

# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

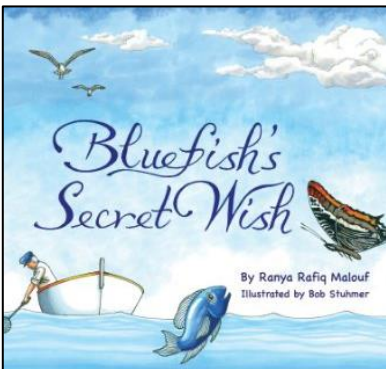
## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND



### COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **May 24:** *Soundside Science & Story Time* for ages 3-5, 10 AM
- **Applications Now Being Accepted** for our Summer Camps! Check them out at [www.coresound.com/camp](http://www.coresound.com/camp)

### Sound Reading Material For You & Your Child



### Bluefish's Secret Wish

By Ranya Rafiq Malouf

Sara is a blue fish who has a very unusual dream; she wishes that she had wings so that she can fly like a bird. Sara doesn't for one moment believe that her dream could come true. Instead, she accepts her life in the sea, playing with her friends. Then one day something magical happens that turns her life upside down. This picture book story explores the idea that dreams can come true.

Grade Level: K-2  
Pages: 34

## The Blues

Growing up I remember local fishermen sharing stories about all the bluefish they caught this time of year. Daddy always reminded them how good they had it because their nets were no longer made of cotton. You see, bluefish would tear up a cotton net with their sharp teeth. Fishermen of daddy's youth spent every minute they had mending huge holes after bluefish were cleared and nets were drug overboard to rinse out blood, soaked with a lime solution prepared in 55-gallon drum, and hung on net spreads to dry. Fishermen of my youth enjoyed monofilament or nylon nets which held up much better against a bluefish battle.

Once when Daddy was a teen, Donnie and Mart Lewis had a bluefish encounter worth retelling nearly sixty-five years later! One of the brothers set his nets on a shoal off the tip of Cape Point. Even at high tide there wasn't enough water for his forty-foot boat, so he set his net on the east side of the shoal and waited for the tide to push it across. Once this happened, he began pulling up the net on the west side. There were so many bluefish in his net that he waved over his brother who was fishing close by to help bring them in to Granddaddy Henry's fish house. Daddy remembers the brothers pulling up to the dock with two boatloads of blues and a bloody, mangled net that told a story of an amazing bluefish battle.

Bluefish are greenish-blue along their backs fading to silver on their sides and bellies. They have large mouths and prominent, piranha-like teeth. The lower jaw juts out noticeably. The dorsal fin is divided into two sections with the first section about half as long and high as the second. The second dorsal fin is nearly the same size as the anal fin.

Bluefish have aggressive feeding habits, eating butterfish, menhaden, round herring, silversides, anchovies, sea trout, croaker, spot, shrimp, lobster, crabs, worms, other bluefish and more.



photo from [britannica.com/animal/bluefish](http://britannica.com/animal/bluefish)

## A Saltwater Life

Mary Rose's mother and father were Hopie Rose Smith and Nick F. Smith. Her maternal grandparents were James C. Rose and Mary Lewis Rose. Mary married Rodney in 1973 when she was just fifteen years old. They married in South Carolina and worked at her grandfather's boat house, Rose Brothers Boat Works, for two years before beginning their commercial fishing venture. Mary and Rodney started with 200 yards of net and a 16' skiff. They went to the Cape every night catching bluefish and spots. Mary loved it.

Some of Mary's best memories are later fishing with her husband in the ocean. They fished in a thirty-four feet boat that they built themselves! The thrill of catching and clearing fish as fast as possible before bad weather set in was exhilarating. The pair often had to think fast to steer clear of dangerous obstacles. Mary said they often caught and cleared 5,000 pounds of fish a day. She recalls being in sync with each other and making an outstanding team.

Mary has done many different things over the years, but they have all centered around her love of the water, seafood, and her customers. Meeting people while forming bonds and friendships keeps her going. The folks who have supported her family for more than four decades are special. Not everything has been easy, though, for a life on the water makes it hard to spend time with family outside of business. Mary considers herself fortunate to have her family work in the water and business with her. This allows her to spend as much time as possible with her husband and two daughters.

When asked what the hardest part of her career has been, Mary said scalloping in the '80s and '90s. She reflected, "Our limit back then was forty bushels twice a week. We often had to go in bad weather, and we opened all our scallops ourselves. Catching them and opening eighty bushels a week was absolutely exhausting work."

Mary says the good has outweighed the bad over the years, though, and shared a special memory of when her oldest daughter Heather was about three years old. "We were clamming at the Banks, and she was so small I couldn't leave her in the boat, so I put her in my clam tub. I was clamming as hard as I could and when I looked to check on Heather, she was throwing my clams back overboard. She said, 'They're in my way!' It was so adorable."

Down East is a special place for Mary because of its natural beauty and sense of community. Each sound, river, creek, and marsh bring back memories for her of working on the water. Mary's family's legacy is their commitment to continuing the traditions of commercial fishing.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know Mary a little better. She has exemplified fortitude and grit for me throughout my life. When I asked her for some final wisdom, she did not disappoint with these words, "Women from Down East made commercial fishing possible. Behind the scenes they opened clams, oysters, headed shrimp, mended nets, picked crabs, etc. Girls should be proud of their heritage. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something because you are a woman. With hard work and determination, you can do anything!"



Mary & Rodney Rose