










Dichotomous Key to Common Coastal Fishes and Invertebrates

- 1** a. Is a fish....Go to #2
b. Is not a fish....Go to #19
- 2** a. Has a forked tail....Go to 3# 
b. Does not have a forked tail.... Go to #10 
- 3** a. Has a round compressed body shape....Go to #4 
b. Has a long and slender body....Go to #6 
- 4** 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**
- 10** a. Has a rounded tail....Go to #11 
b. Does not have a rounded tail....Go to #12
- 11** a. Has black bands down its side....**Banded Drum**
b. Is flat from top to bottom with eyes on top of its head....**Bay Whiff**
- 12** a. Has a caudal peduncle that is not very wideGo to #13 
b. Has a caudal peduncle that is wide....Go to #16 

- 13** a. Has pectoral fins like wings....**Sea Robin**
b. Does not have pectoral fins like wings....Go to #14
- 14** a. Has a very rounded puffed out belly....**Pufferfish**
b. Has a long slender body....Go to #15
- 15** a. Has a silverish body color....**Cutlassfish**
b. Has a long narrow mouth (seahorse like)....**Pipefish**
- 16** a. Body is a silvery-red colorGo to #17
b. Not red in color....Go to #18
- 17** 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**
- 18** 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**
- 19** 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
- 20** a. Has small ridges going up and down its shell....**Ribbed Mussel**
b. 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
- 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
- 23** a. Has blue coloring on its claws and body....**Blue Crab**
b. Reddish in color with black tipped claws....**Stone Crab**