

AT HOME
AT THE SEA

THE FISHER FAMILY



□ CHAPTER ONE

The Fisher family have lived in Portsmouth for three years. They used to live in north London but Mr. Fisher got a new job at Portsmouth University so the family moved.

There are six people in the Fisher family. Mr Fisher's name is Peter and he is 42 years old. Samantha Fisher, his wife, is 40 . Susanna is 8 years old and Dennis is the second eldest son and he is eleven. Then there is baby Robbie who is three years old. Dennis's older Jack doesn't live at home because he is studying medicine at Edinburgh University and he usually works abroad during the holidays.

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At first Dennis and Susanna were not very happy in Portsmouth . They both loved their house and school in London and did not want to move away. They missed their friends very much, especially Dennis who knew and was friendly with many people in London both at school and at the football club he played for. Portsmouth was , however, a very interesting place. Their house was on the seafront and they could hear the sound of the waves breaking on the beach all day and night. The schools were very good and the teachers were excellent. Dennis found a good football club to play with and Susanna enrolled in the local ballet school where she made a lot of new friends.



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So, all in all, the Fisher family was content with their move to the seaside. Peter had always been enthusiastic about boats and the first thing he had done when he moved was to enrol in special classes to get sailing lessons. He wanted to buy a small sailing boat so the family could all go out sailing at the weekends. So three years later he bought a beautiful motor sailor. It is 12 meters long and you can either sail it (if there is wind) or cruise using its powerful engines.

Very often they sailed to a beautiful island just a few miles from the coast called the Isle of Wight. It is a place where many English families go for their







summer holidays. It was famous because Queen Victoria built a summer palace there more than 100 years before. She took her many children on holidays there .





Chapter Two

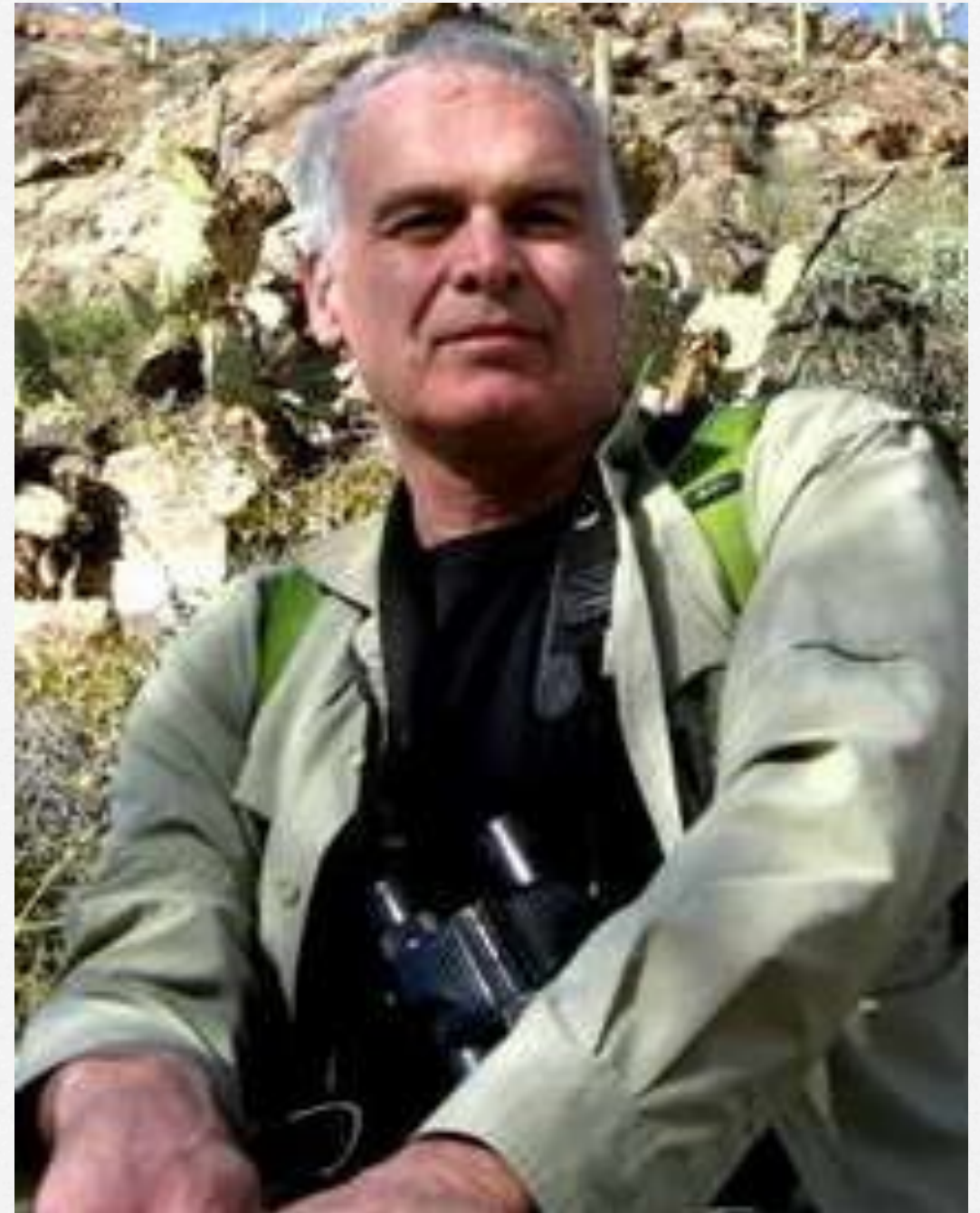
Dennis loved sailing. His father was teaching him to sail their boat and on calm days he steered as they sailed over to The Isle Of Wight. Very often, if the weather was good they dropped anchor in some little cove and slept on the boat and went swimming as soon as they woke up the following morning. (Much better than a shower!) even if the water was not very warm because they were in the English channel which led directly into the Atlantic Ocean . British children are used to colder weather and water than children from the Mediterranean.





One Saturday morning a year ago the Fisher family went sailing together . Mother prepared a early breakfast and they bundled the car and drove down to their boat. The 'God Speed' was an attractive boat. It wasn't new. They bought it second-hand. It was, however, very comfortable with three small cabins, shower, toilet and a galley. It was a little cramped but very comfortable.

It was always interesting to go out with the Fisher Family. Peter Fisher is a biologist and he studies marine life while Mrs Fisher, Samantha, is a ornithologist and studies bird life along the coast of southern England







The children all wore their life jackets and carried their knapsacks as they boarded the boat over the gang plank. Mum and dad had the big bags with the food and drink, diving gear, binoculars and other bits and pieces.

When everything had been put away Dad checked the engine, the fuel levels, and the electrical equipment. They left their mooring and started out towards the open sea. There was a slight wind but Dad preferred to use the powerful motors until they were further out because it is a very busy part of the sea and can be dangerous. As it was still early morning it was chilly the children decided to stay down in the cabin where it was warmer while Mum and Dad stayed on deck.



Thursday, 15 July 2010



Susanna started to sing loudly so Dennis went into one of the cabins and lay down on his narrow little bunk bed. Soon the sound of the engines and the regular rhythm of the boat on the waves sent him fast asleep.

He was awakened by the sound of shouting and screaming. The motors were silent and the boat rocked on the waves. He jumped out of bed and raced through the galley and up the stairs onto the deck. There he saw an amazing sight



Chapter Three

Dad and mum were hanging dangerously over the side of the God Speed. They both had boat hooks in their hands and were splashing and shouting loudly.

"Go Away stupid Dolphin " screamed baby Robbie

"You'll hurt yourself " screamed Susanna.

"What can we do" asked Mr and Mrs Fisher " if it beaches it will die!

Dennis ran the last few steps until he could look down at the sea from the side of the boat.

" Jimminy Cricket ! A dolphin!!!" he shouted .

A real life dolphin was swimming round and round in the shallow water beside the boat..



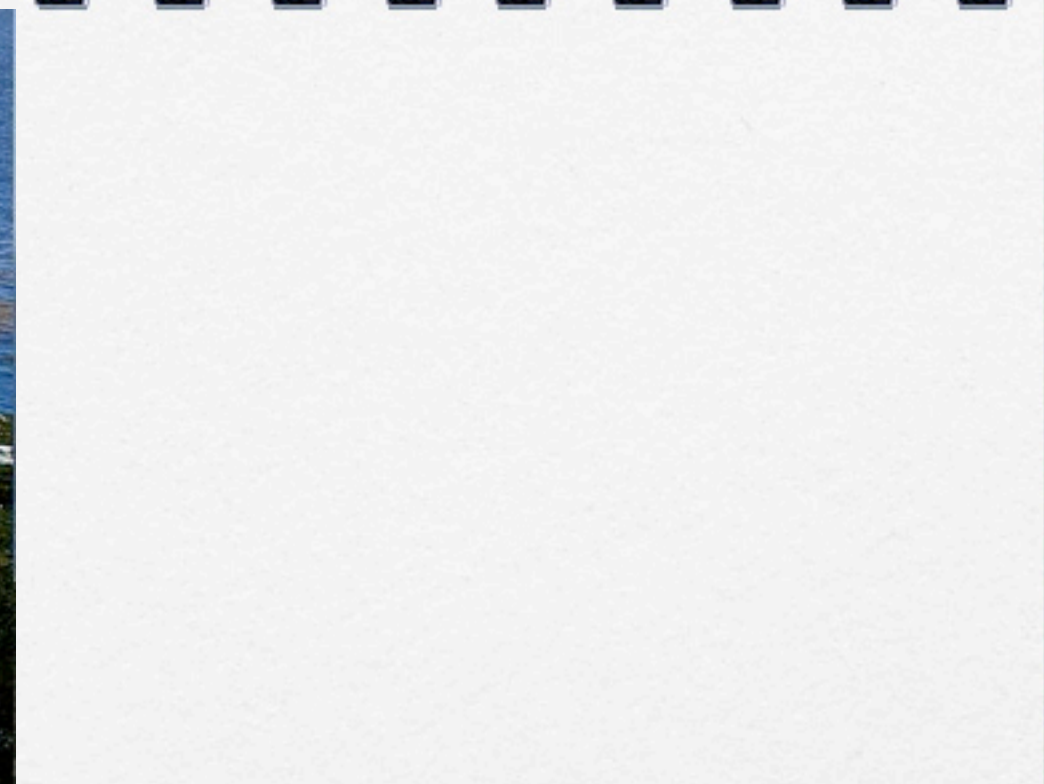




Their boat was anchored a little way off a sandy beach. It was in a natural bay with quite a narrow entrance and the sea was shallow there. It was possible to wade through from the boat to the shore.

The dolphin was really big with a long white nose and a black body. Its back was curved. It was not happy. It wanted to get to the beach and when it got too near it began to touch then it became afraid and it tried to turn around but the water was too shallow. It started to splash around frenetically, panicking and frightened. The God Speed began to rock too and Dad shouted "Hold on tight, children!". The dolphin then drifted away and again it tried to get to the beach. This time it managed to and it lay still on the sand.

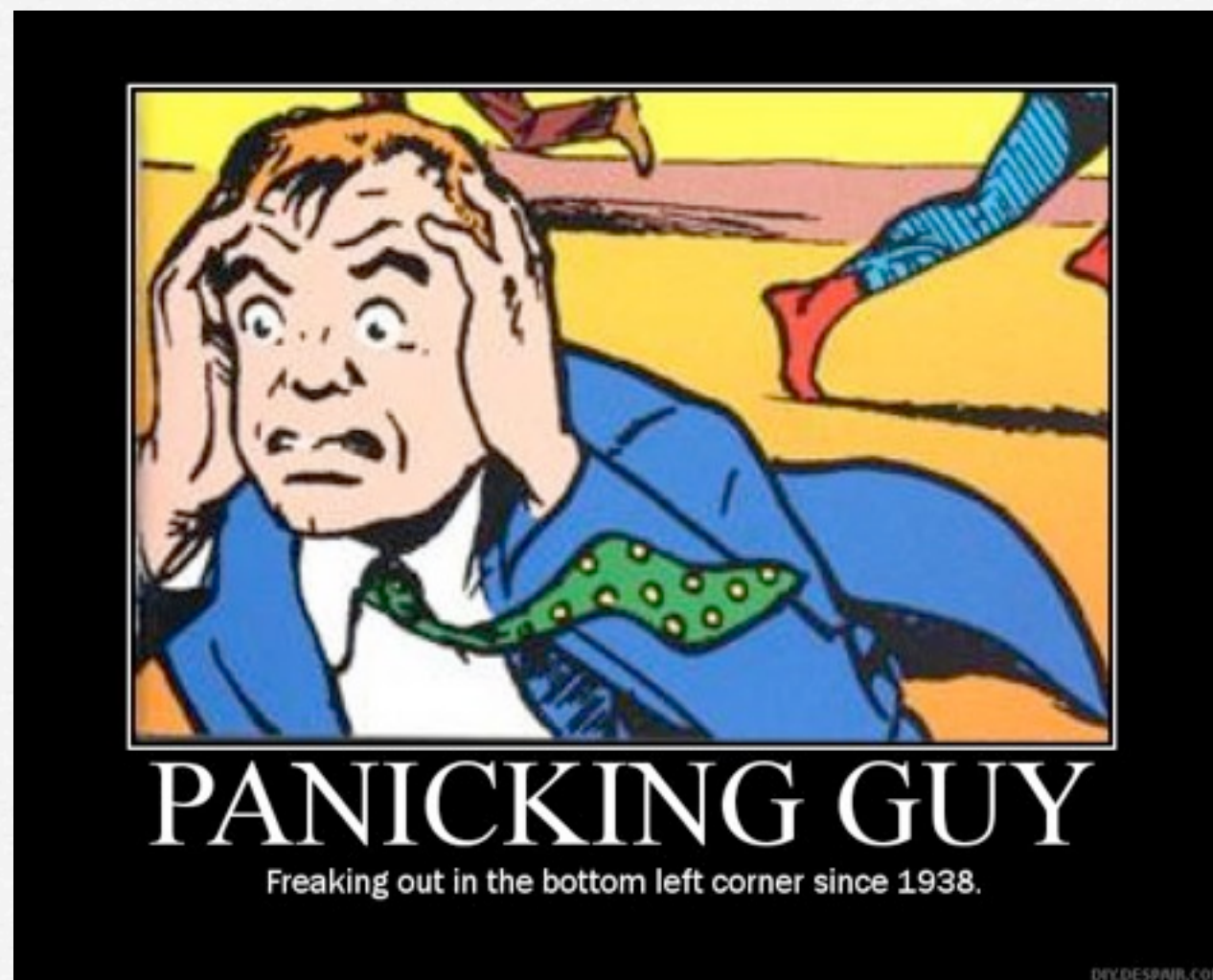




"Come on, children . We must help the poor animal back into the sea before it dies" Mum cried as she climbed down the ladder into the sea and began to wade through the water towards the beach.

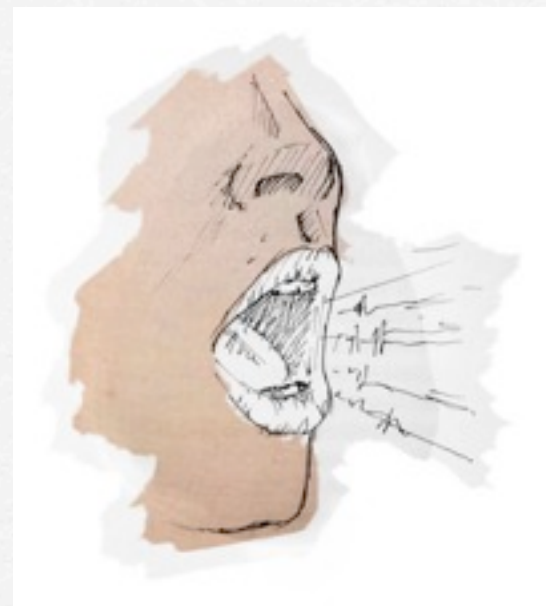
'Its a white beak" Dad explained to the children as they followed their mother. "Why has he come onto this beach? Why does he want to leave the sea?" asked Dennis.

"It's a long story.. I'll tell you later...Go back to the boat please and bring a couple of buckets.... We must keep him wet.



Chapter Four.

The children waded back to the boat and got a couple of big saucepans and a bucket. It was hard walking through the water carrying them but after a little difficulty they arrived panting on the beach where there parents were looking at the dolphin. They were patting him and speaking in a low voice. They didn't want to frighten him. As soon as the children arrived they started to pour water over his body using the saucepans and bucket. They knew now that he must be wet to survive.



"Thank Goodness the tide is coming in soon" Mr Fisher said. He was phoning some friends of his who had boats in the area. He was asking them to come to the bay to help with the dolphin. The children continued to run up and down from the stranded dolphin to the sea getting water. They were very tired but they continued, back and forth, back and forth carrying the water to throw over the poor creature.

After about a quarter of an hour they heard the sound of another boat arriving . It was one of Mr. Fisher's friend Ian and his family. Mr Fisher had telephoned his friends who were out in their boats so they could help them. They threw the anchor over the side of the boat and waded towards the shore to where the dolphin was still lying

Soon after another boat arrived and another five people were helping wading through the water to help the Fishers.



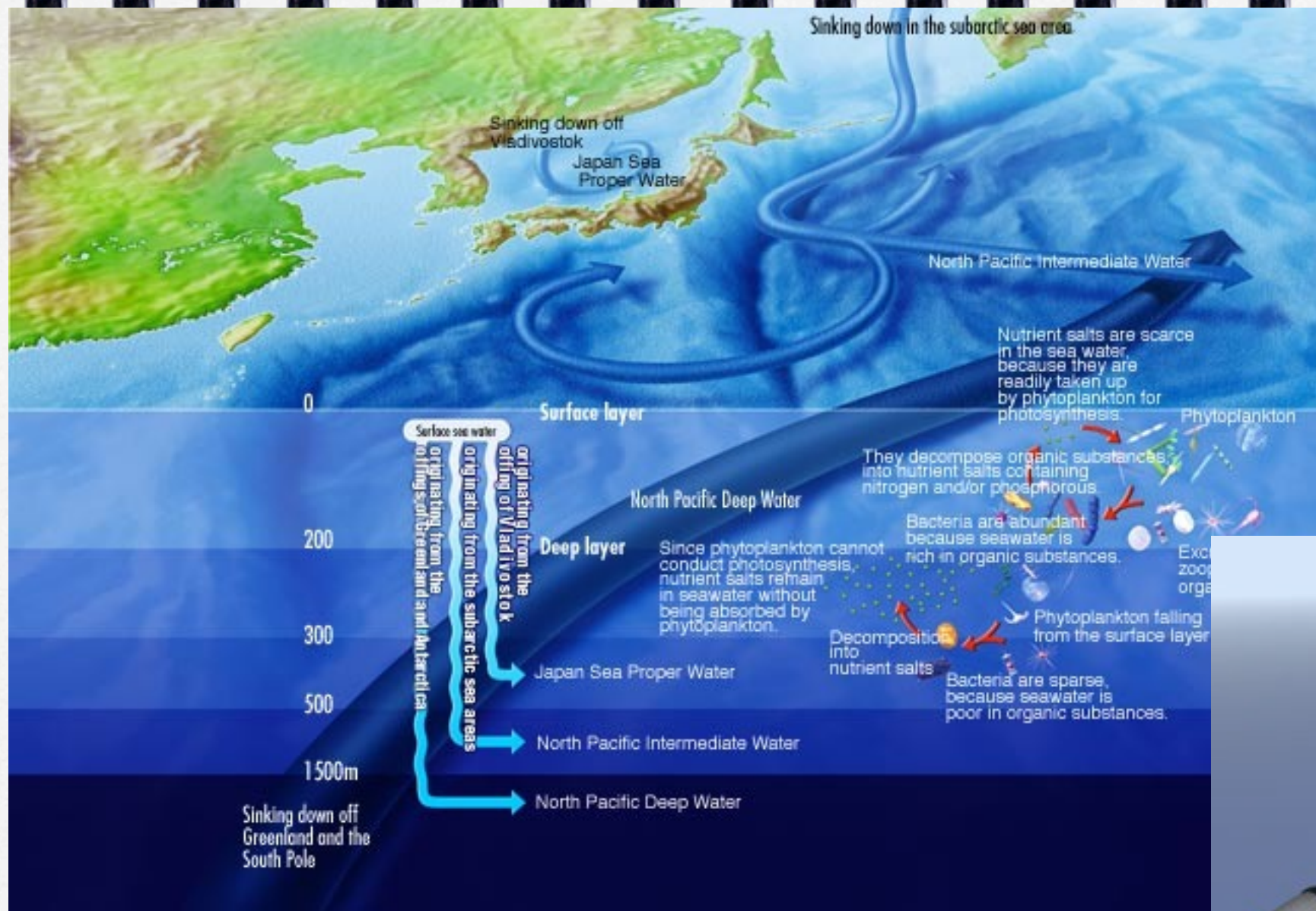
As the tide returned the water started to go further and further up the beach and started to touch the body of the poor dolphin. It had been really still – not moving but as it felt the water again on its body it started to move. The water grew deeper and deeper and then it was floating. The adults told the children to go up the beach where the water could not arrive because it was too deep for them.

The group of friends started to help the dolphin to turn around in the water until it was facing the sea again and then encouraged it to swim into the deep water and out into the bay.

As it finally got into the open water everybody gave a loud cheer. It was safe at last! They watched as it found the entrance to the bay and at last was in the open sea. This time it didn't turn back and try to get onto the beach again. Another cheer!

The water was too deep now to wade back to the boats so the men swam back and got their rubber dinghies so that the children could cross back safely. They all returned to the mainland together and they had lots to tell all their friends there.





Luckily Mrs. Fisher had taken some photographs of what had happened and the local paper sent a journalist around to the Caravan Site to interview the Fishers. Even A television company sent an interviewer and a telecamera and all the family were on the nine o'clock news! They watched themselves and everybody was excited and proud.

What an adventure.





A haven of tranquility

