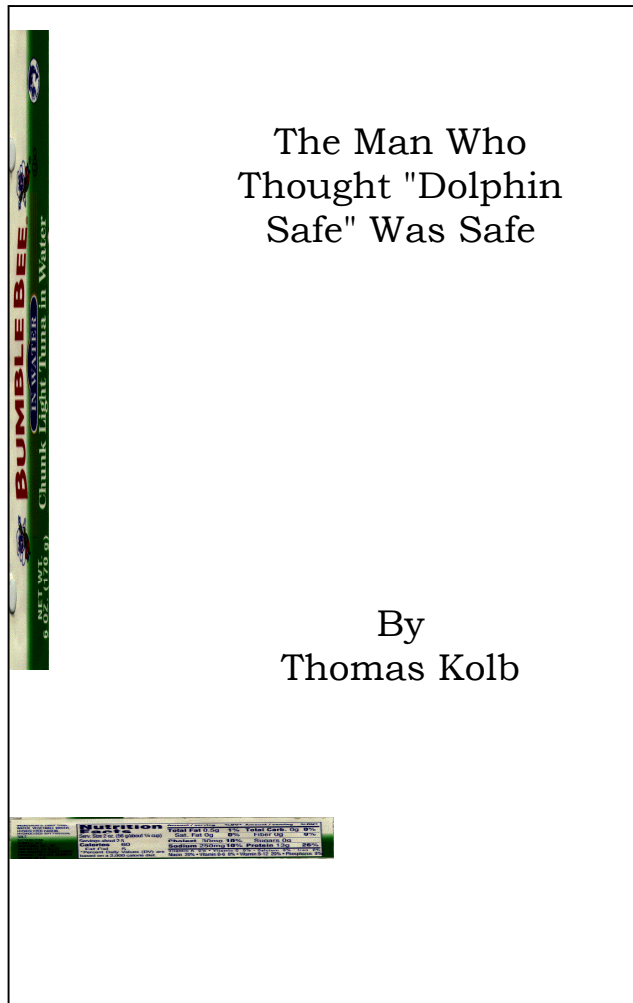
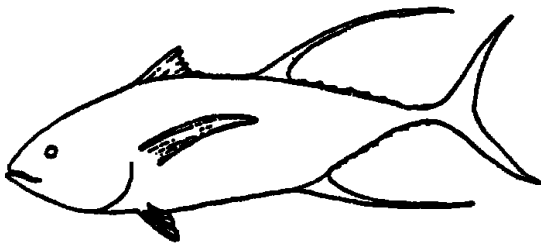


Example of Student Response

*Prepared for an Earth Day assignment by
Thomas Kolb*



	<p>To: All creatures on the wire (choir).</p>
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Yellowfin Tuna

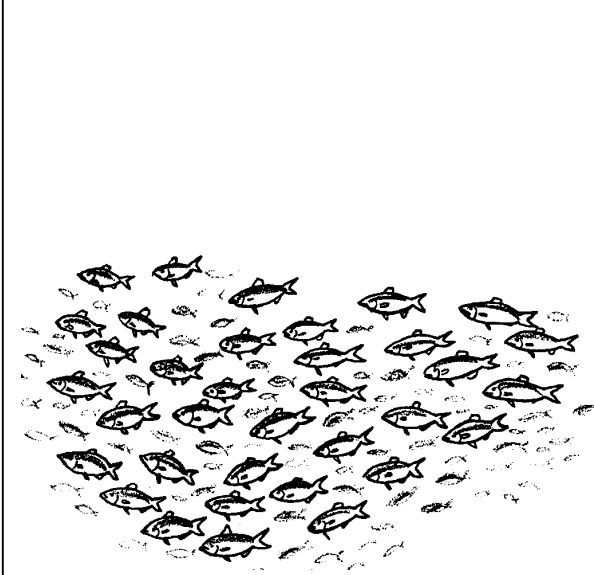
There once lived a man. He lived in a far off country where everyone ate tuna. This man, Ernie, was worried, and rightly so, for he had learned that the fishing of tuna which his country so loved was killing the Dolphins. For as you (unlike Ernie) probably know, one method of fishing for tuna kills dolphins.



So Ernie, who had some power as a citizen, decided to lobby for a law that his country only buy tuna that had been fished for with the safety of the dolphin in mind. He had no idea what a complex problem he was getting into. Ernie was not an intellectual and he failed to look at the entire issue. Ernie's plan worked great at first. The fishers developed new kinds of nets and the number of dolphins killed decreased dramatically. Ernie was not satisfied. No dolphins must be killed while fishing for tuna.



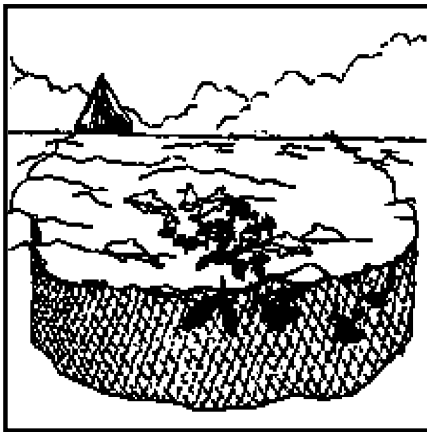
This seems like a great idea but Ernie had failed to look at the entire issue. If he had, he would have seen that the amount of dolphin killed with the new methods applied was very small and did not hurt the dolphin population.



Because Ernie acted on an impulse, he had made a serious mistake. He did not know that to make tuna entirely dolphin safe meant that larger amounts of animals were killed in the process; a fact which, in the long run would harm the ecosystem of the South Pacific, and eventually harm the dolphins as well.



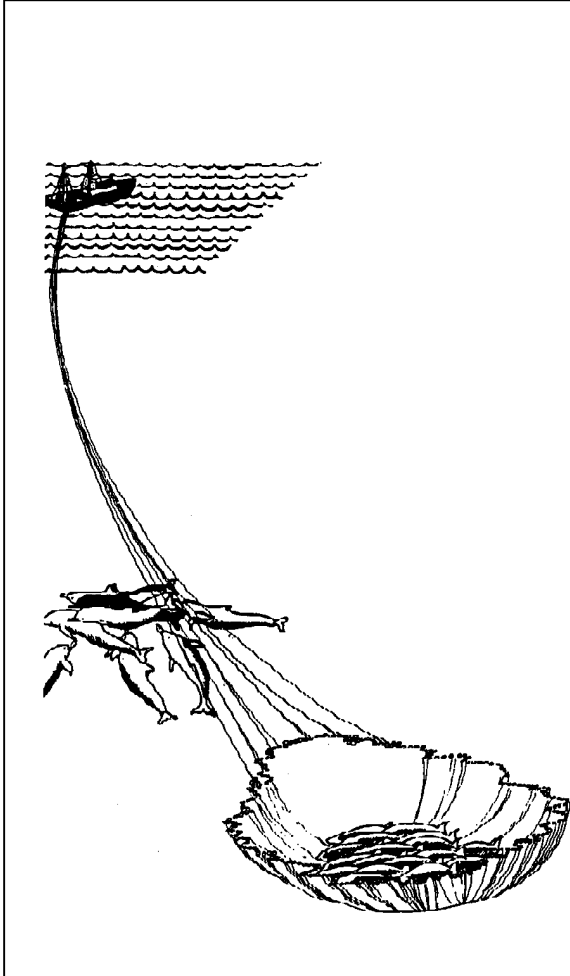
You see, tuna is fished for in three ways. In the first method, "dolphin fishing", the fishers look out across the sea looking for the dolphins that for some reason swim over the tuna.



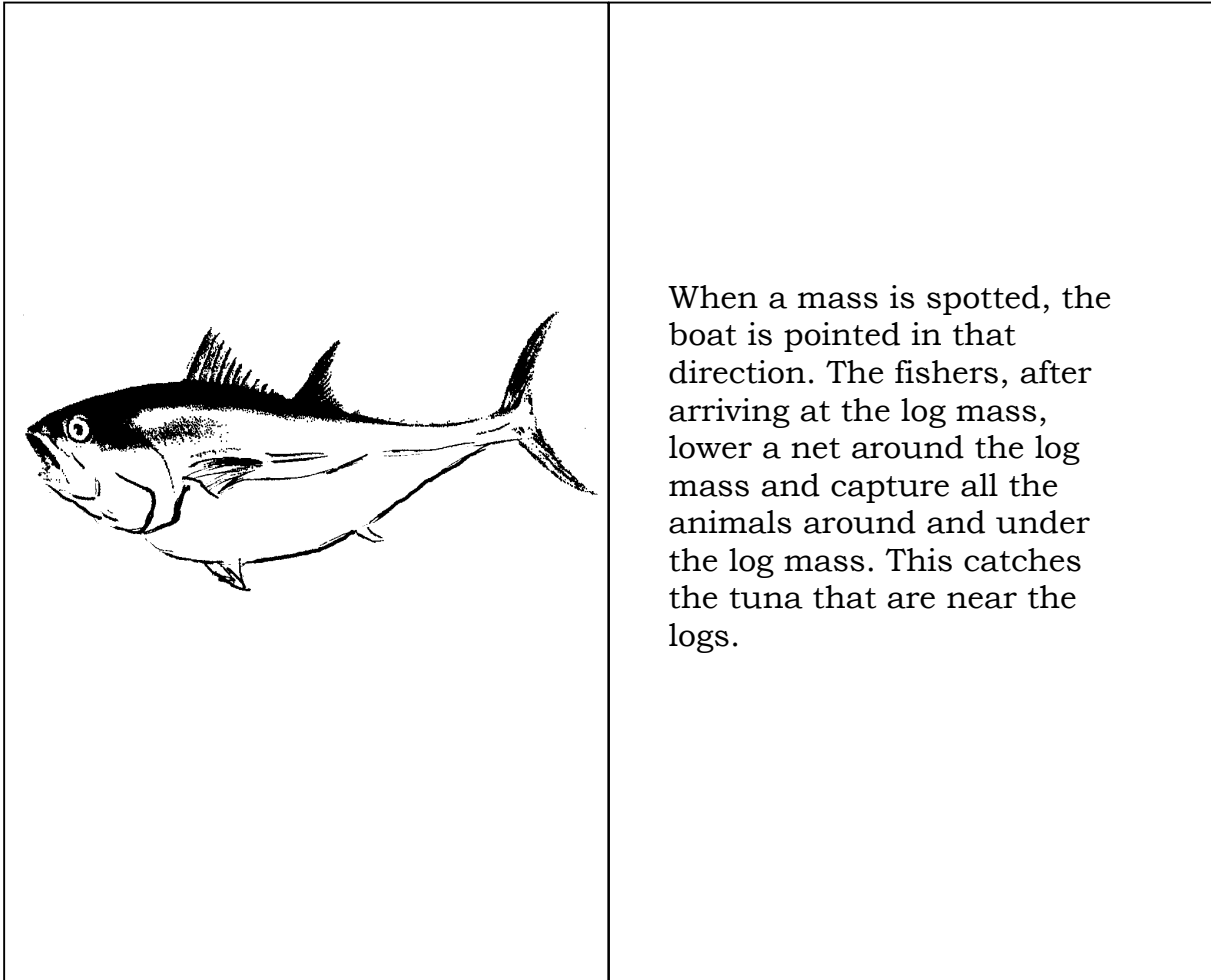
When a school is spotted the fishers motor their boats in that direction and set down nets in an attempt to scoop up as many tuna as possible. The problem with this method is that the nets slide catch the dolphins. This method can be very hard on dolphins.

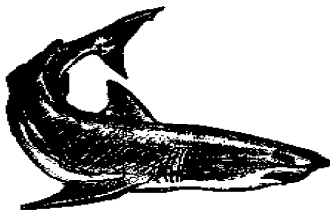


But with the new techniques where the fishers back the nets out from under the dolphins only about 100 pounds of non-tuna meat is caught per set. All of this "non-tuna meat" is dolphin meat. This is not enough to cause a difference in the dolphin population. But this is what worried Ernie so much.



The second method, "school fishing", is the method in which the tuna and all the animals nearby are encircled by a very large net. This second method kills about 5,000 pounds of non-tuna meat in each set. None of the 5,000 pounds is dolphin. The third method is called "log fishing". In this method, the fishers look out over the sea in search of masses of logs and other debris.

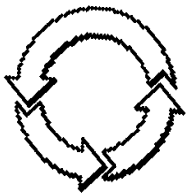




Unfortunately, this also catches the other animals that are feeding on or around the log mass. This method kills 20,000 pounds of animals other than tuna in every set. School fishing and log fishing are the ones considered safe. Sure it's dolphin safe but not shark and tortoise safe.



So in banning un-dolphin safe tuna, Ernie actually made his society the killer of large amounts of other marine animals.



Moral: One should look at the entire picture before making decisions, especially when they concern the environment.



For additional information send to:

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All recycled paper made
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