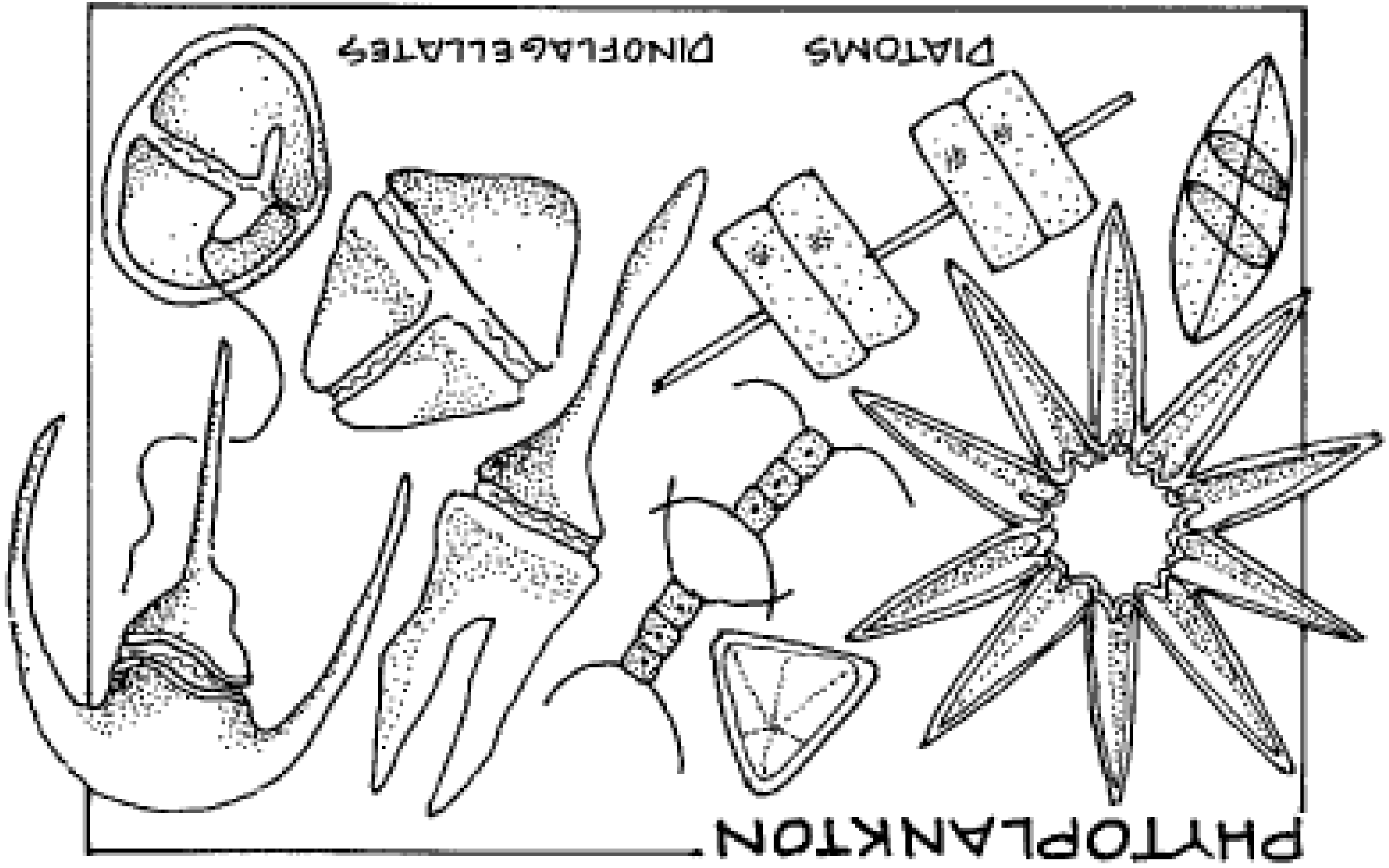


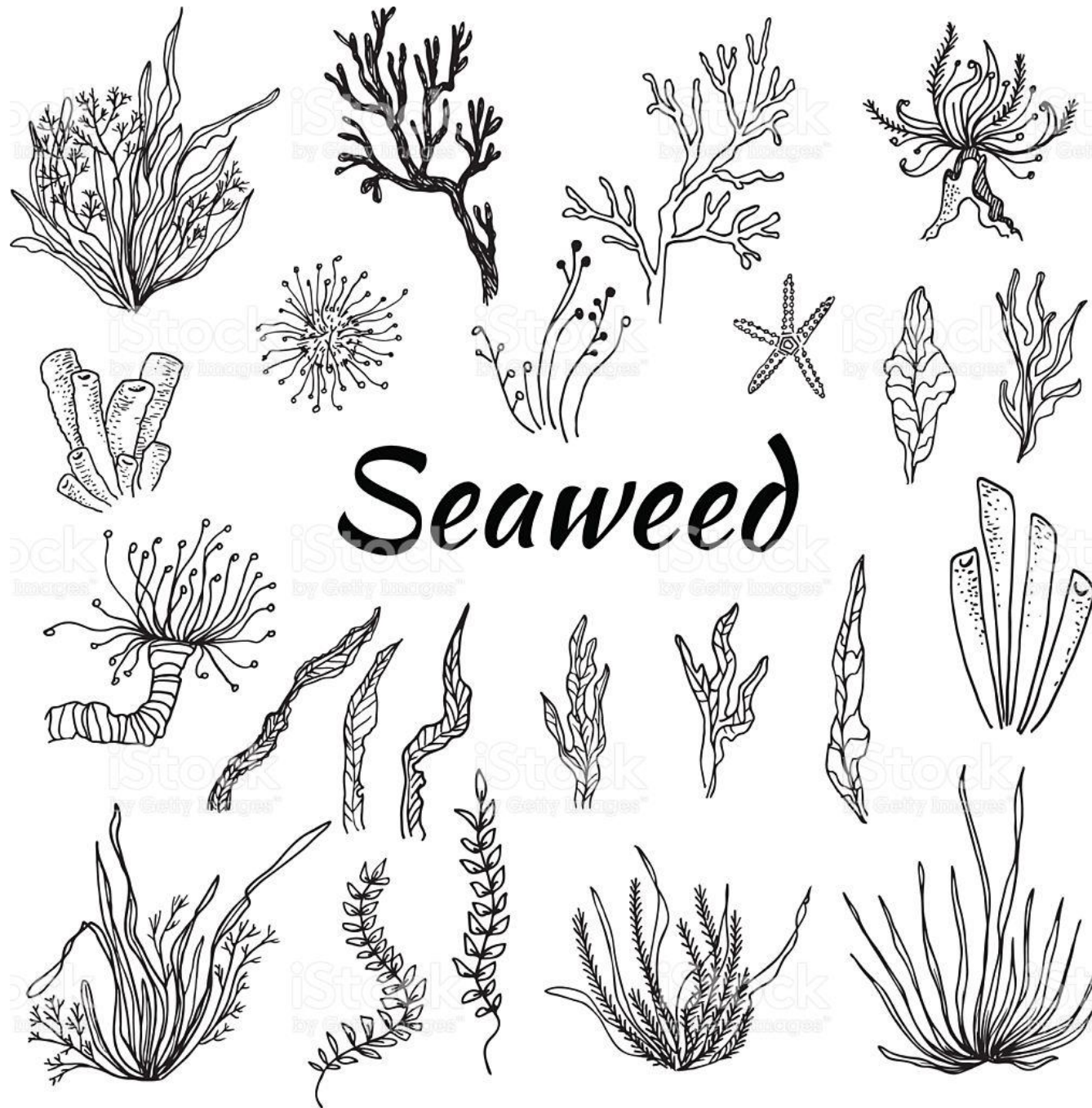
The Sun

- What am I?
 - The sun is the main source of energy for life on Earth
- What do I eat?
 - Energy is transferred from the sun by producers, who make their own energy from the sun using photosynthesis, and are then eaten by consumers



Phytoplankton

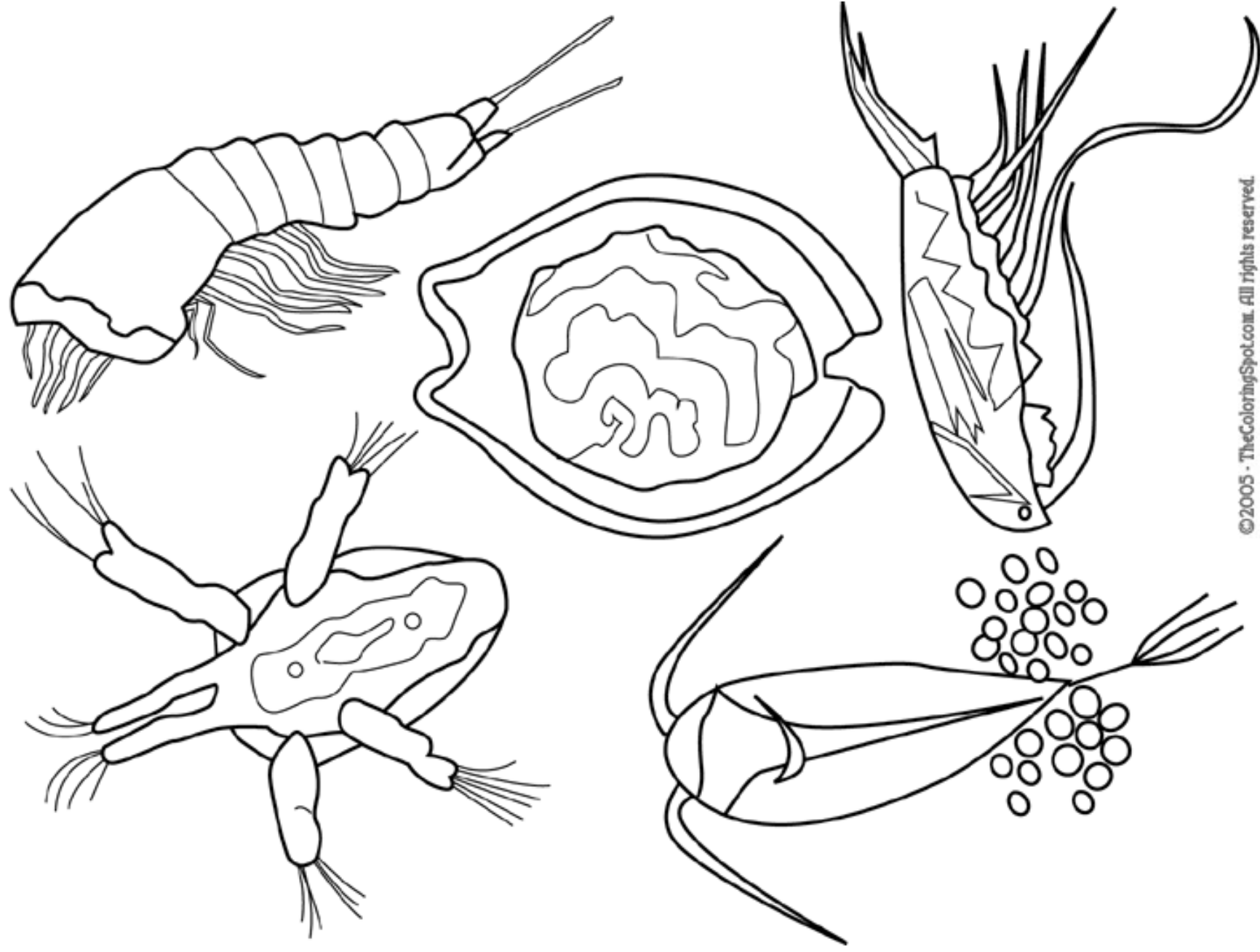
- What am I?
 - Phytoplankton are plant-like plankton (an organism that cannot swim against the current).
- What do I eat?
 - Phytoplankton do photosynthesis, meaning they get their energy from carbon dioxide and the sun, to make sugars (glucose) and oxygen



Seaweed

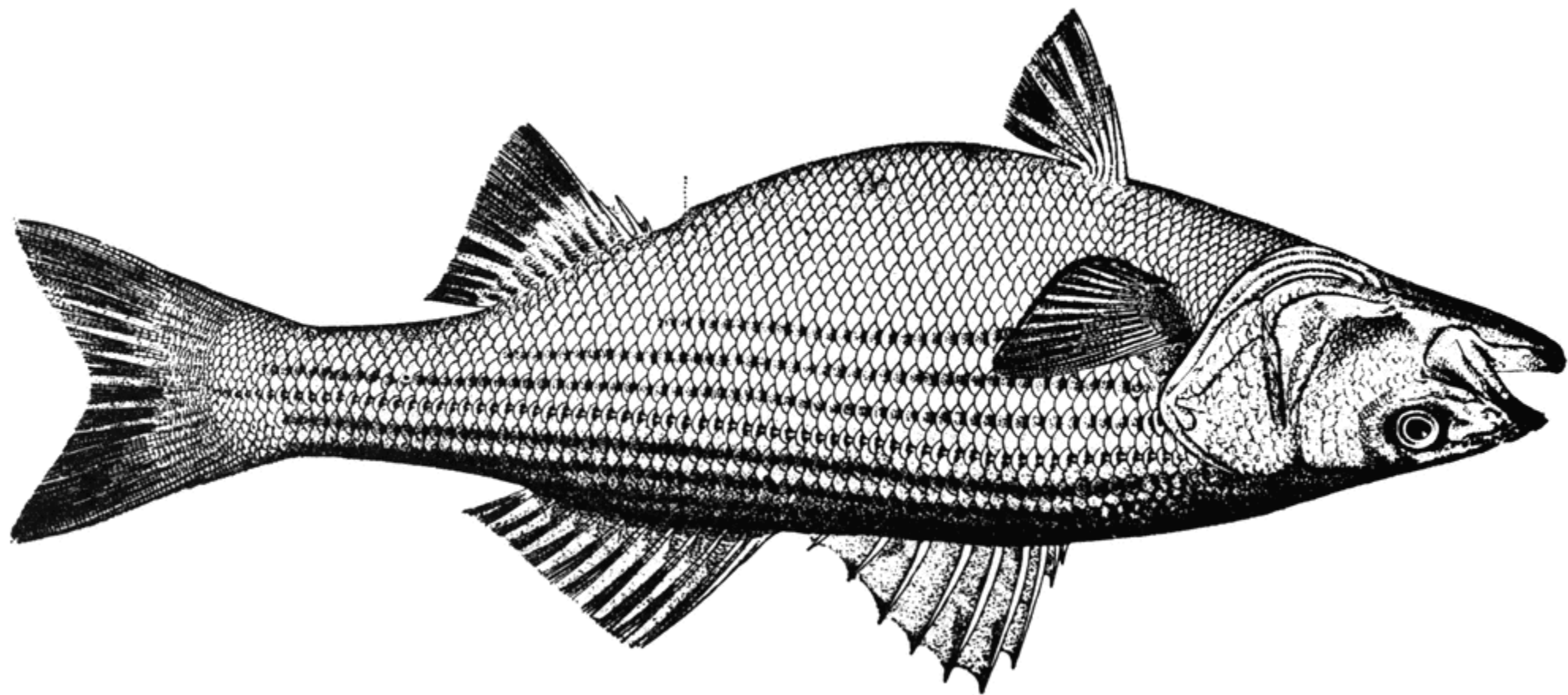
Seaweed

- What am I?
 - Seaweed is a type of plant that grows underwater
- What do I eat?
 - Seaweed do photosynthesis, meaning they get their energy from carbon dioxide and the sun, to make sugars (glucose) and oxygen



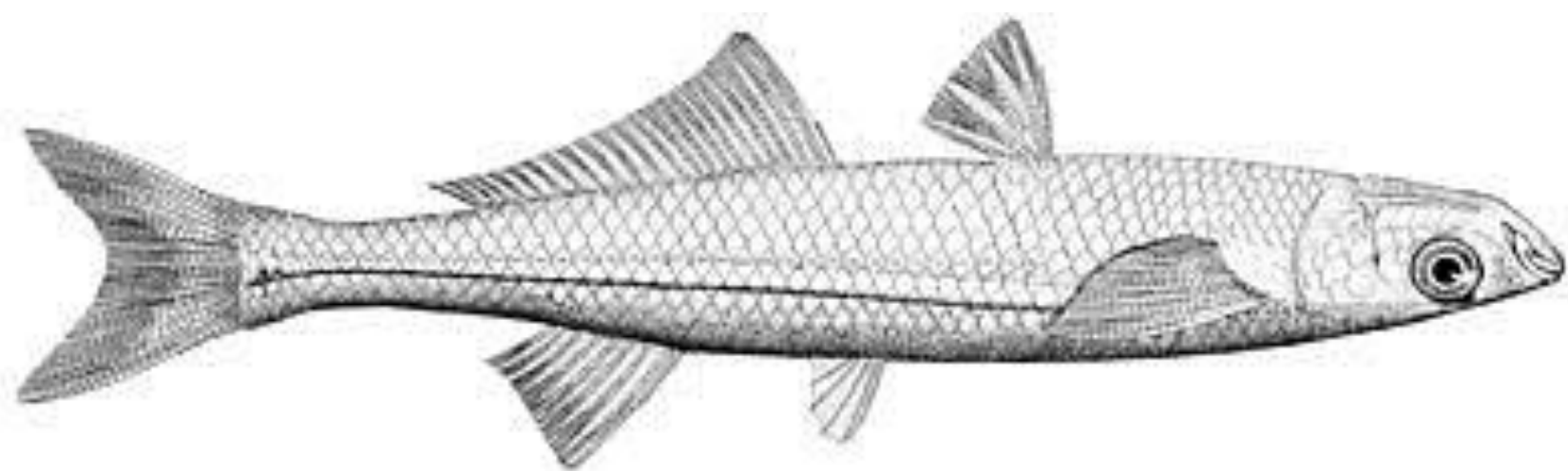
Zooplankton

- What am I?
 - Zooplankton are animal plankton (organisms that cannot swim against the current)
- What do I eat?
 - Zooplankton get their energy from eating phytoplankton, other zooplankton, and larvae (baby fish and other animals)



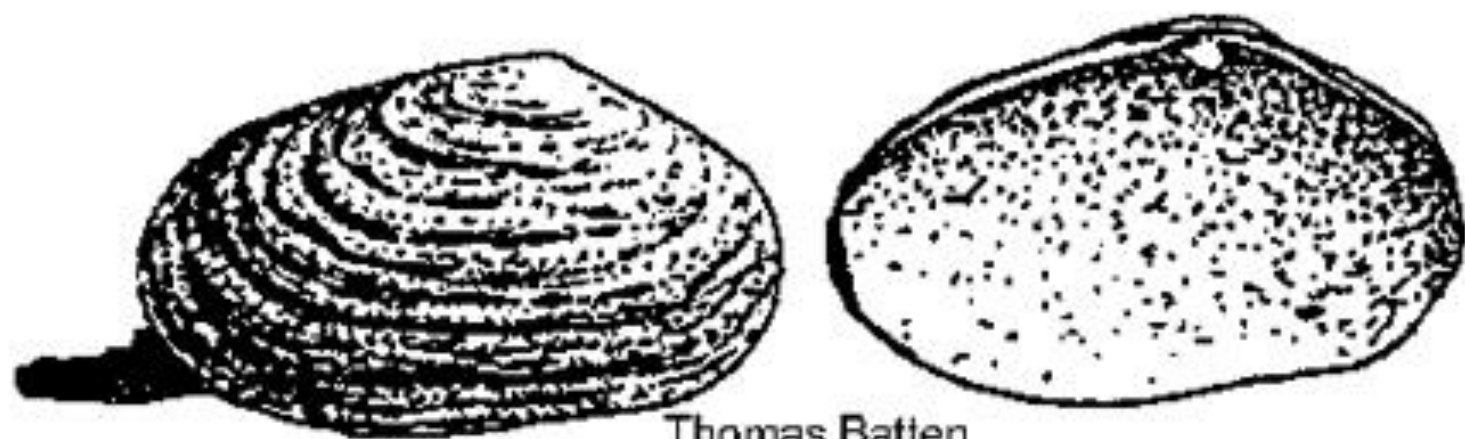
Striped bass

- What am I?
 - Striped bass are one of the top predators of the Hudson River estuary. They are a fish that can grow up to 6 feet long, but spend most of their 20-30 year lives out in the ocean. They come to the estuary to mate and live the first few years of their lives.
- What do I eat?
 - Striped bass eat most other small fishes like Atlantic silversides and mummichogs, as well as small blue crabs and other crustaceans



Atlantic silverside

- What am I?
 - Atlantic silversides are a small bait fish that swim in large schools
- What do I eat?
 - Algae and zooplankton like small crabs, shrimp, worms, and insects



Thomas Batten

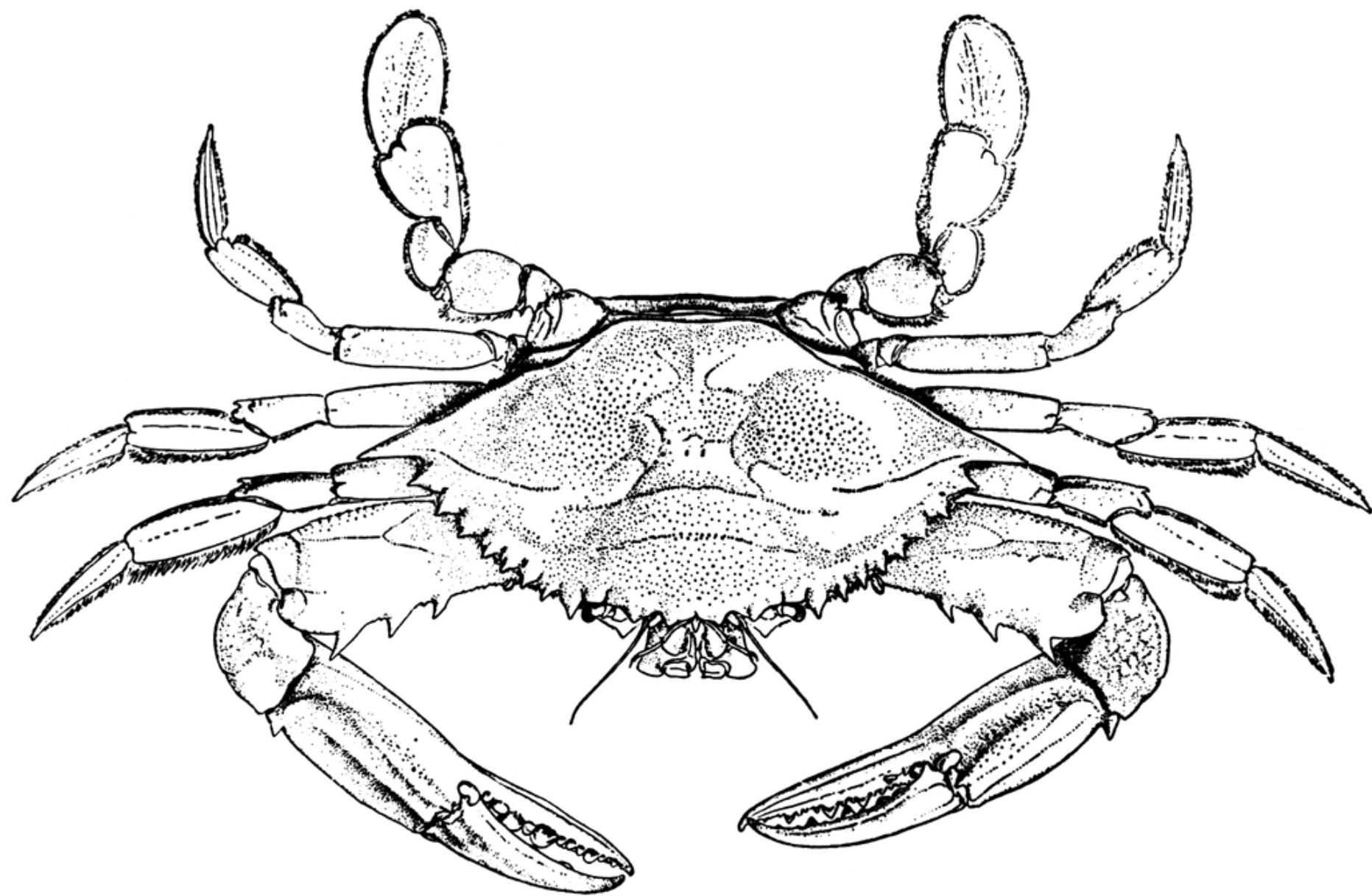
Soft shell clam

- What am I?
 - Soft shell clams are invertebrates, meaning they don't have a backbone. They have hard shells, but they are easily breakable. They're also called "bivalves" because they have two shells. They live in the mud and filter out plankton from the water.
- What do I eat?
 - Phytoplankton!



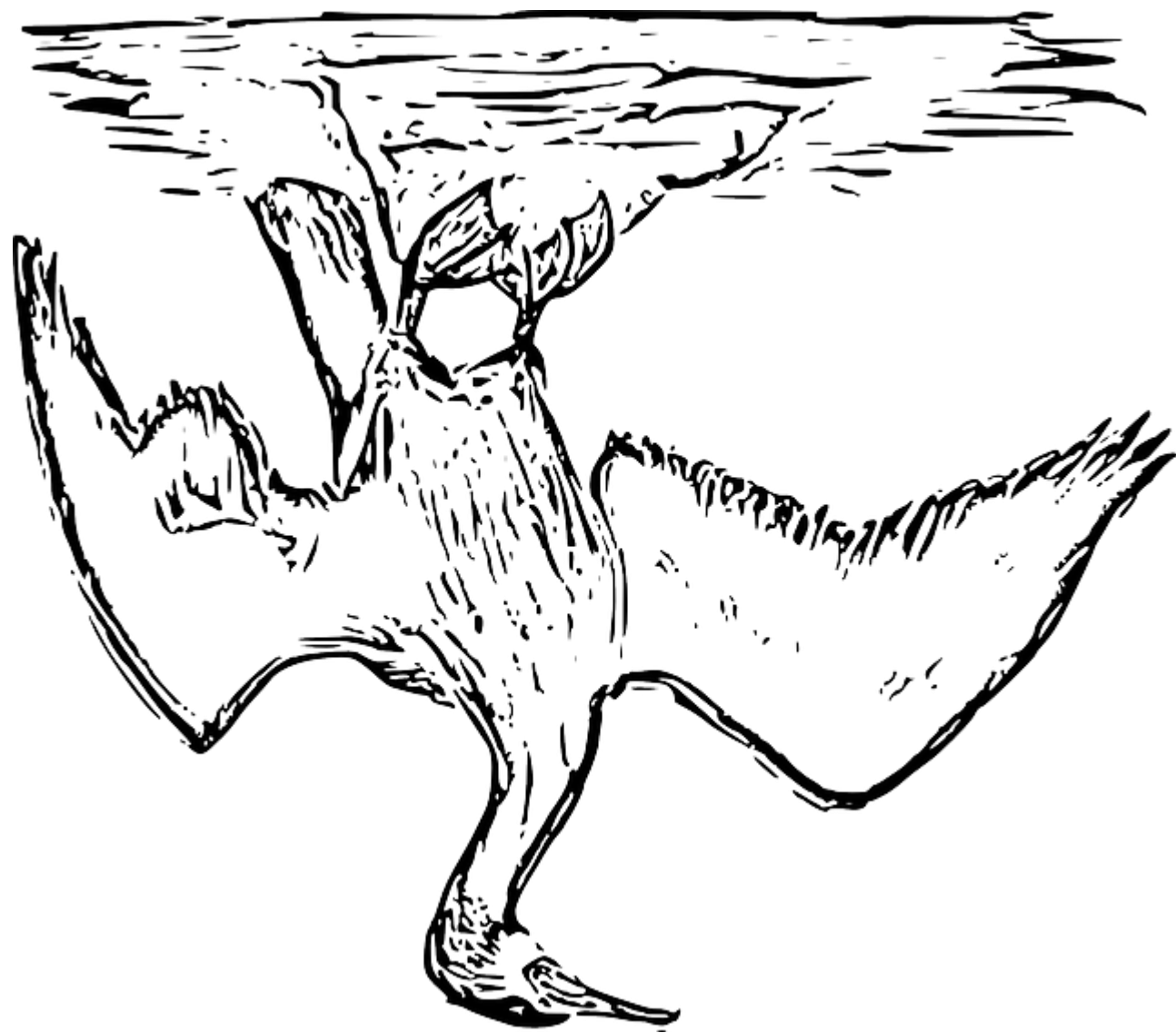
Eastern Oyster

- What am I?
 - Oysters are an important bivalve, meaning they have two shells. They're invertebrates, so they don't have any backbones. They live on the bottom of the river and make great habitat for other animals.
- What do I eat?
 - Phytoplankton!



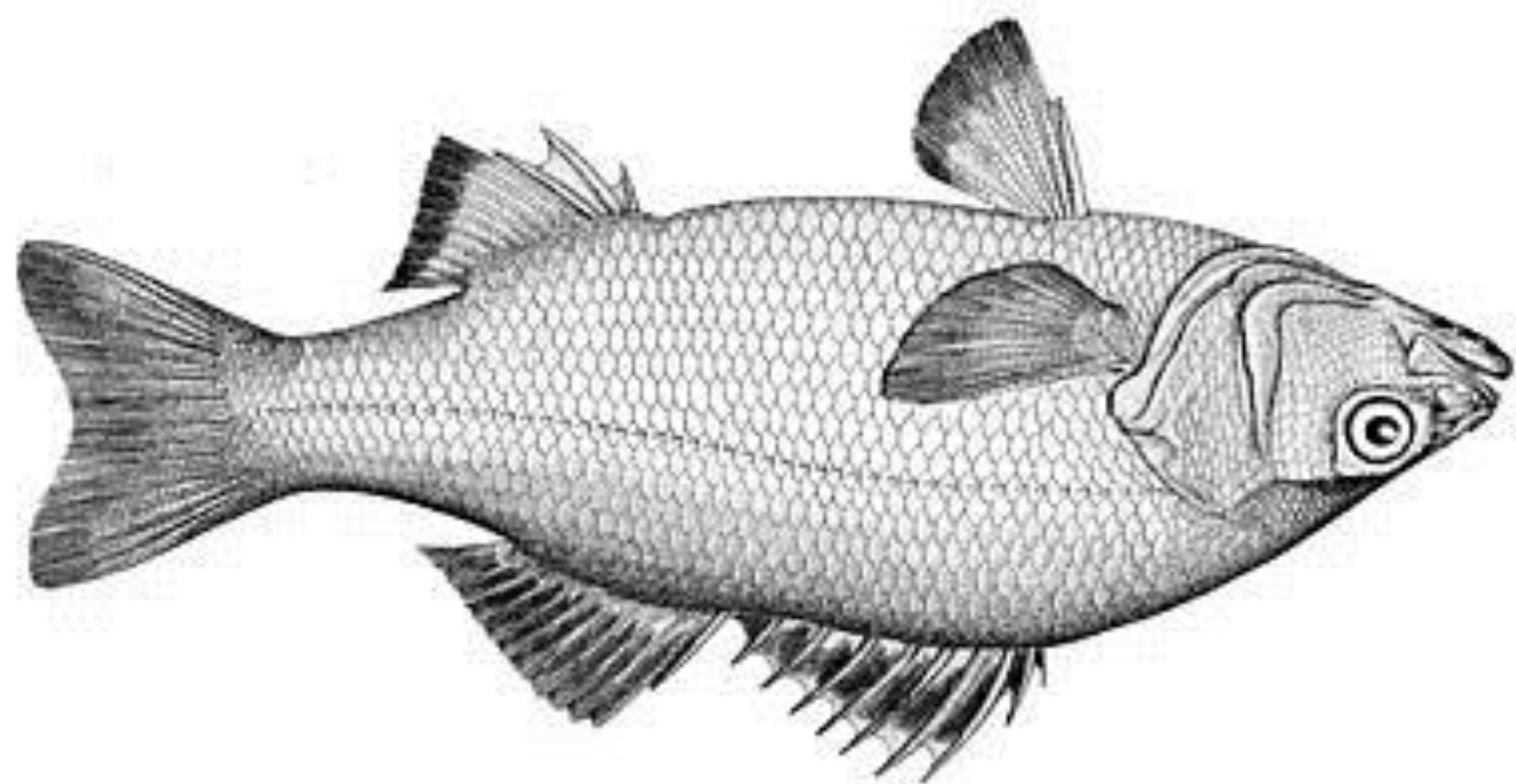
Blue crab

- What am I?
 - Blue crabs are a major predator in the Hudson River. They have strong, sharp claws to catch and eat animals, and good back legs to use for swimming around the water. They are invertebrates, meaning they don't have a backbone, but they do have an exoskeleton (a hard shell outside their body).
- What do I eat?
 - Anything they can get their claws on! Fish, oysters, clams, snails, shrimp, worms, other crabs, and even plankton when they're very young.



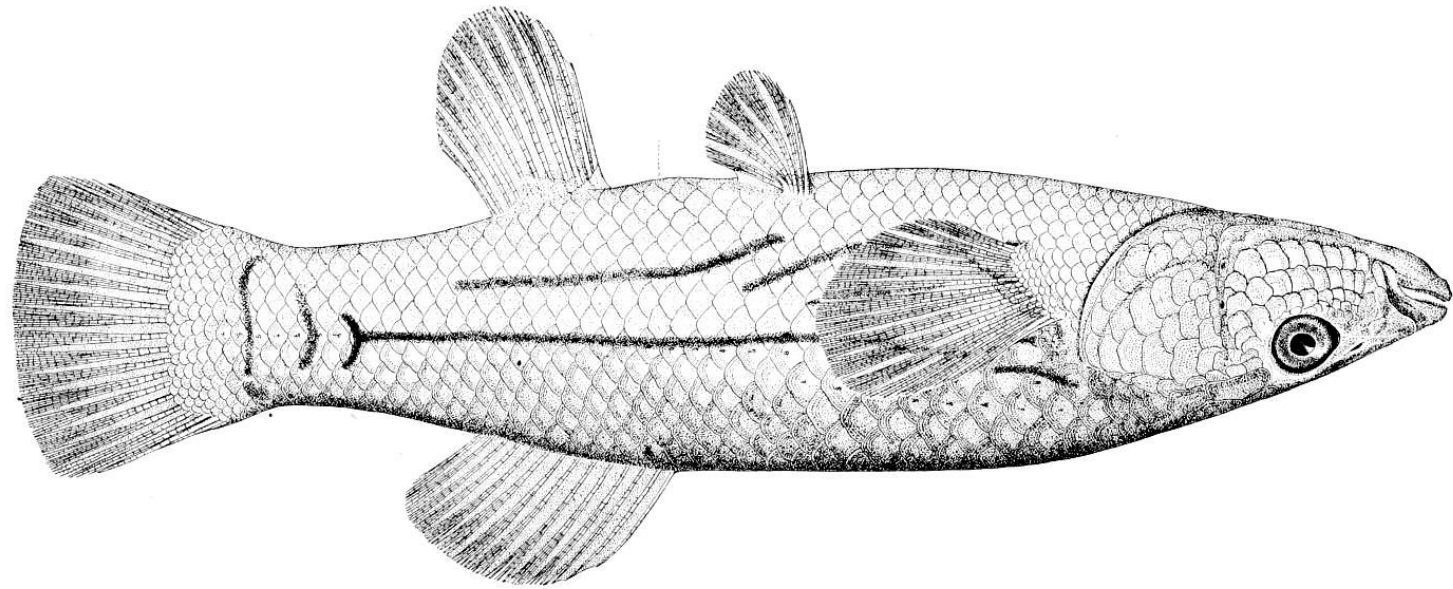
Cormorant

- What am I?
 - Cormorants are common shorebirds that live along the Hudson River. They have webbed feet, are excellent divers, and have special feathers to help them deal with getting wet.
- What do I eat?
 - Cormorants love to eat fish like striped bass, white perch, bluefish, and silversides.



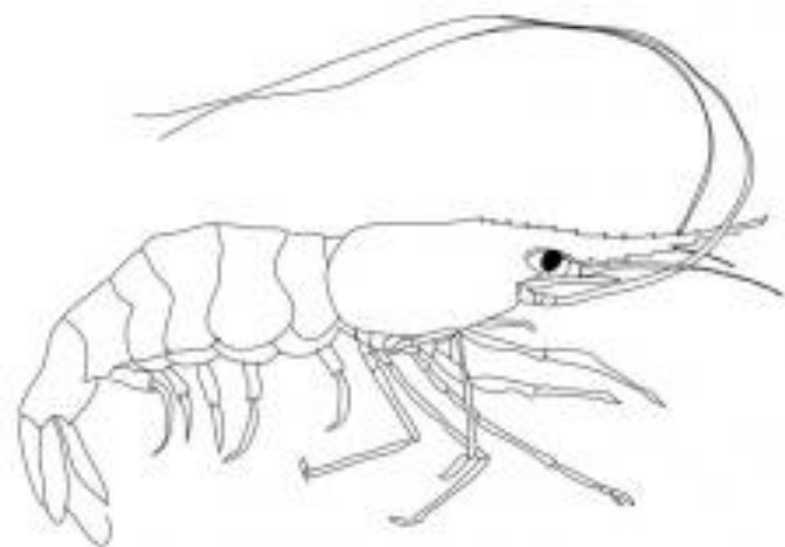
White perch

- What am I?
 - White perch is a common Hudson River fish that is one of the biggest predators. They are actually a bass, not a perch. They have also adapted to be able to live in full saltwater, brackish water, and fresh water, meaning they can survive in all 315 miles of the Hudson!
- What do I eat?
 - White perches eat small fish like mummichogs, fish eggs, and invertebrates like shrimps, worms, and clams.



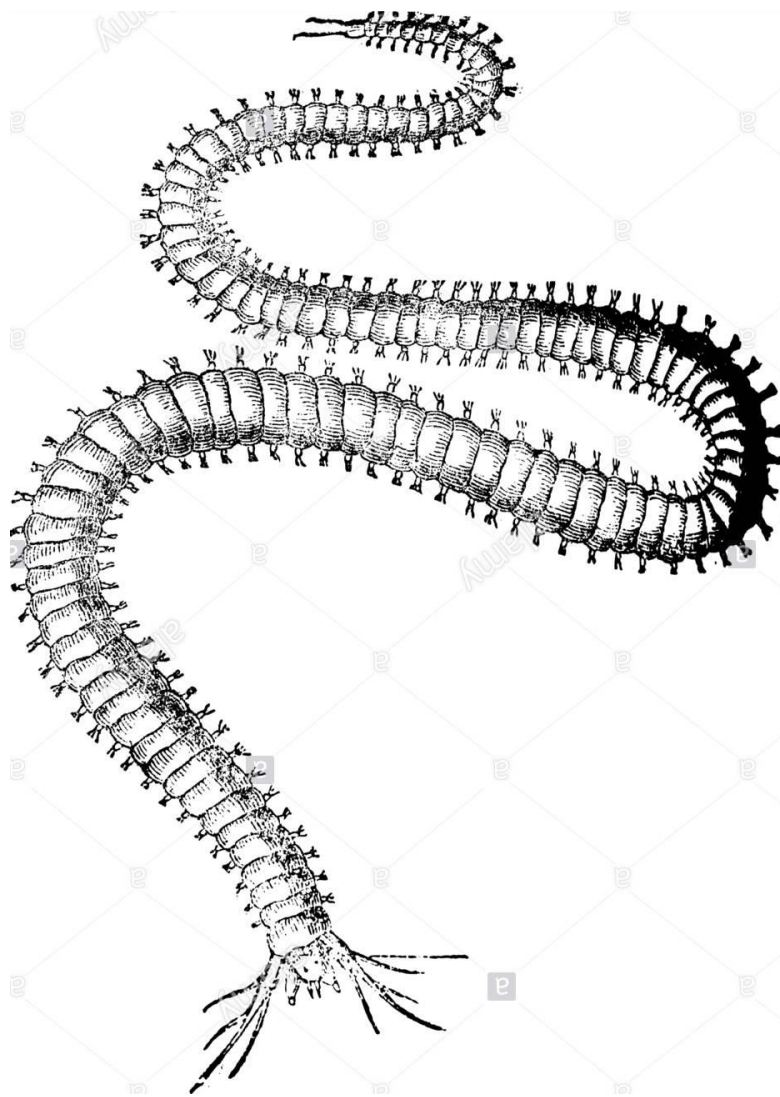
Mummichog

- What am I?
 - Mummichogs are small and common fish in the Hudson. They live in sheltered shorelines and shallow coastal waters.
- What do I eat?
 - Mummichogs are omnivores, meaning they eat algae and phytoplankton, and also small fish, and invertebrates like shrimp and crabs.



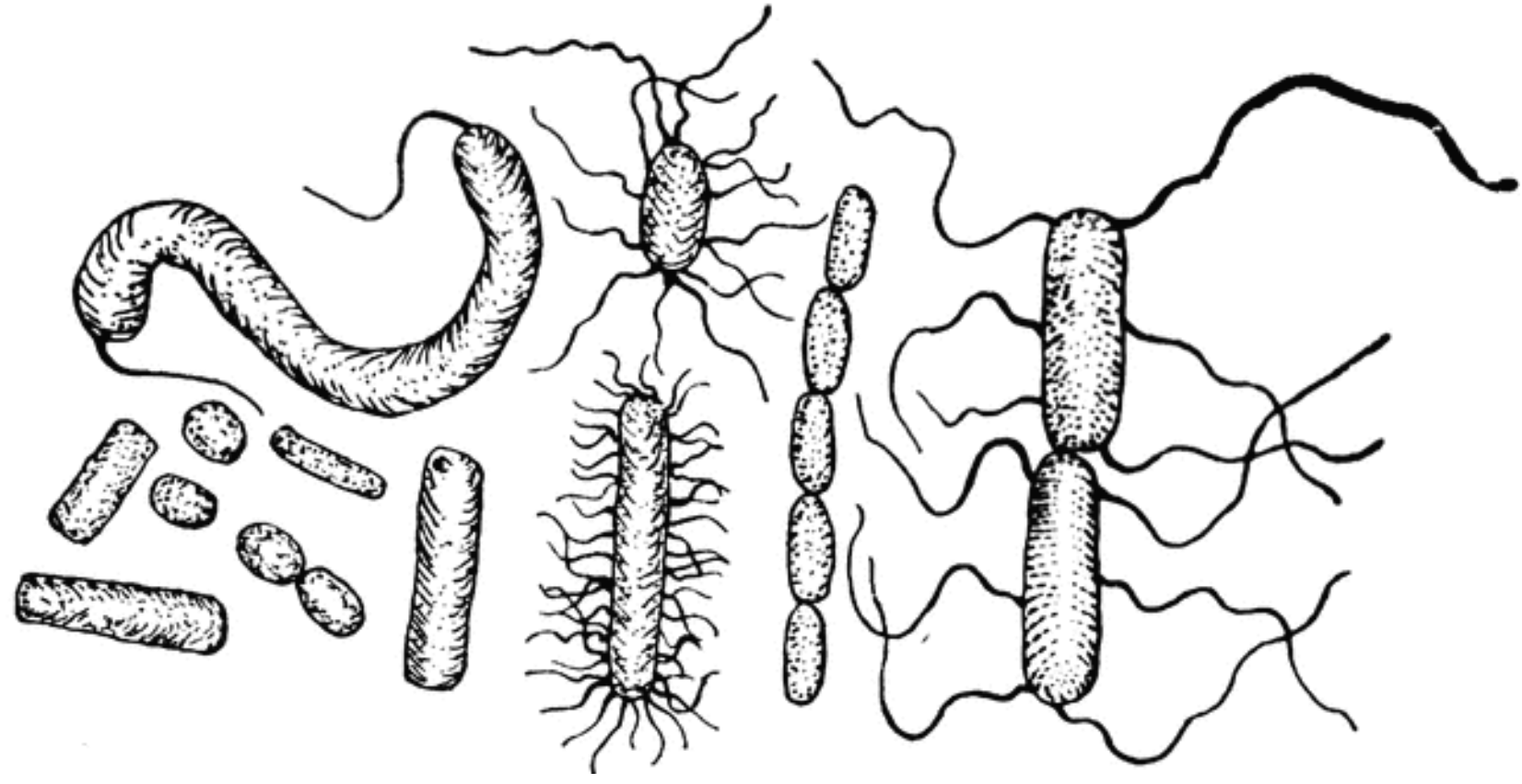
Grass shrimp

- What am I?
 - Grass shrimp are a common invertebrate (animal with no backbone). They are see through making them good at camouflage in the Hudson River. They live in shallow, muddy areas on the coast.
- What do I eat?
 - Grass shrimp are omnivores, so they eat plants and animals, including algae, worms, and zooplankton.



Clam worm

- What am I?
 - Clam worms are marine worms that live in the mud at the bottom of the Hudson River. They can sometimes grow up to 15cm (almost 6 inches) long!
- What do I eat?
 - Clam worms are detritivores, meaning they eat dead materials in the mud. They also eat algae.



Bacteria

- What am I?
 - Bacteria are tiny microscopic organisms that live all around us, in the water, in the air, and even on our bodies. Marine bacteria live in nearly every drop of water in the Hudson River and oceans.
- What do I eat?
 - Bacteria are decomposers, meaning they feed on things in the water that have died. This helps recycle nutrients in the food web.