

# FISHERIES FOR KIDS

From the Fisheries Department at University of Alaska Fairbanks

## Who are we?

The Fisheries Department is part of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Most of us are in Juneau, and work in the Fisheries building at Lena Point. We are scientists who study fish, shrimp, crabs, kelp, seals, whales, polar bears, and many other things found in the ocean in Alaska and elsewhere. We hope you find the ocean just as interesting as we do!

Julie Larsen Maher © WCS



WorldAtlas



## Sea Otters' Take Out Food

By Leigh Lubin

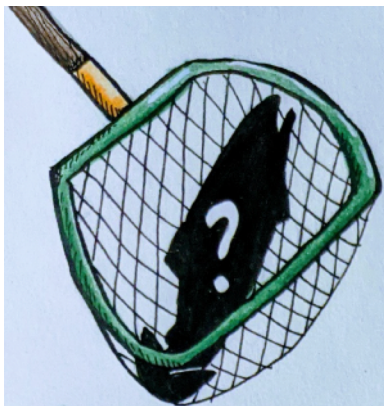
Sea otters dive to the bottom of the ocean to grab their meals to go. Once they pick up their food, they swim to the surface to enjoy their meal. Sea otters have built-in 'to go' bags. They use the bags to carry their food and silverware from the ocean floor to the surface. The 'to go' bags are really flaps of loose skin under each forearm that sea otters use to carry stuff to the surface.

Yes, sea otters carry their food in their armpits!

If the food has a hard shell, like clams or a mussels, the sea otter may take a favorite rock from their armpit bag. Then they use the rock as a tool to break the shell so they can access the meat inside. When the meal is over, the otter can put its favorite rock back in their armpit bag and save it to use again for the next meal.

*What if humans got their lunch and eating utensils from their armpits?*

*Can you carry a notebook from one side of the room to the other in your armpit? What about a pencil? Or a ball?*



# Who are the fish that come back to Auke Creek?

By: Erika King

## What the fish look like:

A



B



C



D



E



## Instructions

At Auke Creek, there is a fish gate, called a weir, where we count every fish that swims through the creek. Sometimes there can be 1,000 fish in a single day! Five different types, called species, pass through the weir. We know which species each fish is based on how they look. If you want to know which fish is which, look at the drawing on the left, and follow the questions and arrows. When you reach the end, it will tell you the name of the fish!

## Start

Does the fish have spots on its tail, top fin, or back?

Yes!



No!



Does the fish have spots on its whole body?

Yes!



No!



Are the spots black?

Yes!



No!



Cutthroat Trout!

Dolly Varden!

Does it have big oval spots and a hump?

Yes!



Pink Salmon!

No!



Coho Salmon!

Is it red with a green head?

Yes!



Sockeye Salmon!

Answers:  
A: Cutthroat Trout  
B: Sockeye Salmon  
C: Coho Salmon  
D: Dolly Varden  
E: Pink Salmon



## What might you find in a sea otter's armpit pocket?

By Leigh Lubin

S	Q	R	Q	G	B	U	P	U	O	O	S
O	R	O	C	K	S	R	V	W	C	C	N
Z	W	C	C	Q	S	C	S	D	R	T	A
A	A	K	L	F	F	H	Z	L	A	O	I
K	U	S	A	I	I	I	H	M	B	P	L
G	S	B	M	S	L	N	O	S	S	U	S
M	M	J	S	H	Q	S	Y	D	O	S	C
W	I	M	A	J	S	C	F	D	Y	A	B

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → and ↓ .

CLAMS  
CRABS  
FISH

OCTOPUS  
ROCKS  
SNAILS

URCHINS

## Ask a Fisheries Scientist

By Monica Brandhuber

*Why are the shells of mussels and barnacles on the rocks closed when I look at them on the beach?*

Mussels and barnacles use their shells to protect themselves from drying out and getting too hot or too cold in the air. It also protects them from predators like birds. When the tide comes back in, they will open up their shells to let the seawater in so they can feed on tiny plants and animals called plankton.

*Do you have a question for a fisheries scientist? Send an email to [uaf-AskFisheries@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-AskFisheries@alaska.edu)*

*Ask a parent/guardian or teacher for permission before using email.*



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## What is your favorite...

- Fish?
- Invertebrate?
- Marine mammal?
- Place to go swimming?

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.	S	.	.	S	.	H	S	.	.	.	.
S	U	S	.	N	.	S	M	.	.	.	.
L	P	B	.	I	.	A	I	.	S	.	.
I	O	A	.	H	.	F	L	.	K	.	.
A	T	R	.	C	.	C	C	.	.	.	.
N	C	C	.	R	.	S	K	.	C	.	R
S	O	.	.	U	.	.	.	.	R	.	.

Answer:

## **Deep Sea Art Contest**

*Many of the creatures that live in trenches and on the sea floor look like something from a Halloween movie. With your classmates, draw a scene with the spookiest deep sea life you can find. Ask your teacher to email it to [uaf-AskFisheries@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-AskFisheries@alaska.edu) for prizes.*