

OK, Boomer, let's try again. Say "ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua."
Illa-hoola-koala-koo-koo.

RANGER RICK RACCOON, SCARLETT FOX, AND BOOMER BADGER ARE IN HAWAII, WHERE MANY RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LIVE. SCARLETT TRIES TO TEACH BOOMER THE LOCAL NAME FOR ONE OF THE RAREST, THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL.



Boomer, you're hopeless!
Oh, yeah? We'll see how "hopeless" I am when I catch this wave!



EEEEEEEE-haaaa!



Boomer may be hopeless with the Hawaiian language, but he rules those waves!



Rick, Scarlett — come quick!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...



Check it out—a mother seal and her baby!

And they're MONK seals! Awesome!

Looks as if Mom is watching over her pup while he learns to swim.

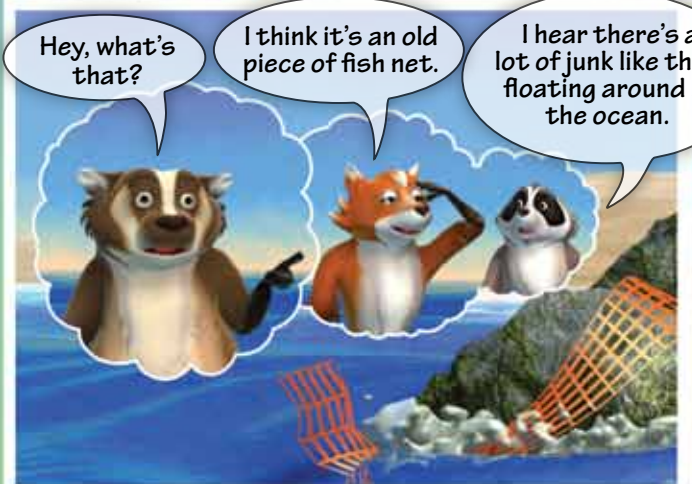
Good thing. Seals need to be expert swimmers to catch food—and escape from sharks.



Brrrip, brrrip!



Actually, he can swim pretty well already.



Hey, what's that?
I think it's an old piece of fish net.
I hear there's a lot of junk like that floating around in the ocean.



Brrrip? Brrrip?



BRRRUP!



The pup is playing with the net, and Mom doesn't like it!



The pup is getting tangled up!

Come on—let's go!



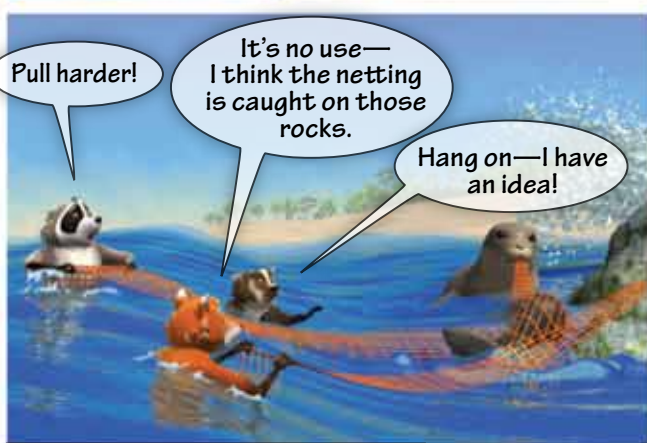
Help us! Help us, PLEASE!



Surf's too rough to do that here. Let's get him to shore.

We need to untangle him!

OK, everyone start pulling!



Pull harder!

It's no use—I think the netting is caught on those rocks.

Hang on—I have an idea!



BOOMER TRIES TO CHEW THROUGH THE PLASTIC NETTING.

This stuff is TOUGH!



Hurry, Boomer!



It's free! Start pulling!

A LITTLE WHILE LATER...



Oh, thank you! I don't know what I'd do if I lost another pup!



Wow—you've had it rough.

Isn't anyone trying to help Hawaiian monk seals?

Yes, people are trying to help us in many ways, so we have hope that things will get better.



The pup I raised last year got tangled in some old fishing line and drowned.

THE MOTHER SEAL ALSO EXPLAINS THAT PEOPLE CATCH TOO MUCH OF THE SAME SEAFOOD THAT MONK SEALS NEED TO SURVIVE.



Hey, where's my pup?

And where's Boomer?



Look—over there!



Not only will my pup grow up to be a great swimmer, he'll also be the world's only surfboardin' seal!

MORE FACTS

- Many years ago, Hawaiian monk seals were hunted for their fur. Today, hunting them is against the law, but there are only about 1,100 of them left.
- Monk seals still face many problems. Besides floating junk and less prey, global warming could make sea levels rise—and cover the beaches where the seals mate and have their pups.
- People are working hard to help monk seals. They're hoping to slow down global warming, and they're trying to do a better job of keeping the oceans free of

junk. Also, the U.S. government has set aside the northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and the ocean all around them, as a wildlife safety zone. Only a few people are allowed to enter this zone. That will allow the seals to live in peace, with more fish, lobsters, and other creatures left for them to eat.

- And what about that long Hawaiian name for monk seals that Boomer was trying to learn? It means "dog that runs in rough waters."

