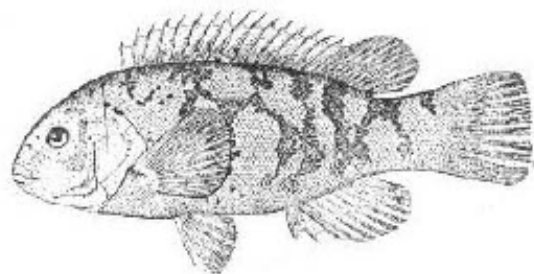
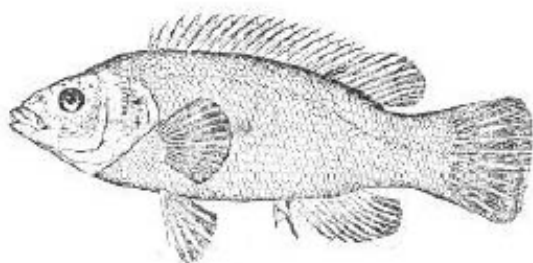


## Common Coastal Fish of New England



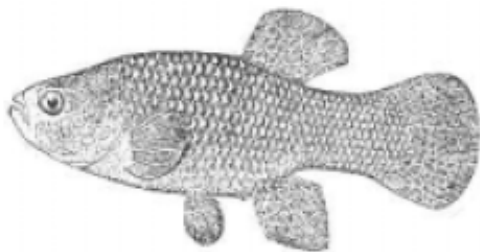
### **Tautog**

The Tautog is black or gray and sometimes brown when they are young. The Tautog is commonly found in rocky areas where it eats shellfish, crabs, worms, snails and shrimp. It can grow to be 3 feet long and up to 22 pounds.



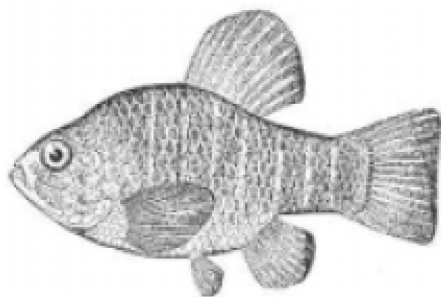
### **Cunner**

Cunners are reddish-brown in color and sometimes greenish when young. They can be found in rocky areas where it eats worms, shellfish and other small fish. They may grow to be 18 inches long and weigh up to 3 pounds. They can change their color to match the bottom. This helps them hide from fish that may want to eat them.



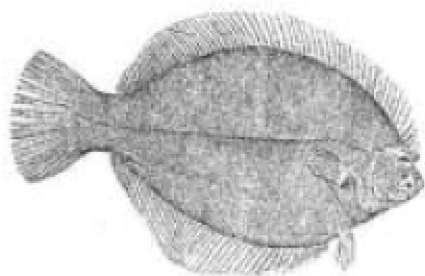
### **Mummichog**

Mummichogs are brown or green, sometimes with lighter or darker vertical bands. They can live in many places all the way from Florida to Canada. They like to eat shrimp, small plants, and plankton. They can grow up to 6 inches long.



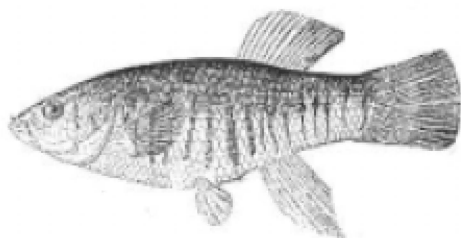
### **Sheepshead Minnow**

The Sheepshead Minnow is a small greenish or brownish fish that likes to eat other fish, shrimp, small plants, and plankton. They live in areas with lots of weeds in the water. They can grow up to 3 inches long.



### **Flounder**

The Flounder is flat fish that has both eyes on the same side of its head. The flounder lives on the bottom and eat worms, fish, and shellfish. It can grow to be 23 inches long and weigh up to 6 pounds.



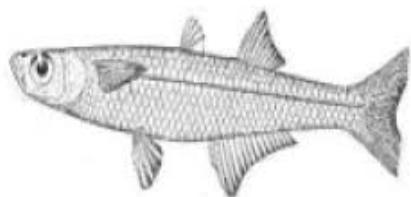
### **Striped Killifish**

The Striped Killifish has silvery sides with black vertical stripes and can live in many places, but is most common in estuaries. It can grow up to 2 ½ inches. It likes to eat shrimp, other small fish, small plants, and plankton.



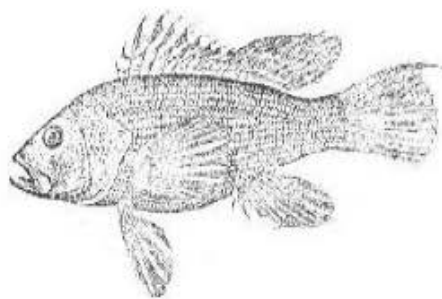
### **Northern Pipefish**

The Pipefish is a long, skinny, green or brown fish that can grow to be 12 inches long. They like to hide in the eelgrass, where they eat zooplankton. The female pipefish lays the eggs, but it is the male pipefish that carries the eggs in a pouch until they hatch.



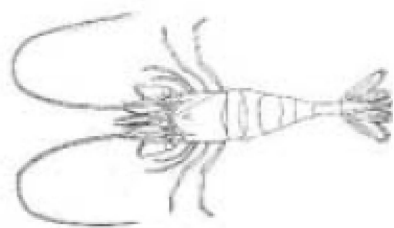
### **Silverside**

Silversides are a fish that is light green on top, with a silvery horizontal band on each side. They are found near sandy bottoms, close to shore and eat zooplankton. They can grow to be 6 inches long.



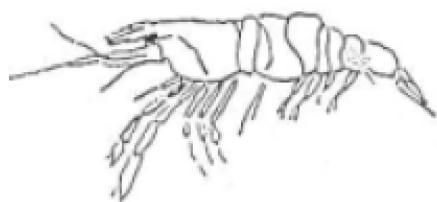
### **Black Sea Bass**

A young Black Sea Bass is greenish or brownish with a dark strip from their eye to their tail. Adult bass can vary in color, from smoky gray to a light brown, or a bluish black, and white spots can be found on their dorsal fins. Black Sea Bass can grow up to 2 feet long and weigh 7 ½ pounds. They live in shallow, rocky water.



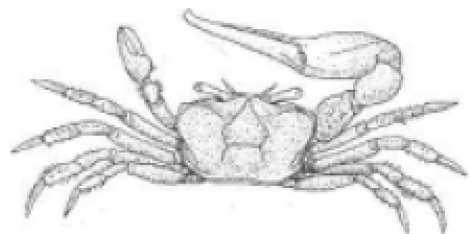
### **Shore Shrimp**

This small shrimp can be found in shallow areas from Cape Cod to the Gulf of Mexico. The Shore Shrimps likes to eat small plants and plankton. Fish and crabs find shrimp a tasty treat.



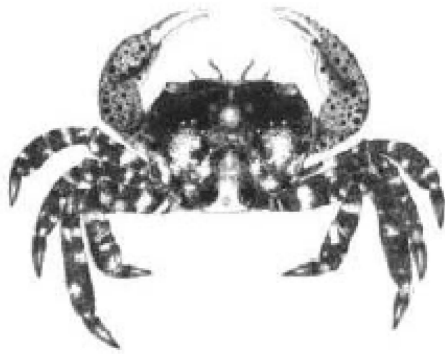
### **Sand Shrimp**

This tiny shrimp lives in shallow waters from Cape Cod to the Gulf of Mexico. Many other animals, such as fish and crabs, like to eat the Sand Shrimp.



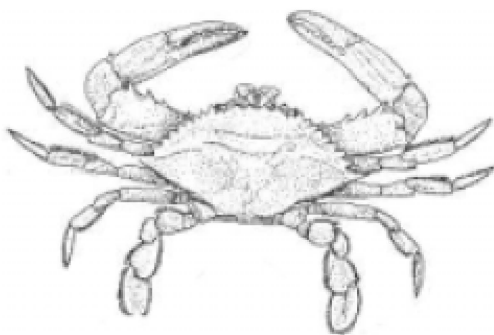
### **Fiddler Crab**

Fiddler Crabs live in salt marshes where they dig tunnels in the mud to hide. The male fiddler crab has one big claw and one small claw. They eat marsh grass plants called algae and sometimes even other Fiddler Crabs.



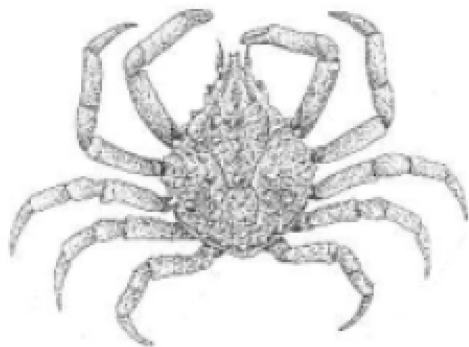
### **Asian Shore Crab**

The Asian Shore Crab is native to Japan, China, Southern Russia and Korea. It can now also be found along the rocky shore of the Atlantic. It most likely came here on a ship involved in trading. Their shell can range in color from green to purple to orange-brown and their legs have alternating light and dark bands on them.



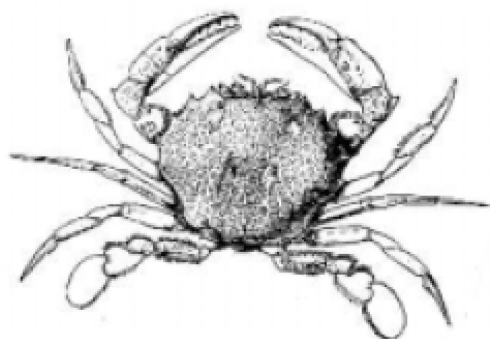
### **Blue Crab**

This crab lives in the water where it looks for shrimp, fish and worms to eat. Most crabs crawl on the bottom, but this crab can swim, as well as crawl. The fingers of the claw on male crabs are blue and a female's are red. Male crabs are called "jimmies" and females are called "sooks".



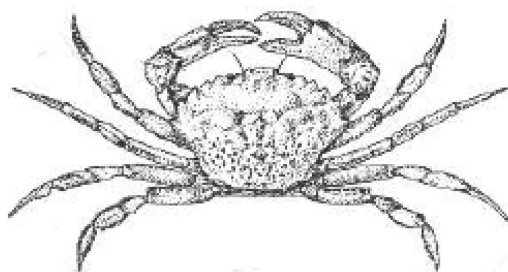
### **Spider Crab**

The Spider Crab is dirty brownish color and lives on sandy or muddy bottoms anywhere from Nova Scotia to the Gulf of Mexico. It moves very slowly and will make itself look like a rock (camouflage) to hide from predators. When the Spider Crab gets hungry, it will eat worms, sea stars, sea urchins, and shellfish.



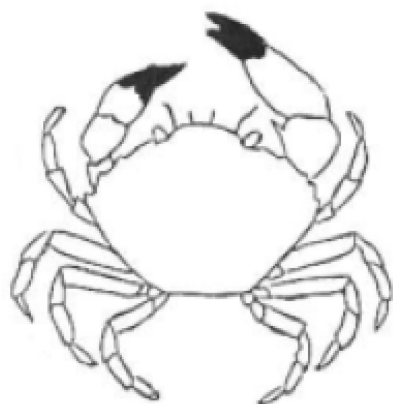
### **Lady Crab**

The Lady Crab has small rounded spots of reddish purple on gray or beige background. It lives on the sandy bottom in shallow water, where it hunts for shrimp, fish, clams and worms. Sometimes, the Lady Crab will bury itself completely into the sand, where it hides from bigger crabs, fish and birds.



### **Green Crab**

The Green Crab is usually dark green, with yellow or brown blotches. It lives in shallow areas where it eats fish, shrimp, worms and shellfish. Green Crabs can be found living in rivers and bays, where they get eaten by other crabs, birds and lobsters.



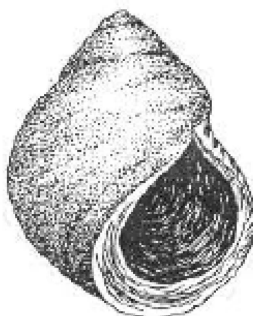
### **Black-Fingered Mud Crab**

The Black-Fingered Mud Crab has a muddy tan shell and dark markings of the tip of its claws. It can live in the mud from Massachusetts to Brazil. This crab has very powerful claws that it uses to crush its food. It likes to eat oysters, barnacles, quahogs and clams.



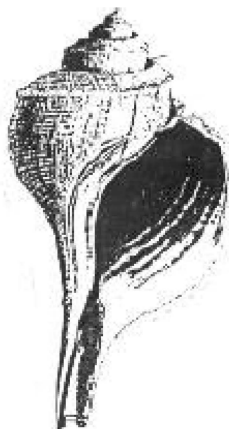
### **Hermit Crab**

The Hermit Crab lives in shallow water from Cap Cod to Texas. It lives inside the shells of snails such as the periwinkle. If it finds an empty shell that it likes, it will crawl out of the shell it is using and into the new one. Sometimes, hermit crabs will fight over the same shell. They eat tiny bits of food that they find on the bottom.



### **Periwinkle**

The Periwinkle is a snail that lives on rocks. It likes to eat tiny bits of plants, called algae that it finds on rocks. Periwinkles are eaten by sea stars and humans.



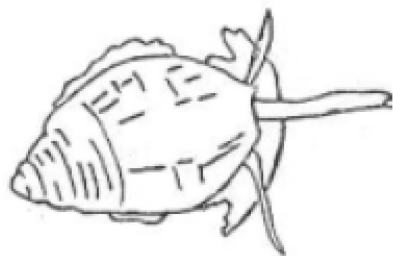
### **Channeled Whelk**

This snail's shell is beige or yellowish gray. It is commonly found in the sand of shallow water. It likes to eat shellfish and bait that it finds in fish traps. Some people like to catch and eat the Channeled Whelk.



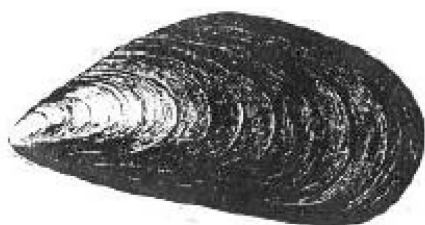
### **Knobbed Whelk**

This snail has a gray shell that sometimes has purplish streaks on it. The Knobbed Whelk is found from Cape Cod to Georgia. It hunts for shellfish and scavenges the bottom and also eats the bait in fish traps.



### **Mud Snail**

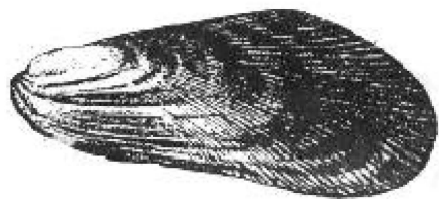
The Mud Snail is found in quiet waters from Cape Cod to the Gulf of Mexico. It is a scavenger of the bottom. It eats left over bits of food that have settled on the muddy bottom.



### **Blue Mussel**

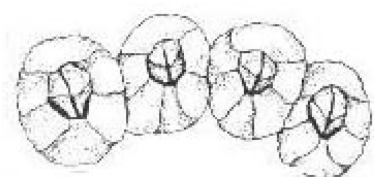
Blue Mussels can be found on the rocky shore from Cape Cod to Florida. They are filter feeders, this means that they suck tiny bits of food out of the water. People, birds, fish, and sea stars eat the Blue Mussel.





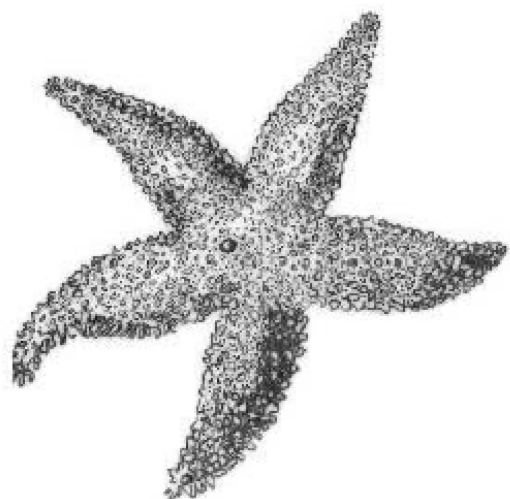
### **Ribbed Mussel**

This shellfish is found in salt marshes and mud flats where it buries itself in the mud. The Ribbed Mussel is a filter feeder, this means that it sucks tiny bits of food right out of the water.



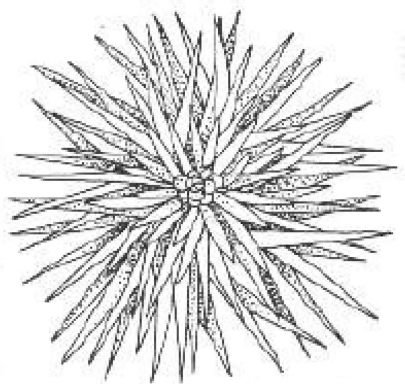
### **Barnacle**

Barnacles white or gray in color. You can find them living on rocks, piers and even on shellfish and whales. They like to eat small plants and animals called plankton.



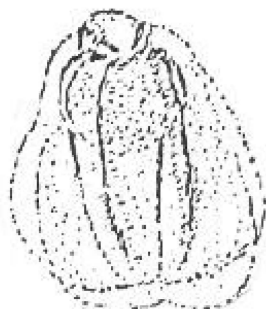
### **Sea Star**

This star-shaped creature can be found from Maine to Virginia in shallow pools and rocky areas. It likes to eat oysters mussels, and barnacles. The Sea Star pulls shellfish open with its five legs and then eats the insides of the shellfish. The Sea Star could get eaten itself, by fish that live on the bottom.



### **Purple Sea Urchin**

The Purple Sea Urchin can be found in shallow pools of water from Cape Cod to Florida. The urchin likes to eat Algae. Birds, sea stars, lobsters and foxes like to eat urchins.



### **Northern Comb Jelly**

This jelly-like creature lives in shallow water from New England to the Arctic. It drifts with the tides and currents because it is not a strong swimmer. The comb jelly eats small plants and animals called plankton. It may even eat very small fish.