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THE SUMMER WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED

This whole story begins on a camping night with my friends. Like every night, we met in Sam's tent. Every night we talked about a different topic, but that night we didn't think we would be so shocked by what we were about to hear.

That night we talked about the holidays we could never forget. We all had interesting stories to tell, full of emotion and adventure, from surfing to climbing or going to the snow to practise skiing. But when it was Billy's turn to tell his story, his face changed completely. His story was not as amazing as the previous ones, but it was full of great lessons.

'This happened in 2019. Every summer I spend my holidays in San Javier, a town in Murcia where there is a beach, as you know I have family there on my father's side.

This year I thought it would be like any other, as fun as ever, but it wasn't. Like every morning, my cousin and I went to the Mar Menor and, thinking that everything would be as usual, we found thousands of dead fish and crustaceans all along the coast. We saw sea bass, eels, sea bream, even crabs.

When we saw it, we didn't know what to do, we thought that all the fun of the holiday had gone, because we loved diving and finding new fish to put in our Mar Menor fish album. As soon as we saw the tragedy, we looked for a professional to investigate what had happened and ended up helping him.

When we looked into it, we came to the conclusion that it was not quite finished, but that it was one of the reasons why so many fish were dying. The expert explained to us that one of the reasons could be the consequences of the cold snap that had occurred a few weeks before. Some draughts that created some pockets without oxygen, which did not benefit the fauna of the place.

In addition, it could have released a large amount of water full of pollutants from nearby beaches, which also caused thousands of fish to die. This was also caused by the farmers in the area who over-fertilised the land with nitrates, which caused the water to leak out into the sea.

When we were able to catch the fish to look at them, some had plastic on their heads, we even saw that some had bits of garbage in their stomachs, we couldn't believe it, it was like being in a nightmare.

We realised that when we go to the beach, we often leave things on the sand that later end up in the sea and even worse in the necks or stomachs of hundreds of fish.

When we came home at night, my cousins and I wrote a letter to the town council and to the local newspaper to have it published, so that all the citizens could realise that there were fewer and fewer fish and marine life. From then on, everyone began to take more care of the sea and marine life and we are all trying to do our best to restore what has always been my home'.

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