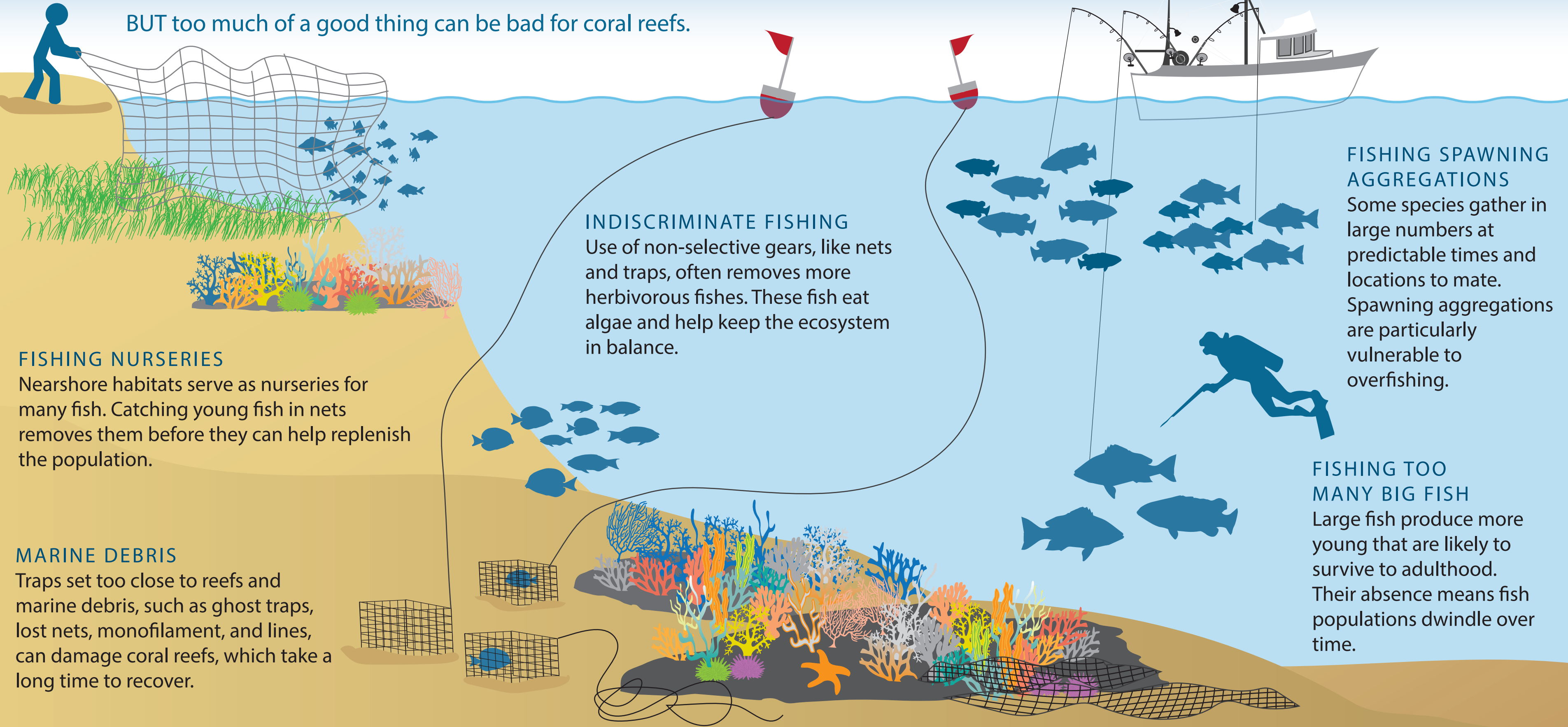




THREATS TO CORAL REEFS OVERFISHING

Coral reef fish are a significant food source for over a billion people worldwide. Many coastal and island communities depend on coral reef fisheries for their economic, social, and cultural benefits.

BUT too much of a good thing can be bad for coral reefs.



FISHING NURSERIES

Nearshore habitats serve as nurseries for many fish. Catching young fish in nets removes them before they can help replenish the population.

MARINE DEBRIS

Traps set too close to reefs and marine debris, such as ghost traps, lost nets, monofilament, and lines, can damage coral reefs, which take a long time to recover.

INDISCRIMINATE FISHING

Use of non-selective gears, like nets and traps, often removes more herbivorous fishes. These fish eat algae and help keep the ecosystem in balance.

FISHING SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS

Some species gather in large numbers at predictable times and locations to mate. Spawning aggregations are particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

FISHING TOO MANY BIG FISH

Large fish produce more young that are likely to survive to adulthood. Their absence means fish populations dwindle over time.

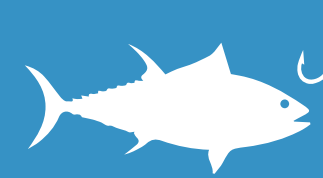
HOW YOU CAN HELP



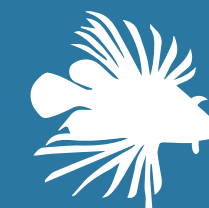
Educate yourself on local fishing rules and regulations. Your state fishery agency or bait and tackle shop can help you learn more.



Make sustainable seafood choices. Learn more at [www. FishWatch.gov](http://www.FishWatch.gov).



Only take what you need. Catch and release fish that you don't plan to eat.



Be a responsible aquarium owner. Know where your fish come from and **DO NOT** release unwanted fish into the wild.