

A stylized illustration of an underwater scene. A large grey sturgeon with a row of white spots along its back and a small black eye is swimming towards the right. A small red fish with white spots is swimming below it. The background is a solid blue color. At the bottom, there are various colorful sea anemones and coral in shades of red, orange, purple, and green. A yellow starfish is on the sandy bottom. The title text is in white, serif font, positioned in the upper right area of the illustration.

# The Adventures of Starry, The Brave Sturgeon

Colouring book

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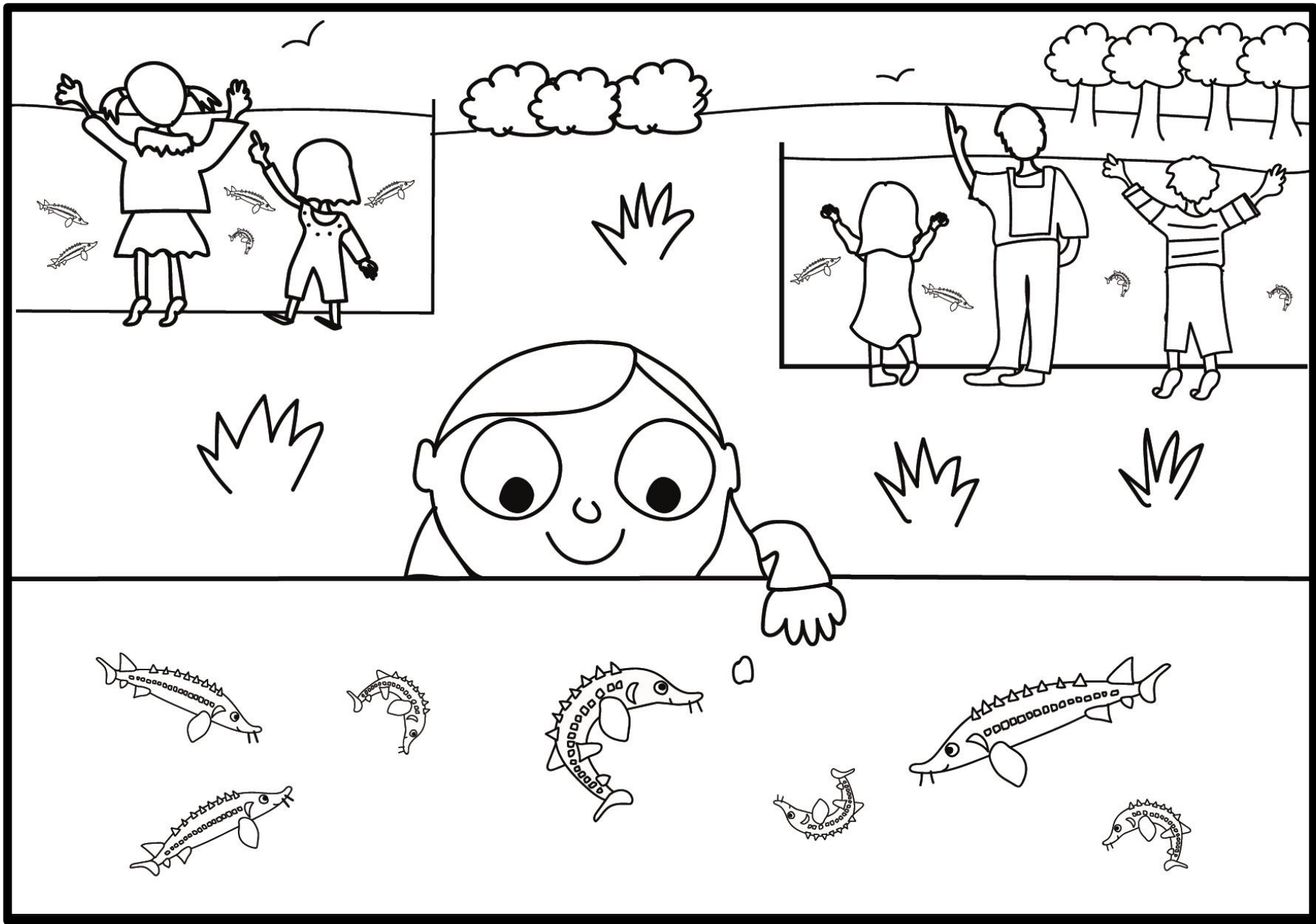
Illustrations by Emilia Miękisz



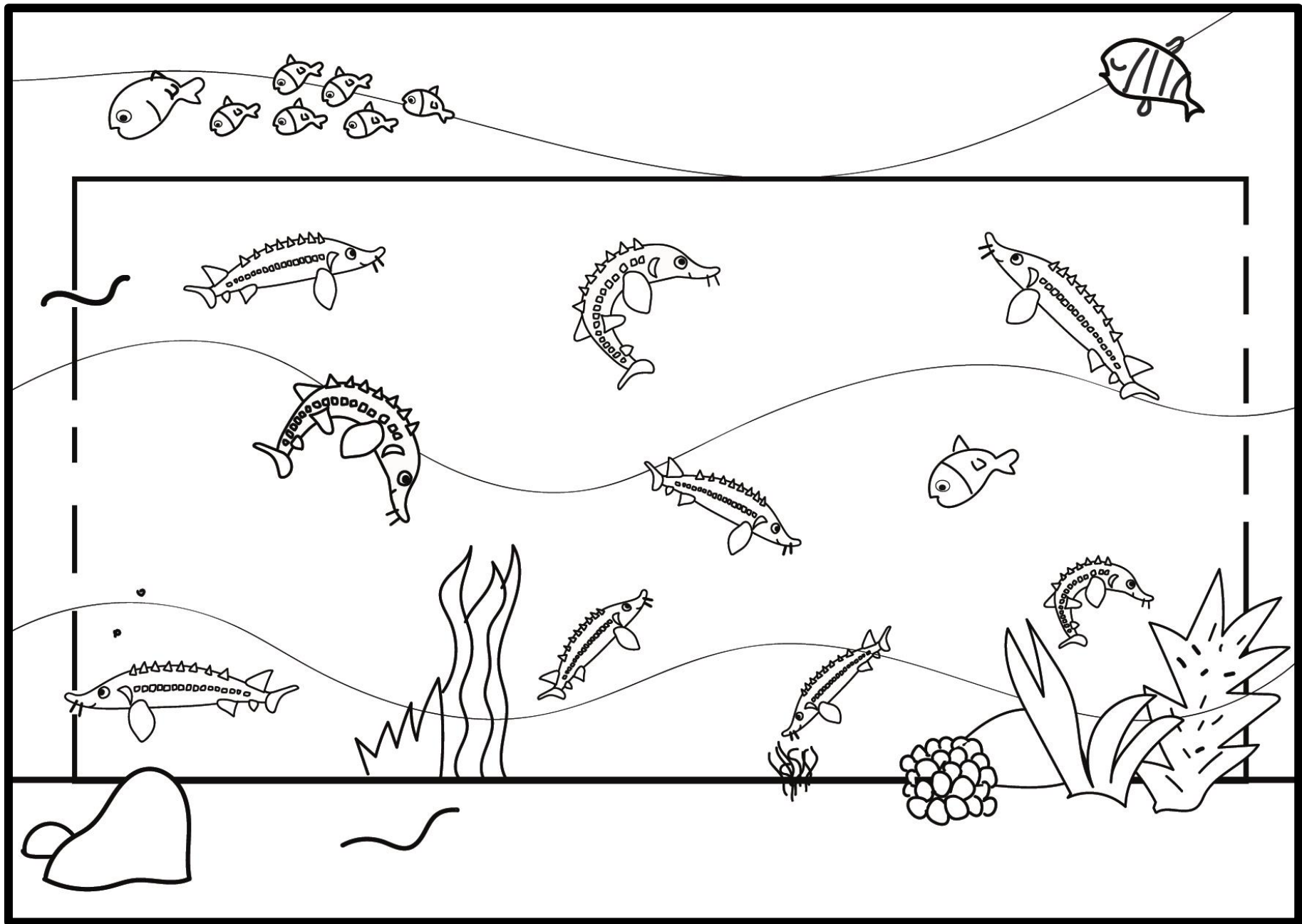
International Association  
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Institute for Integral Development  
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Starry was a nice little stellate sturgeon living in a fish farm, surrounded by his brothers and sisters. He was named after a line of bright star-shaped bony-plates that protected his body. The sturgeons were loved by the children who came to visit and play with them.

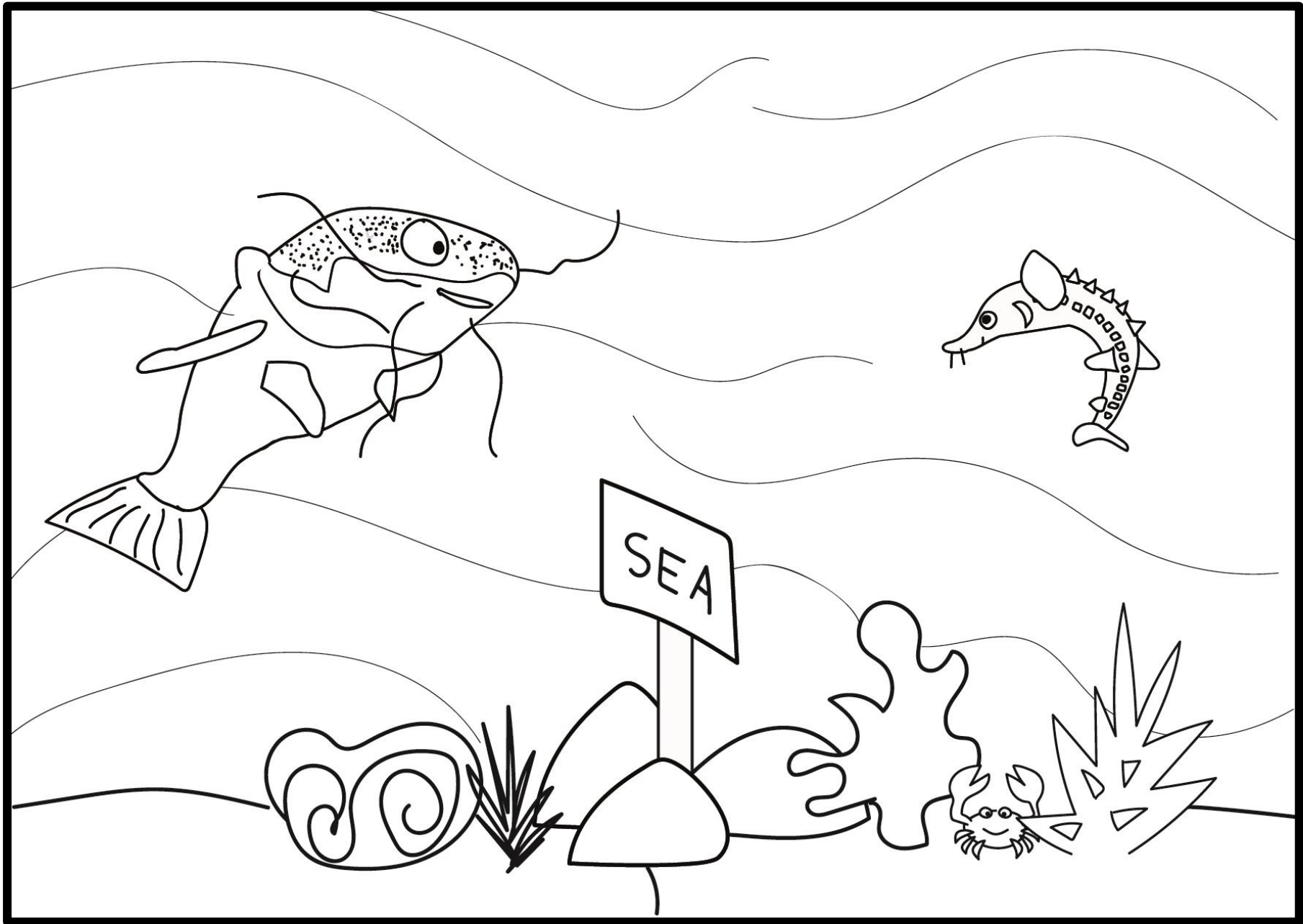


The little farm sturgeons were part of a rescue programme. One day, the whole group was moved in a large perforated container in the river to get accustomed to the new environment. A few days later, they were released in the river to swim freely towards the sea, their natural home.

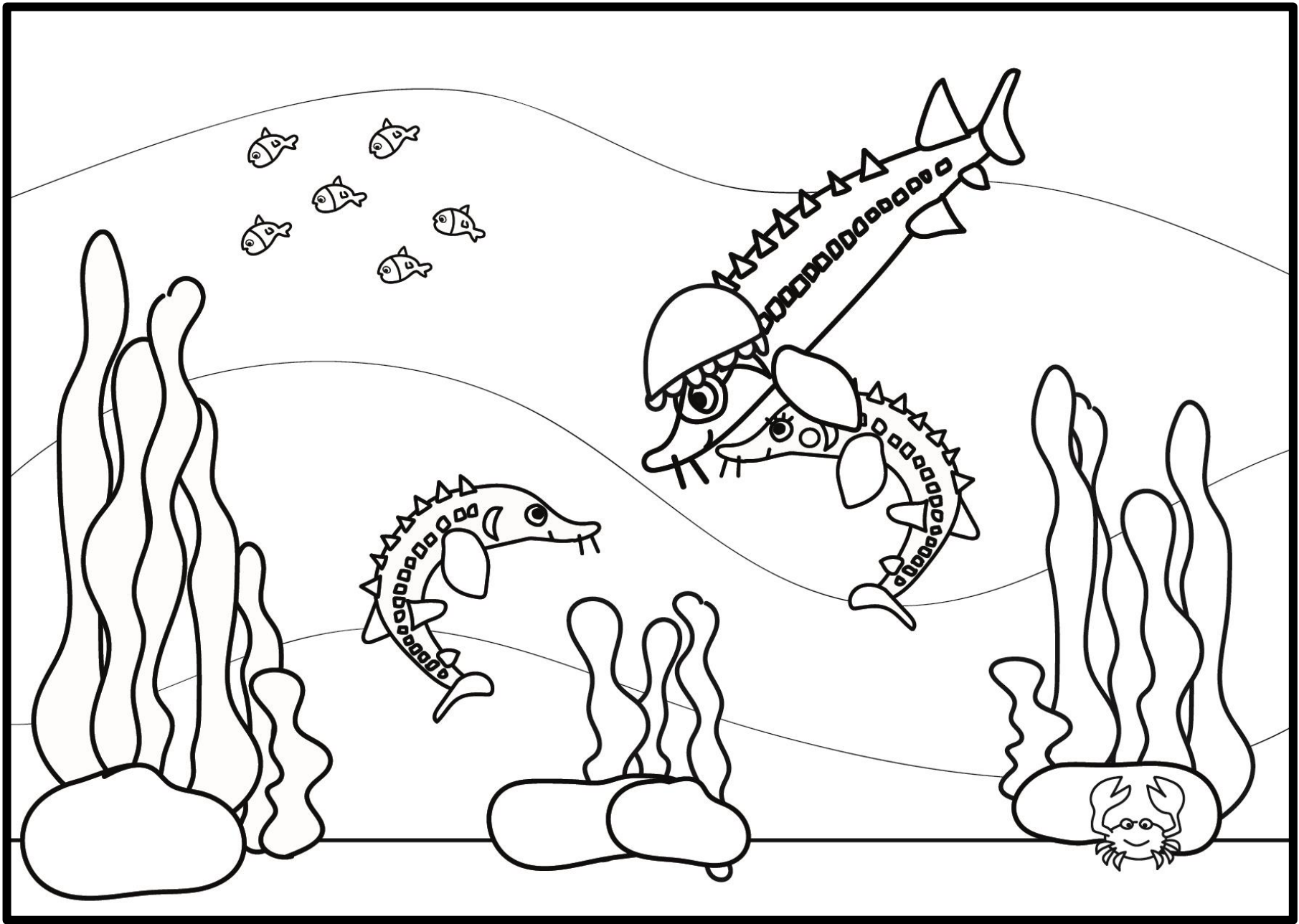


In the river, Starry was swept away by the strong current and lost his family. He was very brave, even when attacked by a cormorant, and managed to escape. He met Kenny, a friendly catfish, who accompanied him on the way to the sea.

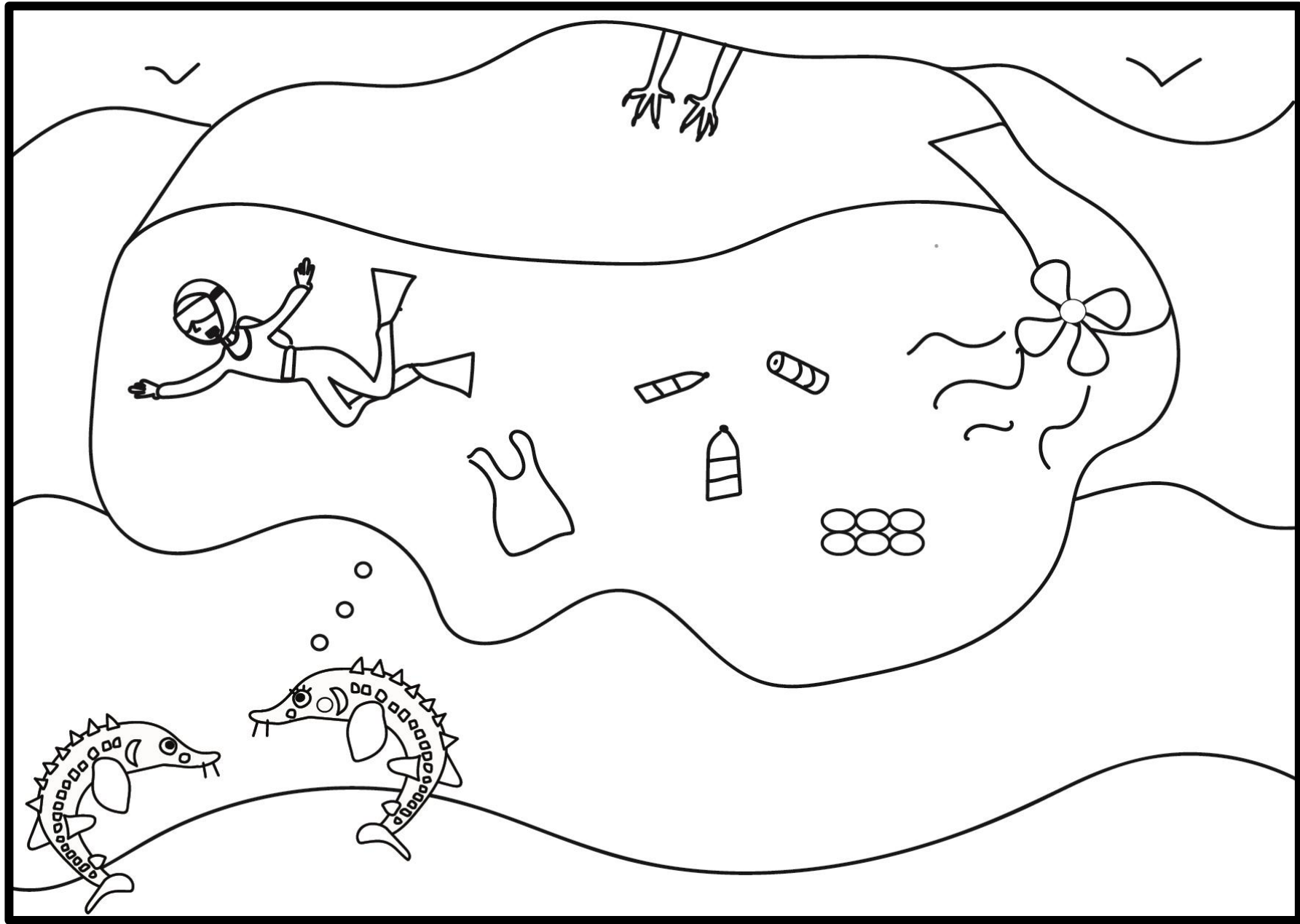




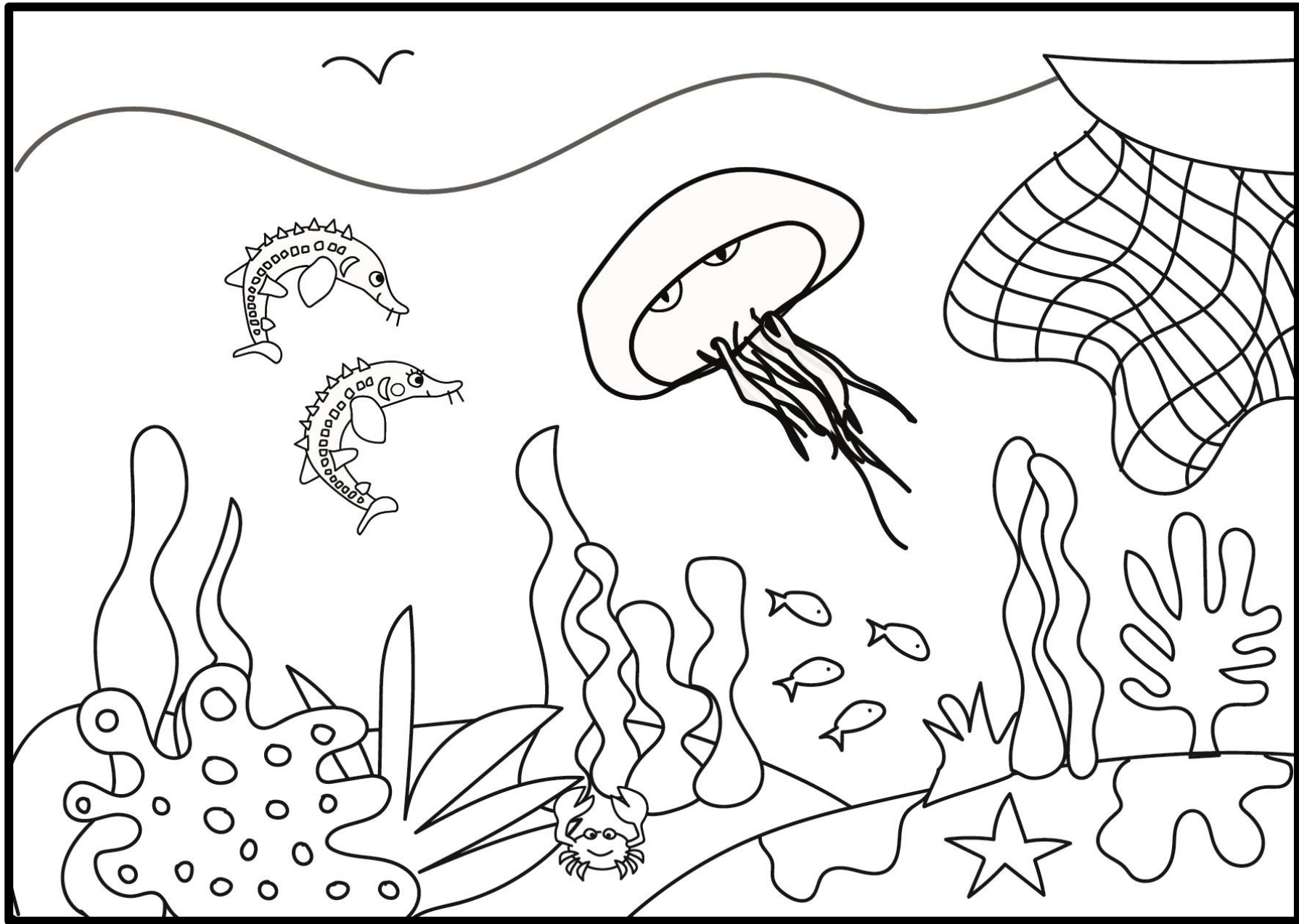
Kenny, being a catfish, lived only in rivers or lakes, and he could not swim with Starry to the sea. The two friends had to say goodbye at the end of the river, where the river flows into the sea.



In the sea, Starry met Kyra, a beautiful sturgeon living in a marine sanctuary nearby. She was willing to help him find his brothers, and she brought him at home to ask her grandmother about how to find them.

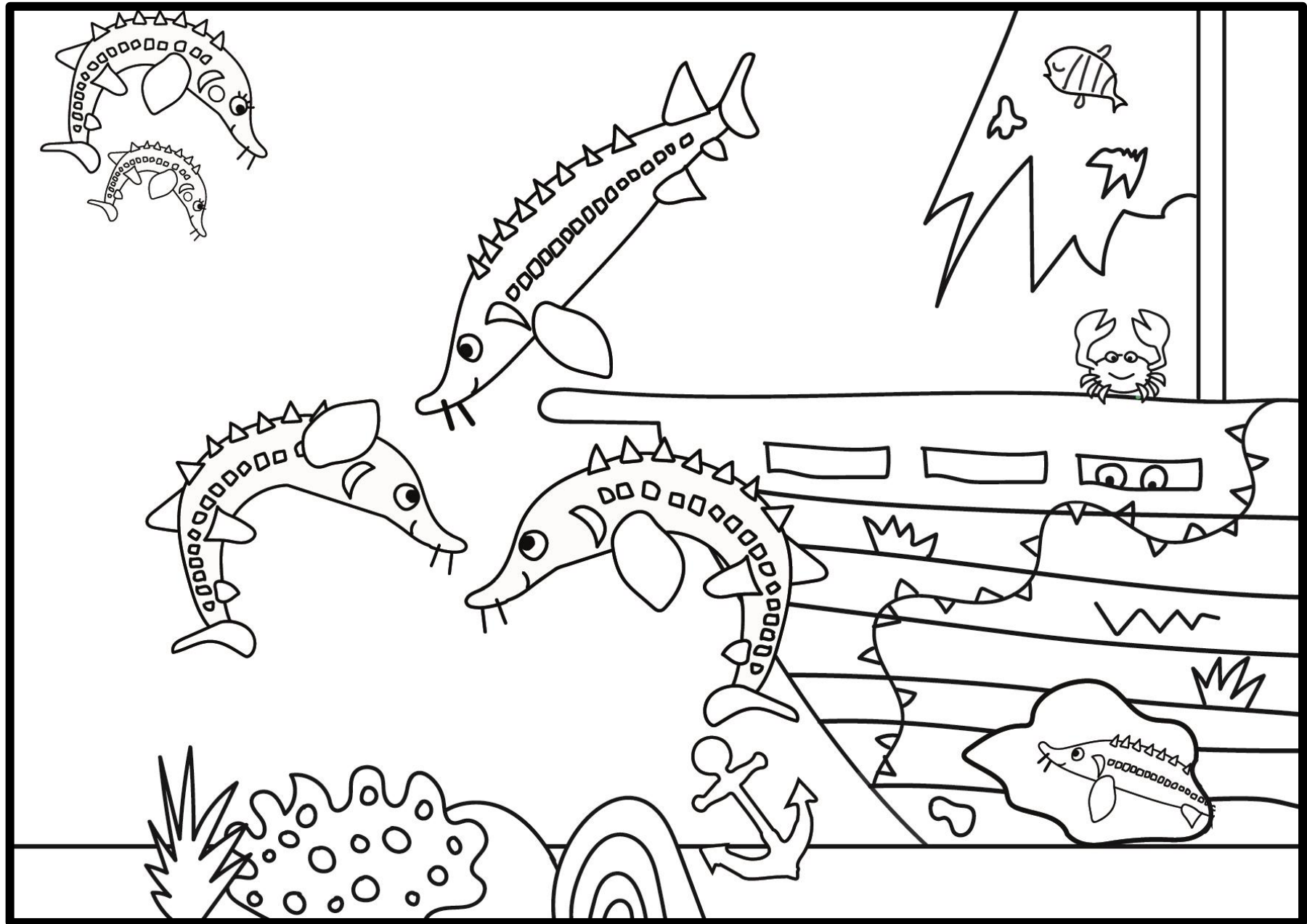


Kyra and her mother went together with Starry to find his family. They advised him about the dangers he should avoid at sea: predatory birds, boats, jet skis, fishing nets, plastic patches, and scuba-divers.

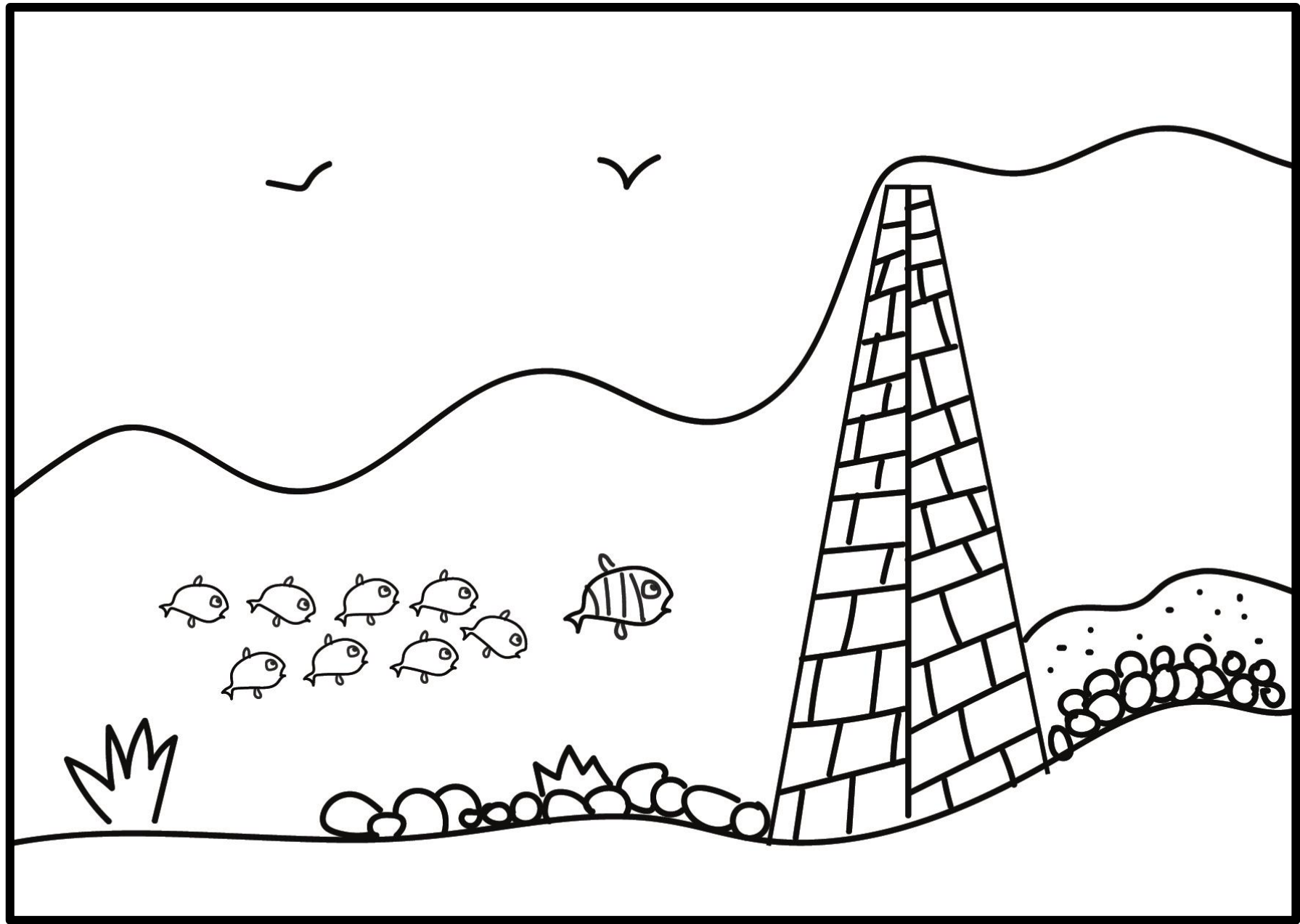


At the edge of the marine sanctuary, Starry met the first threats, jellyfish with poisonous tentacles, and was trapped in a fishing net. A crab cut the rope with his pincers and helped him to escape.

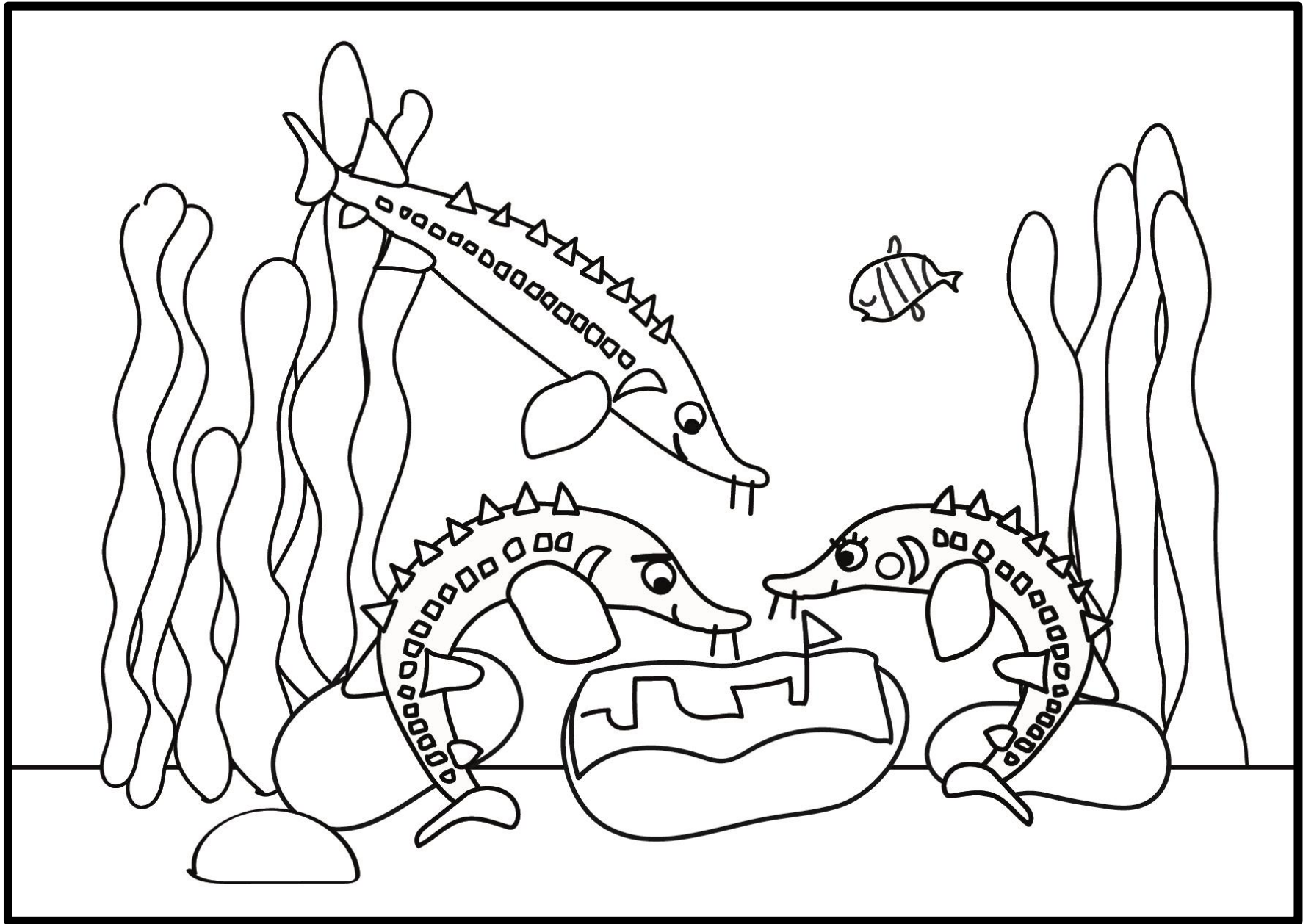




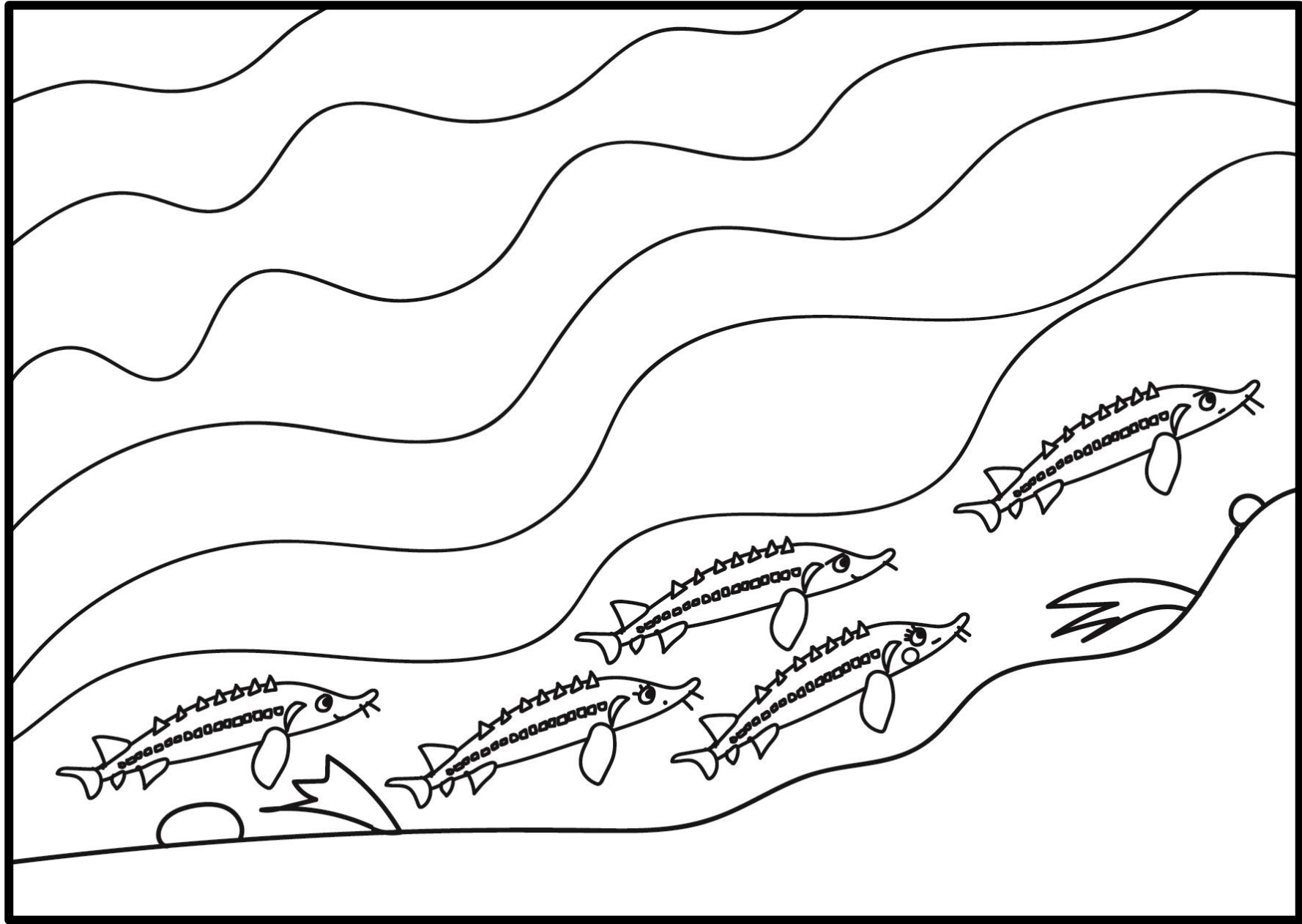
After a long search, Starry finally met his elder brothers and sisters near a shipwreck, their new home in the marine sanctuary.



Starry and Kyra grew up together and became best friends. They got married, and after a while, they decided to have babies. To achieve this, they needed to leave the sea and travel to the upper parts of a river for spawning. Discussing this journey with Kyra's grandmother, they learned that humans had destroyed many places once used by sturgeons, and that there are only a few left.

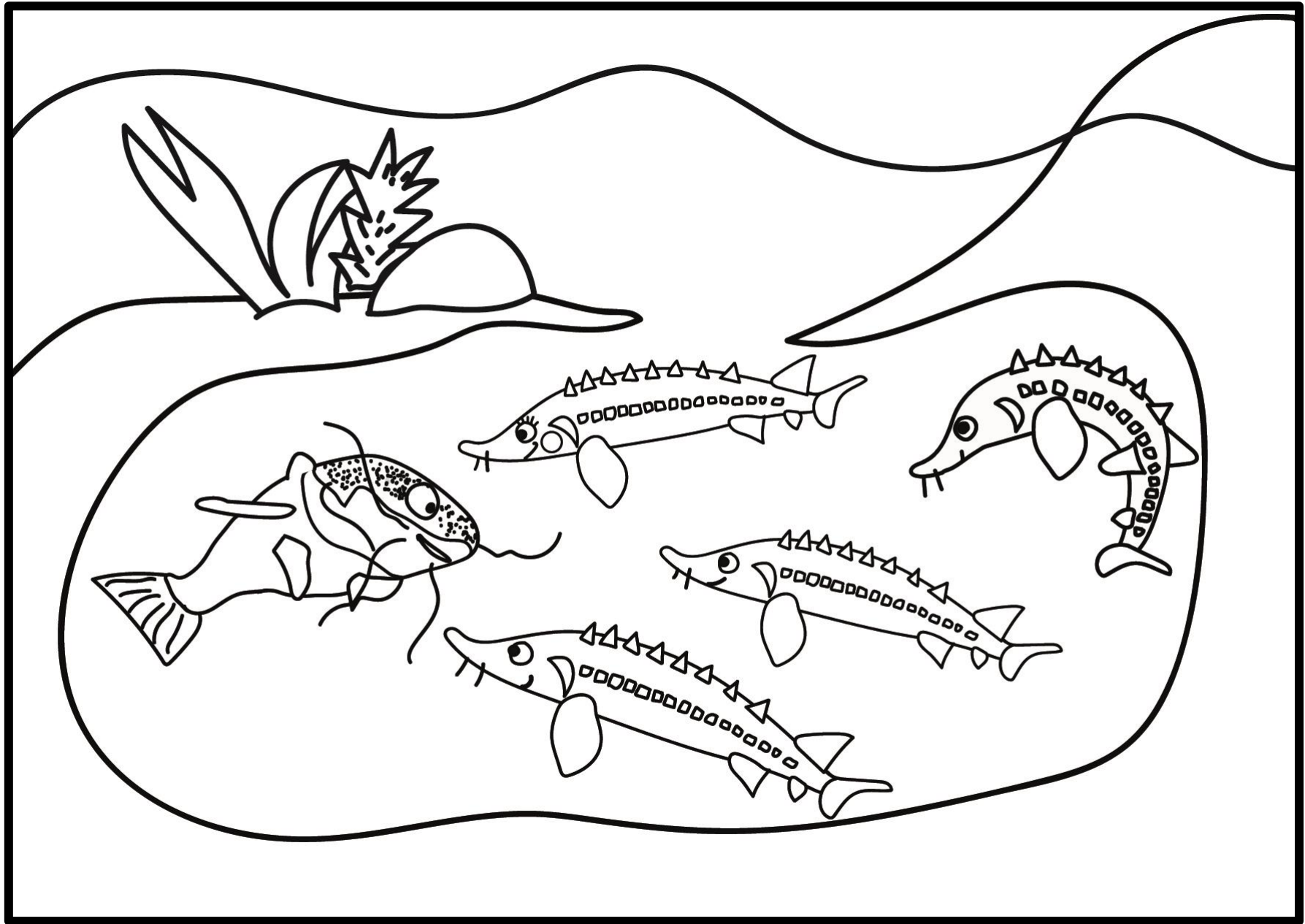


To prepare for the journey, Kyra and Starry also talked with other sturgeons, ready to leave. Kyra and Starry needed more time to train and decided to leave two weeks later, with a second group.



Swimming against the river flow was very difficult. They needed to use all their energy to overcome the strong current.

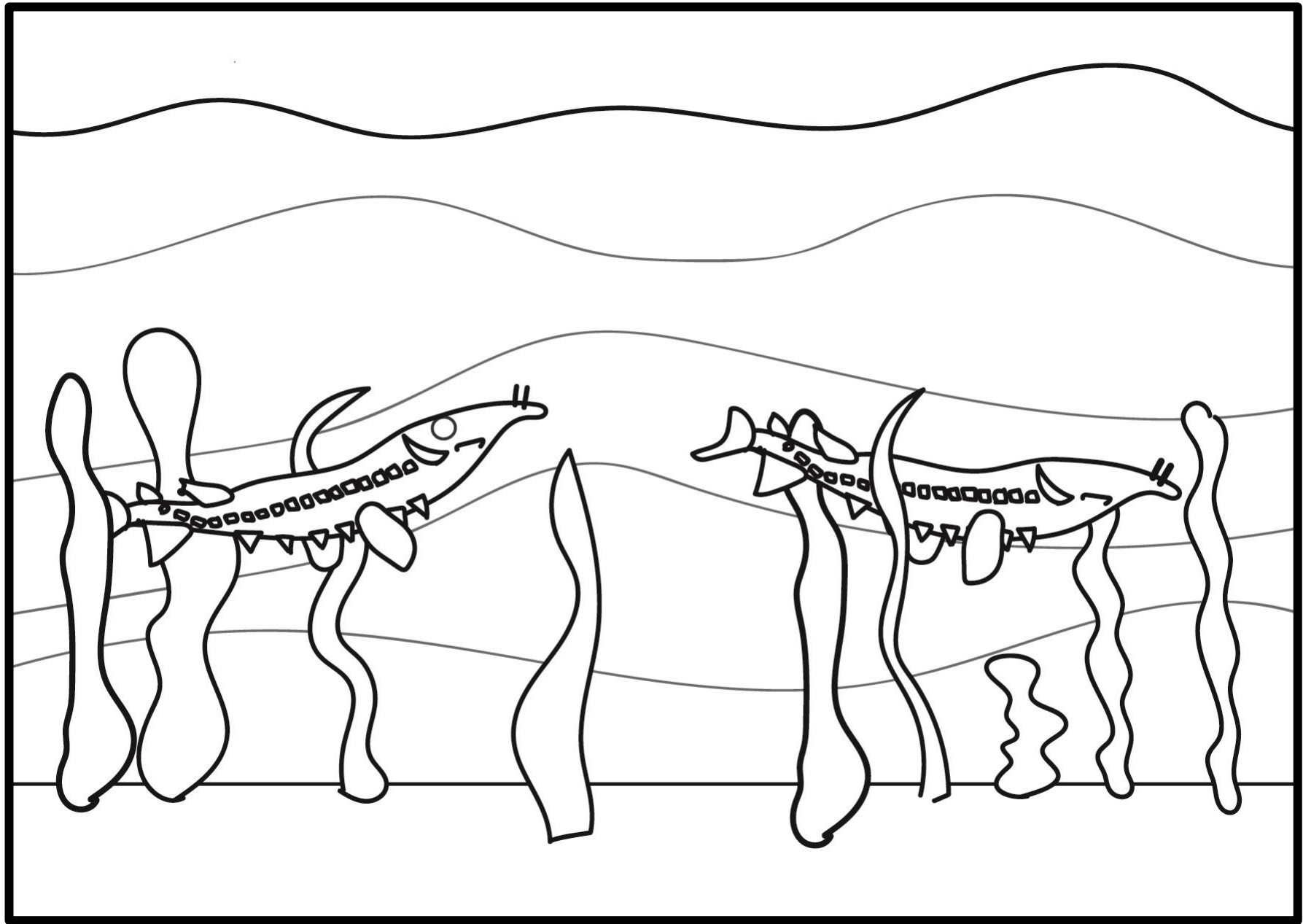




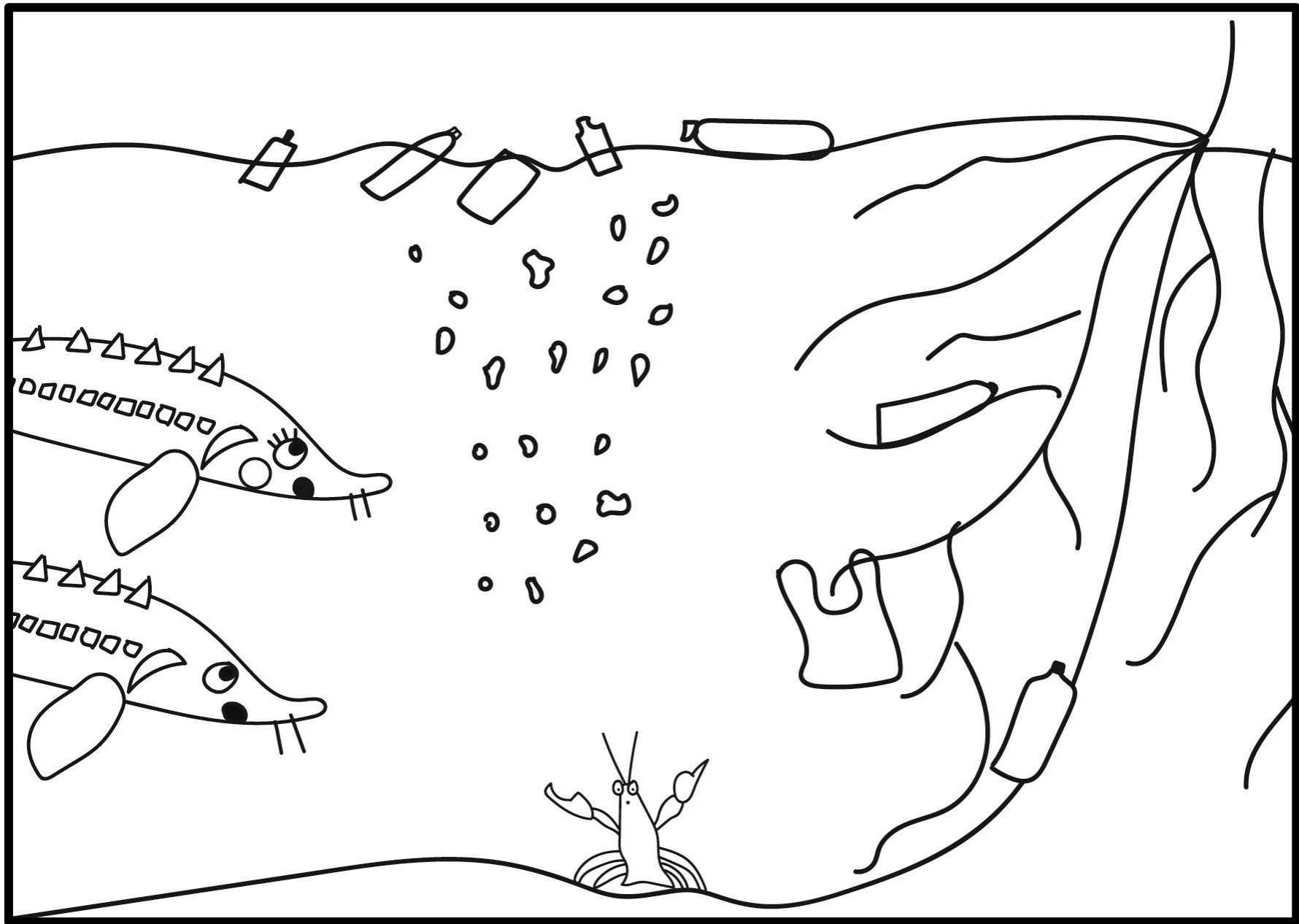
In the river, they met Starry's old friend Kenny. He hosted them overnight and advised them about the threats they would face in the river: motorboats and water pumping pipes, fishermen, pollution, dams, concrete river banks and riverbeds. All these dangers have reduced the fish populations in the river to critical levels.



Along the way, the sturgeons met a group of fish that had to move because their homes were destroyed by pollution. They were covered with petroleum from ships, and the fish could not breathe anymore there.

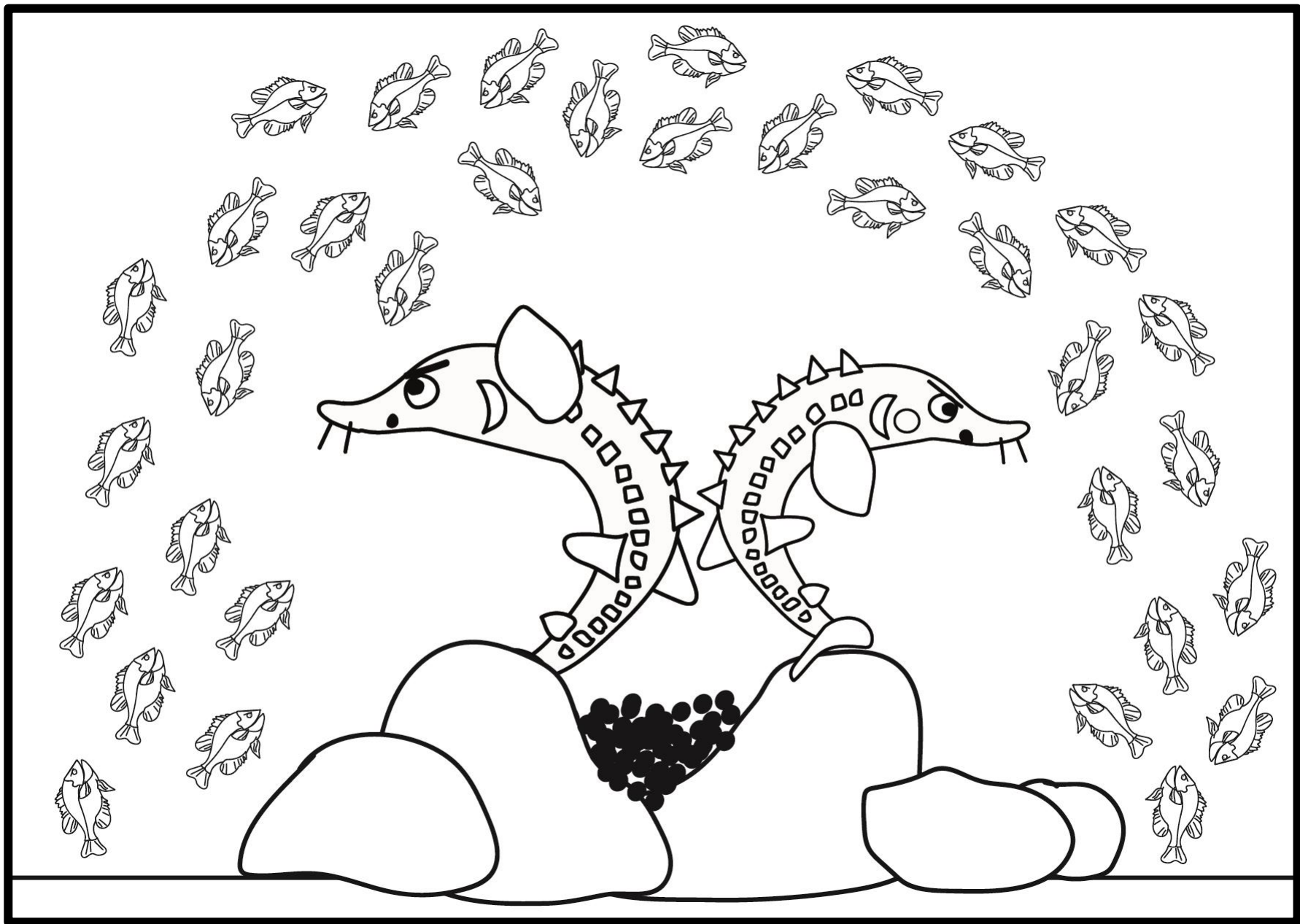


Tired after swimming against the strong current, Starry and Kyra looked for a shelter to rest in. Suddenly, they felt terrible pain and lost consciousness. The river then carried them away until they stopped in the roots of a tree, where they slowly recovered.

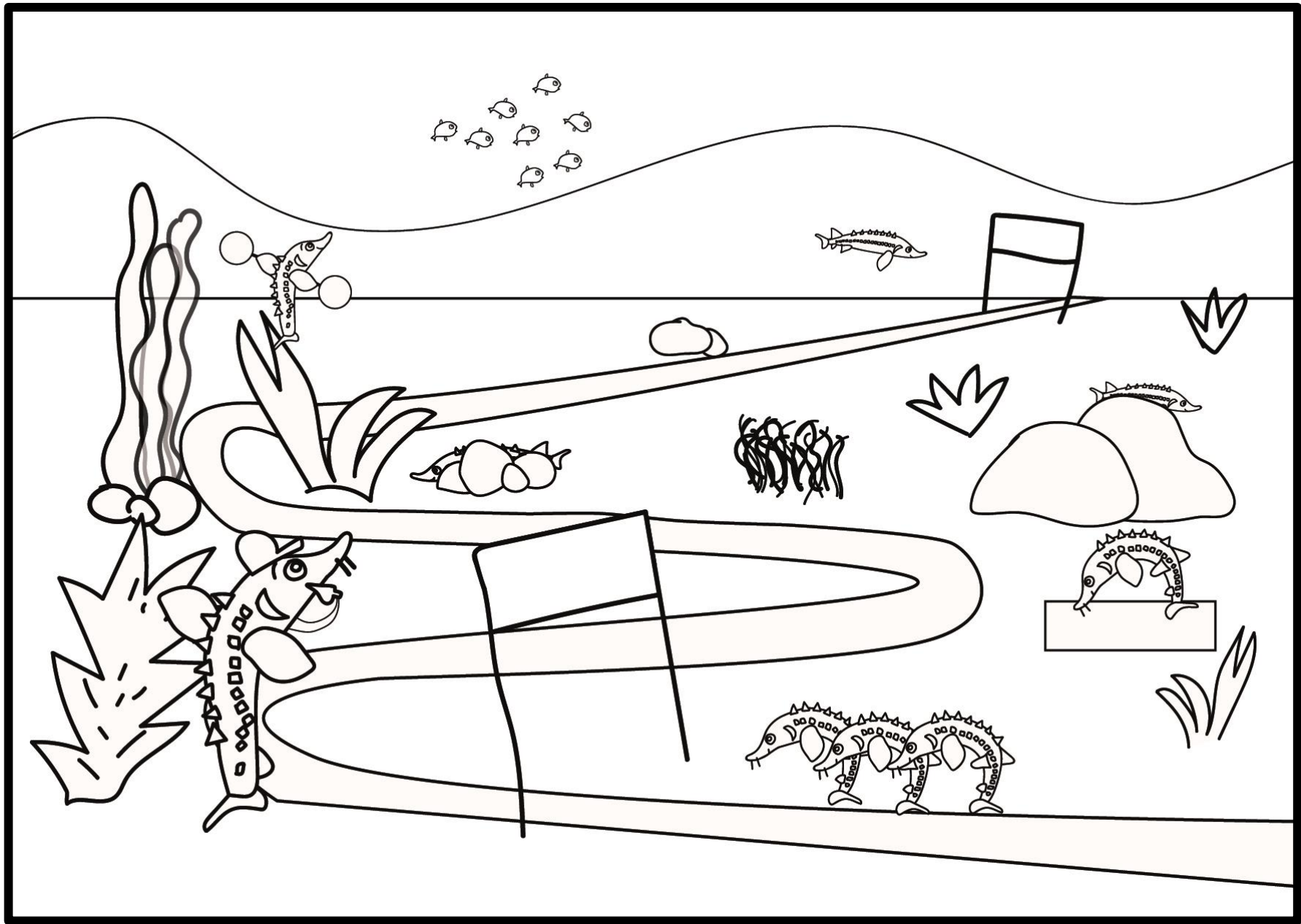


They met a crayfish who assumed that humans had tried to capture them using electric current. He explained that this is forbidden and leads to a severe loss of aquatic animals. He also warned them to be careful not to eat tiny pieces of plastic, as they could die.

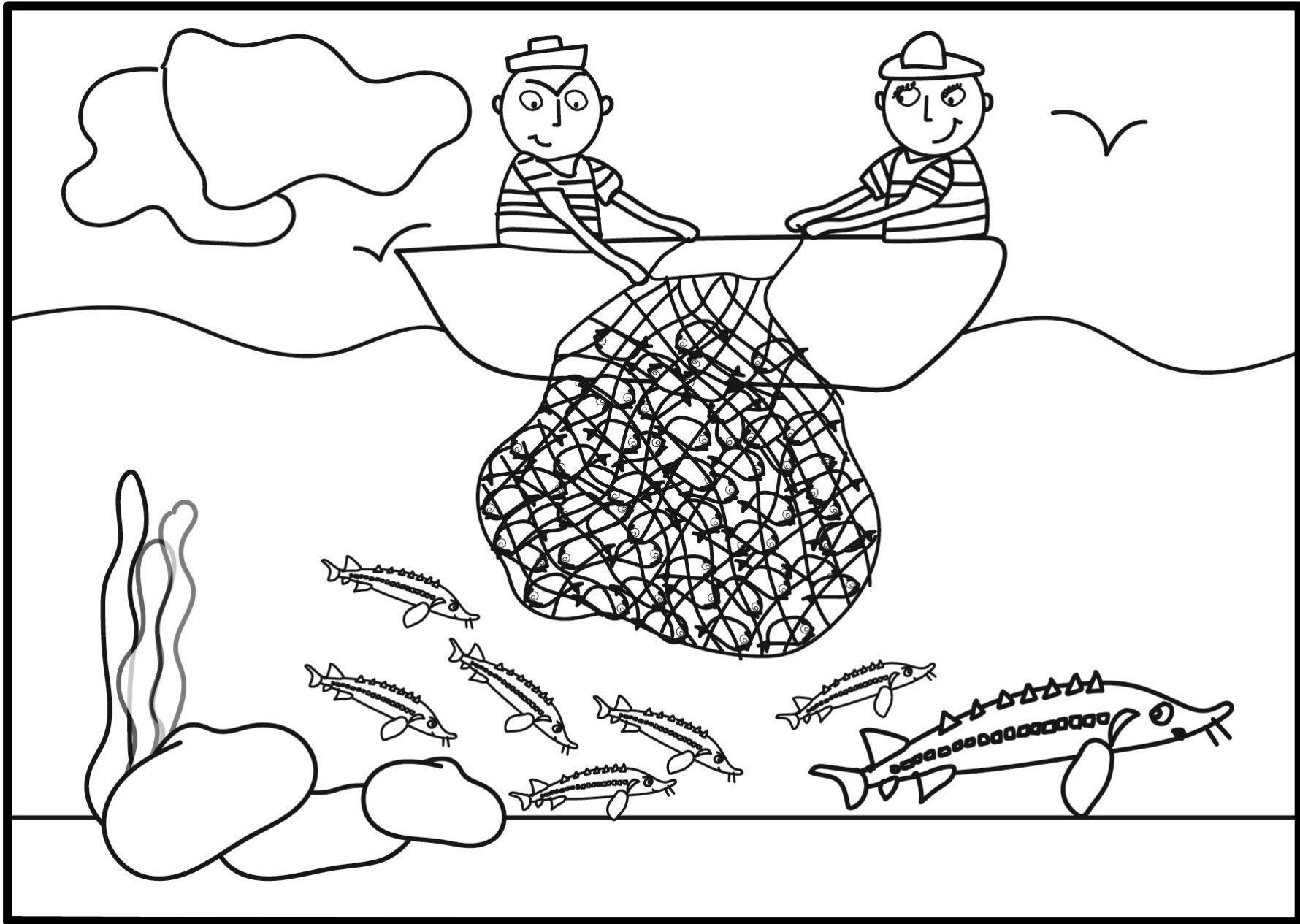




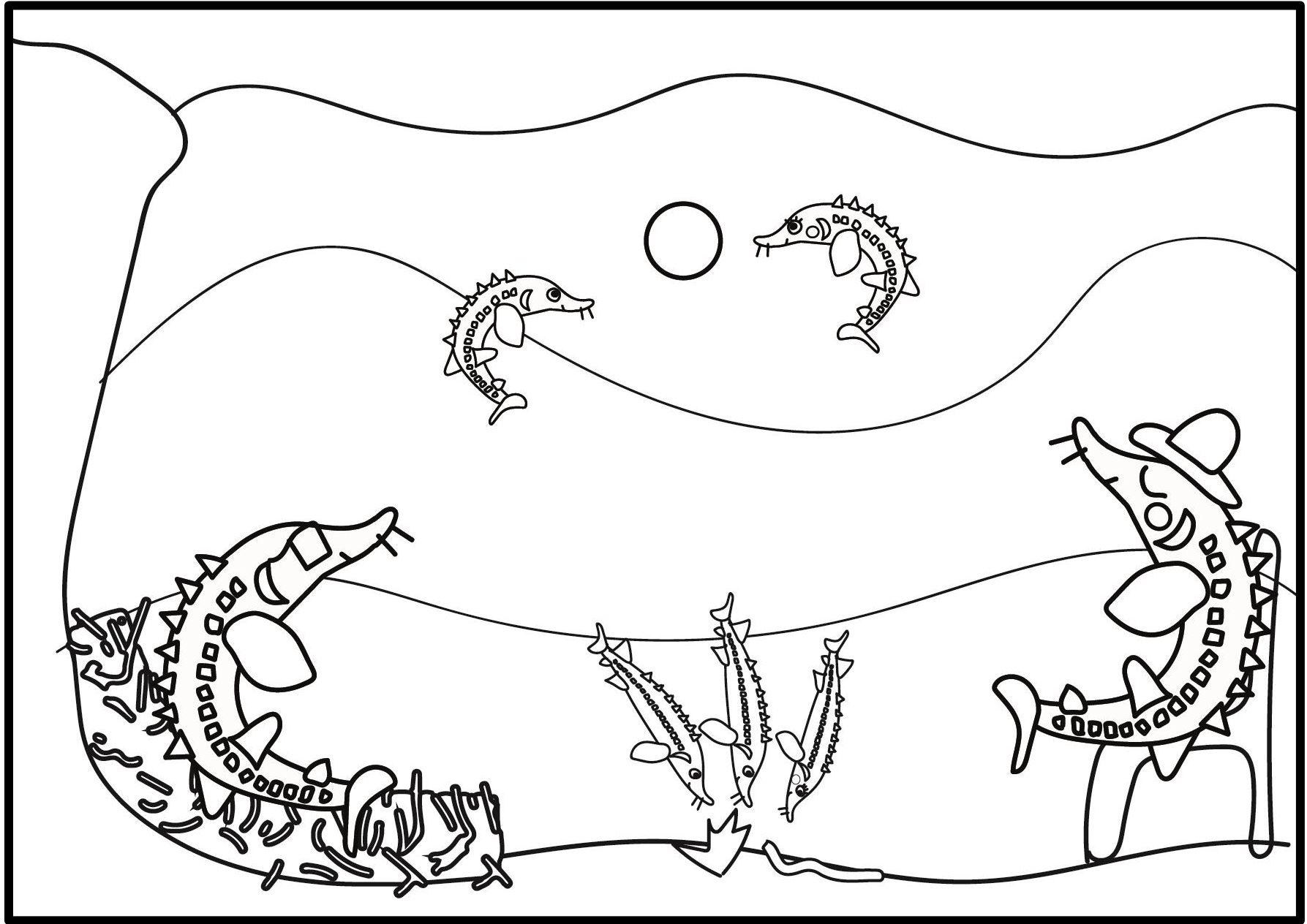
After resting and spawning, Kyra and Starry decided to guard their eggs. As it turned out, this was the right decision, as their eggs were attacked by hostile fish, and both sturgeon parents had to fight to protect their babies.



The parents started to train the little sturgeons about what to do and how to behave in the river: what to eat, how to swim safely, and how to hide to avoid dangers.

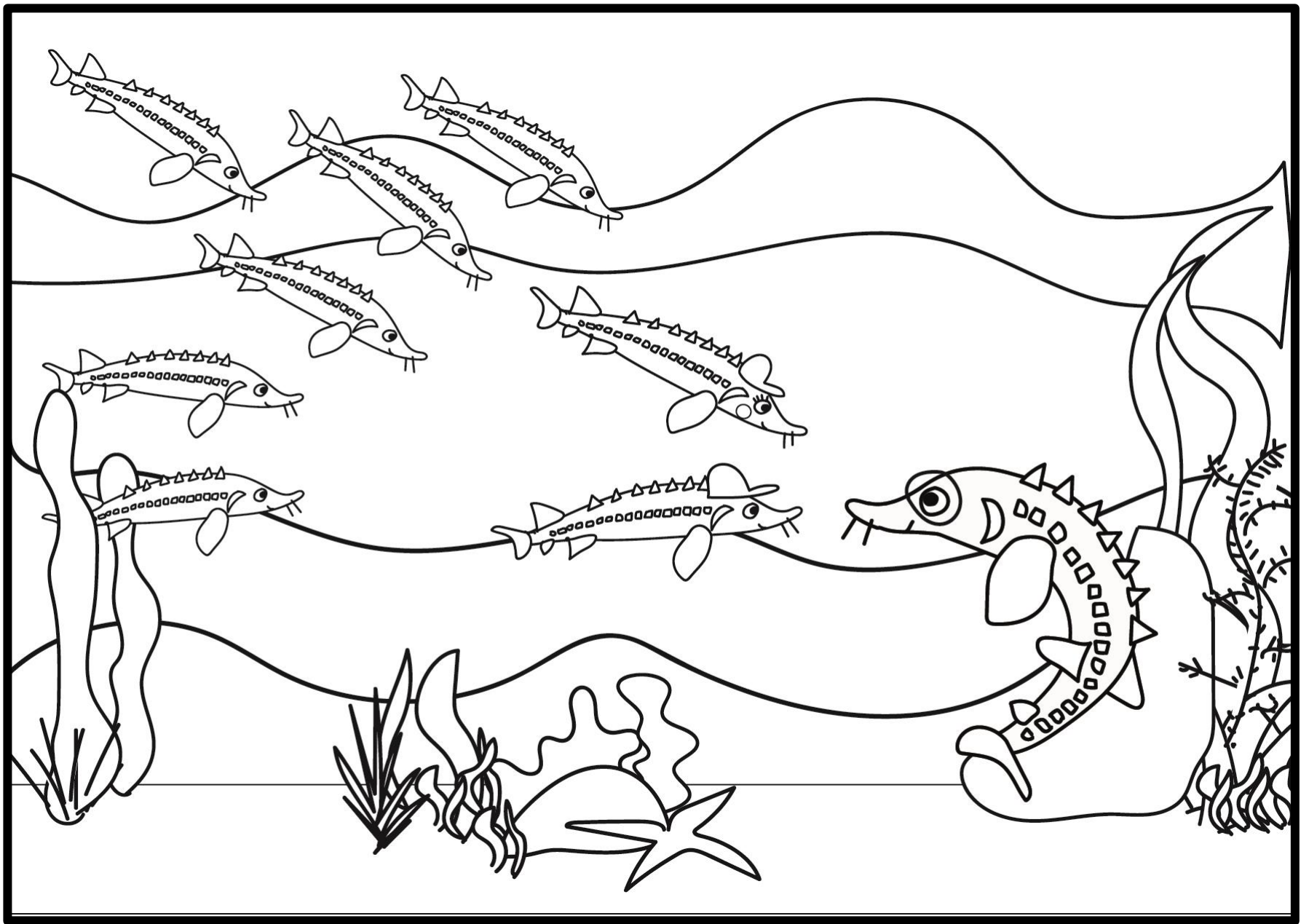


Starry, Kyra, and their children started to migrate back to the sea. On the way, their group was joined by young sturgeons released from the farm. They met Kenny, who warned that humans were fishing at the river mouth. The sturgeons dove to the river bottom to escape the fishing nets.



Arriving safely at sea, the sturgeons ate and relaxed for a while, before heading to the marine sanctuary.





Years later, their children had become adults and prepare for a similar trip to the upper parts of the river for spawning. One of their daughters introduced her husband, a sturgeon born at the farm and guided to the marine shelter by her parents. Starry smiled, thinking of the circle of life, and hoping that, in the future, sturgeons would have a better life if people helped and protected them.

This children's booklet aims to increase understanding of the numerous challenges faced by sturgeon species throughout their lives and raise your support to save these magnificent "living dinosaurs".

Protecting rivers and keeping them in their natural state is beneficial both for the aquatic organisms and for human society, which gains access to attractive recreation areas, clean water, and healthy fish.

By helping sturgeons and other endangered species

**YOU can be NATURE's HERO, too!**

