

CALL of the SEA

TO CHANGE



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OFFSHORE, IN A SMALL BOAT
CRISPIN AND HIS FATHER HAD BEEN SITTING FOR HOURS
TIRED AND WORRIED

IT'S ALMOST DAWN. WE
HAVEN'T CAUGHT
ANYTHING



IT'S STRANGE FISH AREN'T BITING. THERE MUST BE
PLENTY DOWN THERE. CAN'T WE BLAST OR POISON
THEM FATHER? SO WE'D CATCH SOMETHING

NOT ANOTHER WORD, CRISPIN!
YOU HAVE NO CLUE ABOUT
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!

BUT EVERYONE IS DOING IT!
EVEN FISHERS INLAND
ARE USING POISON, AND THEY
ALWAYS CATCH SOMETHING!

THAT EVERYONE IS
DOING IT DOESN'T
MAKE A WRONG THING
RIGHT. REMEMBER
THAT CRISPIN!





HEY CRISPIN! GEEZ, WHY SO GLUM?



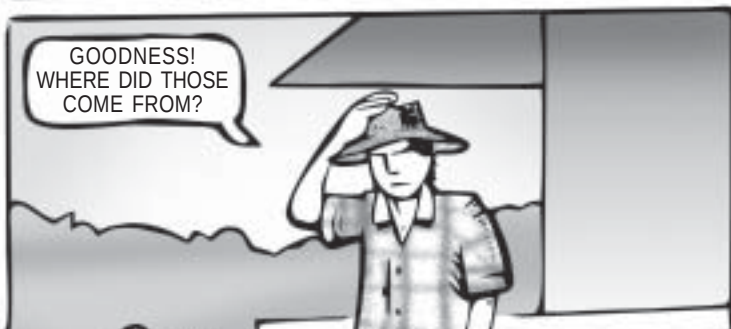
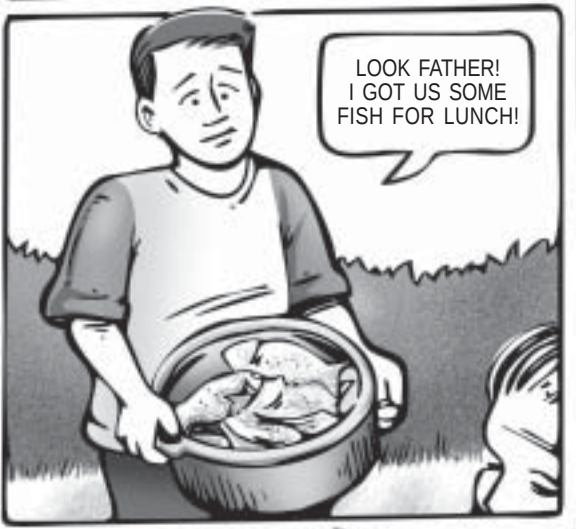
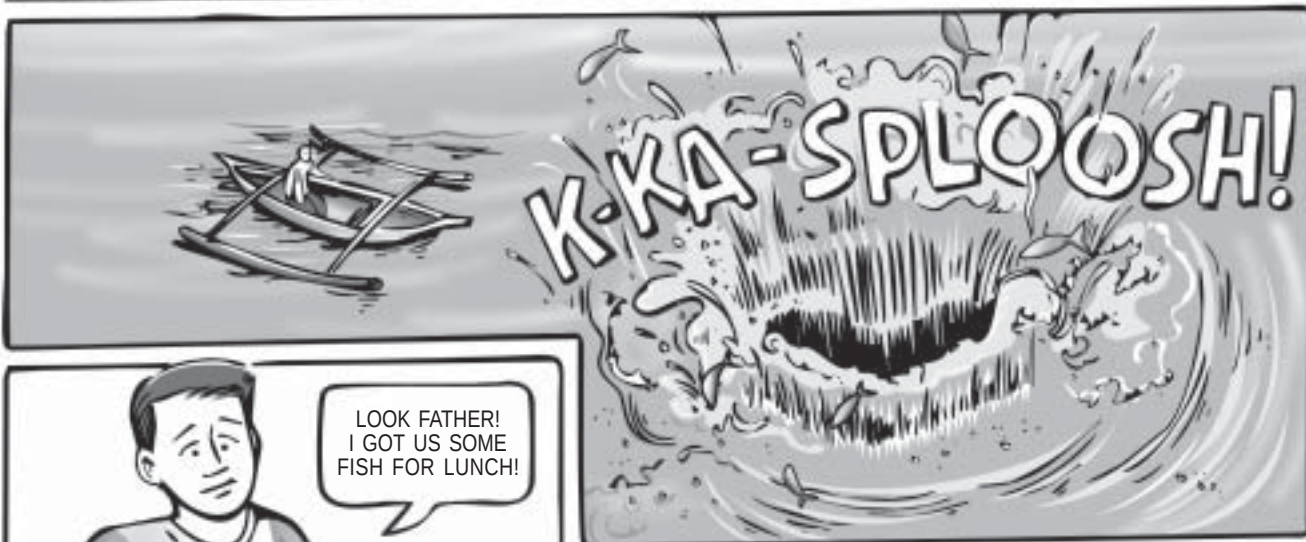
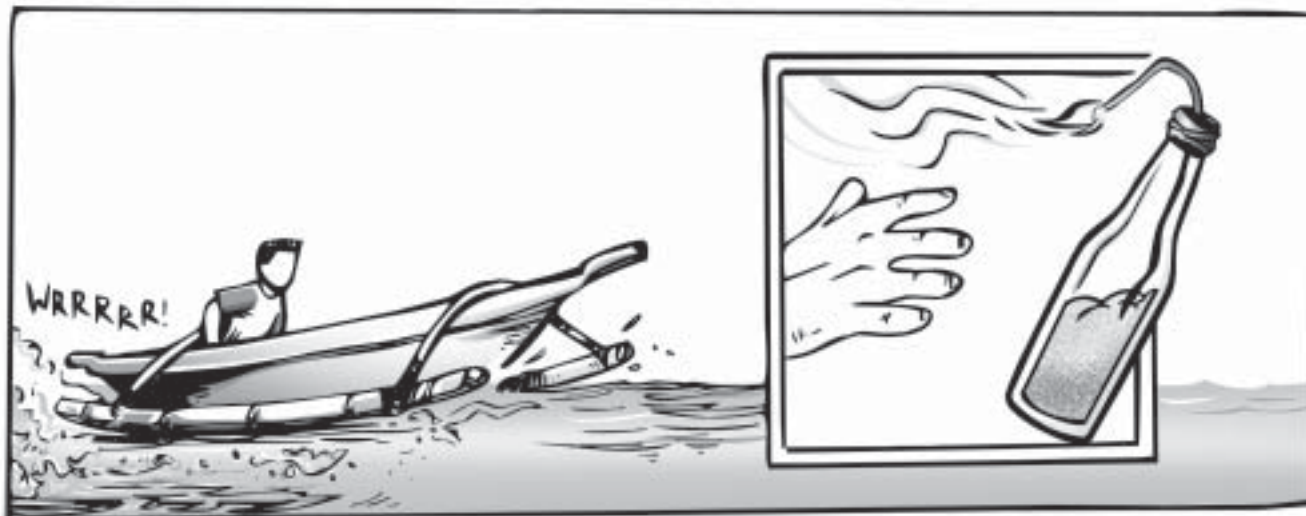
NOTHING.
JUST ANOTHER BAD NIGHT.
WE DIDN'T CATCH
ANYTHING

YOU'D CATCH A LOT
IF YOU FISH LIKE I DO.
WHY IS YOUR FATHER
BEING SO
PIG-HEADED?



HE SAYS IT'S
ILLEGAL

YEAH, RIGHT. LIKE ANYONE
CARES. NOBODY HAS DONE
JAILTIME FOR BLASTING FISH, SO
WHAT IS HE AFRAID OF? IT'S NOT
LIKE HE'D BE COMMITTING THEFT
OR MURDER. HERE, TRY IT!







MOTHER, DO YOU THINK FATHER IS STILL MAD AT ME? I WANTED ONLY TO HELP

HE'LL GET OVER IT. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S ANGRY

THAT'S JUST IT, I DON'T. I'M SORRY MOTHER BUT I REALLY DON'T

I THINK FATHER WOULD RATHER WE ALL JUST GO HUNGRY

NO, CRISPIN! DON'T THINK THAT! YOUR FATHER'S ANGER GOES BACK 20 YEARS, BACK THEN A NIGHT OF FISHING WOULD BRING IN 20-30 KILOS. EASILY. YOU'RE FATHER WENT OUT TO SEA ONLY FOUR TIMES A WEEK...

WITH YOUR UNCLE LITO

UNCLE LITO?

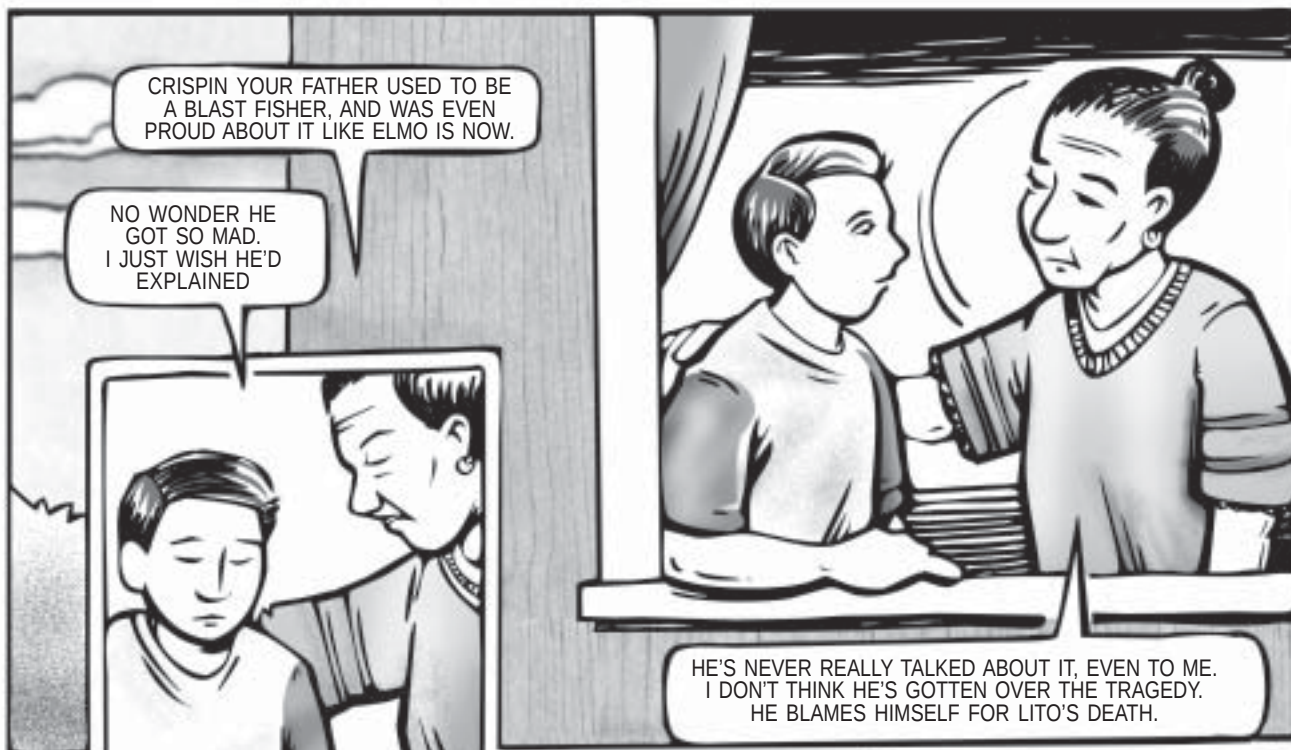
YOU DON'T REMEMBER HIM, DO YOU? YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ONLY ONE OR TWO YEARS OLD THEN. LITO IS THE YOUNGEST BROTHER YOUR FATHER LOVED DEARLY BECAUSE HE LITERALLY BROUGHT HIM UP. THEY WERE ORPHANED WHEN LITO WAS 8.

ONE NIGHT, THEY WENT OUT TO FISH. USUALLY THEY'D BE AWAY FOR 4HRS

NOT THAT NIGHT. THAT NIGHT, BARELY 2HRS AFTER THEY LEFT, YOUR FATHER CAME HOME...

DESPERATELY HOLDING LITO, WHO WAS BLOODIED, HIS FACE SHATTERED.

LITO WAS GONE.



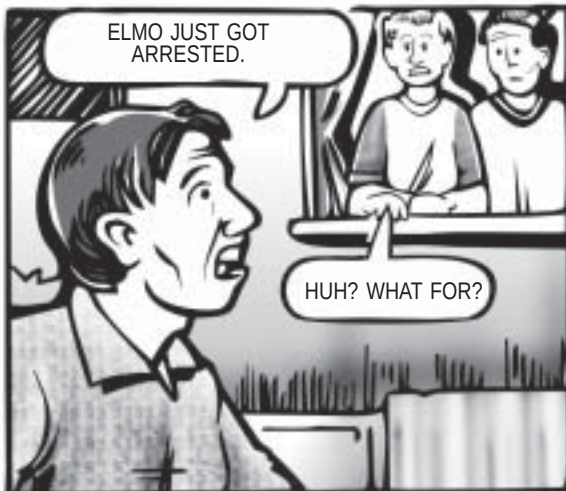
CRISPIN YOUR FATHER USED TO BE A BLAST FISHER, AND WAS EVEN PROUD ABOUT IT LIKE ELMO IS NOW.

NO WONDER HE GOT SO MAD. I JUST WISH HE'D EXPLAINED

HE'S NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT IT, EVEN TO ME. I DON'T THINK HE'S GOTTEN OVER THE TRAGEDY. HE BLAMES HIMSELF FOR LITO'S DEATH.



HEY! WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION ABOUT?



ELMO JUST GOT
ARRESTED.

HUH? WHAT FOR?



BLAST FISHING IN THE OTHER
TOWN, IS WHAT I HEARD



OH MY. WHAT GOT INTO HIM? HE
KNOWS HOW STRICT THE SEA
PATROLS ARE OVER THERE

THERE'S JUST TOO LITTLE FISH LEFT IN OUR
WATERS TO CATCH, THAT'S WHY. YOU CAN
USE SEVERAL KILOS OF EXPLOSIVES AND
STILL CATCH ONLY A FEW FISH

DID I HEAR RIGHT?
THE OTHER TOWN
STILL HAS PLENTY
OF FISH?



THAT'S WHAT
THEY SAY

HOW CAN THERE NOT BE
PLENTY OF FISH THERE? I
HEARD NO ONE'S ALLOWED
TO FISH



NO FISHING? THAT CAN'T
HAPPEN. WHERE WILL PEOPLE GO
FOR FOOD?

HAHA. MAYBE THEY DON'T EAT?
SO MANY THINGS ARE PROHIBITED
THERE -- MAYBE THEY'RE NOT
ALLOWED TO EAT?



SON, I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR RAISING MY VOICE AT YOU THE OTHER DAY

NO FATHER. YOU HAD EVERY REASON TO BE ANGRY. MOTHER HAS EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO ME. I'M SORRY FOR DISOBEYING YOU. I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT UNCLE LITO



YOUR UNCLE LITO'S ACCIDENT IS JUST ONE OF MANY REASONS WHY I ABHOR BLAST FISHING.

NOW THAT I LOOK BACK TO ALL THOSE YEARS THAT I MYSELF WAS ENGAGED IN DESTRUCTIVE FISHING, I REALIZE THAT I WAS NOT ONLY BEING VERY SELFISH BUT ALSO COMMITTING A TERRIBLE MORAL CRIME



WHAT DO YOU MEAN FATHER?

HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED IN RECENT MONTHS HOW LITTLE FISH OUR NEIGHBORS ARE ABLE TO CATCH EVEN WHEN THEY USE EXPLOSIVES?

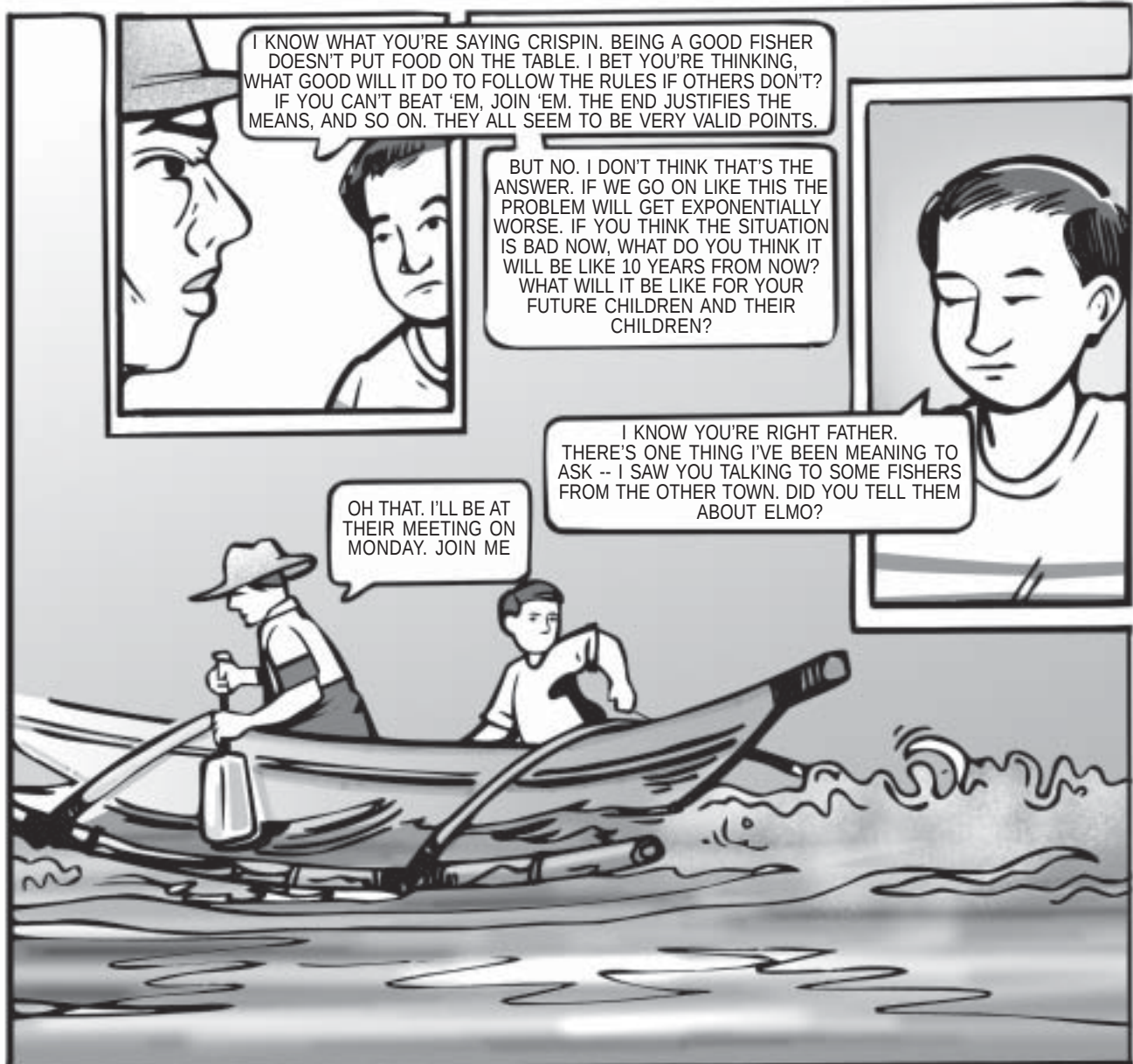
AS THEIR CATCH DWINDLES, THEY'RE RELYING EVEN MORE ON EXPLOSIVES AND POISONS TO CATCH ANYTHING.

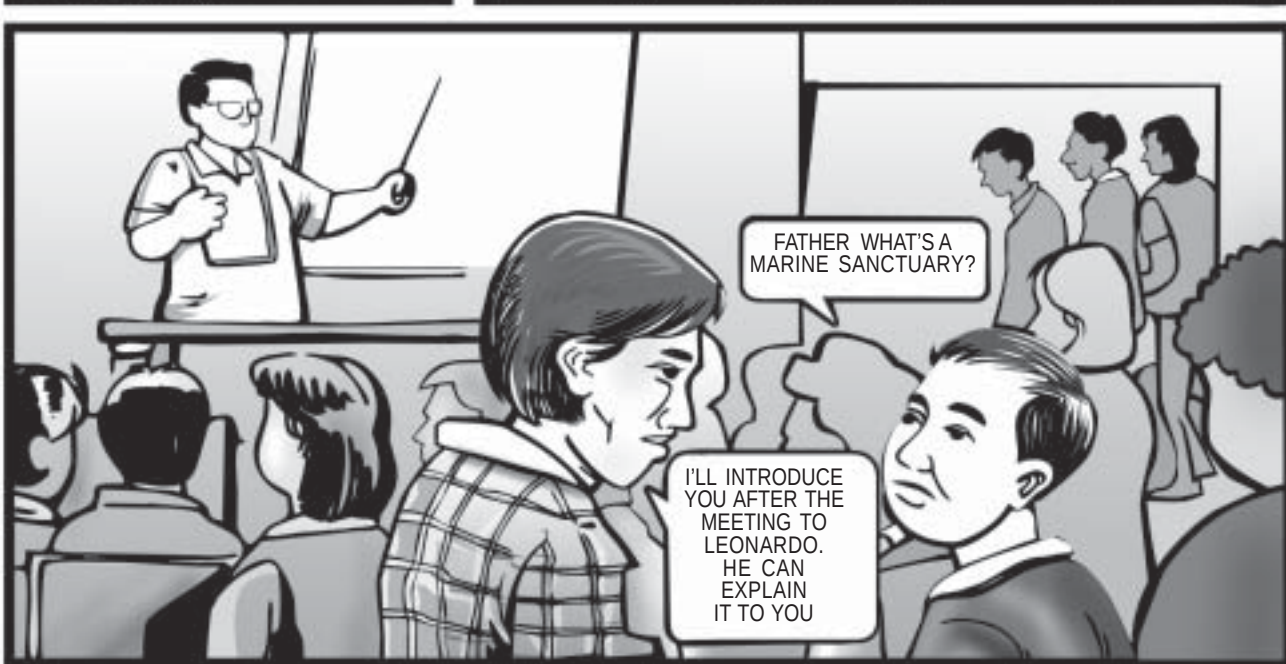
BAD FISHING HAS DECIMATED OUR REEFS TO A VIRTUAL WASTELAND

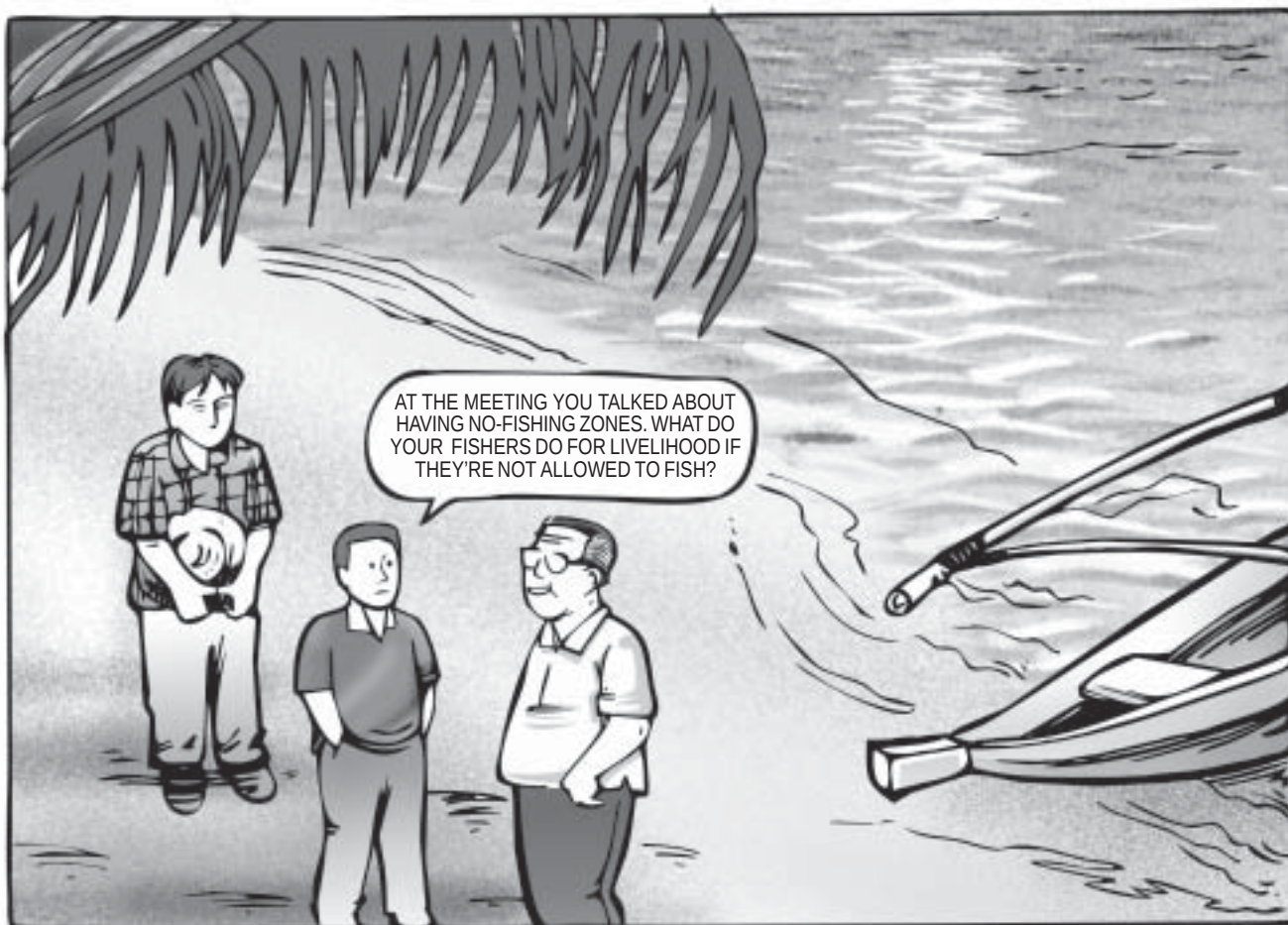
KA BLOOB!

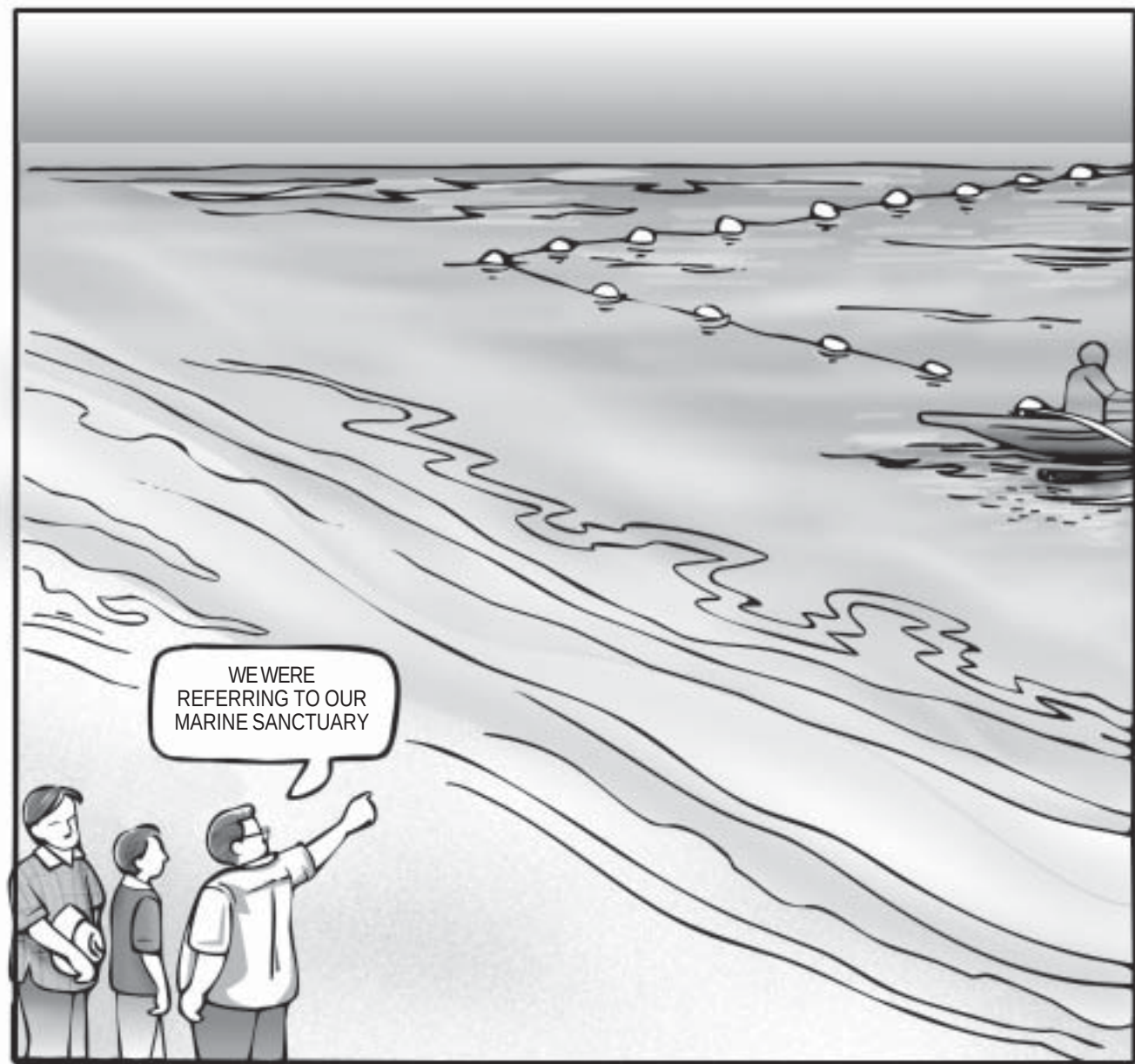
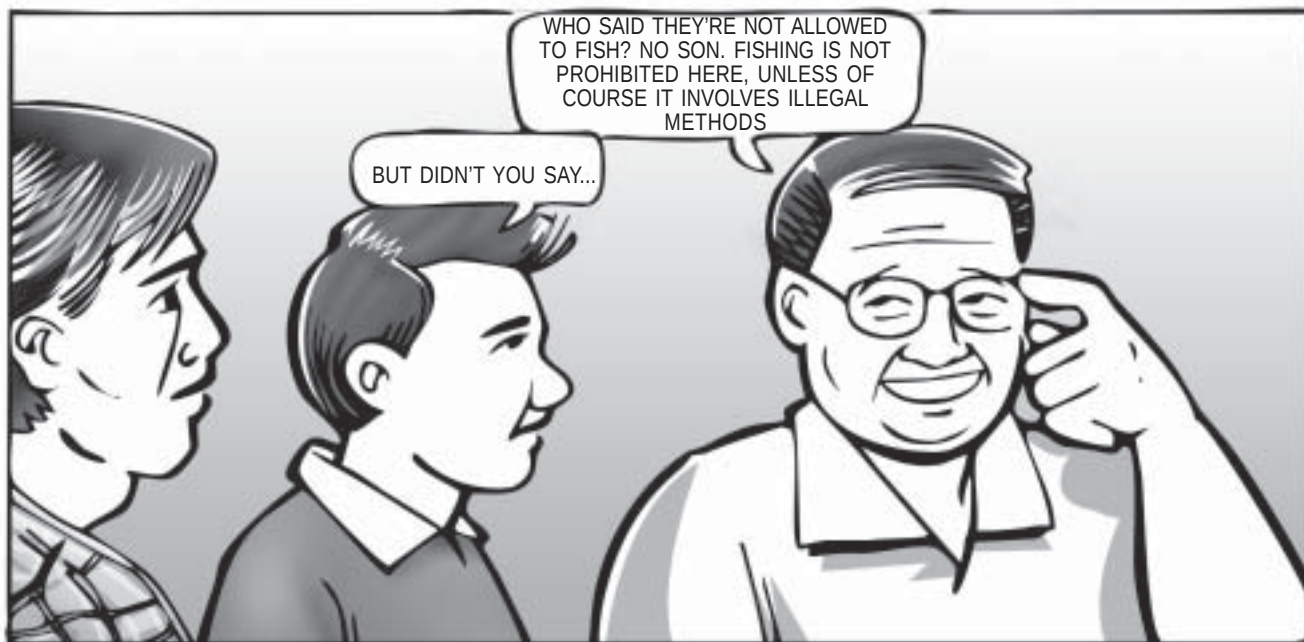
I PITY YOU YOUNG FISHERS. WE OLD FISHERS AT LEAST KNEW A TIME WHEN ALL WE NEEDED TO CATCH FISH WAS HOOK, LINE AND BAIT. WELL, MAYBE A ROCK TO SIT ON, TOO ALTHO WE CERTAINLY DIDN'T NEED TO SIT THERE FOR HOURS



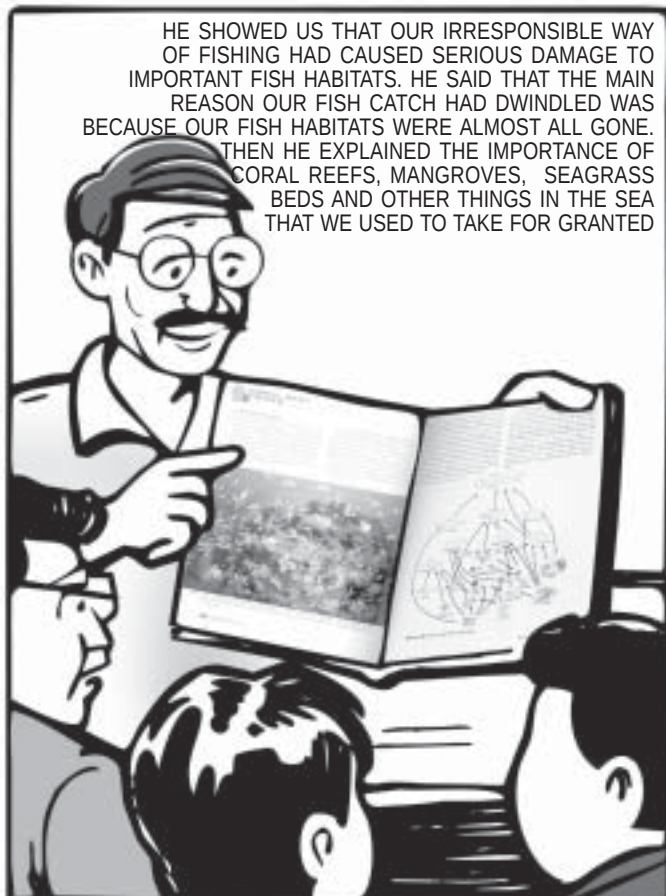












MANY OF US DIDN'T PAY HIM MUCH HEED. AFTER ALL HE WAS NOT EVEN A FISHER.



BUT TEACHER (HE TAUGHT GRADE SCHOOL, SO WE CALLED HIM TEACHER) WAS PERSISTENT. WE DECIDED TO LISTEN AND CONSIDER HIS ADVICE. AT THAT POINT WE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO LOSE. OUR FISH CATCH HAD DWINDLED TO ALMOST... NOTHING



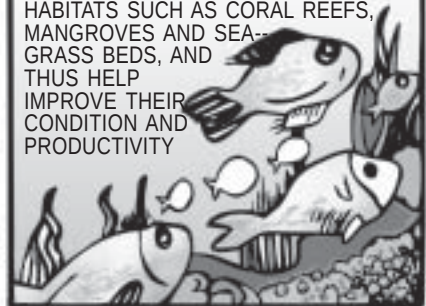
THIS IS WHAT TEACHER TOLD US. WE SHOULD SET ASIDE AN AREA IN THE SEA THAT COULD SERVE AS A KIND OF REFUGE FOR FISHES. A PLACE CALLED "MARINE SANCTUARY"



A MARINE SANCTUARY IS AN AREA DESIGNATED FOR THE PROTECTION OF MARINE LIFE. IT IS A NO-FISHING ZONE, USUALLY WITH A NO-TOUCH CORE ZONE WHERE ALL FORMS OF RESOURCE USE AND EXTRACTION ARE PROHIBITED. MARINE SANCTUARIES ARE ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE FOR FISH AND OTHER MARINE ORGANISMS TO GROW AND REPRODUCE.



MARINE SANCTUARIES PROTECT NOT ONLY FISH AND OTHER MARINE ANIMALS. THEY ALSO PROTECT HABITATS SUCH AS CORAL REEFS, MANGROVES AND SEA-GRASS BEDS, AND THUS HELP IMPROVE THEIR CONDITION AND PRODUCTIVITY



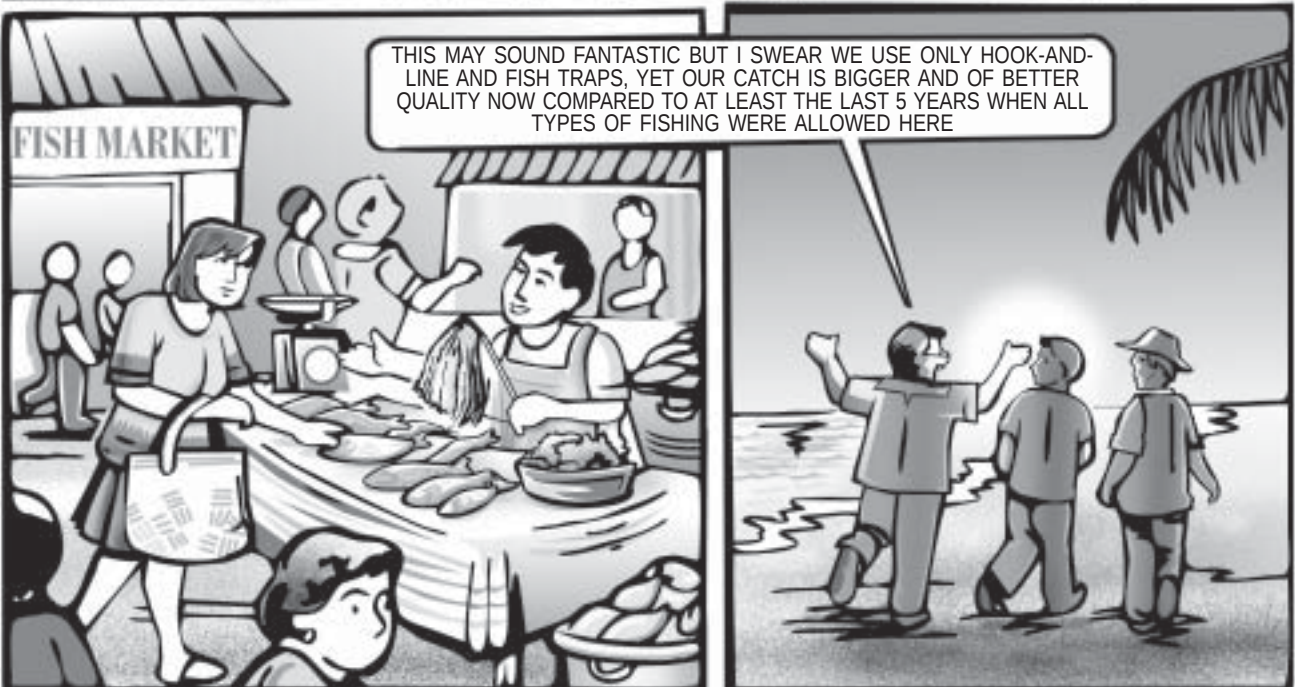
THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OF US WHEN WE STARTED, AND A ONE-YEAR TRIAL WAS ALL WE REALLY COMMITTED TO -- WE TOLD EACH OTHER THAT IF IT DIDN'T WORK, WE'D SIMPLY WALK AWAY.



WELL, IT WORKED, AND IT DIDN'T TAKE ONE YEAR TO CONVINCE US THAT WE HAD STUMBLED ON A SOLUTION TO OUR FISHING PROBLEM. AFTER ONLY SEVERAL MONTHS, WE SAW SO MANY MORE FISHES IN THE SANCTUARY. AFTER ONE YEAR, WE REALIZED THAT THE NUMBER AND DIVERSITY OF FISHES INCREASED OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY AS WELL.



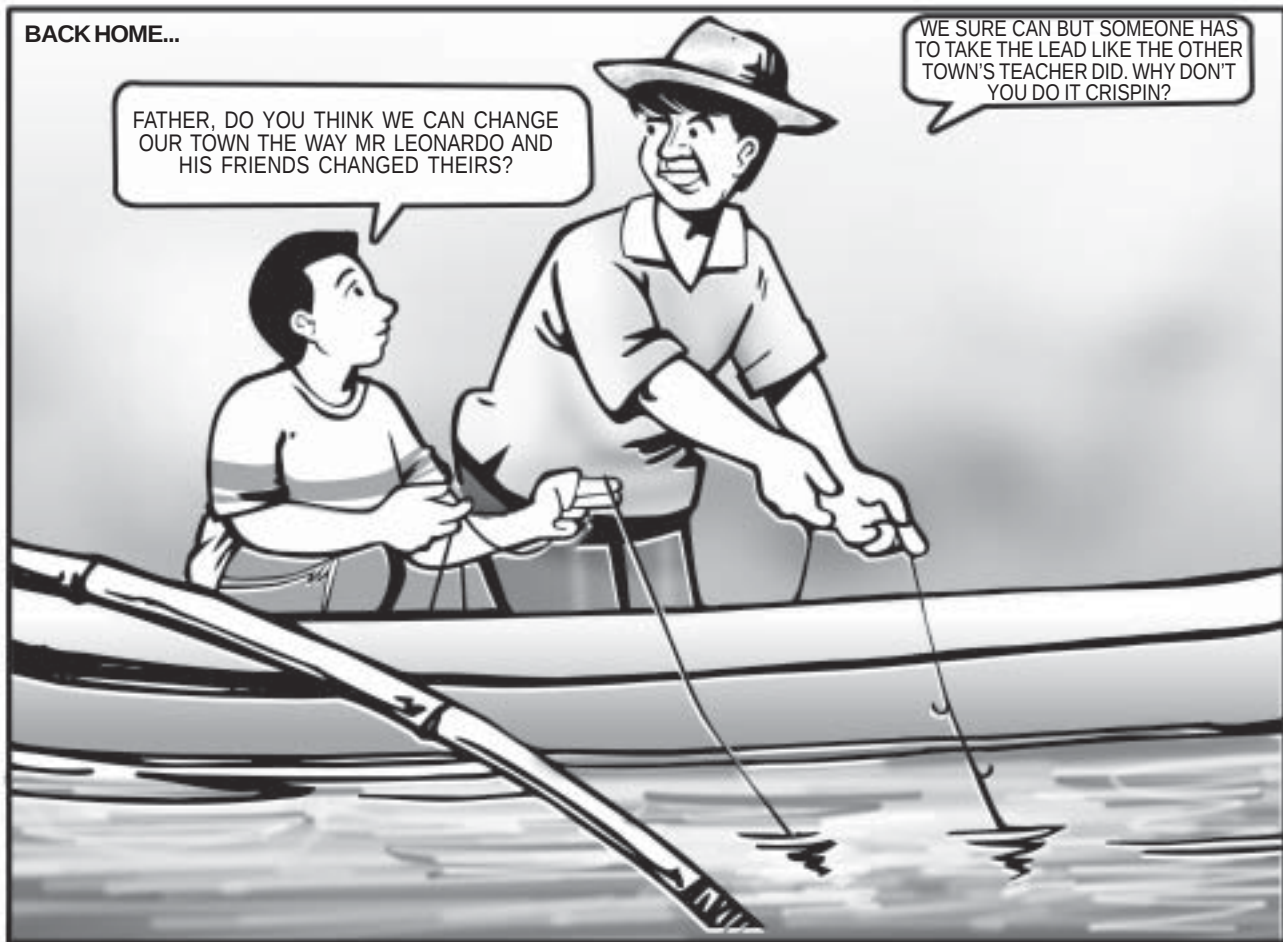
IT DIDN'T SURPRISE US WHEN OTHERS JOINED US. DURING THE FIRST YEAR, THERE WERE JUST THE FOUR OF US. BY THE SECOND YEAR THERE WERE 10, 20, AND A FEW MORE VOLUNTEERS ON ACTIVE DUTY AT THE SANCTUARY. SOON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEGAN PROVIDING ANNUAL OPERATIONAL FUNDS, AND NOW IT SEEMS THE WHOLE TOWN WANTS TO HELP.



BACK HOME...

FATHER, DO YOU THINK WE CAN CHANGE OUR TOWN THE WAY MR LEONARDO AND HIS FRIENDS CHANGED THEIRS?

WE SURE CAN BUT SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE THE LEAD LIKE THE OTHER TOWN'S TEACHER DID. WHY DON'T YOU DO IT CRISPIN?



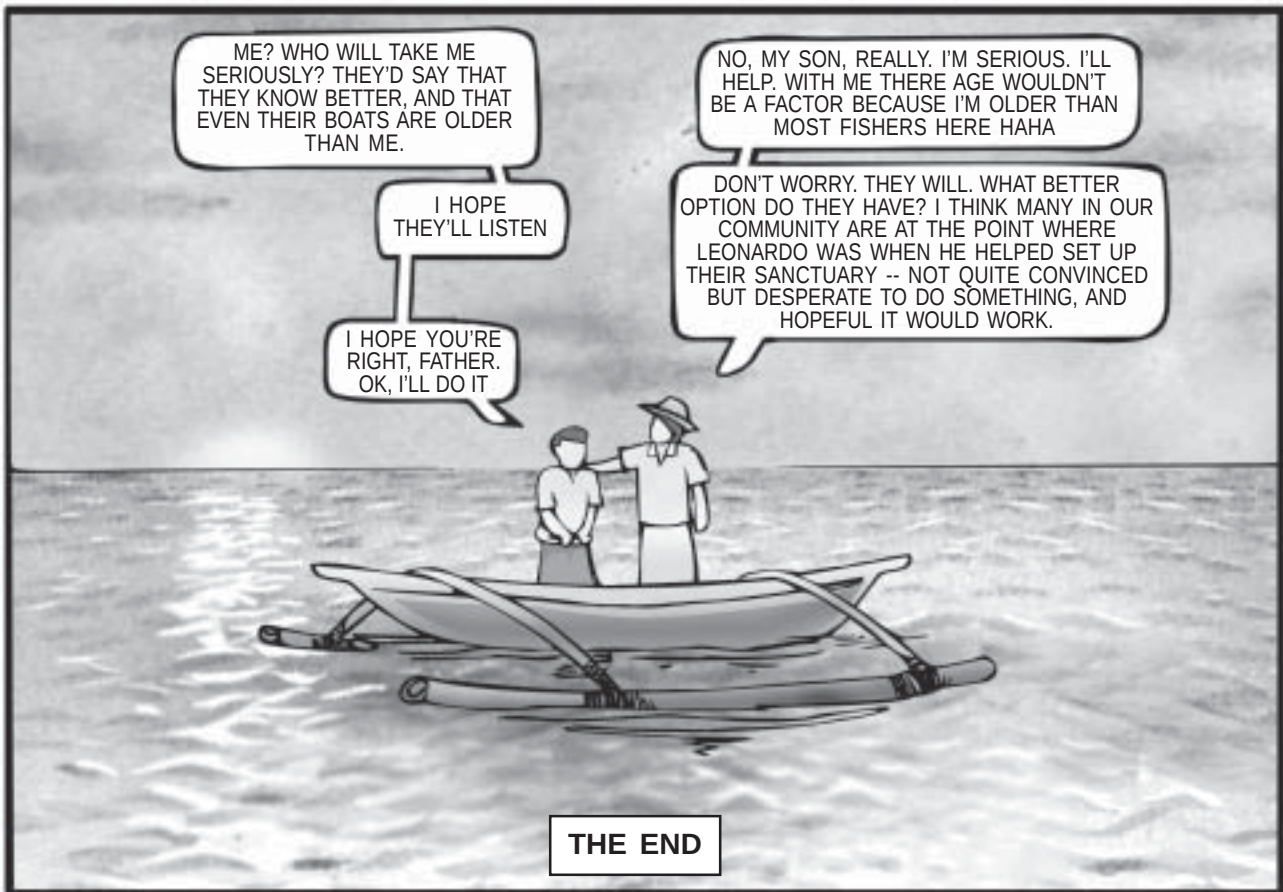
ME? WHO WILL TAKE ME SERIOUSLY? THEY'D SAY THAT THEY KNOW BETTER, AND THAT EVEN THEIR BOATS ARE OLDER THAN ME.

I HOPE THEY'LL LISTEN

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, FATHER. OK, I'LL DO IT

NO, MY SON, REALLY. I'M SERIOUS. I'LL HELP. WITH ME THERE AGE WOULDN'T BE A FACTOR BECAUSE I'M OLDER THAN MOST FISHERS HERE HAHA

DON'T WORRY. THEY WILL. WHAT BETTER OPTION DO THEY HAVE? I THINK MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE AT THE POINT WHERE LEONARDO WAS WHEN HE HELPED SET UP THEIR SANCTUARY -- NOT QUITE CONVINCED BUT DESPERATE TO DO SOMETHING, AND HOPEFUL IT WOULD WORK.



THE END

Marine Sanctuaries: A PROVEN WAY TO RESTORE OUR SEAS

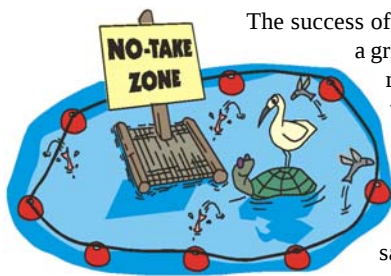


A marine sanctuary is a protected area within the municipal waters where fishing is strictly regulated or entirely prohibited and human access may be restricted. In the Philippines, the sanctuary is established by an ordinance to rehabilitate and replenish fishery and coastal resources, usually in an area known to have an important ecological function as a spawning and/or feeding ground for one marine species or a group of species. A marine sanctuary may form all or part of a marine protected area (MPA).

strictly prohibited) grow faster and multiply easily. This leads to a faster turn-over of fishes from the reserve to the non-reserve area (where passive, nondestructive fishing is allowed), which increases fish yield for the fishermen.

Requirements for the sustained management of a marine sanctuary:

1. Community organizing and strengthening
2. Continuing community education and training in the management and protection of the sanctuary
3. Local leadership
4. Regular operational budget
5. Enforcement of relevant laws, rules and regulations

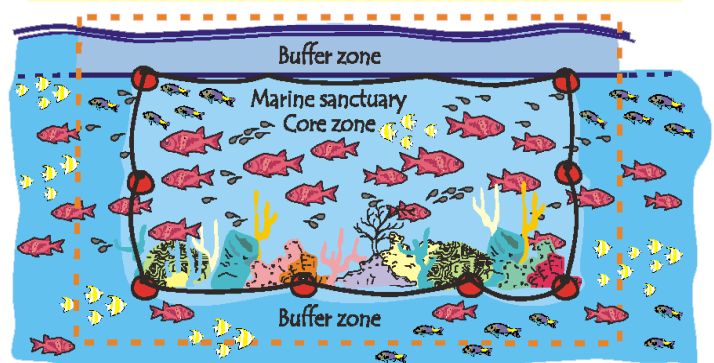


The success of a marine sanctuary depends to a great extent on the local government and fisherfolk organizations (or other people's organizations) working together in planning, decision-making and formulating and enforcing laws and regulations for the sanctuary.

Benefits of a well-managed marine sanctuary

1. By restricting exploitation of fish stocks, marine sanctuaries give different species the chance to freely reproduce.
2. Marine sanctuaries promote the rehabilitation and recovery of degraded coral reefs and other habitats.
3. Because of the protection accorded marine species in the sanctuary, fishes inside the reserve area (where fishing is

DISPERSAL OF FISH AND LARVAE FROM A MARINE SANCTUARY



Our coral reefs and other marine resources are in a critical condition and urgently need to be rehabilitated. Marine sanctuaries are a well-tested and proven strategy to restore our sea to its healthy and productive natural state.