



Name _____

Date _____

Don't Get Caught – Solve the Next Problem, Too!



Imagine you are living near sparkling water. You enjoy walking along the shore. You also paddle around in a boat. Sometimes you even fish. The fish you like to catch is a rockfish or striped bass. This fish is big! It may tip the scales at 60 pounds (about 27 kilograms) and be as long as 60 inches (1 ½ meters).

But, many people near the water go fishing. They catch this big fish. Before long, there are few fish left.

What do you do? Write one or two sentences that explain how you carry out your plan.

To save this fish I would _____

People who live beside the Chesapeake Bay had this problem over twenty years ago. The rockfish was disappearing from the Bay. Many people worked together to save this species. And how did they do this? Their idea may be like yours. No one was allowed to catch any rockfish. Laws were passed to protect them. By 1995, many rockfish once again swam in the Chesapeake Bay. This sounds like a success story – right?

For a few years it was. Rockfish swam in the Bay. Fishers could once again catch them. People ordered rockfish in restaurants. But, in the late 1990s, people saw dead rockfish. What was the matter? What was this next problem?

Fish biologists discovered that a bacterium was causing a terrible rockfish disease. The bacterium gets inside the rockfish. Its organs swell. Sores develop. Many fish die. But scientists aren't sure where the bacterium comes from. They aren't sure if fish get it during a certain part of life. They have many questions to answer.



