

1.4 billion

is the estimated number of longline hooks set every year.

USD 4 billion

is the annual worth of the global tuna fisheries. Less than 9% goes to the Pacific Island Nations where the fish was caught. Palau collects less than USD 5 million per year from the commercial fishing industry, which depletes the natural resources of the islands.

80%

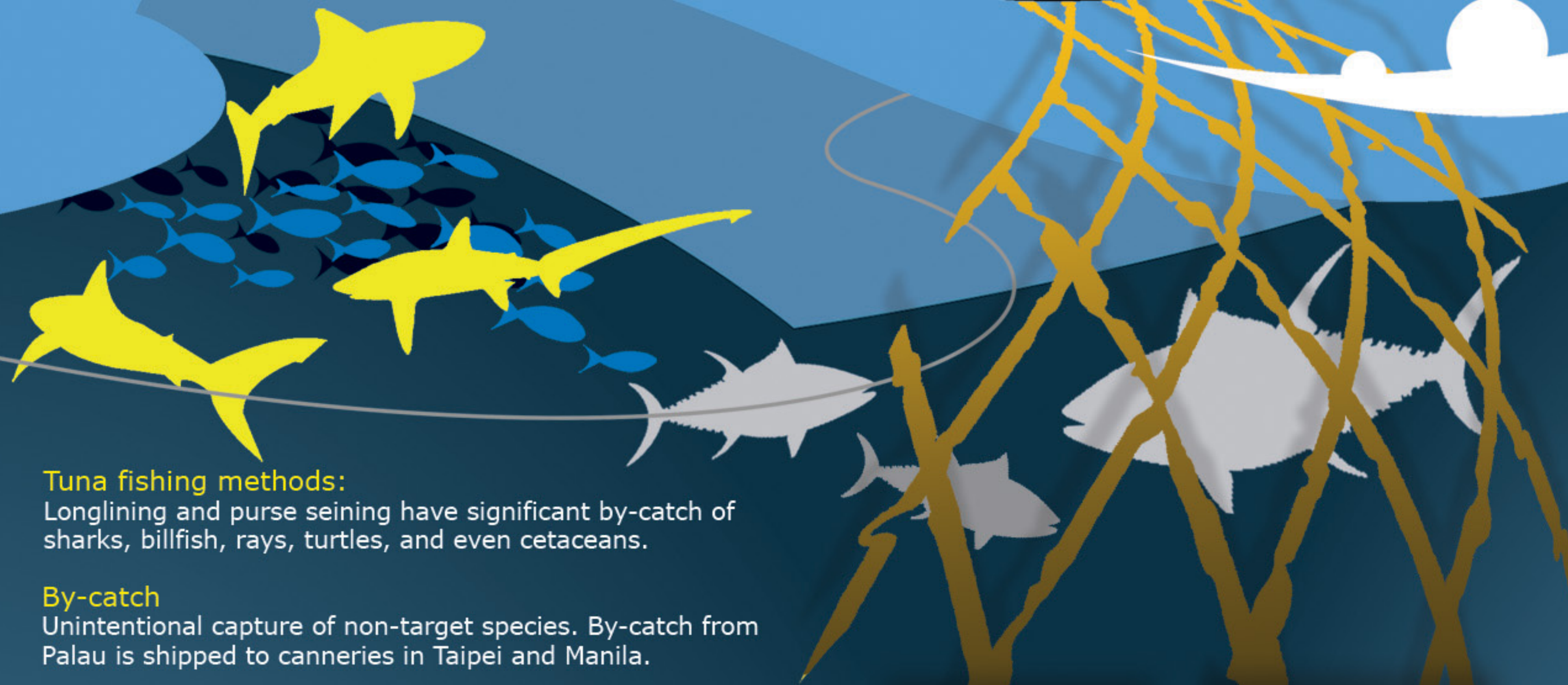
is the drop in the world shark population over the last 50 years.

close to a **100 million** sharks are killed every year worldwide.

The market value of one shark fin in Asia is between USD \$180 - 5,000.

Sharks and rays are worth more alive to Palau's shark and manta tourism, which brings in more revenue to Palau than all fishing licenses and taxes combined.

PALAU has over **129** licensed foreign vessels fishing its waters, from Taiwan & Japan. Aside from longliners, **Japan has 18 purse seiners** licensed to fish in Palau. These vessels are authorized to off-load their catch in Japan instead of Palau.



Tuna fishing methods:

Longlining and purse seining have significant by-catch of sharks, billfish, rays, turtles, and even cetaceans.

By-catch

Unintentional capture of non-target species. By-catch from Palau is shipped to canneries in Taipei and Manila.

Longline Fishing

1-50 miles long lines with baited hooks, catch any marine creatures that bite the hook.

Purse seine Fishing

A huge net curtain surrounds whole schools of tuna, often unselectively killing all living creatures caught in the net including turtles, cetaceans, billfish, sharks and rays. This is an efficient fishing method which devastates fish populations and puts many other marine species at risk.

Limited patrol ability makes Palau an easy target for illegal fishing vessels catering to the ever increasing Asian demand for shark fins and ray gill rakers.

Unreported catch is often offloaded at open sea, while illegal goods and baitfish are boarded. Regular tax, health and entry requirements do not apply to the vessel crew, so Palau not only loses out on unpaid taxes, but is put at risk for diseases, smuggled goods and human trafficking.

VDS is an allocation of fishing days between the Pacific Island members for one-year periods, in an effort to manage the tuna stocks within their national waters. The "Palau Arrangement" is a multilateral treaty existing since 1992 to govern operations of purse seiners by Pacific members in their national waters.



photo KD



Shark finning (above, left) is illegal, but Palau's sharks are still targeted by Asian commercial fishing vessels.

The globally threatened Bluefin tuna (above, right) is migratory and caught in Palauan waters only from April to July. This has now become a prime target species. Between 300-900 lbs, one sashimi-grade fish from Palau airfreighted to Japan can sell for >USD 400,000.-

HOW DO PALAUJANS BENEFIT FROM THIS?