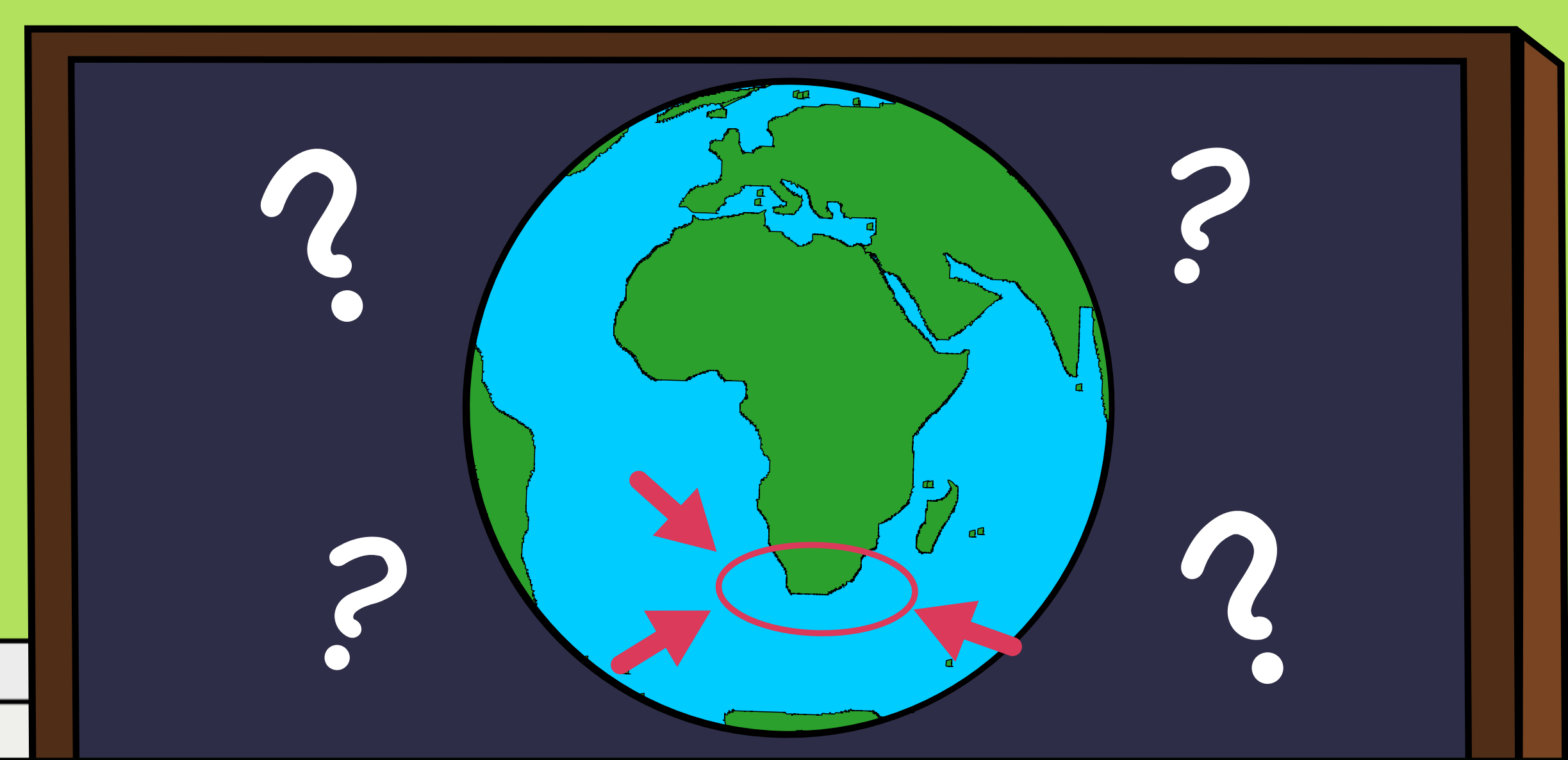


**S FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

I'm a **marine biologist.**

I ask questions about the oceans...



...such as "**Which fish live in South Africa?**".

To find the answer, I could search for all the fish, but I'd need to go scuba diving and fishing. It'd take a **long time** and be very **expensive.**



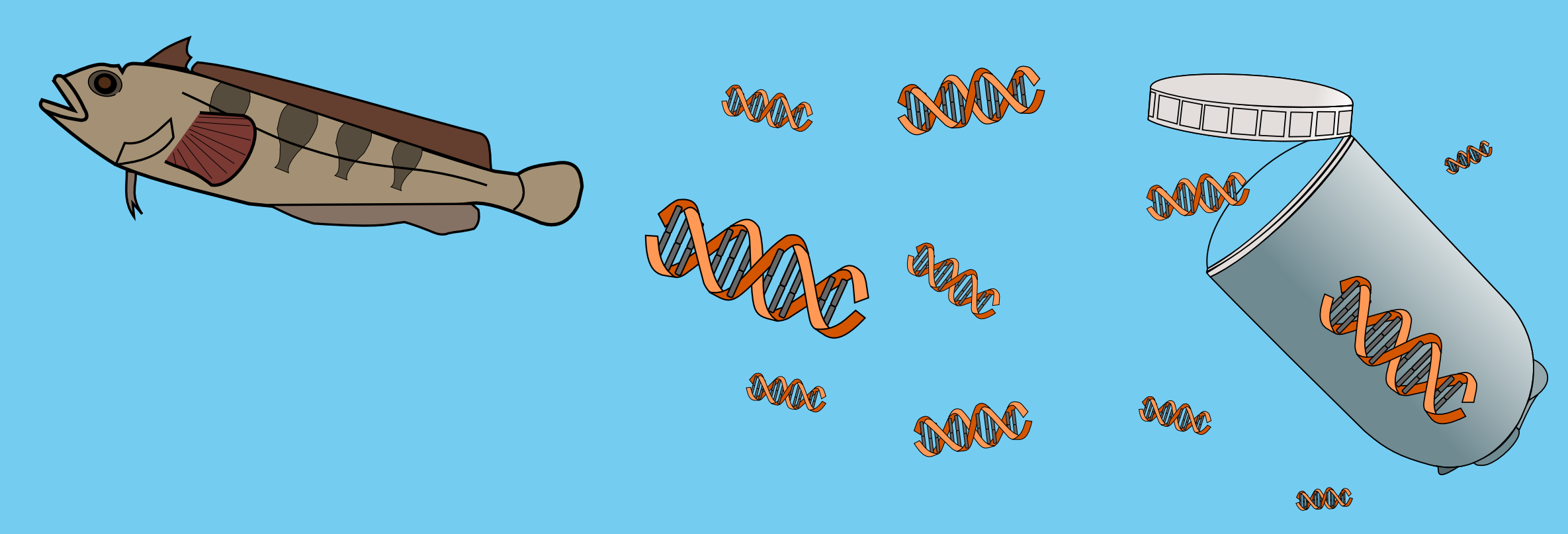
I probably still wouldn't find them all!

So instead, I look for the trails that the fish leave behind...



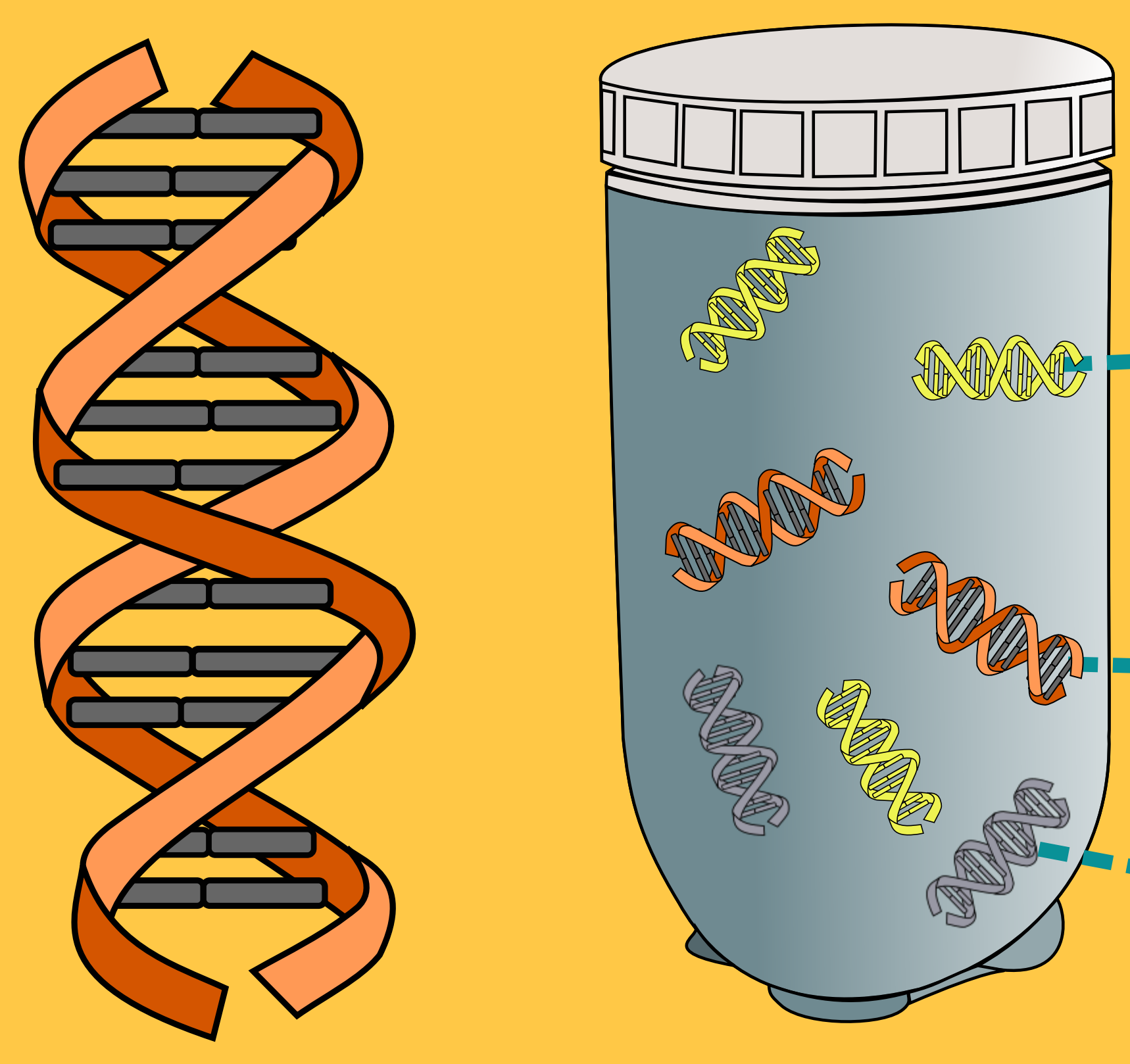
It's similar to following their footprints.

Fish leave a **trail of DNA** behind them when they swim.

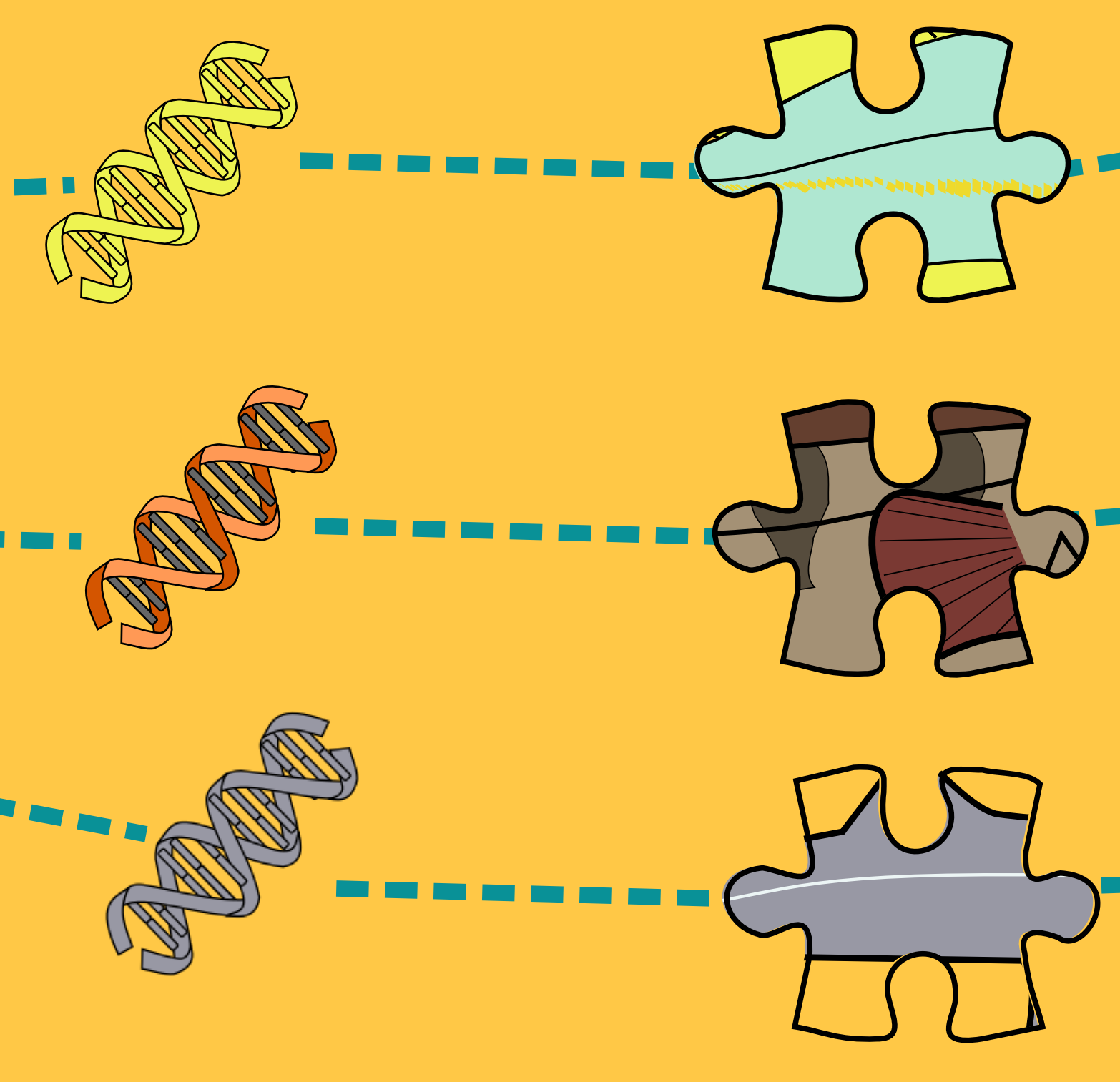


I collect seawater which contains the DNA trails of lots of these fishes.

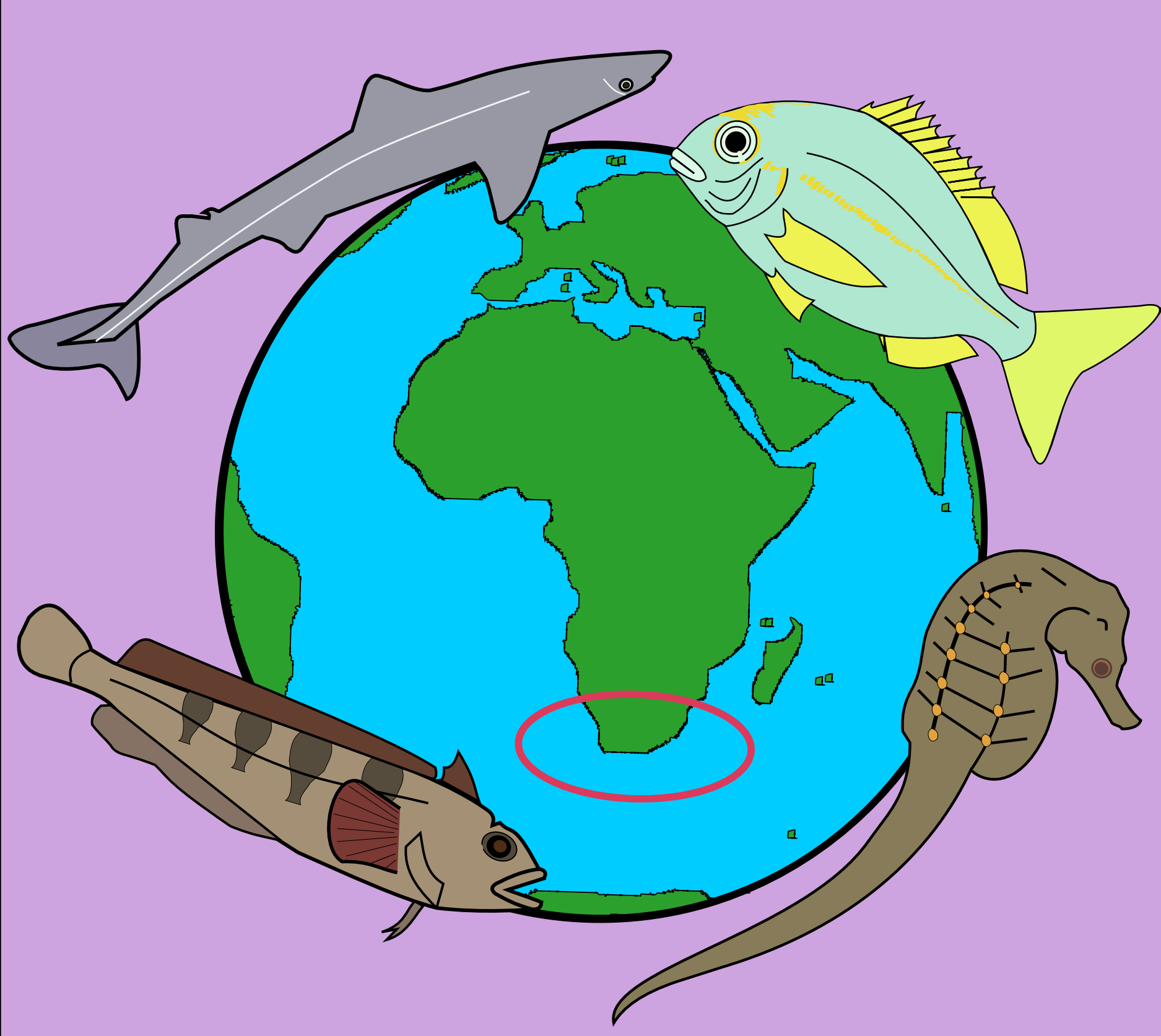
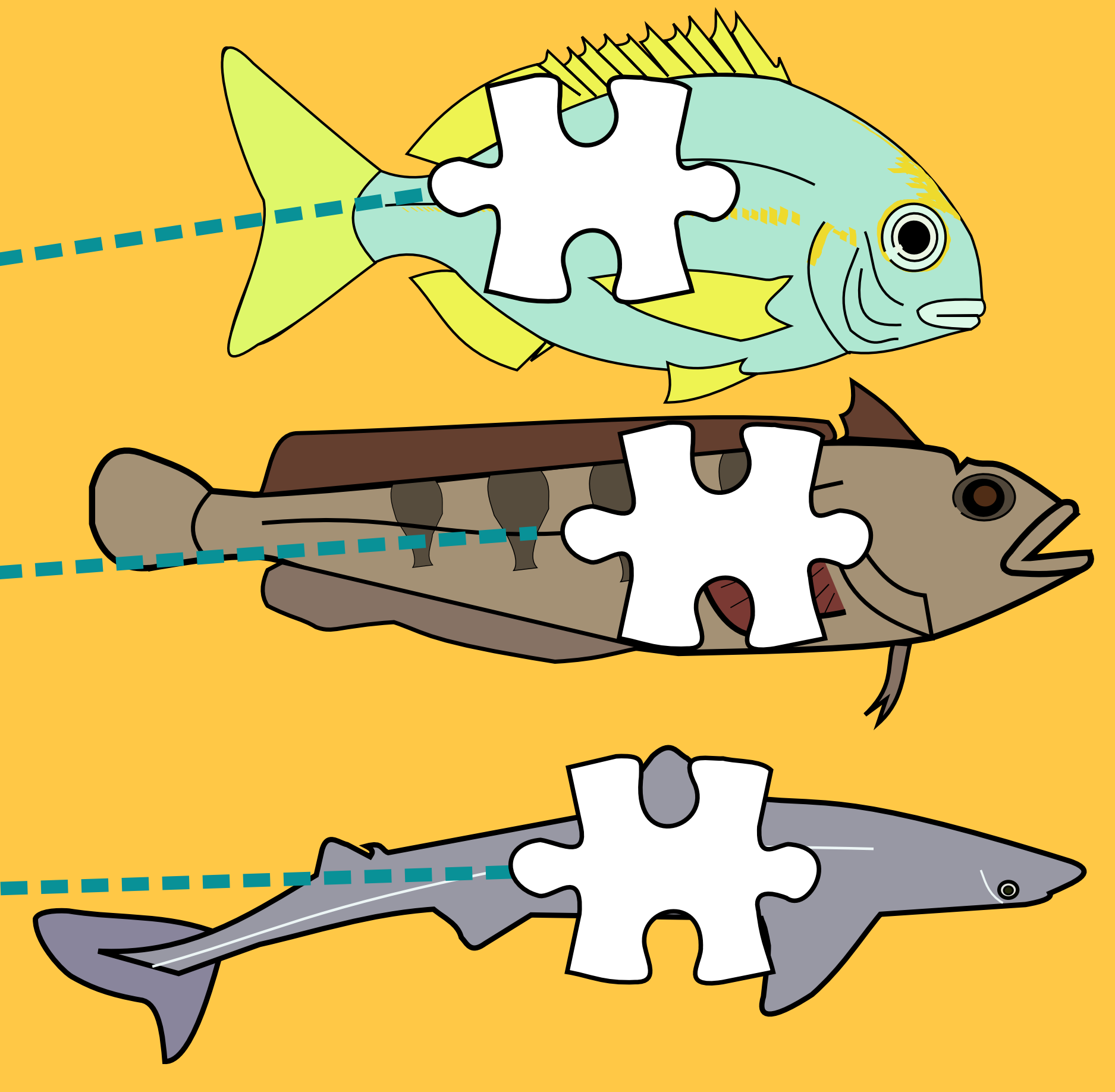
One bottle of seawater can contain the DNA of hundreds of fishes!



I take the DNA out of the water, and work out which types of fish the DNA has come from.



It's like completing a puzzle, and working out which DNA belongs to who.



It is important that we do this so we can work out where the different fishes live, even the ones that would be hard to find. The more we can learn about fishes, the more we can do to **help them** when they are being threatened by **climate change** and **overfishing.**

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