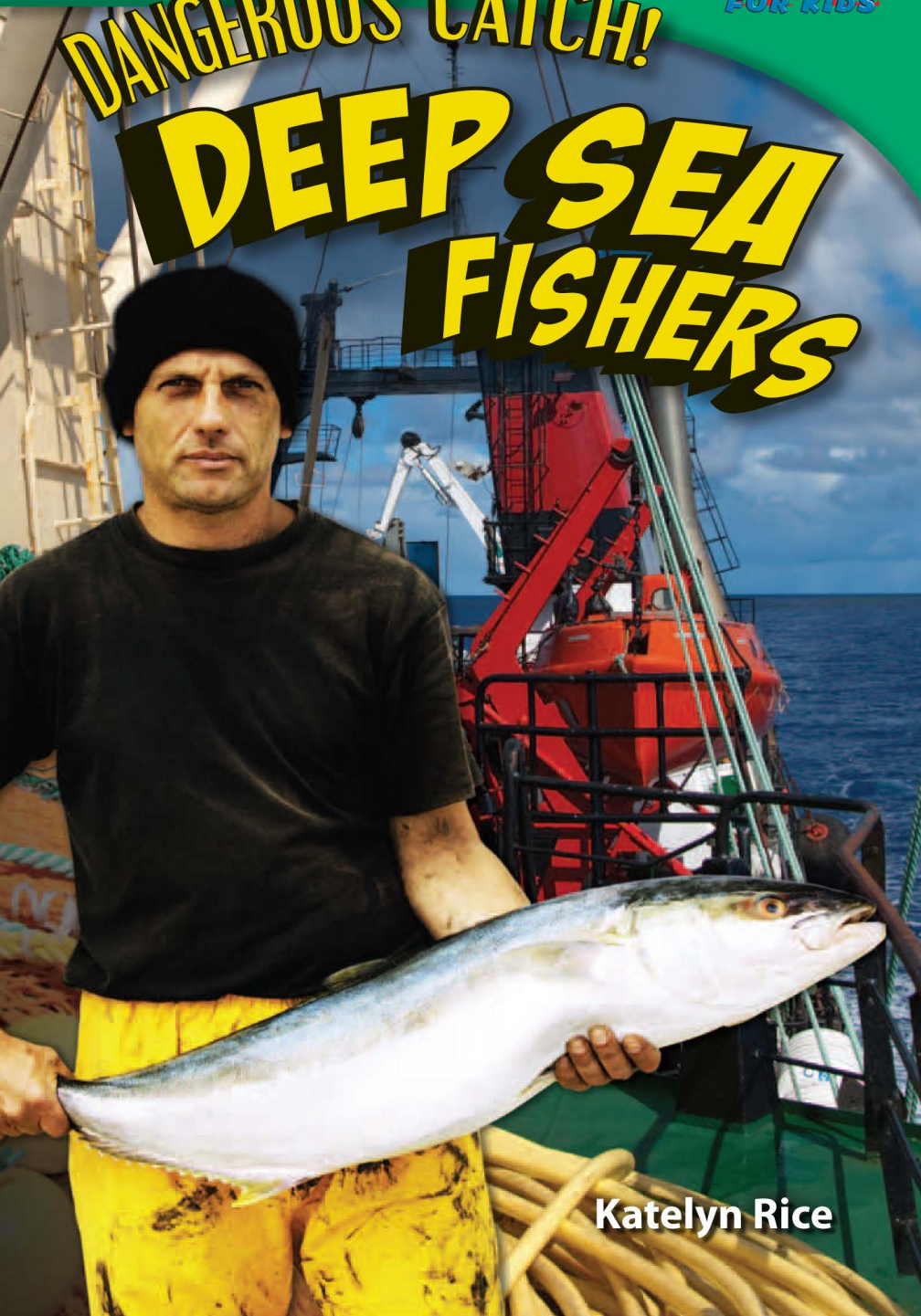
TIME FOR KIDS

DANGEROUS CATCH!

DEEP SEA FISHERS



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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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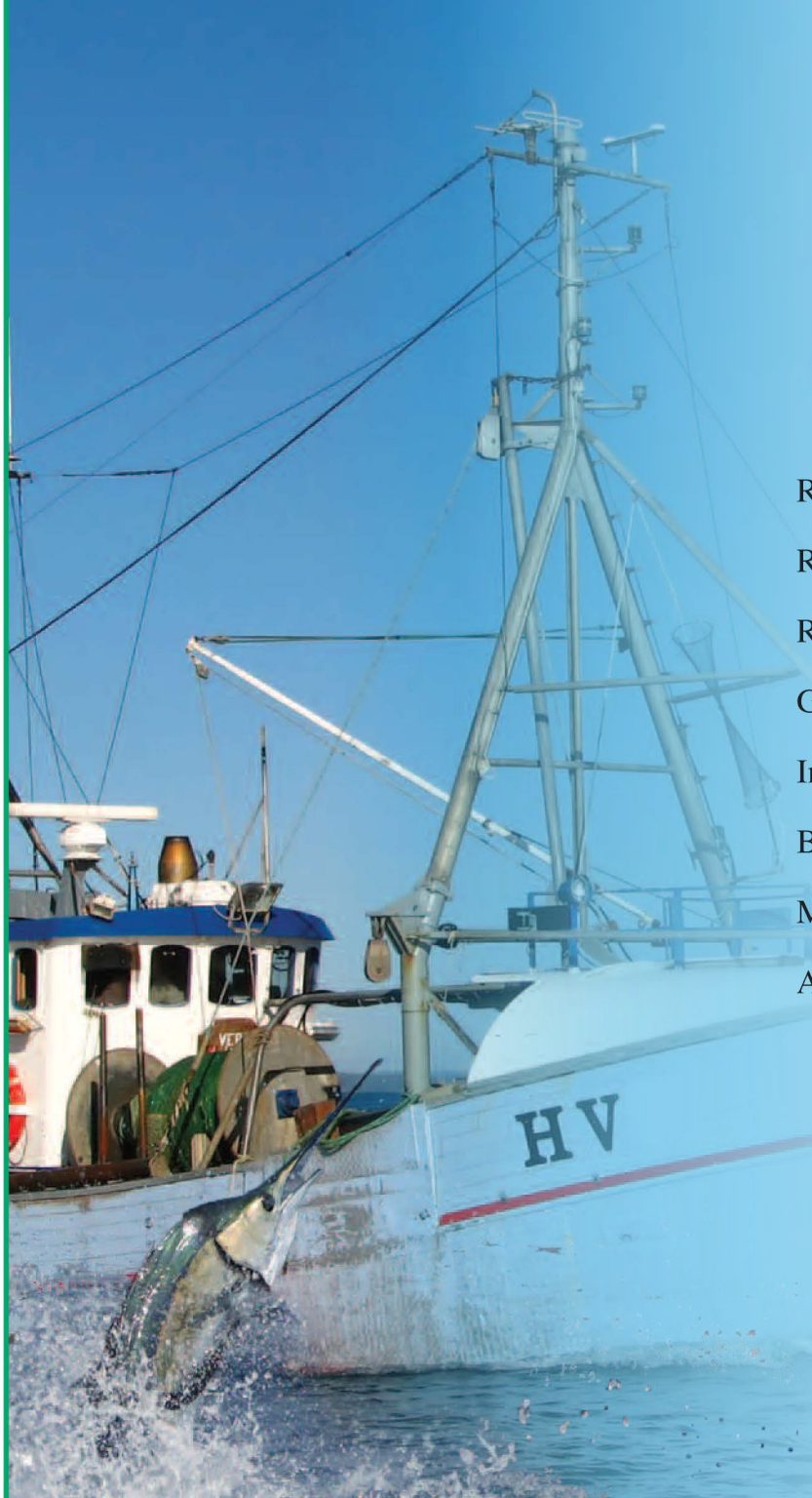


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ROUGH SEAS

*Thirty-foot waves and 60-**knot** winds toss the ship in the air. The crew bashes ice off the side of the boat and pushes fishing gear overboard. They must reduce their weight or risk rolling over and sinking!*



Deep sea fishers spend weeks and sometimes months at sea. They may face severe weather and other dangers with only their fellow crew members to rely on. Damaged equipment, injury, and death are very real risks in this **profession**. But deep sea fishers would take a stormy sea over an office job any day. They seek adventure and challenge. They work as a team, putting their lives on the line, always waiting for the next big catch.



THINK LINK

- What techniques do deep sea fishers use to make a catch?
- What types of boats and equipment do fishers use?
- How do fishers deal with dangers on the job?

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Fishing Forefathers

Fishing is one of the oldest professions in the world. For thousands of years, people have looked to the sea for food. Ancient cultures around the world left behind discarded shells, bones, and fishing hooks. Cave paintings show that fishing has been important to people for thousands of years.

Most early fishing was done with traps and nets in shallow water. Some ancient fishers caught fish with clubs and spears. American Indians also caught fish with lines and hooks made out of animal bones. Small boats were used in deeper waters. As boats and equipment improved, people moved into deeper ocean areas.

Waves of Fishing

Early fishing was done in lakes. As new techniques were developed, fishers were able to move into larger, more dangerous bodies of water. The bravest fishers tested the waters first. When they returned home alive, others were happy to follow them on their next trip out to sea.



Prehistoric Fishers

In 2011, thousands of fish bones were found in a cave on the island of East Timor. Scientists say the fish were caught 42,000 years ago. They believe ancient Southeast Asian islanders may have used nets and hooks on long lines thrown into deep waters.

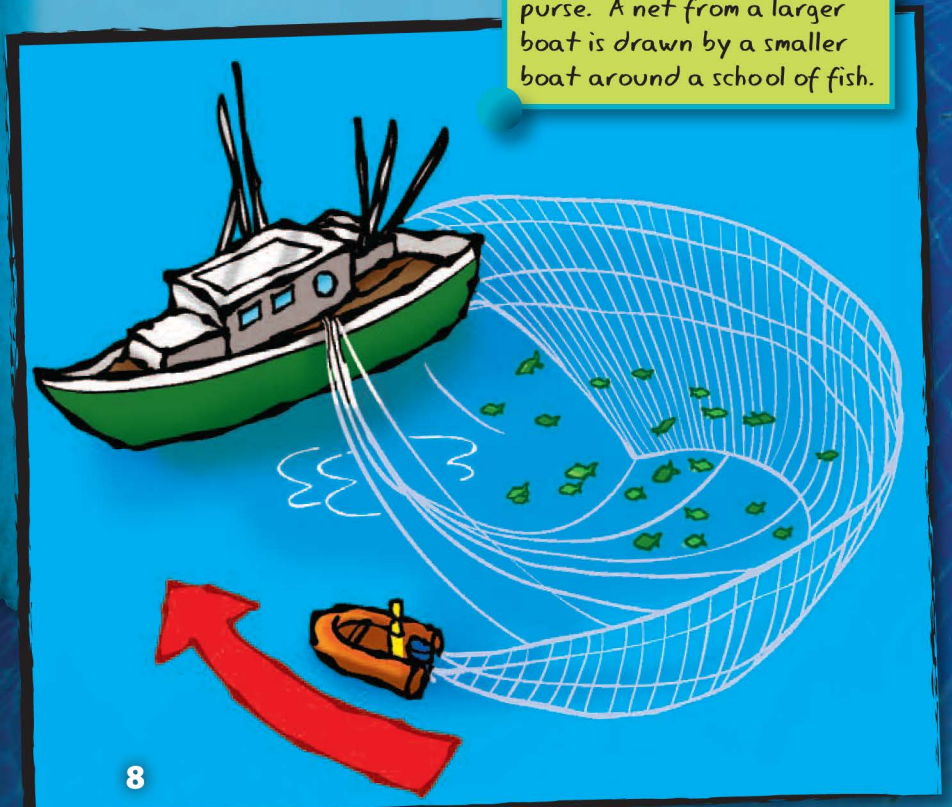
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Tricks of the Trade

Fishing in wild waters takes skill and preparation. Deep sea fishers are the hunters of the sea. They use a variety of techniques to make a catch. Some use special boats or try to attract fish with **bait**. Others fish in remote areas. Some boats are designed to find fish and scoop them up as they swim by. Often fish are **lured** to the site with small bits of food. It's a difficult life, and fishers need every advantage they can get.

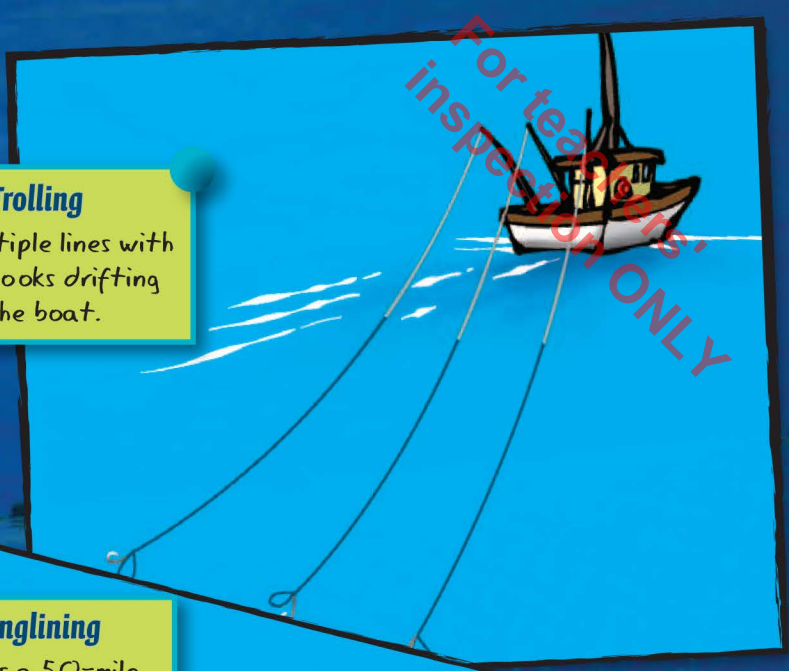
Purse Seining

is named after a drawstring purse. A net from a larger boat is drawn by a smaller boat around a school of fish.



Trolling

uses multiple lines with baited hooks drifting behind the boat.



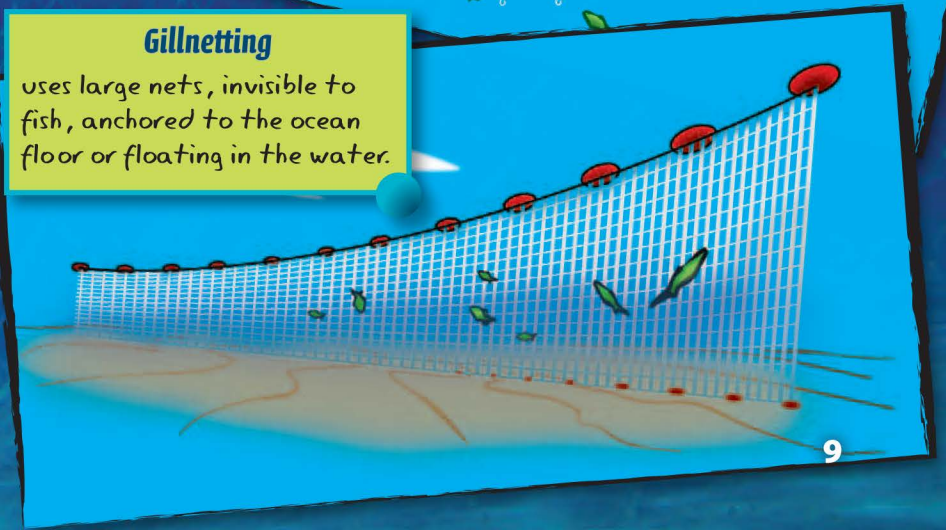
Longlining

includes a 50-mile fishing line, baited with multiple hooks.



Gillnetting

uses large nets, invisible to fish, anchored to the ocean floor or floating in the water.



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