KEY TERMS

OVERFISHING

When a certain species of fish, are fished too much, they are unable to reproduce their numbers back to a healthy number and begin to decline. Overfishing is **unsustainable fishing.**

FISHERY

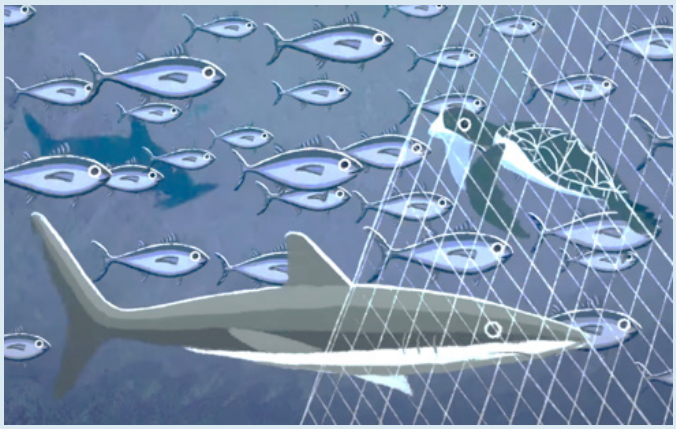
The community of a fish species that could be caught by fishers.

BYCATCH

Bycatch happens when fishing boats catch fish and animals that they don't want or shouldn't take. It can often be endangered or protected species such as sea birds or dolphins. It can also include young or undersized fish. Fishers who work sustainably work to reduce bycatch.

FISH STOCK

The community of a fish species that could be caught by fishers.



DISCARDS

Every year, over 9 million tonnes of fish are thrown away by fishers after they've been caught. These are known as 'discards'.

REPRODUCE

The process by which living things (like fish) create young or offspring. Reproduction is necessary for a species to survive.

QUOTA

A permit to catch a certain number of a species of fish, set per fishing season.

ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED & UNREPORTED FISHING

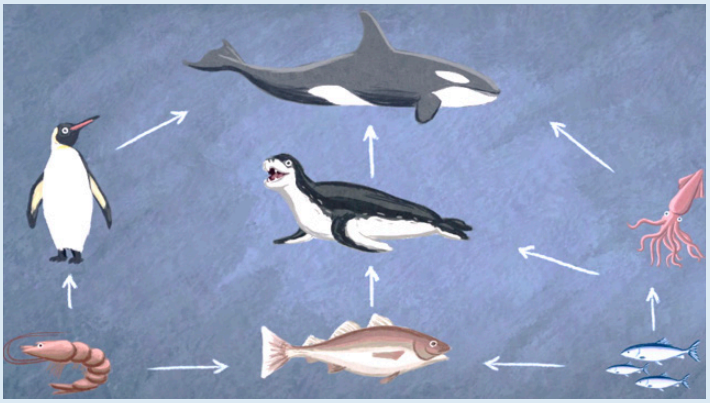
Fishing that goes on outside of the rules set by governments and fishing management bodies.

SUSTAINABLE FISHING

Fishing in a responsible way, making sure that fish populations don't drop below levels where they can't reproduce, and their numbers can't increase as fast as they are caught.

FOOD WEB

All sea life is connected in a food web of **prey** and **predator**, each relying on the others to survive. If large predators such as sharks, seals or cod lose one of their main sources of food (their prey), then they too will begin to disappear.



ABUNDANCE

Abundance refers to the number of individual fish of one species in the community)

BIODIVERSITY

The variety of different plants, animals, fungi, and other species living in a particular place. Biodiversity is essential for life on Earth, because all living things are connected and dependent on each other. Also known as **Variety** or **Species Richness.**

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Relative abundance is a calculation of the amount of colour and the number of fish. Also known as **Evenness.**

CARRYING CAPACITY

Every ecosystem has a carrying capacity. This is the maximum number of a species that can survive in that ecosystem. The ocean and forests have a higher carrying capacity than deserts.