



**Blue Ocean Society
For Marine Conservation**

**Marine Life
Passport**

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INTRODUCTION TO YOUR PASSPORT

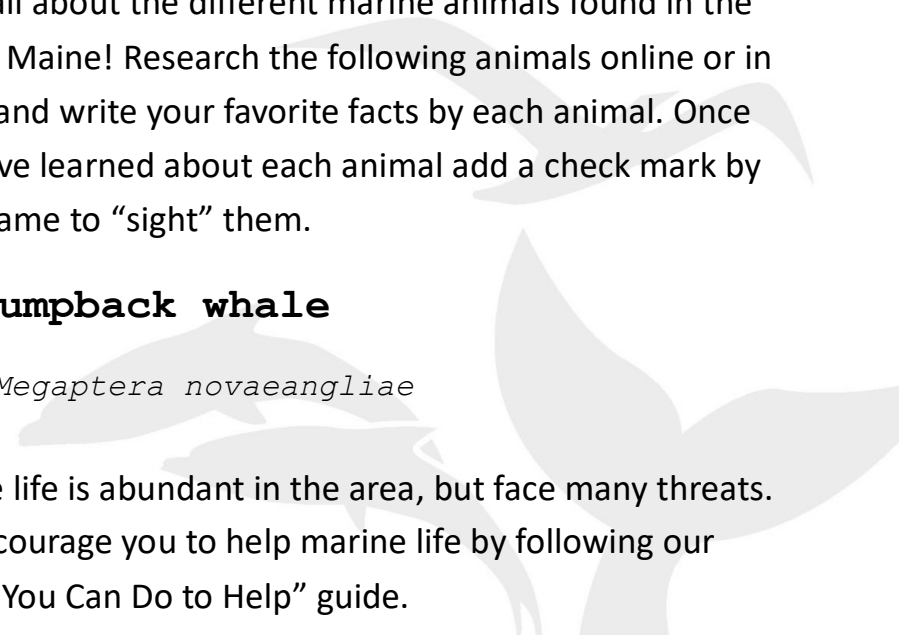
Welcome to the Gulf of Maine!

Learn all about the different marine animals found in the Gulf of Maine! Research the following animals online or in books and write your favorite facts by each animal. Once you have learned about each animal add a check mark by their name to “sight” them.

Humpback whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

Marine life is abundant in the area, but face many threats. We encourage you to help marine life by following our “What You Can Do to Help” guide.



What You Can Do to Help Marine Wildlife

No matter how far away from the coast you live, you can make choices that help marine life every day.

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Refuse single-use plastics whenever possible, reduce the amount of plastic in your daily life, choose reusable products, and recycle the plastic you do use in the appropriate containers.

Choose Natural Fibers in Clothing

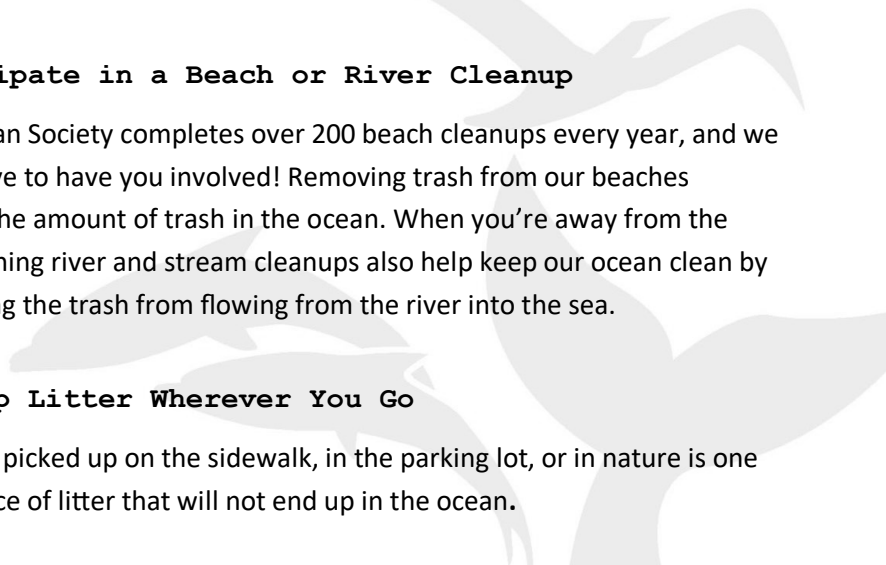
Synthetic fabrics shed plastic microfibers, polluting our waters. Choose natural cotton, wool, hemp, or silk instead, for example.

Participate in a Beach or River Cleanup

Blue Ocean Society completes over 200 beach cleanups every year, and we would love to have you involved! Removing trash from our beaches reduces the amount of trash in the ocean. When you're away from the coast, joining river and stream cleanups also help keep our ocean clean by preventing the trash from flowing from the river into the sea.

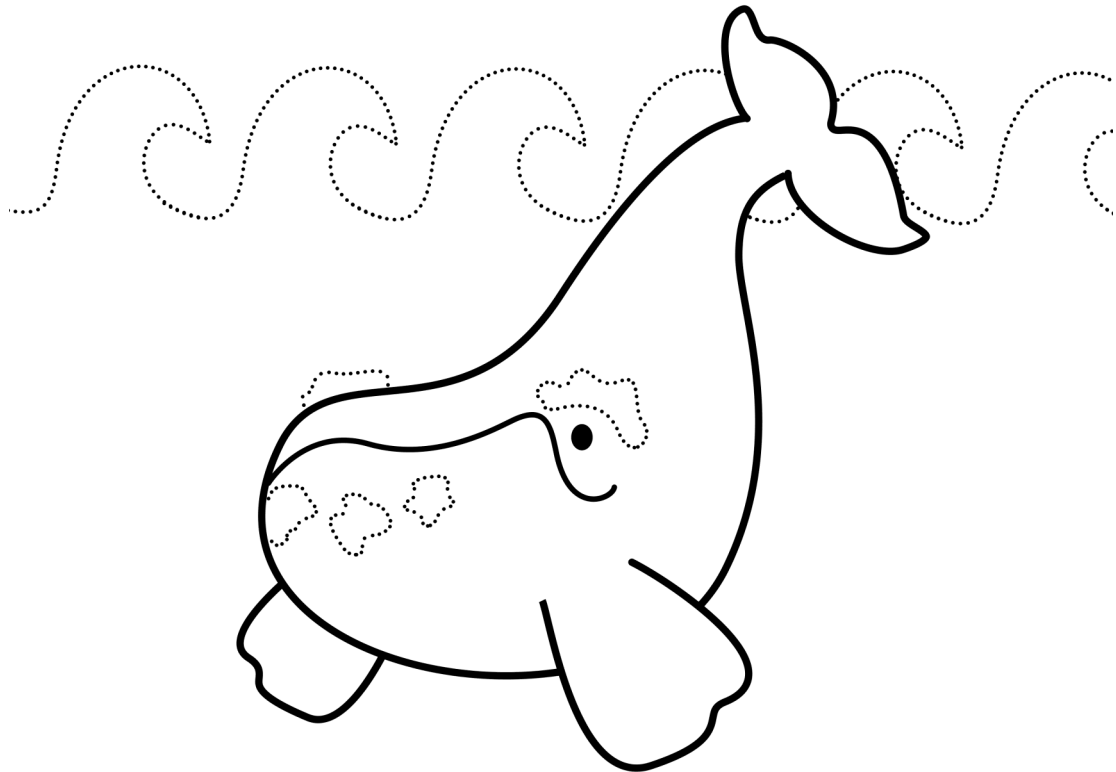
Pick Up Litter Wherever You Go

Any litter picked up on the sidewalk, in the parking lot, or in nature is one more piece of litter that will not end up in the ocean.



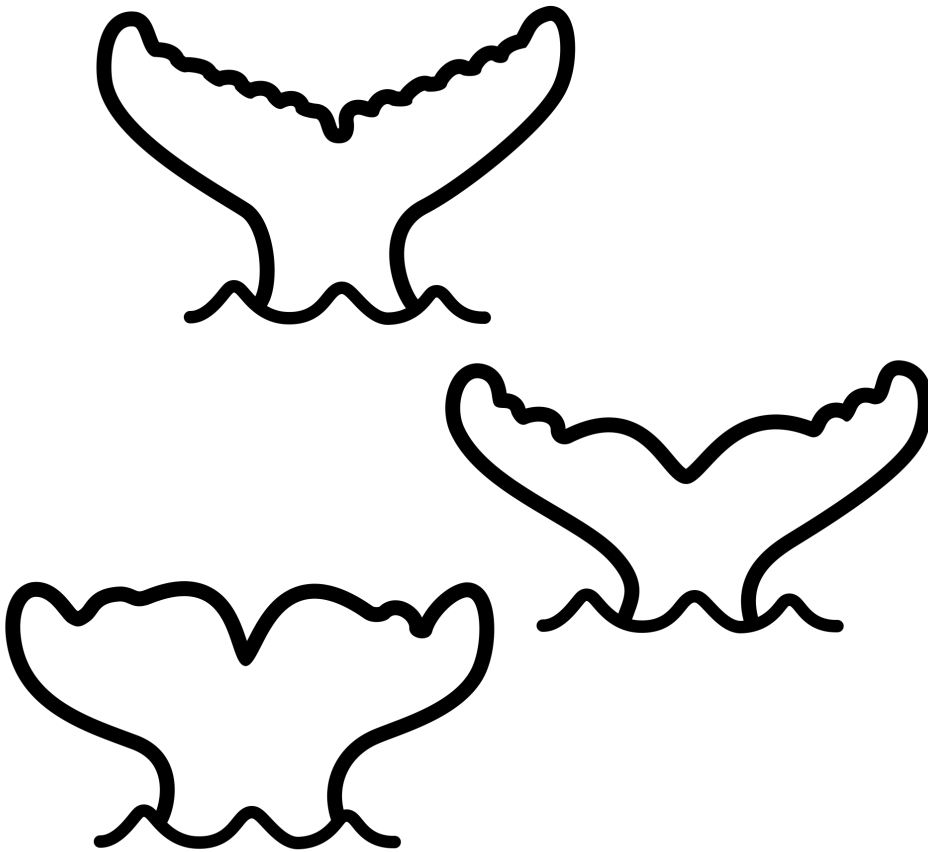
Right Whales

North Atlantic right whales are currently endangered due to historical whaling and present day ship strikes and entanglement. They are identified by the large white patches, called callosities on their heads. Draw in your own callosities below!



Humpback Whales

Known for their energetic displays such as breaching and tail slapping, humpbacks are frequently observed in the Gulf of Maine. Each whale can be identified by the markings on their tail flukes and are named based on their markings. Design and name your own whales below!



- Humpback whale:** *Megaptera novaeangliae*

- North Atlantic right whale:** *Eubalaena glacialis*

- Fin whale:** *Balaenoptera physalus*

- Minke whale:** *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*



A humpback whale breaches in the Gulf of Maine. Photo by Dianna Schulte.

Atlantic white-sided dolphin: *Lagenorhynchus acutus*

Short-beaked common dolphin: *Delphinus delphis*

Harbor porpoise: *Phocoena phocoena*



A common dolphin swims next to members of its pod. Photo by Dianna Schulte.

Harbor Seals

Harbor seals are the most commonly observed seals in the Gulf of Maine and surrounding beaches. They are carnivorous, with a diet of mostly fish and crustaceans. Remember to give them plenty of space if you see them on the beach, and you can call the local rescue group if you think a seal might be injured or sick. Color in your own seal below!

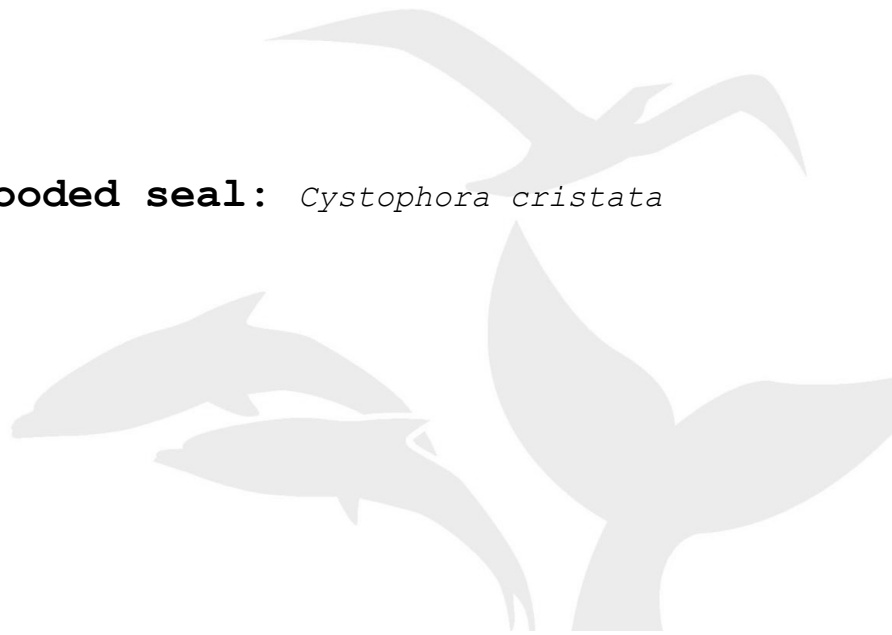


Harbor seal: *Phoca vitulina*

Gray seal: *Halichoerus grypus*

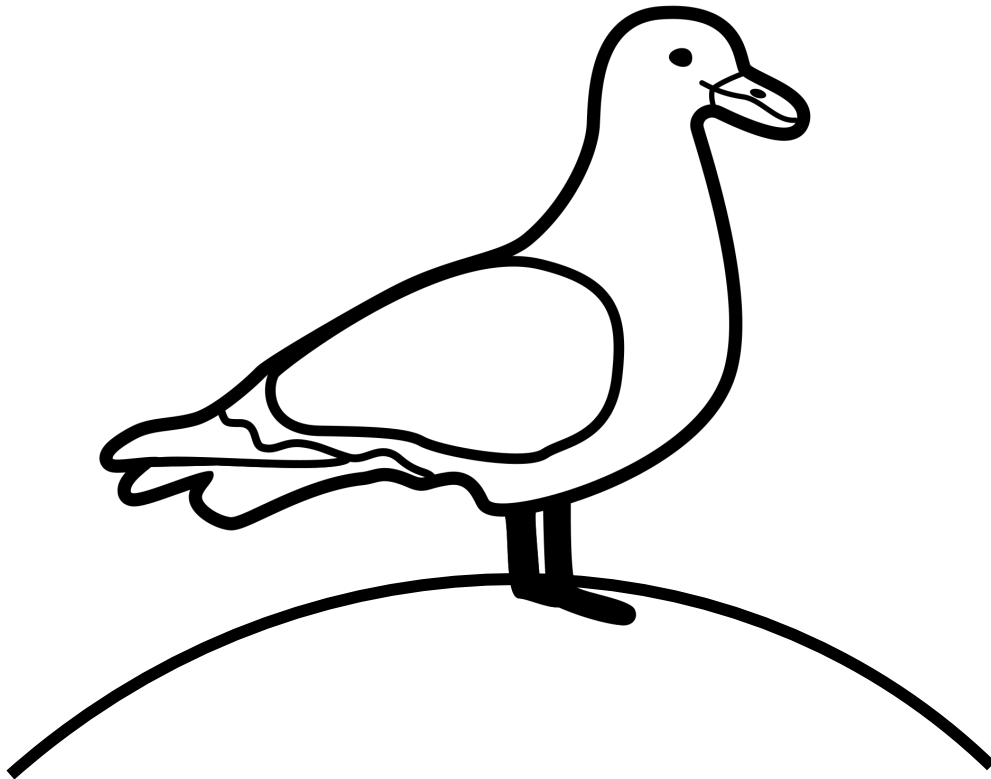
Harp seal: *Pagophilus groenlandicus*

Hooded seal: *Cystophora cristata*



Herring Gull

Herring gulls are frequently observed on beaches and in coastal areas. They are scavengers, competing with other herring gulls for scraps of food on the beach and with other seabirds on the surface of the water. During the warm summer months, they can even be found around the Great Lakes.



Wilson's storm petrel: *Oceanites oceanicus*

Great shearwater: *Puffinus gravis*

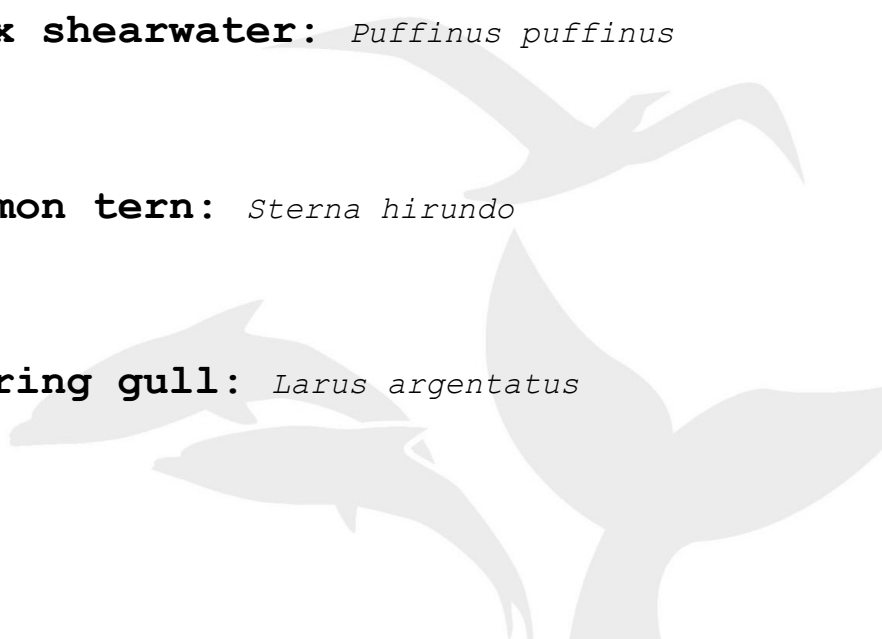
Sooty shearwater: *Ardenna grisea*

Cory's shearwater: *Calonectris borealis*

Manx shearwater: *Puffinus puffinus*

Common tern: *Sterna hirundo*

Herring gull: *Larus argentatus*



- Great black-backed gull:** *Larus marinus*

- Norther fulmar:** *Fulmarus glacialis*

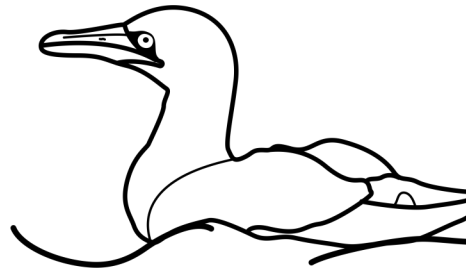
- Common loon:** *Gavia immer*

- Double crested cormorant:** *Phalacrocorax auritus*

- Northern gannet:** *Morus bassanus*

- Common eider:** *Somateria mollissima*

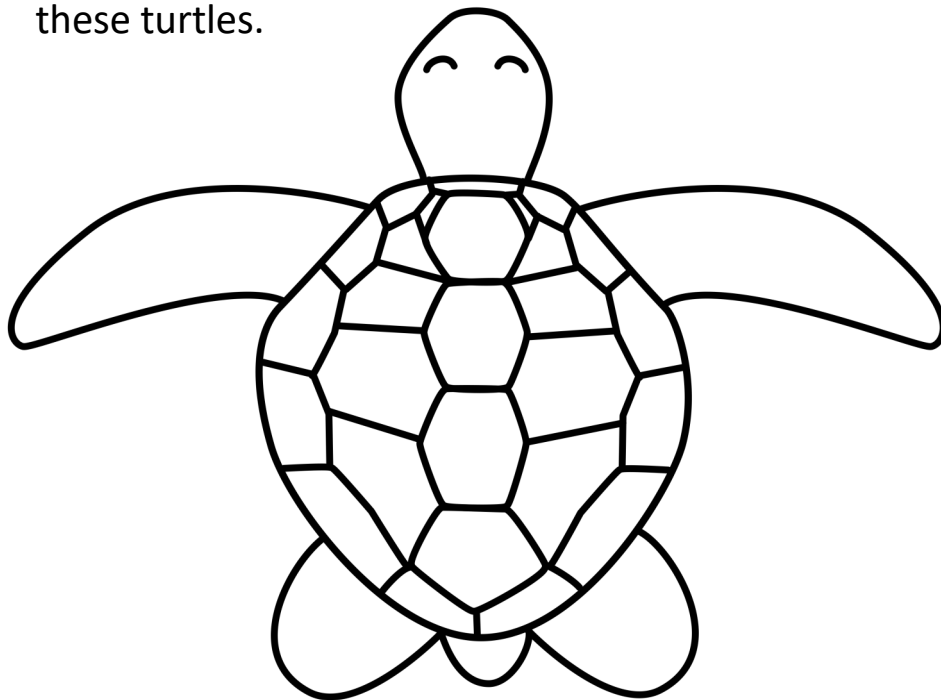
- Red-necked phalarope:** *Phalaropus lobatus*



Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle

Kemp's Ridley sea turtles are most commonly observed in warmer, tropical waters further south of New England, but young sea turtles sometimes visit our shores during warm summer months.

When traveling back to tropical waters, many sea turtles each year become trapped along the hook of Cape Cod, confused by the unusual shape of the shoreline. There are rescue teams in place to help these turtles.



- Green sea turtle:** *Chelonia mydas*

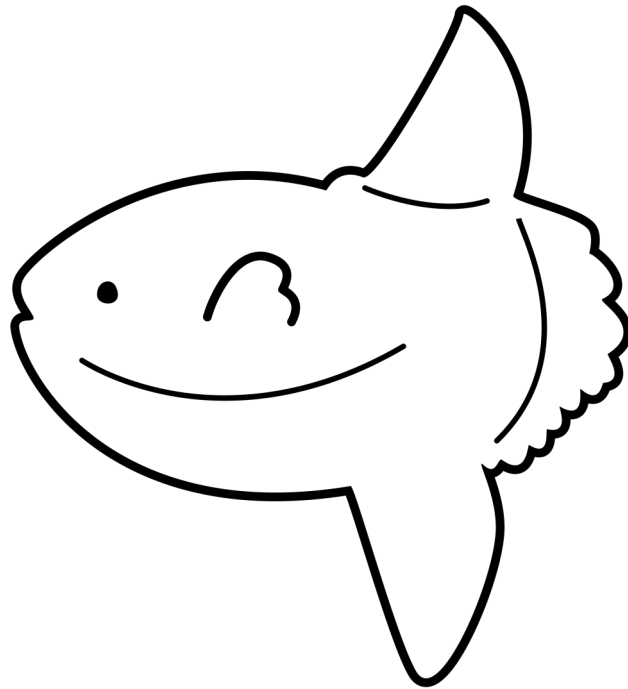
- Kemp's ridley sea turtle:** *Lepido-
chelys kempii*

- Loggerhead sea turtle:** *Caretta
caretta*

- Leatherback sea turtle:** *Dermo-
chelys coriacea*

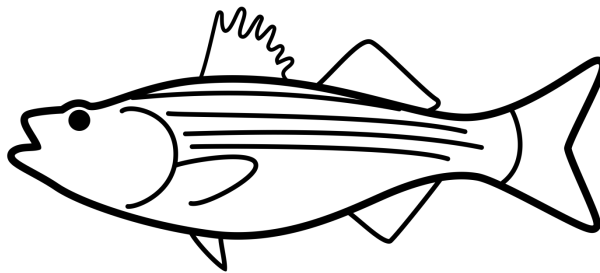
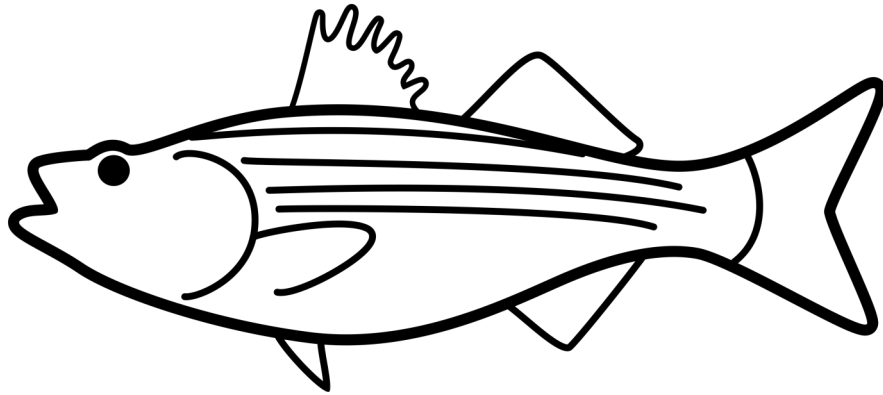
Ocean Sunfish

The ocean sunfish is the largest species of bony fish in the world, with some adults weighing in at over 2,000 pounds. Their round, flattened shape and large fins give them a striking appearance. The commonly observed behavior of basking in the sun at the surface of the water while on their side is what gives them the name sunfish, and they can sometimes be sighted during whale watching trips this way.



Ocean sunfish: *Mola mola*

Striped bass: *Morone saxatilis*



Asian Shore Crab

Asian shore crabs are a small tidepool species of crab that is invasive in the United States. Their natural range is in the Pacific Ocean, stretching from Russia to Japan. In the late 1980s, they were accidentally introduced to the East Coast of the USA, and they are now invasive in rocky intertidal habitats from Maine to North Carolina. Full grown Asian shore crabs are about 1.5 inches wide and they have an omnivorous diet of seagrass, algae, and other invertebrate species.



An Asian shore crab, as seen in tidepools of New England. Photo by Cathy Silver.

Barnacle: *Balanus balanoides*

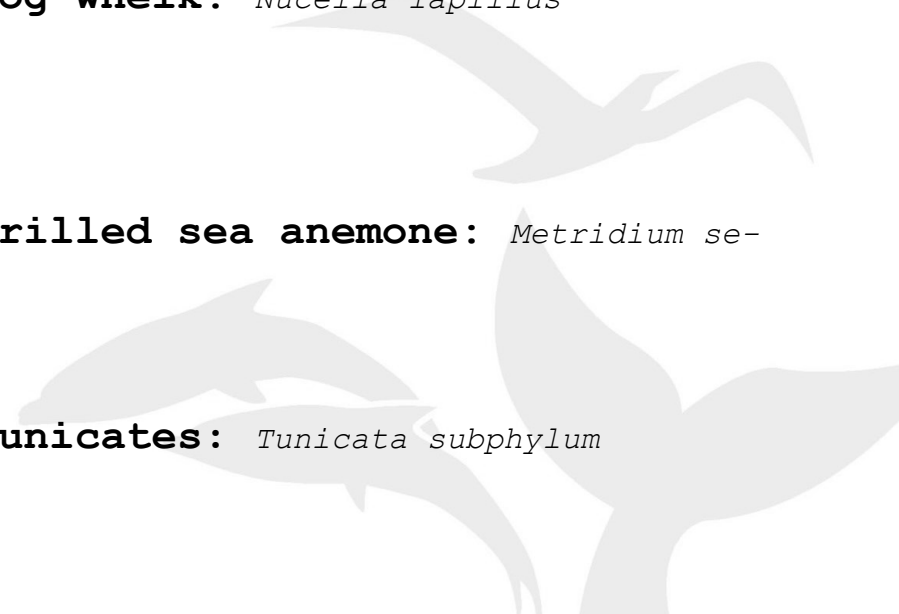
Blue mussel: *Mytilus edulis*

Periwinkle: *Littorina littorea*

Dog whelk: *Nucella lapillus*

Frilled sea anemone: *Metridium senile*

Tunicates: *Tunicata subphylum*



- Sea star:** *Asterias rubens*

- Sea urchin:** *Strongylocentrotus droe-*
bachiensis

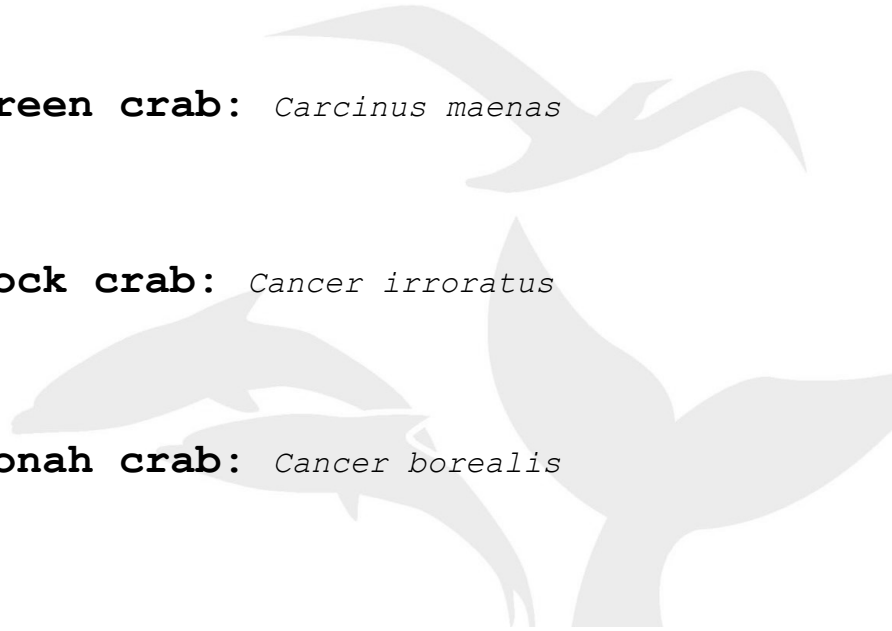
- American lobster:** *Homarus americanus*

- Asian shore crab:** *Hemigrapsus san-*
guineus

- Green crab:** *Carcinus maenas*

- Rock crab:** *Cancer irroratus*

- Jonah crab:** *Cancer borealis*





Our Mission:

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit that protects marine life in the Gulf of Maine through research, education and inspiring action.

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www.blueoceansociety.org

Your support ensures the future of our research and educational programs. Thank you!

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Cover photos by Dianna Schulte