

# FIELD GUIDE

to the

# Chesapeake Bay



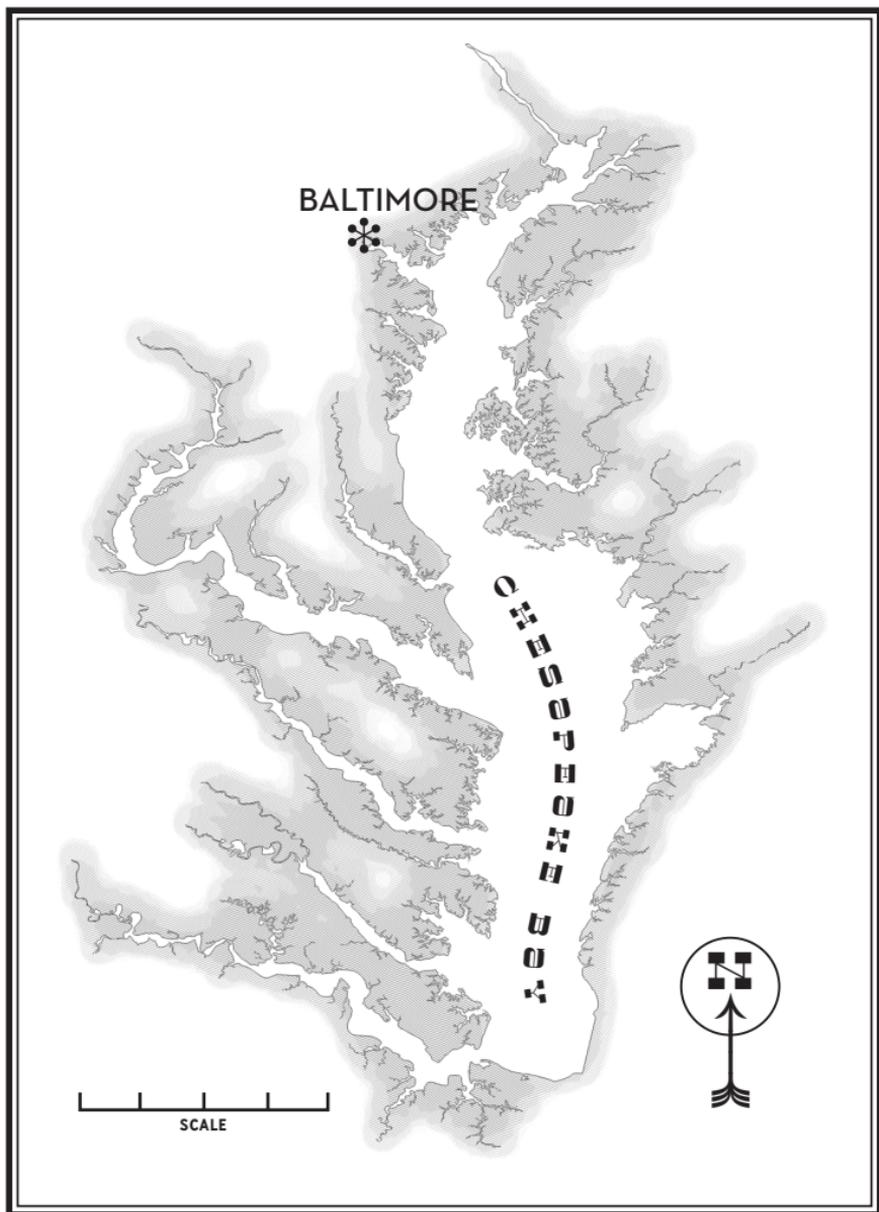
*Field Guide*

# FIELD GUIDE

to aquatic species  
of the  
**CHESAPEAKE BAY**

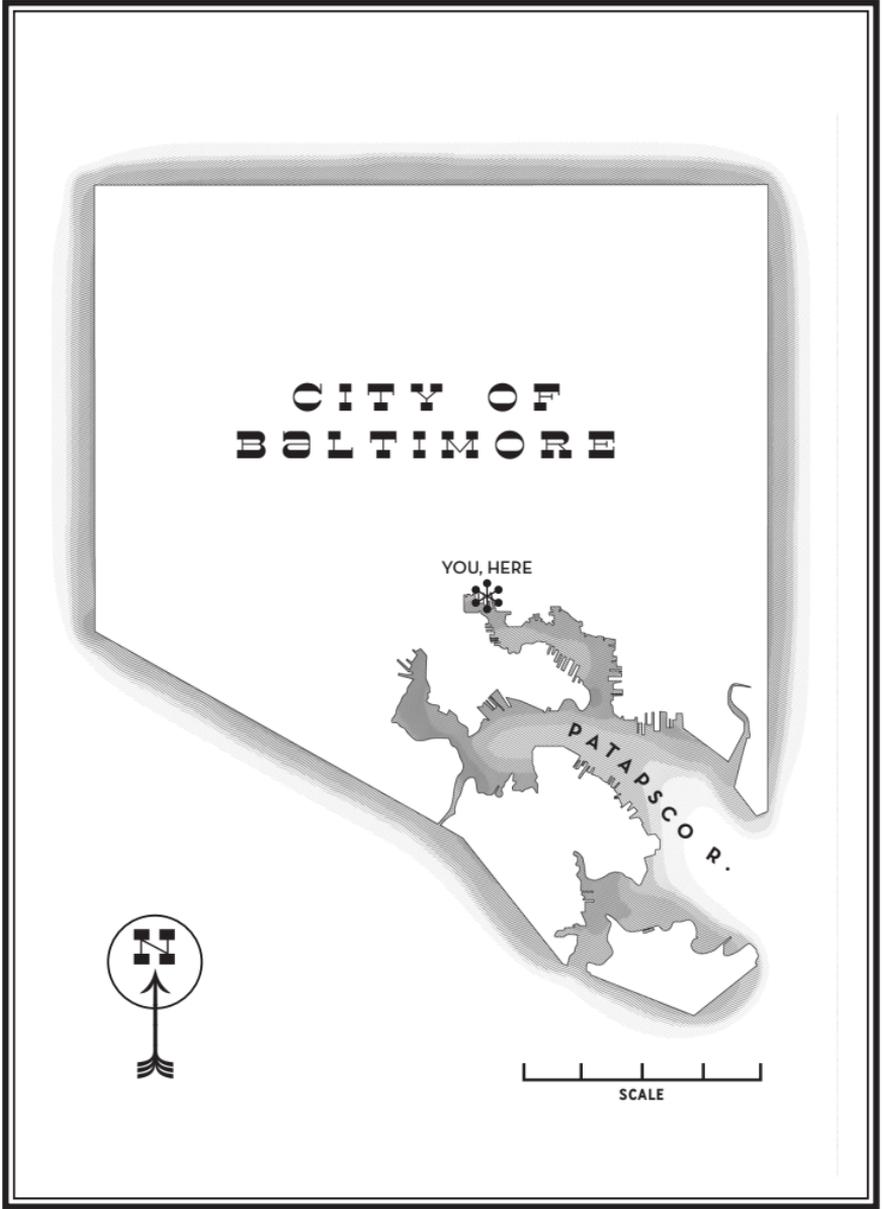
**K. BELL, C. PARKS**  
Light City  
Baltimore, Maryland  
2016





## REGARDING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

***The Chesapeake Bay is North America's largest estuary.*** It is approximately 200 miles long and 35 miles wide at it's widest point. The bay supports more than 3,600 species of animals, plants, and fish, including 348 species of fish, 173 species of shellfish, and over 2,700 plant species<sup>1</sup>. The Bay has been valued at over \$15.2 billion dollars related to fishing, tourism, property values and shipping activities<sup>2</sup>. Since the early twentieth century, the Chesapeake Bay has experienced serious environmental degradation. Problems include large reductions in sea grass, reduced amounts of marine life, seasonal depletions in dissolved oxygen, and increases in sedimentation .



## REGARDING BALTIMORE CITY.

***Baltimore is the largest city in the U.S. state of Maryland.*** It is approximately 12 miles long and 9.66 miles wide at it's widest point. Baltimore is home to a diverse populaton of approximately 622,000 human beings.w Baltimore City has been valued at over \$172 billion dollars related to education, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality industries.<sup>2,3</sup> Since the early twentieth century, Baltimore City has experienced serious environmental degradation. Problems include extensive blight in many neighborhoods, depopulation, economic decline, and increases in criminal activity.

1. Atkins, William Arthur; Anderson Faye, “Chesapeake Bay.” *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, 6th Ed.. 2015, and “Chesapeake Bay.” *World Encyclopedia*. 2005. “Chesapeake Bay.” *Encyclopedia.com*. HighBeam Research, 01 Jan. 2003. Web. 15 Mar. 2016.
2. Phillips, Spencer; Beth McGee. *The Economic Benefits Of Implementing The Blueprint In Maryland*. Chesapeake Bay Foundation. 2014
3. “Baltimore, MD.” *Forbes*. Forbes Magazine, n.d. Web. 15 Mar. 2016.
4. <http://commerce.maryland.gov/about/workforce>

# **KINDS OF FISH FOUND IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.**

**Blue Crab**

**Bull Shark**

**Burrfish**

**Cownose Ray**

**Flounder**

**Sea Nettle**

**Longnose Gar**

**Lookdown**

**Menhayden**

**Sea Robin**

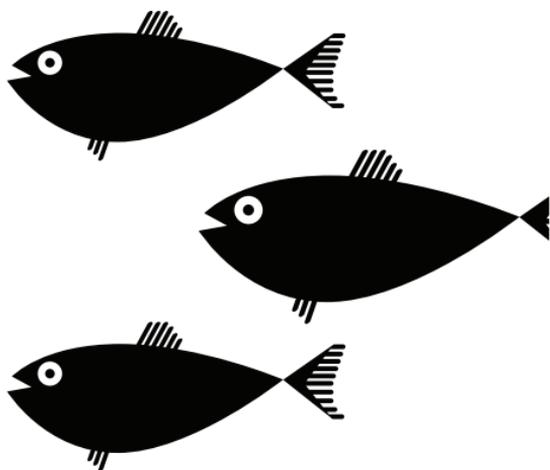
**Chessie, the Chesapeake Bay**

**Sea Serpent**

**Snakehead**

**Sturgeon**





**A schoolyard's where fun games are played in**

**But we travel in schools when we're grazin'**

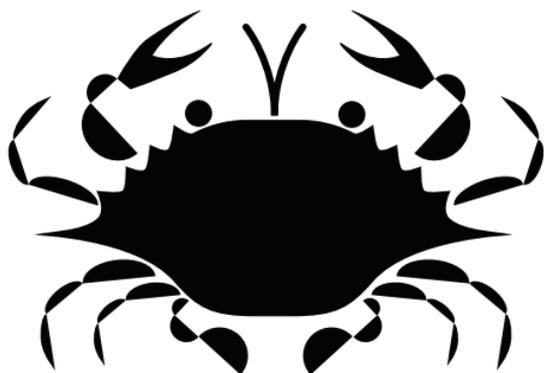
**So please give us some props**

**Cause we're good for your crops**

**Natural plant food comes from us \_\_\_\_\_.**



**We are skinny and toothy, we are  
Some might say that we look quite bizarre  
Please don't laugh just because  
of my long pointy schnoz  
Life is hard when your name's \_\_\_\_\_.**

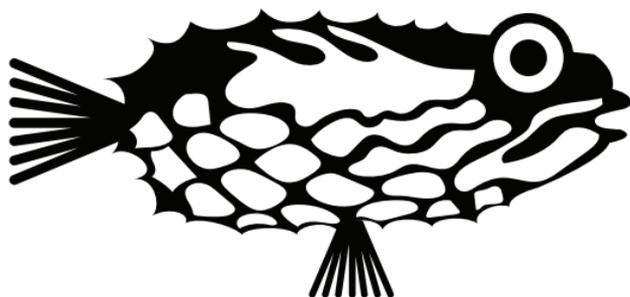


**If a sook or a jimmy you nab,  
Beware of your fingers, they'll jab!**

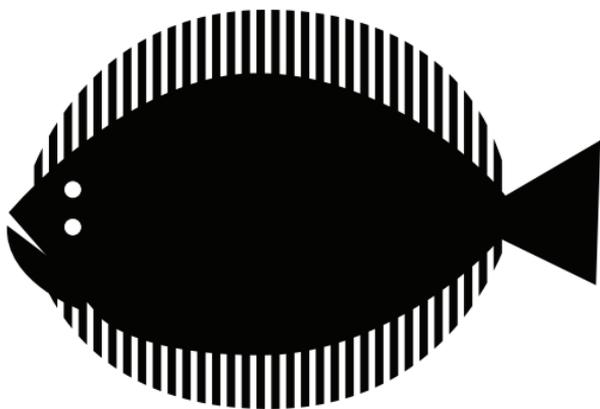
**I'm a beautiful swimmer**

**And summer feast winner**

**The Chesapeake pride's a \_\_\_\_\_.**



**Predators think that I'm a demure fish  
or a meal fit for a restauranteur's dish  
When I get in a state  
My whole body inflates  
Big is beautiful when you're a \_\_\_\_\_!**

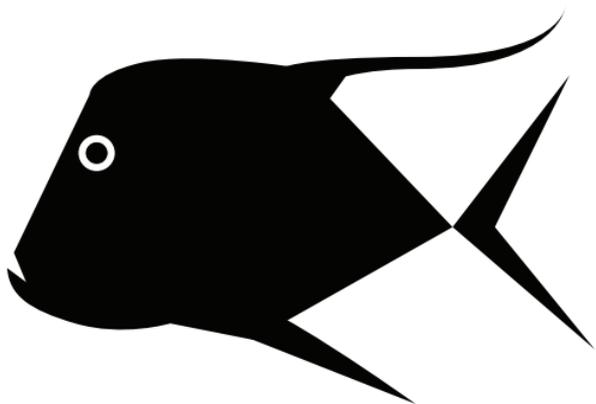


**Pancake flat, but they're also quite rounder  
Than fish that are usually found here.  
They feed on the bottom  
It's so hard to spot 'em!  
They change colors to hide. That's the \_\_\_\_\_!**

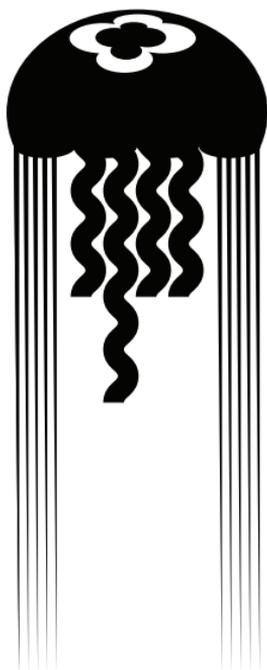




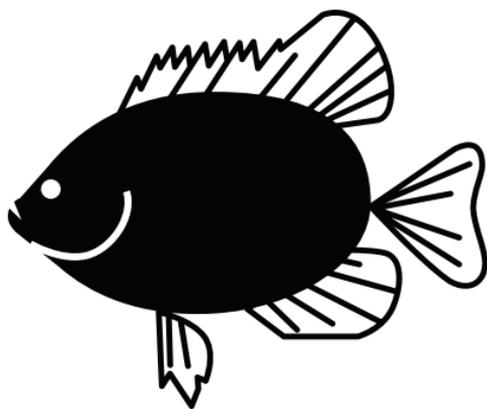
**In China I was born and bred;  
See how far my fish family has spread!  
Some complain we're invasive  
I just think we're pervasive  
Land and sea are both home to \_\_\_\_\_.**



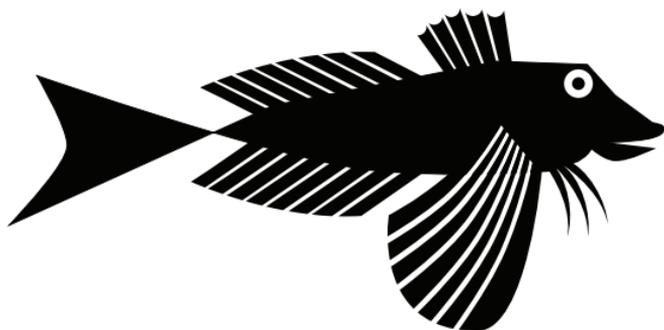
**Hey you! Put this little book down.  
Look up and you'll see me around  
My long face gives my name  
But my pride's not to blame  
When I swim I appear to \_\_\_\_\_.**



**Every Summer we float here to settle;  
Our long tendrils test anyone's mettle  
Though we're known for our sting  
Causing pain's not our thing  
It's not personal, I'm just a \_\_\_\_\_.**



**A fisherman's friend I am still  
On your line, I will give you a thrill  
I'll take up your bait  
You won't have a long wait  
Your first catch might be me—just a \_\_\_\_\_!**

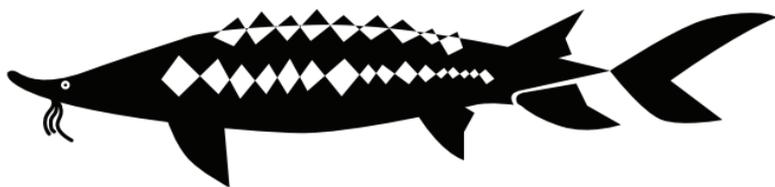


**In the spring my namesake comes bob-bobbin'  
And young lovers sweet hearts commence throbbin'**

**Don't be absurd!**

**I'm a fish, not a bird!**

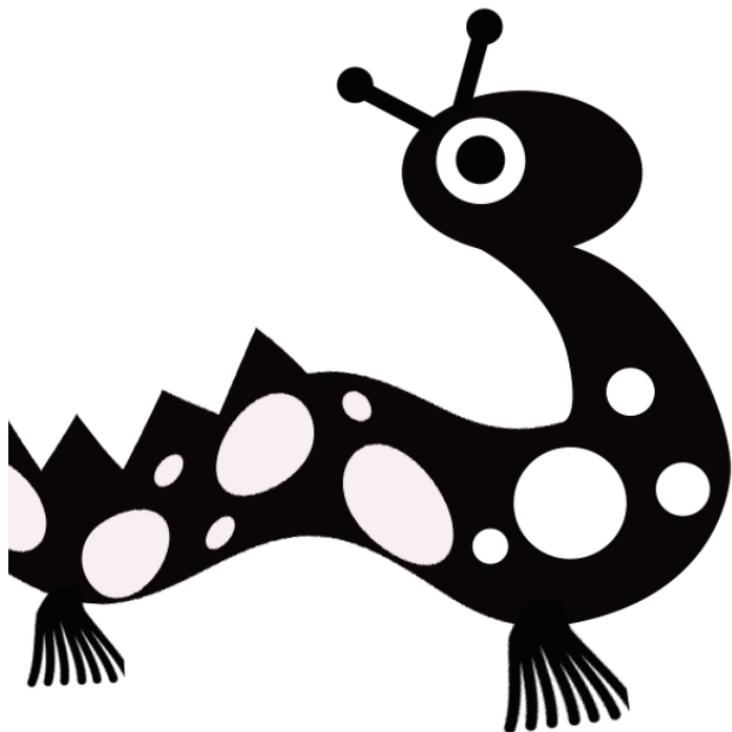
**Though I can't fly I'm called a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .**



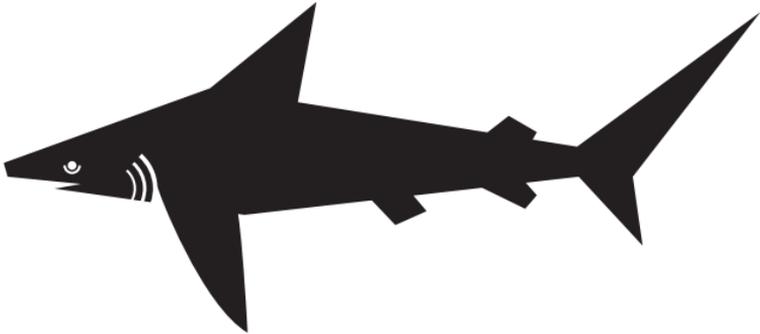
**Fresh water or salt I submerge in  
Though my eggs are something you would splurge in  
I'm endangered, don't eat!  
Or my numbers deplete.  
Please protect the sweet sensitive \_\_\_\_\_.**



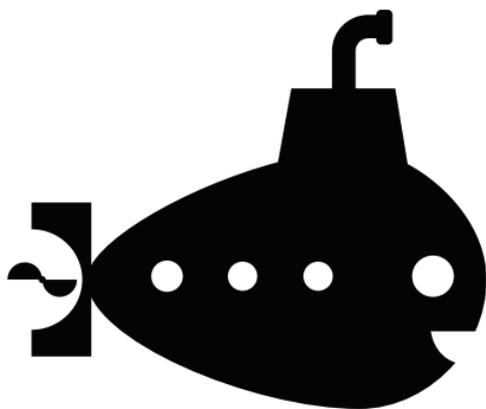
**Like a kite on a blustery day  
I flap through the water my way  
There's a spine on my tail  
That's as sharp as a nail  
So don't step on the poor \_\_\_\_\_.**



**My cousin from Scotland's named Nessie  
In Lake Tahoe my sister's called Tessie  
In the Bay's storied history,  
I'm a creature of mystery,  
I'm a sea serpent! My name is \_\_\_\_\_!**



**When we hunt for a meal that's delish  
We travel in packs, but we're fish  
I might be a shark  
But you won't hear me bark  
Even though they call me \_\_\_\_\_.**



**The Chesapeake's our waterway  
Oh so many fish live there today  
You've met all these sea creatures,  
But there are other features!  
Who else did you find in the Bay?**



## AN EPILOGUE.

The Bay and Baltimore City are similar ecosystems. Both support a diverse population of inhabitants, provide a livelihood for many Marylanders, and are enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year. Both suffered a long period of neglect and deterioration in the mid and late 20th century. And now, in the 21st century, both are undergoing a period of positive, “healthy” transition.

The past few years have been a period of recovery for the Bay, and continued progress gives us hope that positive change is possible. Perhaps, with the intervention of artists, the conscientious work of developers, and community participation, all of us will enjoy a recovery on the land as well.

**LOVE YOUR CITY**



**LOVE YOUR BAY**