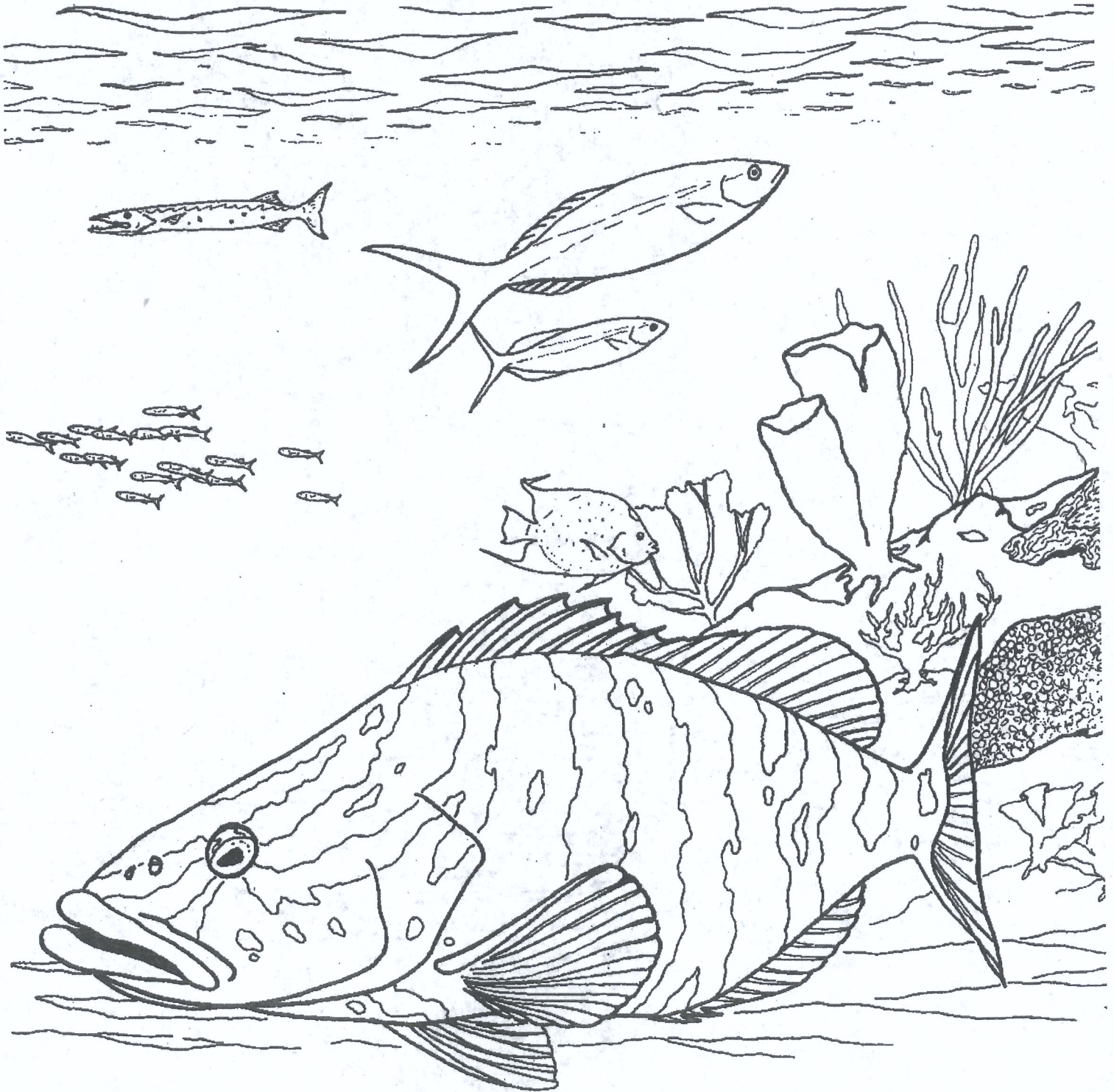


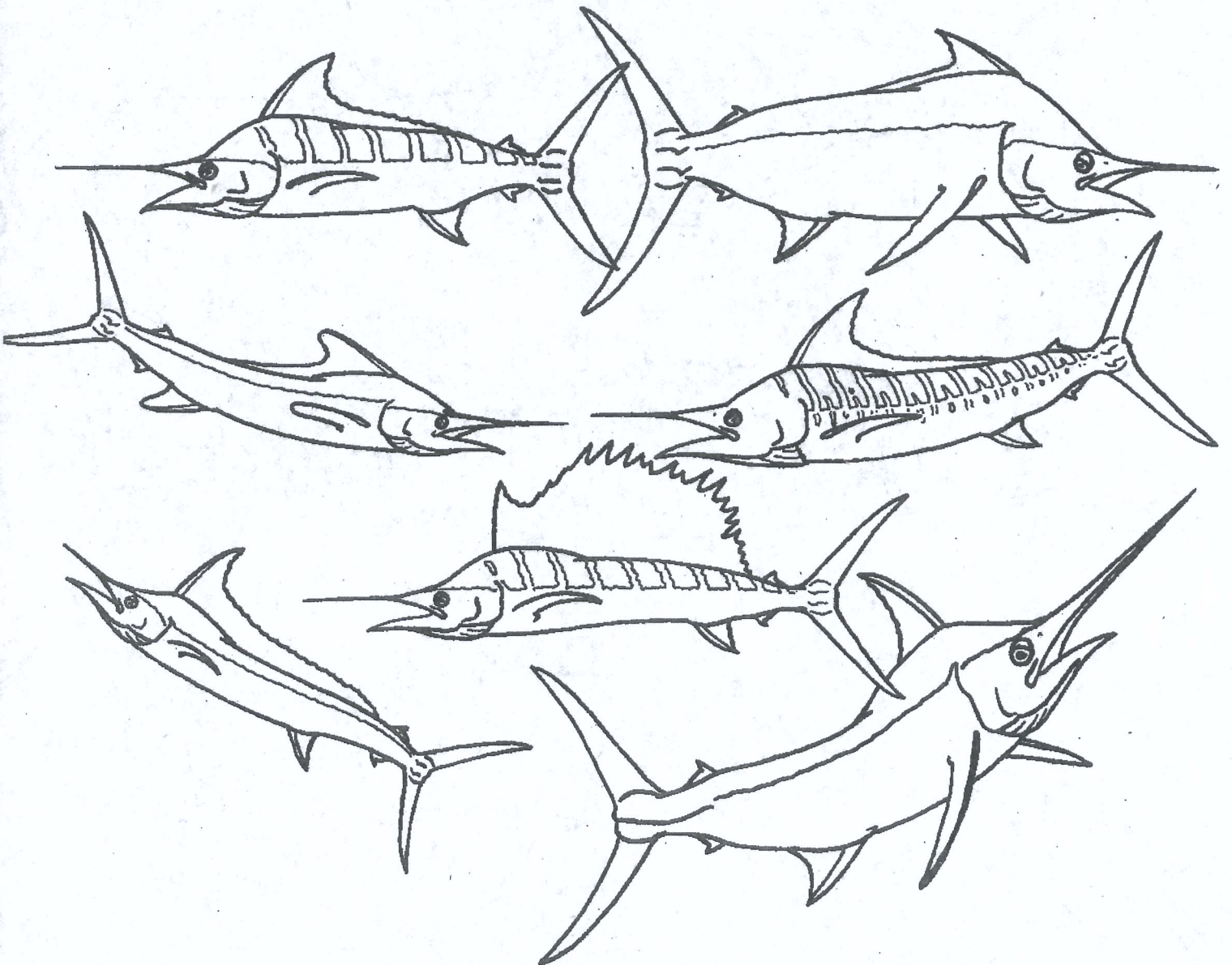
*There is a friend that we have.
It is shiny, salty, and blue.*



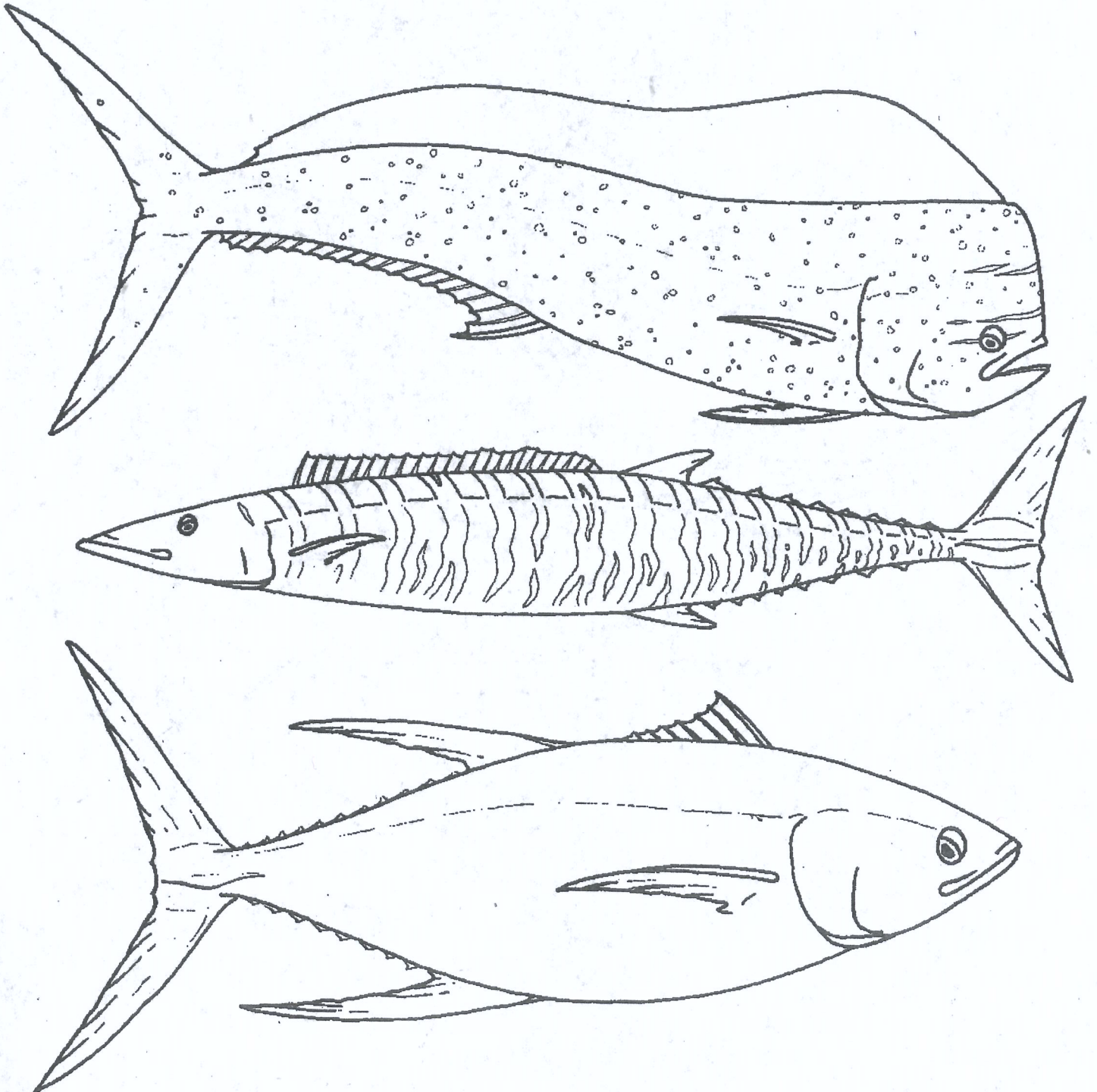
*Our friend is the sea.
Many creatures live in the sea.
They are also our friends.*



The blue marlin, black marlin, white marlin, striped marlin, sailfish, spearfish, and swordfish all belong to one family. It is the billfish family.



*The mahi-mahi, wahoo, tuna,
and billfish are called pelagic fish.
That means they roam the open oceans.*

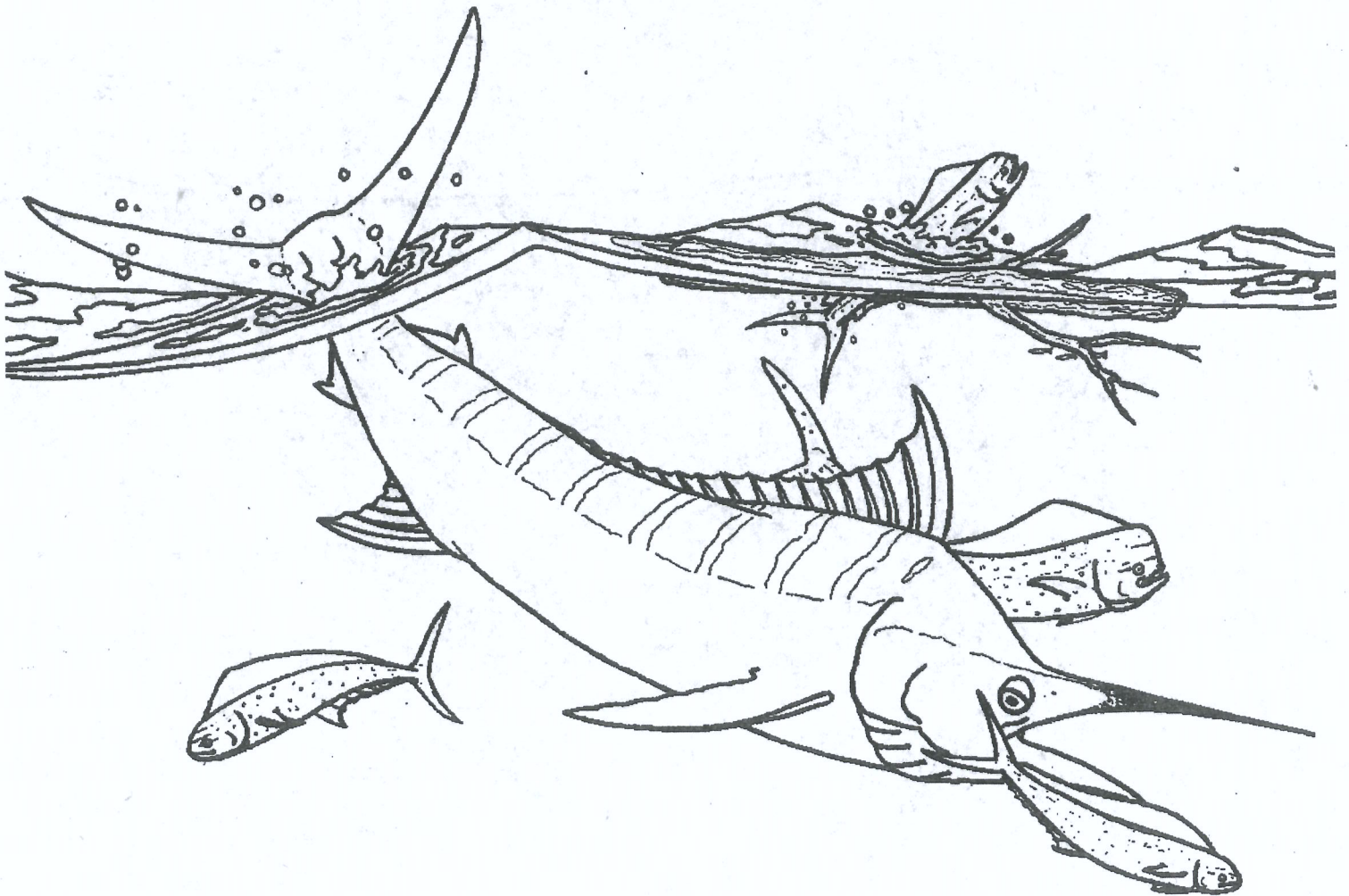


In the sea, a sargassum crab seeks shelter in the seaweed for which it is named. The crab carries its eggs beneath its body.

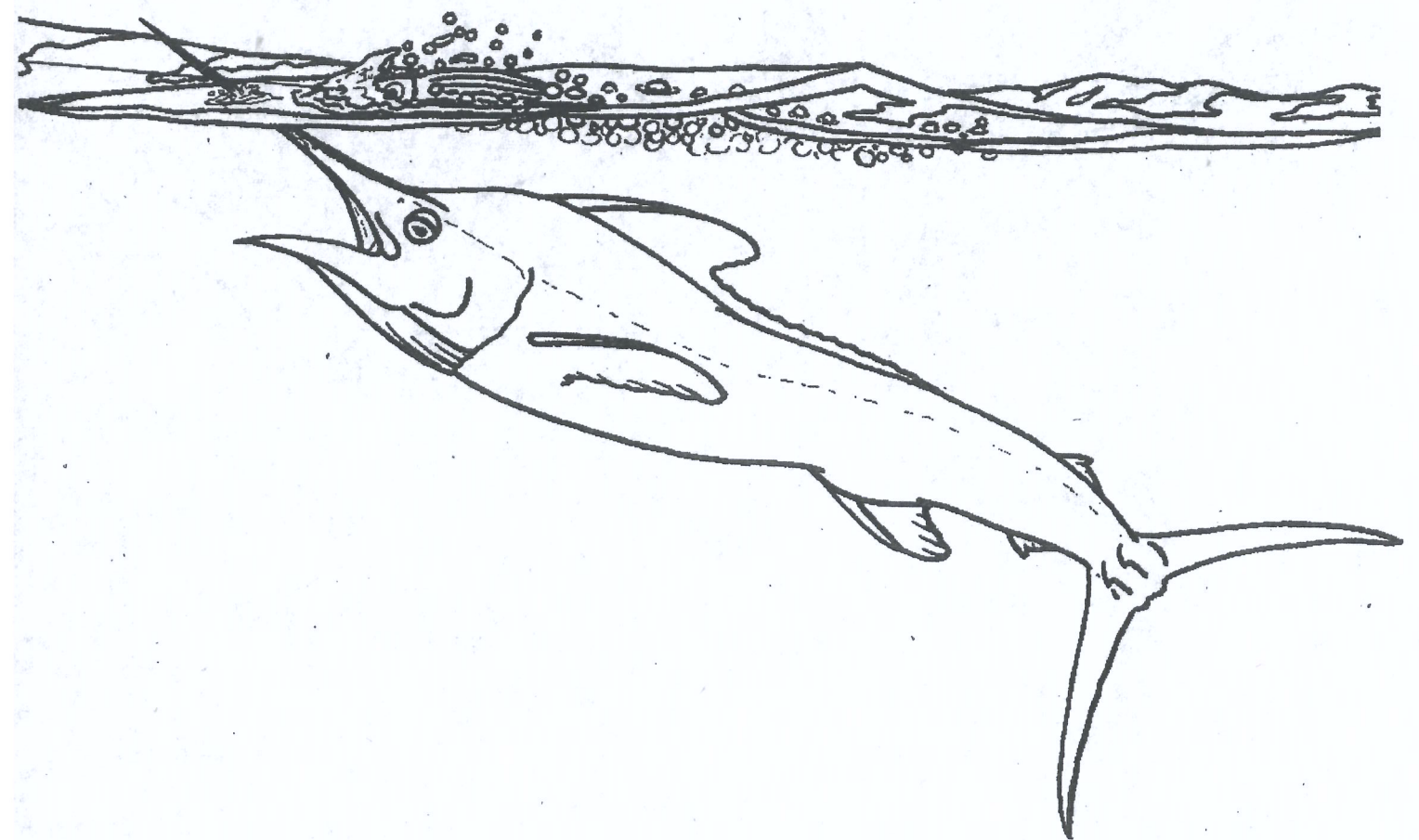


The young of many pelagic fish also find shelter in the sargassum.

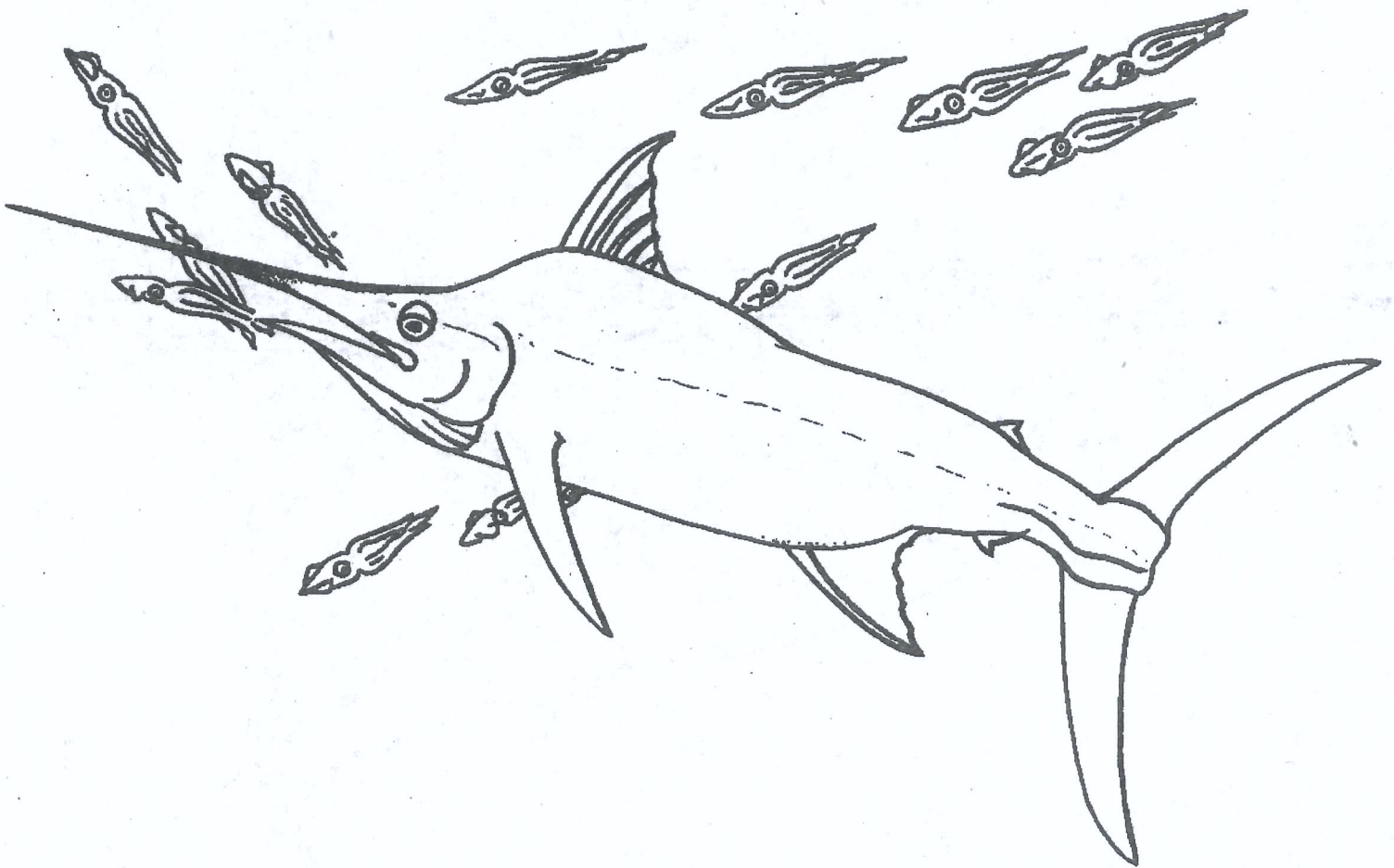
*This blue marlin is chasing mabi-mabi.
Blue marlin can be found in
all the world's oceans.*



*This white marlin is chasing a lure.
Anglers often fool fish by trolling,
which means pulling an artificial
bait behind a boat.*

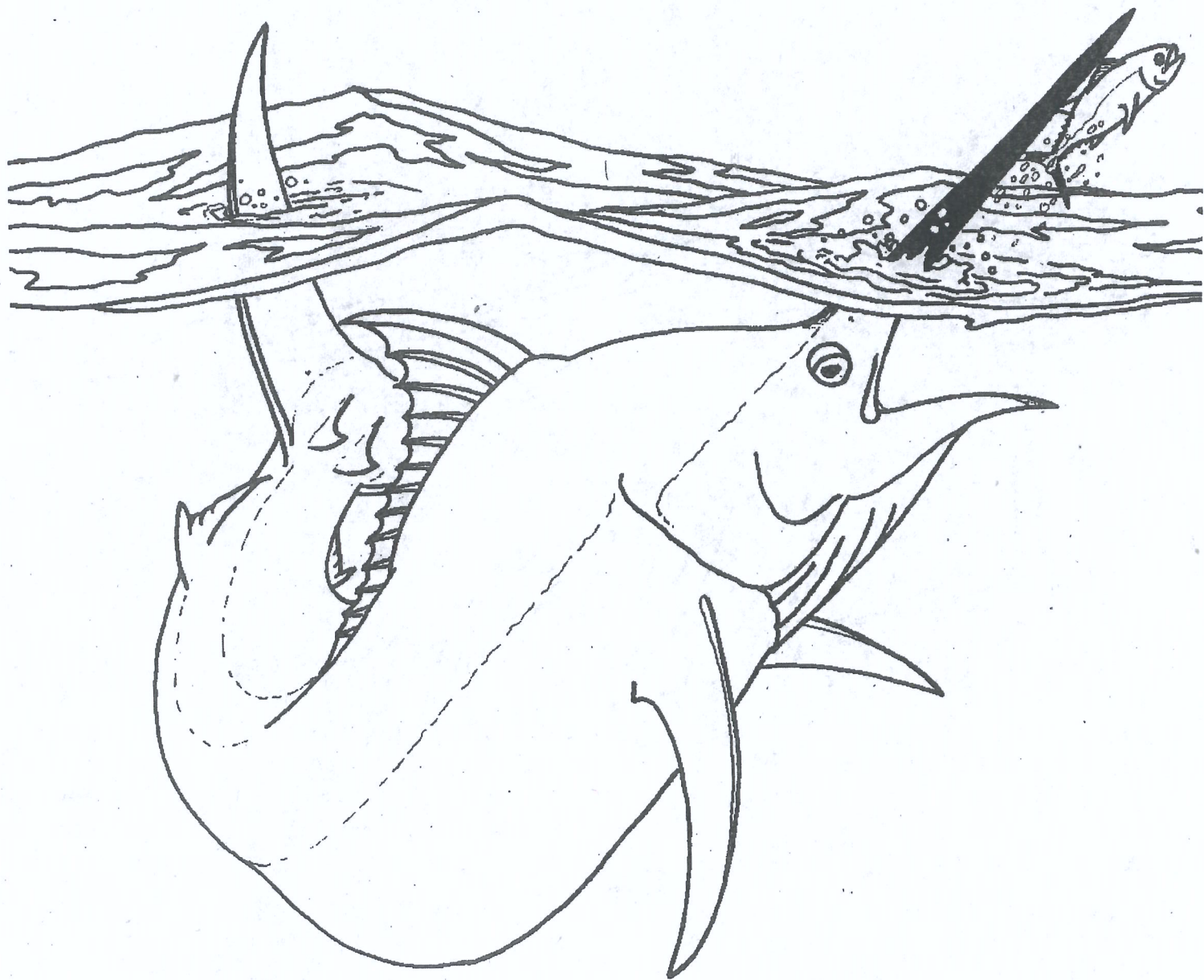


Swordfish live in the deepest part of the world's oceans. They have been found in water 3,000 feet deep.



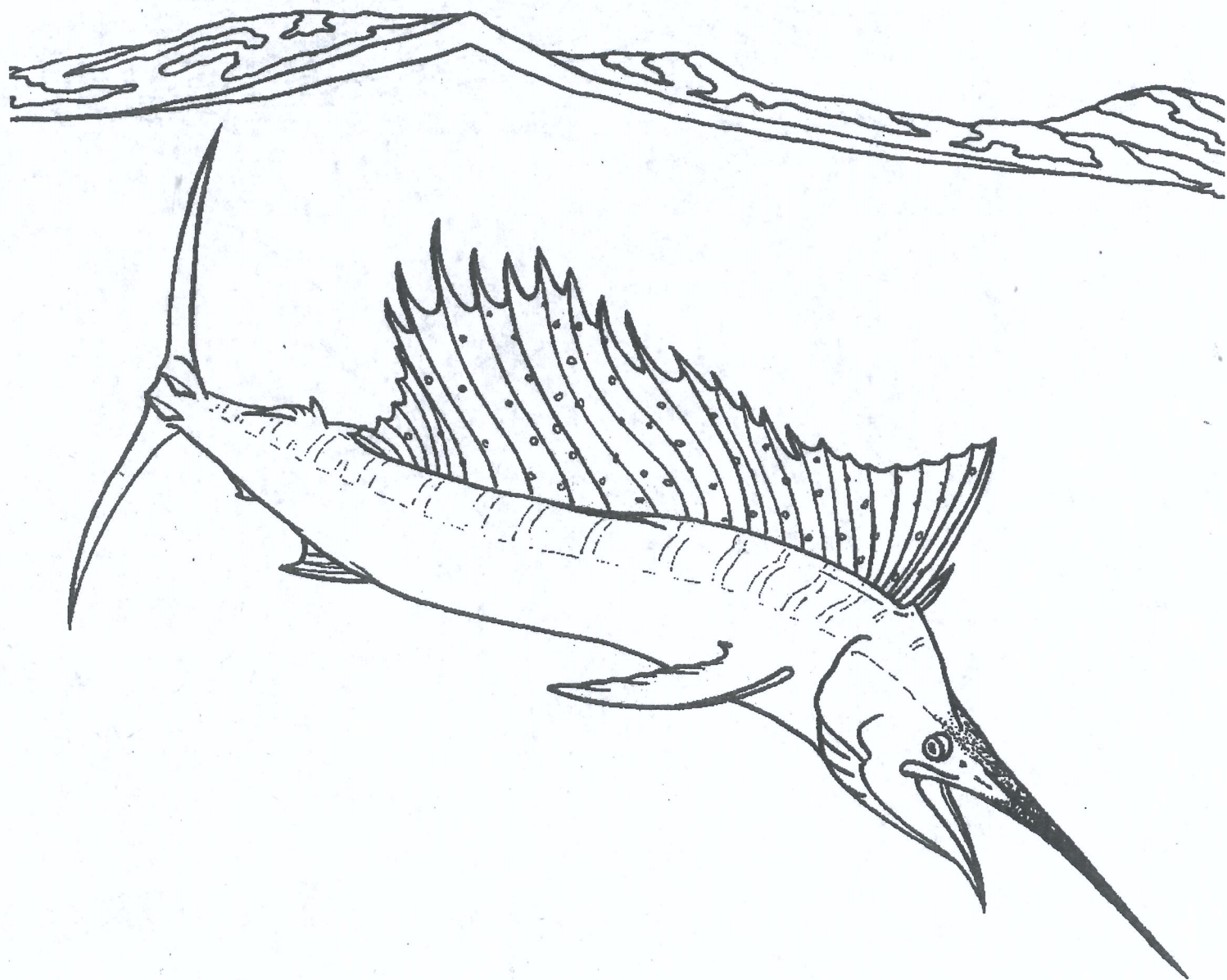
Swordfish are most active at night, when they hunt squid and fish.

***Black marlin live
in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.***

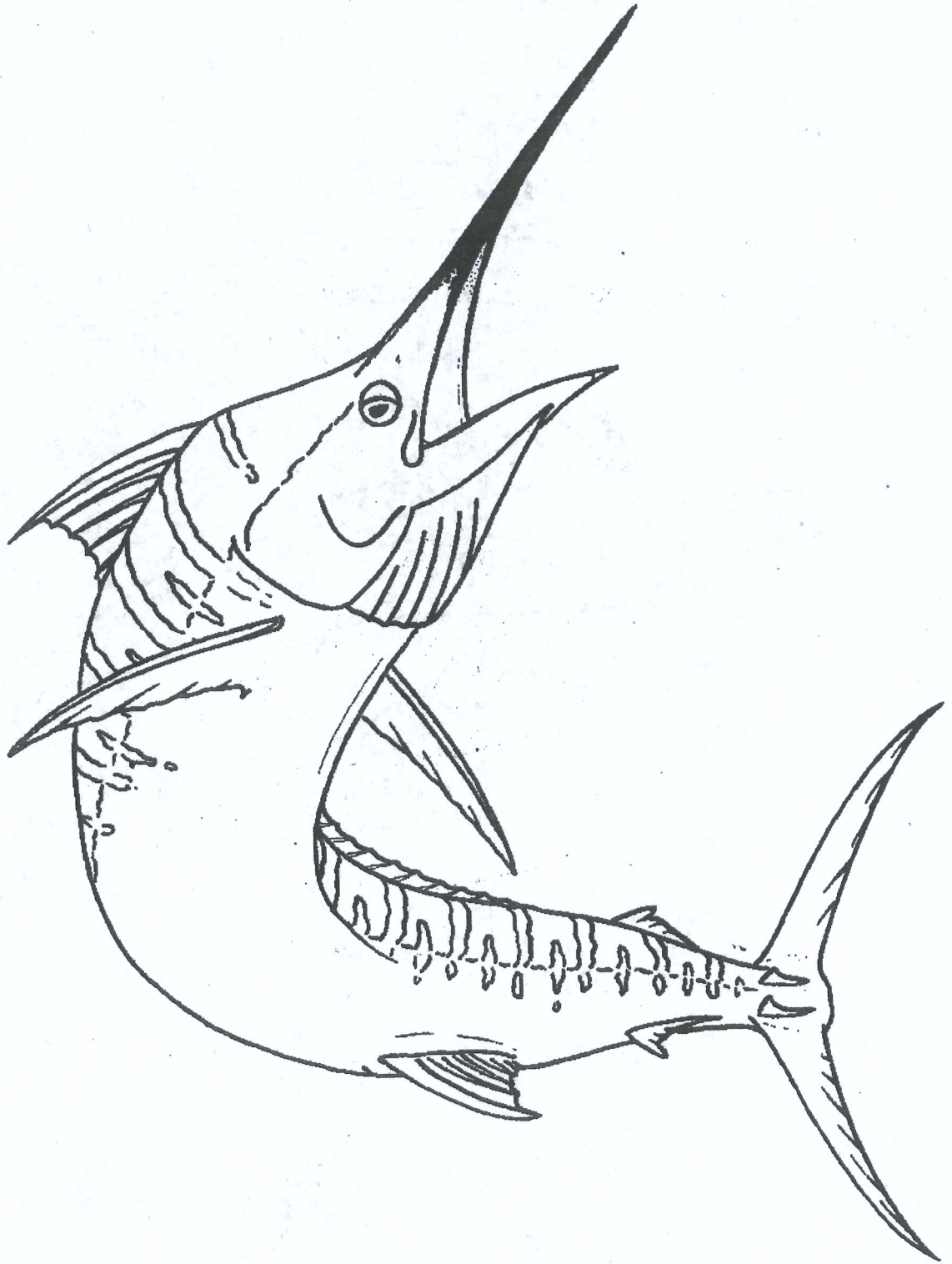


***Anglers often fish for them
in the waters surrounding Australia.***

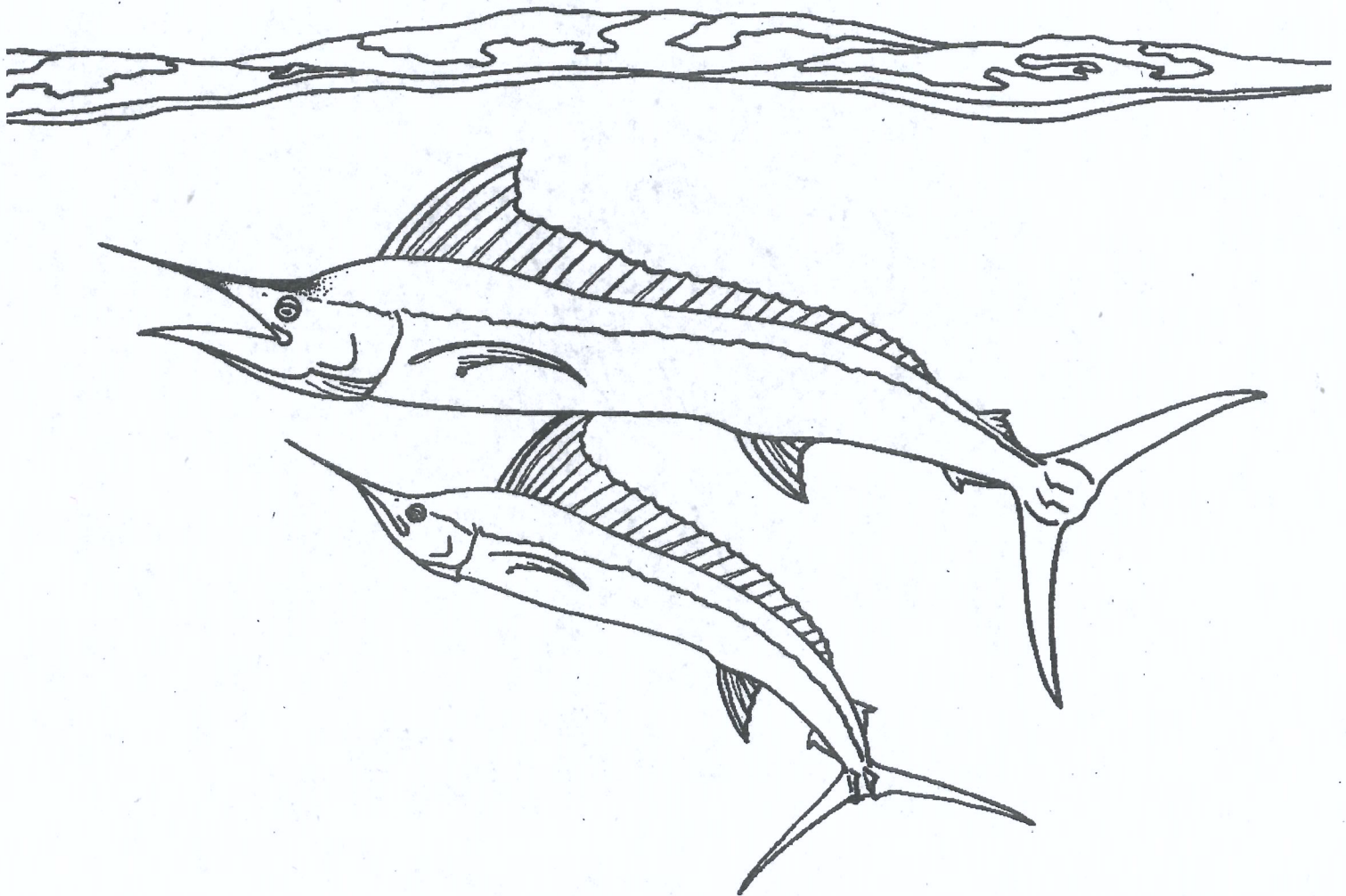
The sailfish gets its name from its very high dorsal fin, which looks like a sail.



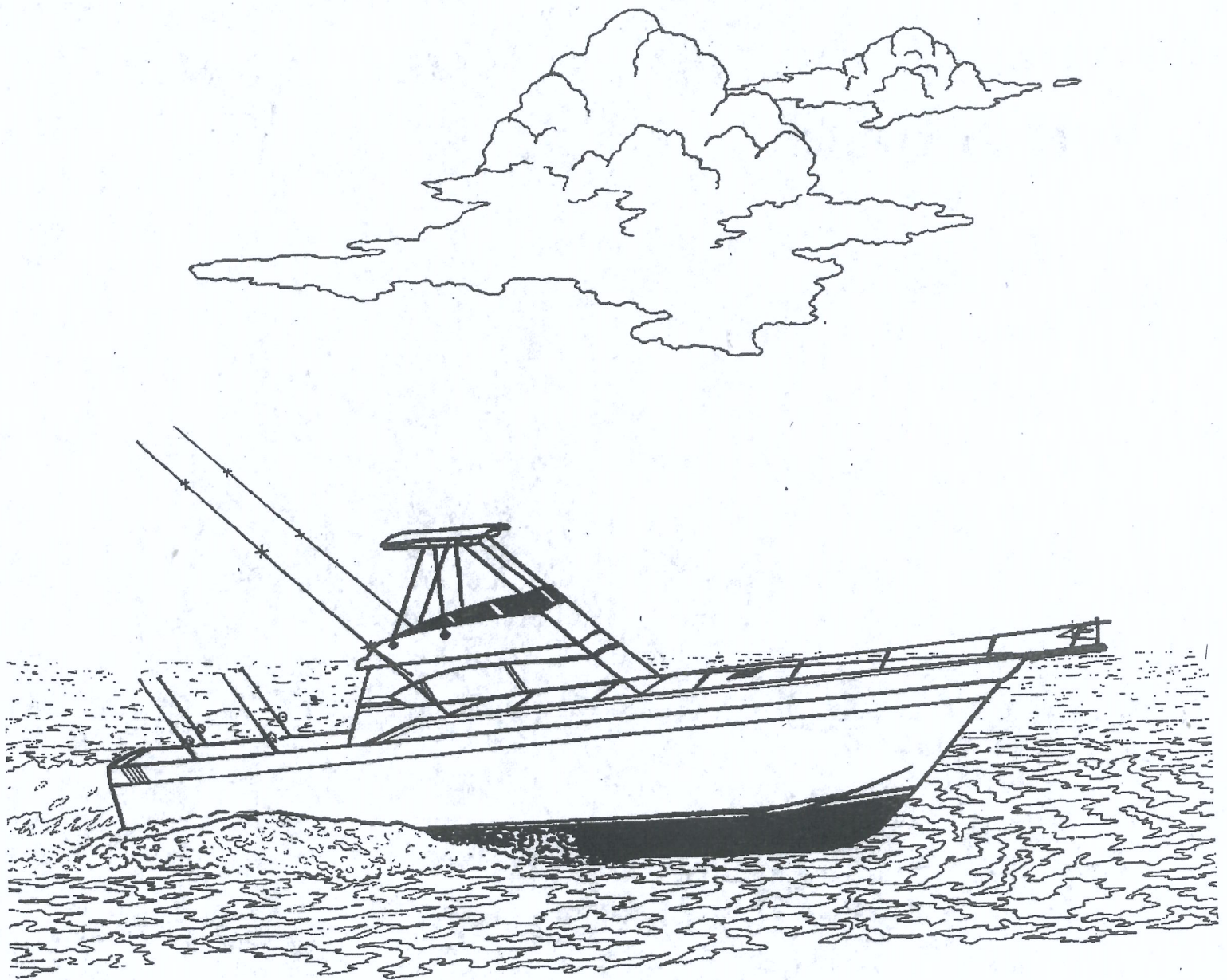
Striped marlin have vivid stripes.



*Very little is known about the spearfish.
It is thought to be the rarest
of all billfish species.*

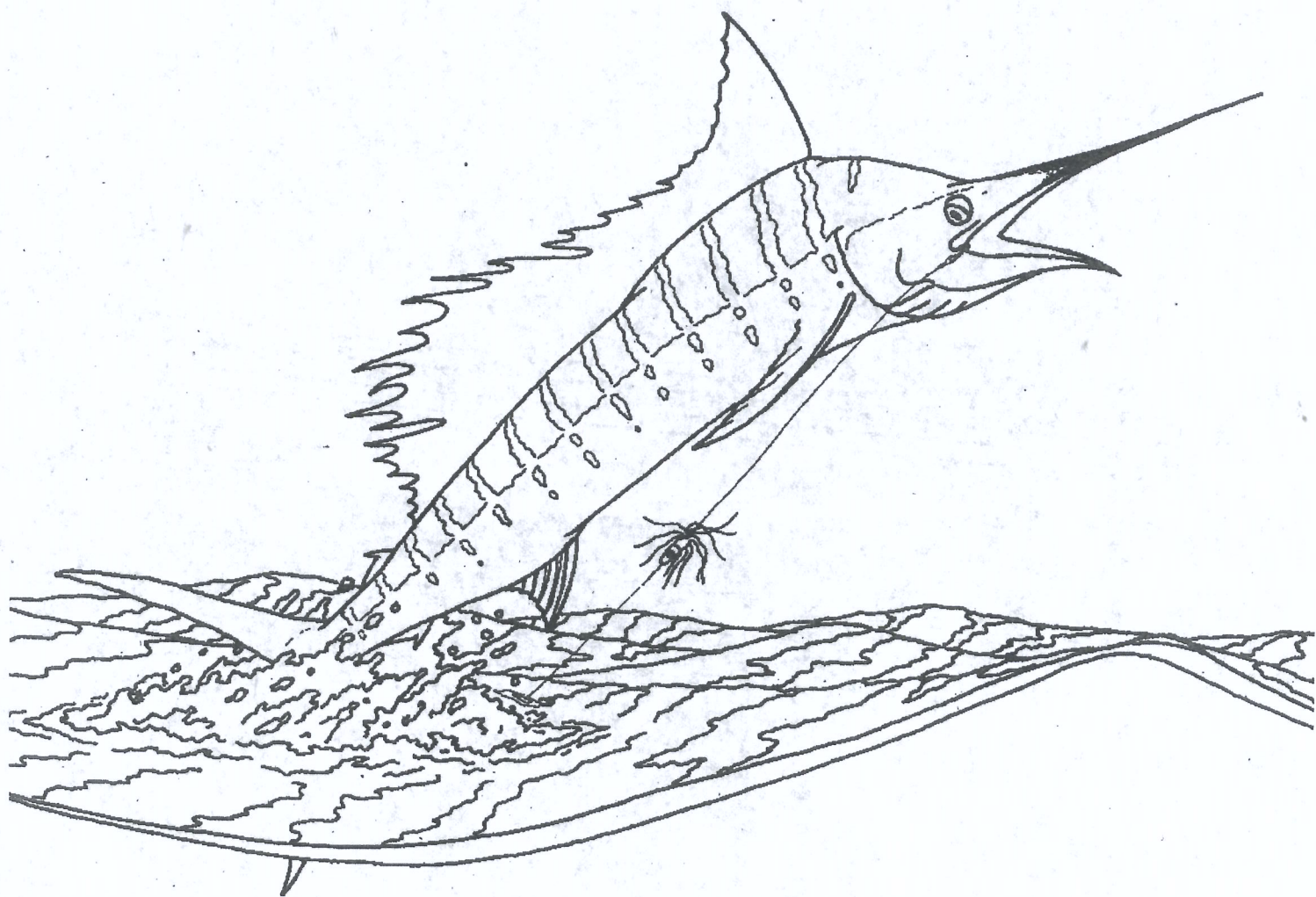


*We do know that
they often travel in pairs.*

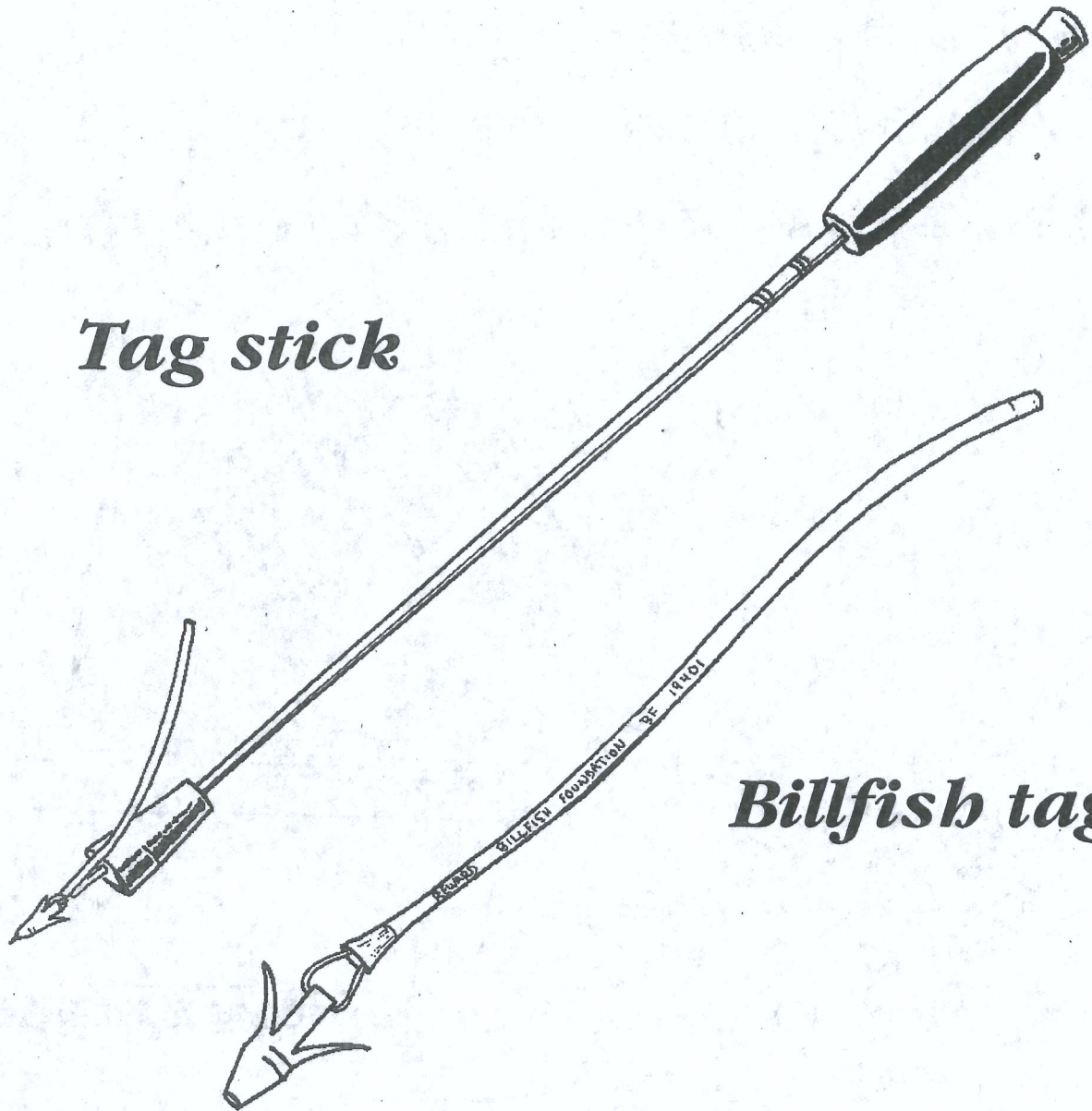


Anglers go out on their sportfishing boats to catch all kinds of fish.

Billfish are especially exciting to catch, because they leap high into the air when hooked.



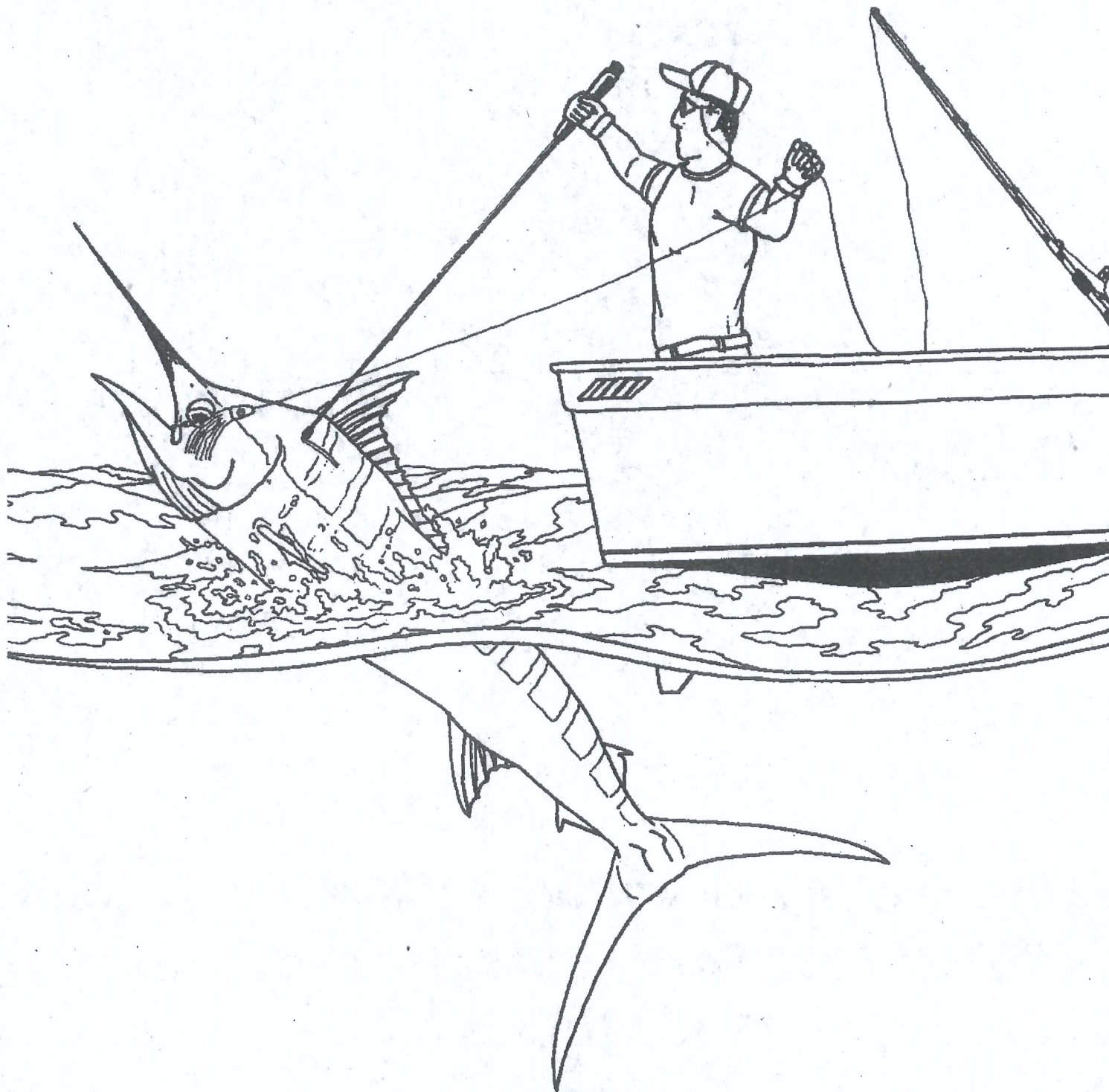
Tag stick



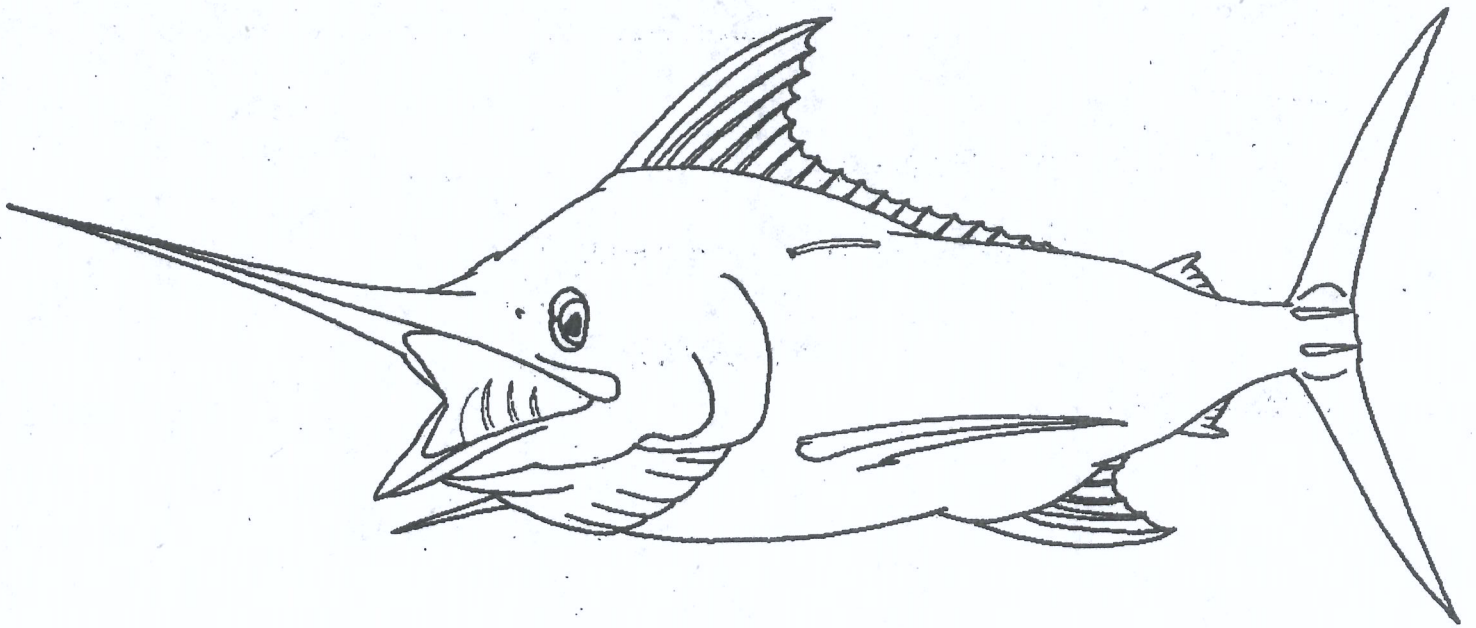
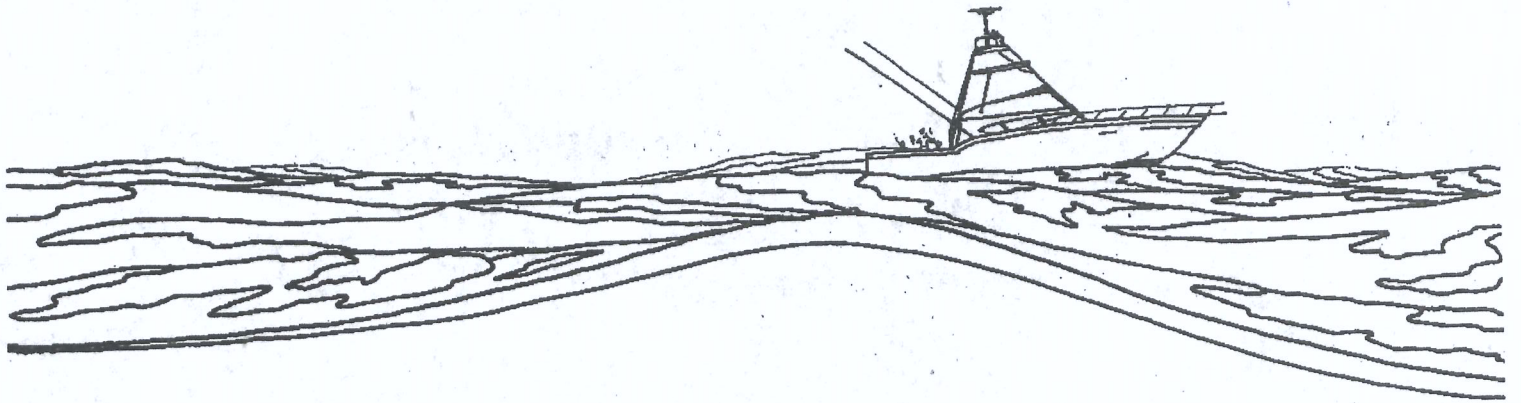
Billfish tag

Tagging helps scientists learn how many billfish there are, how far they travel, and how quickly they grow.

*Instead of bringing
billfish home for trophies,
anglers can tag and release them.*

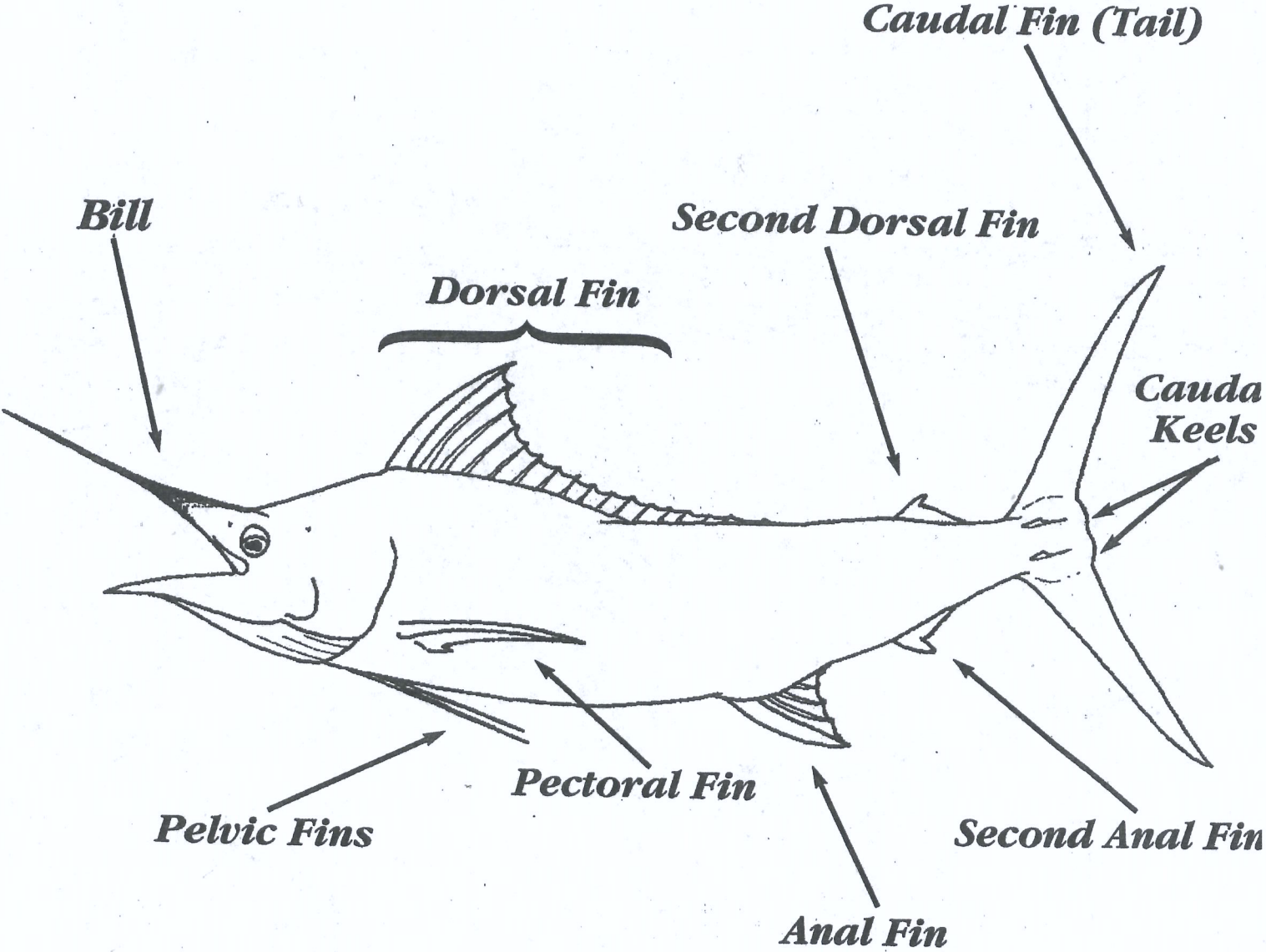


***Tagging is an important
part of billfish conservation.***



***You can tag a billfish
and watch it swim away.***

Anatomy of a billfish



*Sportfishing
means fishing for fun
and keeping only what we need.*

*We are responsible
for conserving, so that there
will be fish for the future.*

