

Uca pugnax

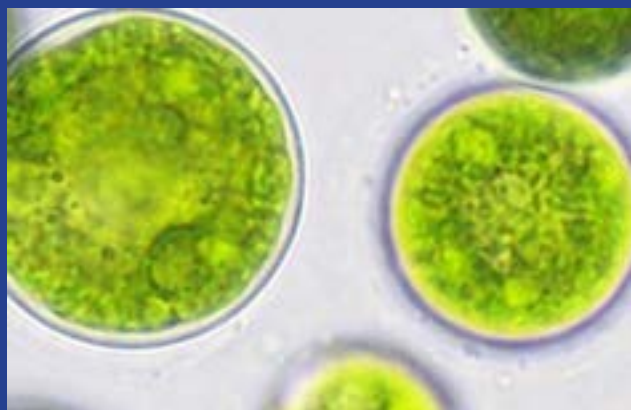
I am a FIDDLER CRAB.

I live in sandy areas and dig holes in the sand for shelter and protection. I can be found in mangrove communities or shorelines too.



I am the SUN.

I shine down during the day and help warm the earth.
I play an important role in the world and nothing could live without me.



I am ALGAE.

I am found in the water and can be tiny – so small you can't see me with your eyes – or large like seaweed that floats up on the shore. I can be green, red or brown. I am VERY important to the entire habitat.



Albula vulpes

I am a BONEFISH.

I love to swim in shallow grassy areas when I am fully grown. I am fast and anglers strive to catch me for sport.





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I Am Eaten



Limulus polyphemus

I am a **HORSE SHOE CRAB LARVAE**.

I am a tiny, developing horseshoe crab. My mother laid me in a nest of sand with thousands of my brothers and sisters. We will hatch about 20 days after she lays us in the sand. We will then float in the water when I am first born. I am tiny so I eat tiny things.

I Eat



Chelonia mydas

I am a **GREEN SEA TURTLE**.

I love to swim around on coral reefs and in seagrass beds. I am called a green turtle because I eat so much of one thing that the inside of my fatty tissue and muscle actually turns green! I have a shell that is about 3 to 4 feet long when I am fully grown.

I Eat



Carcharhinus leucas

I am a **BULL SHARK**.

I love to live and swim in warm, tropical waters. I am one of the more aggressive sharks but I do a great job of keeping the reefs, near shore and estuary populations in check by eating lots of things. I have a unique adaptation. I can swim upstream into freshwater rivers, unlike any other type of shark. I have even been found up in the Mississippi River!

I Eat





Rhizophora mangle - Red Mangrove

Avicennia germinans - Black Mangrove

Laguncularia racemosa - White Mangrove

I am **MANGROVE LEAVES**.

I am the leaf of the mighty mangrove! I help the mangrove live and grow by capturing sunlight and doing photosynthesis. I help shade the water below and offer cover to many animals that live in and below the mangroves. I fall off when I get old or when a strong hurricane comes through and blows me into the water below.

I Am Eaten



Aratus pisonii

I am a **MUD CRAB**.

I can be brown or olive green. I live on the mangrove trees and can be found scurrying through the canopy or digging around in the mud near the roots at low tide. I have two claws that protect me but they are often not enough to keep me from becoming another animal's meal.

I Eat



Lutjanus griseus

I am a **MANGROVE SNAPPER**.

I am a medium size fish who reaches about 35 inches when I am an adult. I have small teeth on both my upper and lower jaw. I love to live near inlets and in mangrove areas. I swim around the mangrove roots and in the seagrass beds looking for my next tasty meal.

I Eat



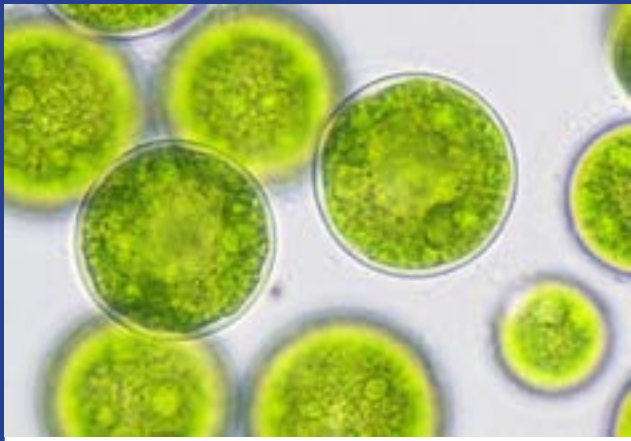
Ardea herodias

I am a **GREAT BLUE HERON**.

I am a tall, slim bird with a very long neck. I am the largest heron in North America. I am a graceful flying bird and you will often see me perched in the sun or sitting on top of the mangroves, looking for lunch or dinner. I am unique since I like to nest in monospecific colonies. This means I will only nest near other Great Blue Herons.

I Eat

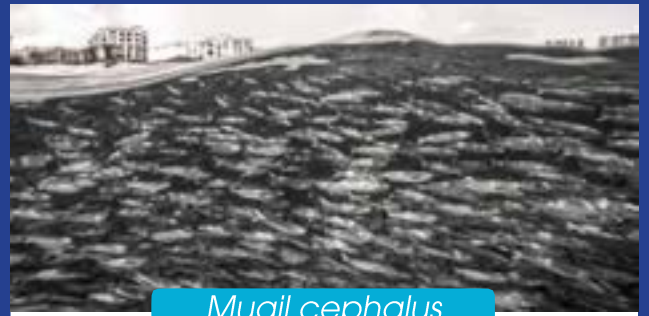




I am **MICROSCOPIC ALGAE**.

I am found in the water and can be tiny, so small you can't see me with your eyes. I can be green, red or brown. I am VERY important to the entire habitat.

I Am Eaten



Mugil cephalus

I am a **MULLET**.

I can get to be about 18 inches long and weigh up to 3 pounds. I do not have any teeth and can be found swimming in large schools with all my friends and family. I swim in these schools as a form of protection from predators. You might see me leaping from the water. No one is sure why I do this.

I Eat



Synodus foetens

I am a **LIZARD FISH**.

I am a long and thin fish that you will often find in warm tropical waters. I can be found inside an estuary cruising through the mangrove roots or seagrass beds. I have a mouthful of long, slender teeth. I am an ambush predator. This means that I like to lay still and wait for a meal to swim by. I will dart out and bite it.

I Eat



Sciaenops ocellatus

I am a **REDFISH**.

I am a large saltwater and brackish fish that can be found in tropical and subtropical waters around the world. I can be brown, red or orange looking. My belly is almost always light in color and the most distinguishing mark I have is the large spot found near my tail. It almost looks like an eye!

I Eat

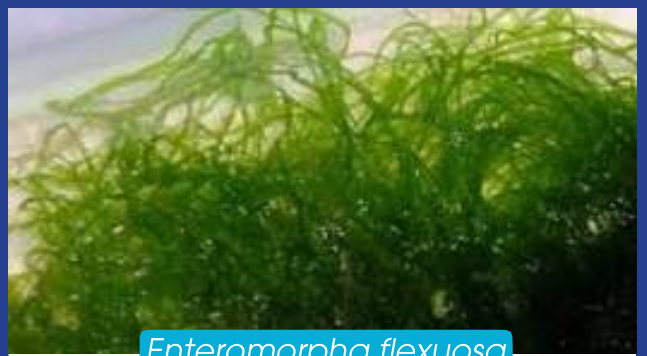




I am a FISHERMAN.

I care about the environment and have a deep respect and understanding for the creatures that call the waters home. I know that I can only continue to fish if I protect the animals, ecosystems and habitats that surround me. I might have grown up fishing with my parents or I might have taken it up as a hobby on my own. Either way, I understand the importance of being an ethical angler and I hope to leave the environment a better place after I am done.

I Eat



Enteromorpha flexuosa

I am HOLLOW GREEN ALGAE.

I am a thin green algae that grows in strands like thick hair. I am found worldwide in estuaries and near shorelines. I am found in large quantities, especially during the summer when the sun shines bright and the waters are warmest.

I Am Eaten

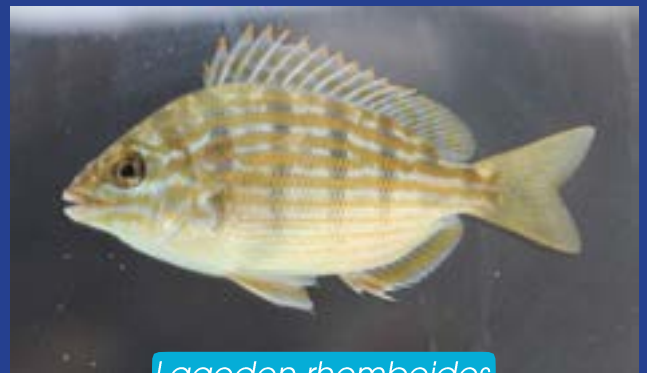


Caprella spp.

I am an AMPHIPOD.

I am an amphipod. I am a tiny, often microscopic animal that lives in the water column and the sand. I can dig and run around but I am not very good at swimming and tend to just go where the water takes me.

I Eat



Lagodon rhomboides

I am a PINFISH.

I might be a small baitfish but I play a big role in the food chains that are found near reefs and in estuaries. I have sharp dorsal fins, that is where my name "pin" fish comes from.

I Eat





Cynoscion nebulosus

I am a **SPOTTED SEA TROUT**.

I am found in the Indian River Lagoon and I am a prized meat fish! Anglers love to catch me and take me home for dinner. I have beautiful spots on my long, slender body. I can reach a maximum length of about 3.3 feet when I am a grown adult.

I Eat



Tursiops truncatus

I am a **BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN**.

I am actually a type of toothed whale, kind of like the killer whale but smaller. I have large, cone shaped teeth and I am a very social creature. I am a marine mammal, meaning I give birth to live babies, and they drink milk. I am a fast swimmer and I love to work with my pod mates to catch a fresh meal.

I Eat



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Lysiosquilla scabricauda

I am a **MANTIS SHRIMP**.

I am a crustacean and I look much like my cousin, the lobster. I am often found in seagrass beds or within the rocks of a coral reef. I am fast and fierce! I have special claws on the front that can be great for defense and for always catching my meals.

I Eat





Albula vulpes

I am a BONEFISH.

I love to swim in shallow grassy areas, as well as through mangrove creeks, over shallow reefs and over sand/mud flats. I am fast and anglers strive to catch me for sport.

I Eat

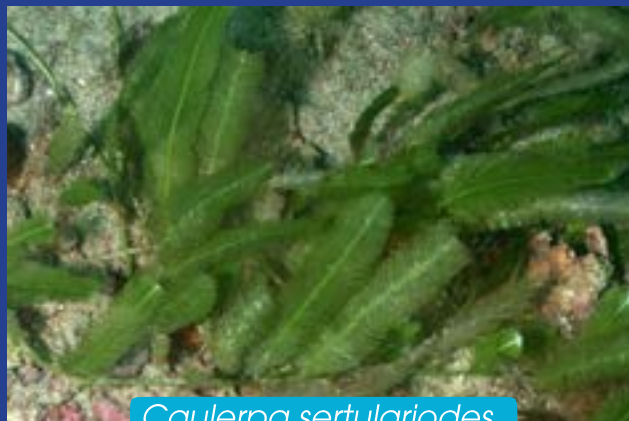


Sphyraena barracuda

I am a BARRACUDA.

I have a long, slender but powerful body. I am often silver and shine in the water. I have large spots as I get older. I am a fierce predator who swims slowly waiting for a meal to come close and then I can dart out after it and catch it in my jaws filled with sharp teeth! I am a predator often found on grassflats, coral reefs and shipwrecks.

I Eat



Caulerpa sertularioides

I am GREEN FEATHER ALGAE.

I grow in long running lines and can be found in shallow water with good sunlight penetration. I look just like a green feather too!

I Am Eaten



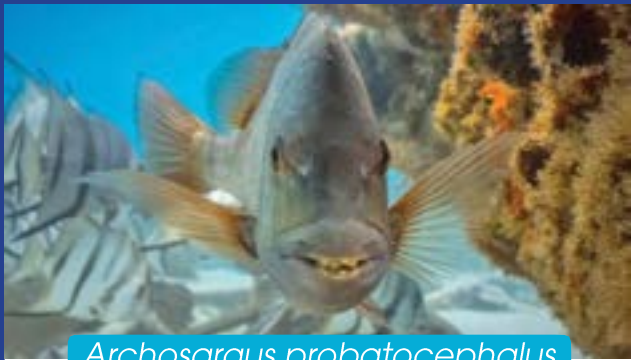
Petrochirus spp.

I am a HERMIT CRAB.

I am found on the sea floor looking for my next meal. I have large pinching claws and live in shells that I scavenge from the sea floor. I am an important part of the food chain because I am the "clean up crew" of the ocean and often go around looking for things to eat.

I Eat





Archosargus probatocephalus

I am a SHEEPSHEAD.

You can easily identify me by my large black stripes that go down my body. I am found all over, in inlets, on reefs and wrecks and in the nearshore environment. I am good to eat and I can get pretty big too! I have a mouth full of teeth that help me eat my meals.



Epinephelus itajara

I am a GOLIATH GROUPEER.

I am a huge grouper when I am fully grown and I play an important role in the reefs around Florida. I have been recently found to eat lionfish, an invasive species of fish that are doing damage to the reefs. I am a protected fish in Florida. Divers love to see me as I lazily swim in and out of my hiding places on reefs and wrecks.



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