



NOAA FISHERIES

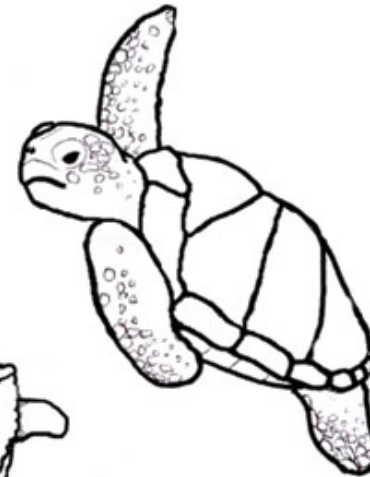
Greater Atlantic Regional
Fisheries Office

Northeast Marine Endangered Species

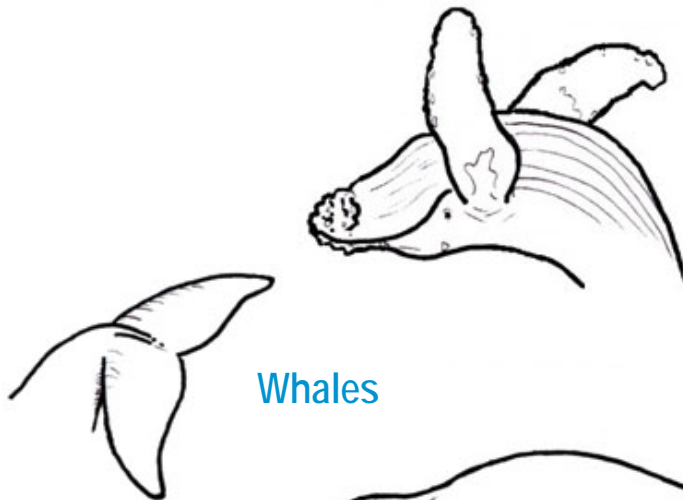
Atlantic salmon



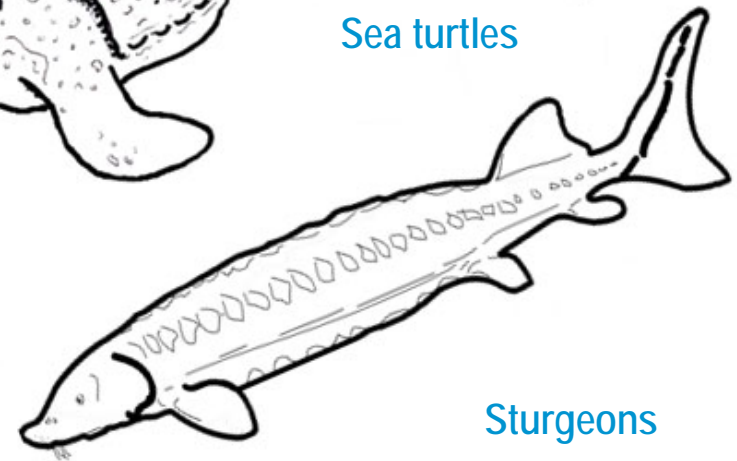
Sea turtles



Whales

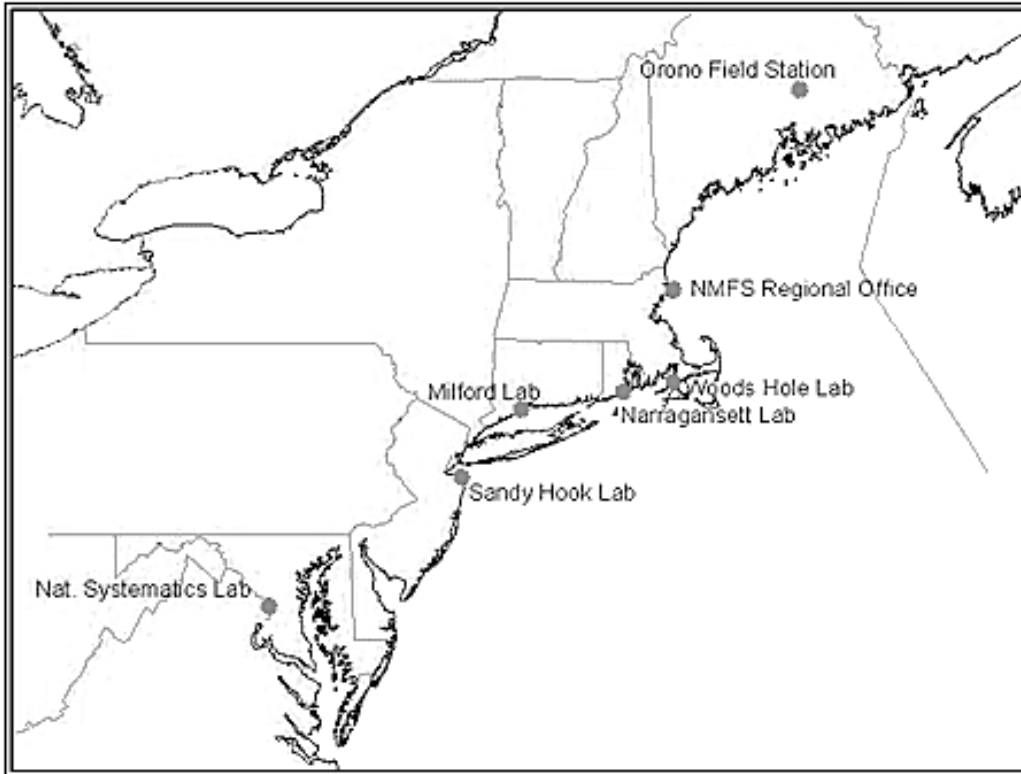


Sturgeons



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARAH WALSH LAPORTE

Endangered, Threatened, and the Northeast



NOAA Fisheries offices in the Northeast

In 1973, the **Endangered Species Act** was created to help protect endangered and threatened plants and animals from becoming extinct.

Endangered species are plant and animal species that are at risk of becoming extinct.

Threatened species are plant and animal species at risk of becoming endangered.

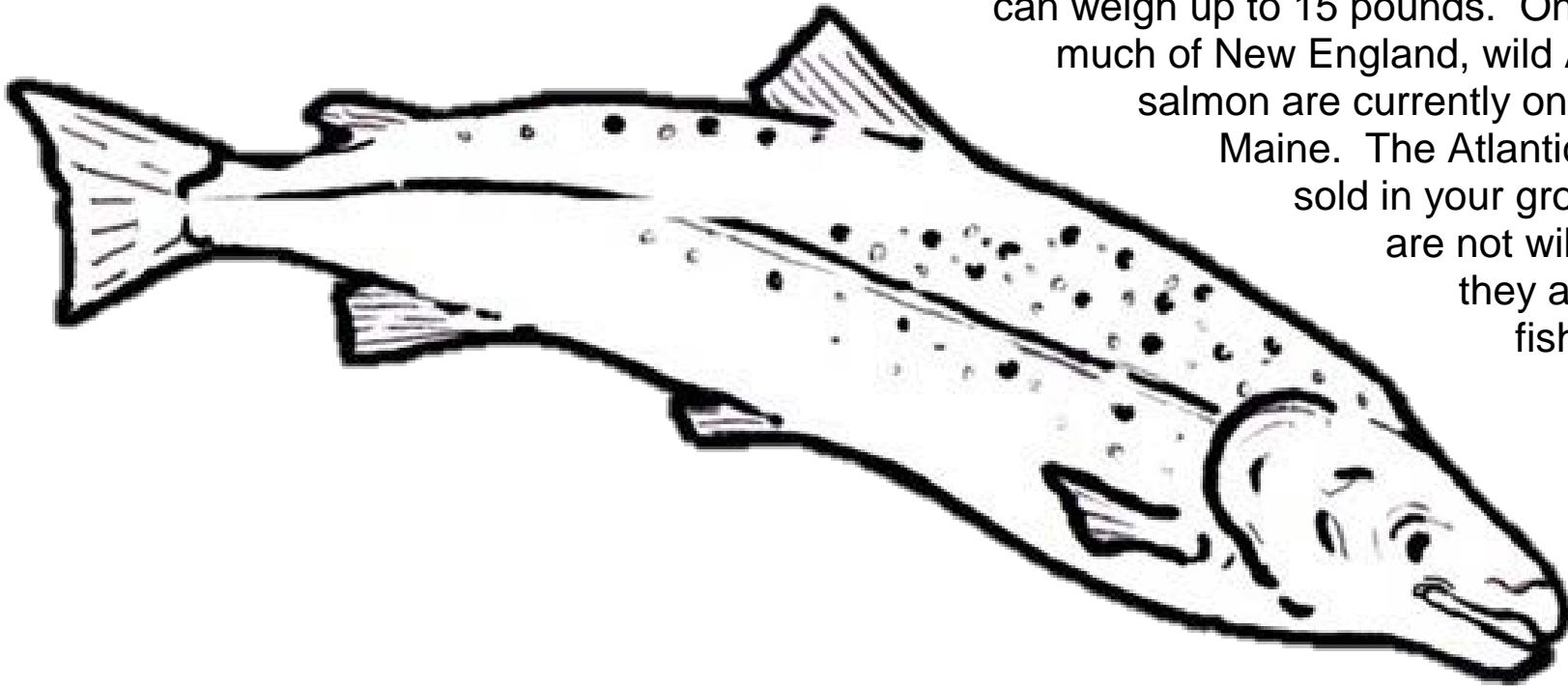
NOAA Fisheries is one of the many organizations that implements the Endangered Species Act to help protect marine species that are at risk of extinction.

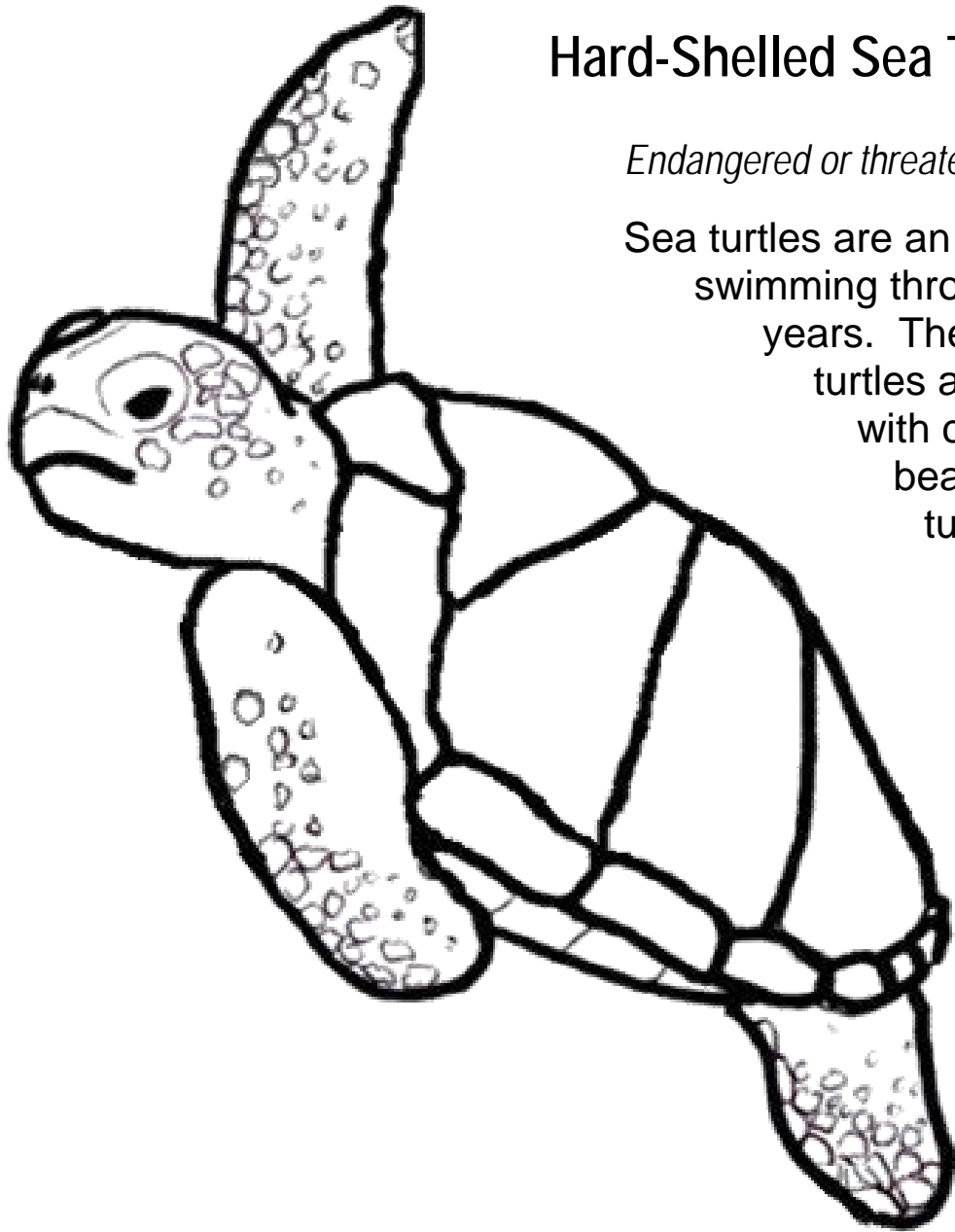
This coloring book talks about some of the marine species that are protected in the Northeast region of the United States which spans from Maine down to North Carolina. As you are reading, think about some of the ways that you can help these animals.

Atlantic Salmon

Endangered

Atlantic salmon are anadromous fish. **Anadromous** fish are born in rivers, which are freshwater, then move out to the Atlantic Ocean, which is salt water. When ready to lay their eggs, Atlantic salmon will return to the same river they were born in. Adult Atlantic salmon can weigh up to 15 pounds. Once found in much of New England, wild Atlantic salmon are currently only found in Maine. The Atlantic salmon sold in your grocery stores are not wild. Instead, they are raised on fish farms!

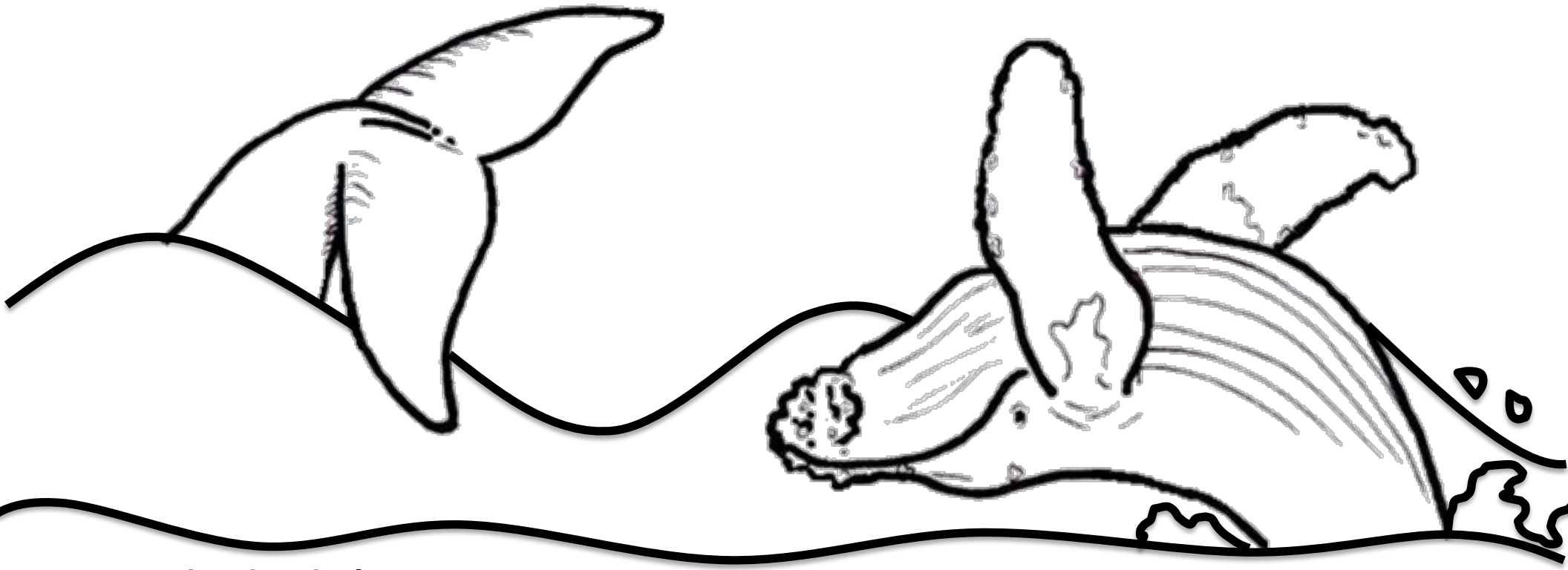




Hard-Shelled Sea Turtles

Endangered or threatened (depending on species and geographic location)

Sea turtles are an ancient group of reptiles that have been swimming through the oceans for more than 100 million years. They are cold-blooded and breathing air. Sea turtles are found in the Northeast seasonally, moving with changing water temperatures. They nest on beaches in warmer areas farther south. All sea turtles have a top shell, called a **carapace**, and a bottom shell, called a **plastron**. Some sea turtles are called hard-shelled. These turtles have shells that are made up of hard scales, called **scutes**. Hard-shelled sea turtle species that are on the endangered species list include the green, hawksbill (rare in the Northeast), Kemp's ridley, and loggerhead sea turtle.



Humpback Whale

Endangered

The humpback whale gets its name from the fact that they have a large “hump” on their back. You can see the hump when the whale arches its back and dives. They are known for communicating underwater with songs, and jumping out of the water, which is a behavior known as **breaching**. Individual humpback whales can be easily identified when they dive and reveal the bottom of their tail, or **fluke**. Each fluke has a unique black and white pattern. Like human fingerprints, no two humpback whale flukes are the same! Other whale species that are endangered include the blue, fin, sei, sperm, and North Atlantic right whale.

Leatherback Turtle

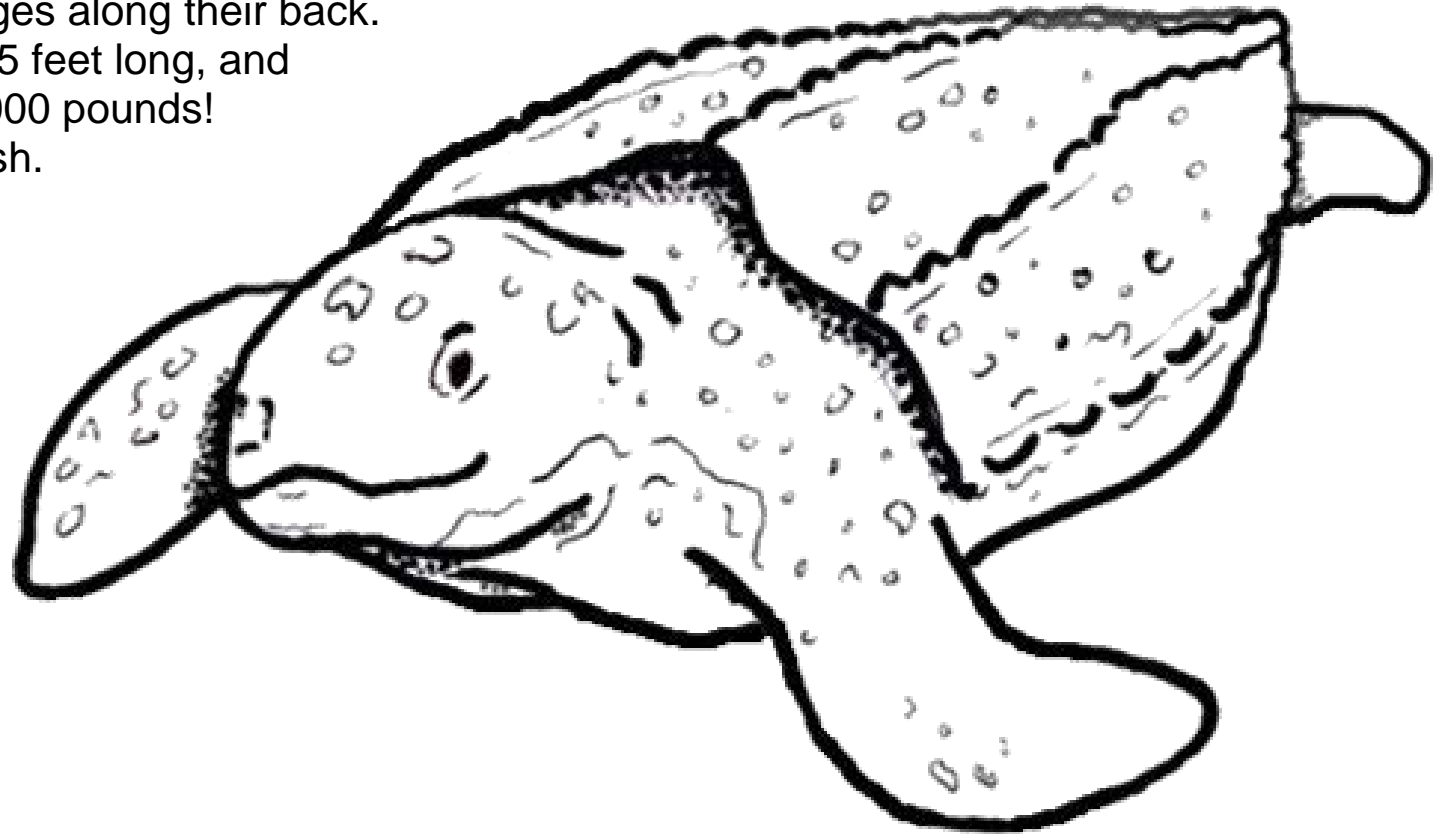
Endangered

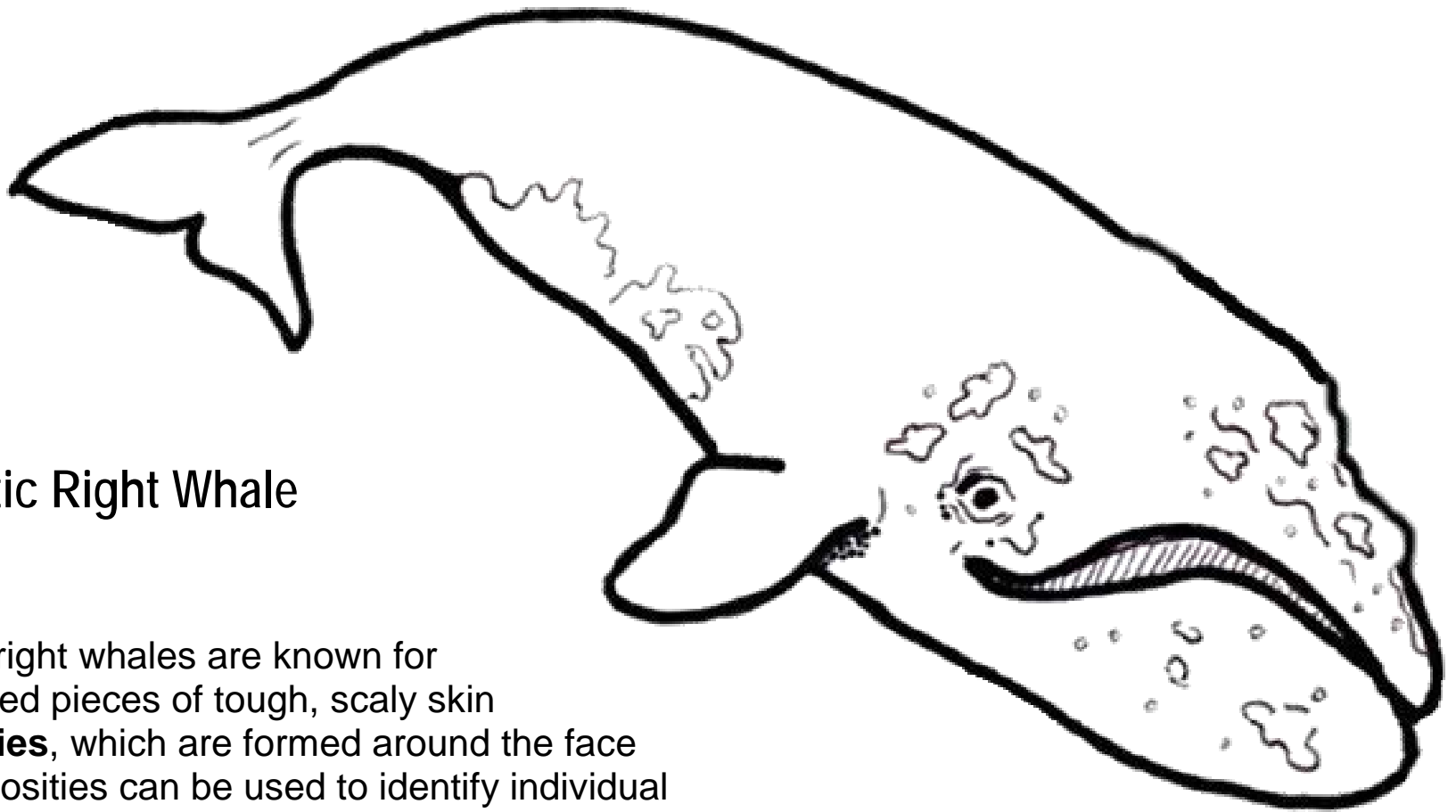
The leatherback is the largest sea turtle! Leatherbacks don't look like other sea turtles. They have a shell of small interlocking bones covered with black rubbery skin. They also have white or pinkish blotches on their body, flippers, and head and seven ridges along their back.

Their shell can be up to 5 feet long, and they can weigh up to 2,000 pounds!

They primarily eat jellyfish.

Leatherbacks are found worldwide. In the Northeast, they commonly feed as far north as Canada!

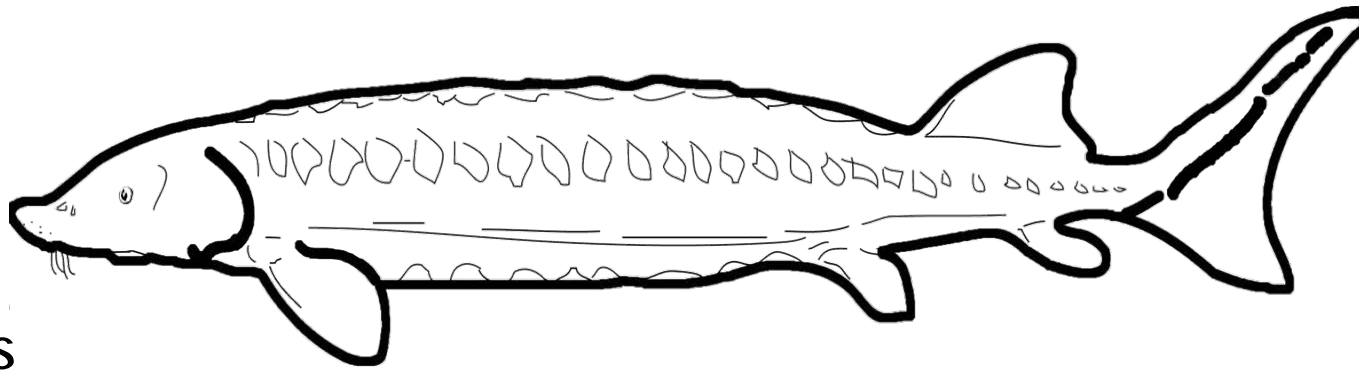




North Atlantic Right Whale

Endangered

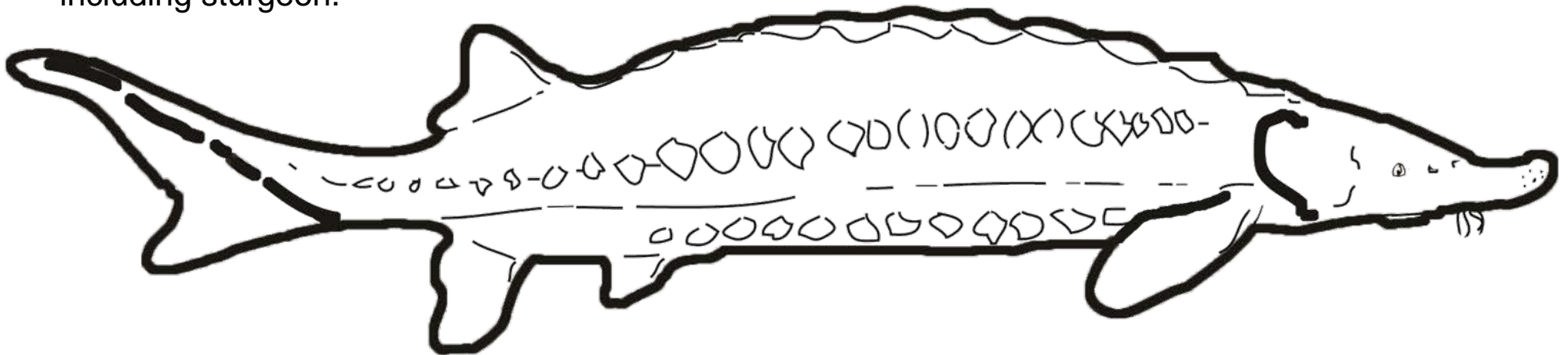
North Atlantic right whales are known for having thickened pieces of tough, scaly skin called **callosities**, which are formed around the face and head. Callosities can be used to identify individual whales as no two have the same pattern. Right whales reach up to 55 feet in length and weigh up to 70 tons, the same weight as 6-7 school buses! All whales are warm-blooded marine mammals that need to swim up to the surface periodically to breathe air. They have a thick layer of fat called **blubber** to keep them warm in cold waters. Some whales, like the sperm whale, have teeth to eat fish and squid. Other whales, including the North Atlantic right whale, do not have teeth, but have a mouthful of fringed **baleen** plates to filter food from the water. Most baleen whales have stiff broom-like baleen, but the baleen of the right whale has a greater amount of fine hair-like strands, which are used for filtering out their rice-sized planktonic prey in the water.



Sturgeons

Endangered or threatened (depending on species and geographic location)

Atlantic and shortnose sturgeons are prehistoric-looking species that have been around for over 120 million years, since the age of the dinosaurs! They are found from Canada down to Florida. Like salmon, they move, or **migrate**, from the saltwater ocean to the freshwater rivers to lay their eggs. Atlantic sturgeon are much larger than shortnose sturgeon. They can reach up to 14 feet in length and weigh up to 800 pounds! Shortnose sturgeon tend to have a shorter and a more blunt nose, or **snout**, than Atlantic sturgeon. Like sea turtles, sturgeon also have bony scales call scutes that protect them from predators. They have five rows of scutes along their body. Sturgeon also have four sensory whiskers under their snout called **barbels**, and a toothless, tubular mouth. Caviar (fish eggs that we eat) comes from the eggs of many types of fish, including sturgeon.



What Can You Do to Help Protect Marine Endangered Species?

Admire from a distance



- Do not disturb endangered animals and keep a safe distance from them on land and on the water.
- Notify other boaters if there are marine mammals, sea turtles, or endangered fish in the area.
- If a sturgeon or salmon is caught in your fishing gear, try to release it safely and as soon as possible. If you accidentally catch a sturgeon, or see one that is in distress or dead, please call 978-281-9328 to report it.
- Please call the stranding and disentanglement hotline, 866-755-NOAA (6622) if you see a marine mammal or sea turtle that is:
 - Stranded on a beach
 - Entangled in fishing gear
 - In distress
 - Dead
 - Caught in your fishing gear

What Can You Do to Help Protect Marine Endangered Species?

Be a good neighbor

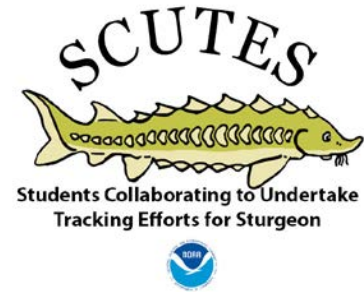
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! Some plastics end up in the oceans. Marine animals can mistake them for food.
- Do not pollute. Keep the land, oceans, and rivers clean. Dispose trash properly.
- Save water. Shut the faucet off while you're brushing your teeth, and take shorter showers.
- Get the word out! Tell your family and friends about these endangered species, and what they can do to help them.





NOAA FISHERIES

Greater Atlantic Regional
Fisheries Office



For Additional Information, Please Contact:

NOAA Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Protected Resources Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
978.281.9328

http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res
<http://whalesense.org/>
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/Protected/seaturtles/>
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/SCUTES>

CREDITS

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