



# Seaweed



## marine bycatch matters

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### Fishers and the community are working together to reduce bycatch



Bycatch is the part of a fisher's catch which is caught by accident.

Most bycatch is unwanted fish, sharks, crabs, sea stars or shells.

Sometimes bycatch can be animals such as turtles, seabirds or dolphins.

Bycatch can occur in commercial, recreational and Indigenous fisheries.



When commercial fishers trawl for prawns they also catch unwanted fish as bycatch, when fishers use longlines to catch tuna they also catch unwanted sharks as bycatch.



When you go fishing for a snapper or a flathead and you accidentally catch a toad fish, then you too have caught bycatch.



Fishers, gear manufacturers, researchers, government and non-government organisations are working together to change fishing gear and practices to reduce bycatch.



Turtle Excluder Devices in tropical prawn trawl fisheries have dramatically reduced the bycatch of sea turtles.



It's important to keep looking for new and better ways of reducing bycatch, to benefit all fishers, the wider community and the marine environment.

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For more information, educational tools and resources visit [www.mesa.edu.au/seaweed2007](http://www.mesa.edu.au/seaweed2007)