

Don't forget deep sea marine



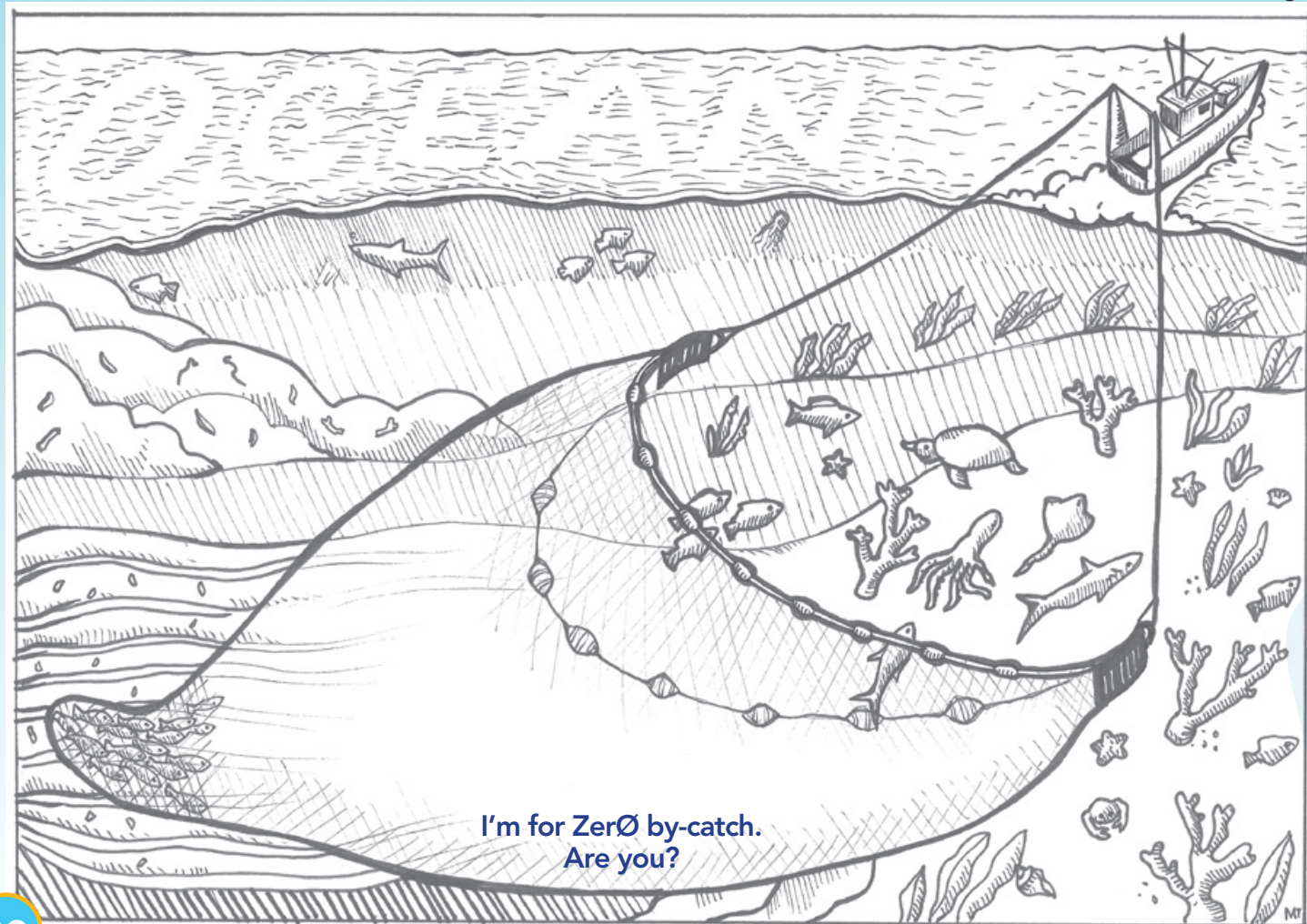
Photo: Ministry of Fisheries

Out of sight, forgotten, in the deep sea that's too deep for us to swim, were native forests of giant corals. This is a photo of a gorgonian coral about 500 years old in a deep sea bottom trawling net, and about to be thrown back overboard.

It's one of many native species (and habitats) that has been destroyed as bottom trawl nets targeted deeper and deeper waters – now up to 2km underneath the waves – to get to fish like orange roughy.

You can help by raising awareness of the problem.

Draw another marine species in the net that could become by-catch (something that was not meant to be caught) because of this aggressive fishing method. Give the picture to a friend so they learn about what's going on too.



I'm for ZerØ by-catch.
Are you?



Kermadec Trench. Photo: Tyler Eddy

It's not just what's happening at sea...

Oceanic trenches are the deepest places on earth.

Close to Aotearoa are the Tonga Trench (the second deepest trench in the world at 10,882m) and the Kermadec Trench (the fifth deepest at 10,047m).

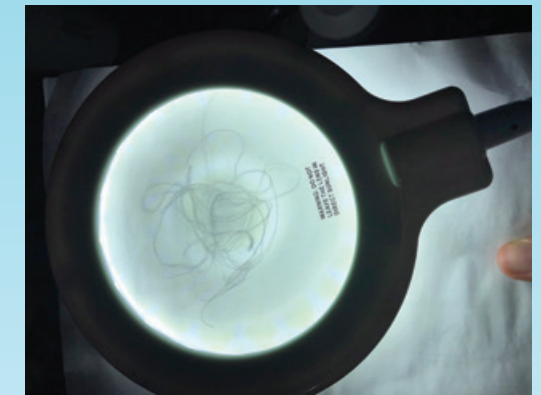
Last year, scientists from NIWA found tiny specks of pollen from NZ pine forests in the Tonga Trench. It's travelled 1500km on the wind and ocean currents, and then sunk down deep. Whoa!

The pollen is interacting with the ecosystem here, providing food for small single-celled organisms.

Wouldn't it be great if everything coming from the land was helpful like this?



Scientists have also found that synthetic (man-made) microfibres from our clothes are travelling the distance. They're being found in the stomachs of crustaceans in our Kermadec Trench – along with other tiny bits of plastics.



Ways we can help

- > Try to wash clothes only when they really need it.
- > Look after clothes so they last.
- > Know what your clothes are made from.
- > Reuse clothes instead of throwing them away.

