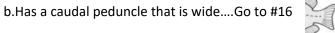
## **Dichotomous Key to Common Coastal Fishes and Invertebrates**

- a. Is a fish....Go to #2 b. Is not a fish....Go to #19
- a. Has a forked tail....Go to 3# 2
  - b. Does not have a forked tail.... Go to #10
- a. Has a round compressed body shape....Go to #4 3 b.Has a long and slender body....Go to #6
- a. Has a dark spot behind the head. Silver to greenish along back. Silver belly....Menhaden
  - b. Has a silvery color with yellowish caudal fin .... Go to #5
- 5 a. Has a long sloping forehead.... Moonfish
  - b. Has a deeply rounded belly with a dark spot on the caudal peduncle....Bumper
- 6 a. Has barbels (whiskers) under the chin.... Hardhead Catfish b.Does not have whiskers....Go to #7

- 7 a. Has a shiny stripe on its sides.... Bay Anchovy b. Does not have a shiny stripe on its side....Go to #8
- 8 a. Has sharp dorsal fin spines....Pinfish b. Does not have sharp dorsal fin spines....Go to #9
- 9 a. Have many black spots on its sides....Spanish Mackerel
  - b. Has a second dorsal fin....Striped Mullet
- a. Has a rounded tail....Go to #11 10
  - b. Does not have a rounded tail....Go to #12
- a. Has black bands down its side....Banded Drum 11 b.Is flat from top to bottom with eyes on top of its head....Bay Whiff
- a. Has a caudal peduncle that is not very wide ........Go to #13 12





- a. Has pectoral fins like wings....Sea Robinb. Does not have pectoral fins like wings....Go to #14
- a. Has a very rounded puffed out belly....Pufferfishb. Has a long slender body....Go to #15
- a. Has a silverish body color....Cutlassfishb. Has a long narrow mouth (seahorse like)....Pipefish
- a. Body is a silvery-red color ....Go to #17
  - b. Not red in color....Go to #18
- a. Has a black spot near caudal caudal peduncle and large scales....Red Drum
  - b. Does not have a black spot near its tail....Red Snapper
- a. Has a triangular body shape with a long pointed dorsal and anal fins and black to gray bars on the sides....**Spadefish** 
  - b. Has yellowish stripes and a black spot behind the head.... Spot

- a. Has two shells and shows no body parts....If yes go to #20
  - b. Does not have two shells and shows body parts....Go to #21
- a. Has small ridges going up and down its shell....Ribbed Musselb. Grayish in color with thick stripes along its shell....Eastern Oyster
- **21** a. Has two long antennae's....**Shrimp** 
  - b. Does not have two long antennae's....Go to #22
- a. Has one front claw larger than the other....Fiddler Crab
  - b. Does not have a claw larger than the other....Go to #23
- a. Has blue coloring on its claws and body....Blue Crab
  - b. Reddish in color with black tipped claws....Stone Crab