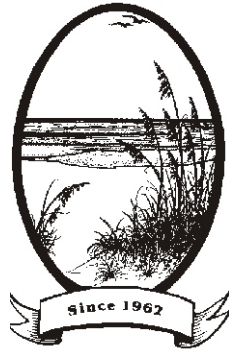


A Coastal Adventure



A Coastal Adventure

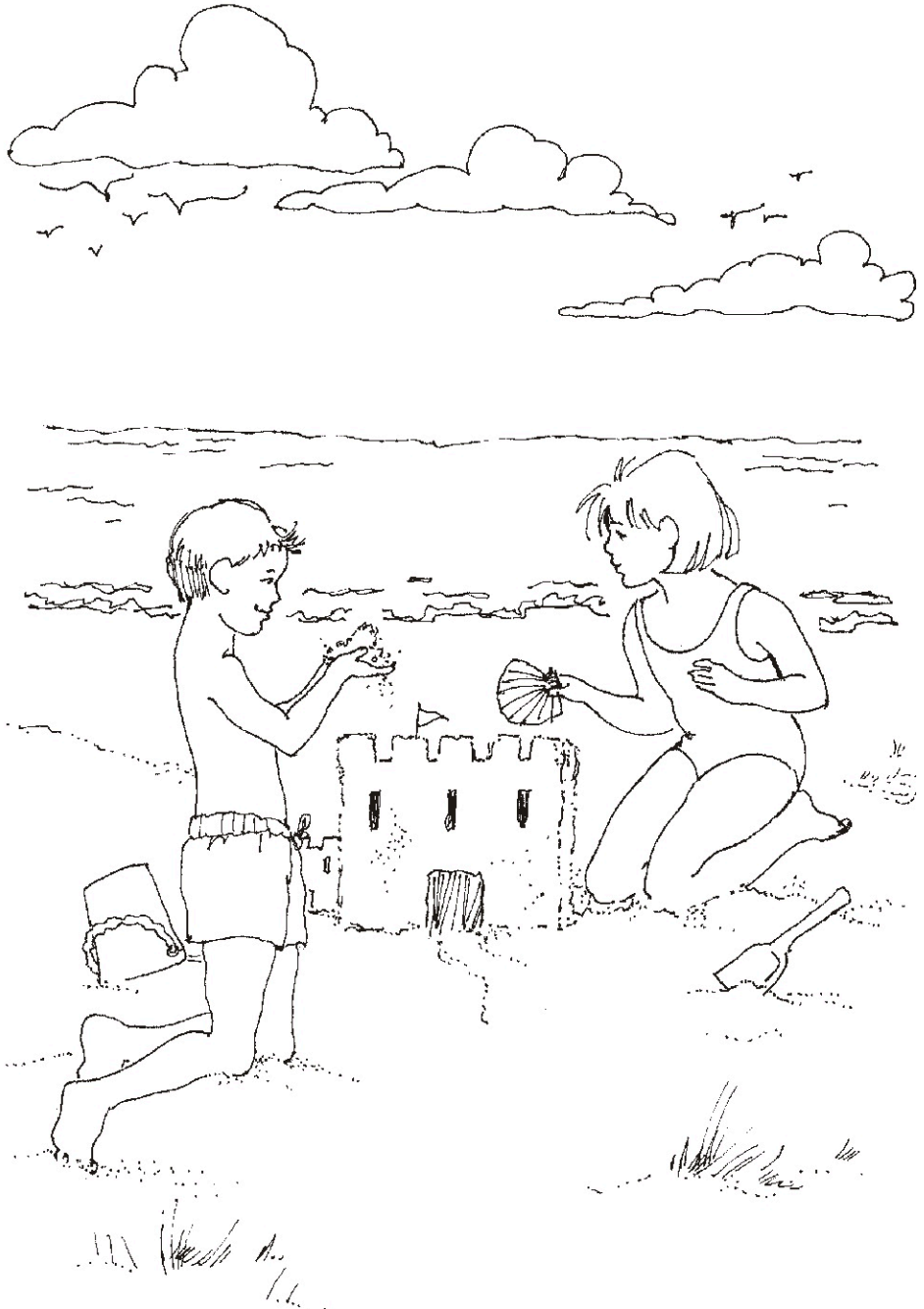
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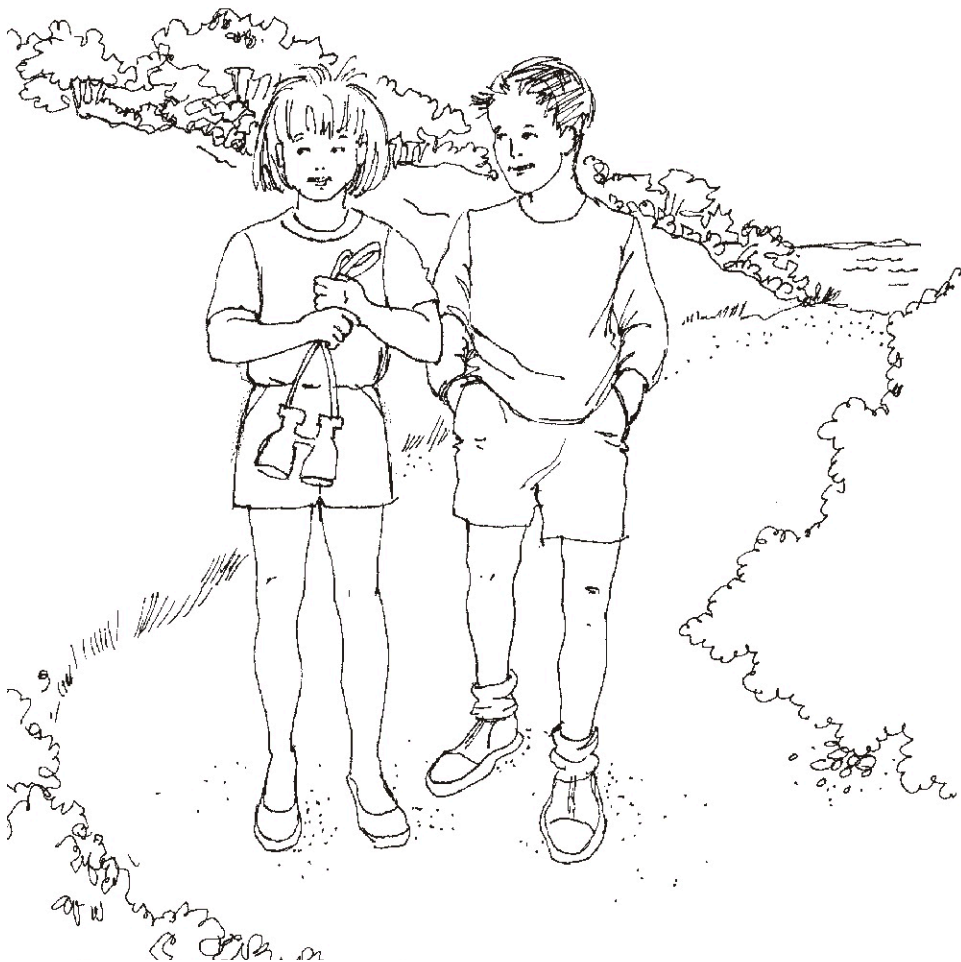
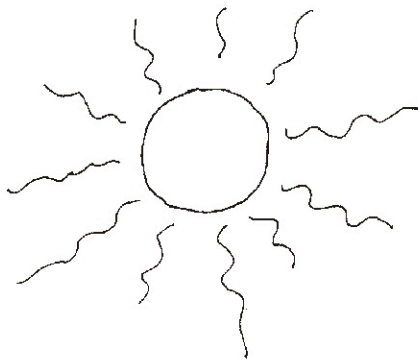
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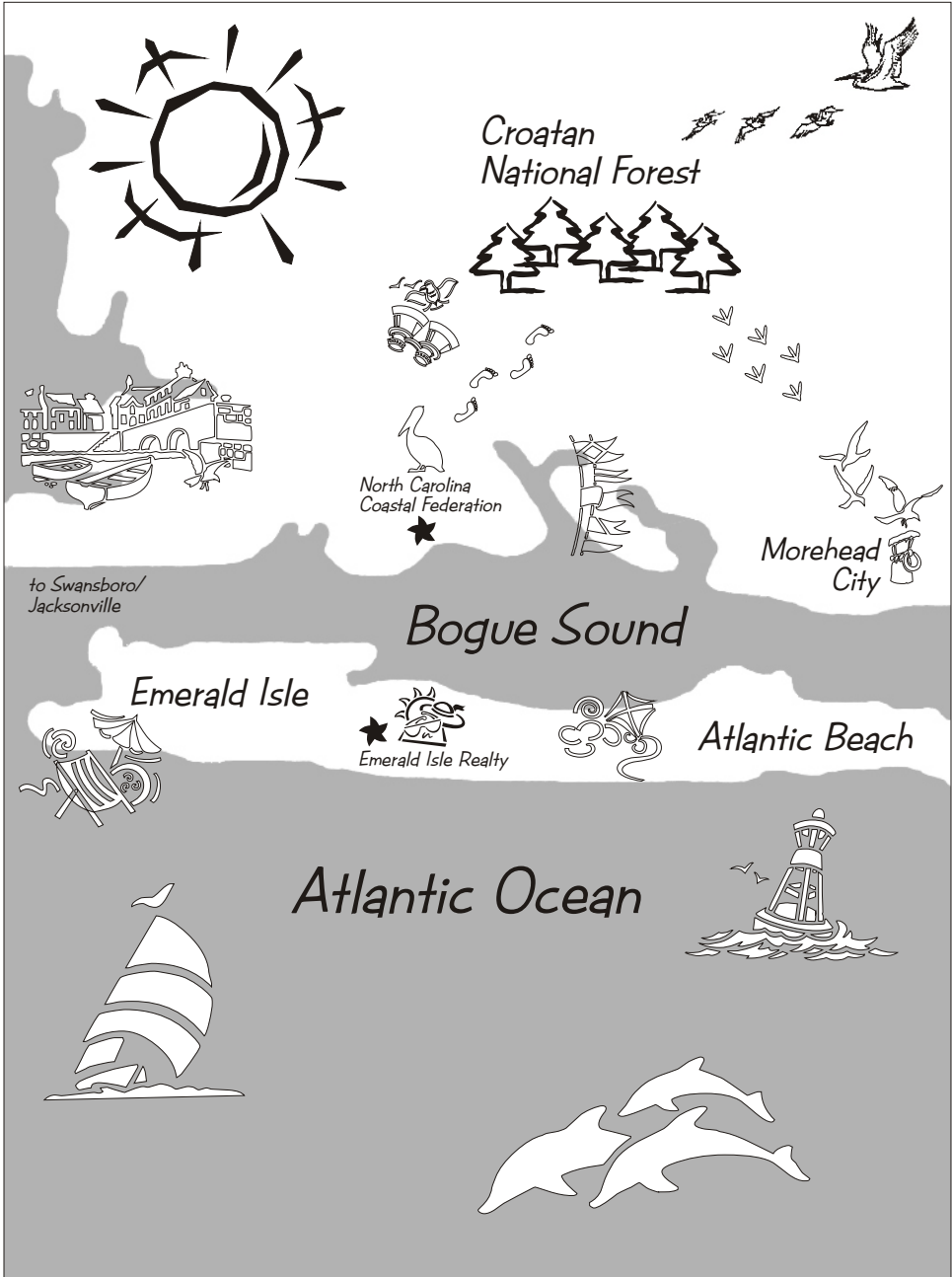
James and Allison were excited. They had come to the beach with their family for a week. They were having so much fun playing in the ocean, looking for seashells and building a giant sand castle.

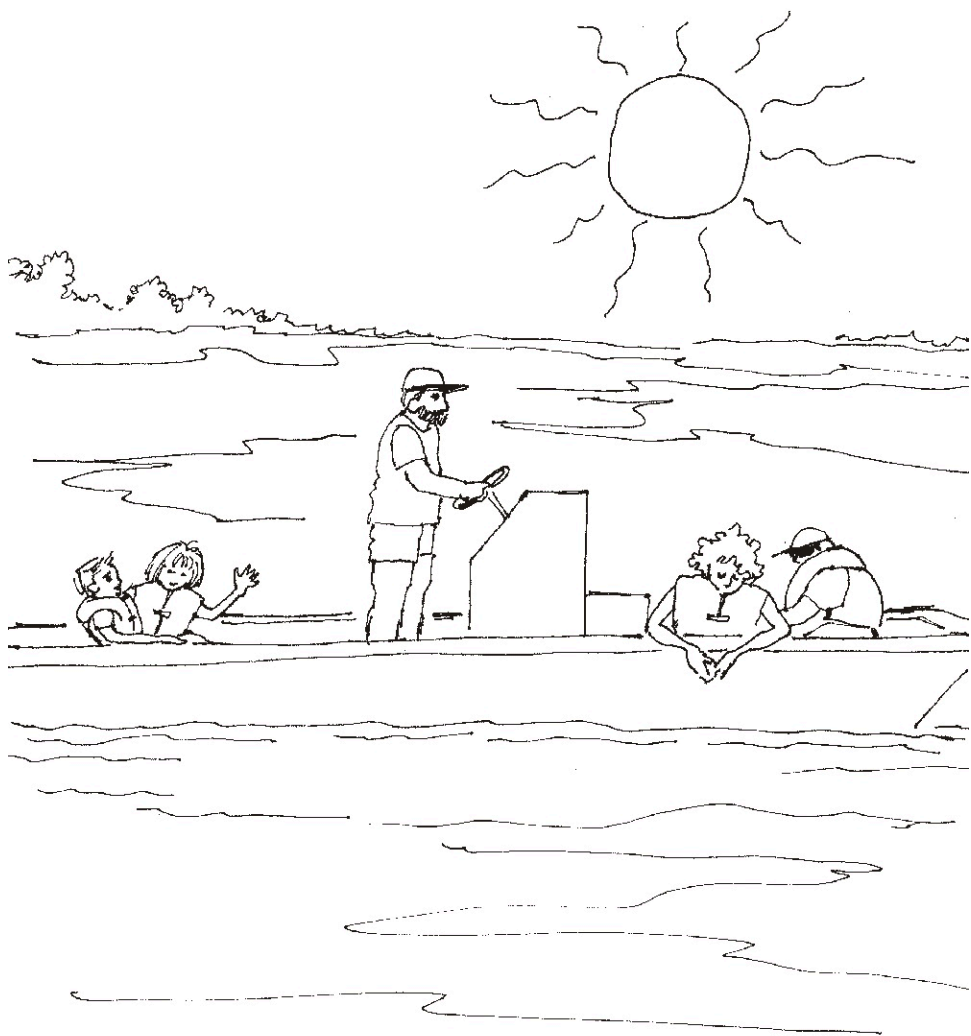
One morning James and Allison's mom and dad said, "We're going to do something really different today. We're going on a Coastal Adventure!"



"A Coastal Adventure? That sounds like fun - but what are we going to do?" asked James. "We're going out on a boat with Captain Jim. He's going to show us Bogue Sound and a lot of interesting birds and animals," James' dad answered.

James and Allison had never heard of Bogue Sound. "What's that?" they asked. "It's a big area of water that runs behind Emerald Isle. That's the island we're staying on for our vacation," answered their parents.



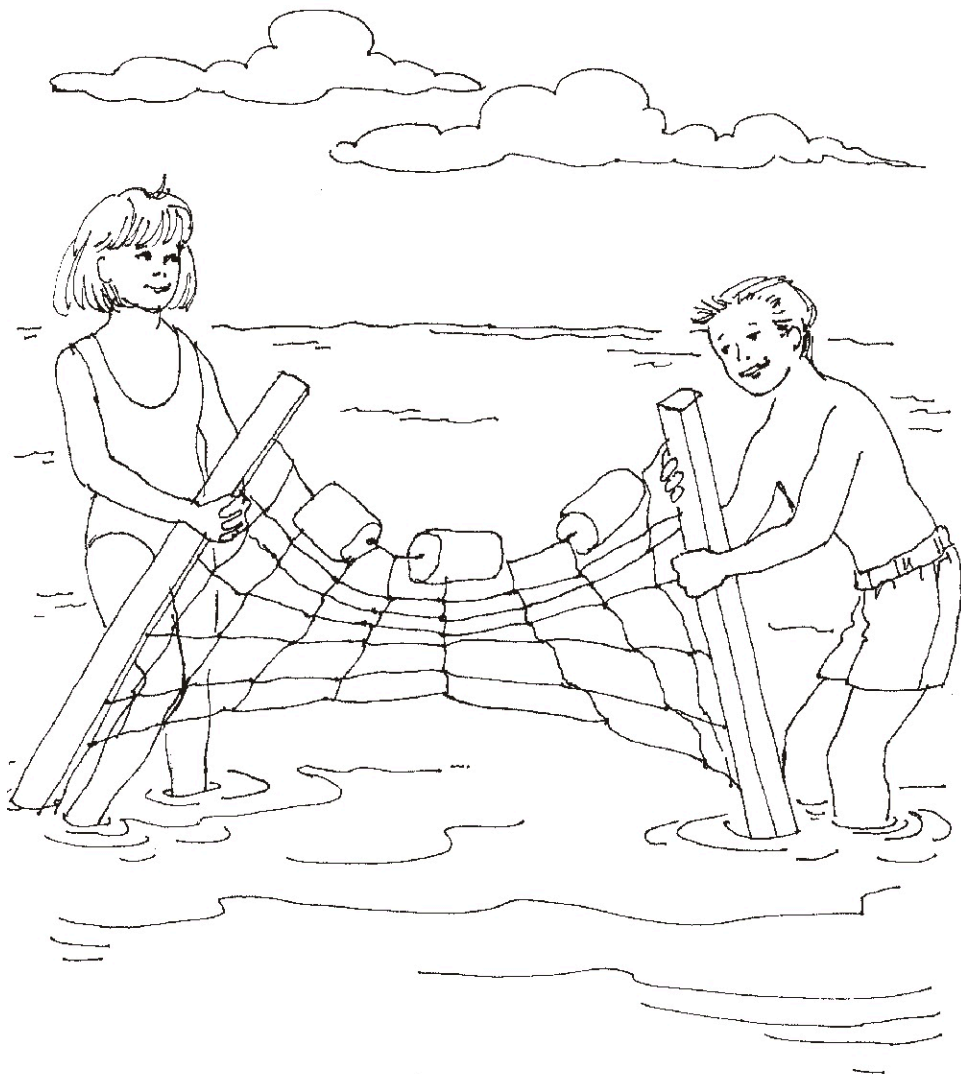


When they arrived, Captain Jim was waiting for them. "Welcome," greeted Captain Jim. "We're going to have a really fun day! All aboard mates!" Everyone put on a life jacket and Captain Jim took off out of the dock and into Bogue Sound.

Soon they passed a small island full of beautiful birds. "Those are great blue herons," explained Captain Jim. "Can you believe those big birds build their nests in trees?"



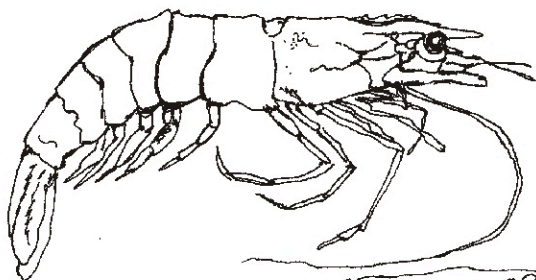
They went on to another island and Captain Jim pulled up on the shore. "We're going to stop here and go seining." "Seining? What's that?" asked James and Allison. They soon found out.



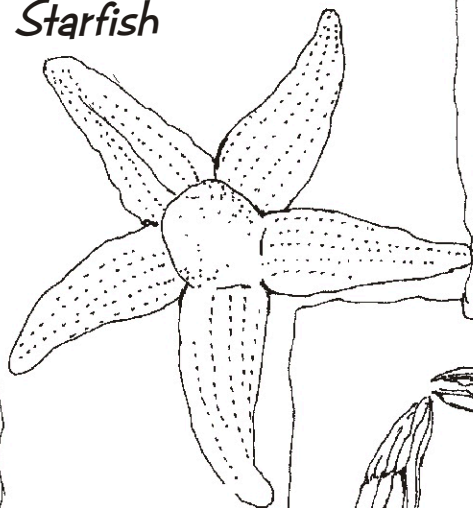
Everyone got out of the boat and waded into the water. Captain Jim let James and Allison each hold one end of the seine and showed them how to move it through the water., "Let's pull the seine on shore and see what we've found," said the Captain.

The long net was hopping with little creatures. "What are these?" asked James and Allison. Captain Jim said, "Let's find out and then we'll let them go."

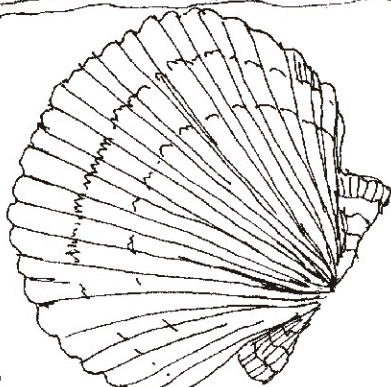
Shrimp



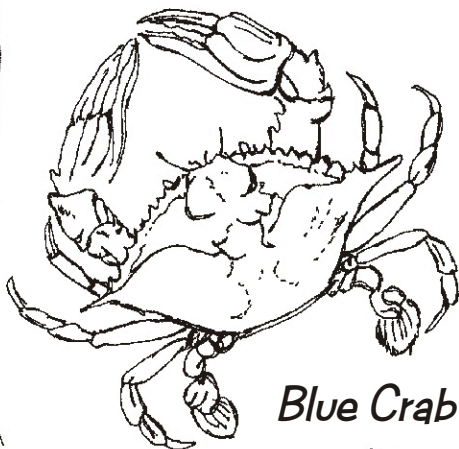
Starfish



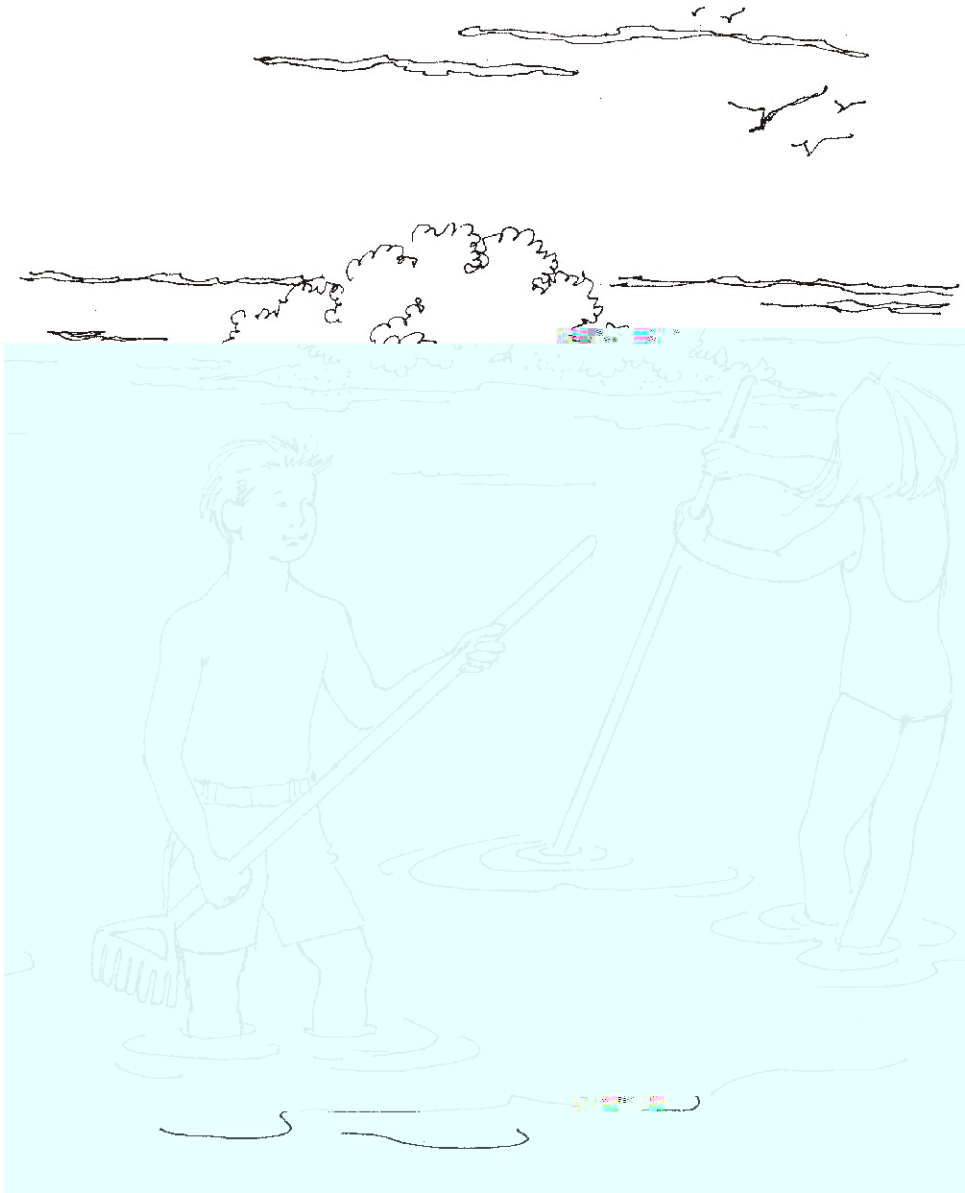
Scallop

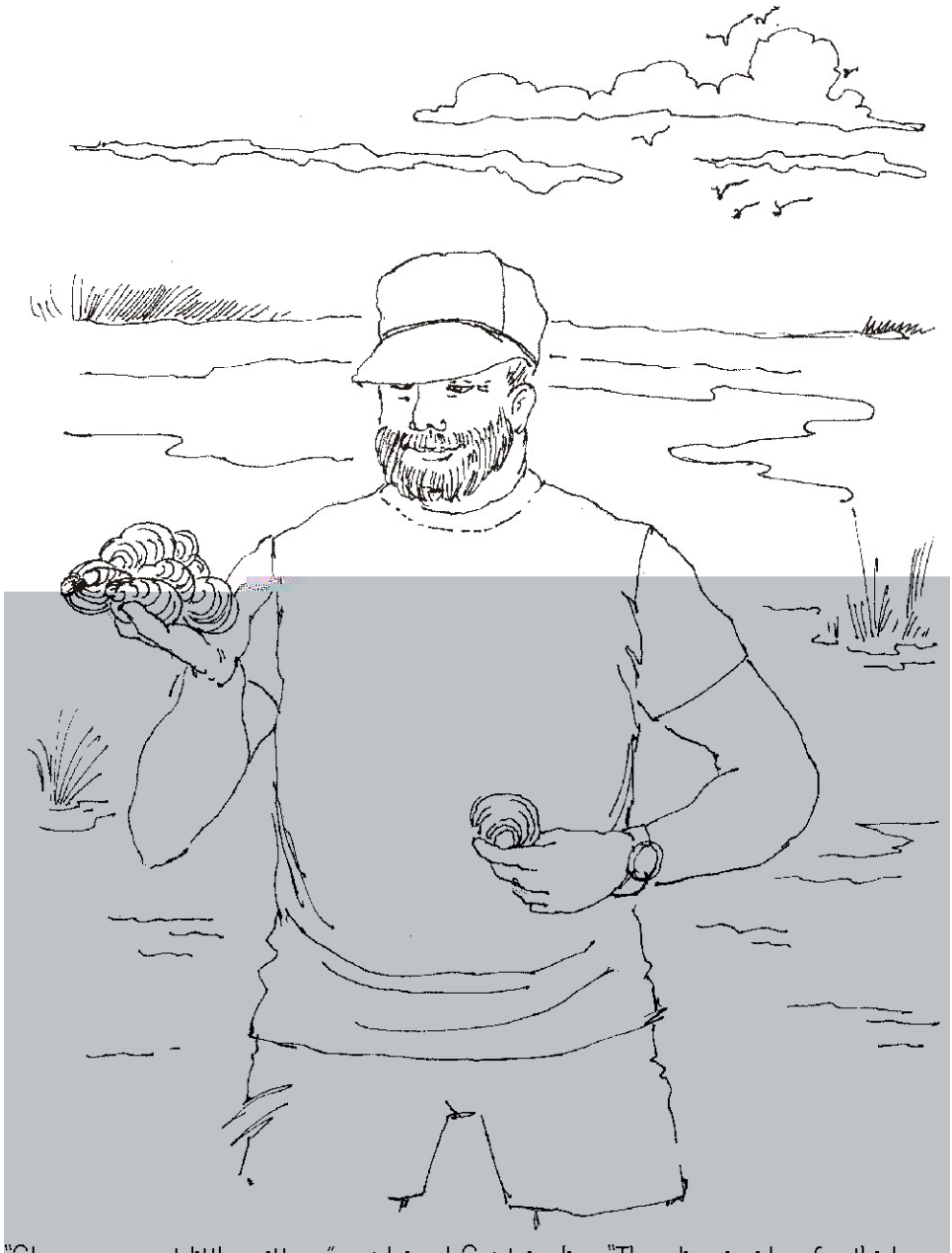


Blue Crab



"This is cool. What else can we do?" asked James and Allison. "Let's go clamming," said Captain Jim. James and Allison were given long wooden poles with rakes on the end. "What do we do with these?" they asked. Captain Jim showed them how to drag the rakes under the water and catch clams.





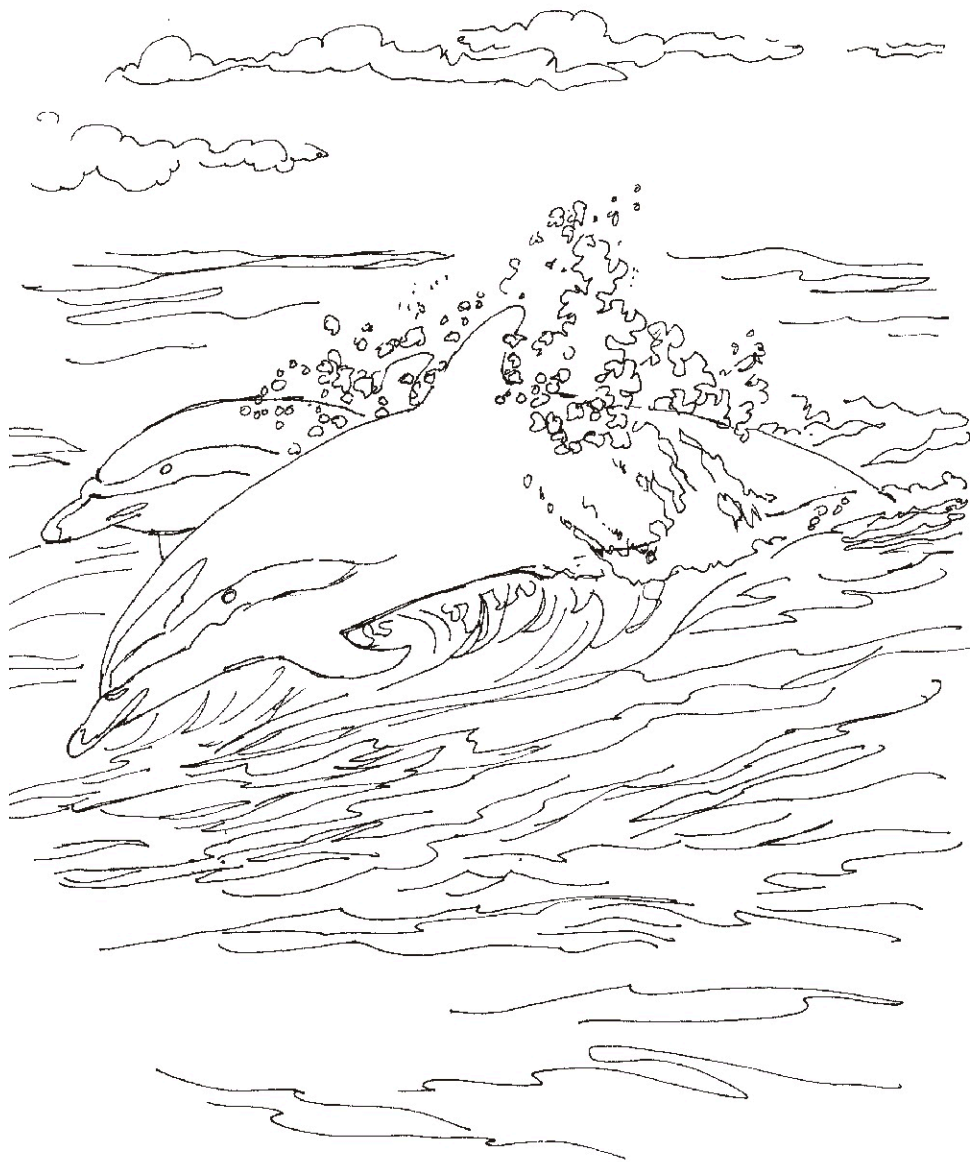
"Clams are neat little critters," explained Captain Jim. "They live inside of a thick shell. They are really good to eat, but since we aren't going to eat them, we'll put them back in the water. Okay, let's get back on the boat. I want to take you to see an oyster bed."

Captain Jim stopped the boat next to a big pile of shells and explained. "Oyster beds are where oysters grow together in the water. Oysters also help to keep the water around them clean. The animal that lives inside the shell filters out pollutants from the water."

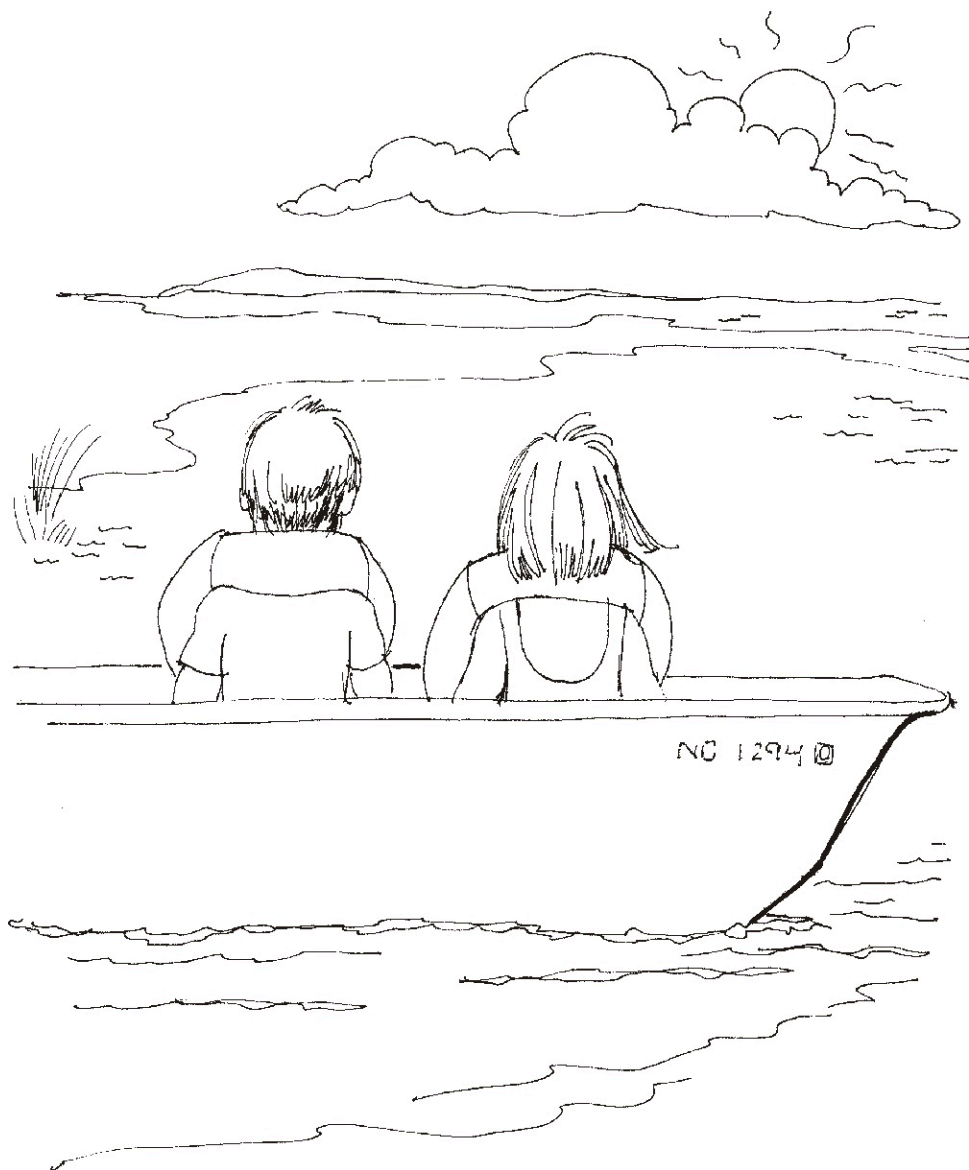


"Well it's time to head back to the dock," said Captain Jim. "Let's see what we can see on the way back." After checking to be sure everyone had their life jackets on, Captain Jim cranked up the boat.

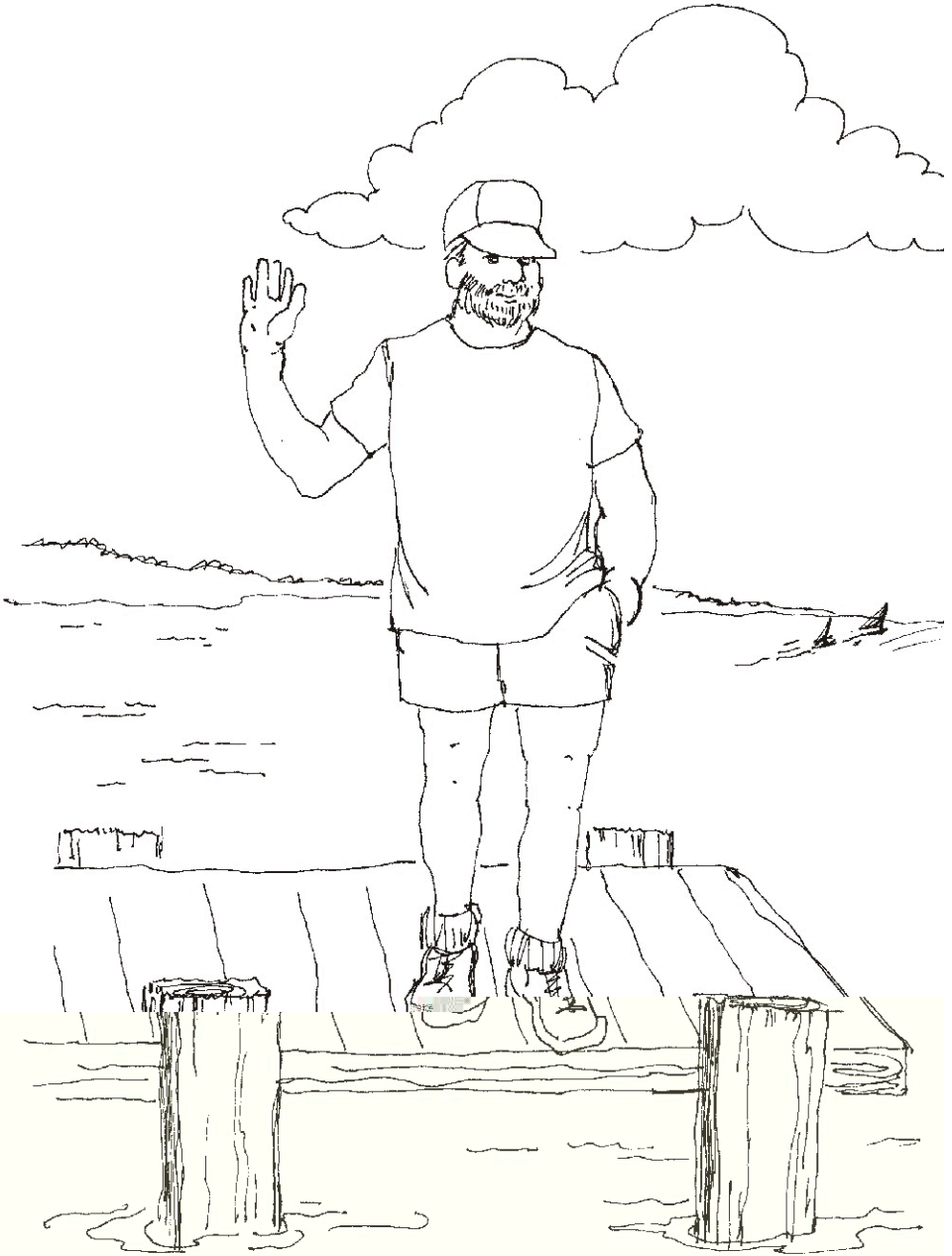
James and Allison were so excited about all that they had seen on their Coastal Adventure that they didn't see the dolphins at first. "Look there in the water," said Captain Jim as he pointed two beautiful dolphins swimming near the boat. He stopped the boat so everyone could get a good look.



"Wow! That was some adventure!" said James and Allison. "We didn't know there were so many birds and animals in Bogue Sound. What can we do to help keep them healthy and happy?"



"Thank you for caring!" replied Captain Jim. "You can help by keeping our beaches and water clean. If you see some litter, please pick it up."



They returned to the dock and Captain Jim said goodbye. "I hope you had fun. Come back and see me again soon!"



The **North Carolina Coastal Federation** is the state's largest non-profit organization working to protect and restore our coast. **Coastal Adventures** is one of several education programs. These on-the-water adventures are run May through October. A variety of trips are offered with different activities that can be tailored to your family or group of up to six people.

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NCCF also manages two public nature trails in the area. The **Patsy Pond Trail** is located directly across from NCCF offices on Highway 24 in Ocean about halfway between Morehead City and Swansboro.

Hoop Pole Creek Trail is in Atlantic Beach next to the Atlantic Station Shopping Mall.

We hope you enjoy
the beautiful Crystal Coast!