

MY REEF'S BETTER THAN YOURS



My Reef's Better Than Yours



NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

The PNG Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project is executed by the PNG National Fisheries Authority with loan funding support from the Asian Development Bank. The Project promotes and encourages the sustainable use of living marine resources in PNG waters.

This book belongs to a series of information materials produced by the project to raise awareness about various marine and fisheries related issues. For further information about the project, please contact the Public Relations Officer, PNG National Fisheries Authority on Phone: 3090444.

Written by Mary-Clare Ame.

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SCHOOL HAS ENDED FOR NATUNA.
SHE HAS THREE WEEKS OF HOLIDAYS
AND SHE WONDERS HOW SHE WILL
SPEND THEM.



SHE REMEMBERS OLD SAKU (HER TEACHER)
TELLING HER NOT TO PLAY IN HER FAVORITE
SPOTS ON THE REEF IN CASE THE HUMANS
ARE BOMB FISHING.

HER BEST FRIEND
GAIGAI WAS KILLED BY
BOMB FISHING AND
NOW SHE HAS NO ONE
TO PLAY WITH.



OUT OF FEAR FOR HER SAFETY, HER PARENTS DECIDED TO SEND HER OFF TO VISIT A COUSIN IN SOME FAR OFF REEF. THEY TELL HER THAT HER COUSIN TIMBI WILL BE ARRIVING SOON TO ESCORT HER TO HIS REEF. NATUNA IS OVERJOYED.



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TWO DAYS LATER..



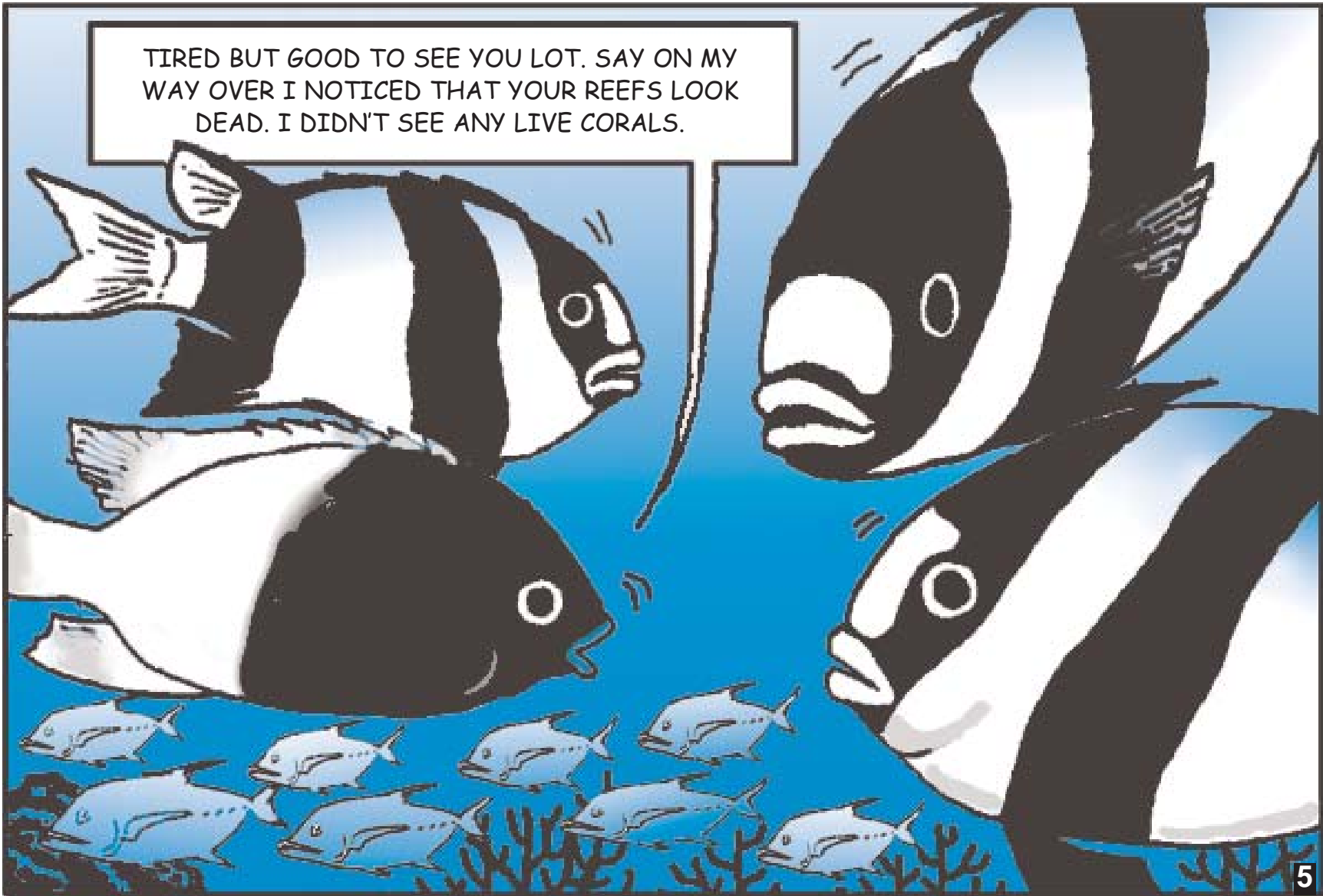
MAMA, MAMA, COME QUICKLY. TIMBI IS HERE. NOW I FINALLY GET TO GO, YEAH!



HELLO TIMBI, THANKS FOR COMING QUICKLY. HOW ARE YOU?



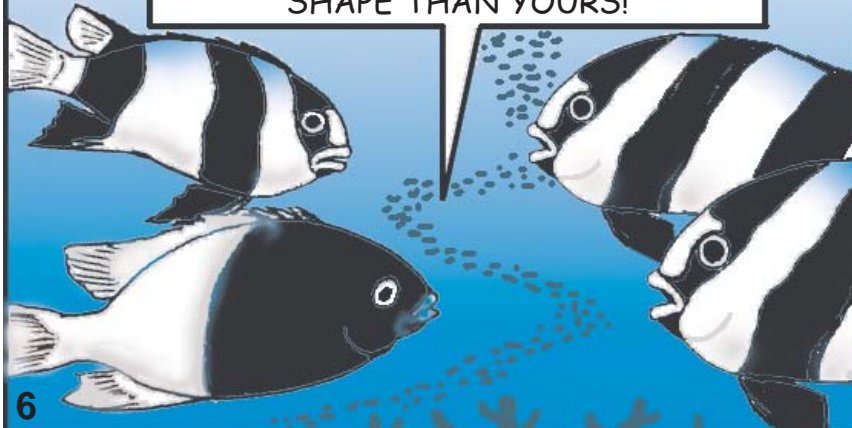
TIRED BUT GOOD TO SEE YOU LOT. SAY ON MY WAY OVER I NOTICED THAT YOUR REEFS LOOK DEAD. I DIDN'T SEE ANY LIVE CORALS.



I SAW ONLY A FEW FISH AND I DIDN'T SPOT A SINGLE TURTLE OR OCTOPUS, NOT TO MENTION GIANT CLAMS AND SEA HORSES.

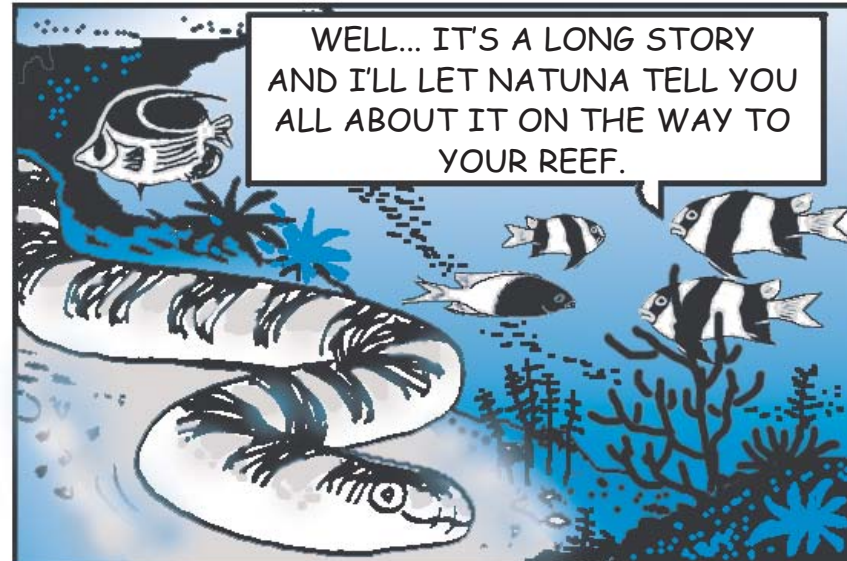


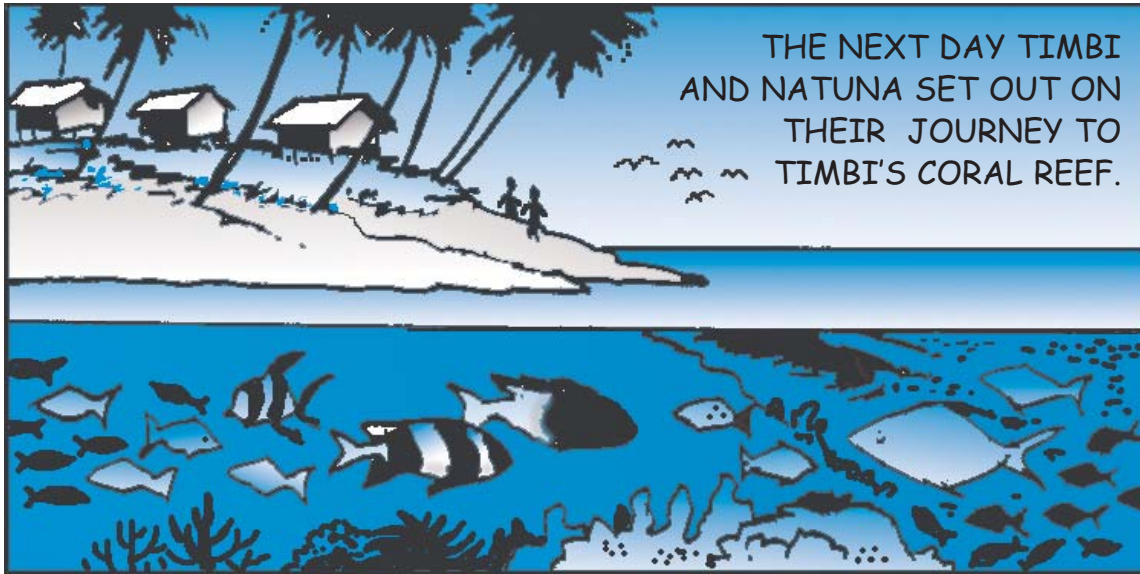
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? MY REEF IS IN MUCH, MUCH BETTER SHAPE THAN YOURS!



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WELL... IT'S A LONG STORY AND I'LL LET NATUNA TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT ON THE WAY TO YOUR REEF.

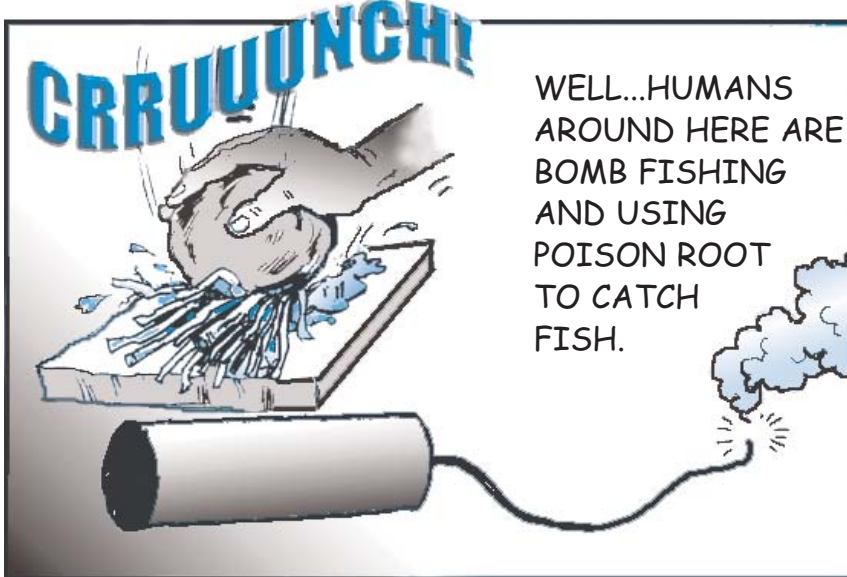




THE NEXT DAY TIMBI AND NATUNA SET OUT ON THEIR JOURNEY TO TIMBI'S CORAL REEF.

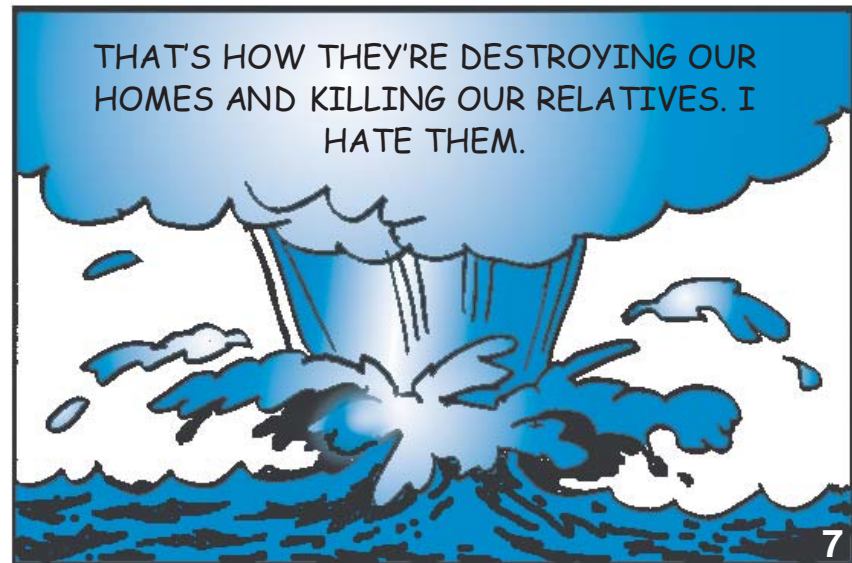


YOU ASKED WHAT WAS WRONG WITH OUR CORAL REEFS.

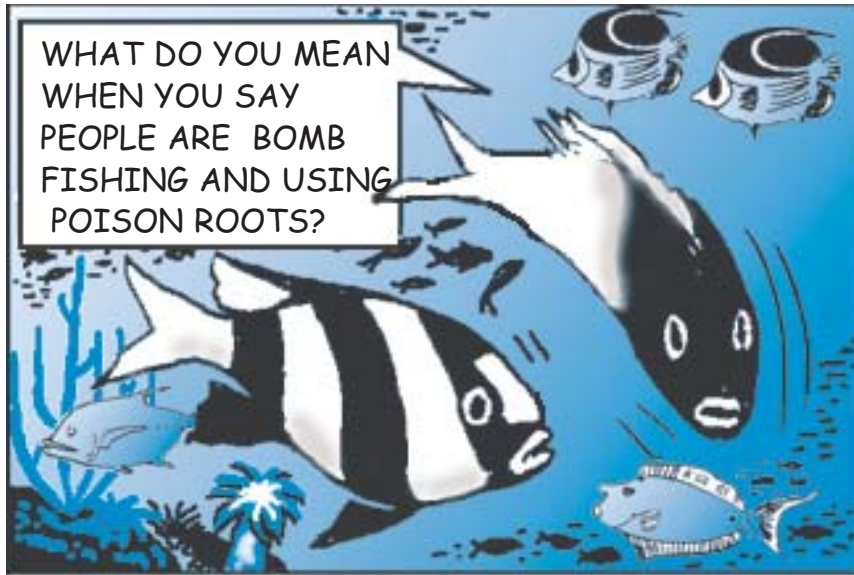


CRRUUNCH!

WELL...HUMANS AROUND HERE ARE BOMB FISHING AND USING POISON ROOT TO CATCH FISH.



THAT'S HOW THEY'RE DESTROYING OUR HOMES AND KILLING OUR RELATIVES. I HATE THEM.



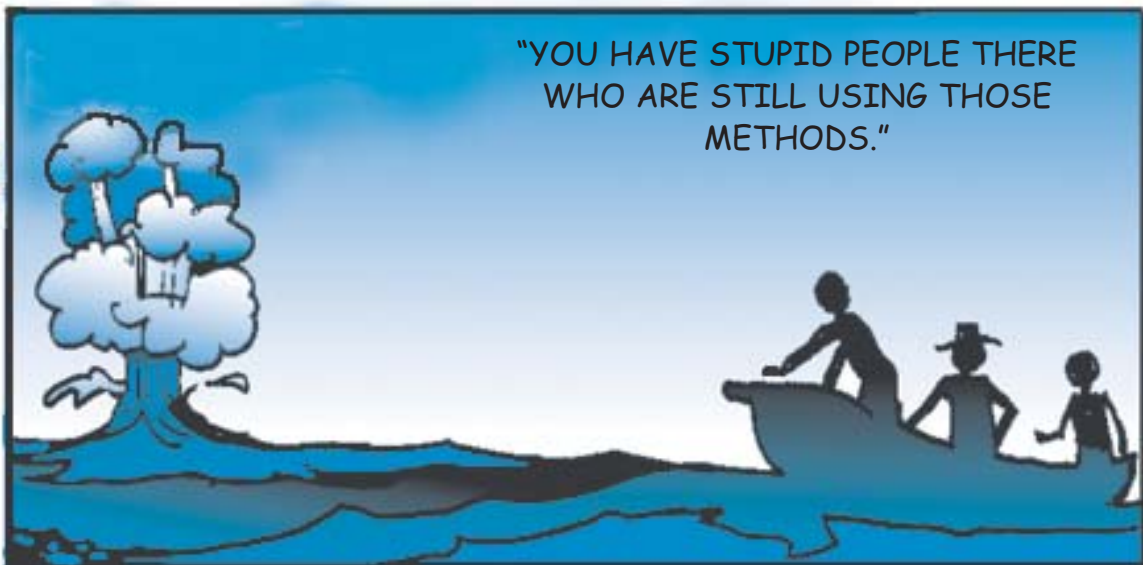
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY PEOPLE ARE BOMB FISHING AND USING POISON ROOTS?



ON MY REEF HUMANS STOPPED USING ALL THOSE DESTRUCTIVE FISHING PRACTICES LONG AGO.



NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR REEF LOOKS THE WAY IT DOES.



"YOU HAVE STUPID PEOPLE THERE WHO ARE STILL USING THOSE METHODS."



AND SO THEY SWIM ON,
ARRIVING AT TIMBI'S REEF
LATE IN THE EVENING.

OH MY GOSH COUSIN,
WHAT ON EARTH IS
THAT FUNNY LOOKING
CREATURE?



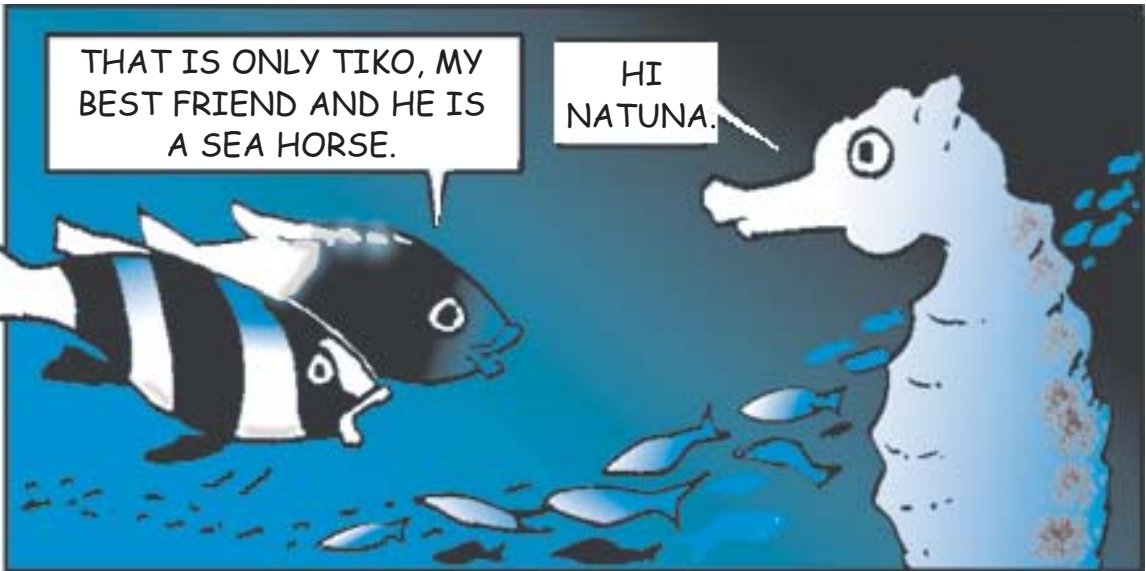
IT'S COMING
STRAIGHT AT
US!



HIDE ME!

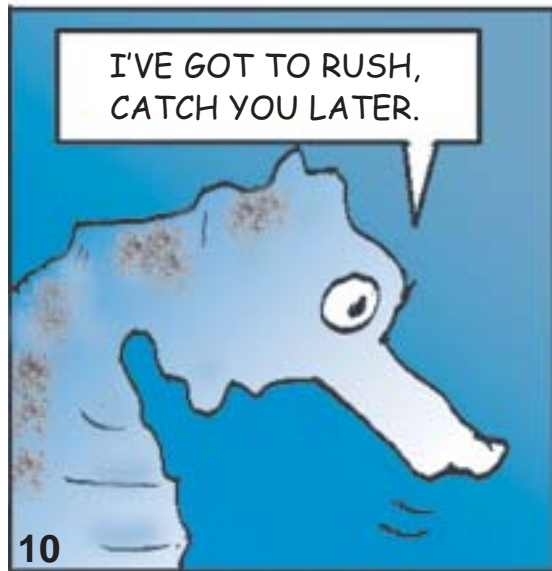


HA! HA! HA! DON'T PANIC MY LITTLE SISTER.



THAT IS ONLY TIKO, MY BEST FRIEND AND HE IS A SEA HORSE.

HI NATUNA.



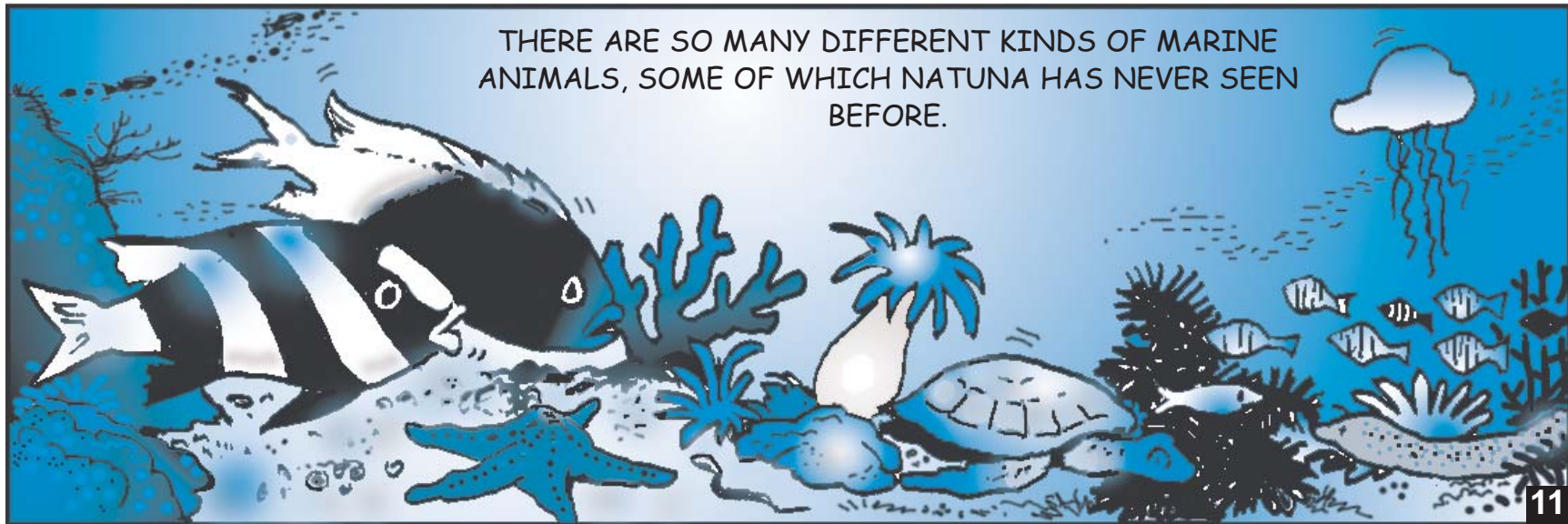
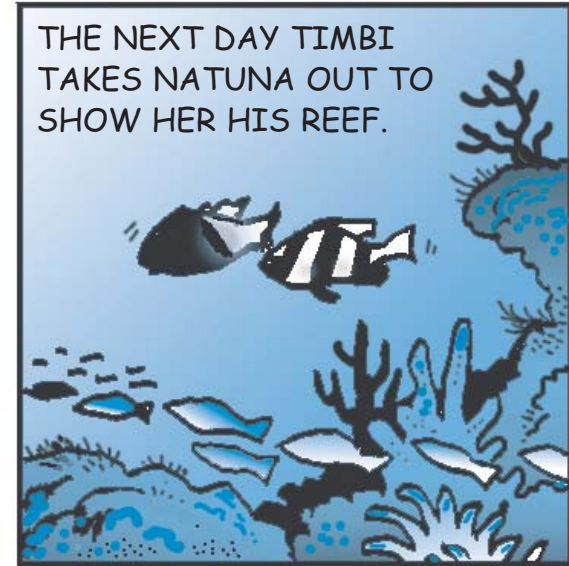
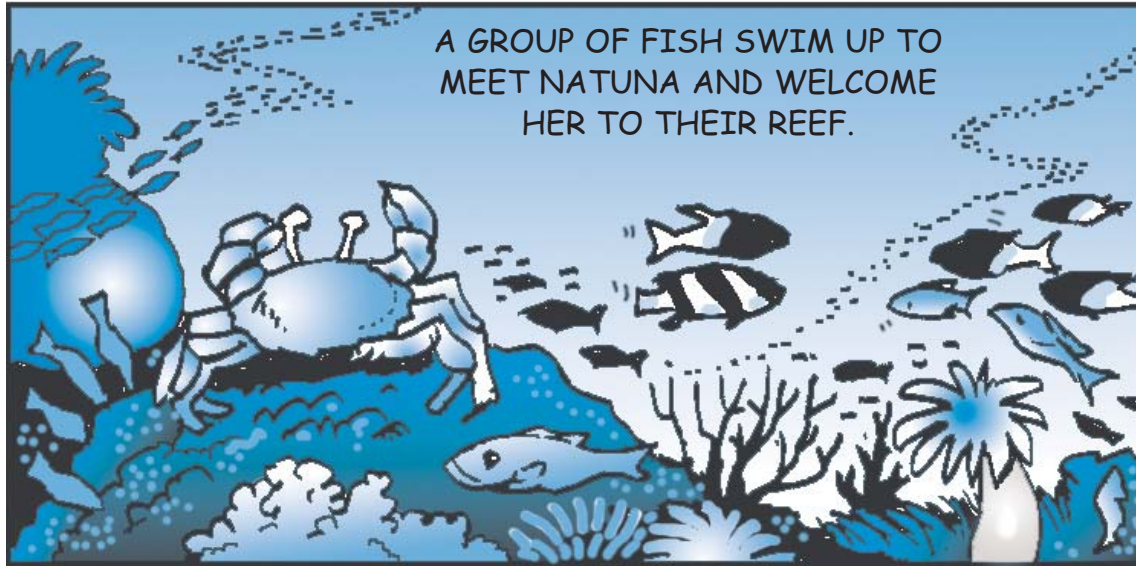
I'VE GOT TO RUSH, CATCH YOU LATER.



GOSH!

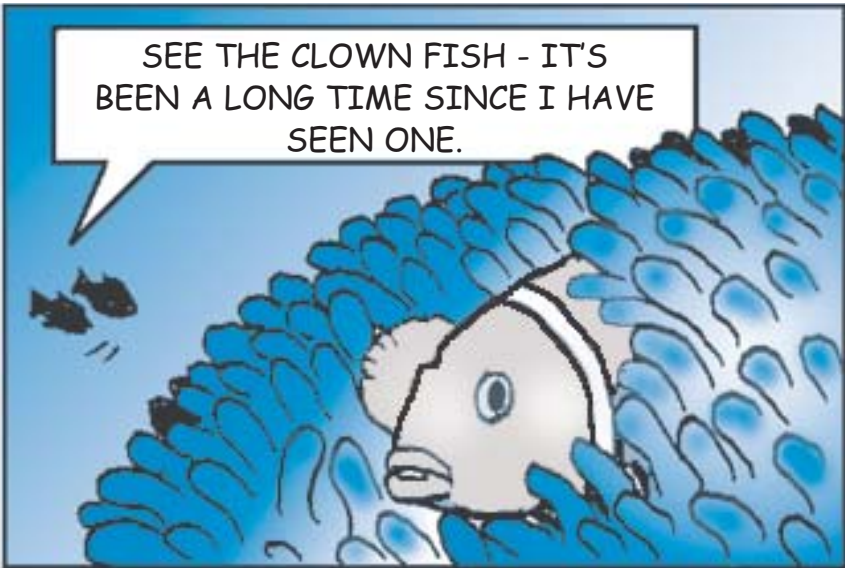


OH HERE COMES MUM AND THE TRIBE TO MEET YOU.





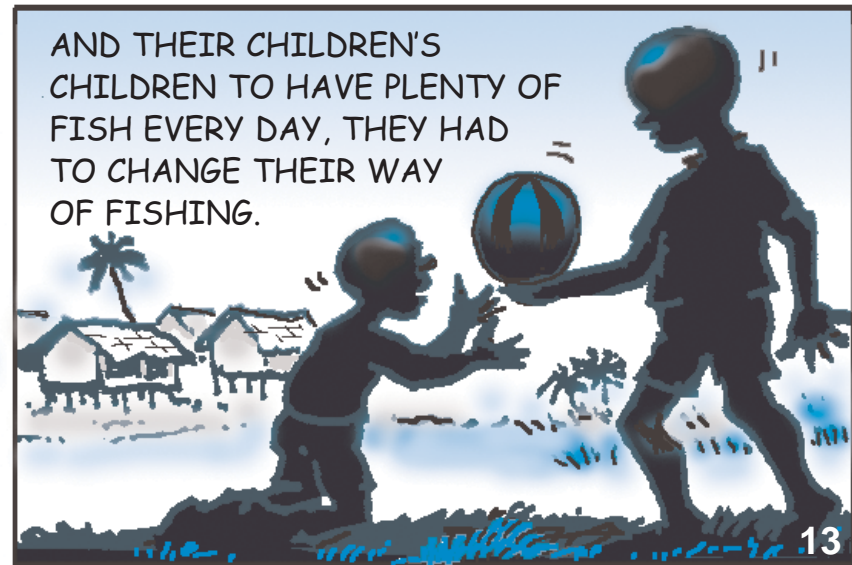
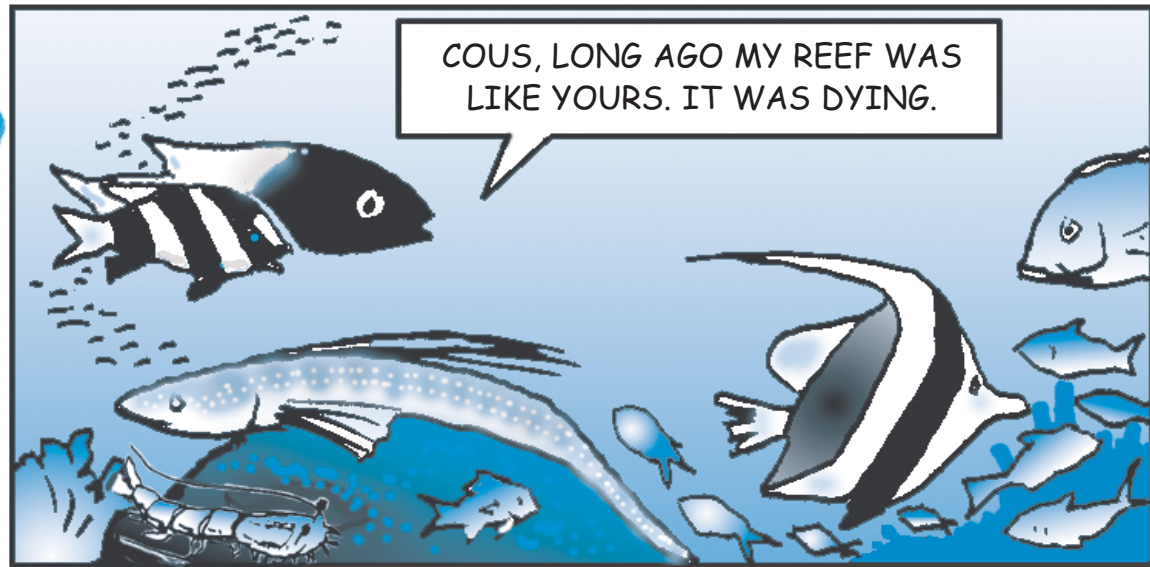
TIMBI... THIS IS BEAUTIFUL. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THIS. LOOK AT THAT CORAL.

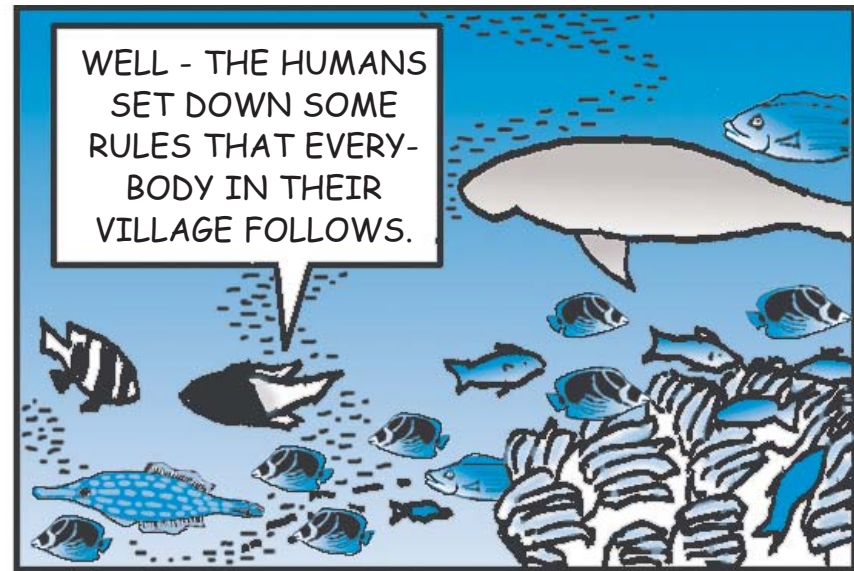


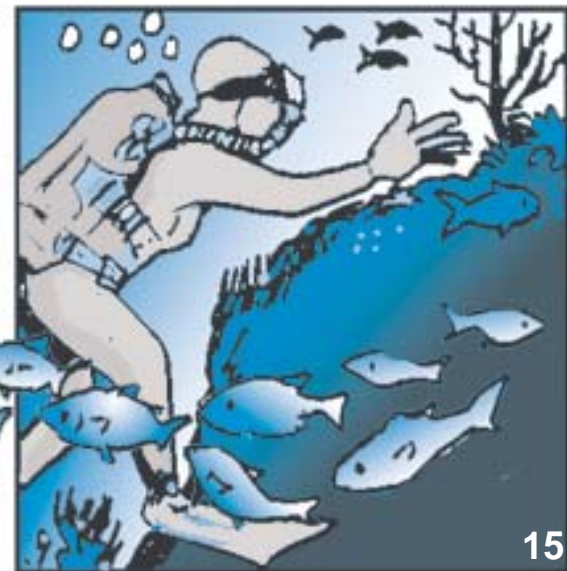
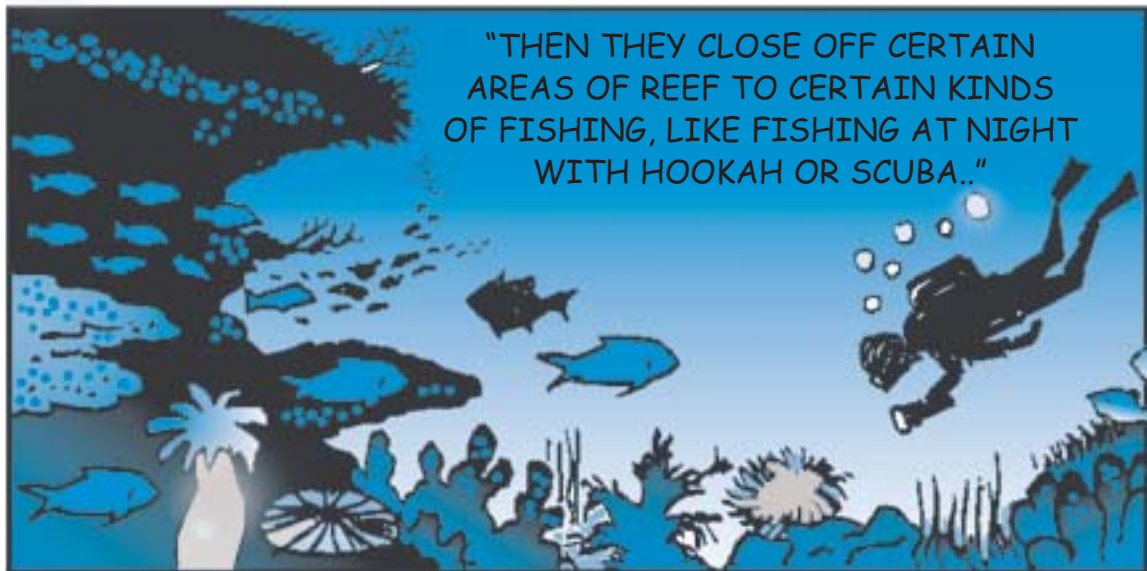
SEE THE CLOWN FISH - IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAVE SEEN ONE.

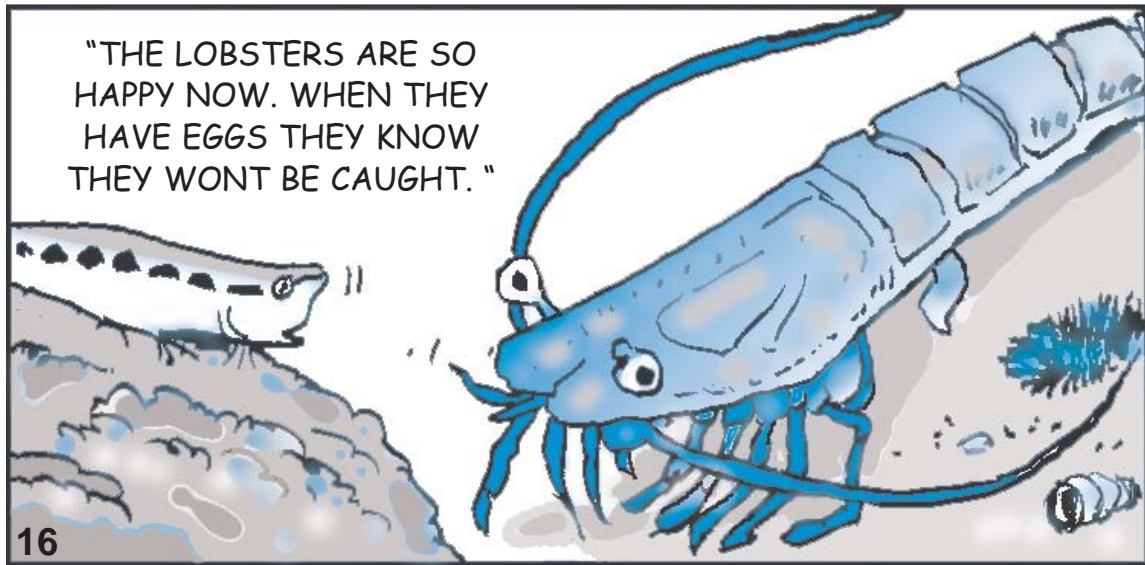
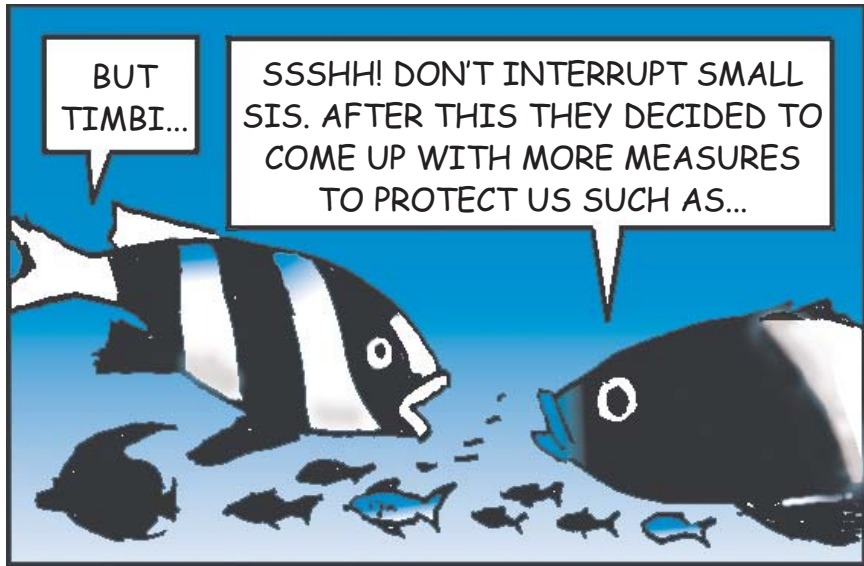


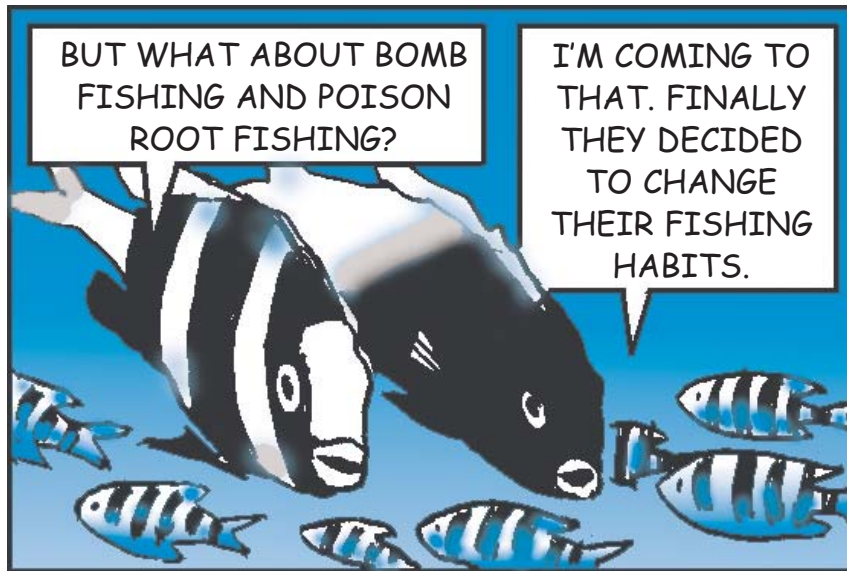
AND LOOK AT ALL THOSE LITTLE BABY FISH JUST LIKE ME!





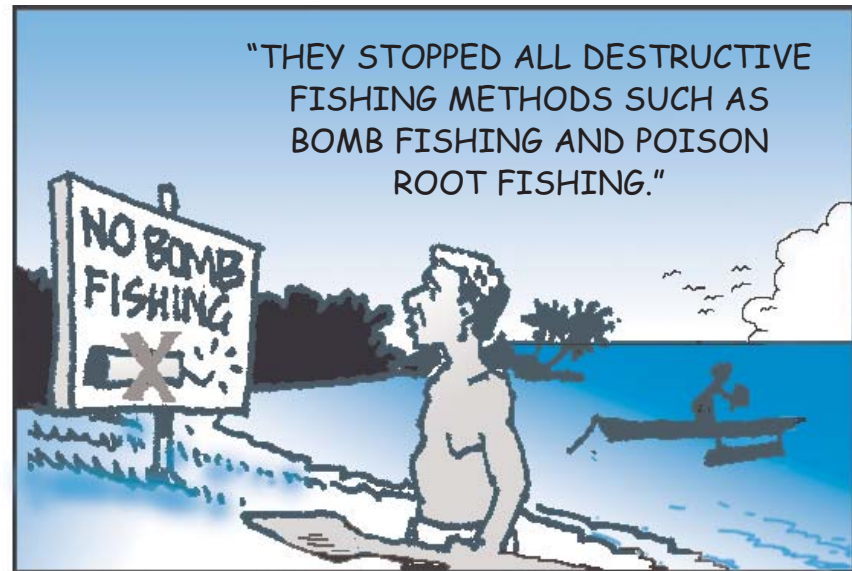




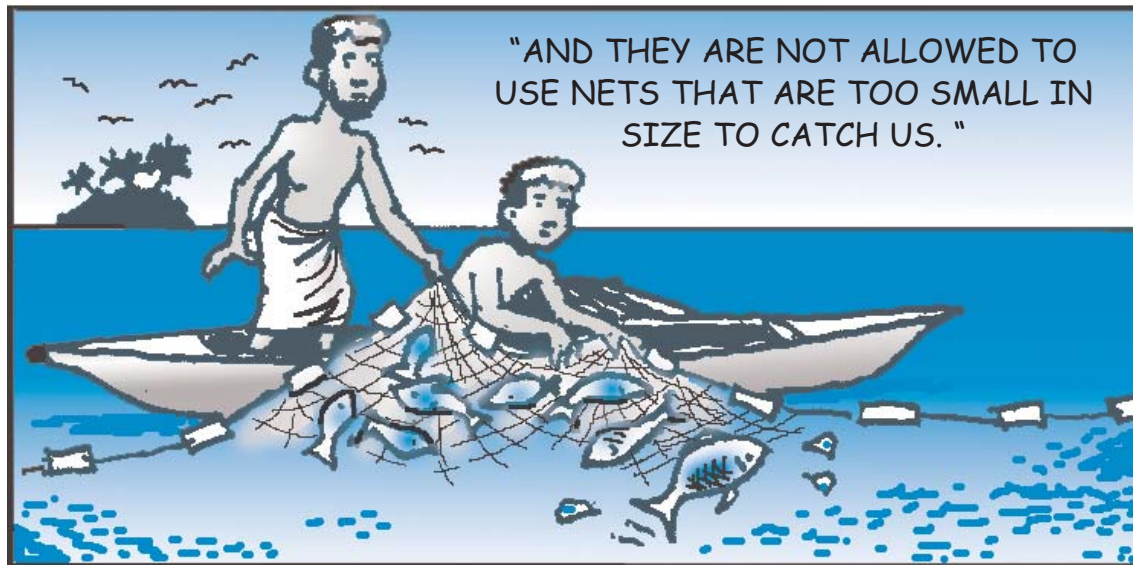


BUT WHAT ABOUT BOMB FISHING AND POISON ROOT FISHING?

I'M COMING TO THAT. FINALLY THEY DECIDED TO CHANGE THEIR FISHING HABITS.



"THEY STOPPED ALL DESTRUCTIVE FISHING METHODS SUCH AS BOMB FISHING AND POISON ROOT FISHING."



"AND THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE NETS THAT ARE TOO SMALL IN SIZE TO CATCH US."



"THEY MAKE SURE THAT OLD NETS ARE NOT LEFT LYING AROUND IN OUR HOMES. SO THAT THEY DO NOT CONTINUE TO CATCH US."

SO NATUNA - THAT IS WHY MY REEF IS THE WAY IT IS TODAY. IF THE HUMANS WHERE YOU LIVE DO THE SAME THING, YOUR REEF COULD BECOME LIKE MINE TOO.



"LATER THAT NIGHT, TIMBI'S FATHER KOMI SAYS..."

TIMBI, YOU KNOW THAT TOMORROW YOU HAVE TO TAKE NATUNA TO YOUR AUNT FISI'S REEF...

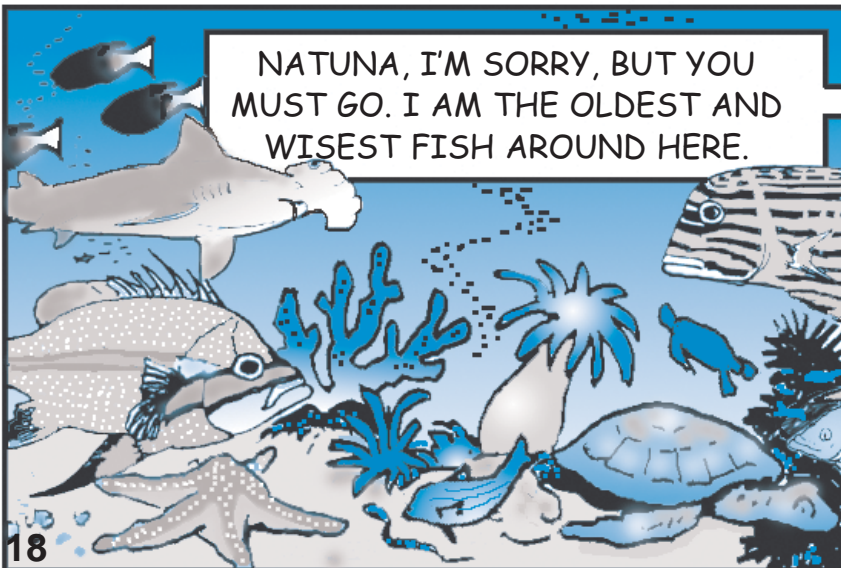


WHERE SHE WILL SPEND THE REST OF HER HOLIDAYS.

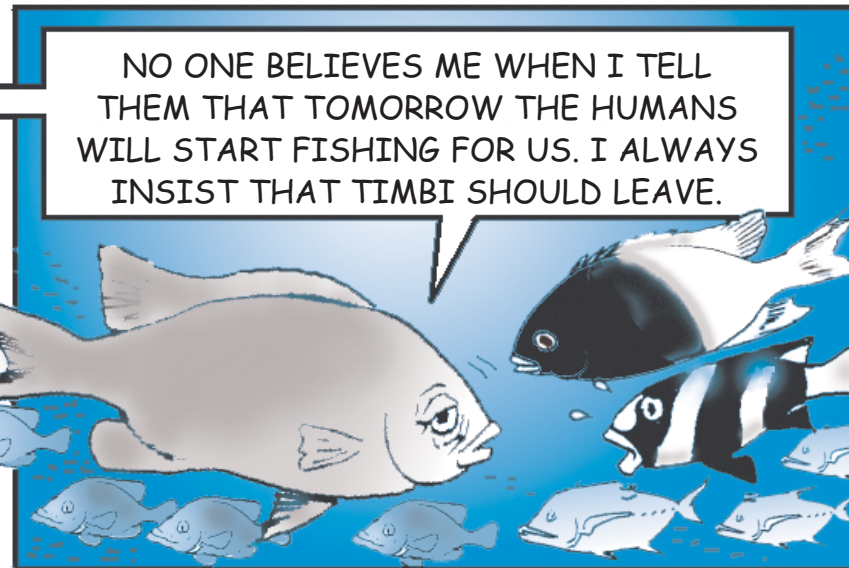
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE - THIS PLACE IS SO BEAUTIFUL. I WANT TO STAY HERE. PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME GO.



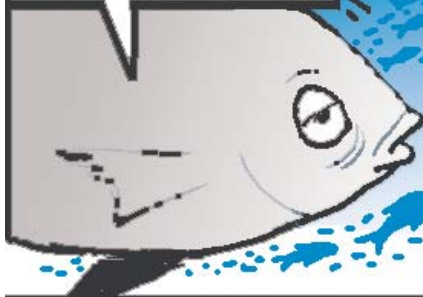
NATUNA, I'M SORRY, BUT YOU MUST GO. I AM THE OLDEST AND WISEST FISH AROUND HERE.



NO ONE BELIEVES ME WHEN I TELL THEM THAT TOMORROW THE HUMANS WILL START FISHING FOR US. I ALWAYS INSIST THAT TIMBI SHOULD LEAVE.



ALL OTHER FISH DON'T BOTHER TO LEAVE. THEY THINK I AM JUST A CRAZY OLD FISH TALKING NONSENSE.



NATUNA WE HAVE TO LEAVE. YOU CAME AT A TIME WHEN THE HUMANS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO FISH ON MY REEF.



REMEMBER WHAT I SAID TO YOU TODAY ABOUT CLOSED SEASON? THAT DAY ENDS TOMORROW. AFTER TOMORROW THEIR DIVERS WILL BE COMING TO SPEAR US FOR DINNER. YOU'RE TOO SMALL AND THEY WON'T TAKE YOU, BUT I'M JUST THE RIGHT SIZE TO EAT... SO I HAVE TO GO TO A SAFER PLACE.



THIS IS JUST TEMPORARY. SIX MONTHS LATER, WHEN THE SEASON CLOSSES AGAIN, WE'LL BE BACK.



THERE'S A SAFER PLACE THAN THIS? IS THAT WHERE AUNT FISI LIVES? ARE OTHERS LEAVING WITH US?



THAT'S RIGHT NATUNA. I WANT YOU TO GO WITH TIMBI, SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR SAFETY TOO. YOU'LL ENJOY STAYING THERE. NO ONE WILL GO WITH YOU AND TIMBI. NO ONE BELIEVES ME.

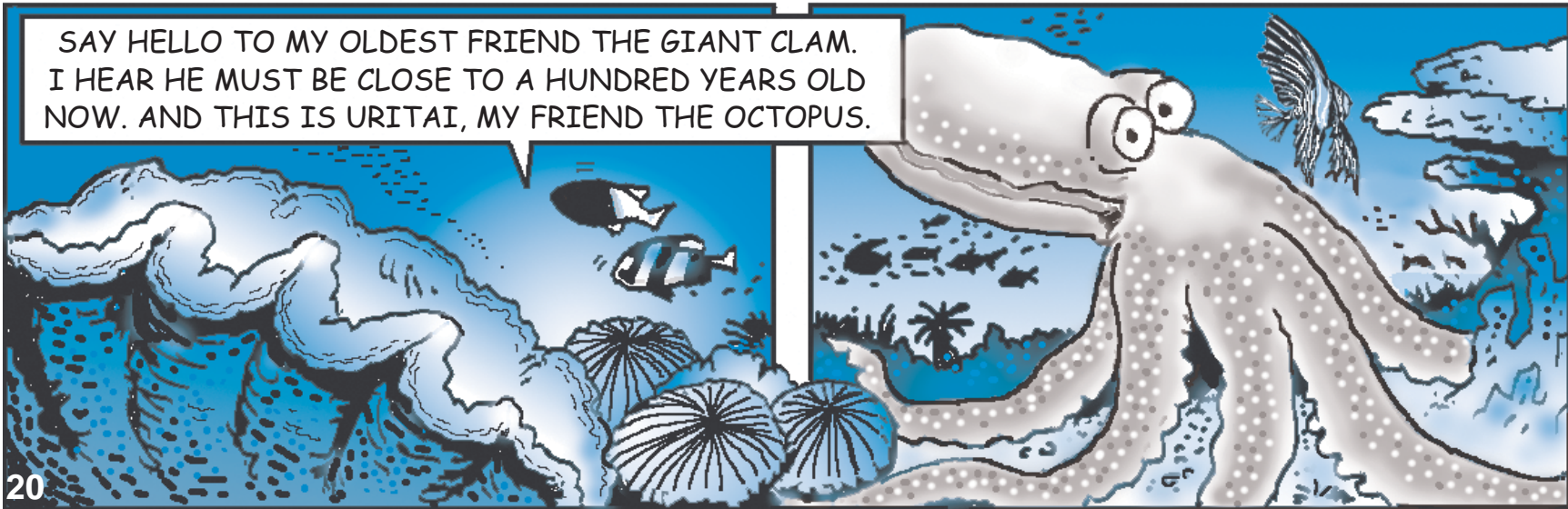


THE NEXT DAY THEY SWIM OFF TO AUNTY FISI'S REEF. NATUNA IS LOST FOR WORDS AS THEY ENTER THE REEF. IT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN TIMBI'S REEF.

AUNTY LIVES ON THE OTHER SIDE SO WE HAVE TO GO OVER THE WHOLE REEF TO GET TO HER, THAT'S GOOD... I CAN SHOW YOU THINGS AND INTRODUCE MY FRIENDS TO YOU.

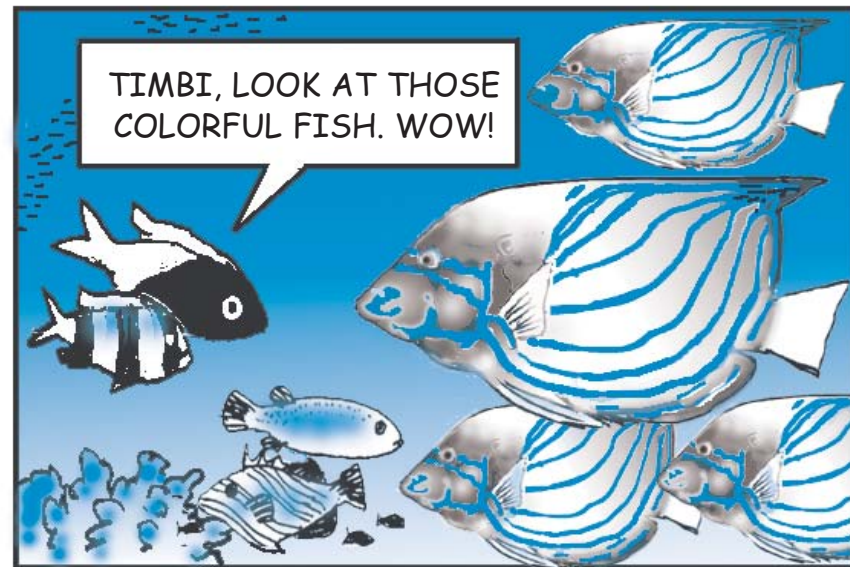


SAY HELLO TO MY OLDEST FRIEND THE GIANT CLAM. I HEAR HE MUST BE CLOSE TO A HUNDRED YEARS OLD NOW. AND THIS IS URITAI, MY FRIEND THE OCTOPUS.

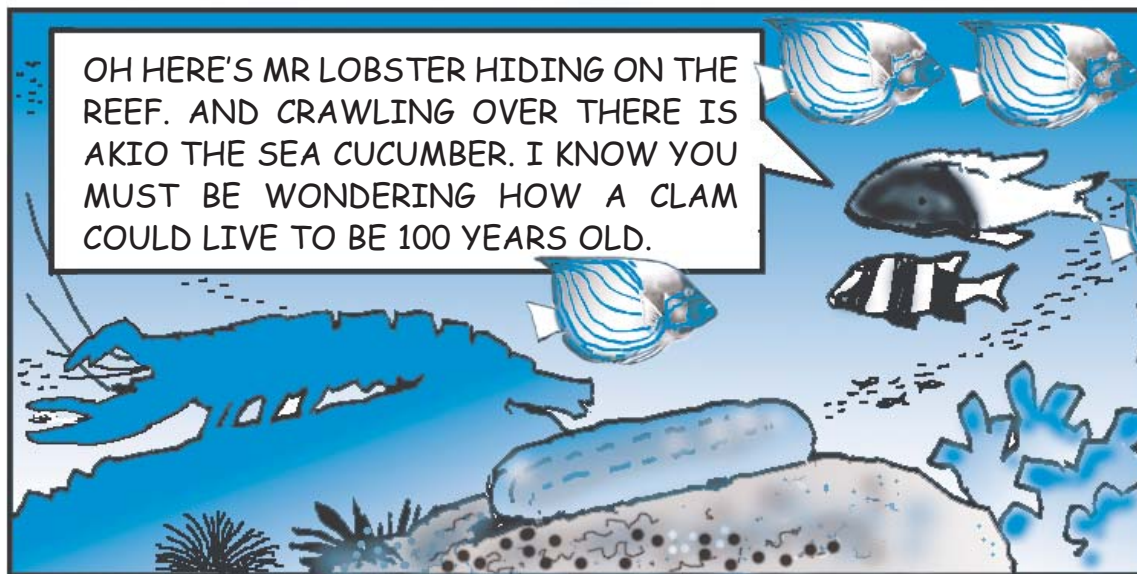




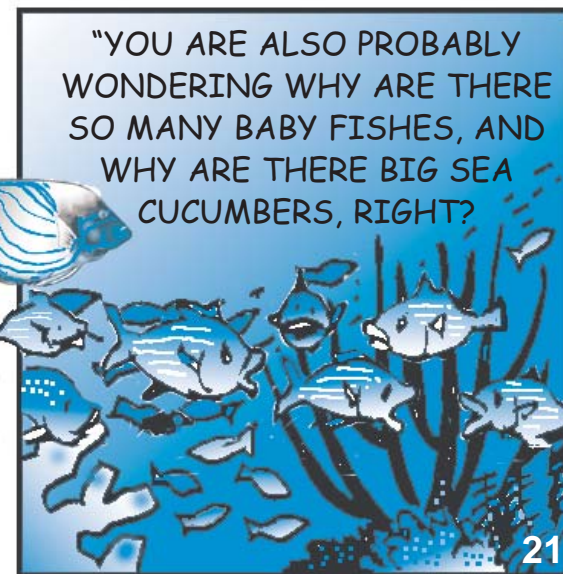
WELCOME LITTLE ONE TO MY HOME. YOU'RE A STRANGER... COME VISIT ME SOMETIME... WE CAN PLAY HIDE AND SEEK.



TIMBI, LOOK AT THOSE COLORFUL FISH. WOW!



OH HERE'S MR LOBSTER HIDING ON THE REEF. AND CRAWLING OVER THERE IS AKIO THE SEA CUCUMBER. I KNOW YOU MUST BE WONDERING HOW A CLAM COULD LIVE TO BE 100 YEARS OLD.



"YOU ARE ALSO PROBABLY WONDERING WHY ARE THERE SO MANY BABY FISHES, AND WHY ARE THERE BIG SEA CUCUMBERS, RIGHT?"

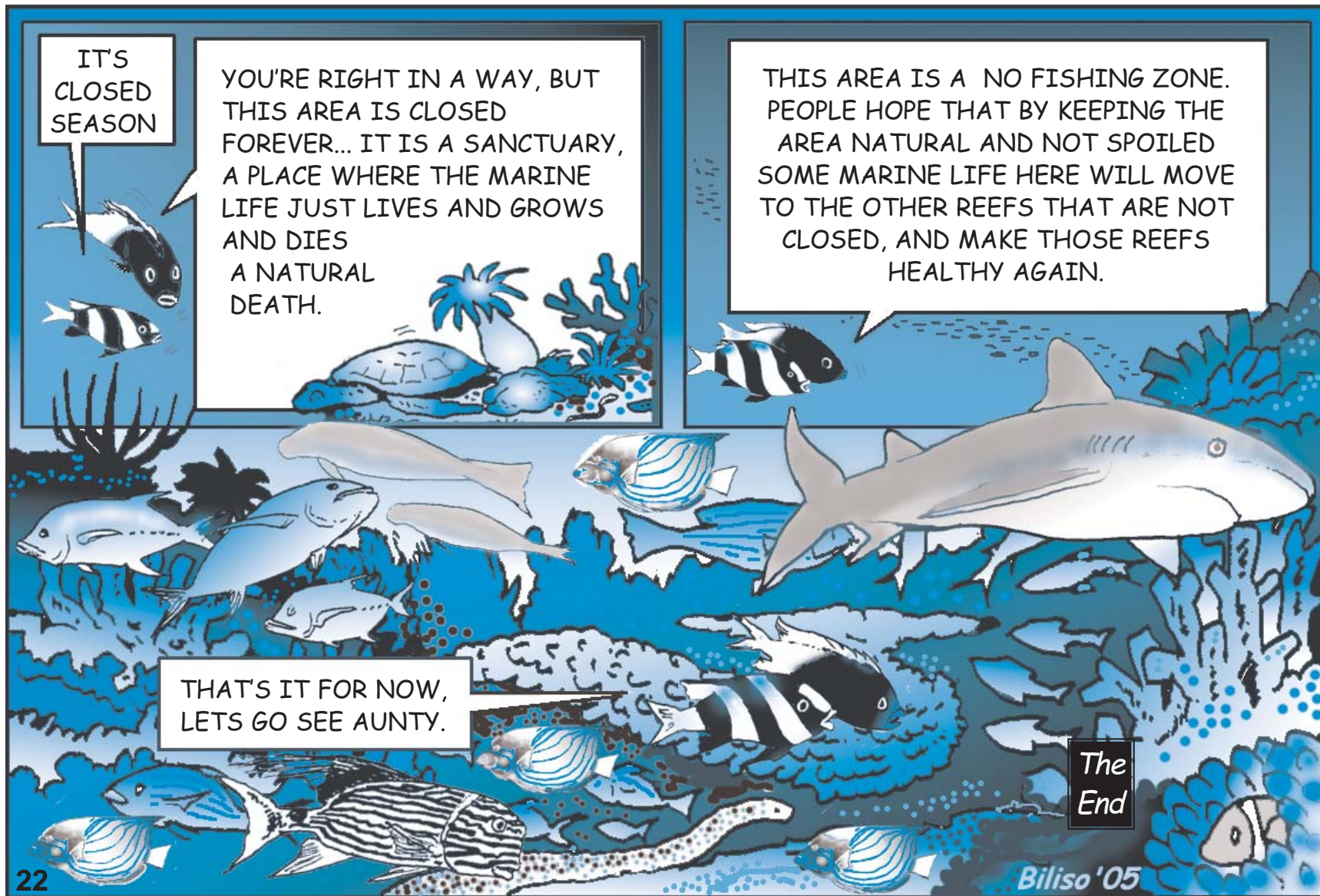
IT'S
CLOSED
SEASON

YOU'RE RIGHT IN A WAY, BUT
THIS AREA IS CLOSED
FOREVER... IT IS A SANCTUARY,
A PLACE WHERE THE MARINE
LIFE JUST LIVES AND GROWS
AND DIES
A NATURAL
DEATH.

THIS AREA IS A NO FISHING ZONE.
PEOPLE HOPE THAT BY KEEPING THE
AREA NATURAL AND NOT SPOILED
SOME MARINE LIFE HERE WILL MOVE
TO THE OTHER REEFS THAT ARE NOT
CLOSED, AND MAKE THOSE REEFS
HEALTHY AGAIN.

THAT'S IT FOR NOW,
LETS GO SEE AUNTY.

The
End



Dynamite fishing is bad because:

1. It kills baby fish as well as bigger fish that have not yet made babies.
2. It also kills or harms other sea animals like sea turtles, dugongs, sea cucumbers and lobsters.
3. It destroys the coral homes where fish, lobsters, and other sea animals live.
4. It can kill or injure humans who use it.
5. It is against the law.

What to do when you see someone using dynamite:

1. Talk to the person and explain that dynamite fishing is destructive.
2. Report the person to the village fishing management committee, or to the village elders.
3. Tell other people in the village that this person is destroying their fishing grounds.
4. Organize a village meeting to discuss what should be done about people using dynamite.

