

Name _____

Help Morgan Find the Poachers!

The fishes are the most numerous and diverse of the vertebrate (those with back bones) animals on Earth. Over 20,000 species of fish have been identified -- they live in our oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, or other aquatic environments. Sometimes it is almost impossible to tell some fish species apart because they look alike. Fisheries biologists often group these look-alike species together in families -- some fish families are made up of more than 100 species.

Look at the two columns below and try your hand at matching the poachers or alligator fish from the family Agonidae. These fish (from 50 species) are found in the north Pacific and Atlantic Oceans where they live near the bottom in shallow water. Look carefully at the fish in the two columns -- what features did you use when you made your matches?

