

What's the Catch?





**Cabrillo
Marine
Aquarium**

MSRP and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

present

Our Gull Amanda

in

**What's
the
Catch?**



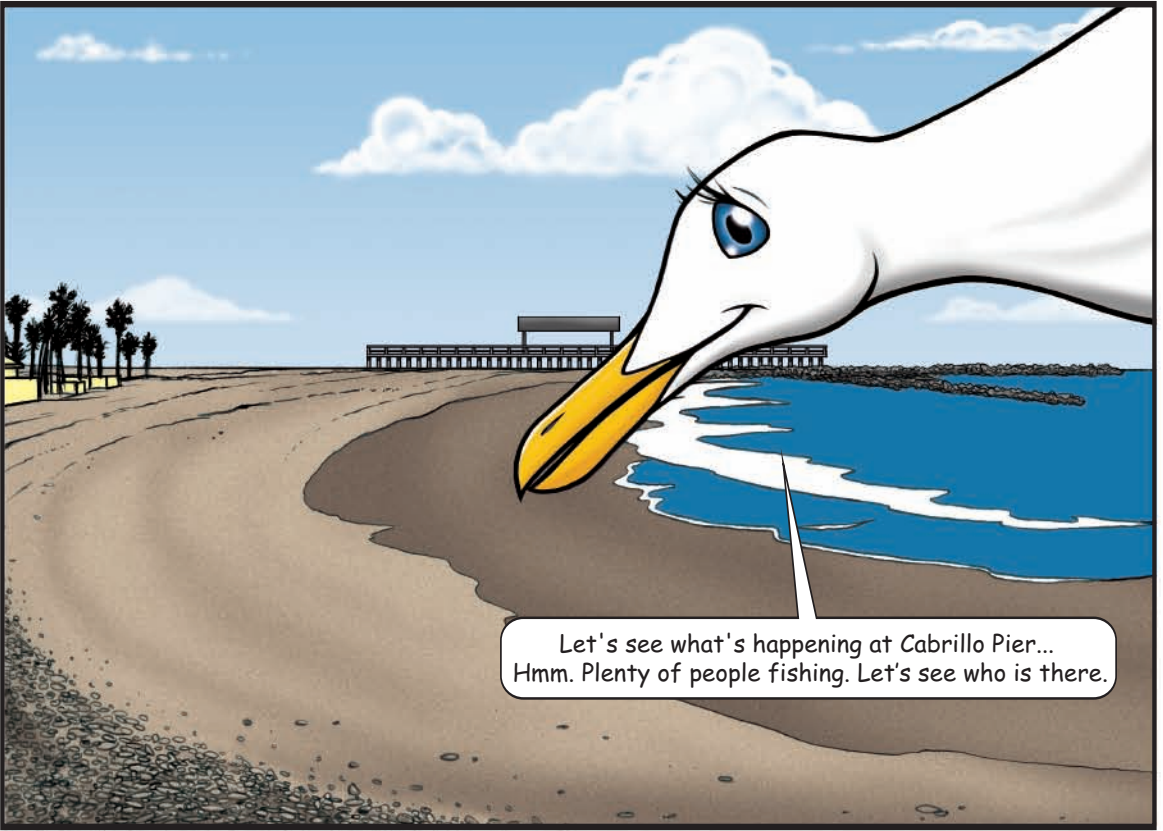
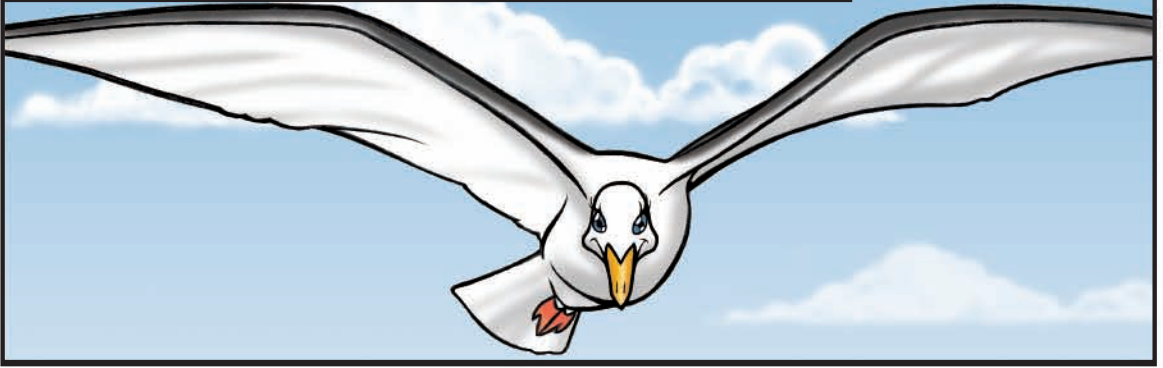
MSRP is a multi-agency effort to restore natural resources harmed by past releases of DDTs and PCBs in the southern California marine environment. Funded by a legal settlement with the companies and industries responsible for the chemical releases, MSRP is working on a variety of restoration projects, including projects to restore fishing opportunities in Southern California. For more information, please visit us at www.montroserestoration.gov or call **(562) 980-3236**.



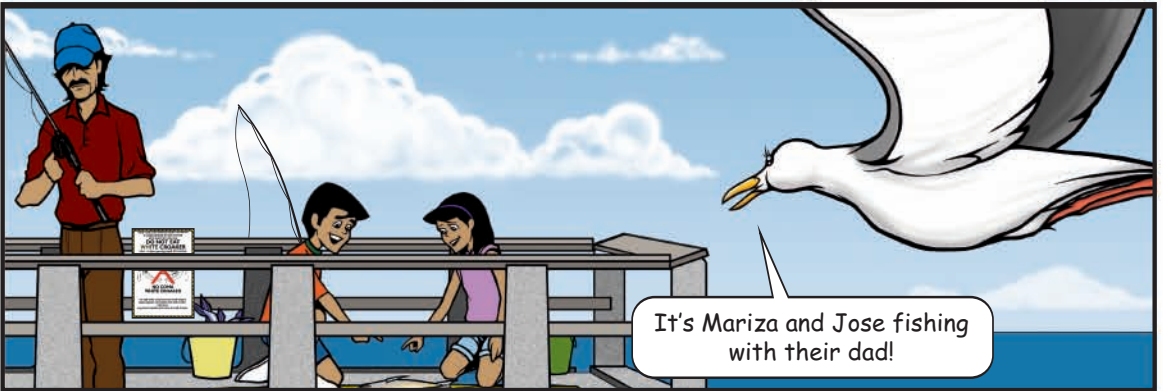
**Cabrillo
Marine
Aquarium**

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is an educational, recreational, and research facility dedicated to providing rich and varied opportunities for early and continuing education of the general public about the marine environment of Southern California. Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is located at 3270 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro and is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Visit our website at www.cabrilloaq.org or call **(310) 548-7562**.

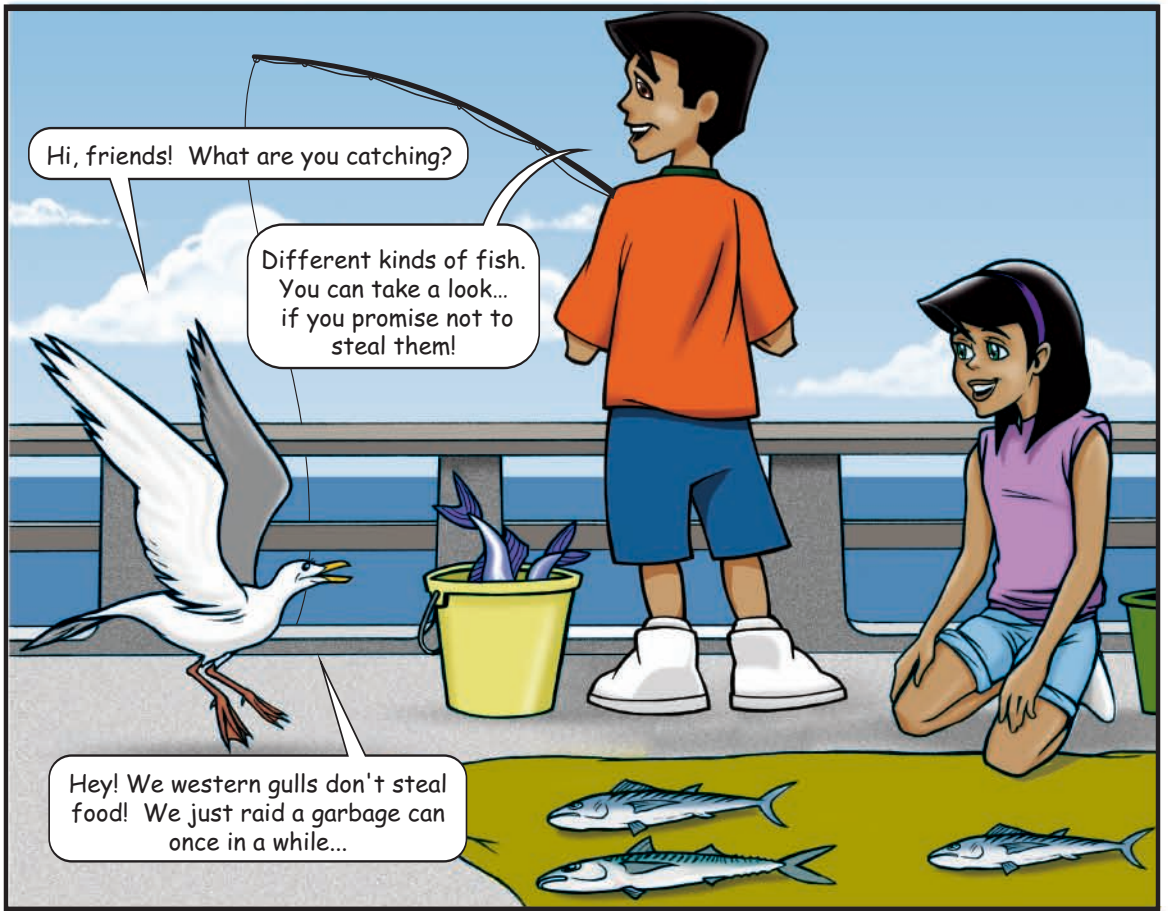
Amanda, a western sea gull, likes to hunt for food in San Pedro, an old fishing town and seaport in Los Angeles Harbor.



Let's see what's happening at Cabrillo Pier...
Hmm. Plenty of people fishing. Let's see who is there.



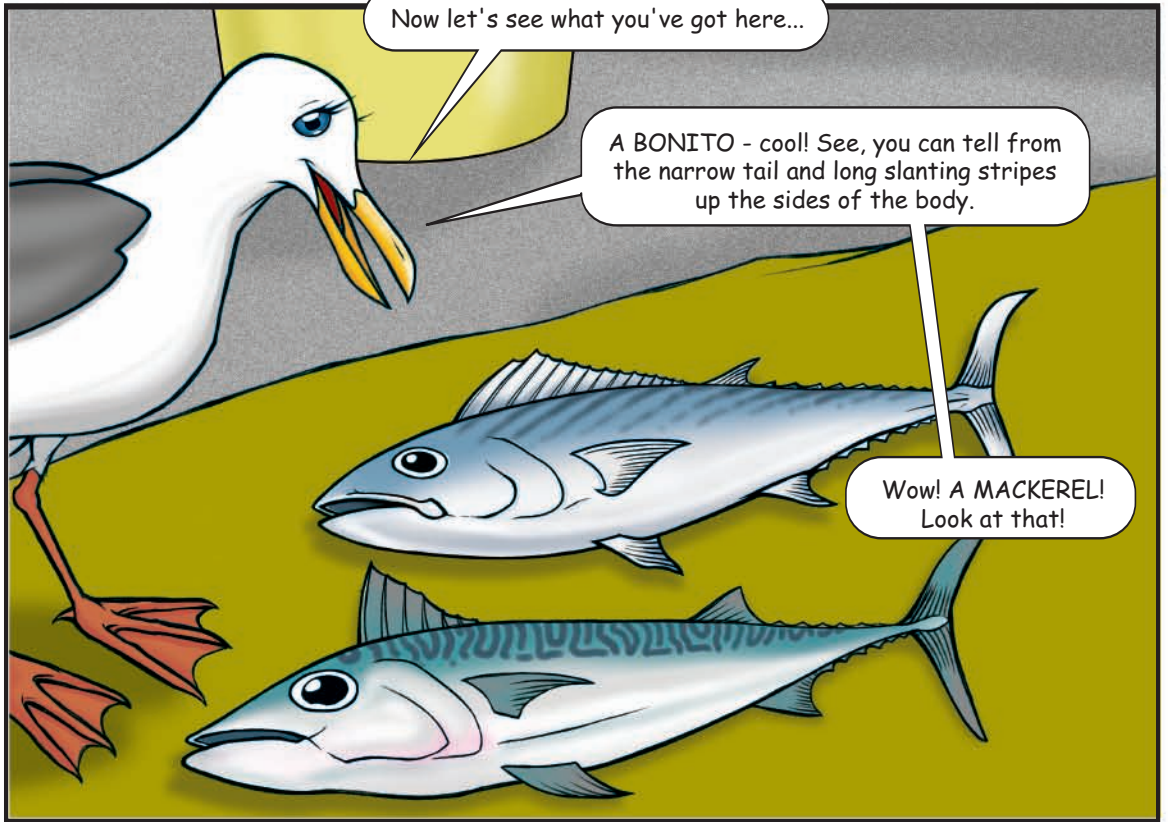
It's Mariza and Jose fishing
with their dad!



Hi, friends! What are you catching?

Different kinds of fish.
You can take a look...
if you promise not to
steal them!

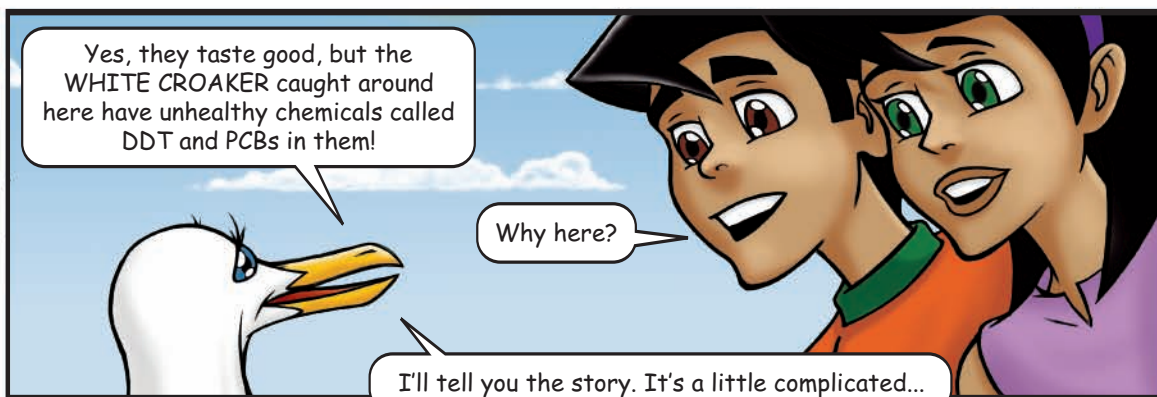
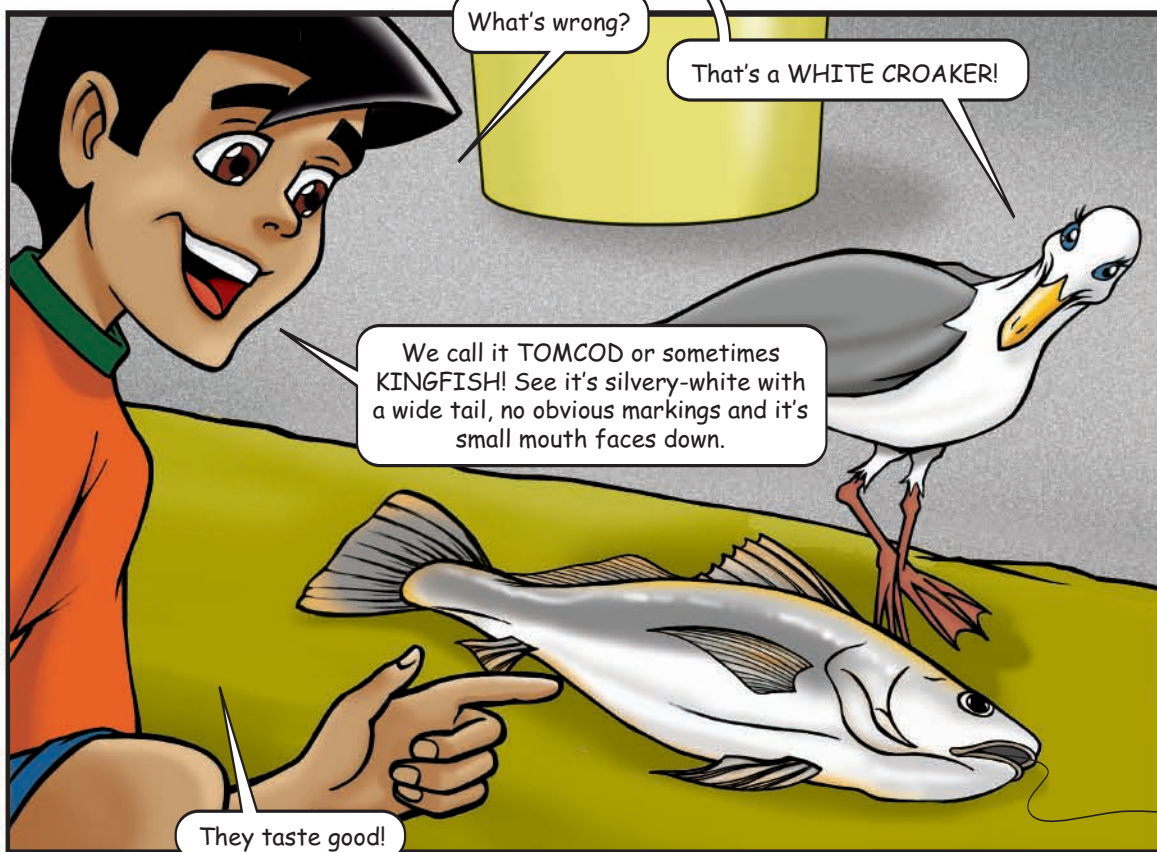
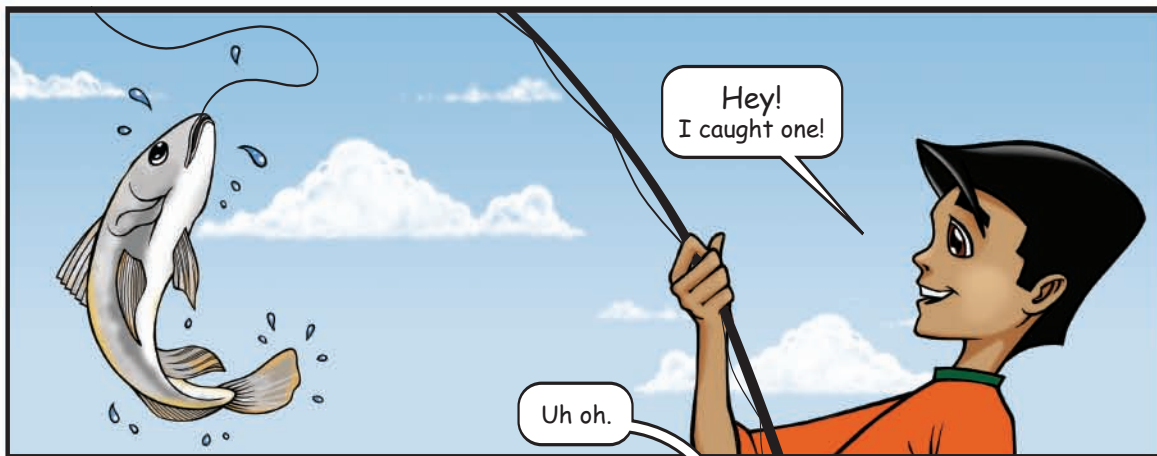
Hey! We western gulls don't steal
food! We just raid a garbage can
once in a while...

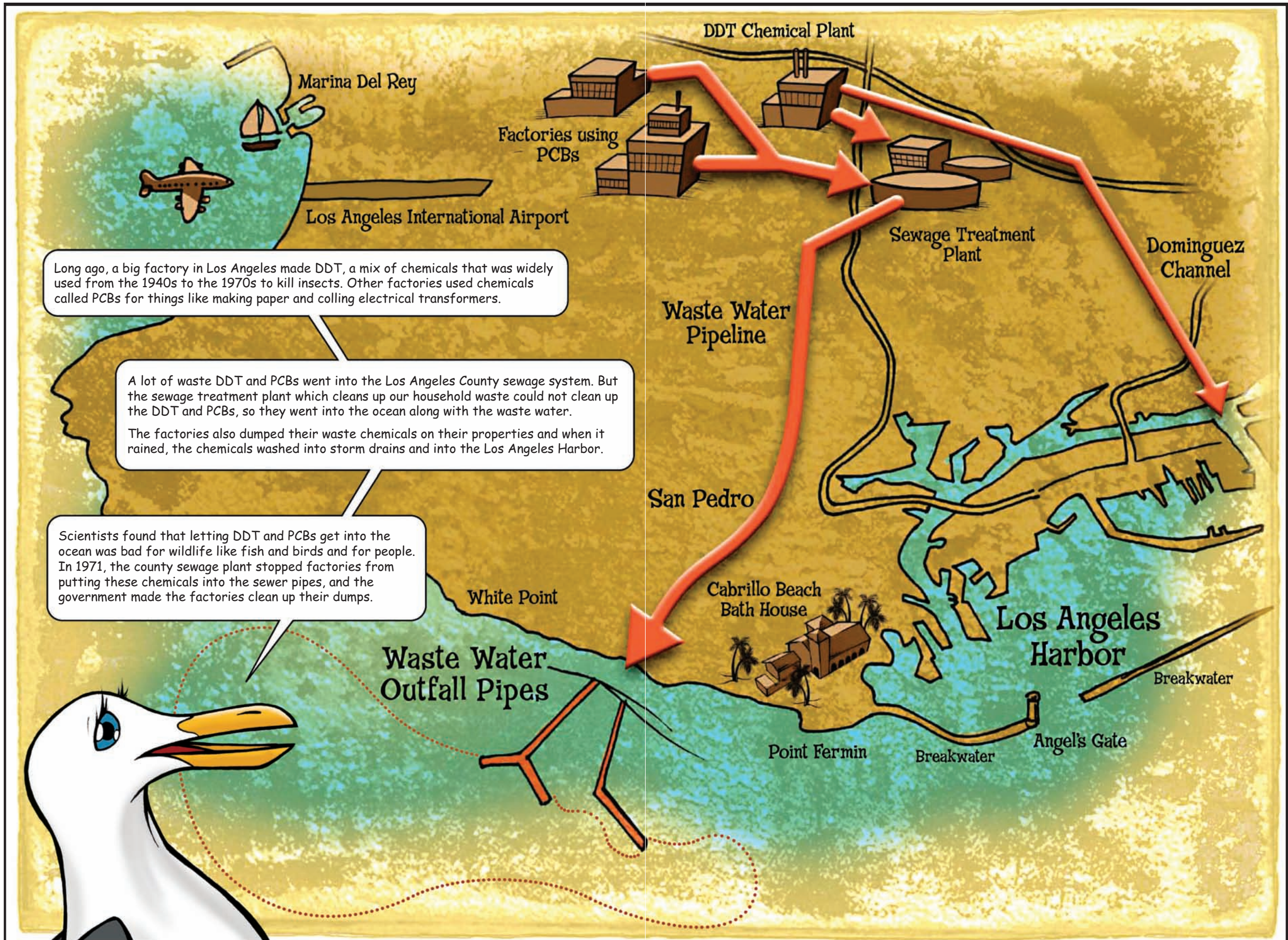


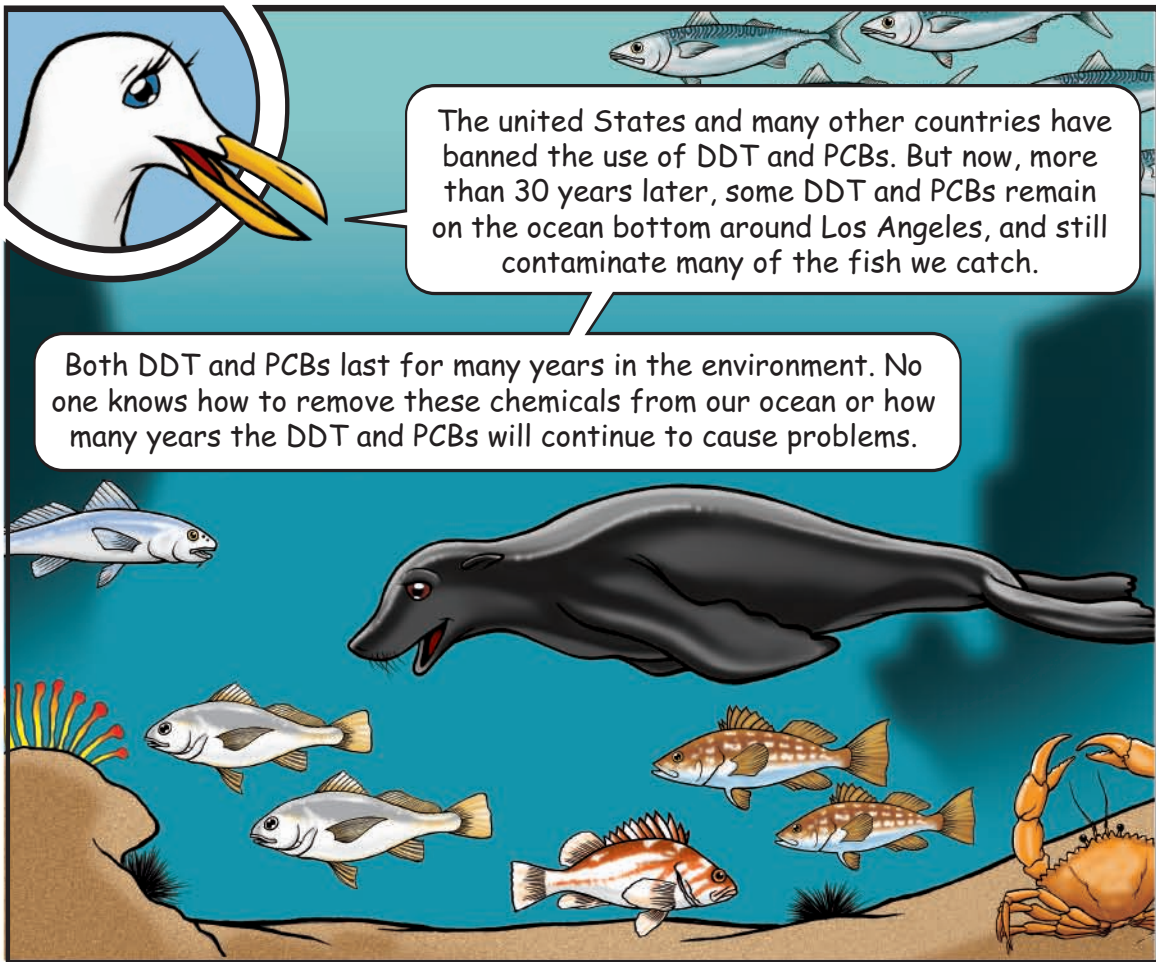
Now let's see what you've got here...

A BONITO - cool! See, you can tell from
the narrow tail and long slanting stripes
up the sides of the body.

Wow! A MACKEREL!
Look at that!







The United States and many other countries have banned the use of DDT and PCBs. But now, more than 30 years later, some DDT and PCBs remain on the ocean bottom around Los Angeles, and still contaminate many of the fish we catch.

Both DDT and PCBs last for many years in the environment. No one knows how to remove these chemicals from our ocean or how many years the DDT and PCBs will continue to cause problems.



What do DDT and PCBs do to fish and birds?

Well...I know a friend who can help me explain it to you.



Let's see... Ah ha! There he is!

Ahoy, Fernando!



Ahoy Amanda! What brings you this way?

Could you could help me explain about DDT and PCBs to some friends of mine?

DDT and PCBs? I'd be glad to!



Mariza, Jose...



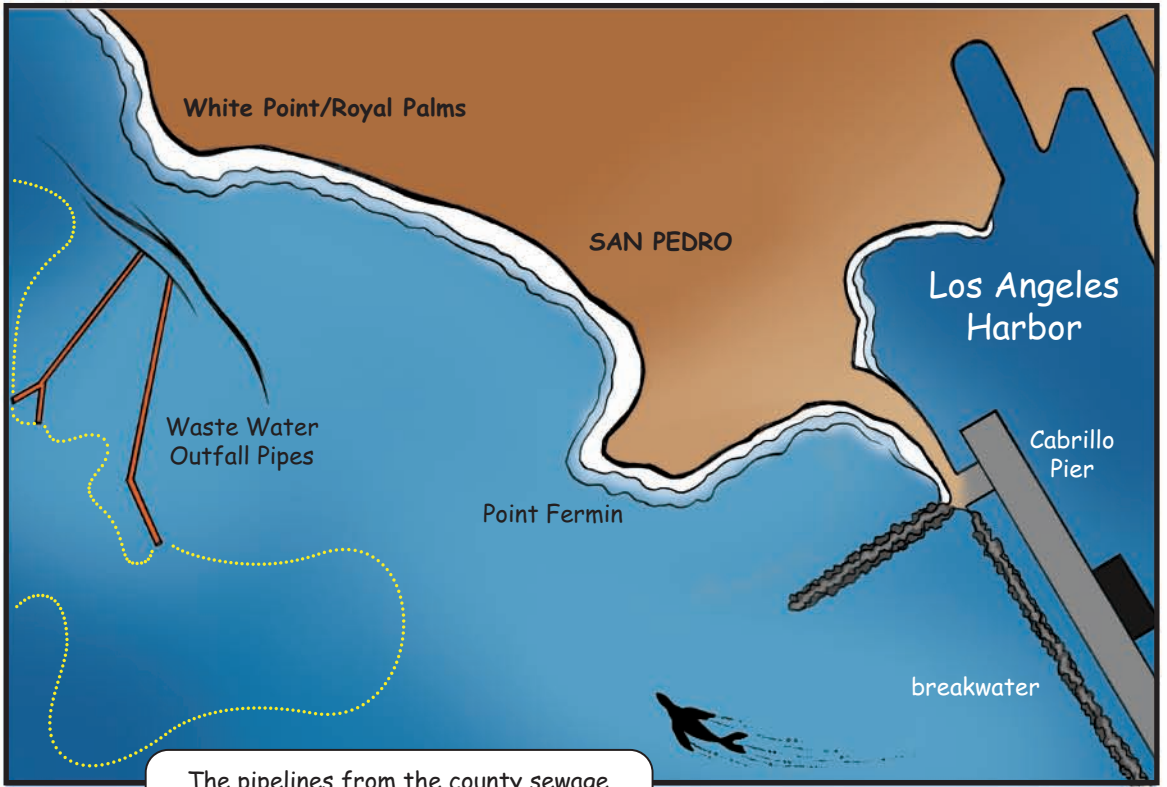
...meet Fernando!

Hi kids!

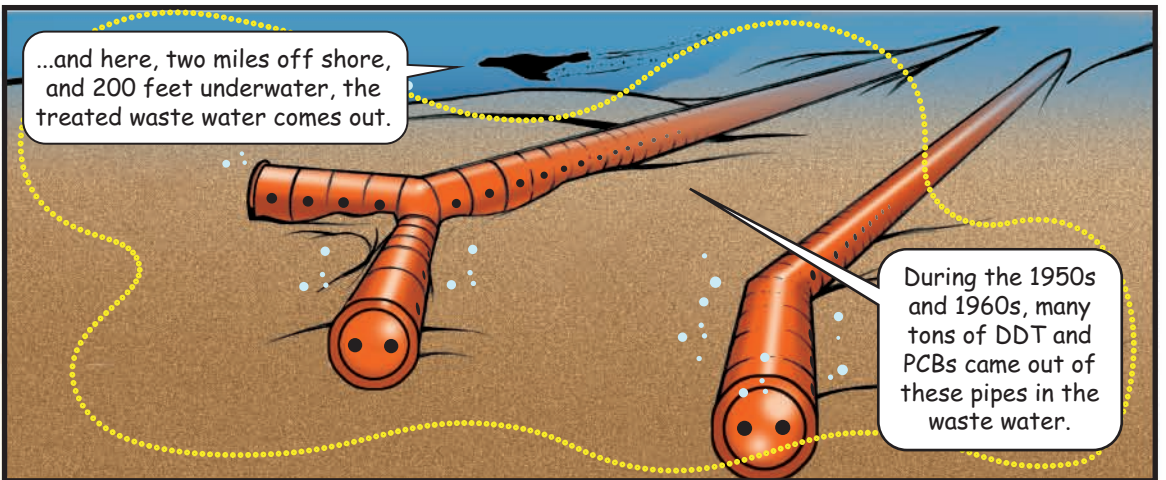
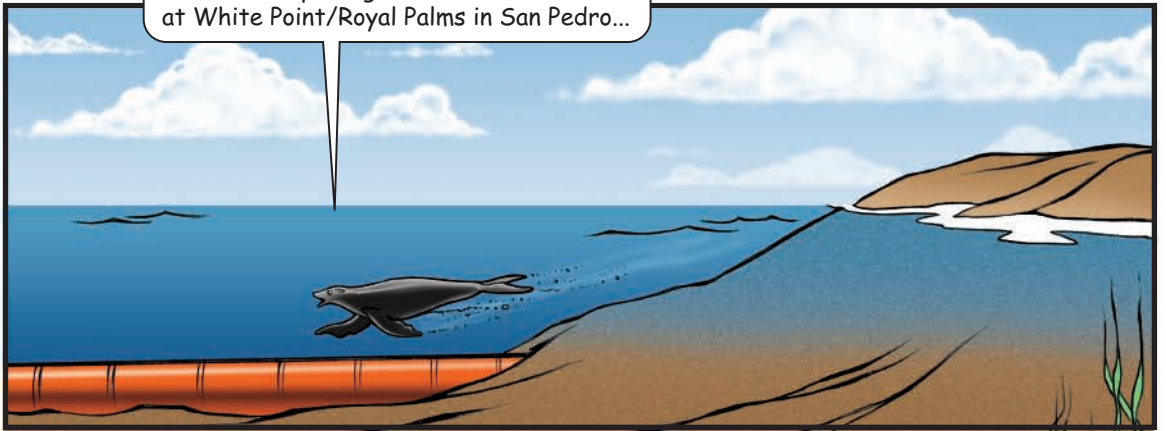
Hi!

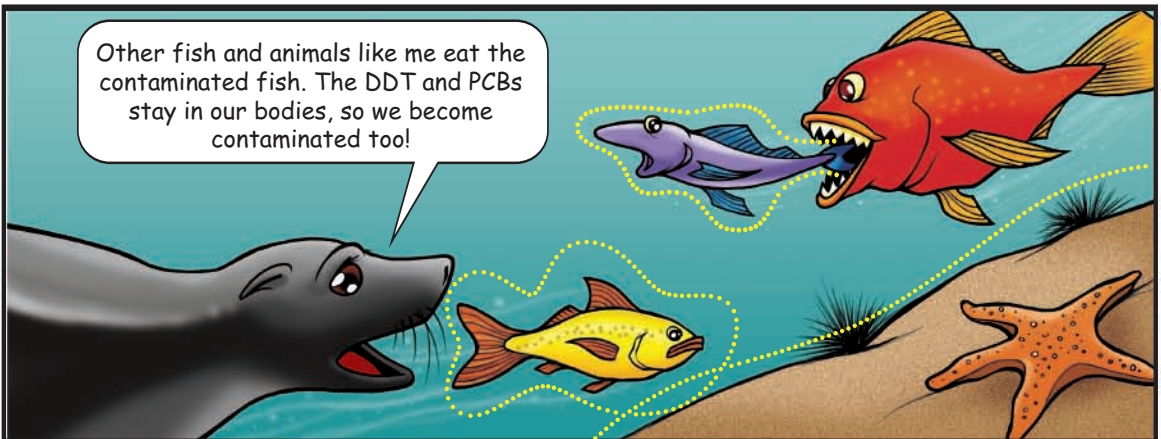
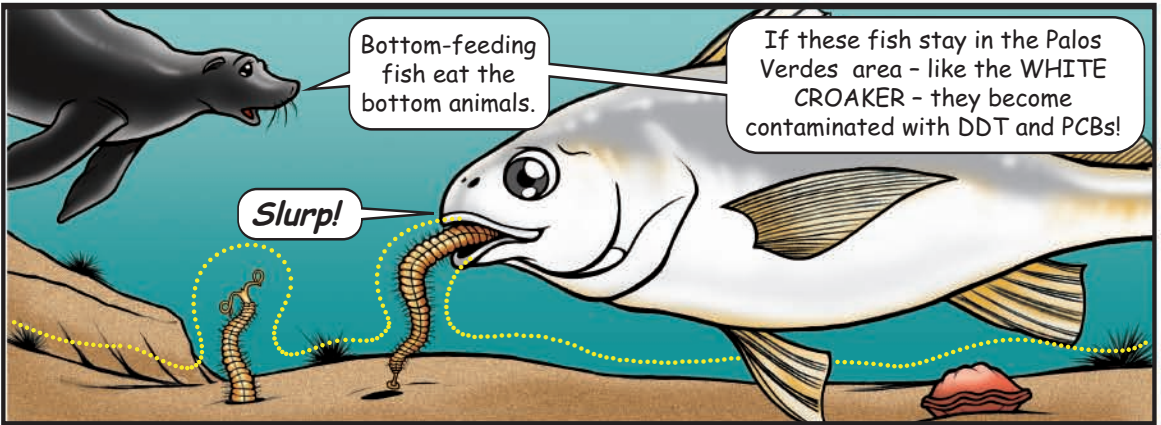
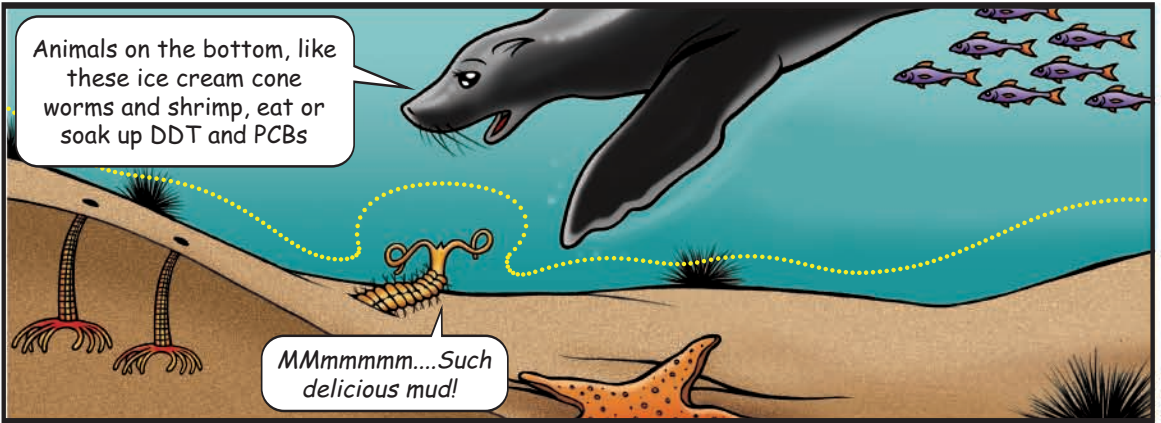
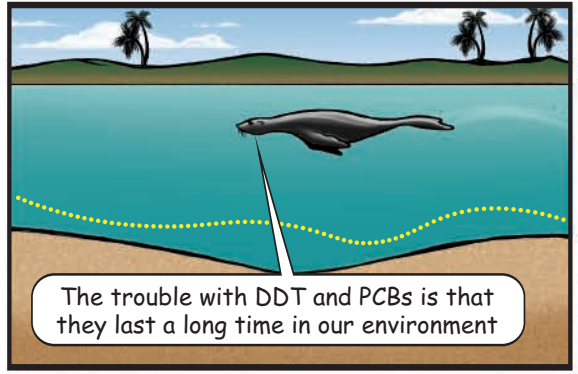
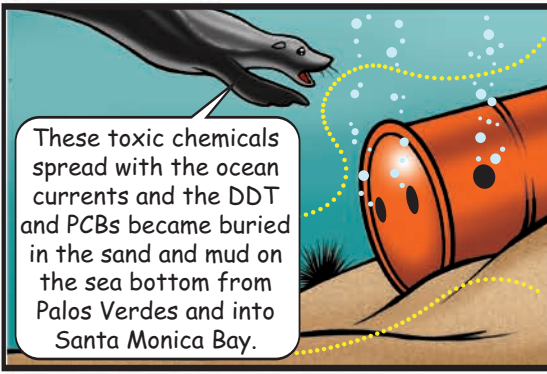
Cool! He's a California sea lion!

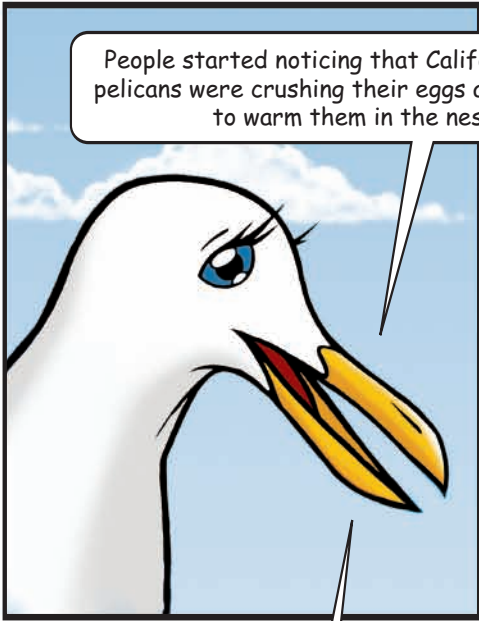
Amanda said you wanted to know more about DDT and PCBs. I'll tell you what I know...



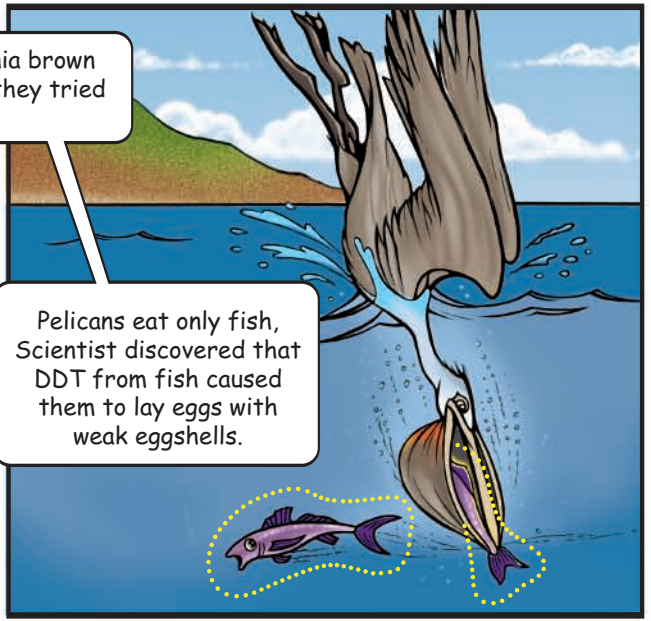
The pipelines from the county sewage treatment plant go into the ocean here at White Point/Royal Palms in San Pedro...







People started noticing that California brown pelicans were crushing their eggs as they tried to warm them in the nest.



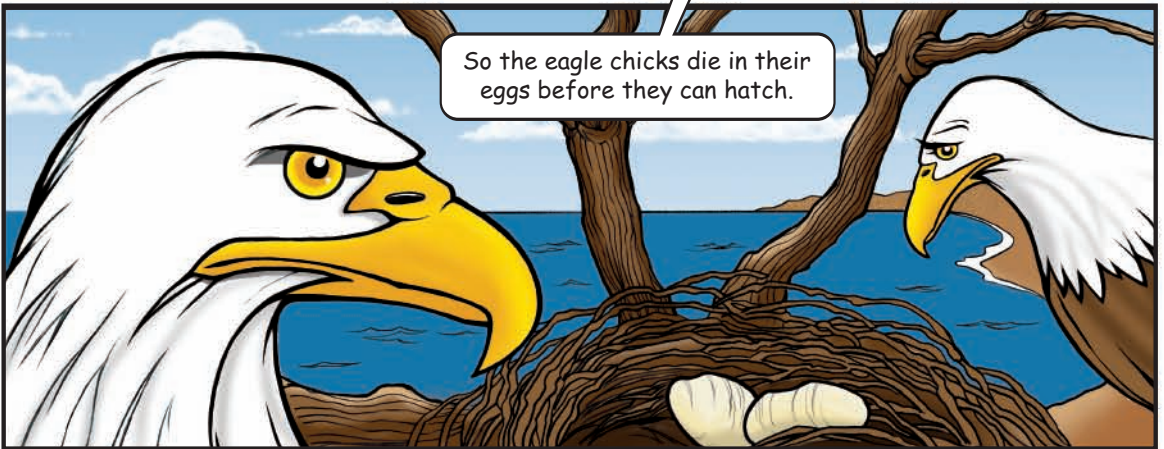
Pelicans eat only fish, Scientist discovered that DDT from fish caused them to lay eggs with weak eggshells.



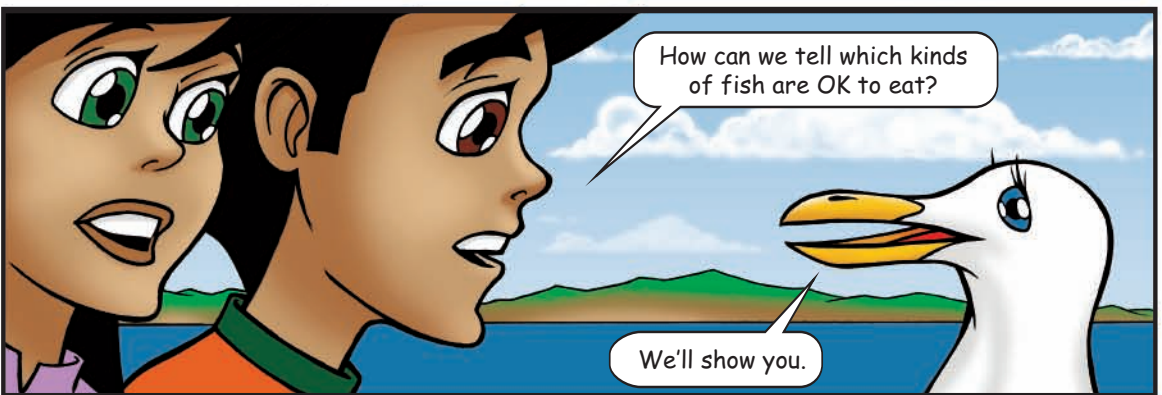
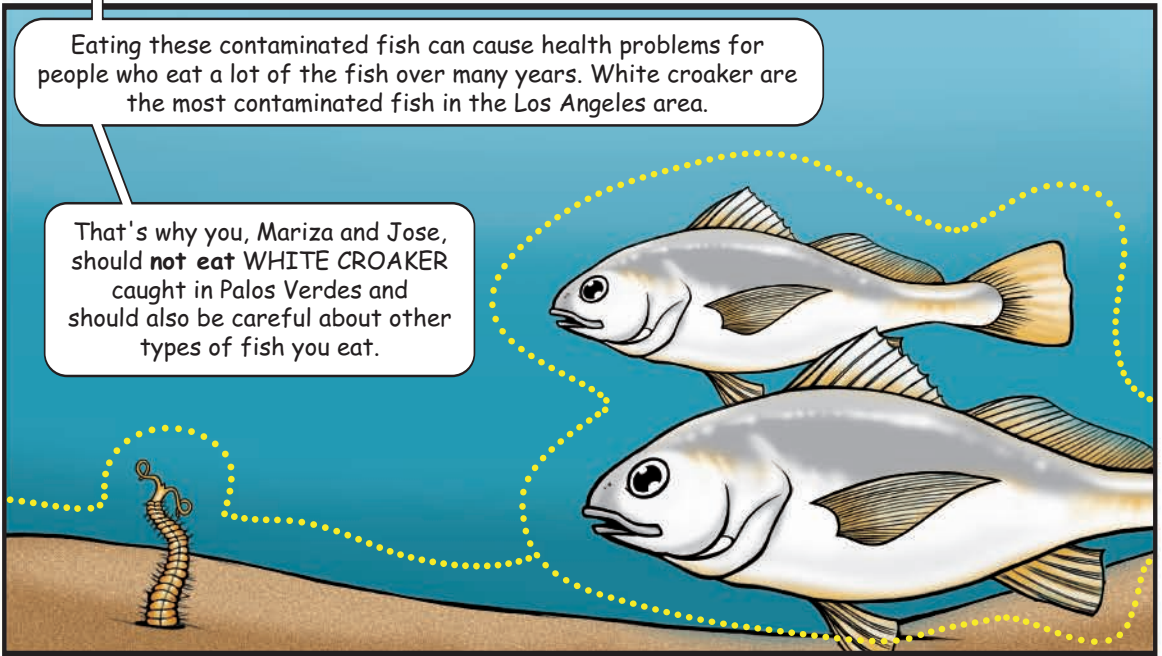
The eggshells were too thin, and almost all the baby pelicans died!




DDT hurt other birds too. For example, bald eagles on Catalina Island are getting too much DDT from their food.

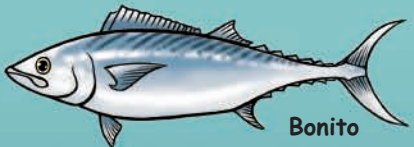


So the eagle chicks die in their eggs before they can hatch.

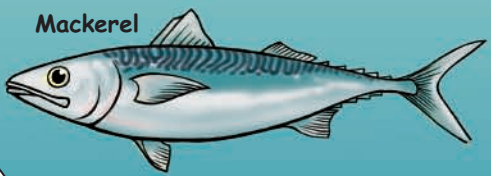




Very sleek fish like MACKEREL and BONITO are low in DDT and PCBs. They're fast swimmers that travel widely—they don't stay in this contaminated area.

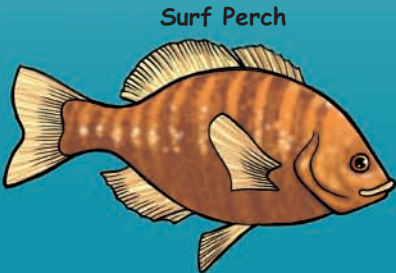


Bonito

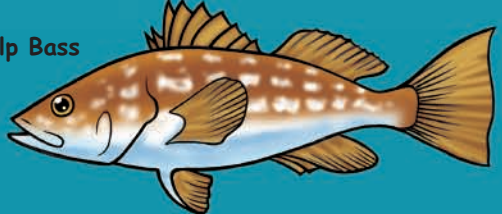


Mackerel

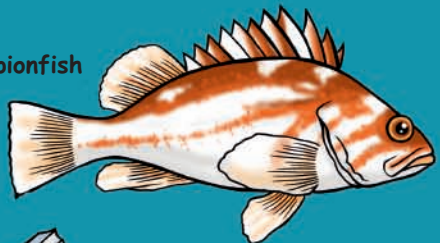
You should be **cautious** with other fish like kelp bass, surfperches, corbina, rockfish, scorpionfish, and with sea urchins and crabs. These are **OK TO EAT** if you eat them **only once in a while** from this area, like maybe once or twice a month.



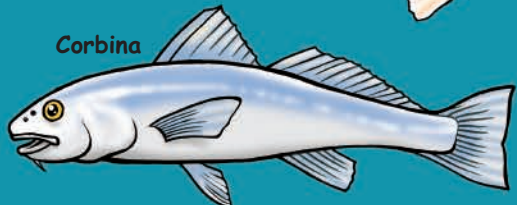
Surf Perch



Kelp Bass



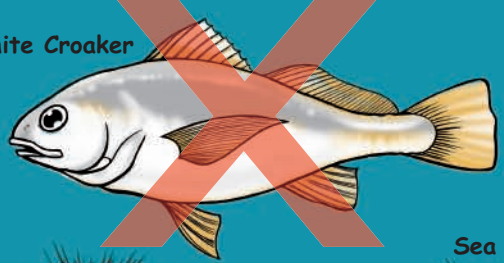
Scorpionfish



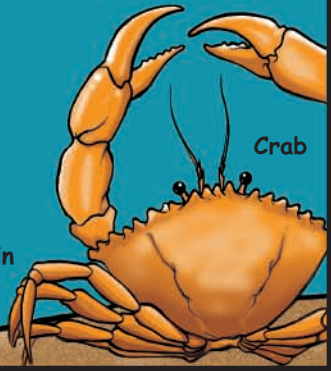
Corbina



Rockfish



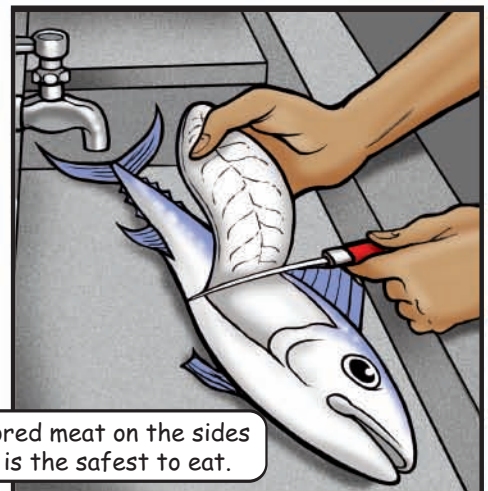
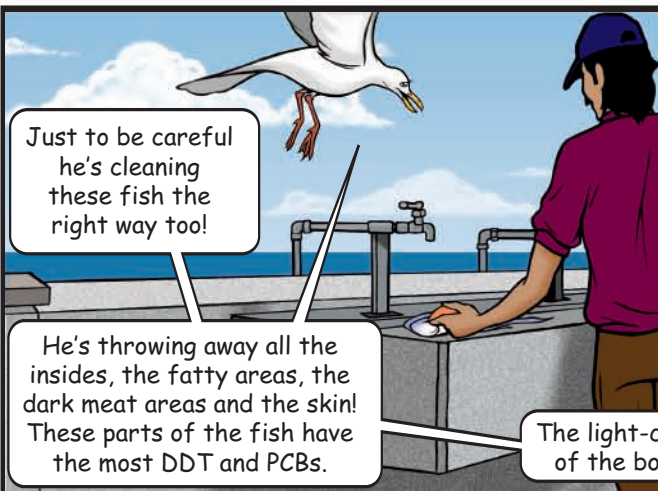
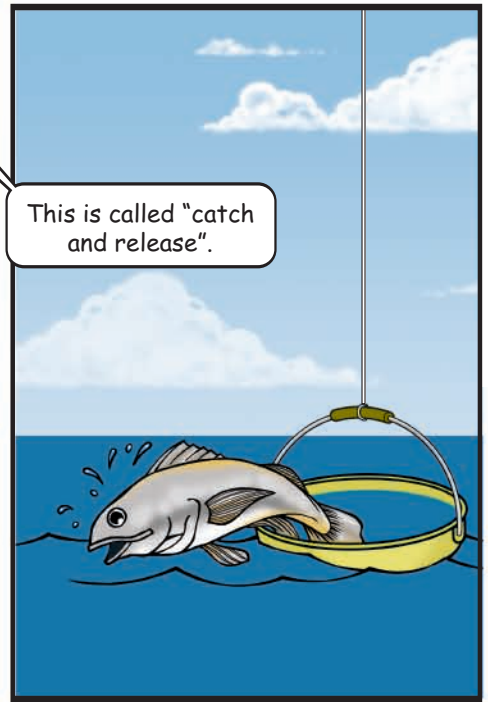
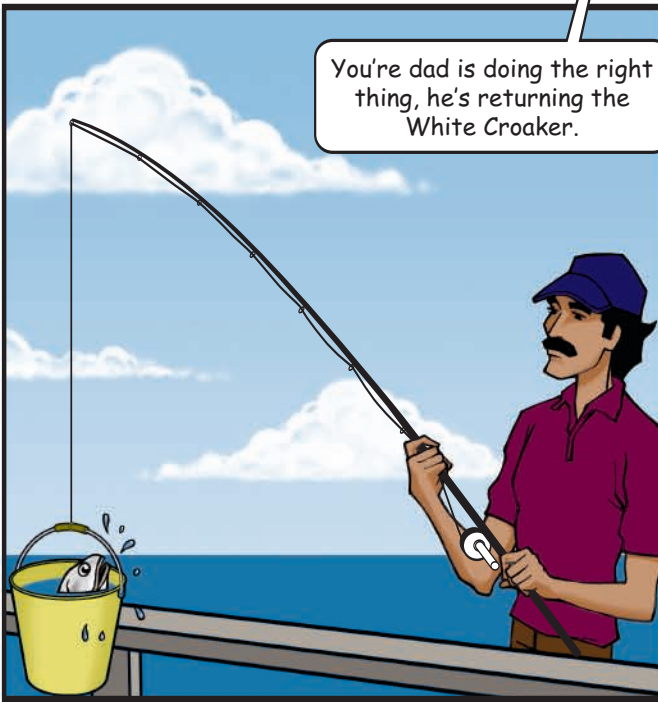
White Croaker



Crab



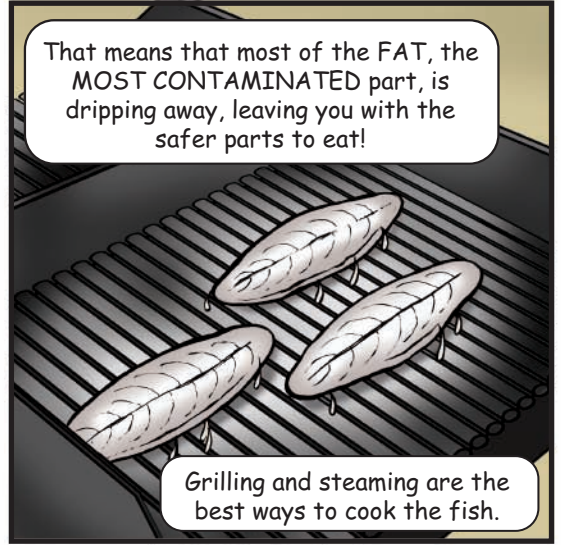
Sea Urchin





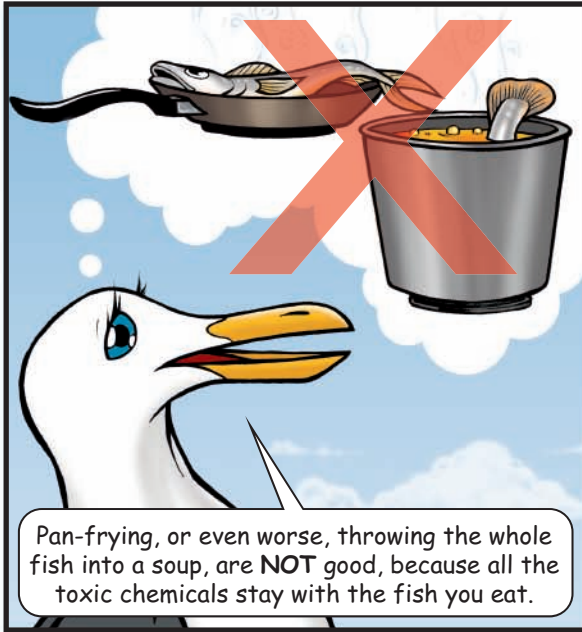
Later at the picnic area...

Your mom and dad are grilling the fish! That's great!



That means that most of the **FAT**, the **MOST CONTAMINATED** part, is dripping away, leaving you with the safer parts to eat!

Grilling and steaming are the best ways to cook the fish.



Pan-frying, or even worse, throwing the whole fish into a soup, are **NOT** good, because all the toxic chemicals stay with the fish you eat.



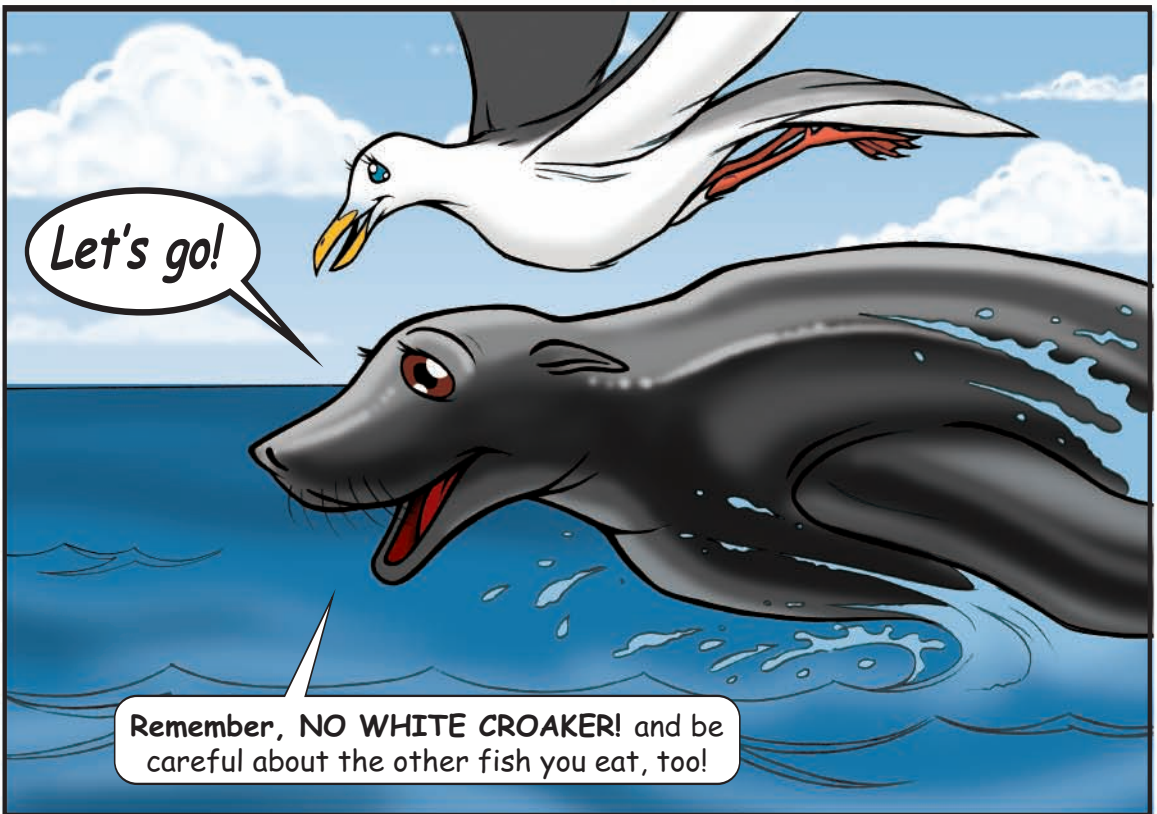
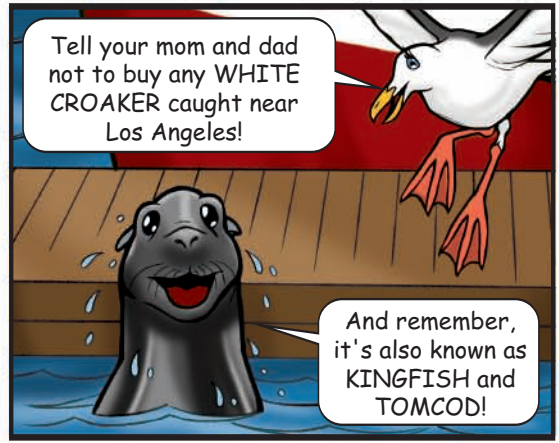
You know, fish is a great food—nutritious and usually healthy!



And it tastes great!

Yes it does!

But in the Los Angeles area, you have to be careful where you catch the fish, and which ones you eat!



Fish Smart!



Some of the most common fish along the Los Angeles coast are contaminated with DDT and PCBs. The State of California suggests you limit the amount of some of the fish you eat.



Use the drawings on the next page to know what fish you catch. Compare them to consumption advisories in your area to help you decide what fish you can keep and eat.

You can learn more about fish contamination and consumption advisories by:

- Looking for signs on fishing piers.
- Talking to people handing out information about fish contamination. They can usually be found at your fishing pier, at health clinics, and at local fairs.
- Visiting www.oehha.gov/fish.html, the website of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, a government group that creates the advisories.



Pacific barracuda



Jacksmith



Topsmelt



Pacific sardine



Pacific bonito



Pacific (chub) mackerel



White seabass



Yellowjack tail



Opaleye



Black perch



Kelp bass, calico bass



Barred surfperch



Sculpin, California scorpionfish



Barred sandbass



Yellowfin croaker



Queenfish



Copper rockfish



White croaker, kingfish, tomcod



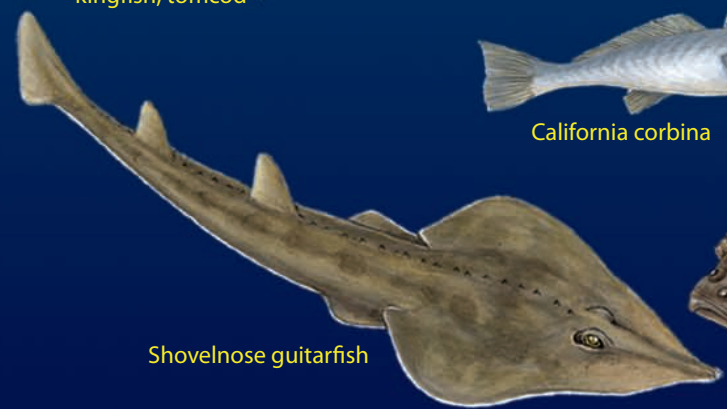
Spotfin croaker



Black croaker



California corbina



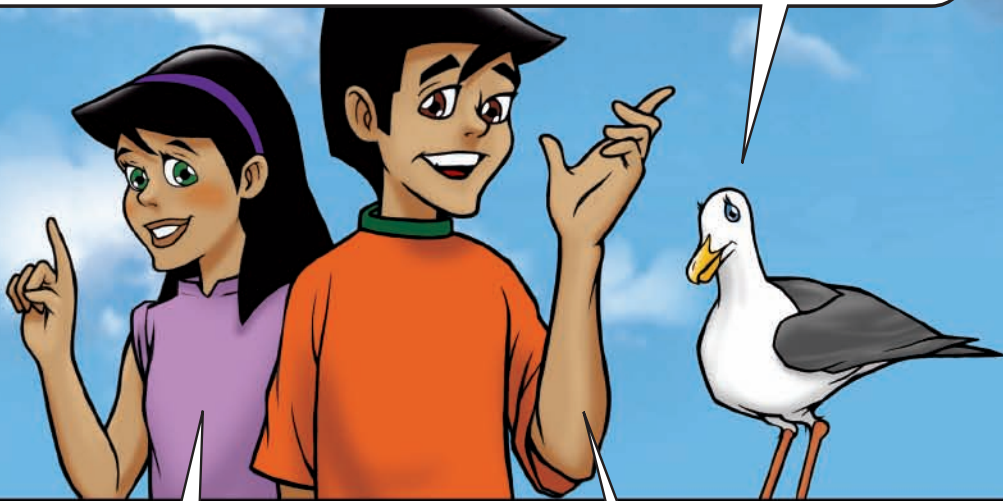
Shovelnose guitarfish



California halibut

Remember:

The most contaminated fish are in the ocean near San Pedro and Palos Verdes, and in the harbors for Los Angeles and Long Beach. **DO NOT** eat white croaker from these areas.



Mothers be careful! DDT and PCBs could be especially bad for babies. Mothers who are nursing a baby and women who are pregnant, or may become pregnant, should avoid eating fish from areas contaminated with DDT and PCBs.

Unless you know the fish you catch are not contaminated, eat only the fish fillet - the light-colored meat from the fish.

DDT and PCBs are mostly in the fatty parts of the fish. Throw away the skin, belly fat, dark meat and head of the fish. These parts have the most fat.

And always throw away the oil used to fry fish.

