

EEL-LIKE FISH

ATLANTIC CUTLASSFISH (*Trichiurus lepturus*)

COLOR: Silver; iridescent.

BODY: Body laterally compressed; long. Tail tapers to a point.

FINS: No pelvic fins.

HEAD: Lower jaw longer than upper jaw. Large, fang-like teeth.



PHOTO CREDIT: NOAA / NMFS / NEFSC / ESB

CONGER EEL (*Conger oceanicus*)

COLOR: Dark gray dorsal surface. Pale ventral surface. Dark edges on dorsal and anal fins.

HEAD: Lower jaw shorter than upper jaw.



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ATLANTIC HAGFISH (*Myxine glutinosa*)

COLOR: Purple.

BODY: Protein secretion pores on lateral surface; posterior to head.

HEAD: Barbels around jawless mouth. No rasping plate.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Sea lamprey (pg. 112).

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SEA LAMPREY (*Petromyzon marinus*)

COLOR: Gray-green mottled.

BODY: Cartilaginous skeleton.

FINS: Two dorsal fins.

HEAD: No barbels around mouth.
Round rasping plate.



MAY BE CONFUSED WITH: Atlantic hagfish (pg. 111).

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FAWN CUSK-EEL (*Lepophidium profundorum*)

COLOR: Light brown. Pale spots on lateral surface.

BODY: Body tapers to a point.

HEAD: Long rostral spine, reaching tip of snout.



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ROCK GUNNEL (*Pholis gunnellus*)

COLOR: Mottled brown-red. Dark bar slants from origin of dorsal fin to eye; and from eye down to origin of mouth. 10-14 black spots along base of dorsal fin.



PHOTO CREDIT: © Trevor Meyer

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WRYMOUTH (*Cryptacanthodes maculatus*)

COLOR: Red-brown. Two or three horizontal rows of spots running down body

BODY: Body tapers to a point.

HEAD: Superior mouth.



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OCEAN POUT (*Zoarces americanus*)

COLOR: Dark gray dorsal surface. Pale ventral surface. Dark edges on dorsal and anal fins.

HEAD: Lower jaw shorter than upper jaw.



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ATLANTIC WOLFFISH (*Anarhichas lupus*)

COLOR: Blue-gray. Vertical dark bars along body.

BODY: Body deepest near head.

HEAD: Large teeth with strong jaw.



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