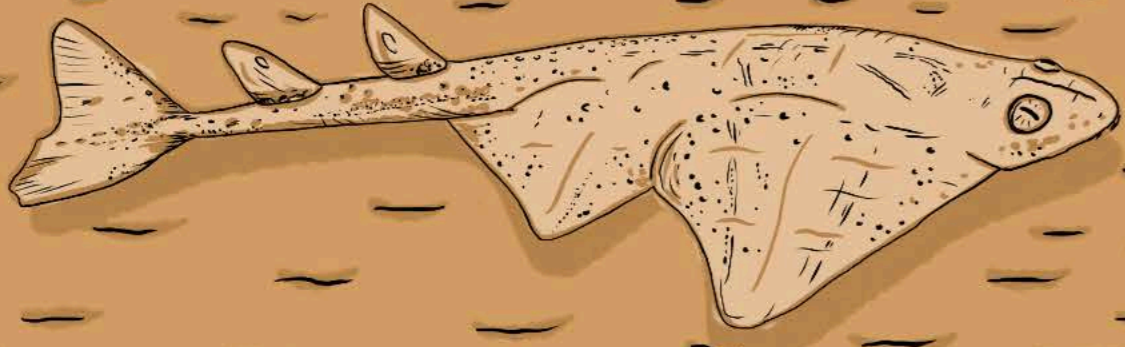


One of the last refuges for Angelsharks

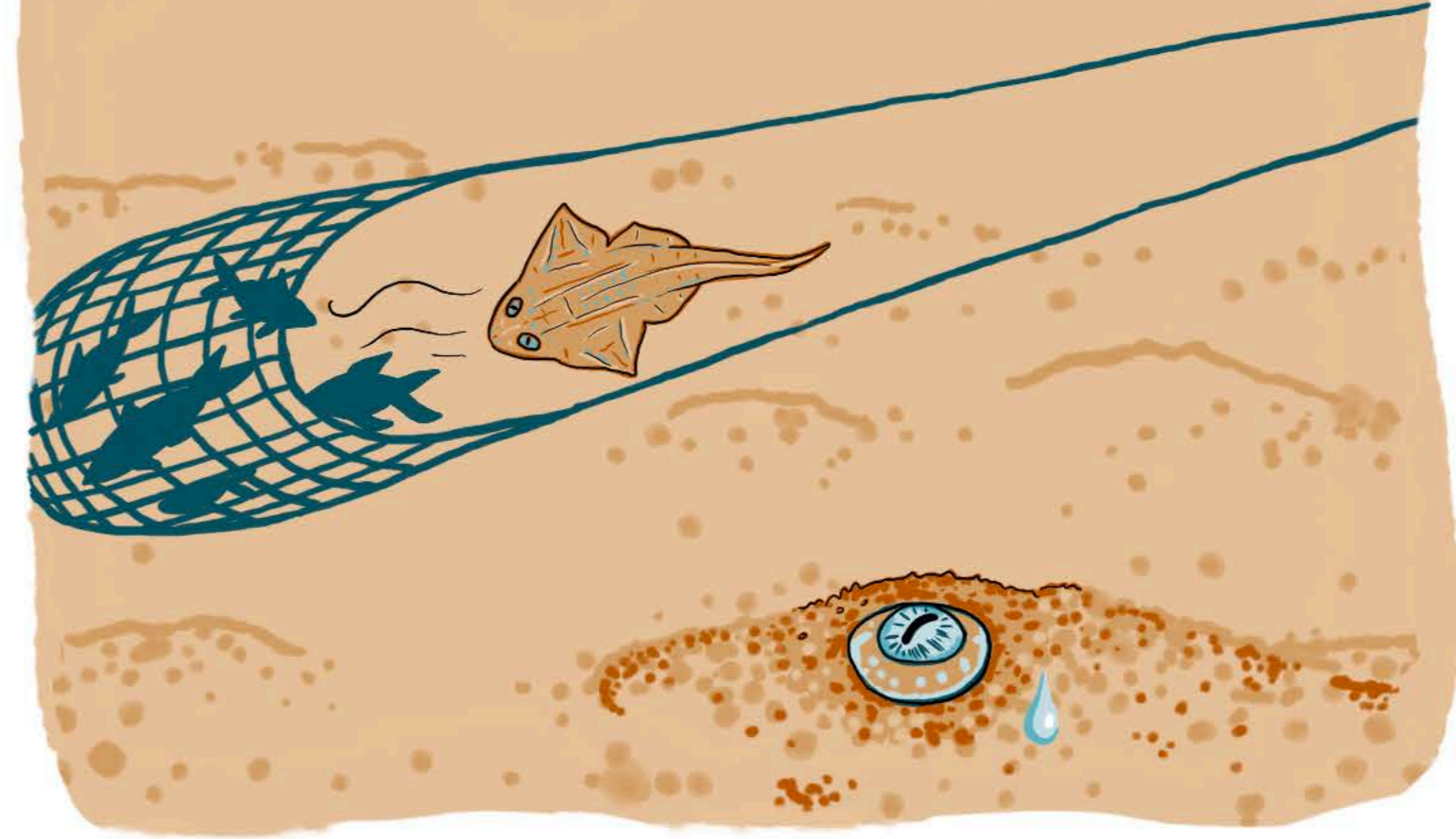
The Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) lives on coastal sandy seabeds between 5 and 150m depth



It was once common along the Mediterranean coast



But it gradually disappeared...

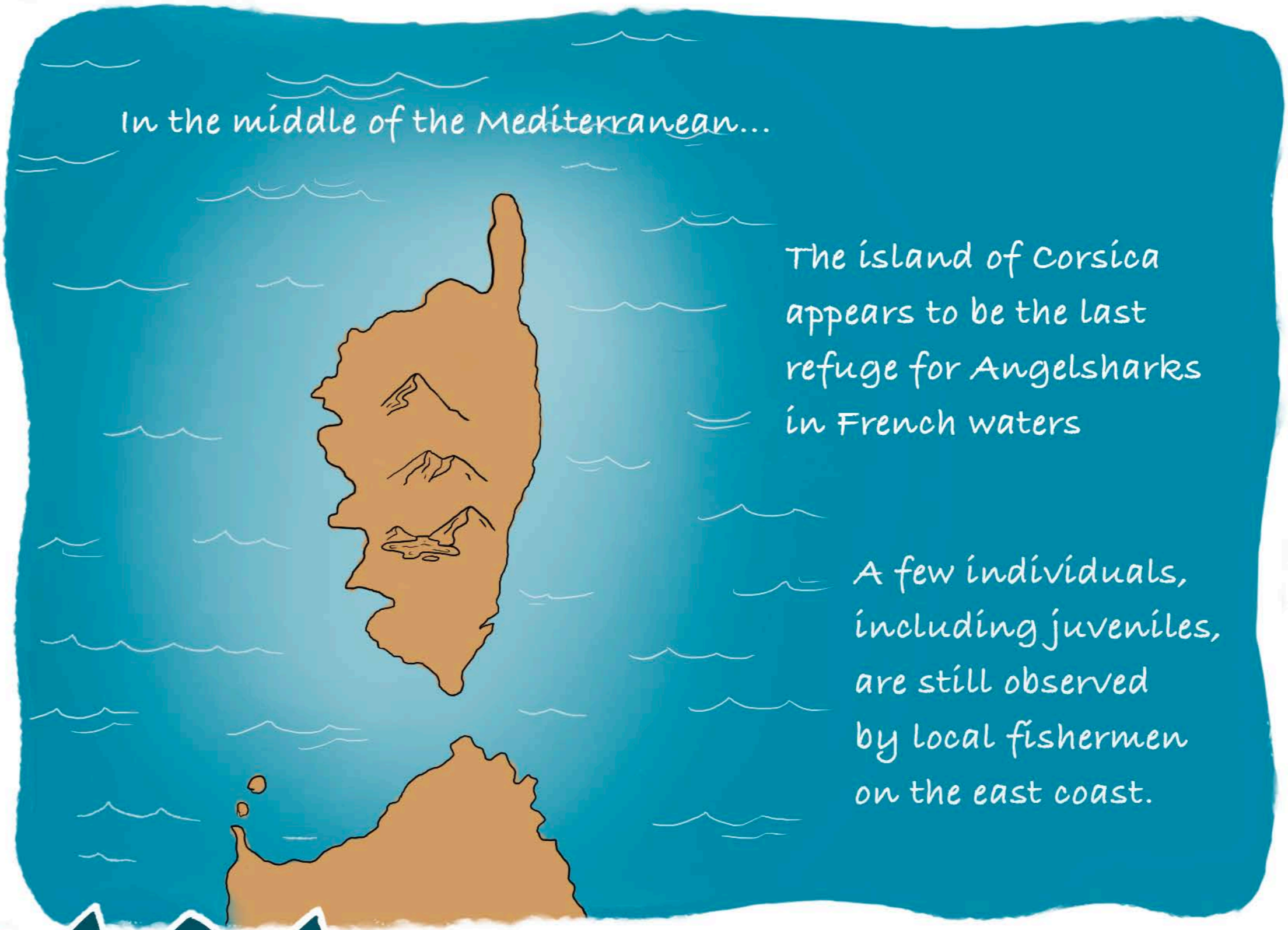


...until it became very rare everywhere from the 1950s.



Since 2006, the species has been classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN*

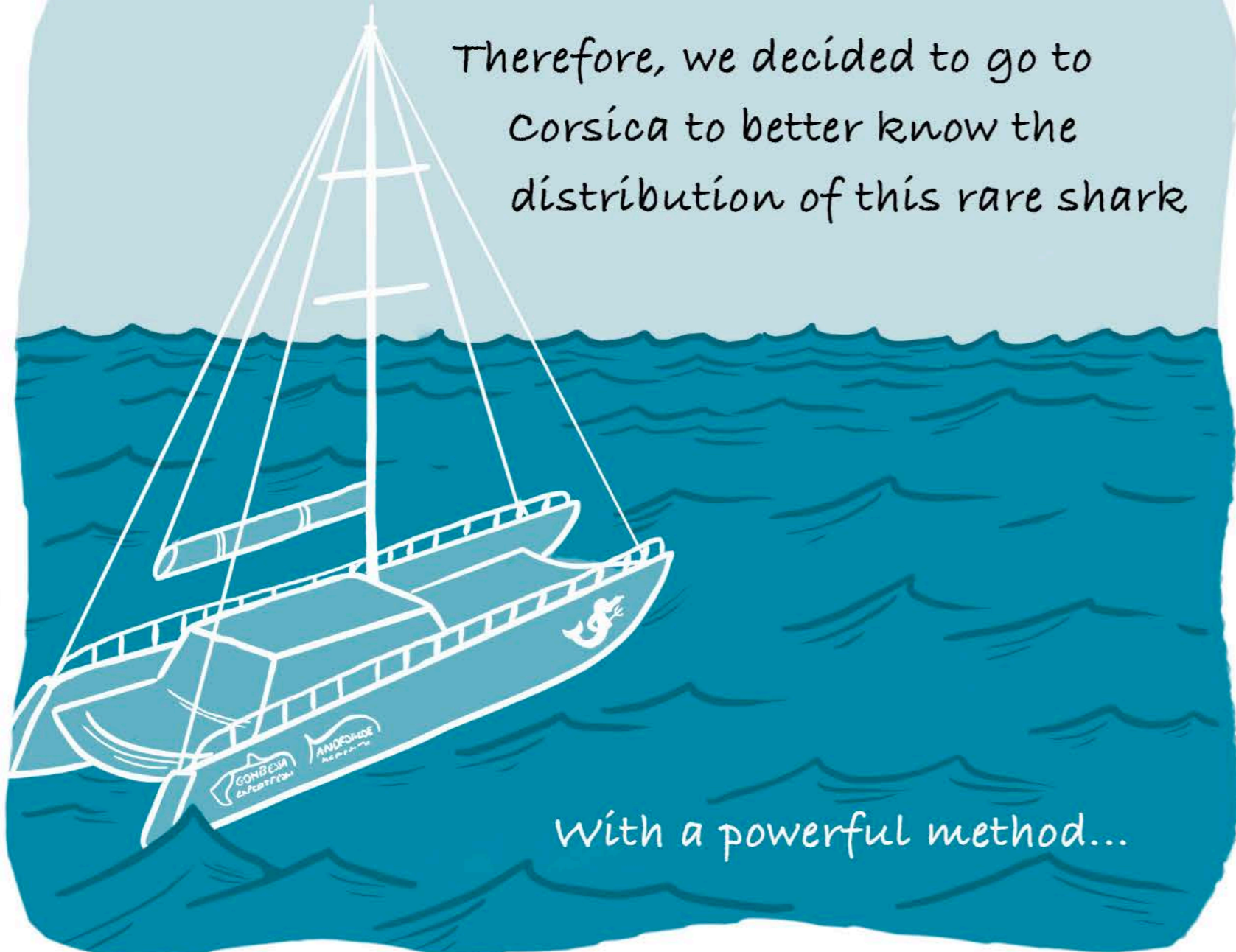
In the middle of the Mediterranean...



The island of Corsica appears to be the last refuge for Angelsharks in French waters

A few individuals, including juveniles, are still observed by local fishermen on the east coast.

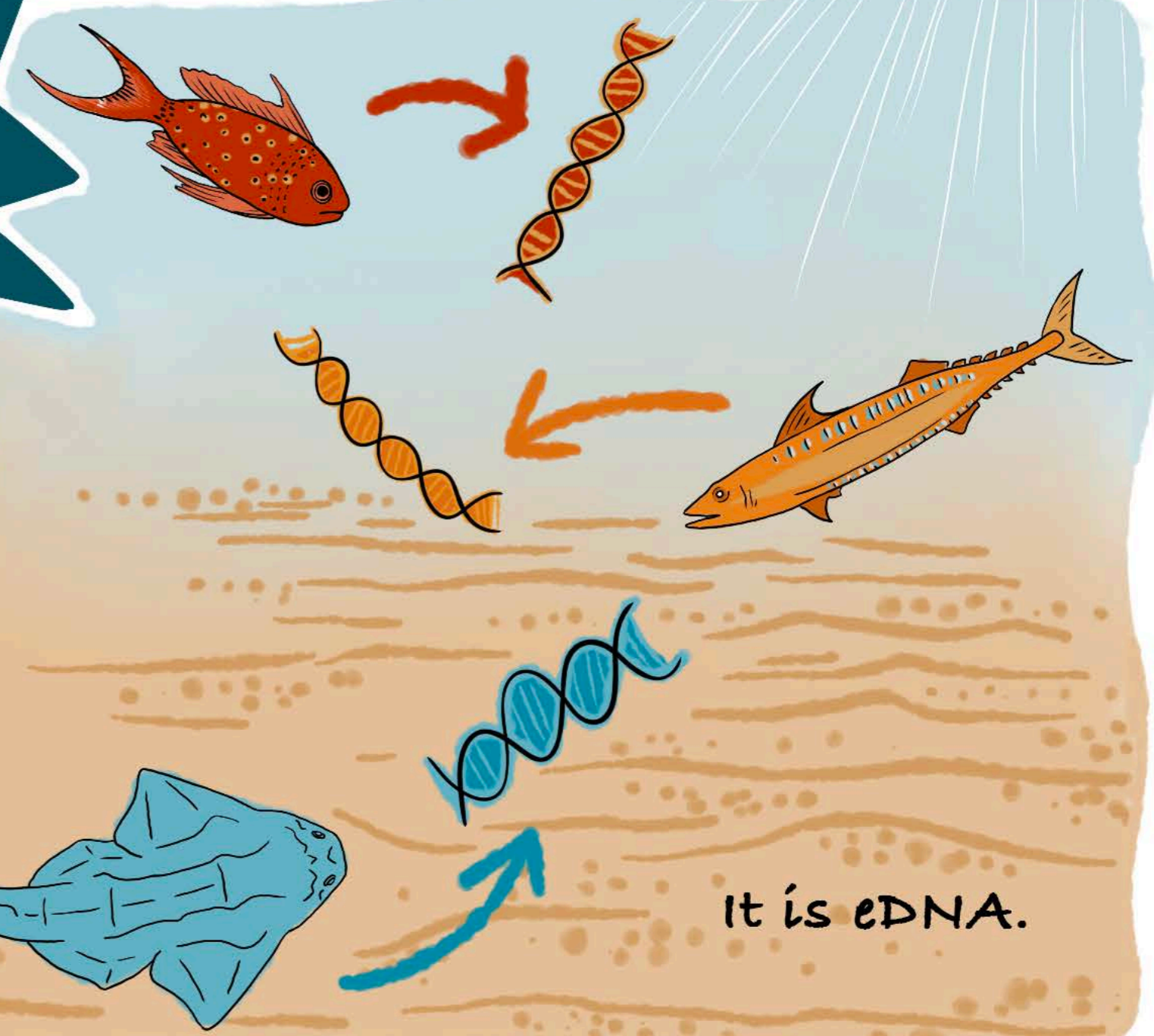
Therefore, we decided to go to Corsica to better know the distribution of this rare shark



With a powerful method...

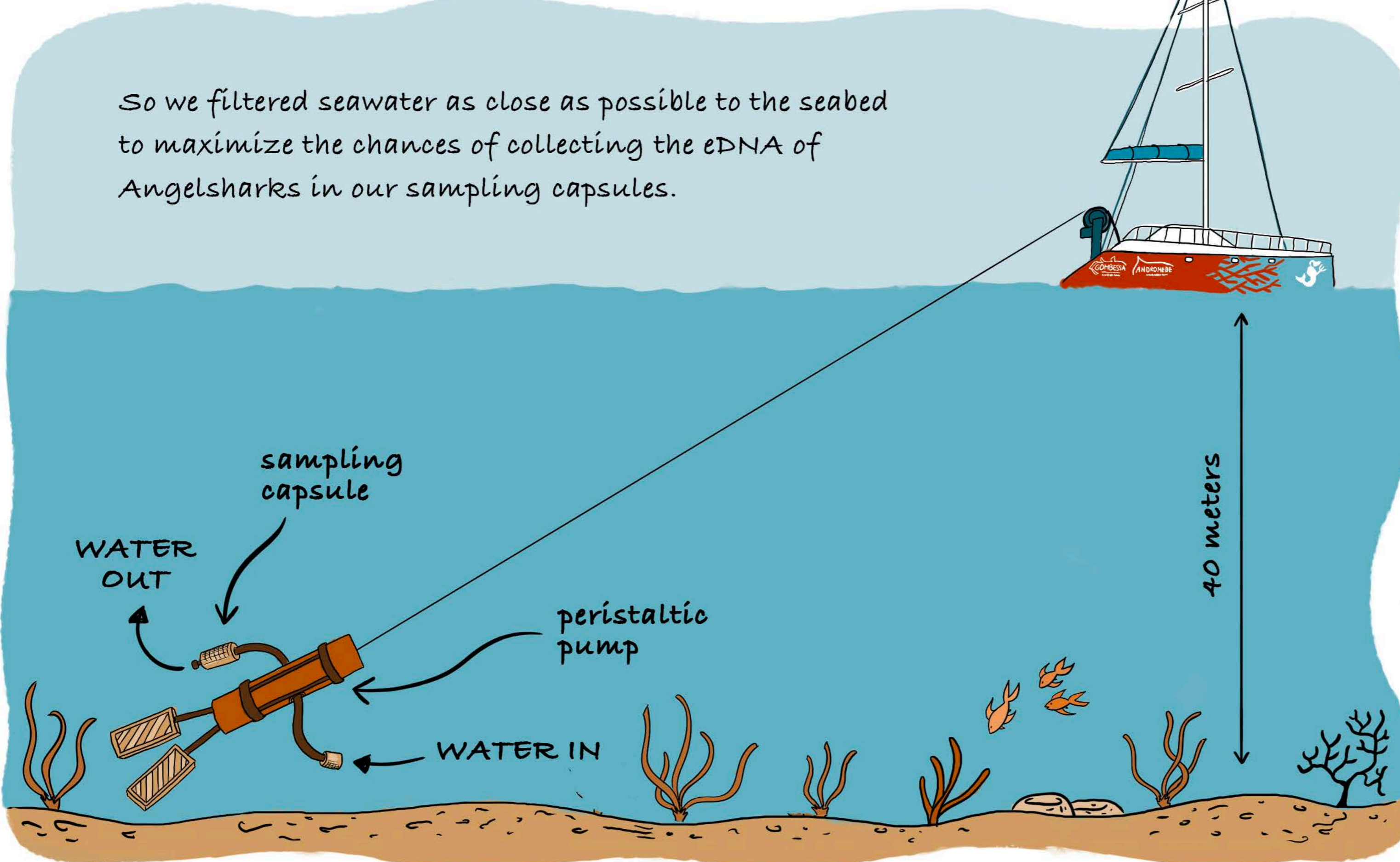
...environmental DNA barcoding!

This technique relies on the DNA left behind by organisms through the loss of their scales, blood or excrement for example...



It is eDNA.

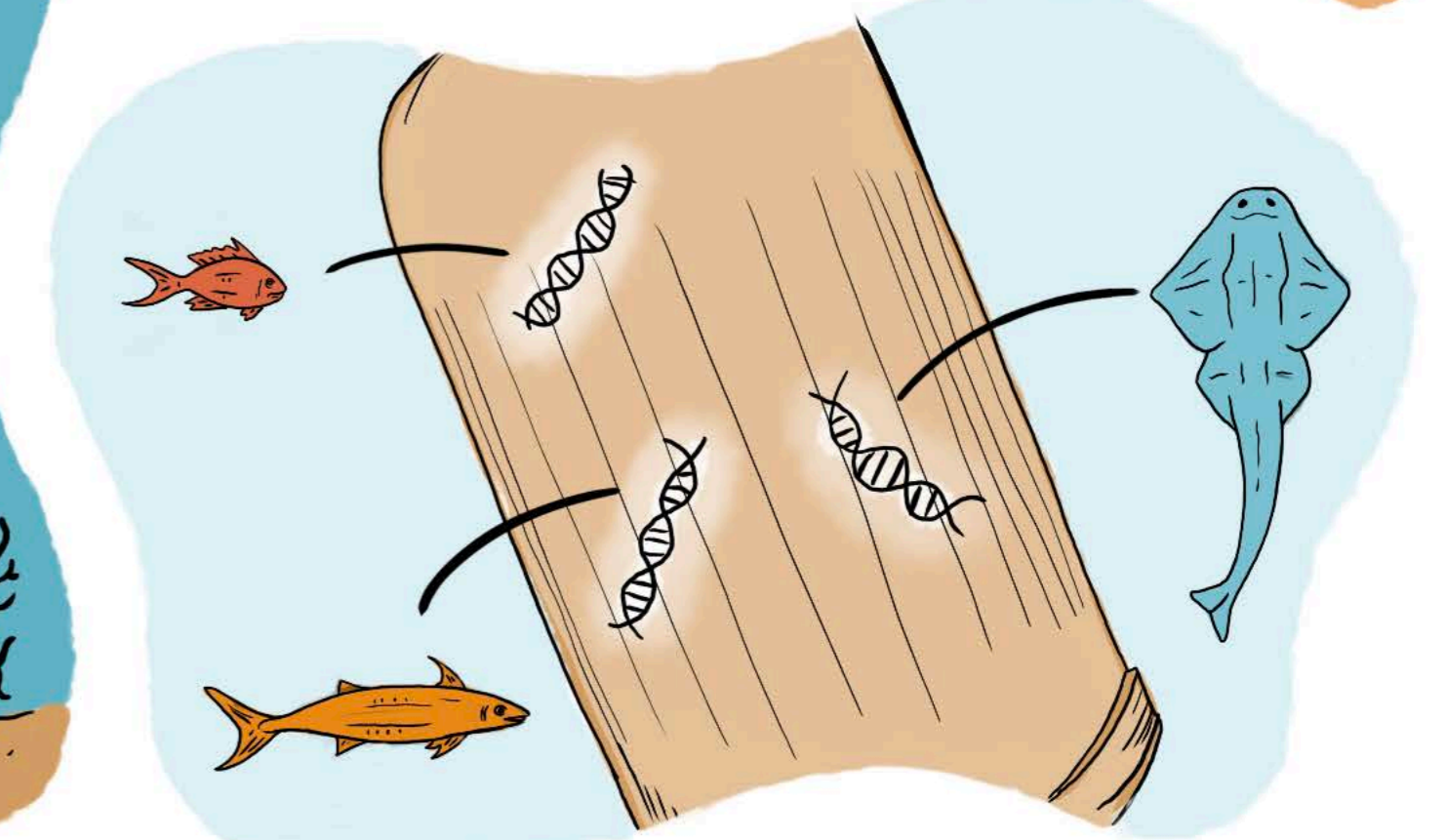
So we filtered seawater as close as possible to the seabed to maximize the chances of collecting the eDNA of Angelsharks in our sampling capsules.



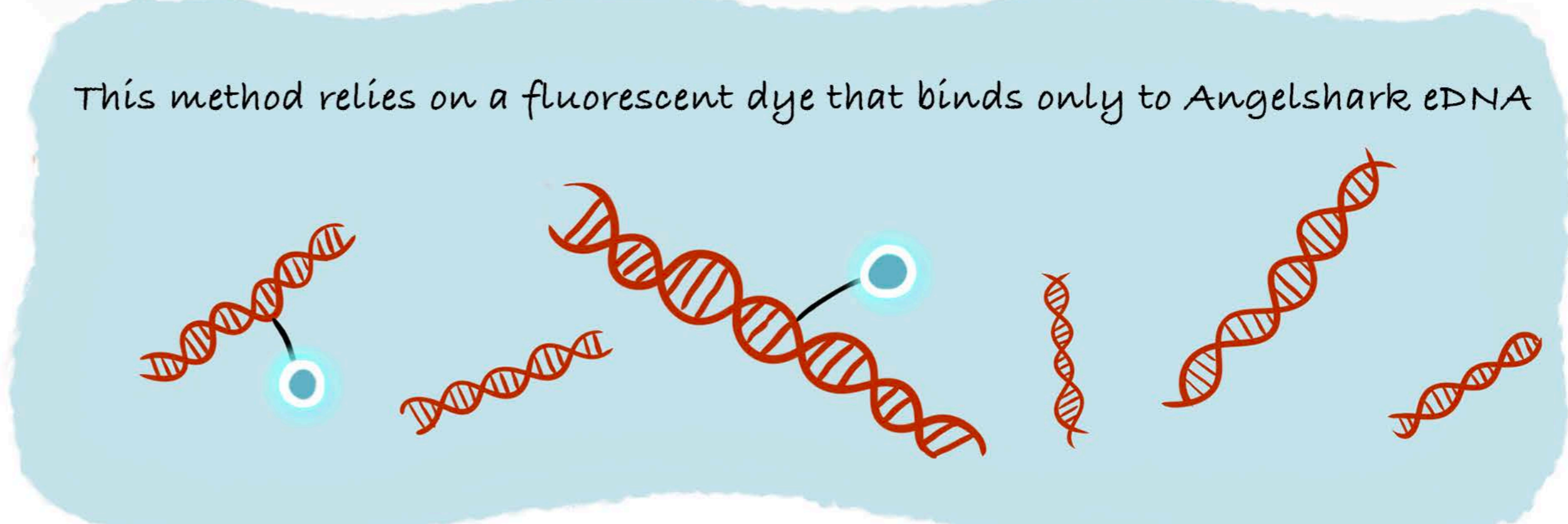
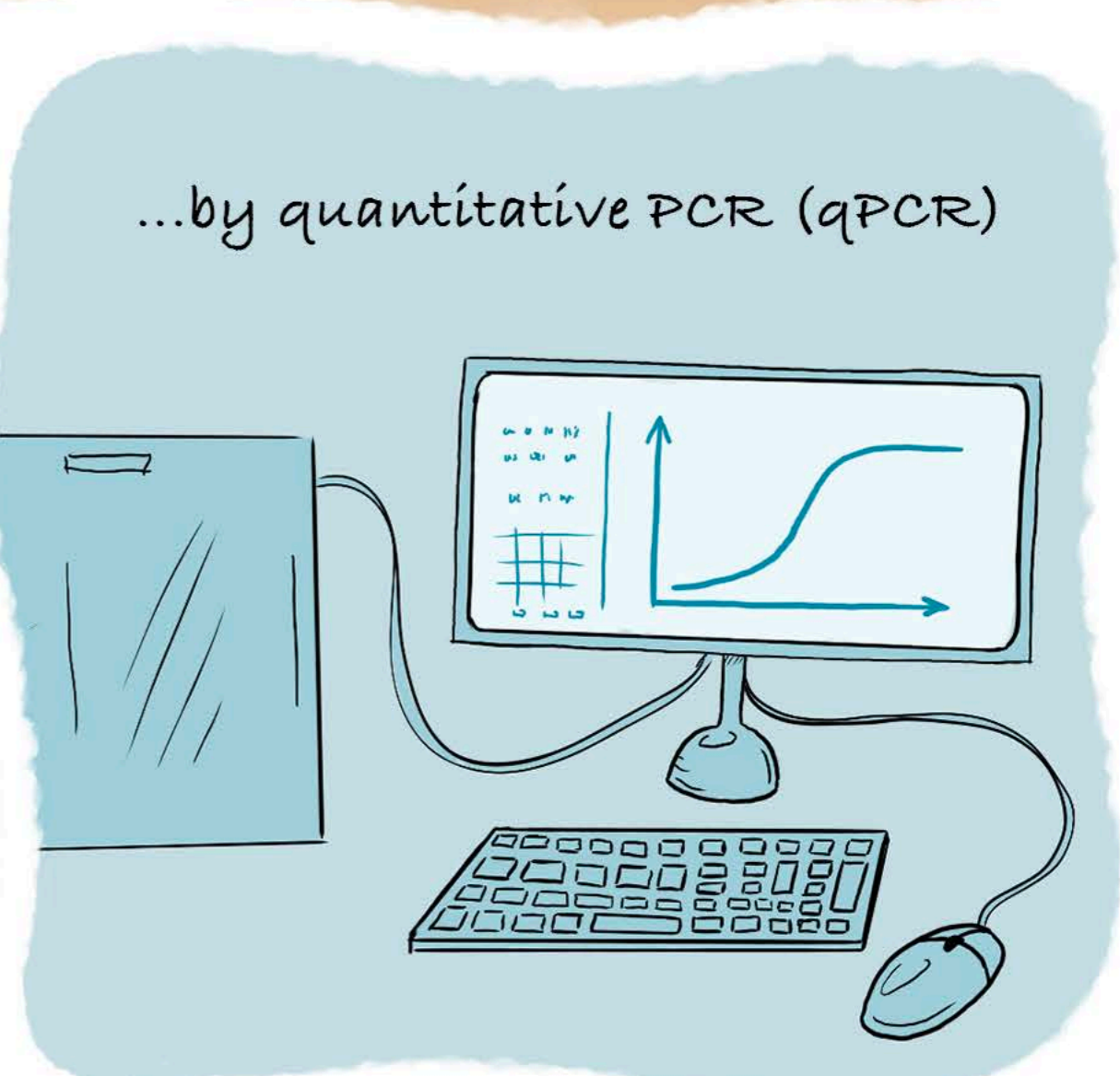
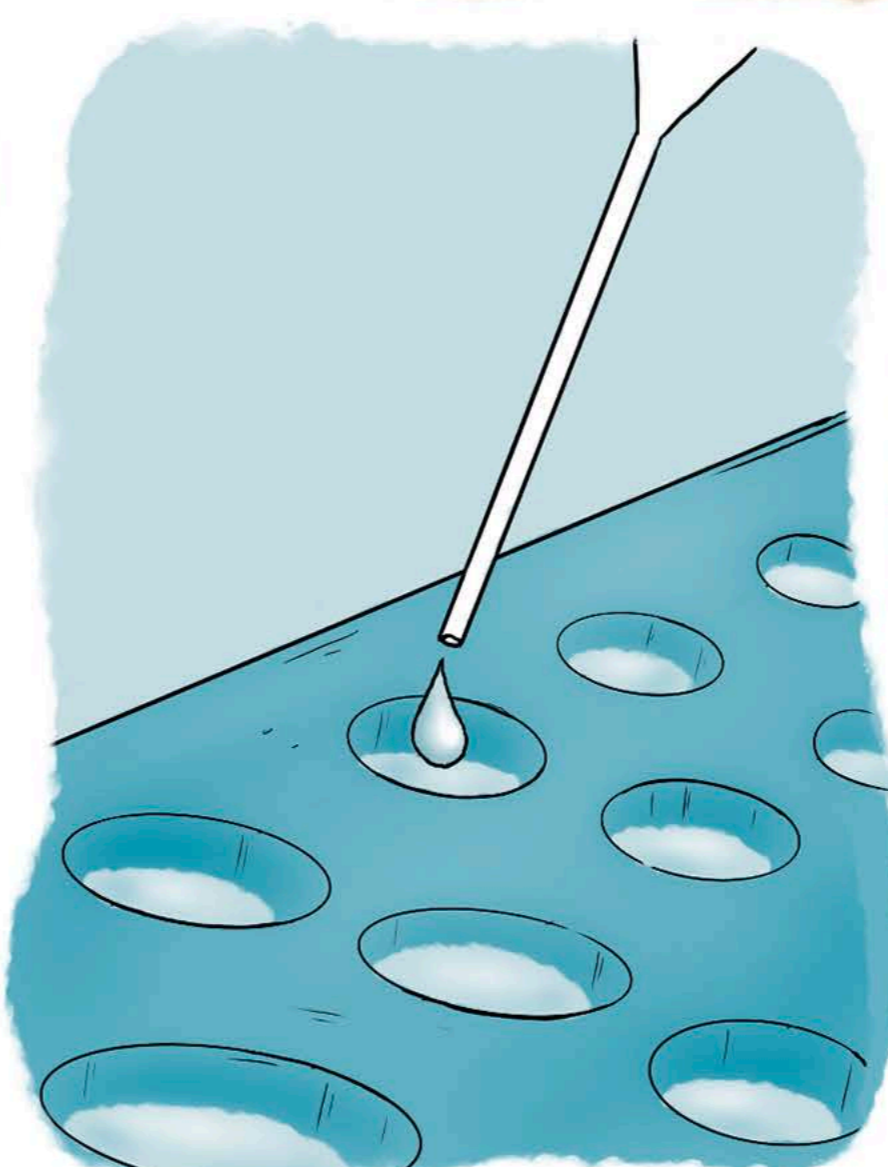
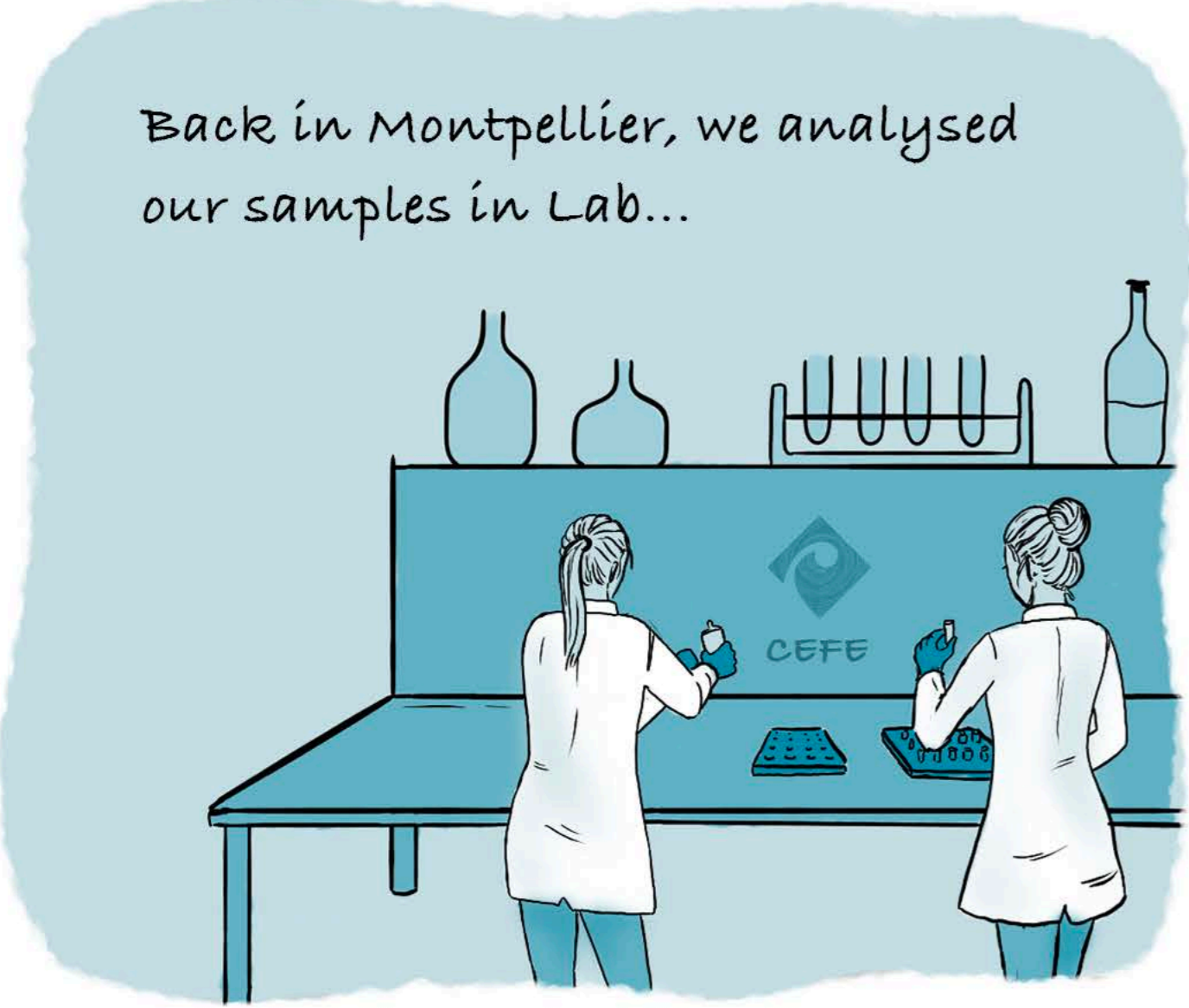
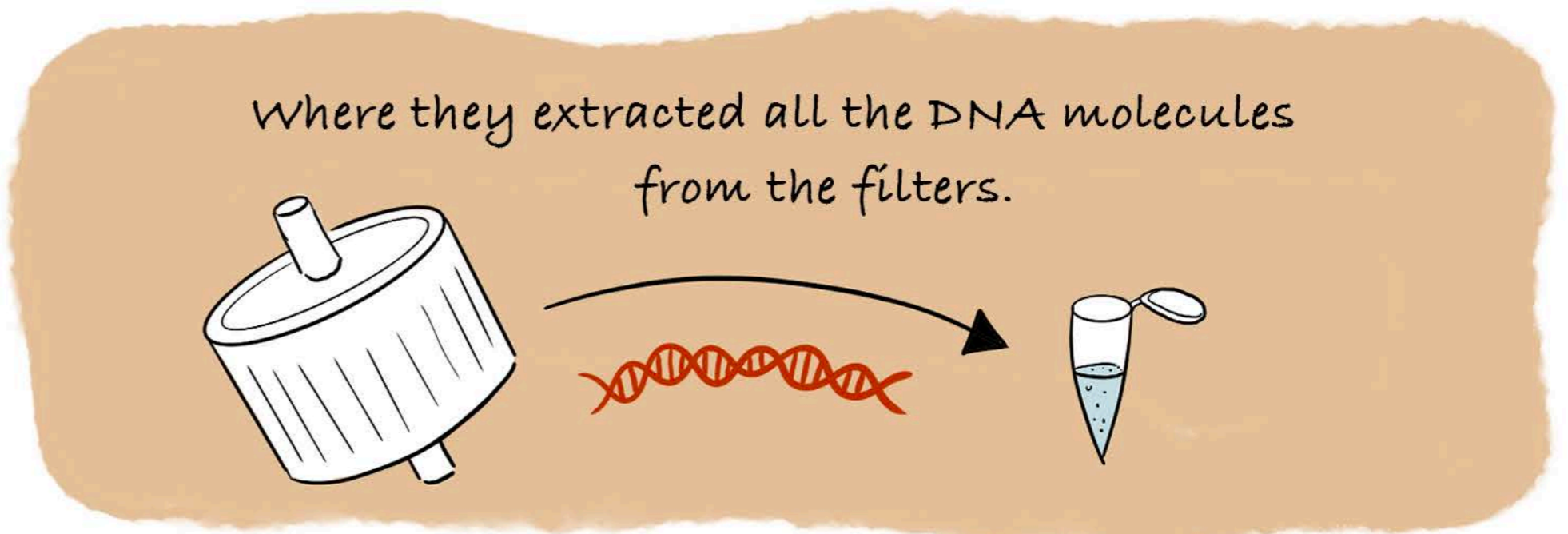
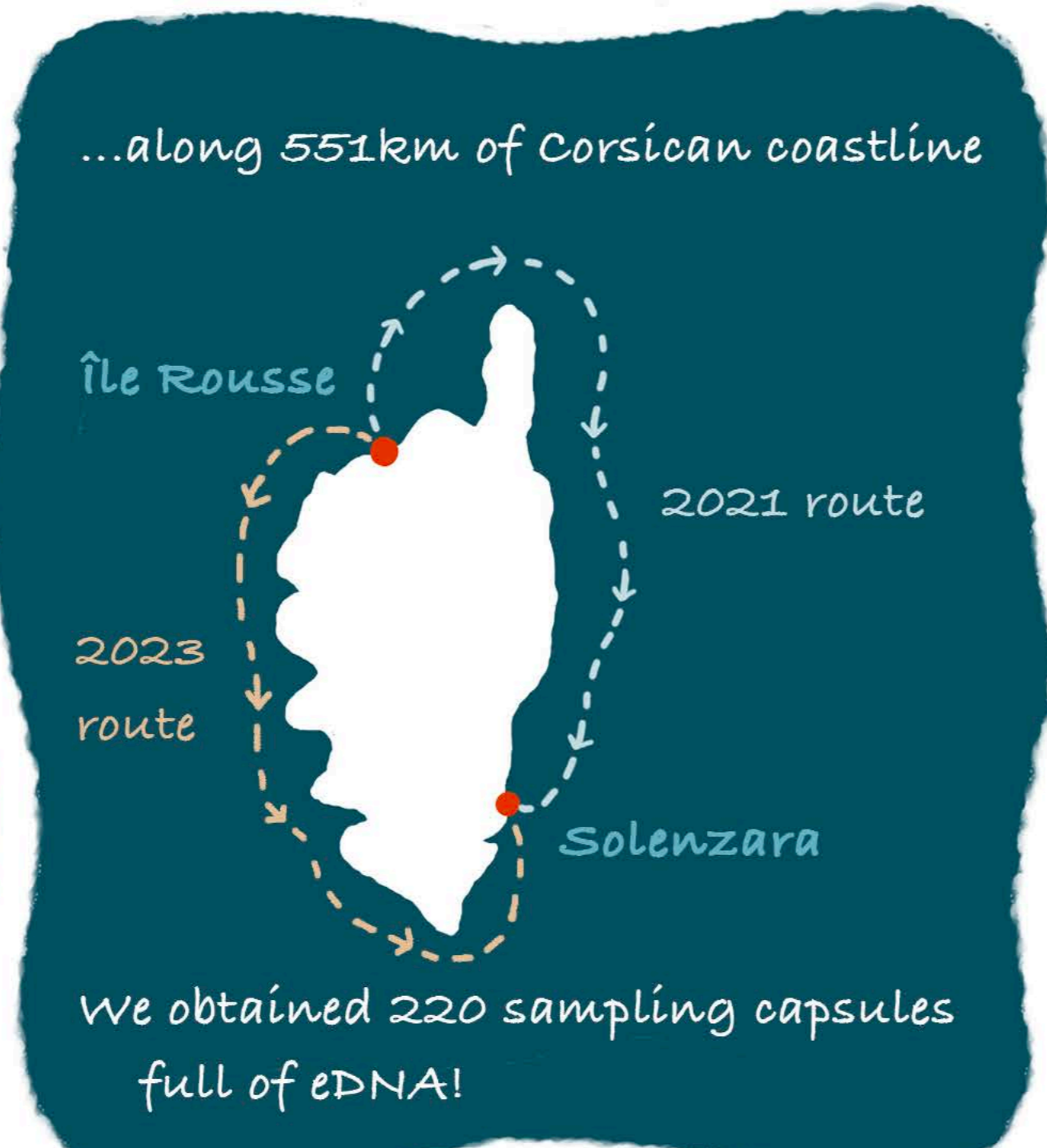
This is a sampling capsule



through which 30L of seawater was filtered for 30 min.



*IUCN : International Union for Conservation of Nature



So when Angelshark eDNA is present in a sample, even in low quantity, we observe an increase in fluorescence due to amplification of this eDNA.

