



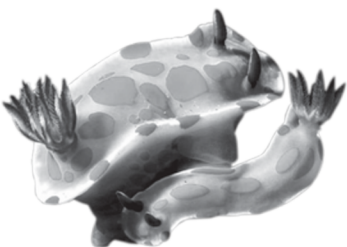
FISH OF THE YEAR
TE IKA O TE TAU
2025

Fish of the Year Activity Book

Name: _____

The Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) Program empowers schools and communities by providing hands-on experience in the ocean.

EMR is a programme of the
Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust
www.mountaintosea.org.nz



Experiencing Marine Reserves' annual **Fish of the Year | Te Ika o Te Tau** competition aims to raise awareness for some of the issues our awesome ika face and teach people about the incredible biodiversity in our freshwater and marine environments.

This competition runs during SeaweeK – Kaupapa Moana, New Zealand's annual national week celebrating the sea and extends to the end of March. SeaweeK is an opportunity for all ages to discover the many ways that our lives are connected to the sea. In March every year, SeaweeK encourage and promote events and community action projects to inspire and enable this connection, through:

- Activities and presentations within schools
- Community beach clean-ups
- Kayaking and snorkelling experiences
- Marine ecosystem field trips and engagements with citizen science.

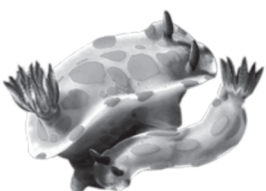
SeaweeK is coordinated nationally by Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre (MERC) and is made possible through the work of a large network of volunteers with support from a wide range of individuals, groups, businesses and organisations.

Are you ready to discover some of Aotearoa's favourite ika? Check out EMR's annual Fish of the Year competition, meet the ocean voyagers, the camouflaguers, the freshwater migrants and more!

Voting in 2025 **opens at 9am on Saturday 1st March**. The voting will run for two weeks, the competition will **close at 5pm on Sunday 16th March**.

The winner will be announced at 9am on Monday 17th March.

**Check out www.fishoftheyear.org.nz
to meet this year's contenders!**





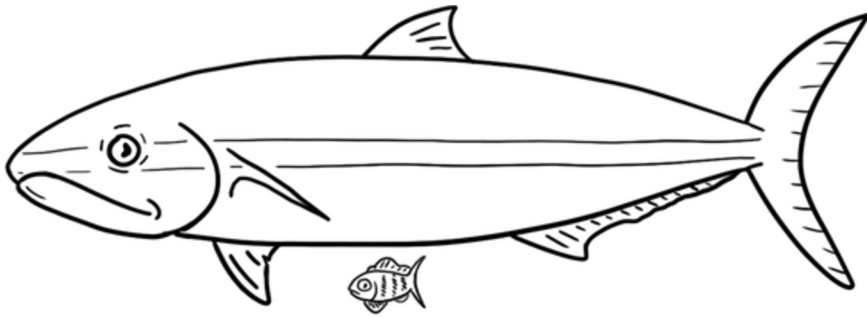
See if you can find all of the fishes in Fish of the Year!

Find and circle the names of the fish!

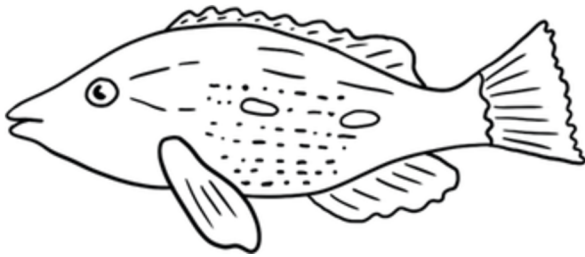
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A	I	E	A	A	W	T	S	K	J	X	H	A	P	H	P	Z	E	D	Q	J	R	Z	A	J	I	G
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- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Basking shark | Common bully | Hiwihiwi | Leatherjacket | Red moki | Snapper |
| Black angelfish | Crested weedfish | Īnanga | Longfin eels | Redfin bully | Spotty |
| Blue cod | Flounder | John dory | Moray Eel | Sandager's wrasse | Stargazer |
| Blue maomao | Goatfish | Kingfish | Oceanic manta ray | School shark | Torrentfish |
| Blue-eyed triplefin | Great white shark | Kōkopu | Pigfish | Scorpion fish | Trevally |
| Butterfish | Hāpuka | Lamprey | Porcupine fish | Seahorse | Two-spot demoiselle |

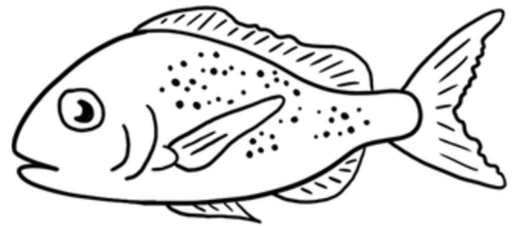
Can you unscramble the names of these fishes?



KSIGIHNF



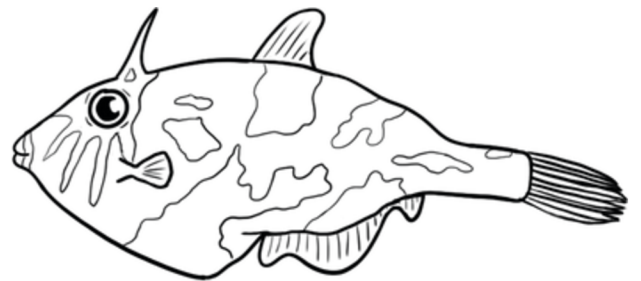
PIHGFSI



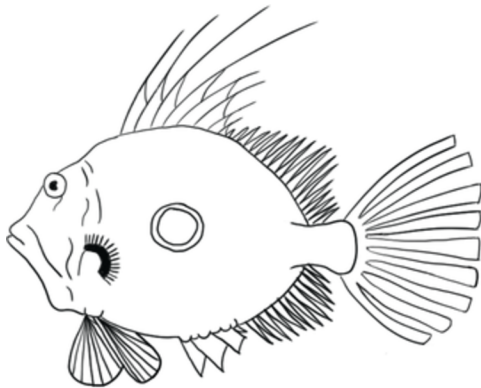
SENAPPR



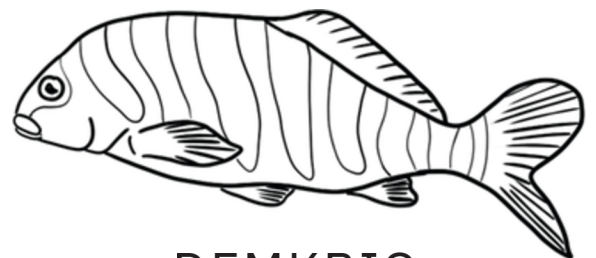
WHEESDIF



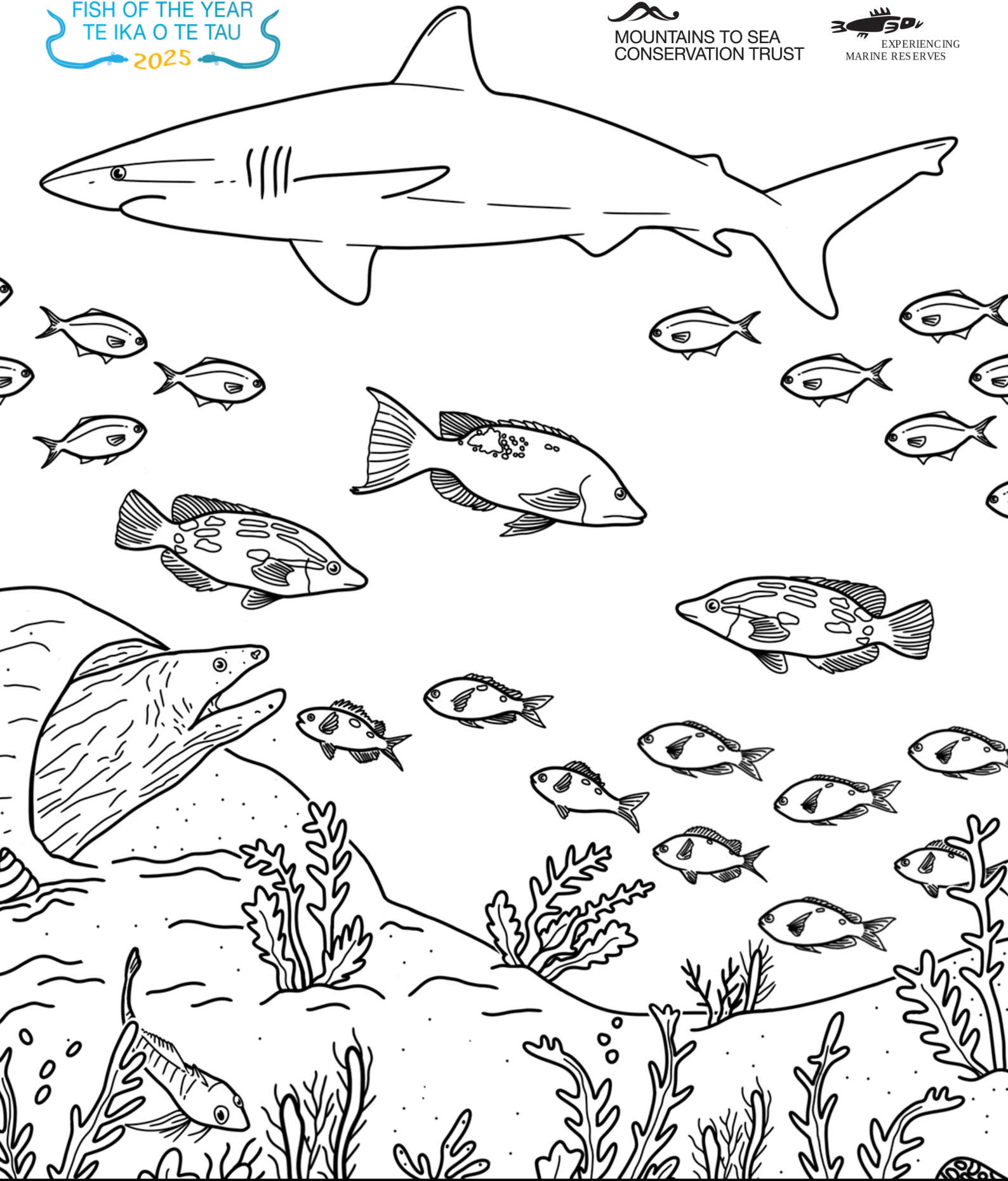
LATEREHTJECKA



DRJOHYNO



DEMKRIO

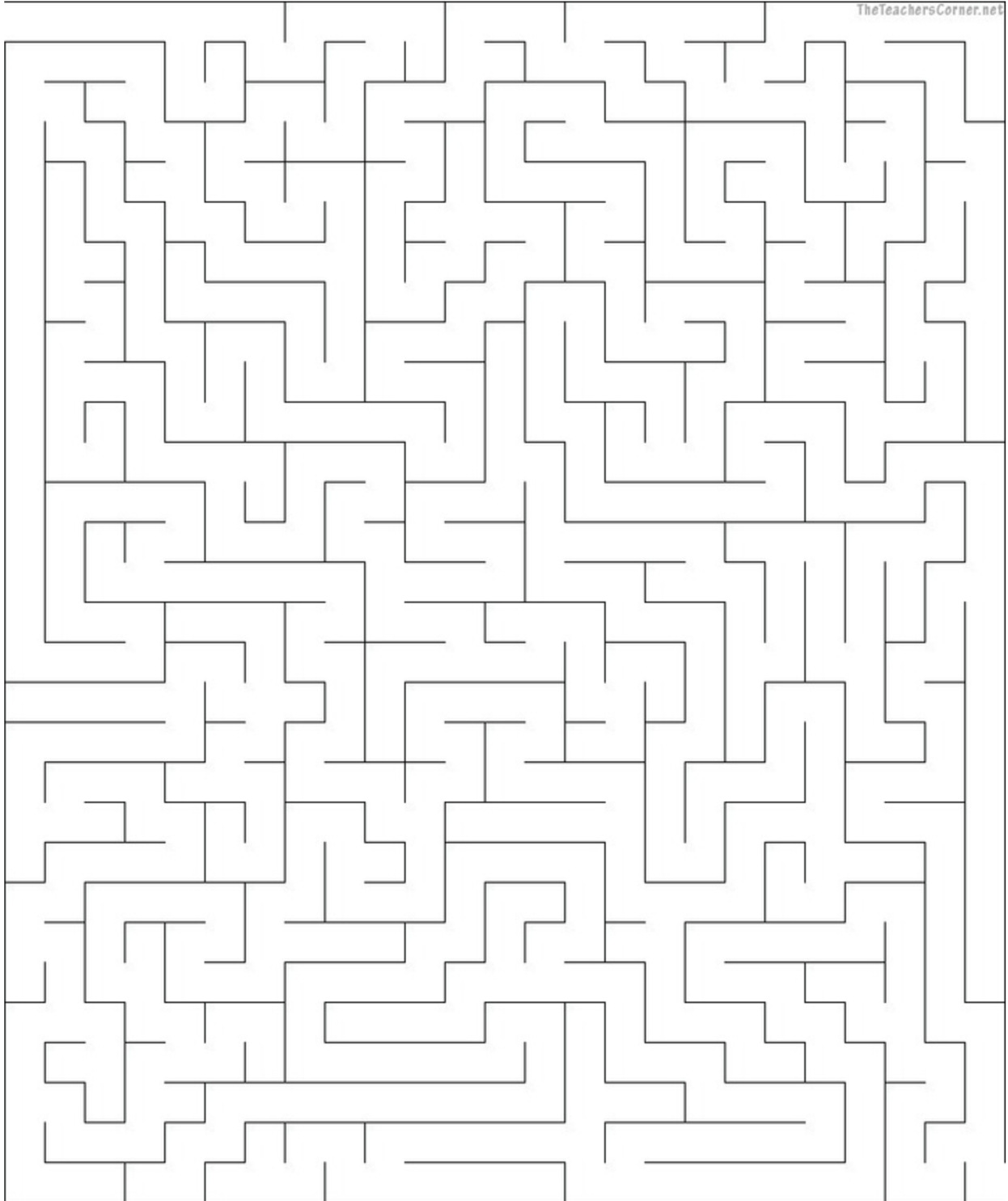


#FishOfTheYear | Vote for your favourite fish at www.fishoftheyear.org.nz
Send us a photo of your colouring in sheet to go in the draw to win some jaw-some
Fish of the Year prizes! Send your photo to: competitions@emr.org.nz

Can you help the fish migrate to the Marine Reserve?



Start
here



Goat Island Marine Reserve



A place where an animal normally lives is called a habitat. There are many different kinds of habitats from the cold mountain tops, to the deep sea, to dry deserts in Africa and Antarctica to the moist rainforests of South America!

Activity:

Where would these animals normally live? Draw a line between each animal and it's habitat.

Kelp forests

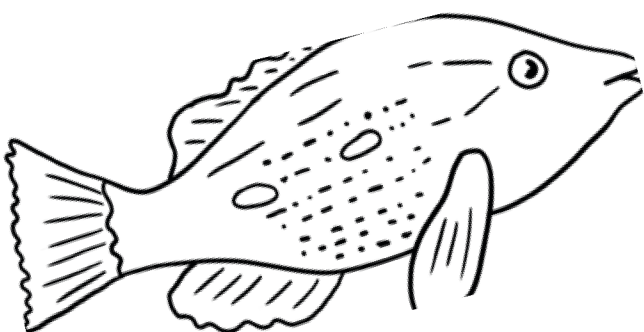
Estuaries

**Streams
and
Lakes**

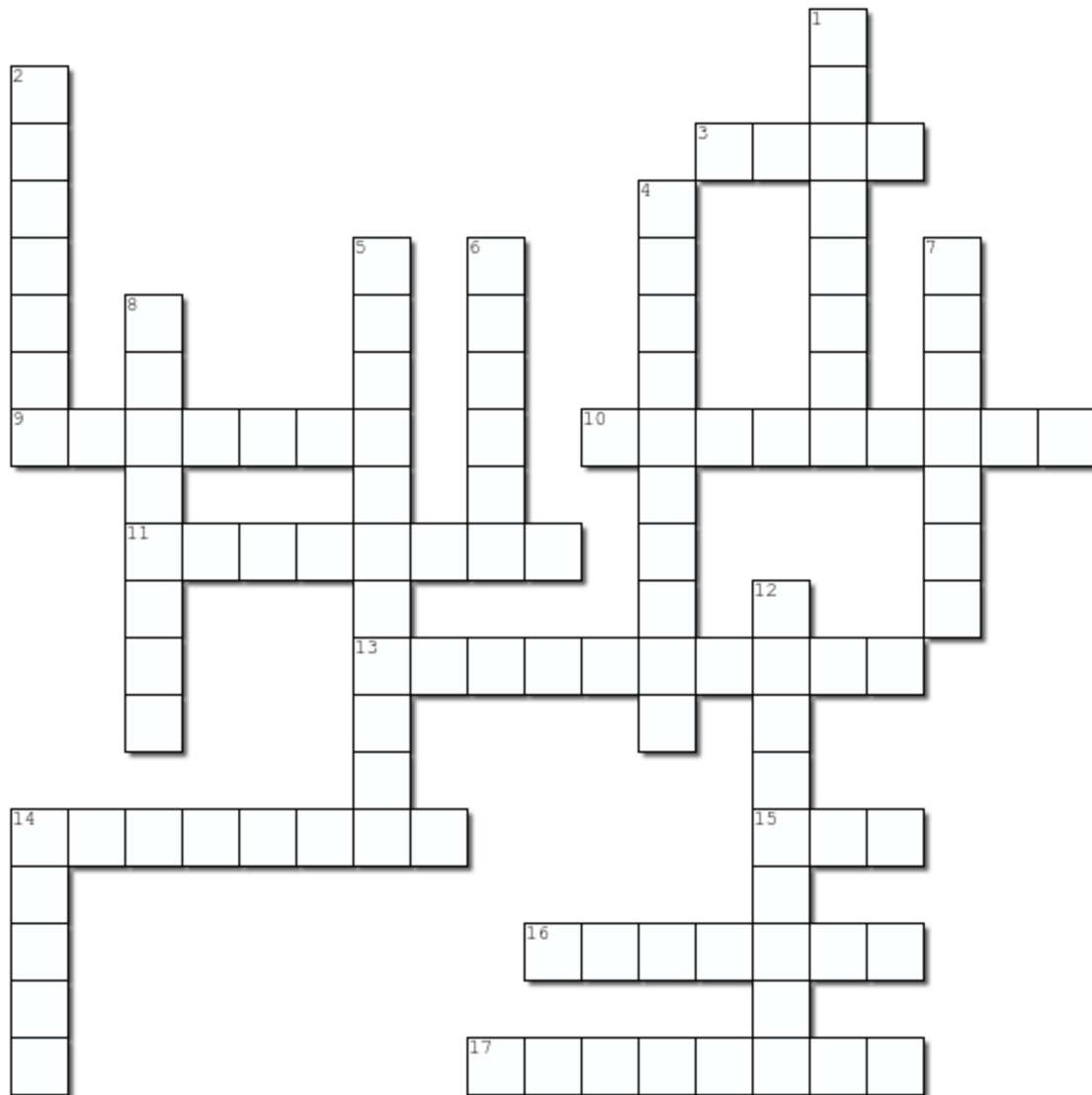
Rockpools

Open Ocean

- Crested weedfish
- Great white shark
- Inanga
- Goatfish
- Stargazer
- Common bully
- Yellow moray eel
- Longfin eel
- Olive rockfish
- Snapper
- Lamprey
- Flounder
- Hapuka
- Hiwihwi
- Butter fish
- Common bully
- Torrentfish
- Oceanic manta ray
- Shortjaw kōkopu
- Leat herjacket
- Red moki
- John dory
- Pigfish



Guess the answers to complete the crossword!



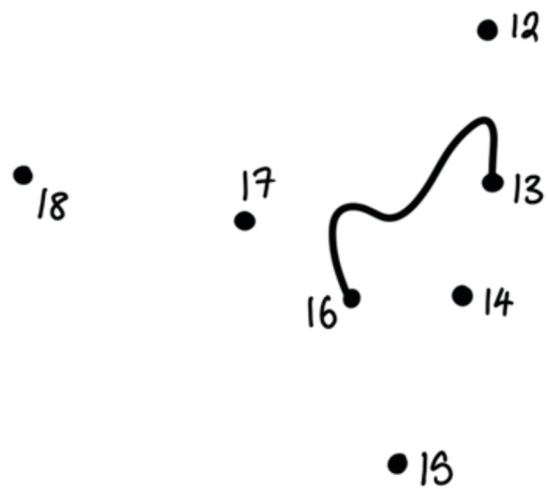
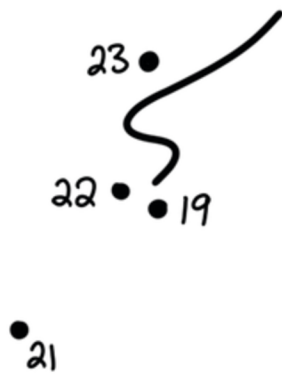
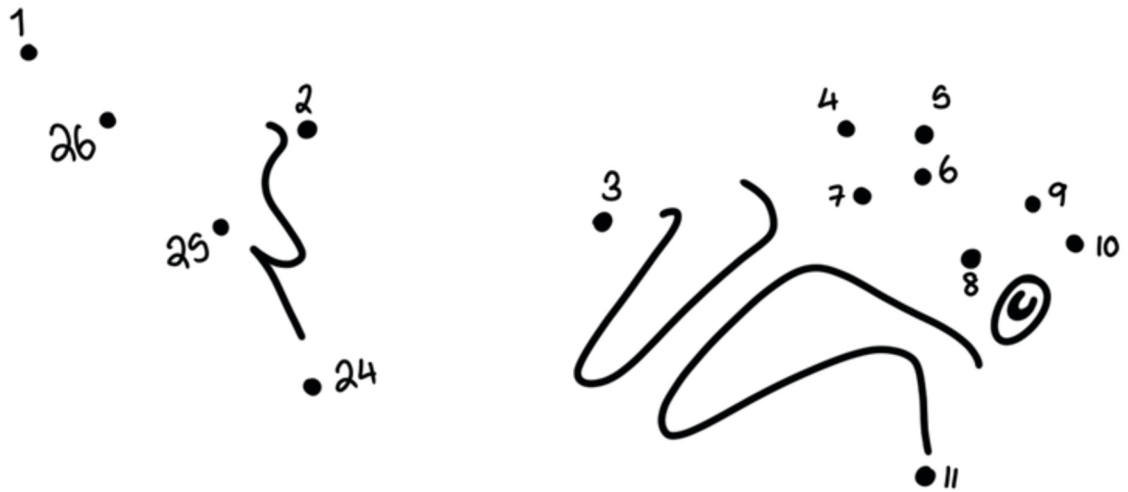
Across:

- 3. A prickly animal found all around Aotearoa, a tasty meal for a snapper
- 9. A large fish which is an important predator of kina
- 10. A jelly-like marine creature with stinging tentacles
- 11. A flat fish which lies on the ground and has both eyes on one side of it's body
- 13. The name of the Island at Aotearoa's oldest marine reserve
- 14. An animal with a large pouch to hold its babies (Hint: only the males raise the babies)
- 15. The Māori name for fish
- 16. An animal that lives in rockpools and has many tentacles (hint: Nemo and Marlin live in one)
- 17. A fish which has a big spot on the side of its body which looks like an eye. and anal fins

Down:

- 1. An ocean voyager which grows to 7m wide and feeds on plankton
- 2. An animal which has 8 arms and 3 hearts
- 4. A fish which has a wavy mohawk of broad dorsal and anal fins
- 5. The _____ Islands are a marine protected area in Northland
- 6. A marine reptile with a large bony shell
- 7. The name of the biggest ocean on Earth
- 8. This animal is sometimes called a lobster
- 12. A big volcanic island in the Hauraki Gulf
- 13. Something a hermit crab makes its home with

Connect the dots to discover one of Aotearoa's fishes



20

This graceful ocean voyager reaches 7m long! It is a filter feeder and uses a filter to feed on plankton and crustaceans in the water. They feed by somersaulting through the water, showing off their bellies which have unique spots, like a fingerprint which tells scientists who it is!

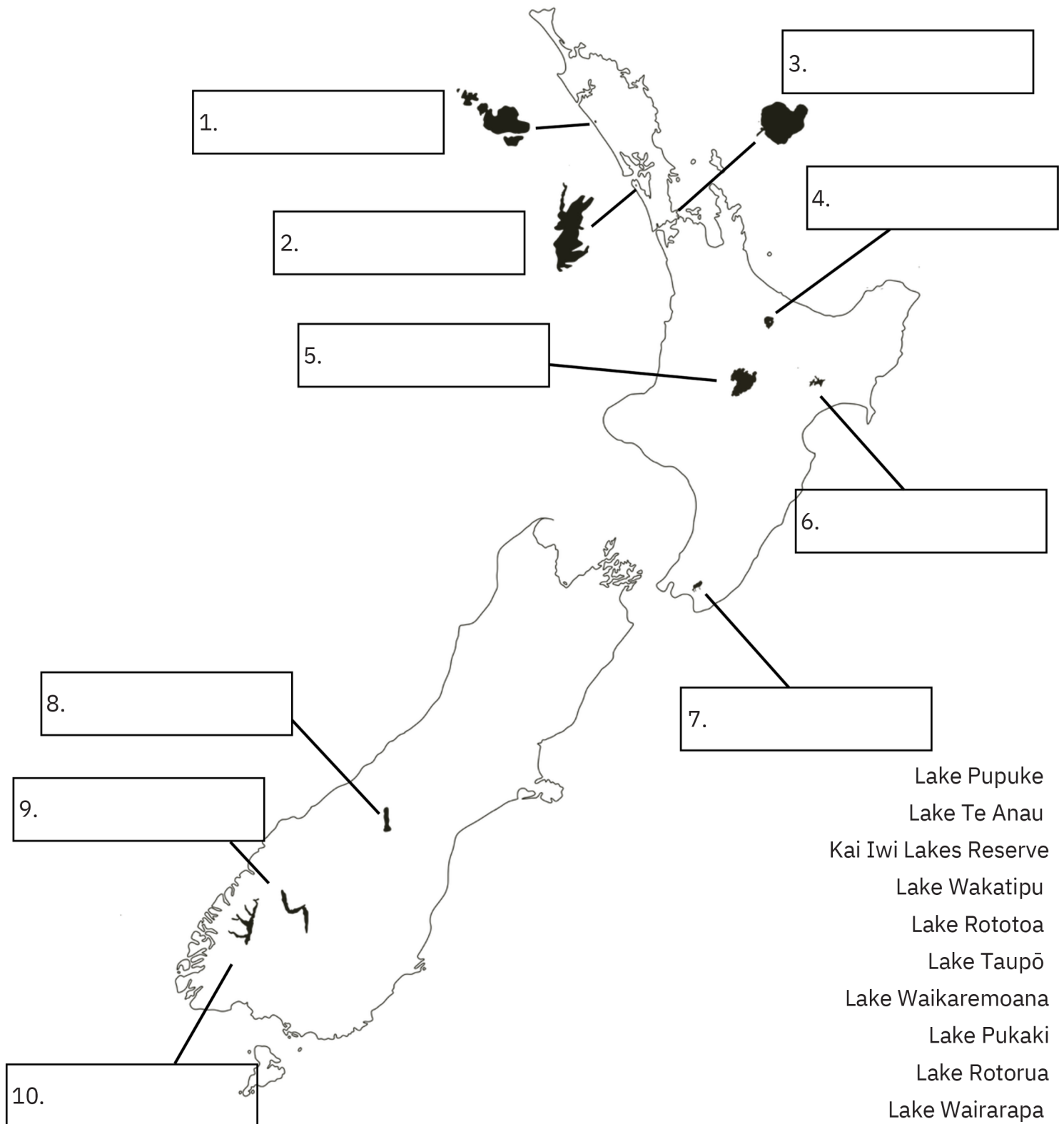


Artwork by
Wednesday Davis

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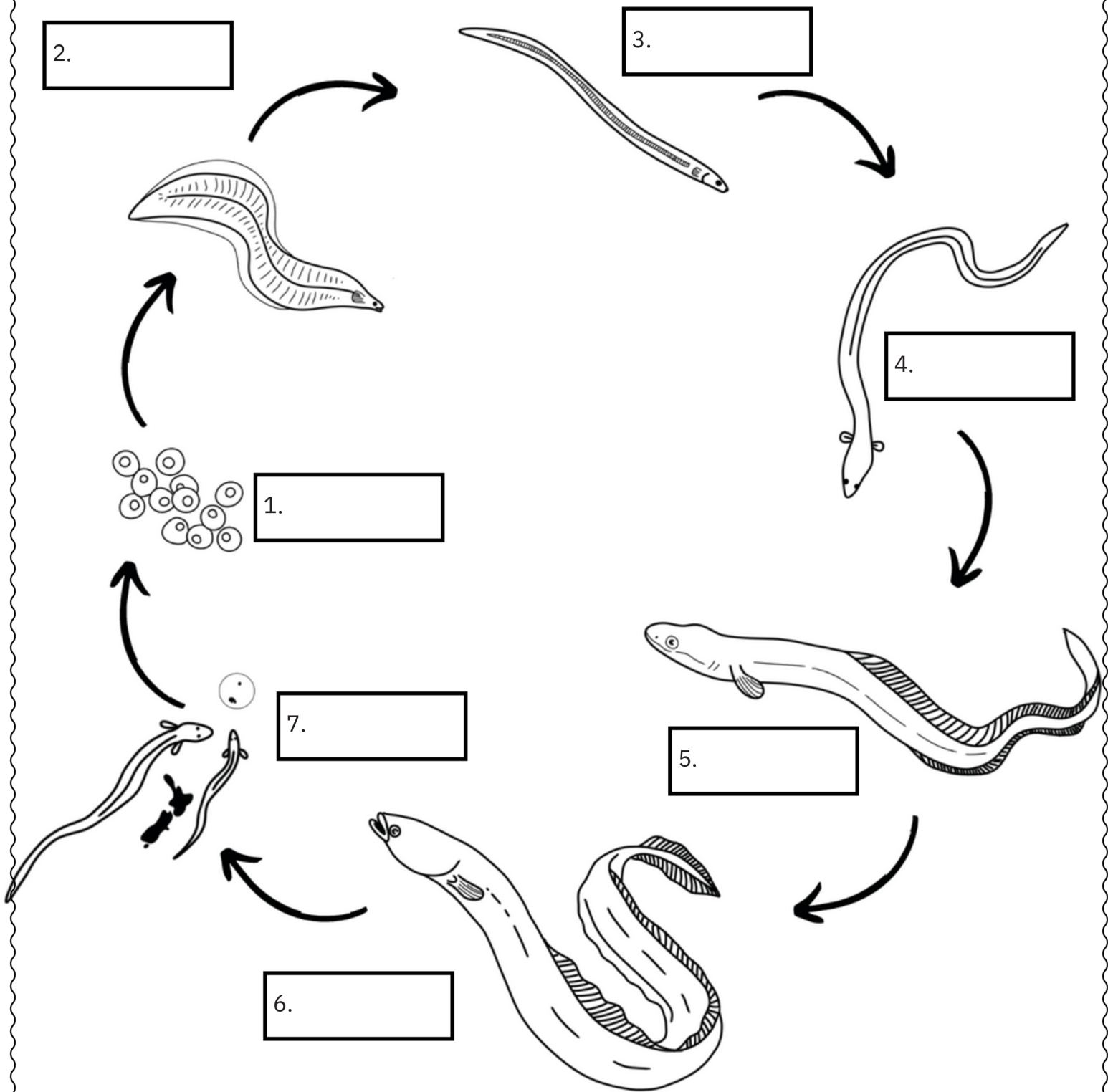
Did you know Aotearoa has 775 lakes? These lakes are home to a variety of fishes including eels, inanga and kokopu!

Fill in the boxes to name 10 of Aotearoa's Lakes!



Can you name the different life stages of the longfin eel?

Eels migrate up stream as elvers to find suitable streams to live out their adult lives. After many years, they migrate to the Pacific Ocean to breed and die. The females lay millions of eggs that are fertilised by the male. These larvae are leaf shaped and float back to New Zealand by themselves on ocean currents.



Mature Adult - Glass Eel - Egg - Migrant Eel - Elver - Larvae - Juvenile

Pick 3 fishes you would like to vote for and use the Fish of the Year website fill in the boxes and learn something new!

What three fish are you going to vote for?

[Dashed box for fish name]

[Dashed box for fish name]

[Dashed box for fish name]

Pick your favourite and learn more about it!

Name of fish: _____

What is its Māori name?



What does it look like?

Where does it live?

What does your animal like to eat?

What is something unique about your animal?



Draw a picture of your favourite animal!

As kaitiaki how can you help this animal?

Unscramble the letters:

Kingfish, Pigfish, Snapper, Weedfish, Leatherjacket, John dory, Red moki

Crossword:

1. Ika 2. Seashell 3. Snapper 4. John Dory 5. Ika 6. Goat Island 7. Flounder
8. Octopus 9. Anemone 10. Seahorse 11. Manta ray 12. Butterfish 13. Turtle
14. Crayfish 15. Pacific 16. Poor Knights 17. Kina 18. Rangitoto

Name the Lakes

1. Kai iwi lakes reserve 2. Lake Rototoa 3. Lake Pupuke 4. Lake Rotorua 5. Lake
Taupō 6. Lake Waikaremoana 7. Lake Wairarapa 8. Lake Pukaki 9. Lake Wakatipu
10. Lake Te Anau

What habitat does the animal live in?

Kelp forests: Crested weedfish, goatfish, yellow moray eel, snapper, hiwihiwi,
butterfish, leatherjacket, red moki, john dory, pigfish. **Open ocean:** Great white
shark, hapuka, oceanic manta ray. **Freshwater:** Inanga, longfin eel, lamprey,
common bullies torrentfish, short jaw kokopu. **Estuarine:** Flounder, Stargazer
Rockpools: Olive rockfish

Great Migrations!

1. Egg 2. Larvae 3. Glass eel 4. Elver 5. Juvenile 6. Mature adult 7. Migrant eel