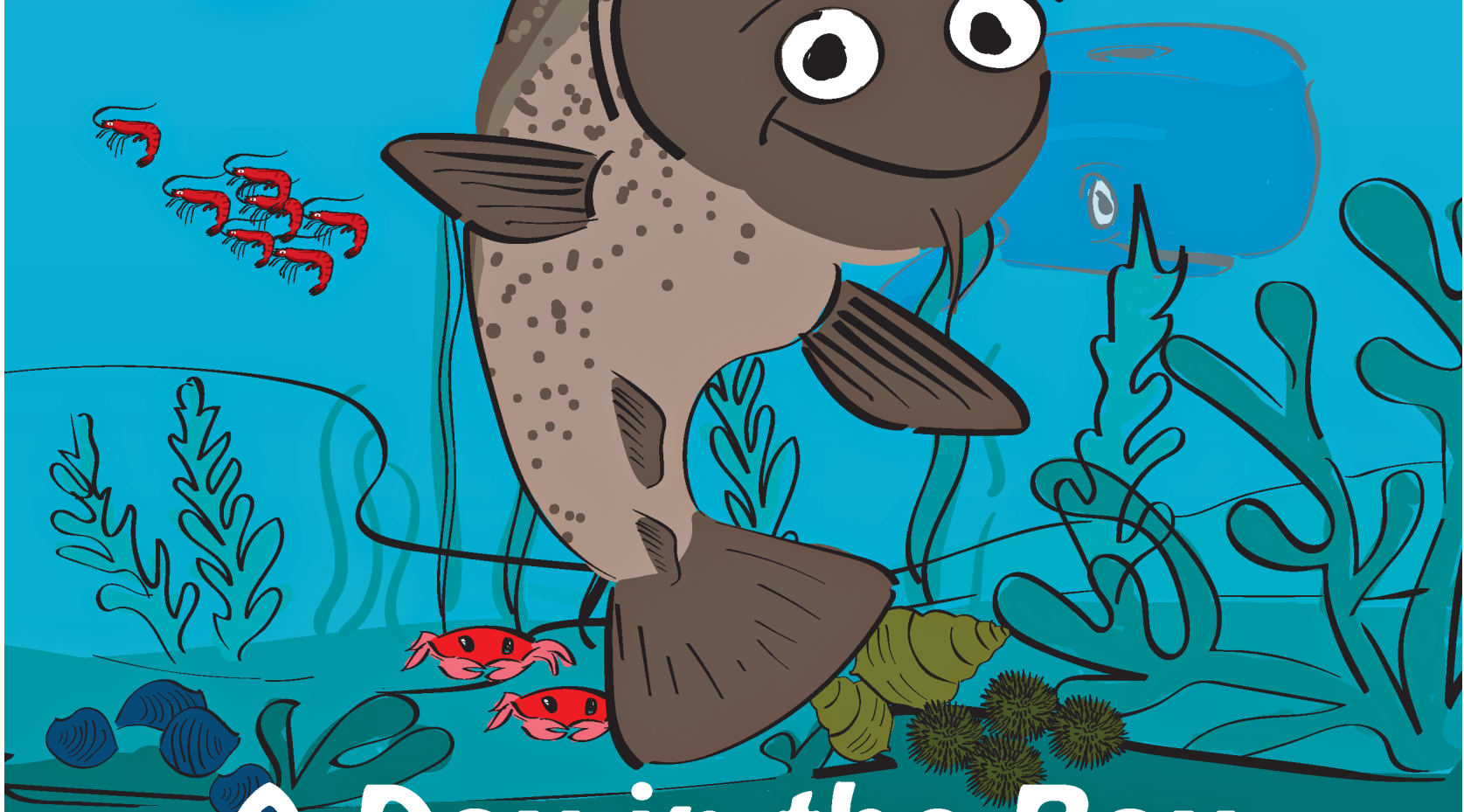


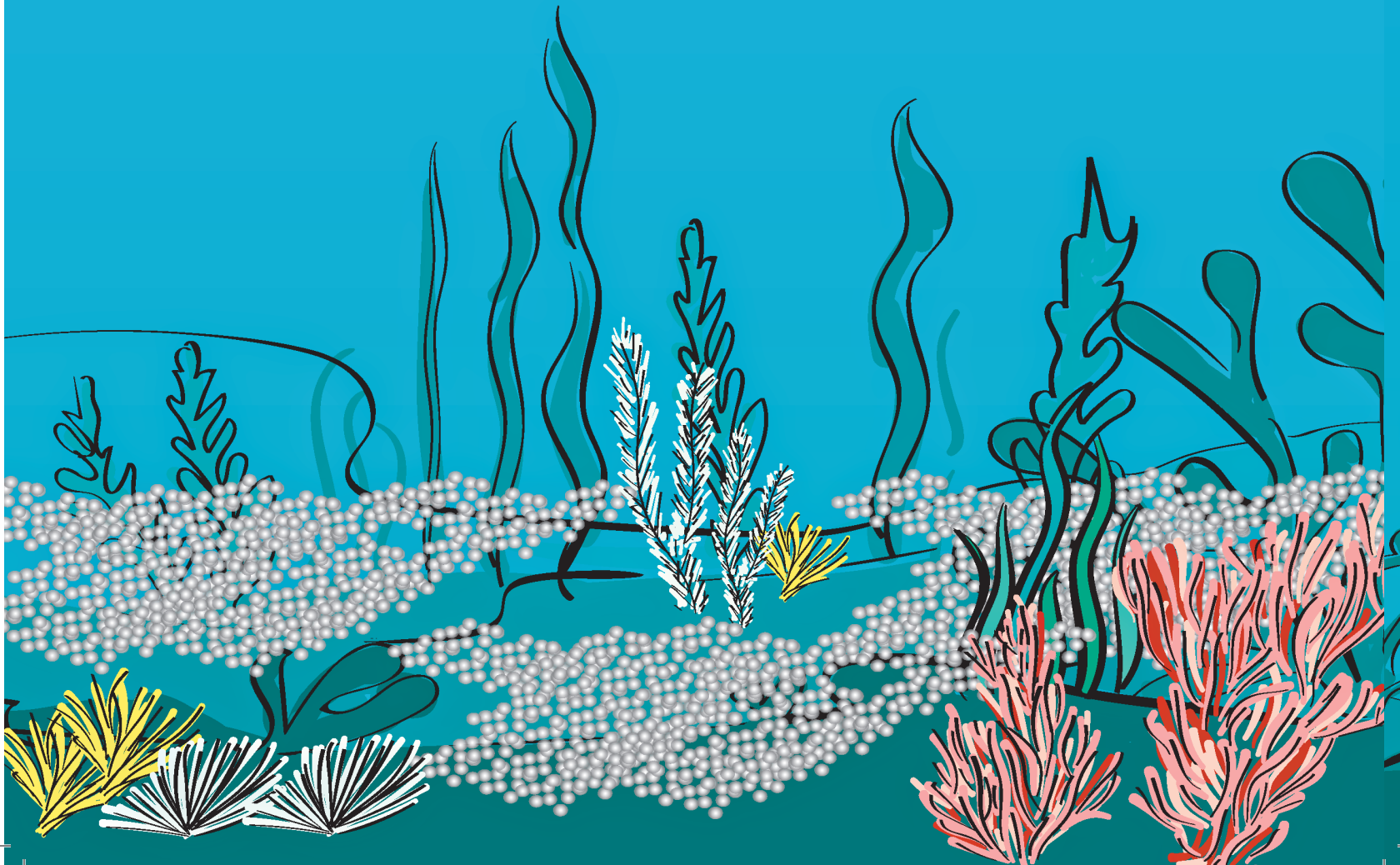
charley



A Day in the Bay

Before Charley and their siblings could swim and play,
They were only an egg

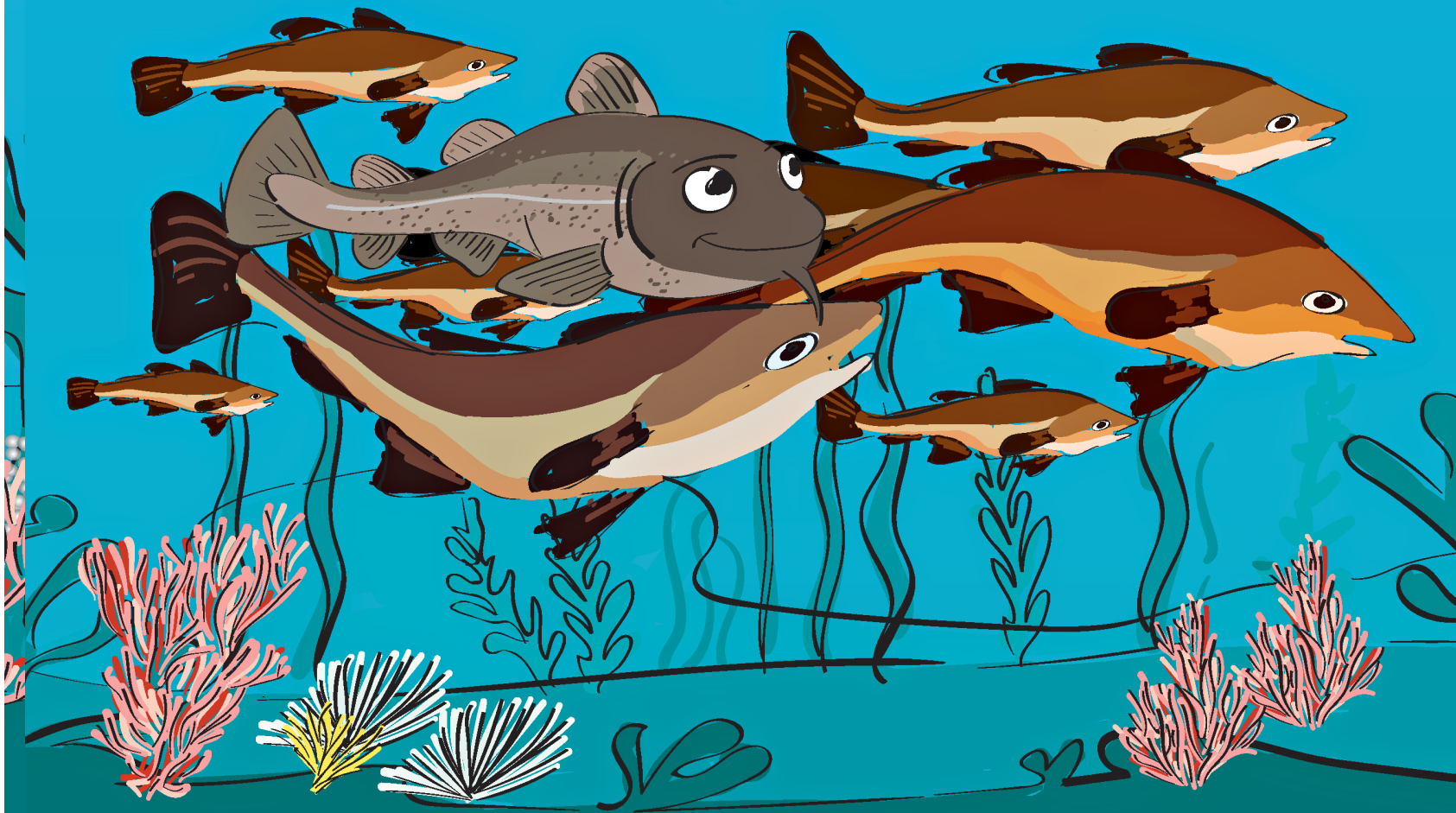
Two million eggs made by the Mommy fish, you see
Helps put more codfish into the sea

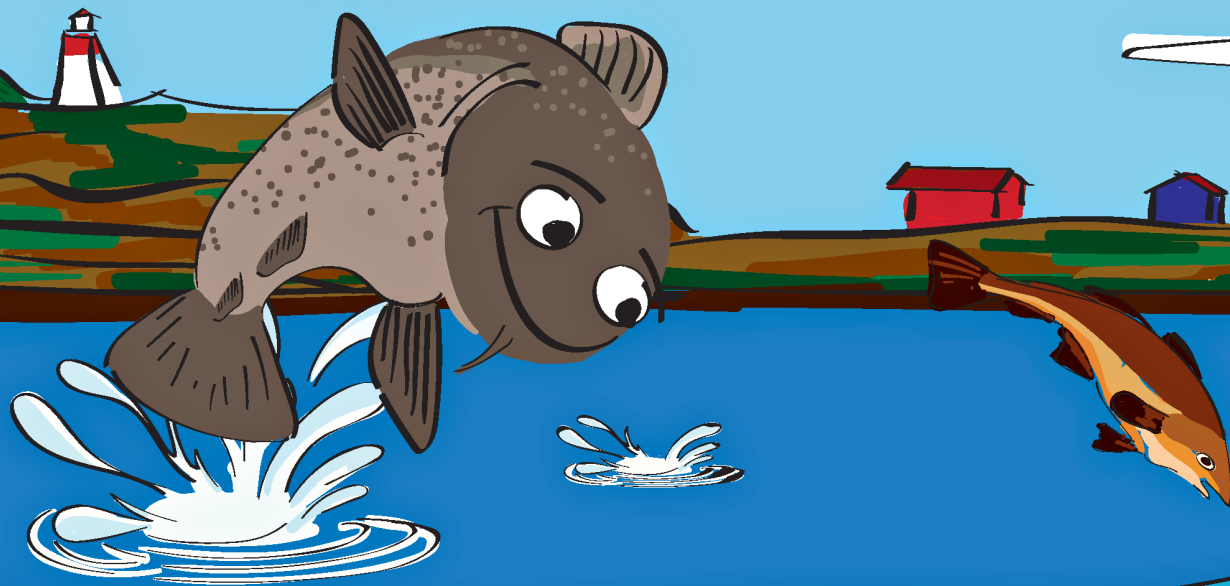


By the time they were four, Charley and their siblings were big and strong
Juvenile codfish, five kilos in weight and 40 centimetres long

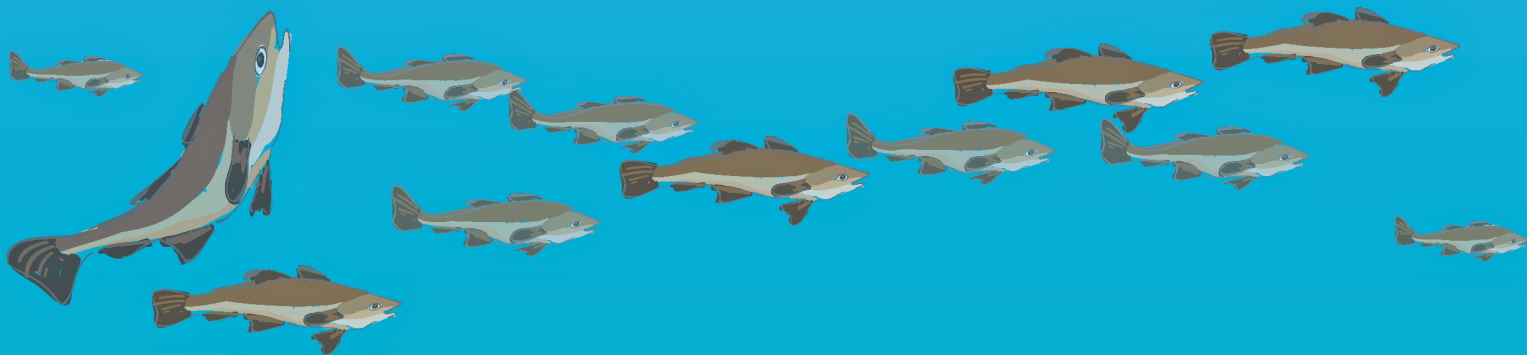
Charley could swim with the fish family
For days upon days under the sea

Along the Newfoundland and Labrador coast
The codfish had somewhere to be





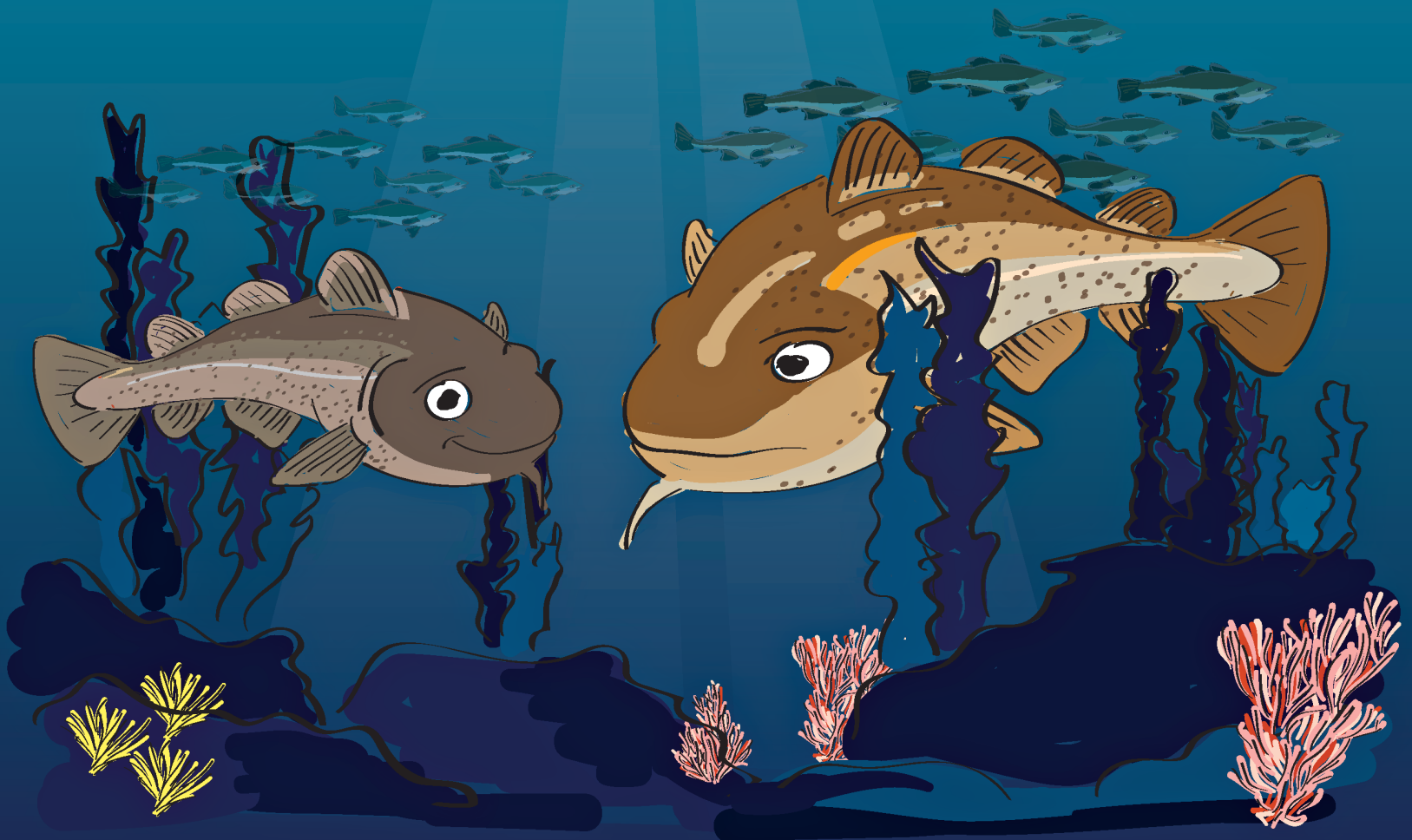
Home was the most beautiful bay
Where Charley and all the codfish would play
They jumped and splashed, fun-filled and free
In their beautiful bay in the cold, salty sea

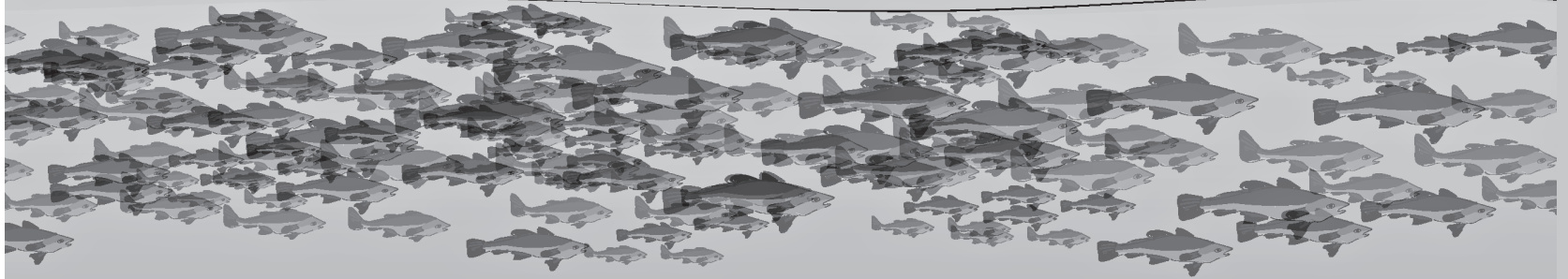
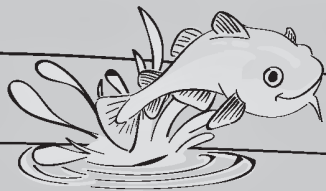


One day, in the bay's deepest depths
Charley met someone they'd never seen yet

A giant codfish with the kindest of eyes
Aged 27 years, he was old and wise

"Gather round," grand old cod told Charley and friends
"And I'll tell you a fish tale that we hope never ends"





Grand old cod told of the days

**When tens-of-thousands of codfish
Filled up the bays**

**When their great, great grand-cod
Splashed and played**



Then, grand old cod told of folks

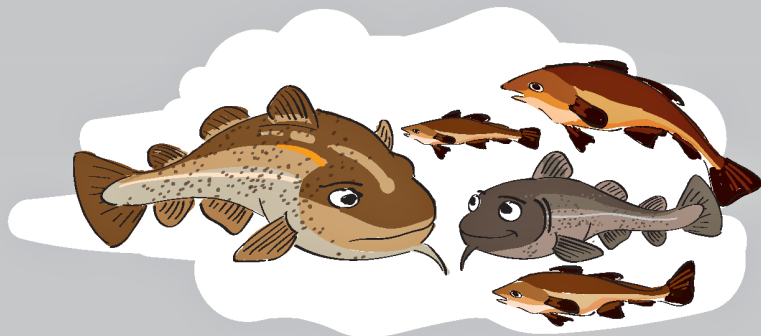
From lands an ocean away

Who sailed on ships to see

Newfoundland and Labrador codfish at play

It was the codfish that brought these settlers to stay

And make their homes on this coast, on these bays

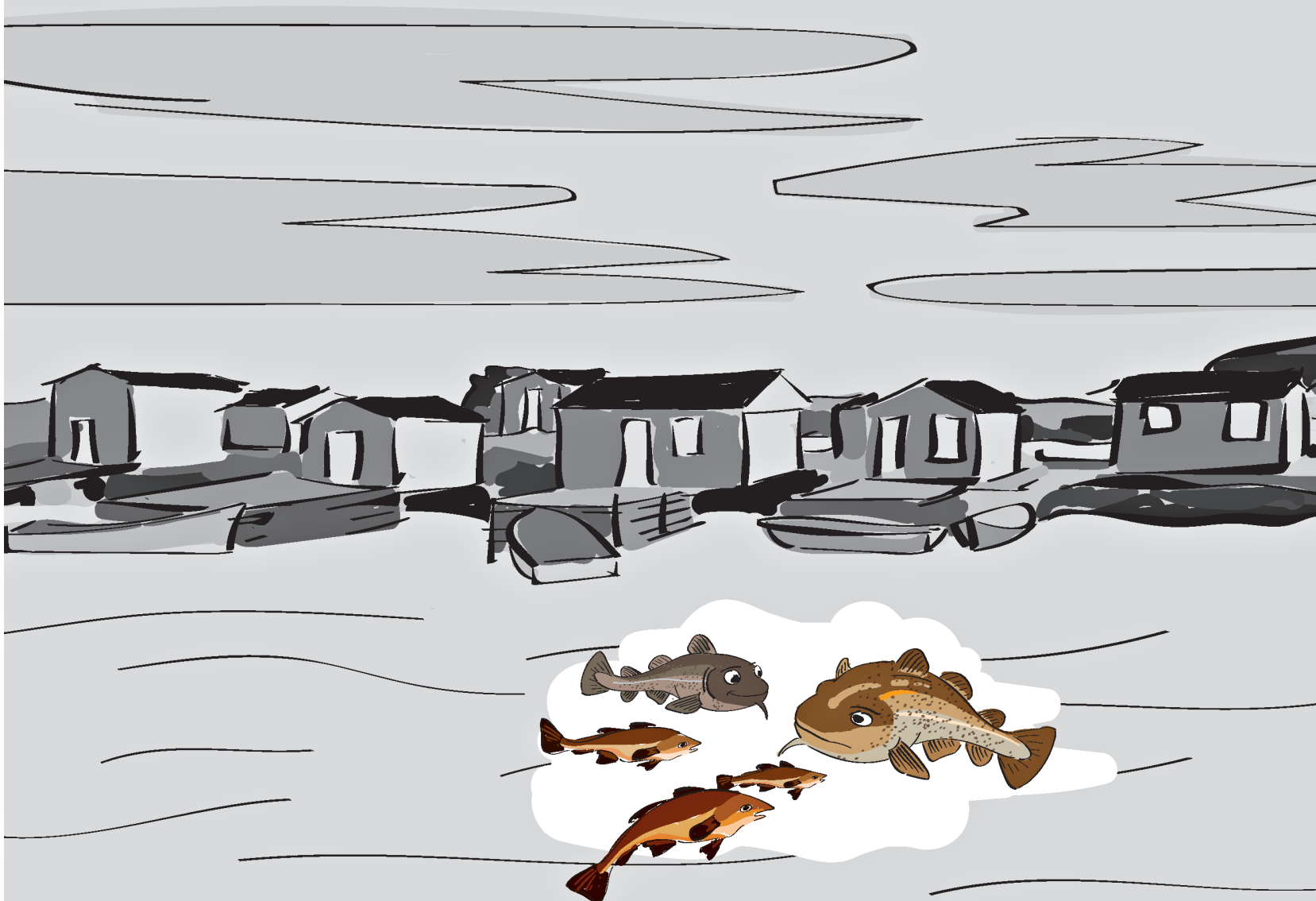


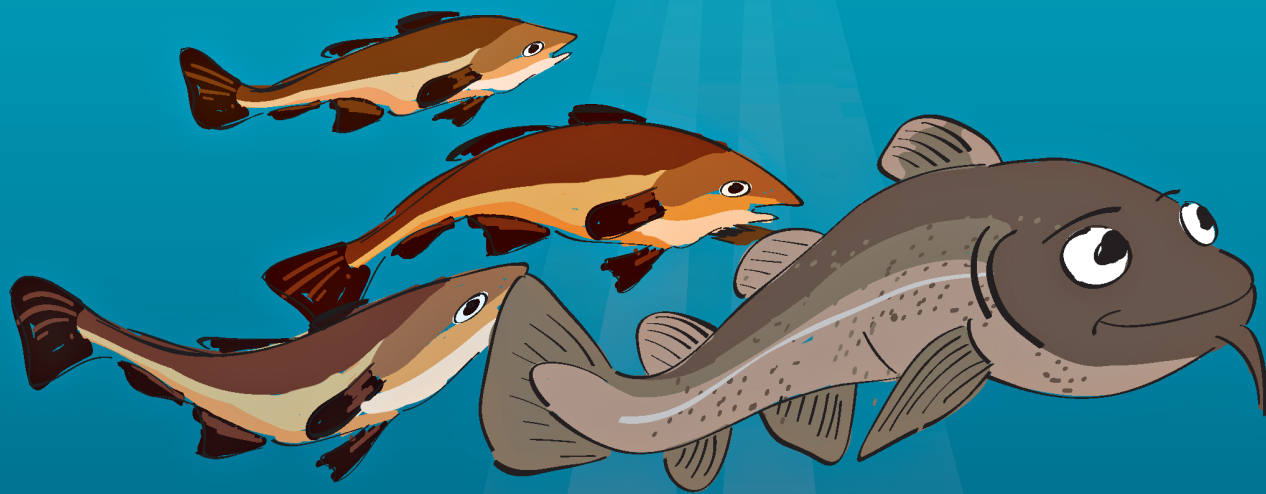
Grand old cod told how the thousands of fish

Answered the people's one great wish:

A bounty of cod to live alongside

With the help of the cod, whole families could thrive

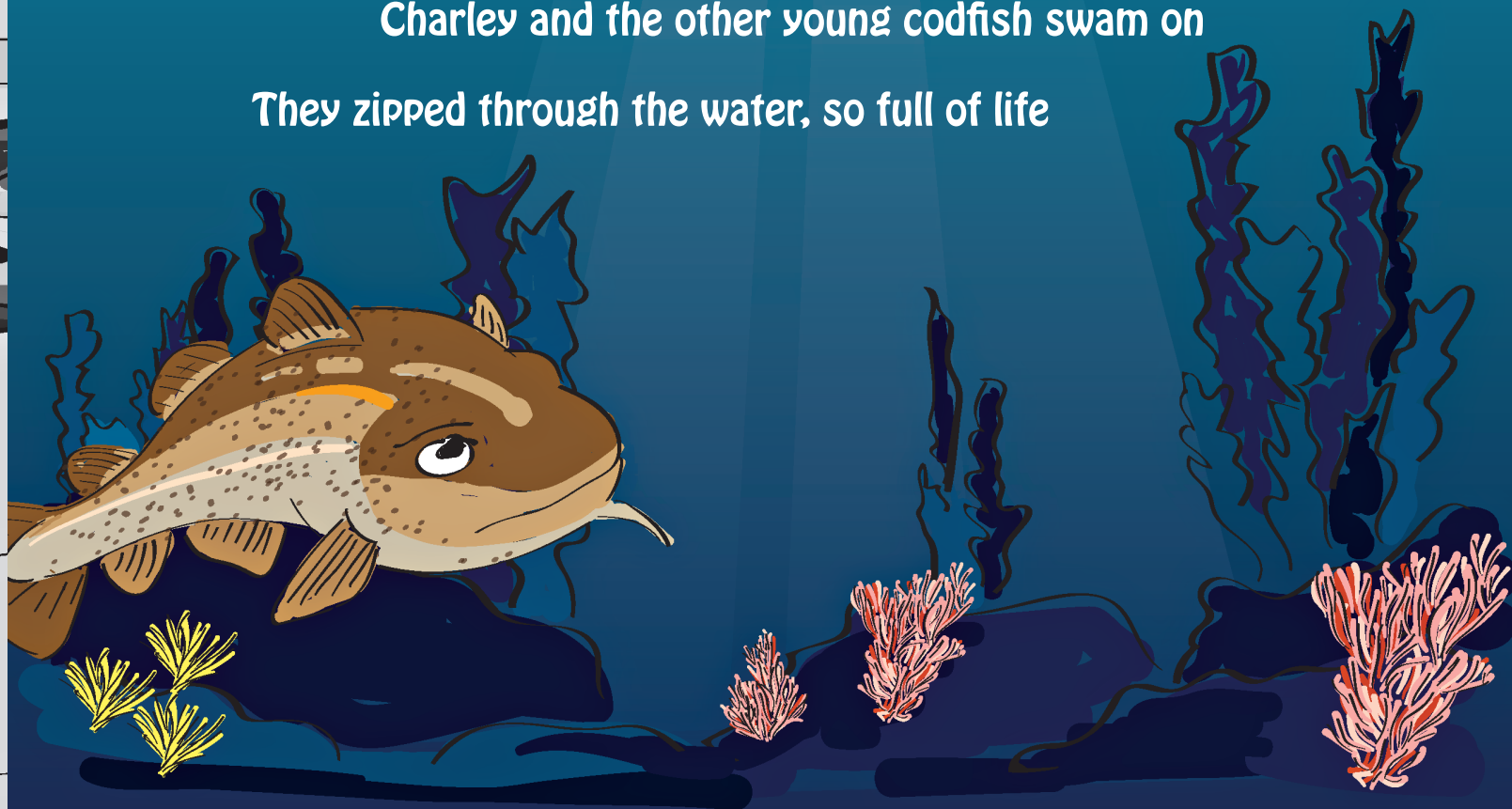


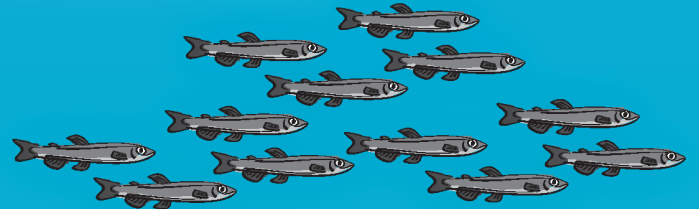


Inspired by the words of grand old cod

Charley and the other young codfish swam on

They zipped through the water, so full of life

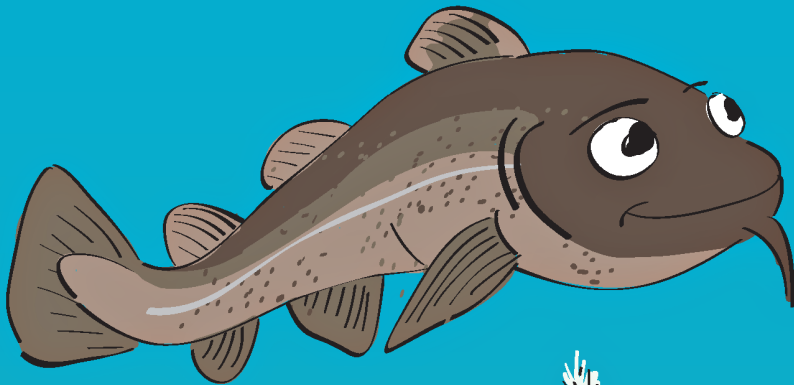




Then something caught young Charley's eye

A yummy little capelin!

Charley rushed over to take a big bite



In a rush, in a hurry, Charley didn't see

A pile of garbage floating in the sea



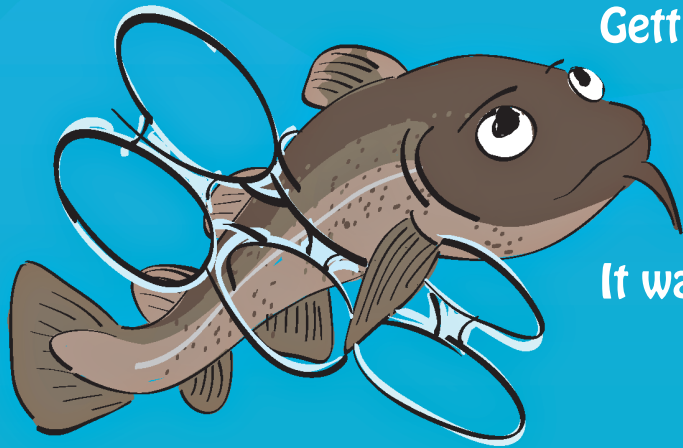
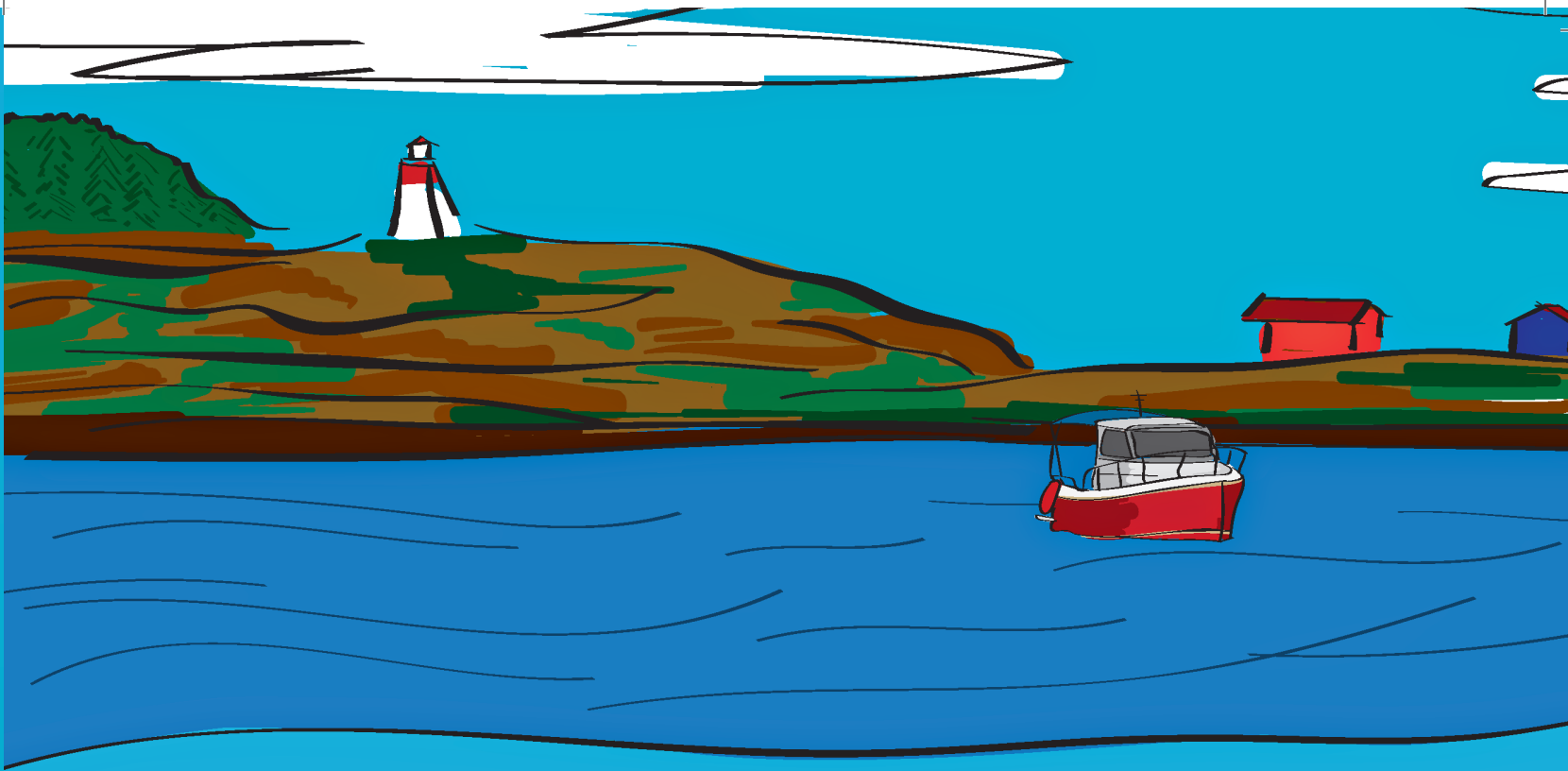
Feeling something gripping tight

They couldn't shake loose, not even with a fight

Charley struggled to swim, belly beginning to sting

Charley was all caught up in an old plastic ring





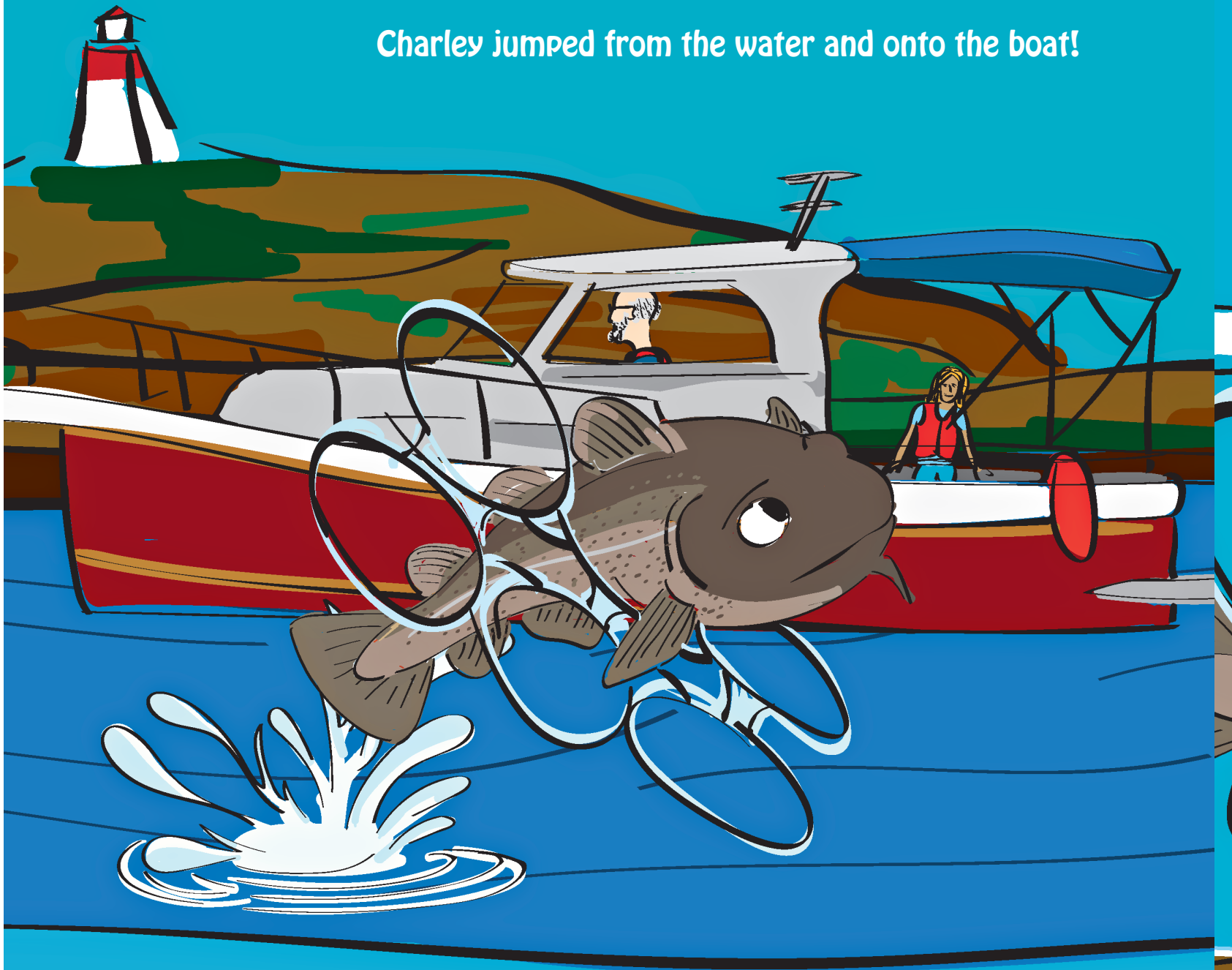
Getting tired and starting
To give up hope

Charlie suddenly saw a boat
It was up on the surface and far away

But with courage, Charley wiggled
Their tail and rose to safety

When they got close, with one mighty heave-ho,

Charley jumped from the water and onto the boat!



And didn't that lucky codfish land

Right in a little girl's hands!

Little Sophie looked at Charley,
Eyes sad

"This codfish is caught in plastic.
Please help them, Grandad!"



Little Charley sure was lucky that day

That Sophie and Poppy were out on the bay

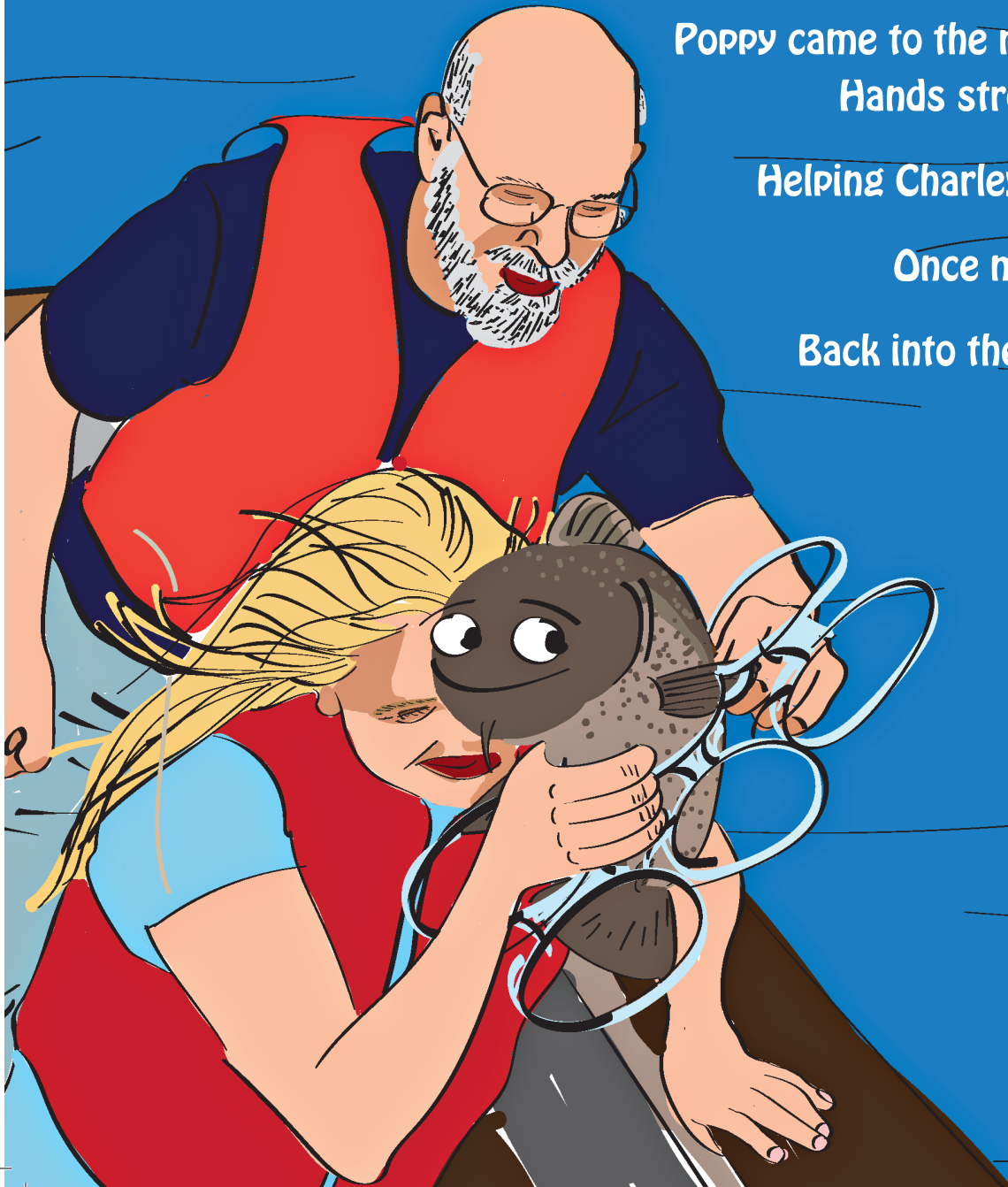
Poppy came to the rescue,

Hands strong as can be

Helping Charley to wriggle free

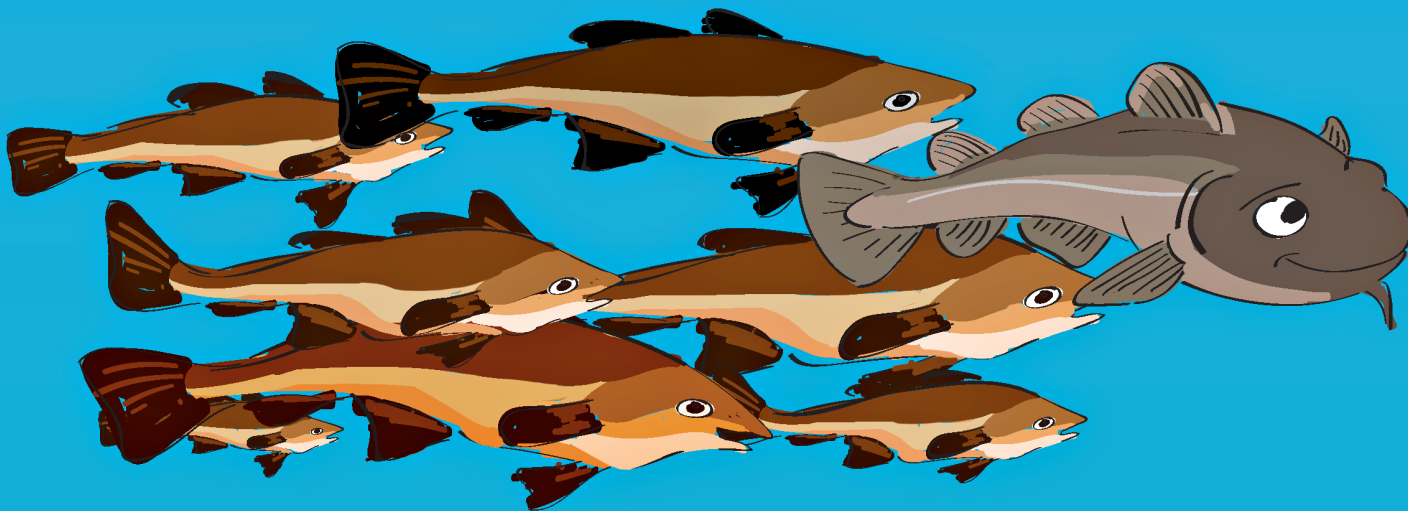
Once more Charley dove

Back into the sea



Charley and friends zipped and thrashed,
They jumped in excitement out of the sea,
To thank Sophie and Poppy for setting them free





Charley's friends joined in to zip and to play

Through the cold, fresh Atlantic Ocean, they all swam away

As Charley swam, Grand Old Cod's words rang true:

Codfish need people, and people need codfish too



**For activity sheets about Charley and their friends
visit gov.nl.ca/flr/charleythecod**

