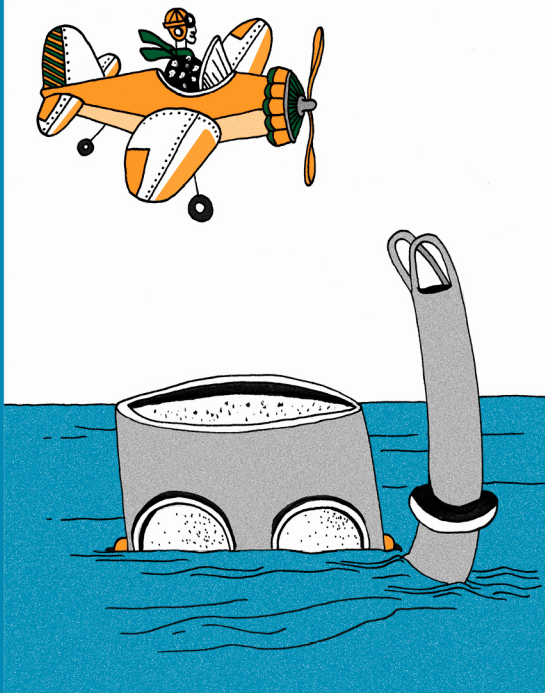


IMPACT

Environmental, social,
and economic effects

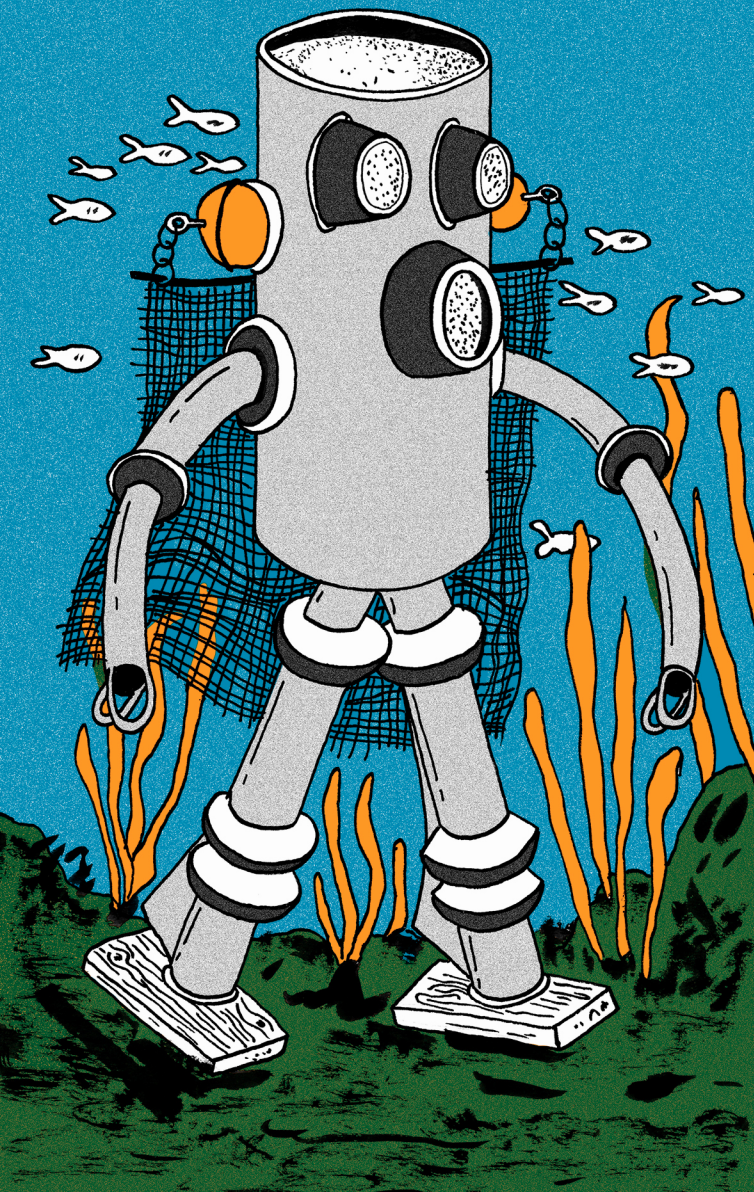


OPERATION GHOST FARMS

Context

**Fish farming is expanding
as wild fish populations
decline and global demand
for seafood grows.
In Greece, economic pressure,
weak business models
and unclear regulations
mean that while new farms open,
others fail—sometimes ending
in abandonment.**

I AM THE FISH FARM RING



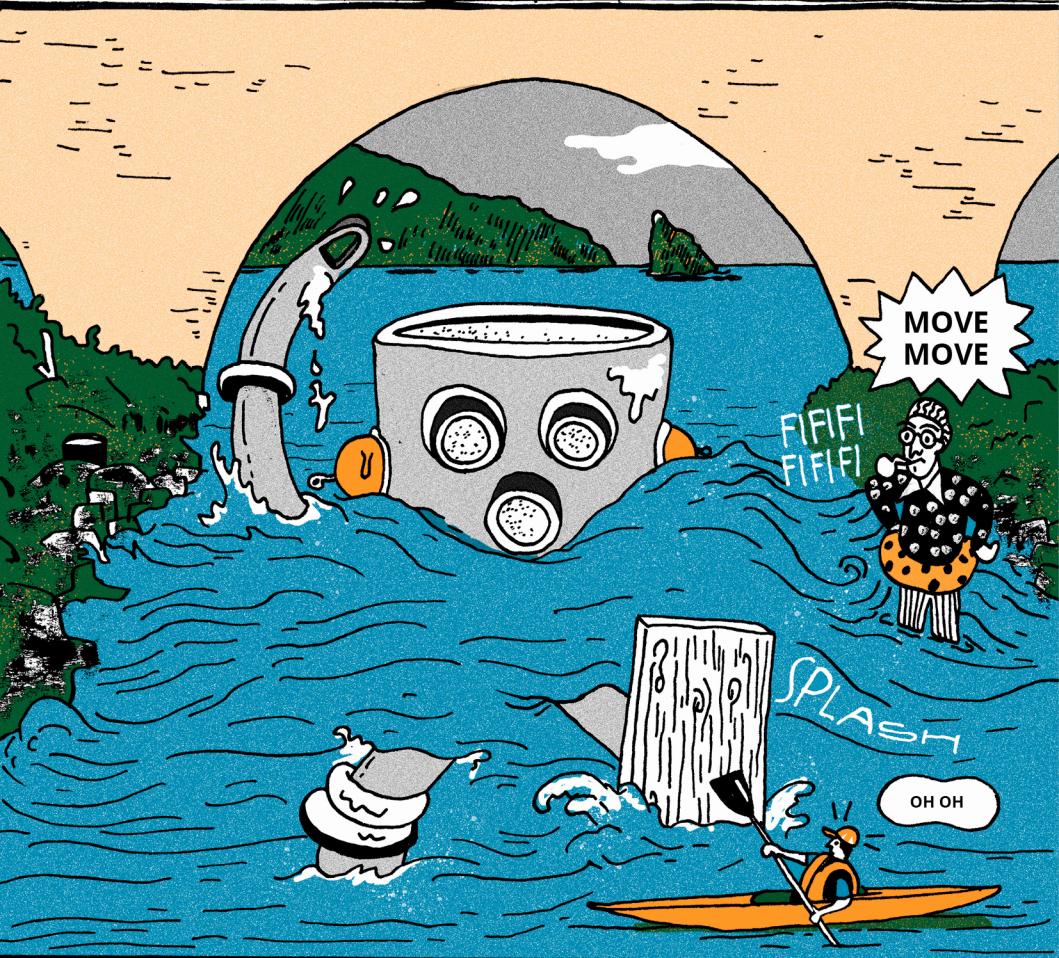
YES, I DO IT
I CAN ABANDON HIM



Market competition, poor business planning and instability have left abandoned fish farms along large stretches of the Greek coastline. From the cases addressed by the Healthy Seas Foundation, it is clear that abandonment creates impacts on three interconnected levels: environmental, social, and economic.

DEAR LET'S GO AWAY!
THERE'S A HORRIBLE
MONSTER SWIMMING
HERE.

HMM...
EVEN A STONE
SWIMS BETTER!

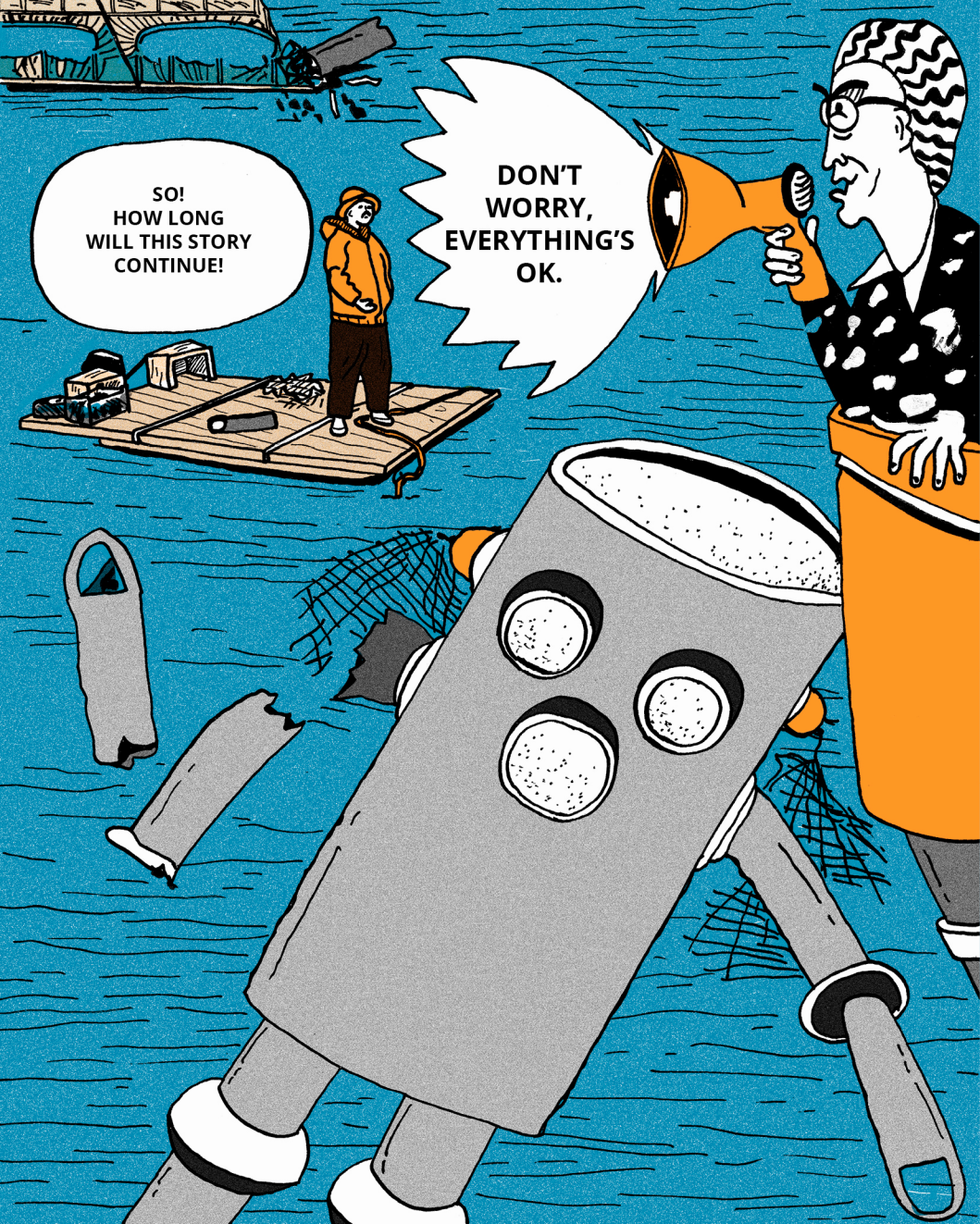


Social and economic impacts

In Greece, where tourism is a key source of local income, abandoned fish farms reduce the attractiveness and usability of coastal areas.

These structures are dangerous, polluting, and visually invasive—making bays unsuitable for tourism, water sports, and everyday local activities.

After a clean-up, the change is immediate. Nature regains space, and communities can reconnect with the coastline.



SO!
HOW LONG
WILL THIS STORY
CONTINUE!

DON'T
WORRY,
EVERYTHING'S
OK.

**Abandoned structures
also threaten active fish farms
and local fisheries.**

**During storms, debris
from derelict sites can damage
or destroy nearby installations.
Or in Ithaca, for example, an entire
bay became dangerous to navigate
due to dispersed materials
from an abandoned farm.**

**Abandonment often leads to more
abandonment: once an area starts
resembling a dumping ground,
additional waste accumulates.**

I HAVE AS MANY
AS YOU WANT!

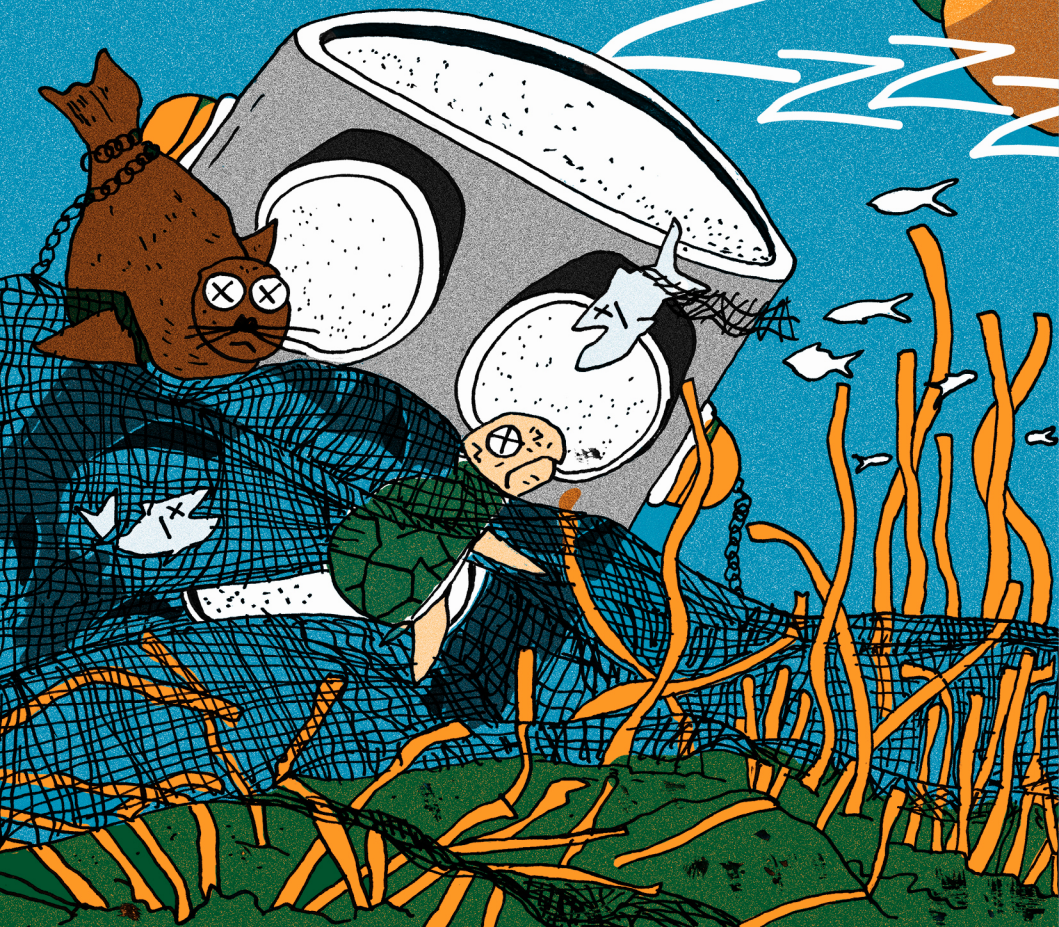


Environmental impacts

**Beyond visual pollution,
abandoned fish farms
release large amounts
of debris into the marine
environment.**

**Degraded plastic parts,
polystyrene fragments, ropes
and fish nets spread with currents.
Nearby beaches and coastlines
are often covered in plastic
also originating directly from
aquaculture structures.**

LULLABY, LULLABY,
OOH, WHO WILL
I GIVE THIS RING TO?



Underwater, the damage continues.

**Abandoned nets keep fishing—
entangling fish and attracting
predators such as seals, dolphins,
turtles, and seabirds, which can
become trapped in nets and ropes.**

**Heavy debris, sunken rings,
and large nets also smother
and destroy *Posidonia oceanica*
meadows—an endangered
and protected species.**

**Posidonia forests are essential
for marine biodiversity, coastal
protection, and climate regulation.**

**Abandoned fish farms leave
long-lasting scars—on ecosystems,
communities, and local economies.**



HEALTHY
SEAS®

a journey from waste to wear

healthyseas.org

Illustrated by
Pastoraccia