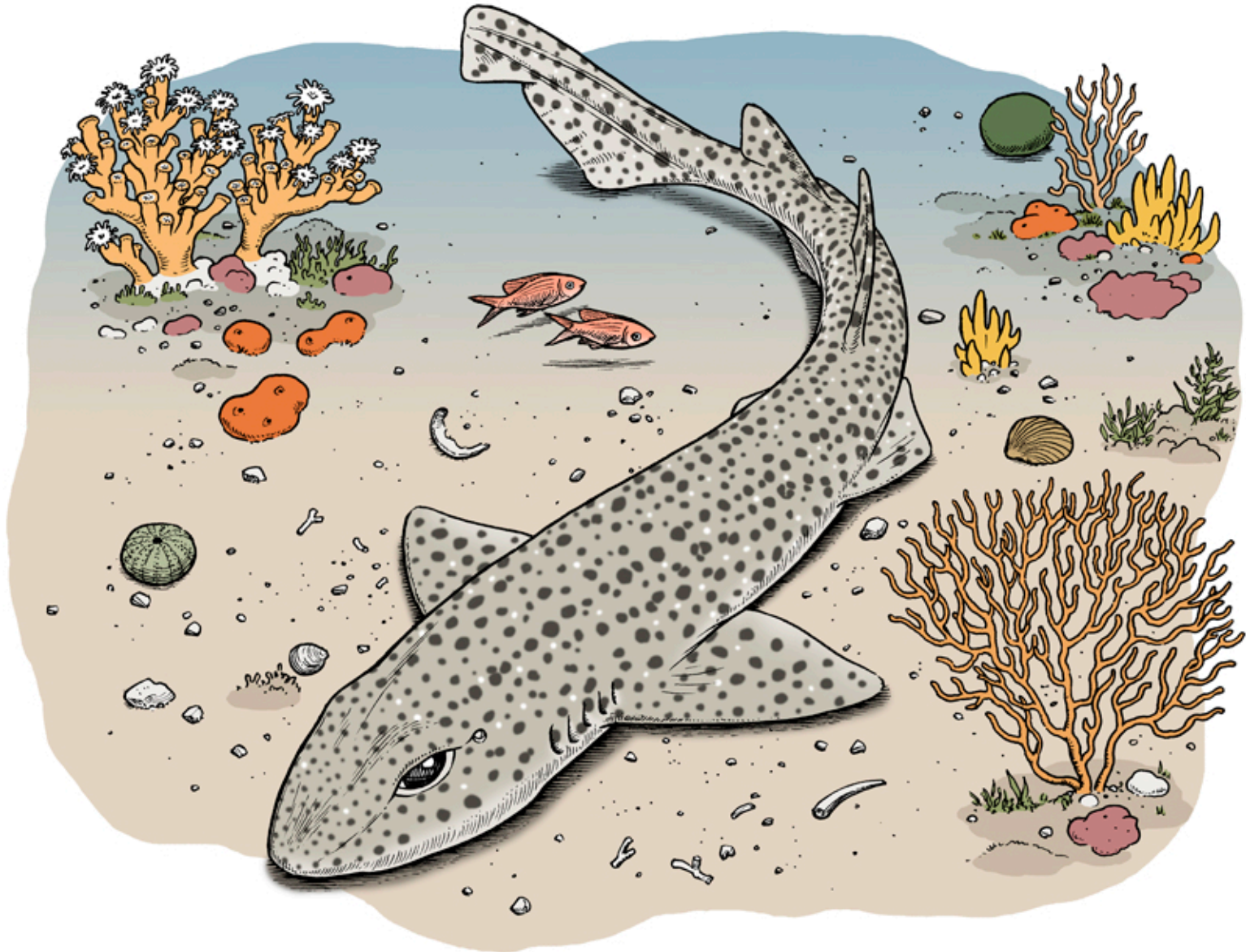
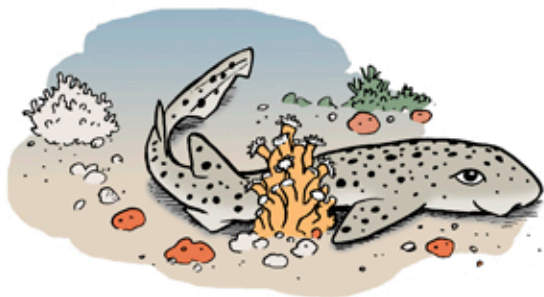


THE NURSEHOUND SHARK

NOT A THORNY STORY



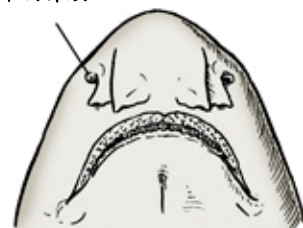


HI!

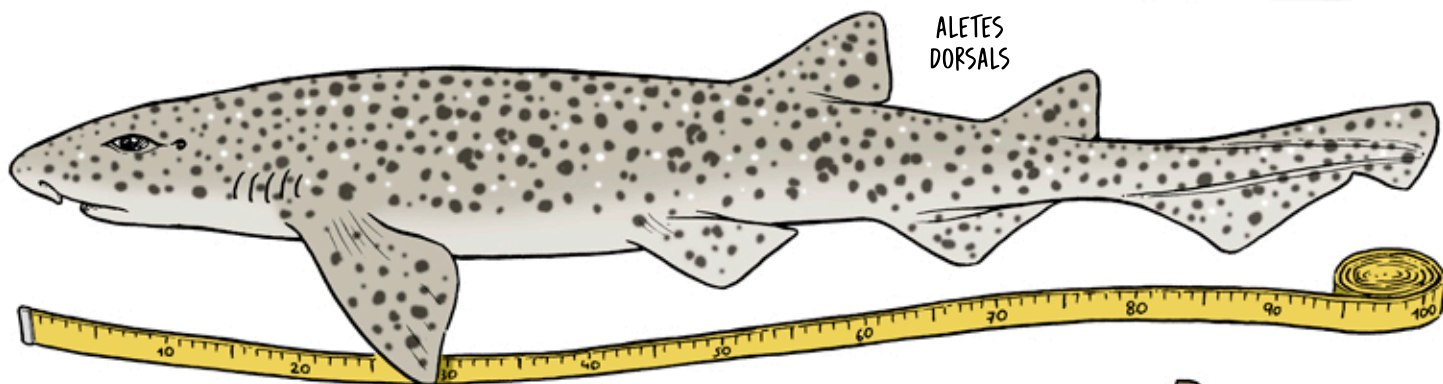
I AM A NURSEHOUND, A FISH THAT YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW

I AM A SMALL SHARK, MORE SLENDER THAN OTHER CLOSE SPECIES SUCH AS THE SMALL-SPOTTED CAT SHARK FROM WHICH YOU CAN DIFFERENTIATE ME. MOREOVER, BY THE SHAPE OF THE NOSTRILS AND BECAUSE OF MY TWO ROUNDED DORSAL FINS, WE CAN GET BIG, ALMOST A METER AND A HALF. BUT WE MEDITERRANEANS ONES DON'T USUALLY MEASURE MORE THAN 100 CM.

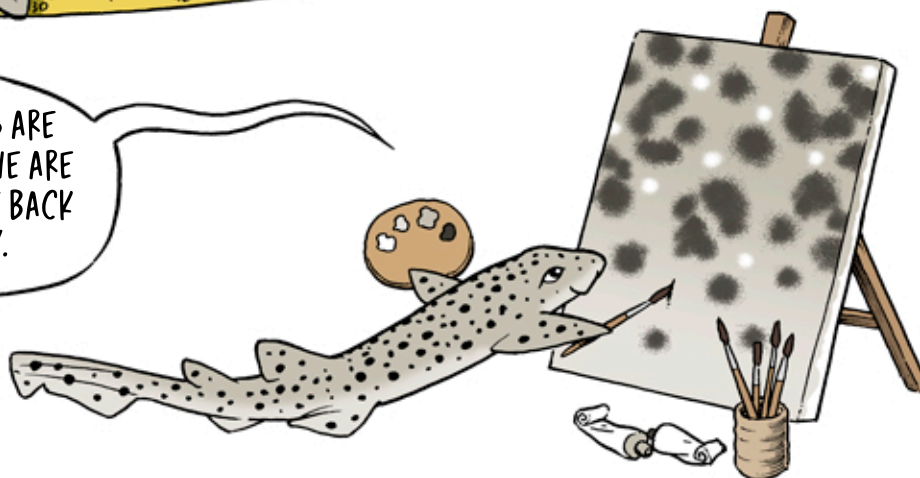
NOSTRILS



ALETES
DORSALS

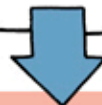


NOT ALL NURSEHOUNDS ARE THE SAME COLOUR BUT WE ARE ALWAYS SPOTTED ON THE BACK WITH A PALE BELLY.





MY NAME IN CATALAN COMES FROM THE LATIN NAME "CATTU VARIU". GATVIRAT AS WILD CATS ARE CALLED IN L'EMPORDA. SAILORS MUST HAVE FOUND US SIMILAR, BECAUSE OF THE SPOTS, AND THEY GAVE US THE CAT'S NAME, A NAME THAT HAS SPREAD AND IS USED IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS AND THE ENTIRE CATALAN COAST.



NAMES IN OTHER LANGUAGES:

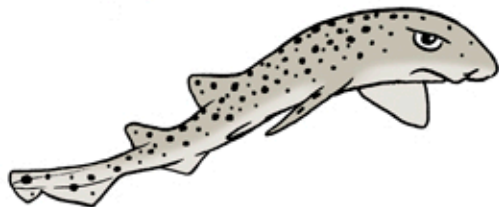
SPANISH: ALITAN

FRENCH: ROUSETTE

ITALIAN: GATTOPARDO

ENGLISH: NURSEHOUND

MALLORQUINS USED TO CALL INFORMAL PEOPLE WHO CAN'T BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY GAT-VAIRE. SOUNDS A BIT OFFENSIVE TO ME!!



WE LIVE IN A LARGE PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IN THE EUROPEAN ATLANTIC FROM THE IBERIAN PENINSULA TO NORWAY.

I AM A CARTILAGINOUS FISH, THERE ARE TWO MAIN CATEGORIES OF FISH: US CHONDRICTHYANS (SHARKS, SKATES AND CHIMERAS, (WHICH DO NOT HAVE SCALES OR THE SPINES SO TYPICAL OF MOST FISH AND BONY FISH, WHICH ARE THE MAJORITY.

CARTILAGINOUS FISH



BONY FISH



AMPHIBIANS



REPTILES



BIRDS



MAMMALS



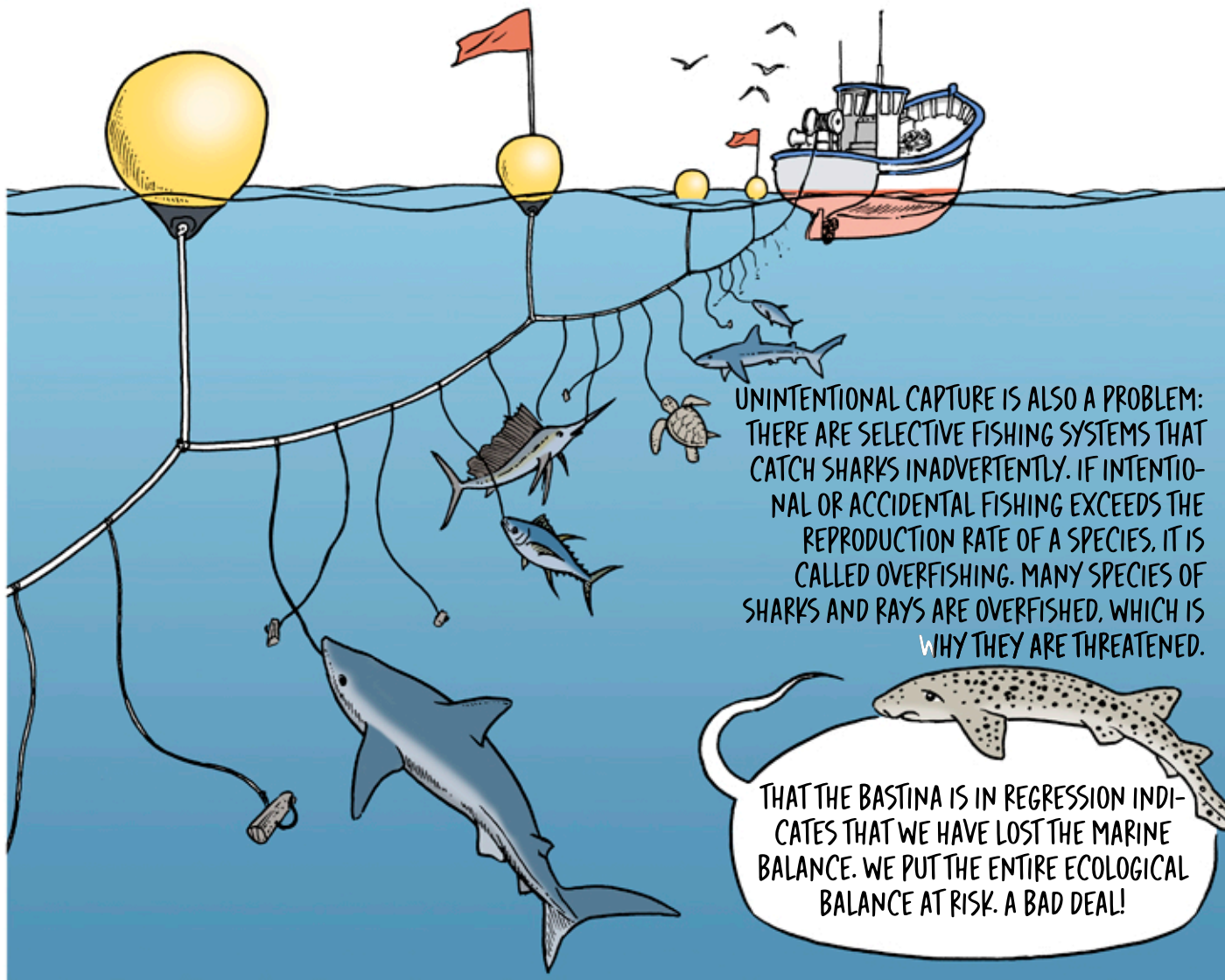
WE ARE FAR APART IN EVOLUTION. IN FACT THERE ARE AS MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BONY AND CARTILAGE FISH AS BETWEEN MAMMALS AND BIRDS. WE ARE DIFFERENT CLASSES.

IN CATALAN AND SPANISH, ALL CARTILAGINOUS FISH ARE CALLED "BASTINA". IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS THERE ARE 366 KNOWN SPECIES OF BONY FISH AND 57 OF BASTINA.

VERTEBRATES



THE BASTINA IS IN REGRESSION! WHAT'S HAPPENING? 42% OF THE WORLD'S SHARKS AND 56% OF RAYS ARE THREATENED. IN THE FAR EAST, SHARK FIN SOUP IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED, FOR THIS REASON, SHARKS ARE CAUGHT ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THEIR FINS ARE CUT OFF AND THE BODY IS THROWN BACK INTO THE SEA. IT IS AN ABUSIVE FISHING. IT MEANS WASTING MOST OF THE ANIMAL. IT IS FORBIDDEN BY EUROPEAN REGULATIONS, BUT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES STILL PRACTICE IT.

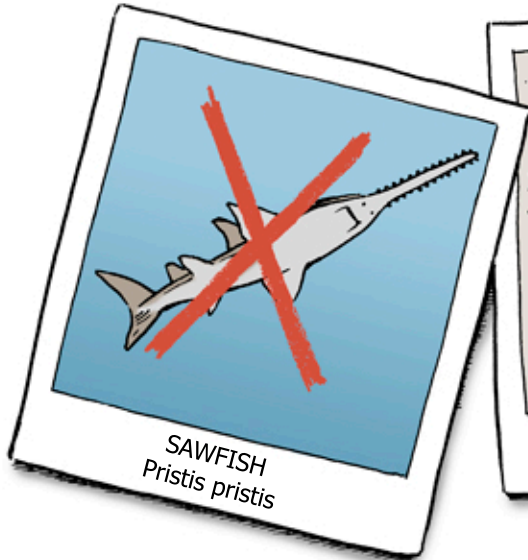
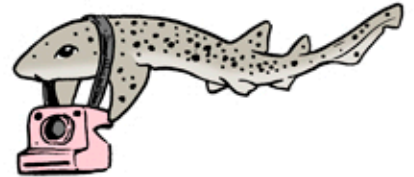


UNINTENTIONAL CAPTURE IS ALSO A PROBLEM: THERE ARE SELECTIVE FISHING SYSTEMS THAT CATCH SHARKS INADVERTENTLY. IF INTENTIONAL OR ACCIDENTAL FISHING EXCEEDS THE REPRODUCTION RATE OF A SPECIES, IT IS CALLED OVERFISHING. MANY SPECIES OF SHARKS AND RAYS ARE OVERFISHED, WHICH IS WHY THEY ARE THREATENED.



THAT THE BASTINA IS IN REGRESSION INDICATES THAT WE HAVE LOST THE MARINE BALANCE. WE PUT THE ENTIRE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE AT RISK. A BAD DEAL!

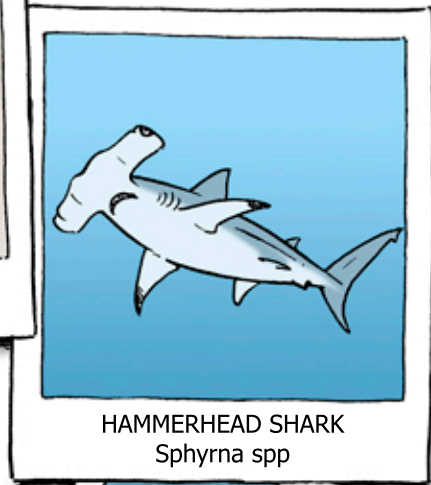
IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS, THE SAWFISH AND THE COMMON TORPEDO HAVE DISAPPEARED AMONG THOSE THAT ARE MOST THREATENED INCLUDE THE HAMMERHEAD SHARK, GUITAR SHARKS, THE WHITE SHARK, THE ANGEL SHARKS AND SKATES, THERE ARE 26 SPECIES OF BASTINA SPECIES THREATENED IN THE BALEARIC SEA.



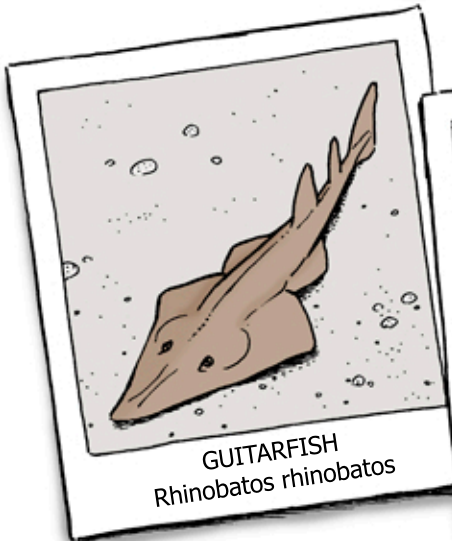
SAWFISH
Pristis pristis



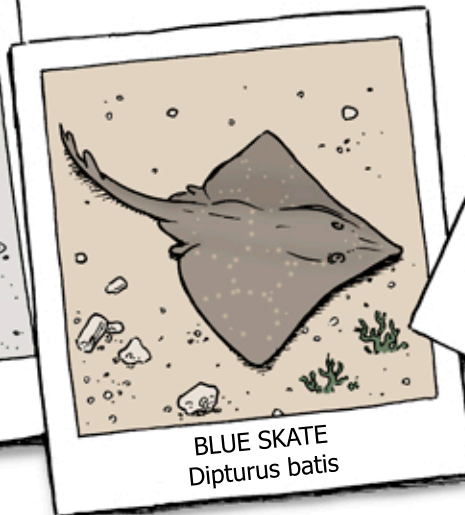
COMMON TORPEDO
Torpedo torpedo



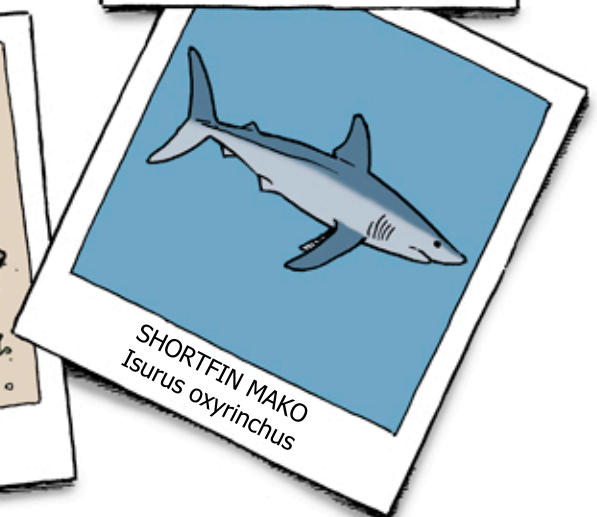
HAMMERHEAD SHARK
Sphyrna spp



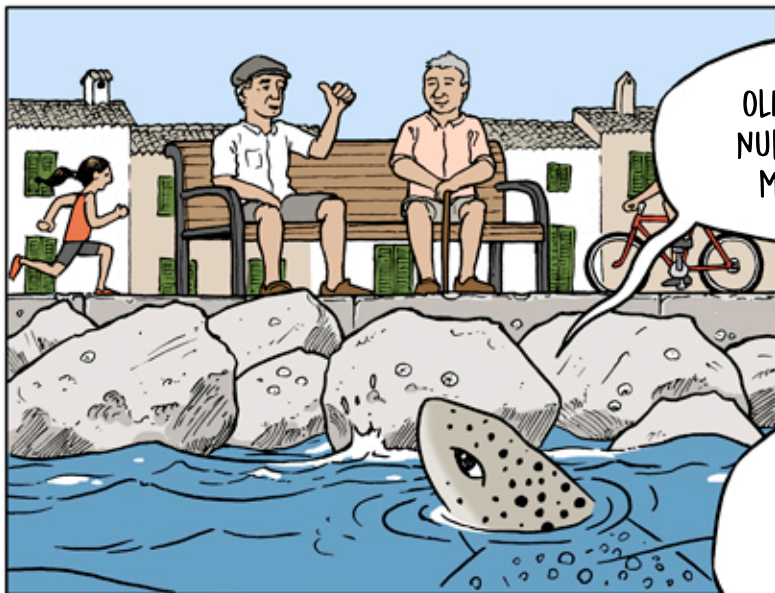
GUITARFISH
Rhinobatos rhinobatos



BLUE SKATE
Dipturus batis

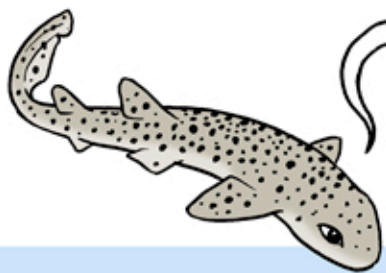


SHORTFIN MAKU
Isurus oxyrinchus

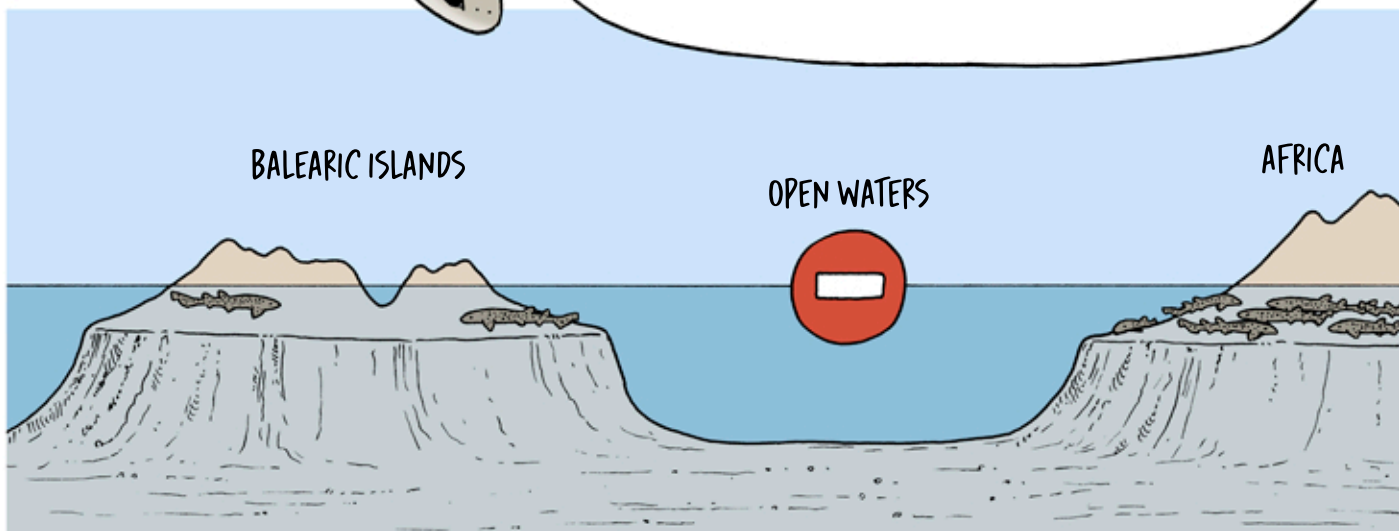


OLD FISHERMEN REMEMBER THAT
NURSEHOUNDS WERE ONCE MUCH
MORE ABUNDANT THAN TODAY.

IN OTHER AREAS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, SUCH
AS CORSICA AND NORTH AFRICA, WE ARE MORE
ABUNDANT, BUT HERE WE HAVE BECOME RARE.
WE ARE VICTIMS OF OVERFISHING SINCE WE RE-
PRODUCE VERY SLOWLY



SINCE WE DON'T LIKE SWIMMING IN OPEN WATER (WE
ALWAYS WANT TO TOUCH THE BOTTOM WITH OUR BELLY)
WE CANNOT COME FROM OTHER AREAS WHERE THEY ARE
MORE ABUNDANT AND WE ARE GRADUALLY DISAPPEARING.

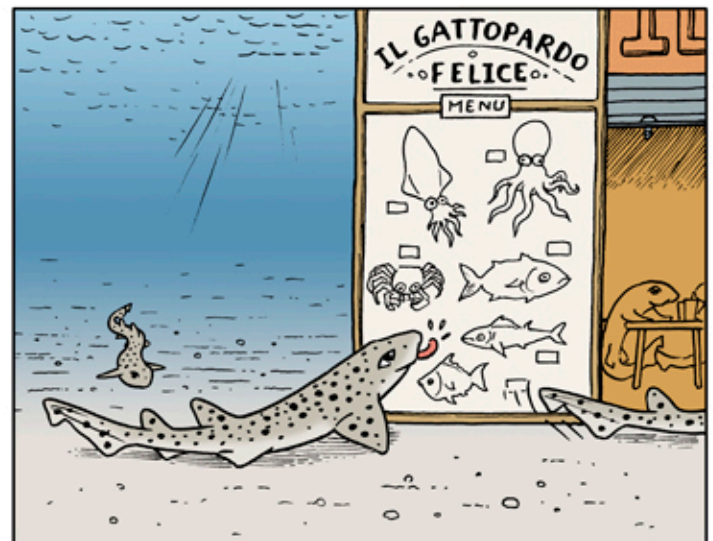


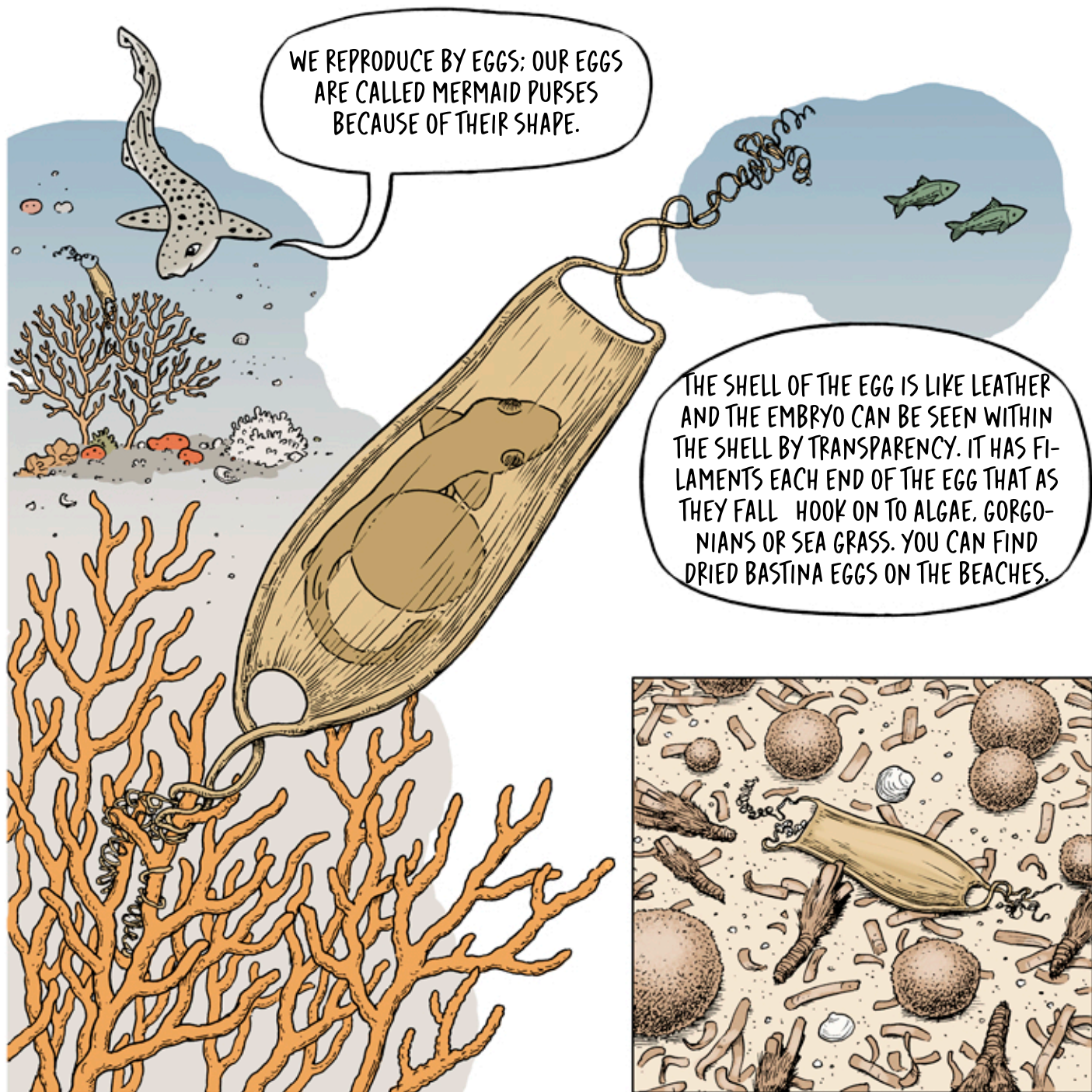


AS I SAID, WE LIVE ON THE BOTTOM. WE USUALLY FIND OURSELVES ON HARD, ROCKY OR CORAL BOTTOMS, BETWEEN 20 AND 60 METERS DEEP TO FIND A PARTNER WE GO TO DEEPER WATERS.



WE ARE, LIKE MOST SHARKS, CARNIVORES. OUR DIET IS VARIED; OCTOPUSES, CUTTLEFISH, CRABS AND OTHER FISH IS WHAT WE LIKE THE MOST.



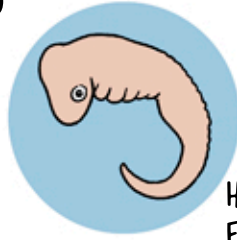
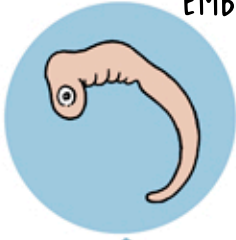


WE REPRODUCE BY EGGS; OUR EGGS ARE CALLED MERMAID PURSES BECAUSE OF THEIR SHAPE.

THE SHELL OF THE EGG IS LIKE LEATHER AND THE EMBRYO CAN BE SEEN WITHIN THE SHELL BY TRANSPARENCY. IT HAS FILAMENTS EACH END OF THE EGG THAT AS THEY FALL HOOK ON TO ALGAE, GORGONIANS OR SEA GRASS. YOU CAN FIND DRIED BASTINA EGGS ON THE BEACHES.

WE LAY VERY FEW EGGS, ABOUT TWENTY OR SO A YEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, BONY FISH LAY MANY HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS. SARDINES FOR EXAMPLE MAKE 60,000 EACH YEAR! THAT'S WHY WE ARE MUCH MORE VULNERABLE TO FISHING! IT TAKES BETWEEN 5 AND 7 MONTHS TO DEVELOP.

NURSEHOOUNDS
EMBRYO

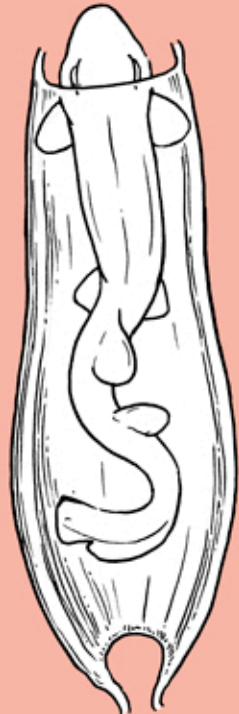
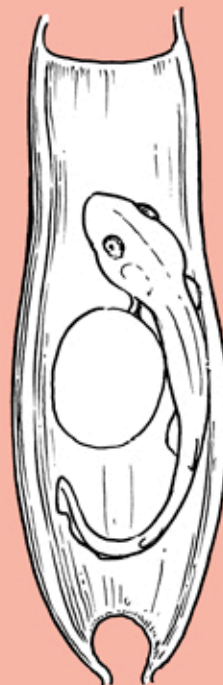
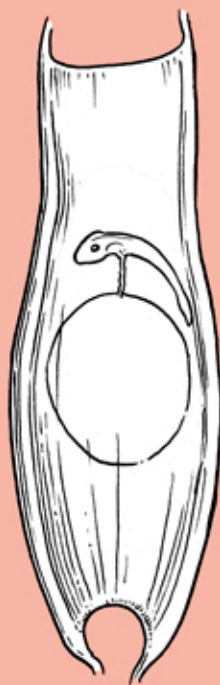


HUMAN
EMBRYO

EN ELS PRIMERS ESTADIS
ELS EMBRIONS S'ASSEMBLEN
MOLT ALS D'ALTRES VERTEBRATS,
COM VOSALTRES!



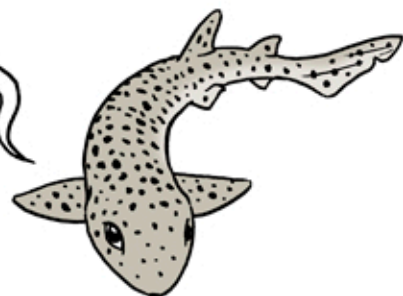
GROWTH OF A NURSEHOOUND INSIDE THE MERMAID'S PURSE.



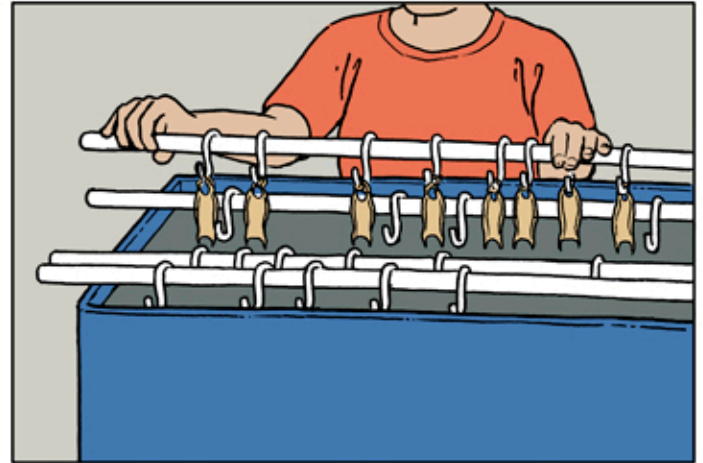
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, NURSEHOOUNDS IN PARTICULAR AND BASTINA IN GENERAL, NEED LARGE AREAS WHERE FISHING IS FORBIDDEN AND THAT THE FISHING GEAR SHOULD BE MORE SELECTIVE EVERY DAY, SURELY WITH THE HELP OF THE FISHERMEN WE WILL MANAGE TO RECOVER!



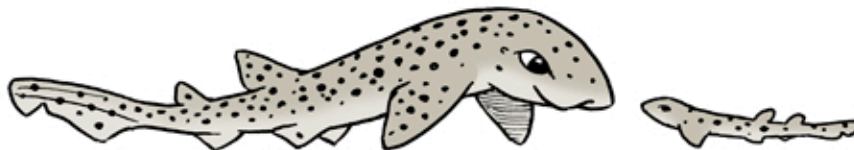
FORTUNATELY, BASTINA HAVE MORE FRIENDS EVERY DAY! THERE ARE ORGANIZATIONS THAT WORK IN FAVOUR OF THESE SPECIES. THE GOVERNMENT CREATES MARINE RESERVES AND AQUARIUMS AND PARKS HELP, ALSO MANY PEOPLE COMMIT THEMSELVES IN FAVOUR OF THE SEA. DO YOU WANT TO HELP?



IN 2020, EIGHT OF THESE ENTITIES HAVE LAUNCHED A VERY AMBITIOUS PROJECT: THE PROTECTION OF BASTINA SPECIES IN THE BALEARIC SEA AND EVEN RESTORE THE POPULATIONS OF THE MOST THREATENED SPECIES. BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS AND SCIENTIFIC AND NATURE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS WORK WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVE.

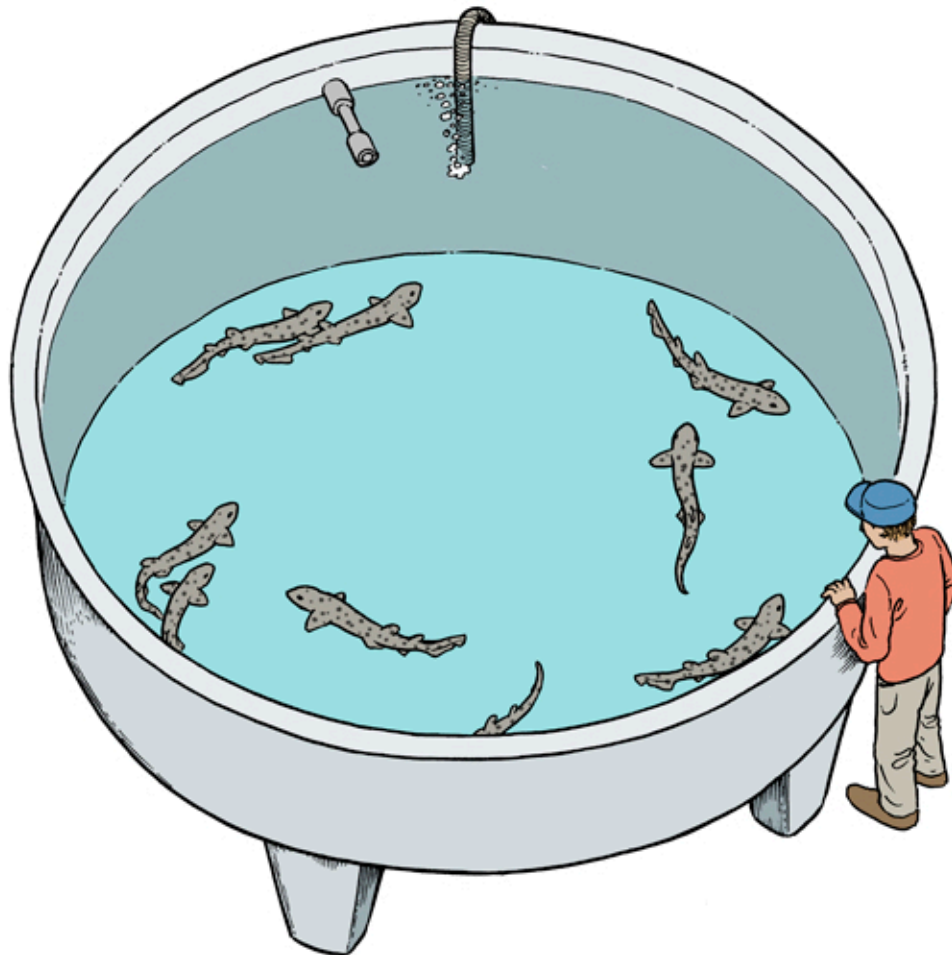


THEY HAVE STARTED WORKING FOR US, THE NURSEHOUNDS! THANKS TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF FISHERMEN, THE WORKING GROUPS GATHER NURSEHOUNDS IN SPECIAL AQUARIUMS, THEY FEED THEM VERY WELL SO THAT THEY GROW, THEN LAY THEIR EGGS IN THE BEST CONDITIONS AND THEY HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED ALMOST 200 BABY NURSEHOUNDS!



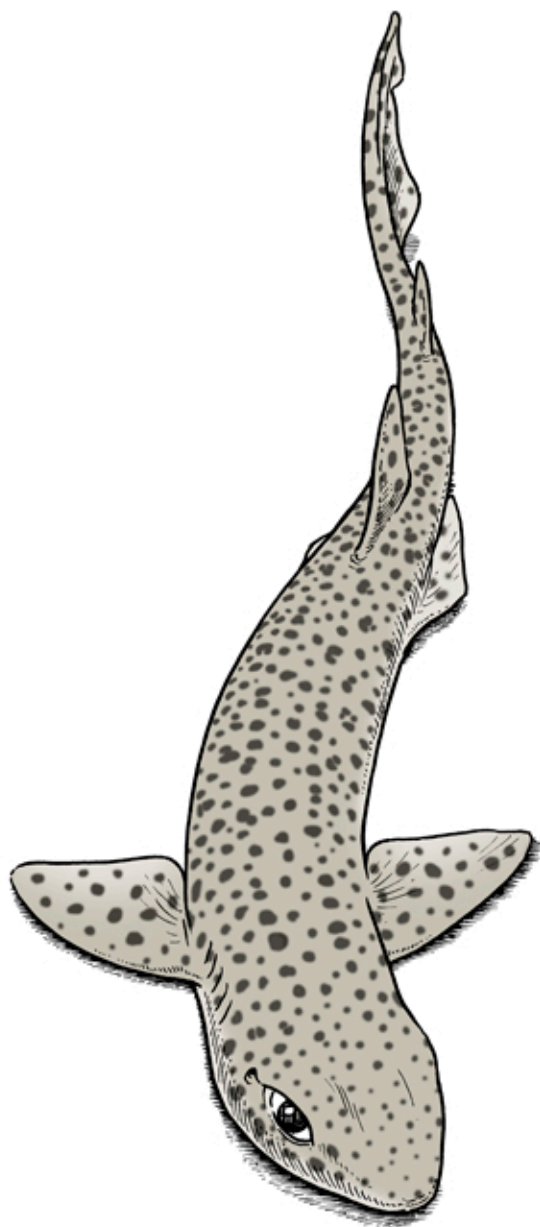
NOW, THE YOUNG NURSEHOUNDS ARE GROWING, AND IN THE COMING MONTHS THEY WILL BE RELEASED IN PARTICULARLY FAVOURABLE AREAS, SUCH AS THE CABRERA NATIONAL PARK, WHERE WE HOPE THEY WILL BREED IN FREEDOM AND SPREAD AND LIVE ON ALL SEABED.

THE GATVAIRE PROJECT IS A HOPE TO RECOVER THE NATIVE FAUNA OF THE BALEARIC SEAS!



YOU CAN SEE THE NURSEHOUNDS IN THE AQUARIUMS OF TE CABRERA NATIONAL PARK AQUARIUM AND AT PALMA AQUARIUM. THE MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES AND OTHER ENTITIES ALSO WORK ON THEIR BEHALF, WHICH YOU CAN SEE ON THE BACK COVER OF THIS BOOKLET.

IF YOU PAY ATTENTION TO SOCIAL NETWORKS AND NEWSPAPERS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE AND MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND OTHERS IN FAVOUR OF BOTH TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE NATURE OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS.



BALEARIA



G CONSELLERIA
O AGRICULTURA, PESCA
I I MEDI NATURAL
B
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BYE!

DESIGN AND DRAWINGS: PAU OLIVER
TEXT: JOAN MAYOL (PIM)
EDITION: MALLORCA PRESERVATION
OCTOBER 2023