

**The Education Program at the  
New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium**

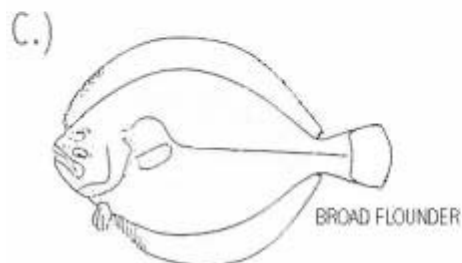
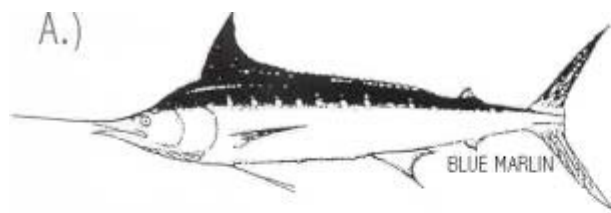
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**FISH MORPHOLOGY – STUDENT ACTIVITY 1**

Study the chart (below) of different fish body shapes and tail shapes. The shape of a fish can tell how the fish moves through the water. Answer the following questions selecting fish from the pictures above. Tell what about each fish causes you to select each answer.

1. Which of the fish above swims the fastest in open water?
2. Which fish can make sharp turns?
3. Which fish can not make sharp turns?
4. Which fish is a great sprinter but not fit for a long distance marathon?
5. Which fish swims like a flying bird?
6. Which fish slithers through the water like a snake?
7. Which fish lives on the sea floor?



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**FISH MORPHOLOGY – STUDENT ACTIVITY 1 - ANSWERS**

- 1) A. Its shape is fusiform and it has a lunate tail. There is less drag on the fish, so it can swim faster over longer distances.
- 2) B. A rounded tail is best for maneuvering.
- 3) A. A lunate tail is worst for maneuvering.
- 4) B. The large surface area of the rounded tail is great for propulsion but creates the greatest drag so the fish tires easily.
- 5) C. It has a depressiform shape.
- 6) D. It has a filiform shape.
- 7) C. It is depressiform, and both eyes are on the same side of its head.