

A Fish is not A Stick

Structures and Senses of Fishes

Fish are found in all the waters of the world, from the surface waters to the ocean depths. When fish are fully grown, their bodies can be divided into three parts (head, trunk and tail).

Usually their bodies are covered with scales or body plates and most fish have fins which they use for swimming.

These are just a few of the many characteristics that an ichthyologist (a scientist who studies fish) or you, may use to identify a fish. The following handout (written by a NMFS scientist) provides a general description of a "fish" which can be used by anyone interested in or studying these fantastic animals.

