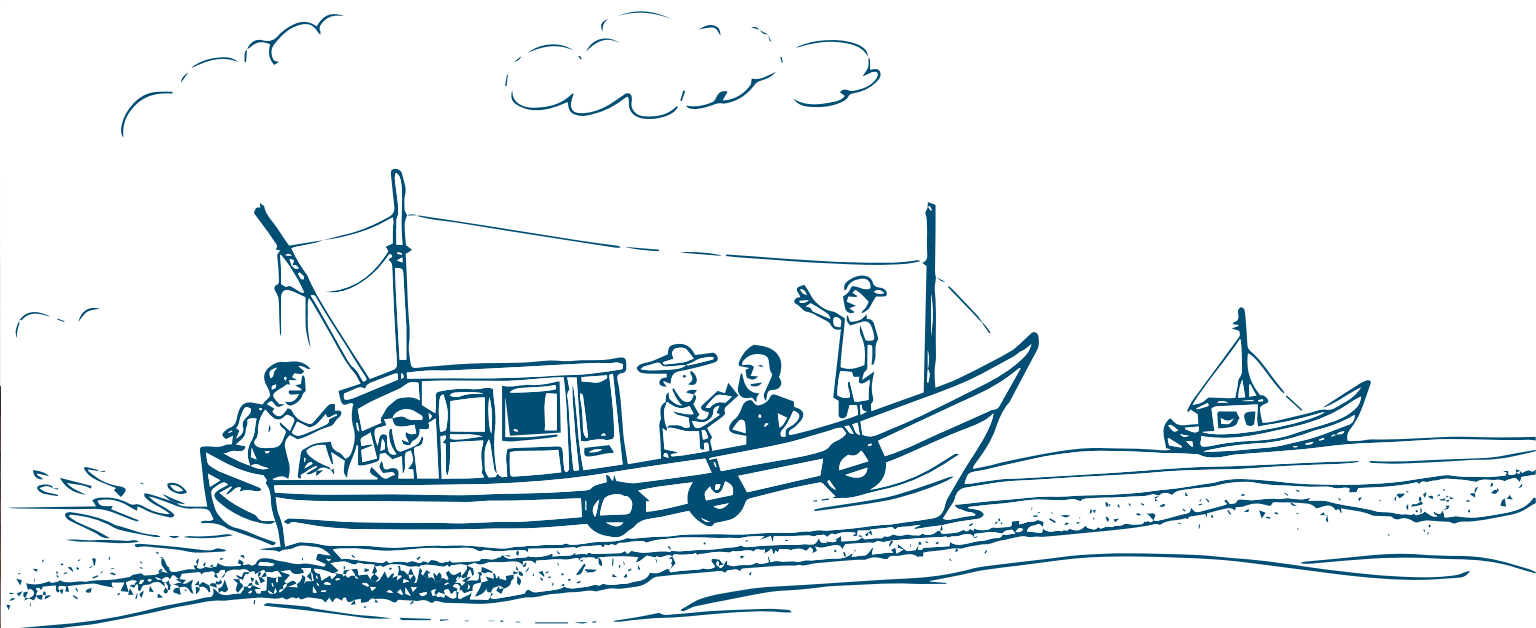
If we work together, we can do what needs to be done.

A plan is OK. But we will need to make sure that it is actually working. There must be action against those who break the rules.



7

PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES SUCH AS CO-MANAGEMENT



Some of this information is new to us.

There are so many things I learned from the fishermen and fisherwomen.



8 CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS

Develop the coast, we need more housing, flatten the sand dunes, build ports and power plants.



Industry Department



Fisheries Department



Environment Department

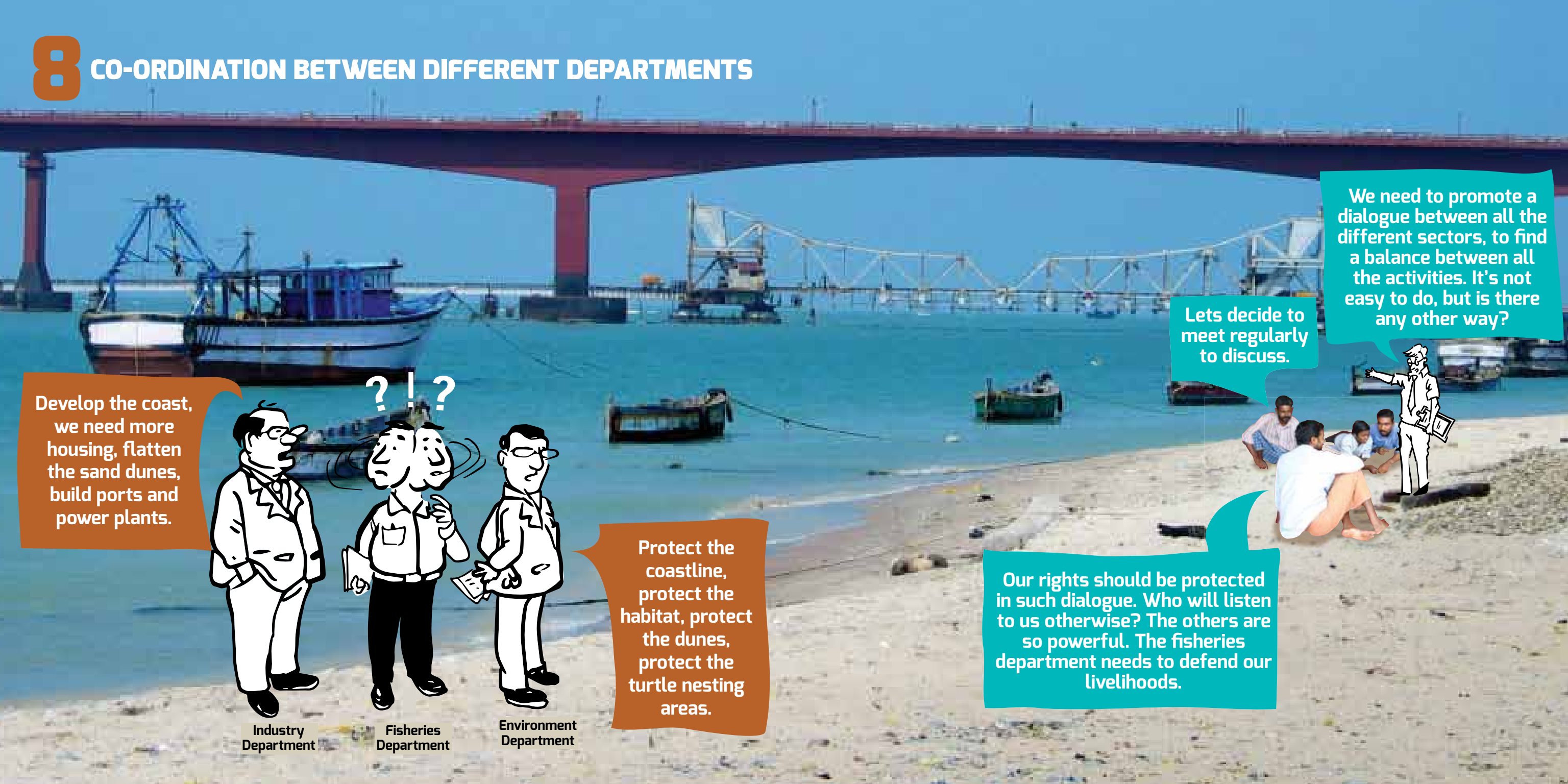
Protect the coastline, protect the habitat, protect the dunes, protect the turtle nesting areas.

Lets decide to meet regularly to discuss.

We need to promote a dialogue between all the different sectors, to find a balance between all the activities. It's not easy to do, but is there any other way?



Our rights should be protected in such dialogue. Who will listen to us otherwise? The others are so powerful. The fisheries department needs to defend our livelihoods.



HOW TO DEVELOP A MANAGEMENT PLAN

We need rules and regulations that we all agree on, a proper plan.

A good study could help us understand the current situation, for example, how much fish is caught, how and by whom. It will be easier to make a plan then.

If the study is done together with us, and is then presented back to us in our language, it could certainly be useful.



We need a Community Management Plan.

Develop co-operatives.

Support women's organizations.



Our world is interconnected. Everyone has to understand that!

Come to think of it our communities have always been advocating for an ecosystem approach!



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ICSF is an international NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers the world over. It is in status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is on ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental International Organizations. It also has Liaison Status with FAO. As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, ICSF's activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns and actions, as well as communities.

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