

Response to the invitation to name the Mundus maris baby fish mascots

My name is Harry, and I am a fish. When I was younger, my mother disappeared whilst looking for food. A long time after my mother left, a black cloud of oil appeared from where she had gone. With my brothers and sisters, I waited for her return, but I never saw my mother again. My brother was also lost whilst searching for food. A juicy worm dangled down and as he closed his mouth around it, he was dragged away and never seen again. Also, I have witnessed hundreds of fish being caught by a net and taken above. I have been lucky enough to avoid dangers like these...

Today I am travelling south for the summer season as the older fish told me to do. It is a journey full of dangers man-made and natural. We set off at high tide, staying close to the reefs as cover from predators and aiming to be there when the sun rises again.

As I was swimming along, a strange black cloud appeared. I recognised it as the same thing that took my mother, and began to get away frantically. I dived into a small cave in the rocks and hid for hours until it passed. Whilst I waiting, another fish swam in. Her name was Hermione, and she was also travelling south for the summer season.

Once the cloud had disappeared, we kept swimming, together this time. Along the way more fish joined us, and I felt like part of a group, happy and free. As we were swimming, everyone stopped and a giant shadow loomed over us. Hermione and I swam to the side, along with a few other fish, just as a net swept down and caught everyone. We watched them struggle and we began frantically swimming away towards the safety of the reef.

We kept heading south, in a small group this time. Everything was calm and peaceful. We swam and swam and swam, tirelessly. Hours later, we'd finally finished, we'd reached the south, all of us. But the dangers we're evident and we hope we'll never encounter them again...

Harry and Hermione did continue their lifecycle but thousands of fish are caught needlessly every day around the world, this means less sustainable resources for future generations.

Lucy Smith and Suraj Patel