

We have met the bully, and it is us.



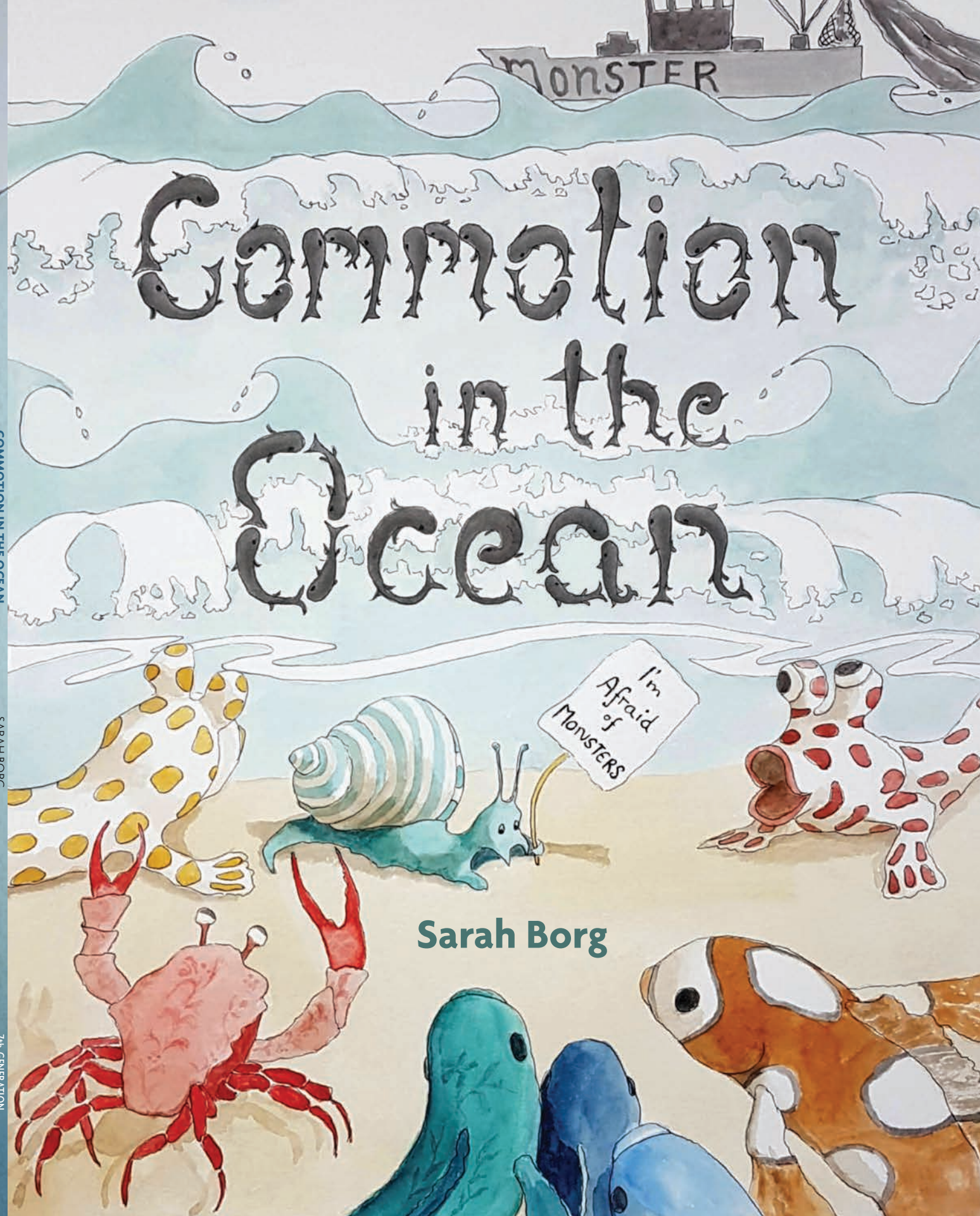
The depletion of fish and other marine life directly affects the ocean’s ability to produce oxygen and remove carbon dioxide.  
Life on Earth depends upon life in the ocean.

In this touching poem, a coalition of sea creatures are asking for our help.

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COMMOTION IN THE OCEAN

SARAH BORG

7th GENERATION

Sarah Borg





# Commotion in the Ocean

written and illustrated by  
**Sarah Borg**

**GroundSwell Books**  
Summertown, Tennessee





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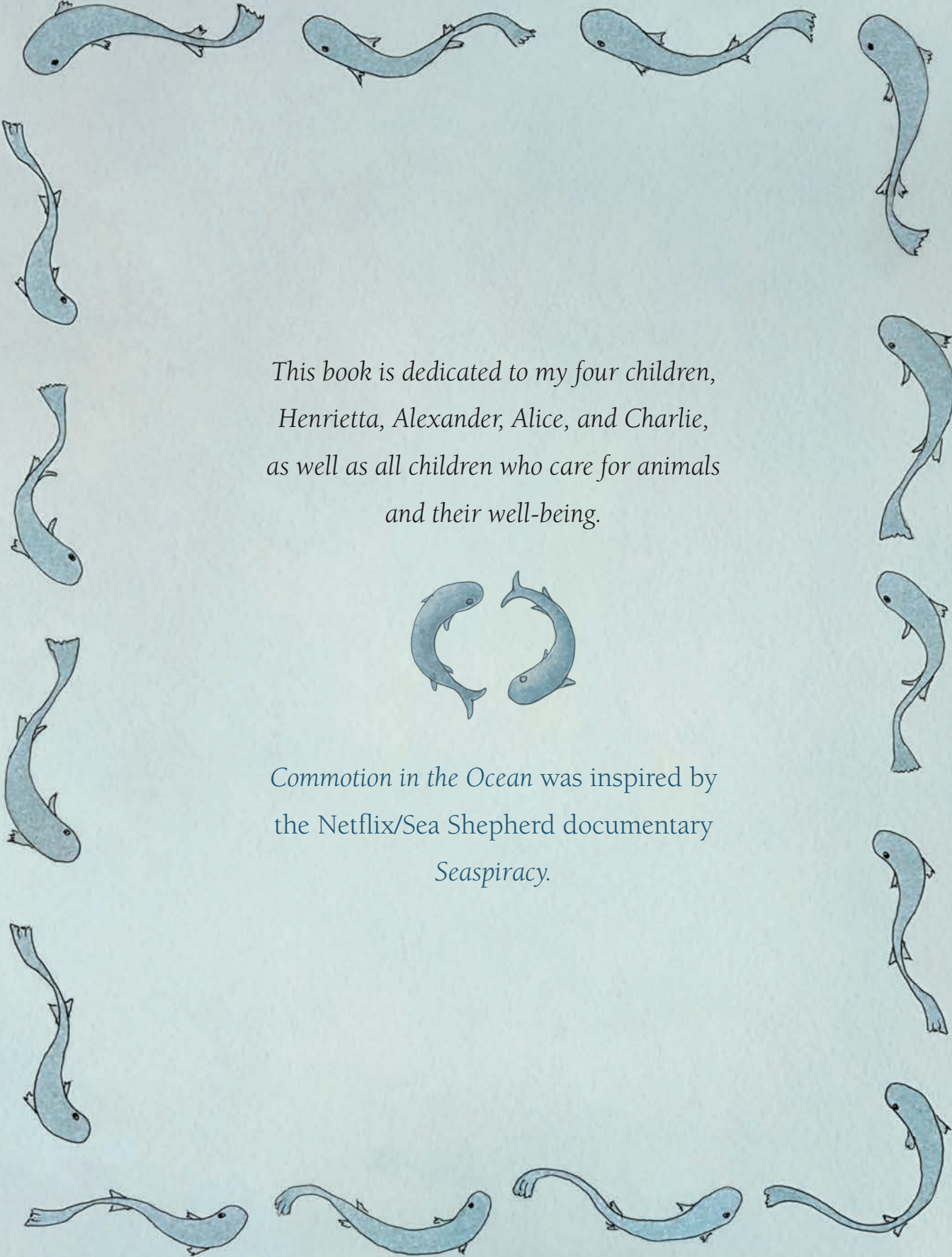
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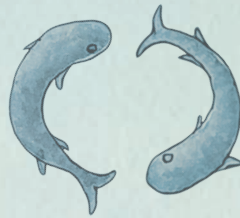
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*This book is dedicated to my four children,  
Henrietta, Alexander, Alice, and Charlie,  
as well as all children who care for animals  
and their well-being.*



*Commotion in the Ocean* was inspired by  
the Netflix/Sea Shepherd documentary  
*Seaspiracy*.





# Foreword

*by Captain Paul Watson*

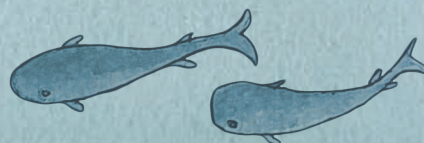
Sarah Borg worked quietly in the background on some of the most successful Sea Shepherd campaigns in the 1980s. She organized our ship the Sea Shepherd II for departure from the United Kingdom for campaigns to protect pilot whales and dolphins in the Faroe Islands. In 1986, she was the liaison between me and our crew in Iceland when we sank half the Icelandic whaling fleet and shut down illegal Icelandic whaling operations for seventeen years.

An activist for the ocean and an artist and a poet, Sarah's passion for defending life and diversity in the sea has been wonderfully expressed in her paintings and words. *Commotion in the Ocean* is a message to humanity that we are facing extraordinary threats to the survival of tens of thousands of species in the sea, and that the one thing each of us can do to halt these threats is to stop eating them.

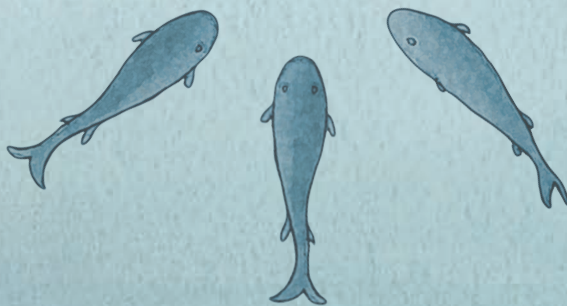


The depletion of fish, whales, turtles, and seabirds is a direct cause for the decrease of 40 percent of the ocean's phytoplankton since 1950. Phytoplankton produces up to 70 percent of the oxygen in the air we breathe and removes enormous amounts of carbon dioxide. The diversity of life in the sea provides the essential elements for phytoplankton survival: iron, nitrogen, and magnesium. The animals of the sea literally fertilize the plants of the sea, which provide us with something far more essential than fish with our chips.

The diversity and interdependence of all life in the ocean is the foundation of our existence and makes it possible for humanity to exist. If the ocean dies, we all die! In this poem, Sarah points out that we have met the bully, and it is us.



There's a monster above,  
a giant metal bully,  
that hoovers the oceans  
with a winch and a pulley.









“Oh no!” said the dolphin.

“They can’t do this!”

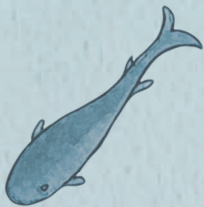
So he summoned a meeting  
and wrote a long list.

“Now let us be clear.”

He looked down his nose.

“We need to take action.

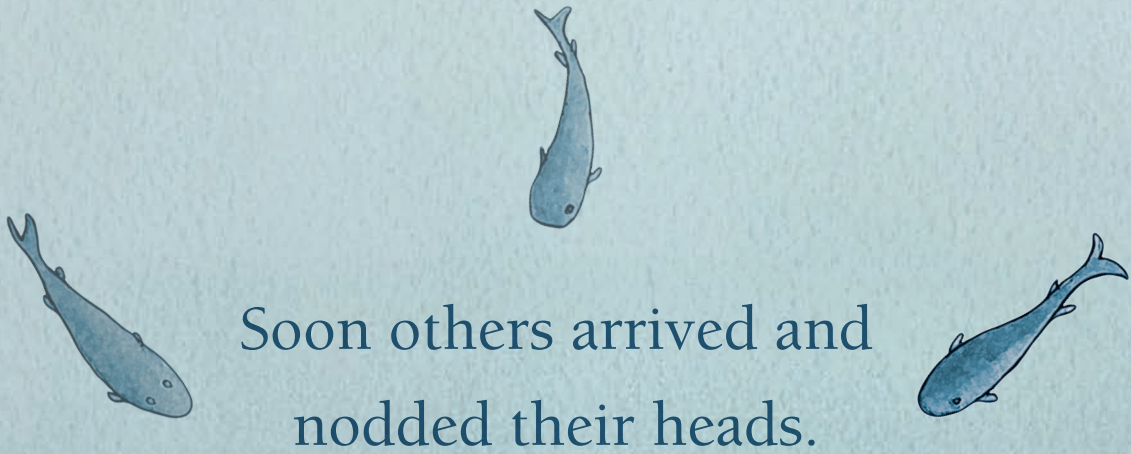
Those bullies must GO!”









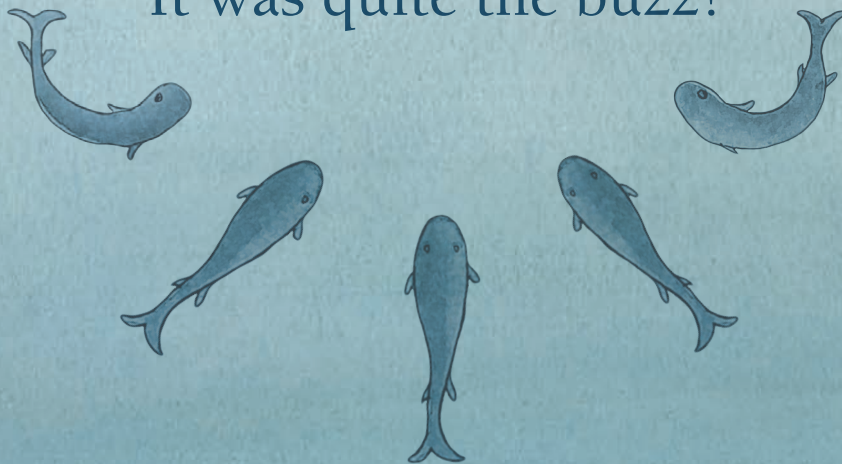


Soon others arrived and  
nodded their heads.

They knew they weren't safe  
at night in their beds.

Soon the chattering spread,  
as it usually does,  
and meetings sprung up.

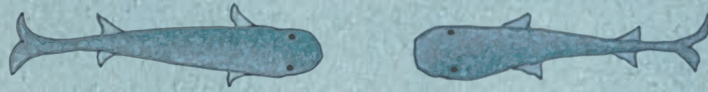
It was quite the buzz!







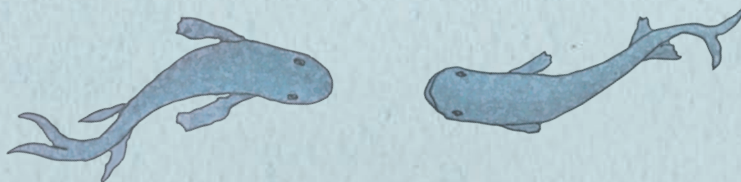




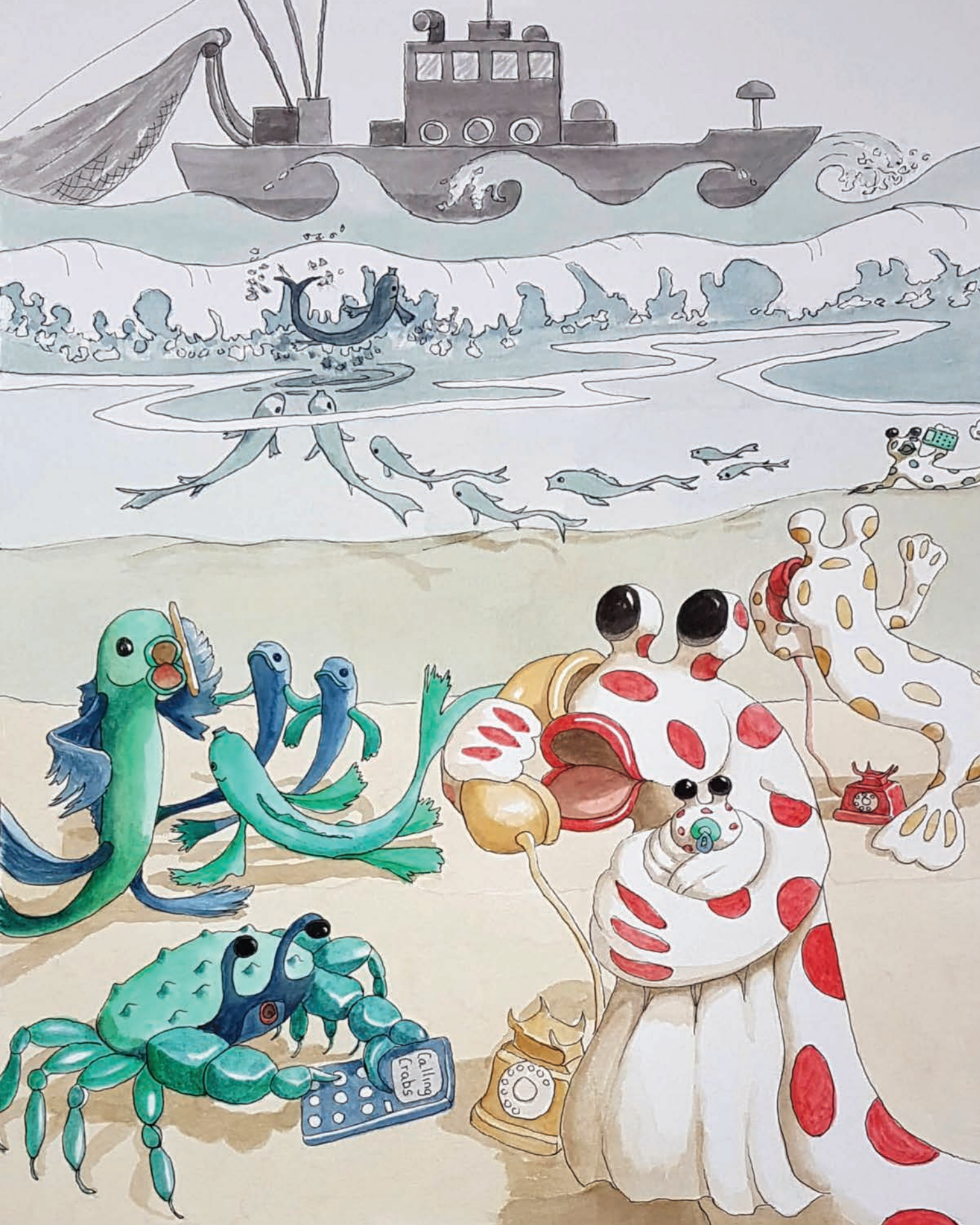
From coral to reef  
and across the ocean,  
the fish spread the word—  
there was quite a commotion.

“How can we stop  
a bully so cruel?

We can’t just sink it,  
we’ll be left with the fuel.”











“But what can we do?”

squeaked a sad sea snail,  
when in swam a dolphin  
and a migrating whale.

“Take heart, little snail.

We will prevail!



We will talk to the humans  
and tell them our tale.”














They gathered their friends  
and swam to the islands,  
where small fishing boats  
were tied up to tall pylons.  
The people complained,  
“There’s no fish in the sea!”  
And the dolphins and whales  
said, “Yes, we agree!”









“The oceans are bare,”  
they all discussed.  
“All due to this bully.”  
They sighed with disgust.  
“It’s just not fair,”  
said a small child crying.  
“If the ocean is bare,  
we’ll all end up DYING!”

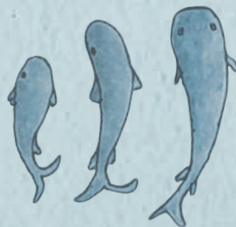








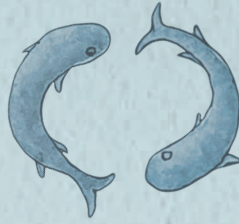
We all know the problem.  
This sadness must stop.  
It's caused by the choices  
we make when we shop.  
If we as one voice  
would simply say NO,  
NO money for monsters,  
then they'd surely GO.  
Let's ask the world's people,  
with a hug and a kiss,  
To please stop eating  
the overfished FISH!











## A Sea Shepherd's Sea Shanty

Twelve Sea Shepherd ships patrol all the seas,  
To save life in the oceans from countless misdeeds.  
When whales and dolphins and fish are in need,  
These ships intervene to stop cruelty and greed.

Now who are the people that make up the crew?  
They're kind individuals, like me and like you,  
Who care for our oceans and want them kept clean,  
So we'll live in a world that's a lot more pristine.

We invite you to share in this powerful mission,  
And join the world's people as one coalition.  
Together we'll reach our task's completion,  
To save the world's oceans from needless depletion.







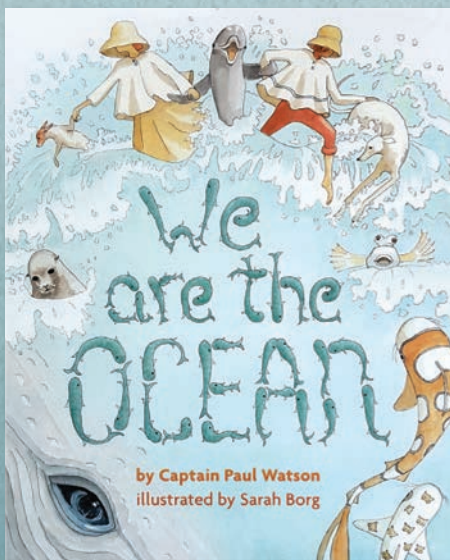




**SARAH BORG** is a published artist, mother, and defender of animals. She established Sea Shepherd UK in 1986 specifically to support the campaign to stop the pilot whale slaughter in the Danish Faroe Islands. Born in South Devon, England, she now lives in the South of France.



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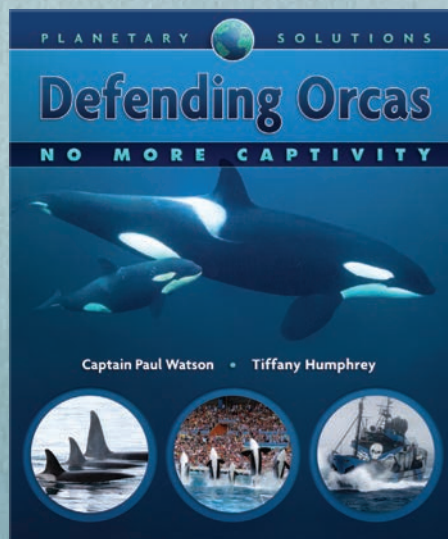
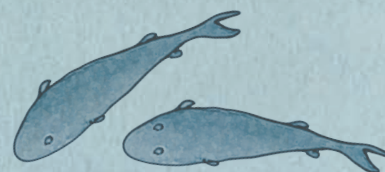


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