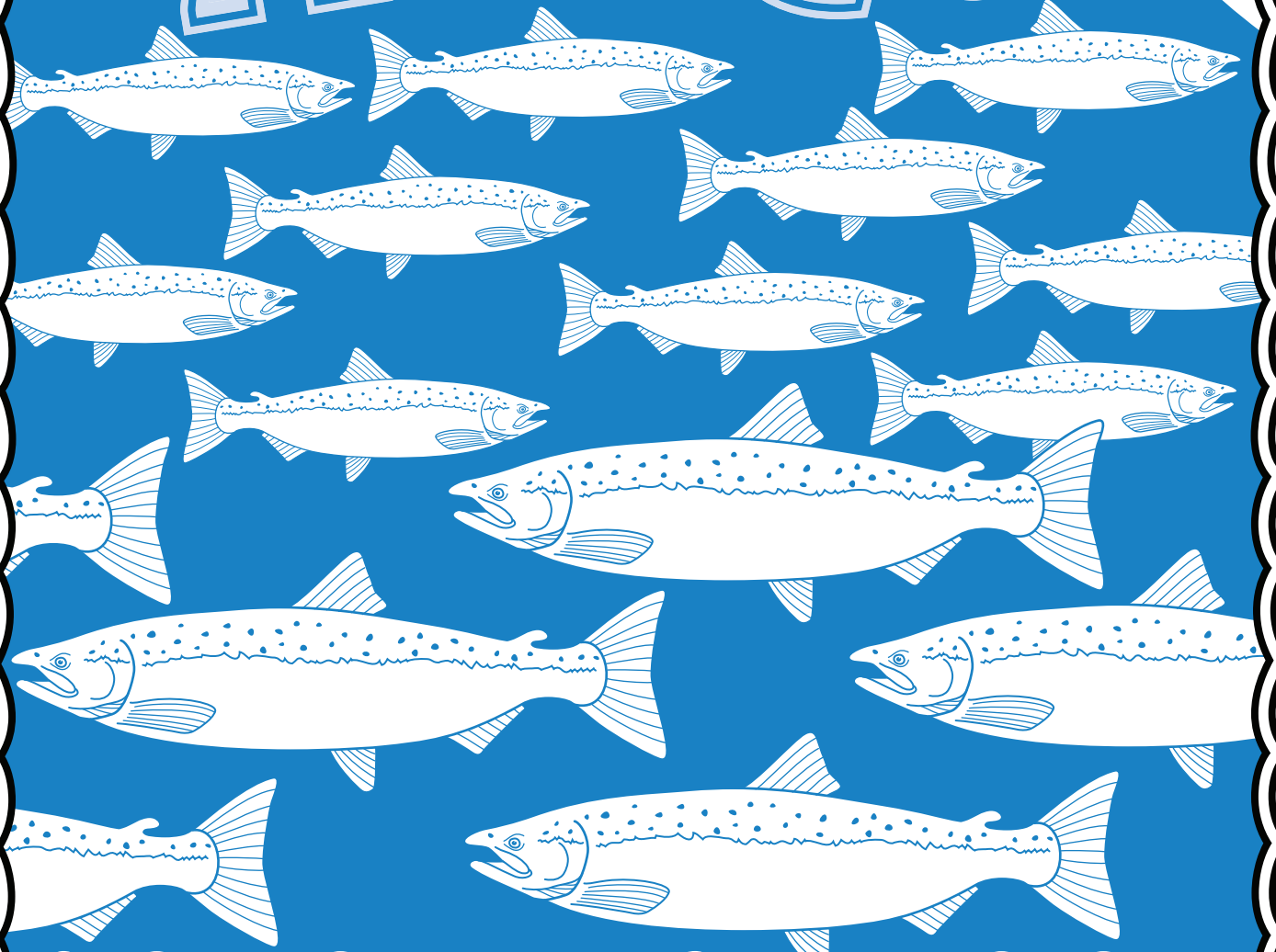




BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

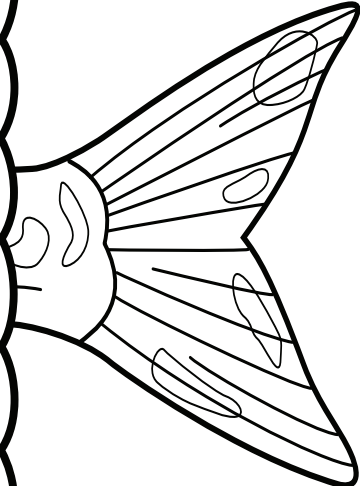
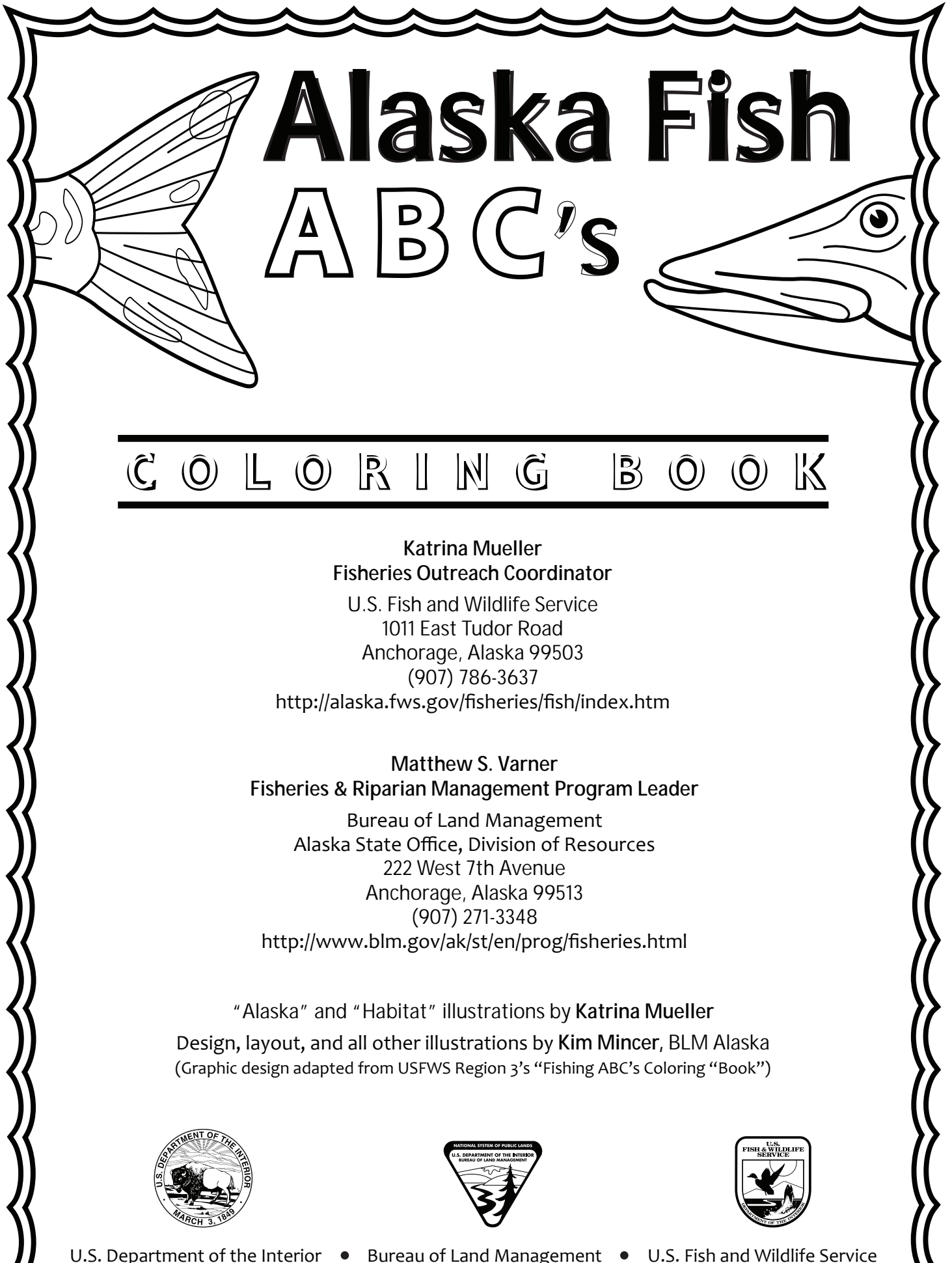
ALASKA FISH

A B C's

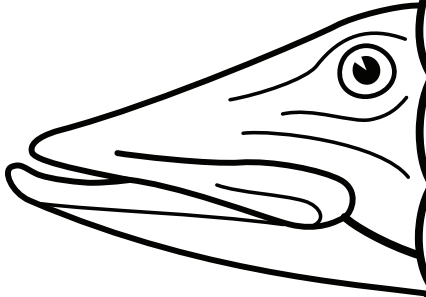


COLORING BOOK

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



Alaska Fish A B C's



C O L O R I N G B O O K

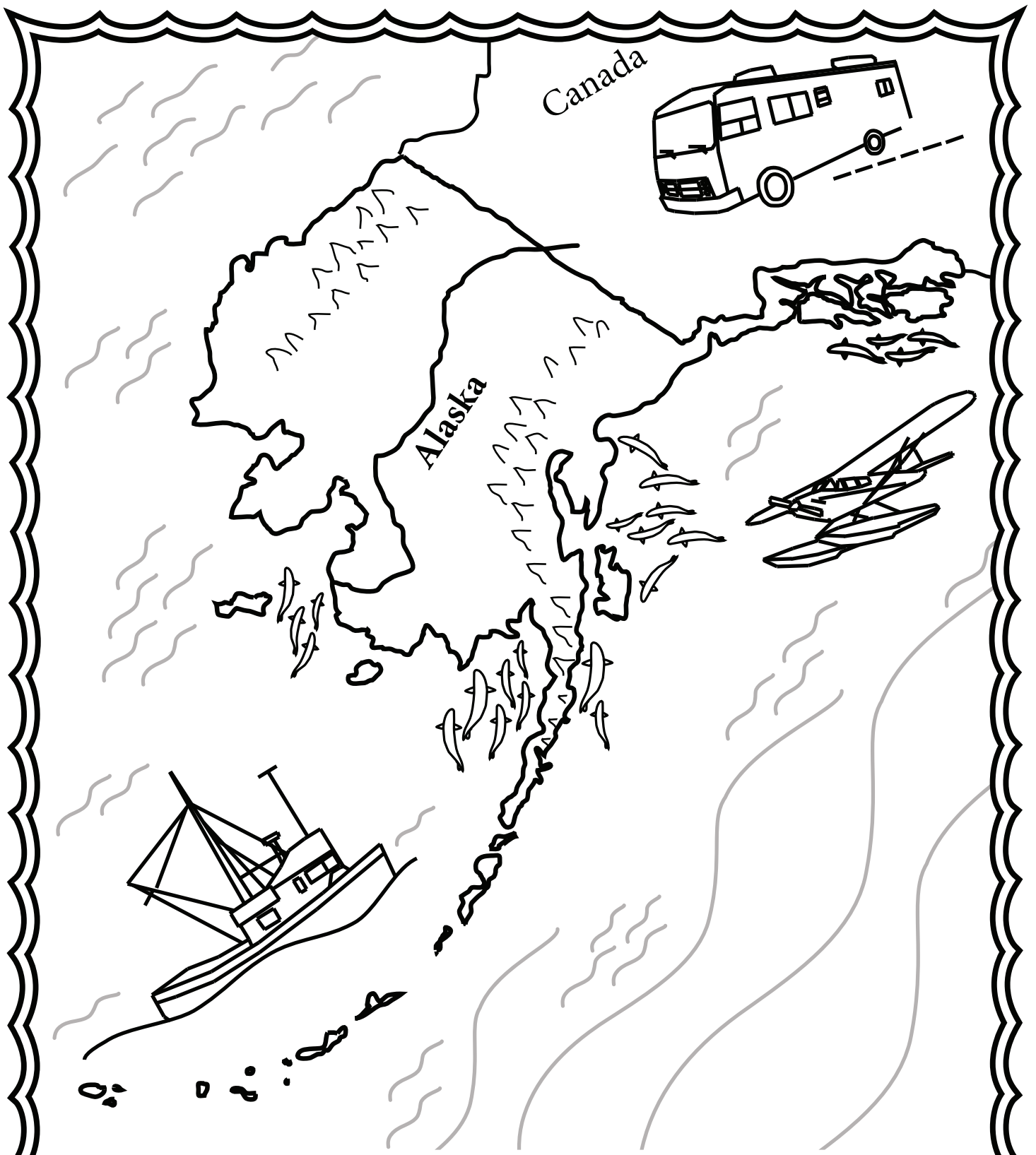
Katrina Mueller
Fisheries Outreach Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 786-3637
<http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fish/index.htm>

Matthew S. Varner
Fisheries & Riparian Management Program Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office, Division of Resources
222 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
(907) 271-3348
<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/fisheries.html>

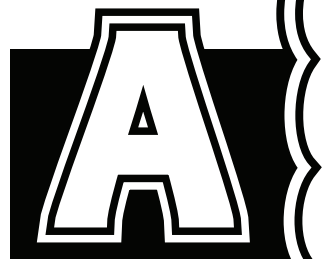
“Alaska” and “Habitat” illustrations by **Katrina Mueller**
Design, layout, and all other illustrations by **Kim Mincer**, BLM Alaska
(Graphic design adapted from USFWS Region 3’s “Fishing ABC’s Coloring “Book”)

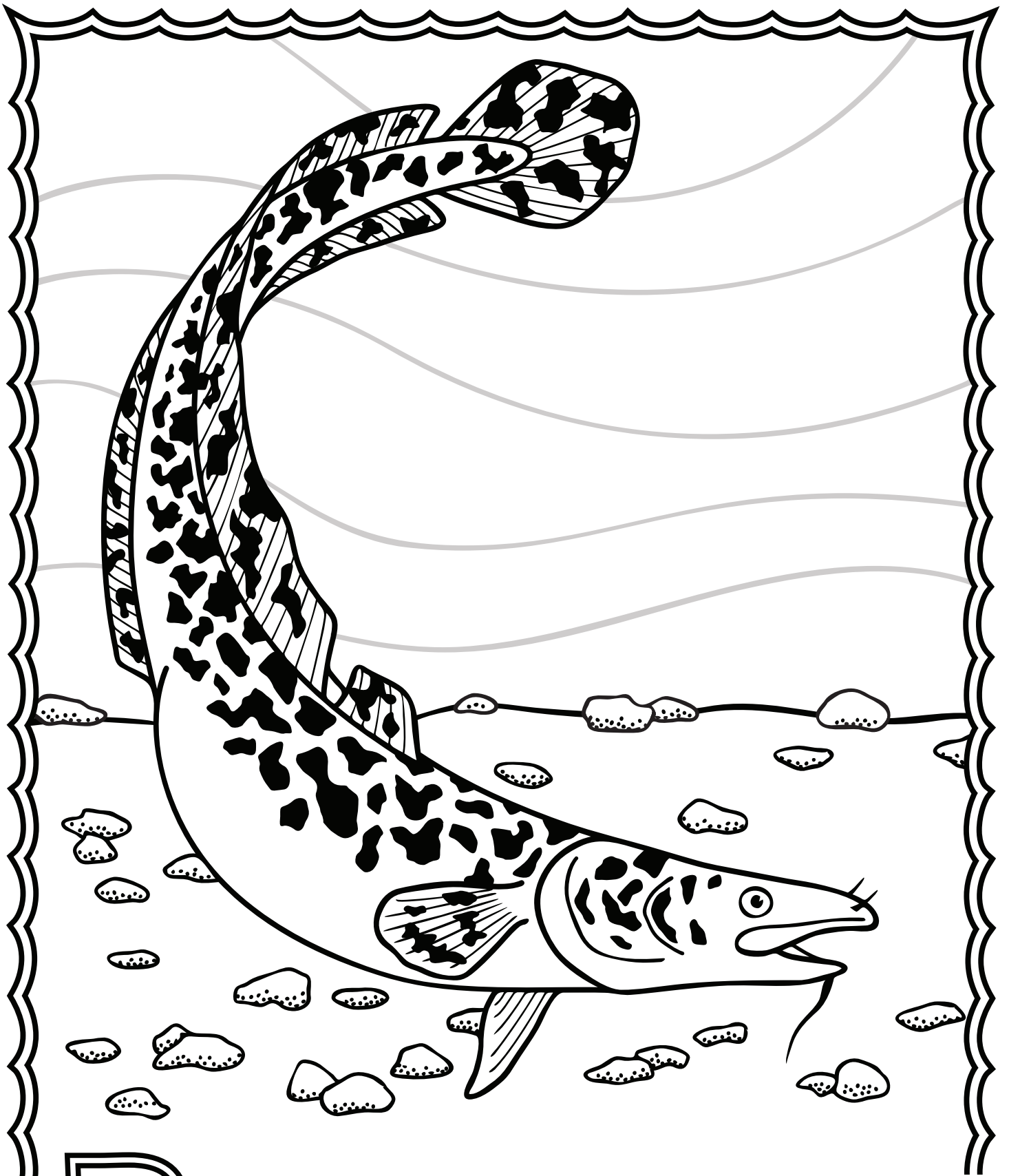


My Drawing Page



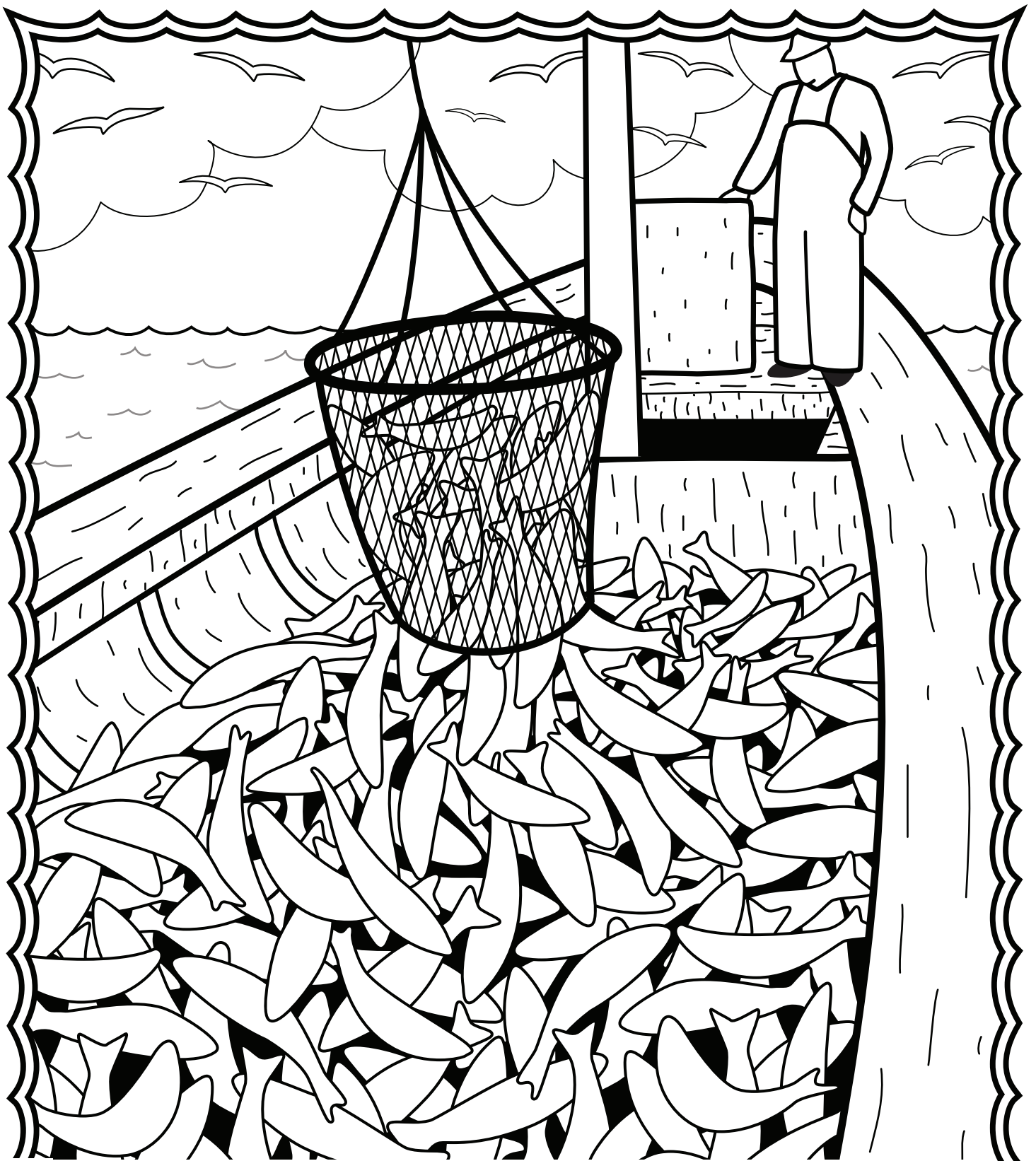
Alaska is the biggest state in the USA. People come to visit **Alaska** from all over the world to enjoy its abundant fish, wildlife, and spectacular beauty. We must all work together to make sure **Alaska** continues to be a great place to visit and a wonderful home for the fish, wildlife and people that live here.





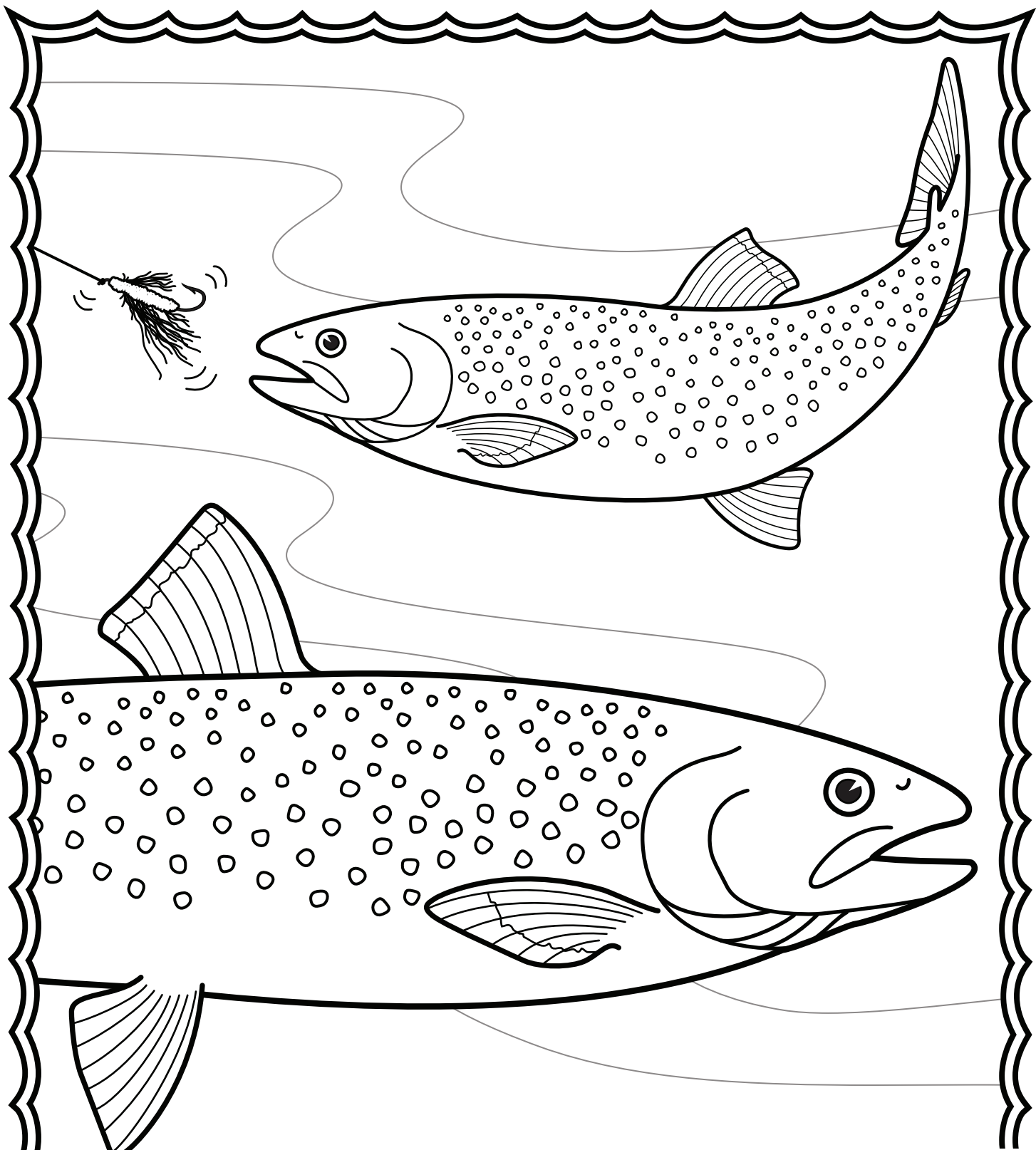
B

The **Burbot** is a freshwater cod. Like cod, burbot are good to eat and many people think they taste a lot like lobster! Burbot have a single chin whisker and body color that matches the bottoms of deep lakes and rivers where they spend most of their time. They are often caught through the ice in winter.



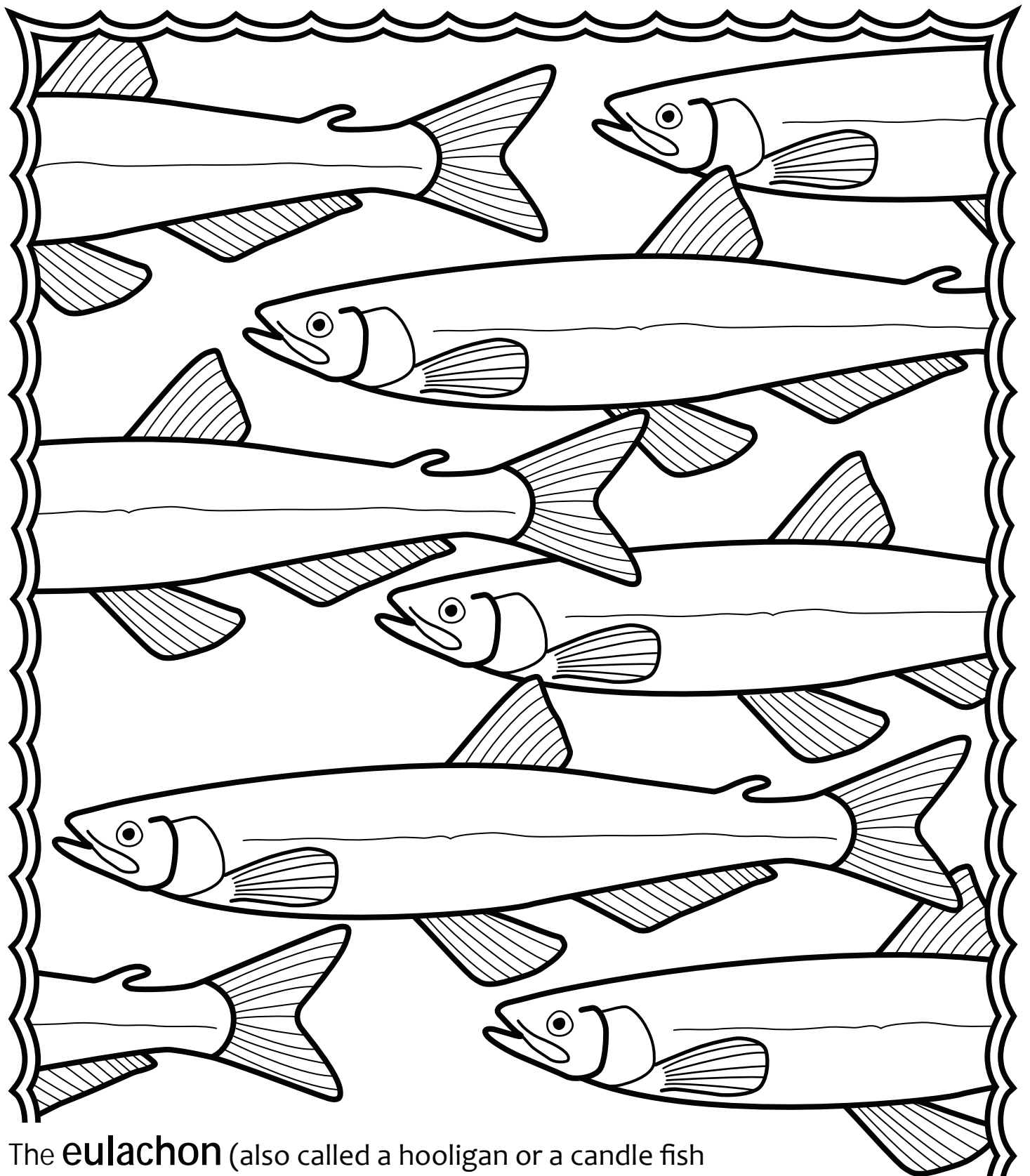
Commercial fishing is the type of fishing where fish are caught and then sold to grocery stores and restaurants. Each year in Alaska, **commercial fishing** is worth billions of dollars to the Alaska economy (How big is a billion? It would take you 30 years to count to a billion). Many of the jobs in Alaska are linked to **commercial fishing**.





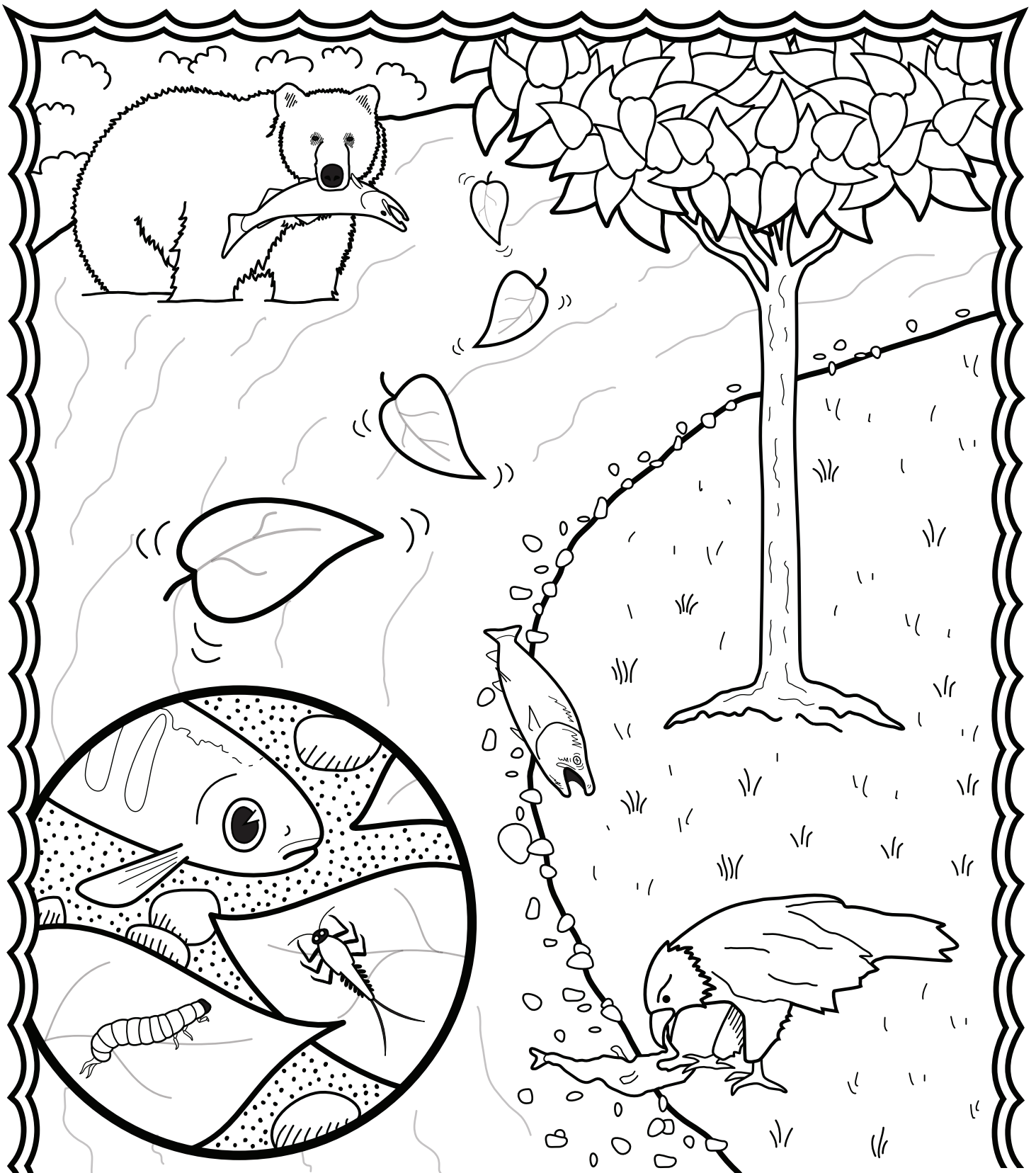
The “**Dolly Varden**” is a beautiful Alaska fish, as well as an important resource for sportfishing and subsistence food. While trout have a light body with dark spots, **Dolly Varden** have a dark body with light spots. Their fins can be a brilliant red with white edges. Adults can be small or large, depending on where they live. Some migrate to the ocean where they eat lots of food and grow big.

D



The **eulachon** (also called a hooligan or a candle fish because its oily flesh burns like a candle when dried) is a small fish that is blue-silver in salt water and gray-brown or green in fresh-water. **Eulachon** migrate from their birth river to sea to find food. At sea, many are eaten by birds, marine mammals and other fish. When they are adults, they return to fresh-water, and people gather to catch them for food with nets.





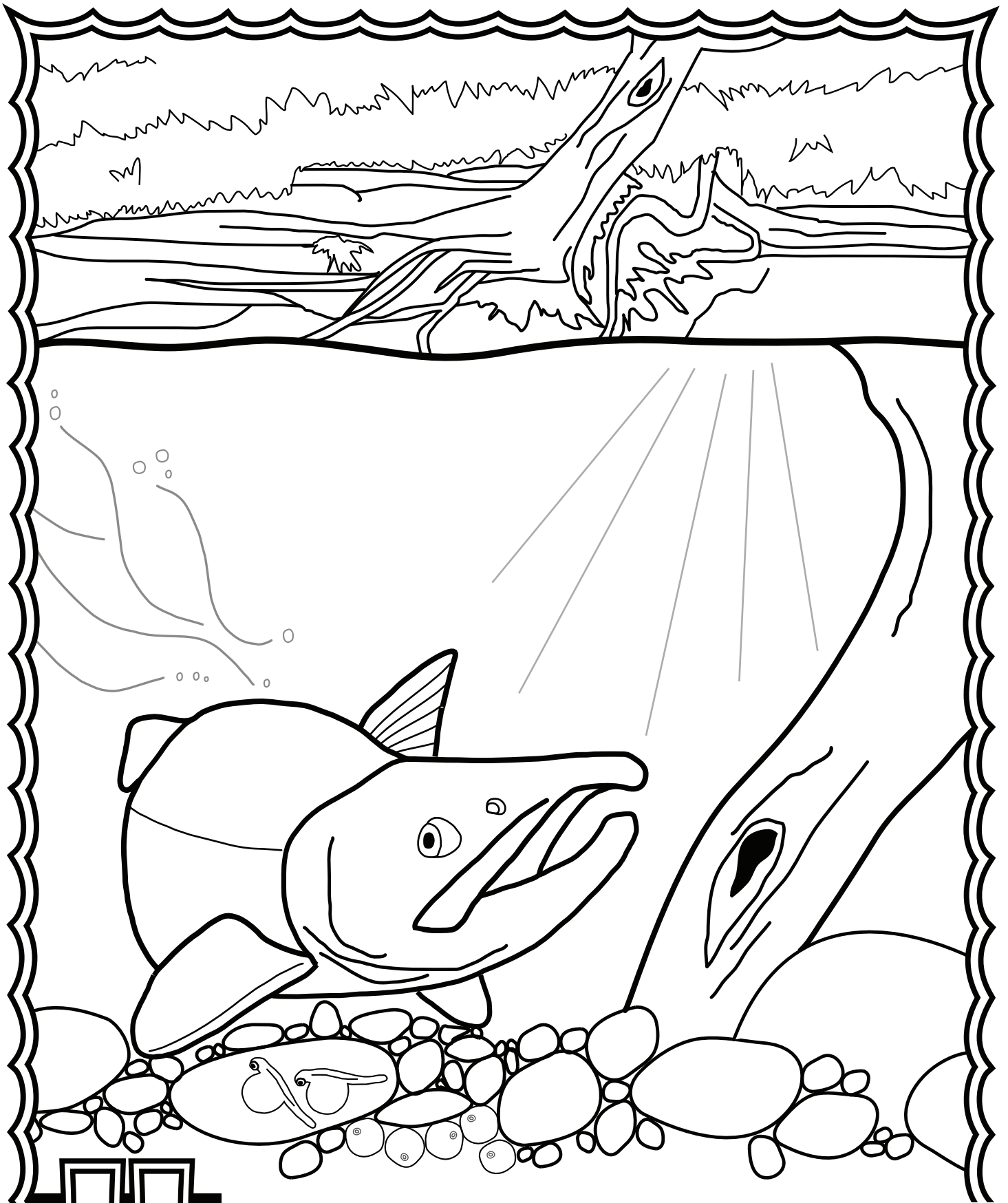
F

Food webs connect us to every other organism on earth, from bacteria to plants to fish and wildlife. The salmon that return each year to Alaska die and the nutrients from their bodies are taken up by trees along the rivers. Likewise, trees drop leaves in the river that feed the aquatic bugs that baby salmon eat. Every link in the food web is important.



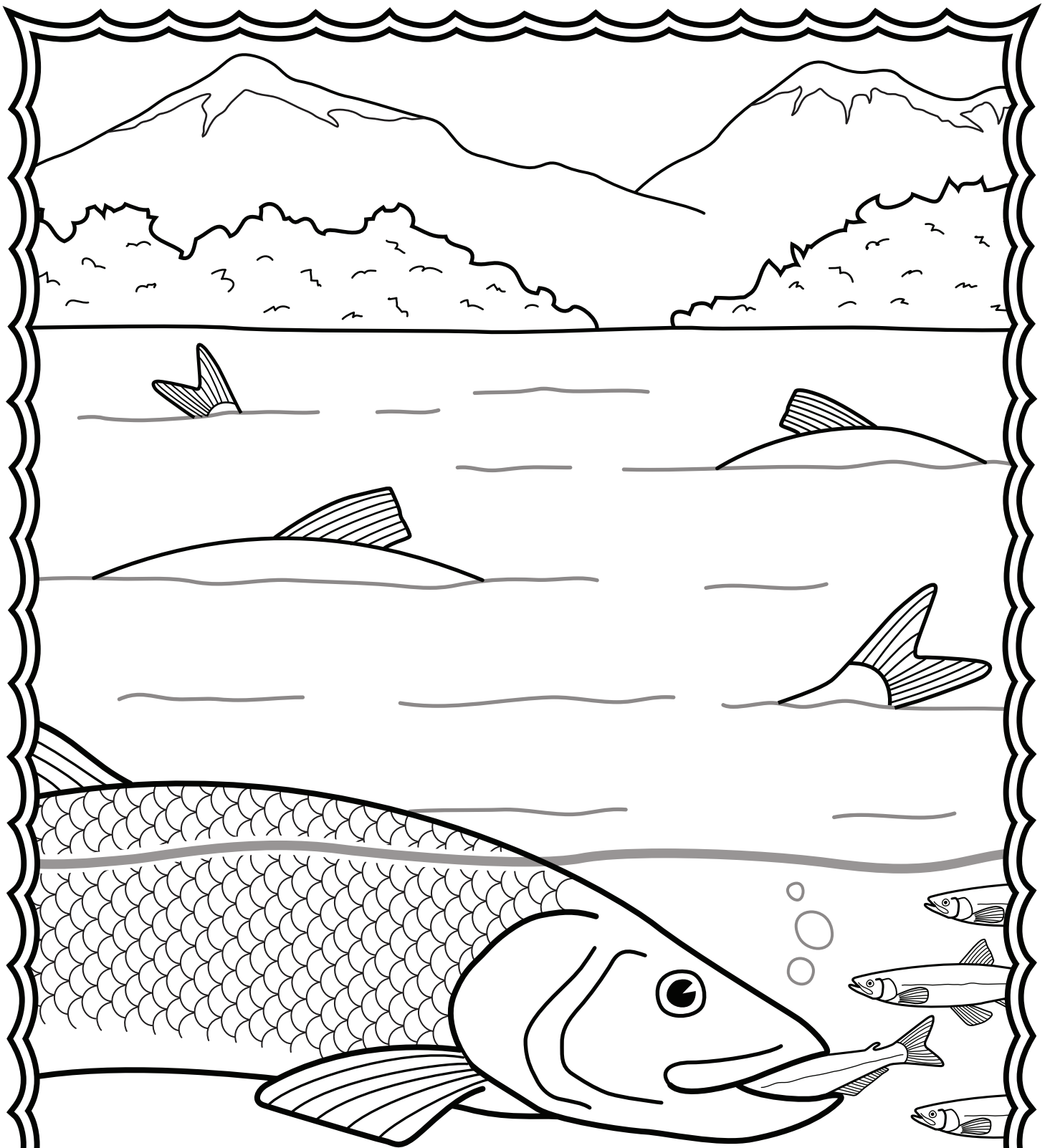
The Arctic **grayling** is one of Alaska's most beautiful freshwater fish with its sail-like dorsal fin speckled with purple, blue, or red spots. They are common in most streams and lakes in Alaska and can live to be over 30 years old!



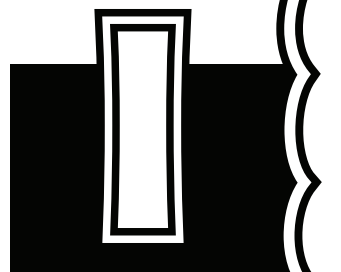


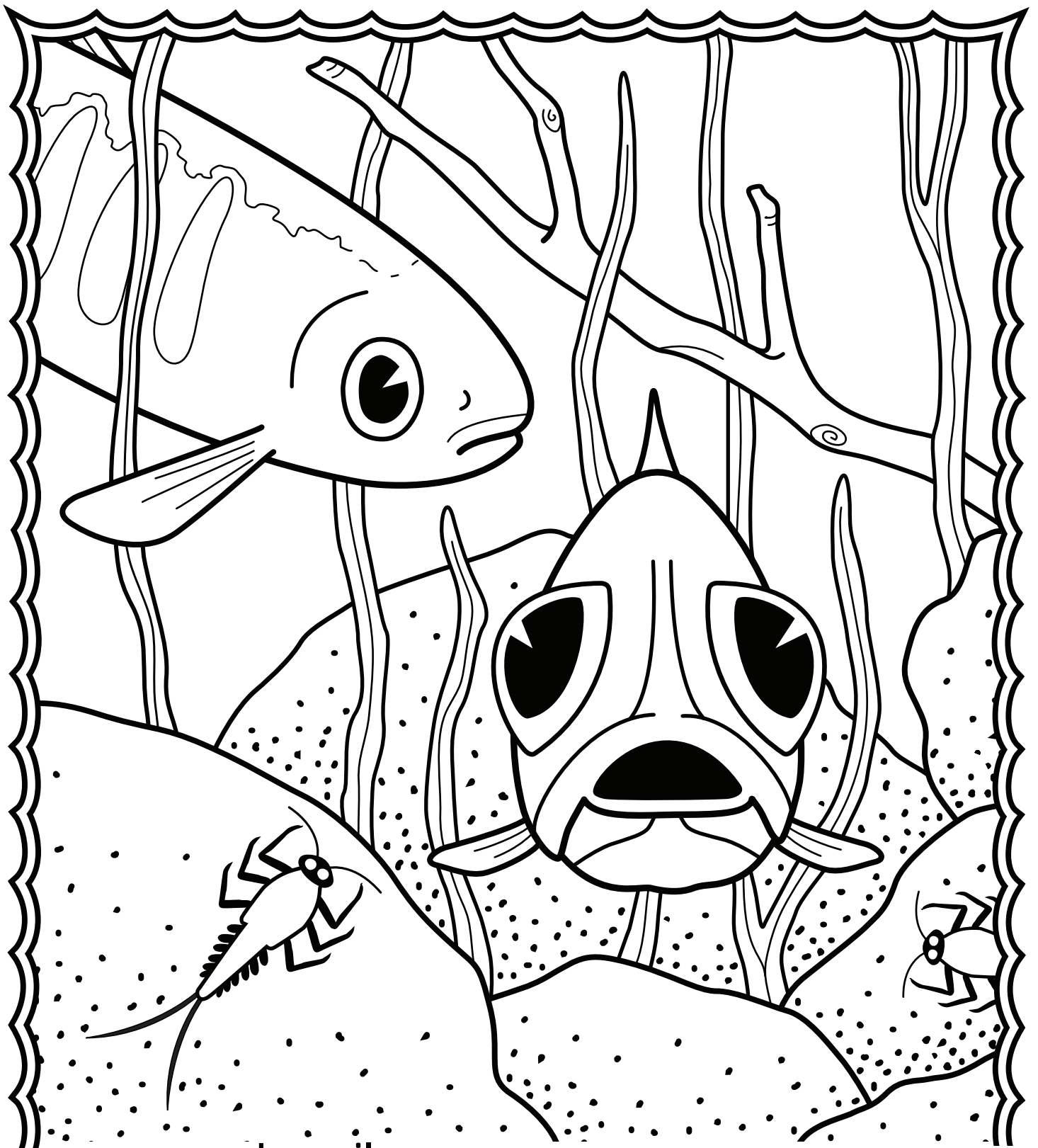
H

Habitat means home. Fish need homes that provide food and shelter. Many fish in Alaska need to migrate between different **habitats** to survive. We must protect their homes so they have food and shelter.

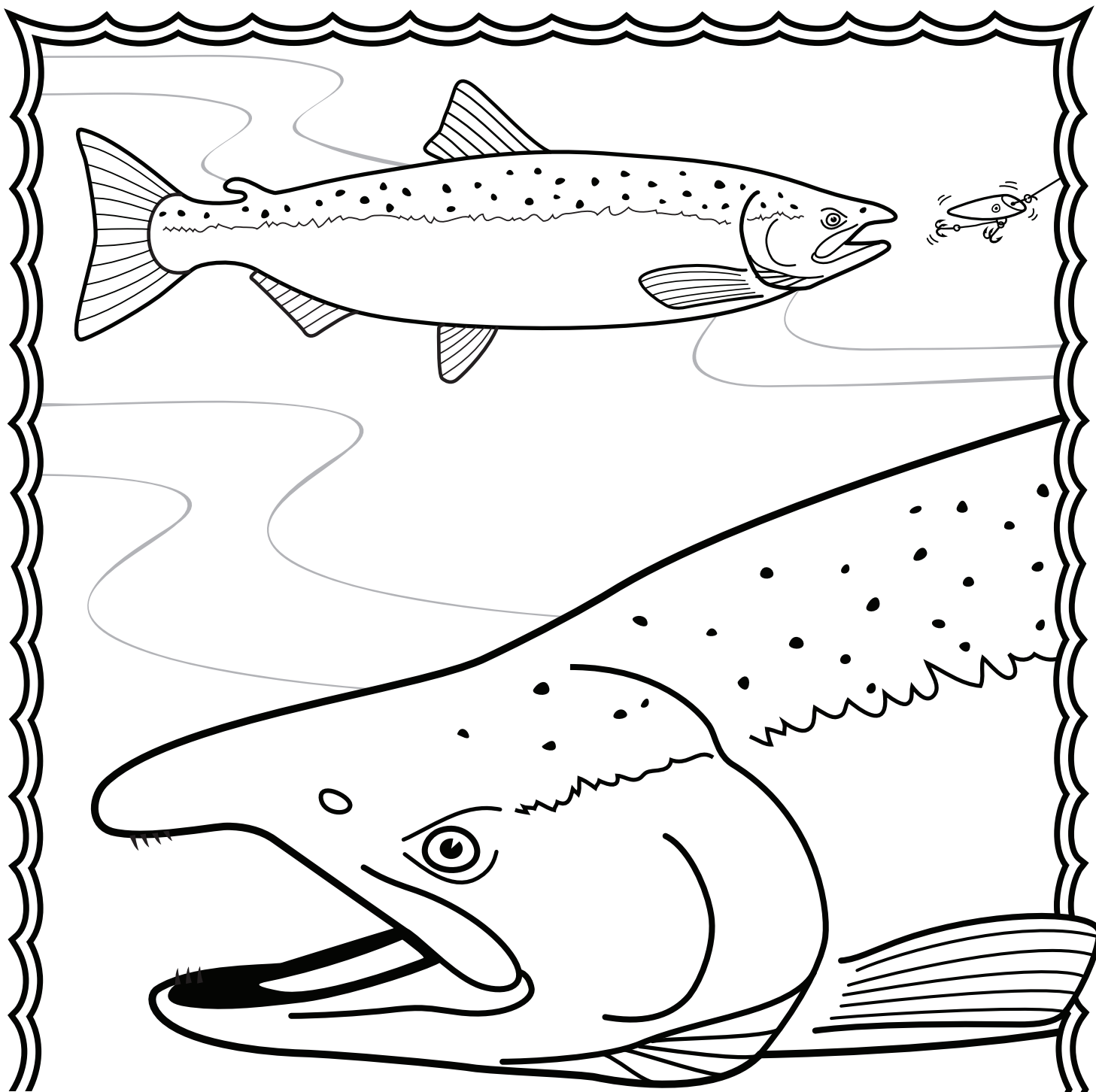


The **inconnu** (also called sheefish) is a type of whitefish. Alaska has 8 different whitefish! **Inconnu** are large, mostly silver fish that have a dark blue to greenish-grey back and a white belly. They may have scales the size of nickels along their side. **Inconnu** are an important food source for remote communities in the Alaska bush. They are caught when other fish like salmon are at sea.



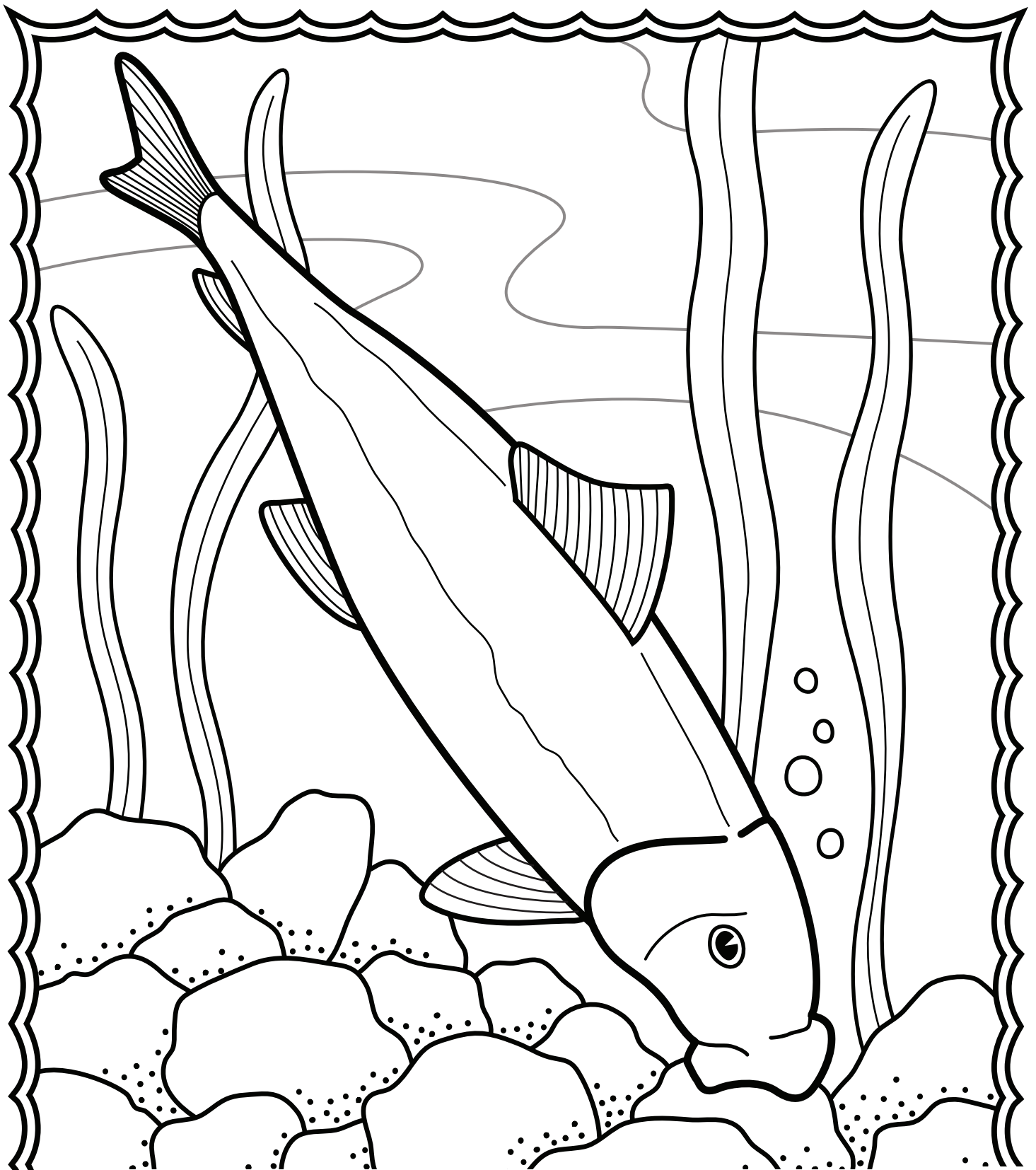


Juvenile fish, like you, are not yet adults. All start out as tiny eggs and, after they hatch, they need hiding places and small food items so they can grow into adulthood and become parents themselves. Because they are small, juvenile fish can be difficult to see. That doesn't mean they are not there, so it is important to take care of small streams where they might be living.



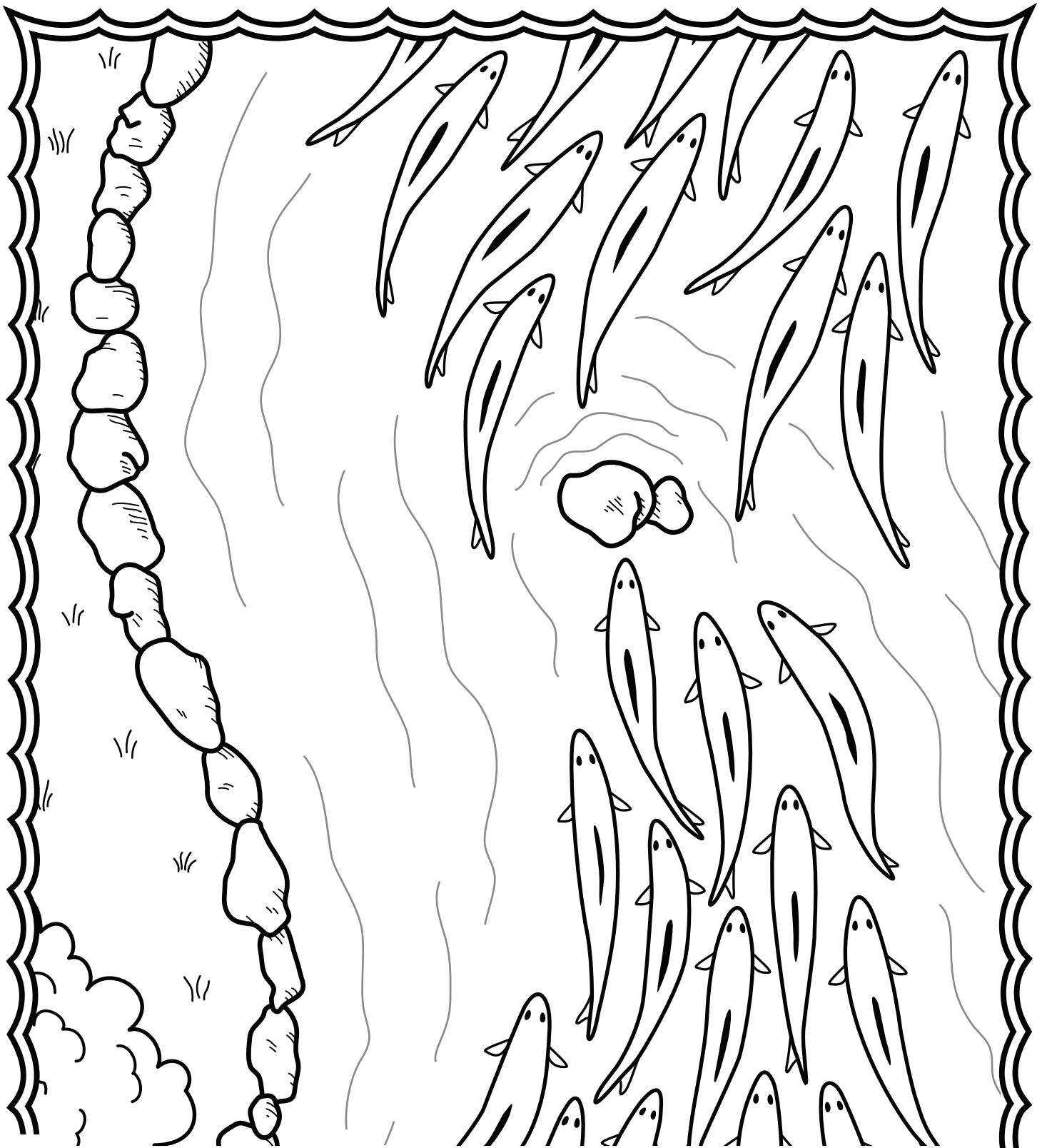
The **king** salmon is the largest Pacific salmon. **Kings** are known to grow over 100 pounds! How much do you weigh? Like other salmon, **kings** leave their home stream to live in the ocean for several years, before migrating back home. Many Alaskans catch **kings** for food, and some people travel to Alaska just to catch a **king**. The female **kings** that make it home lay their eggs and the males fertilize them. The salmon use all their strength to get home and reproduce and then die when they are done. Their gift to their offspring and the stream is the nutrients they got from the sea.

K

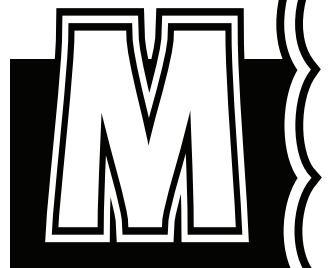


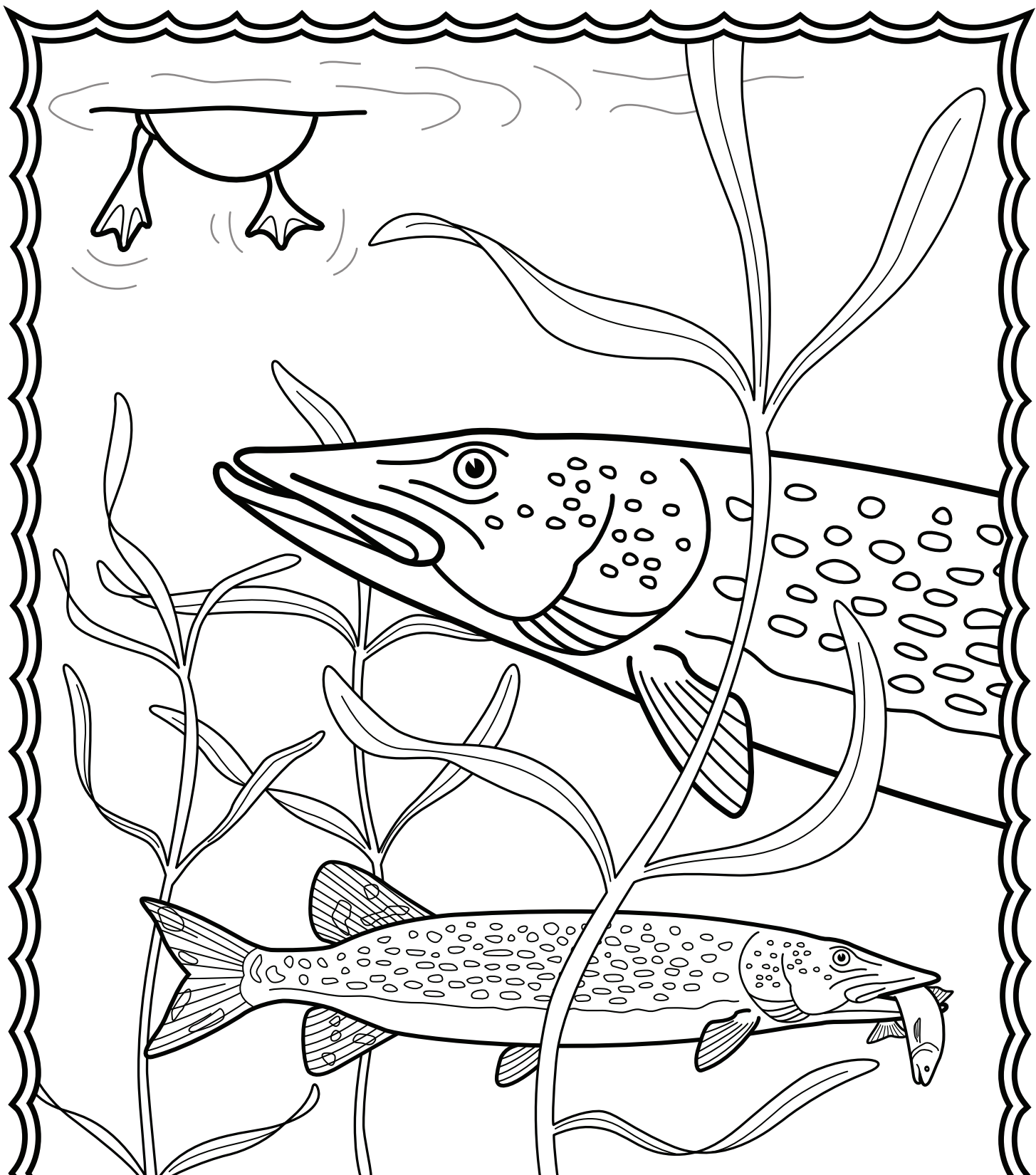
L

The **longnose** sucker is the only sucker in Alaska. Their backs can be reddish-brown, dark green, gray or black and their bellies are usually white. Their mouths, located on the bottom of their head, have large bumpy lips perfect for sucking up aquatic plants, algae and small aquatic bugs at the bottom of cold, clear lakes and streams.



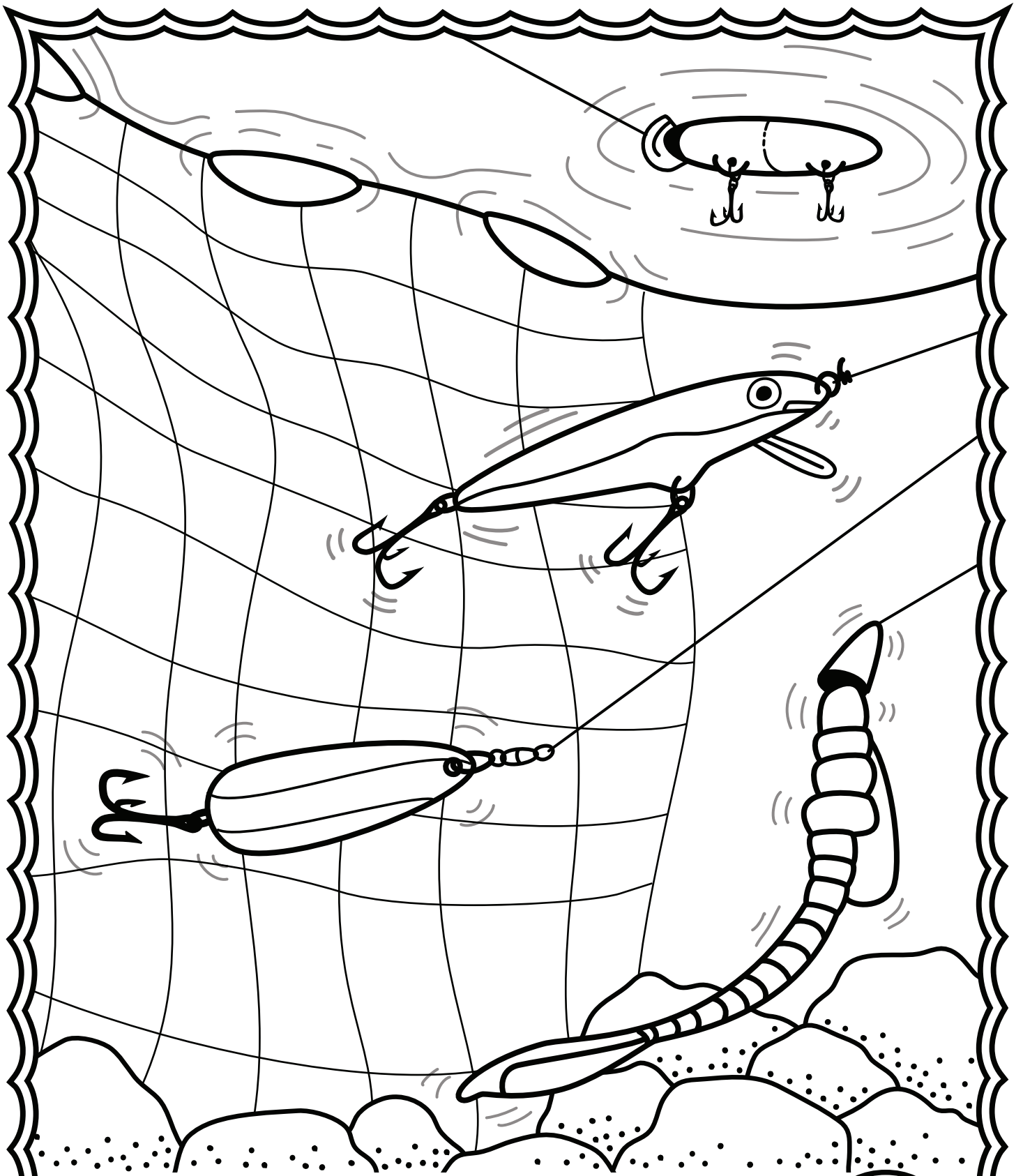
Many of Alaska's fish, including salmon and whitefish, undertake long **migrations**. They migrate to find food or to make sure their young are born somewhere where they can survive to adulthood. Things that can prevent a fish from finishing its **migration** include getting caught by a human, bear, or other animal; or being blocked by something across the stream, like a dam.



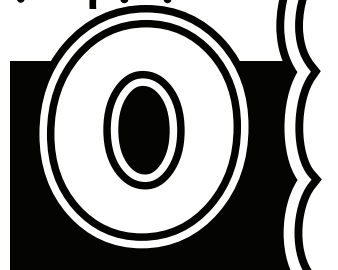


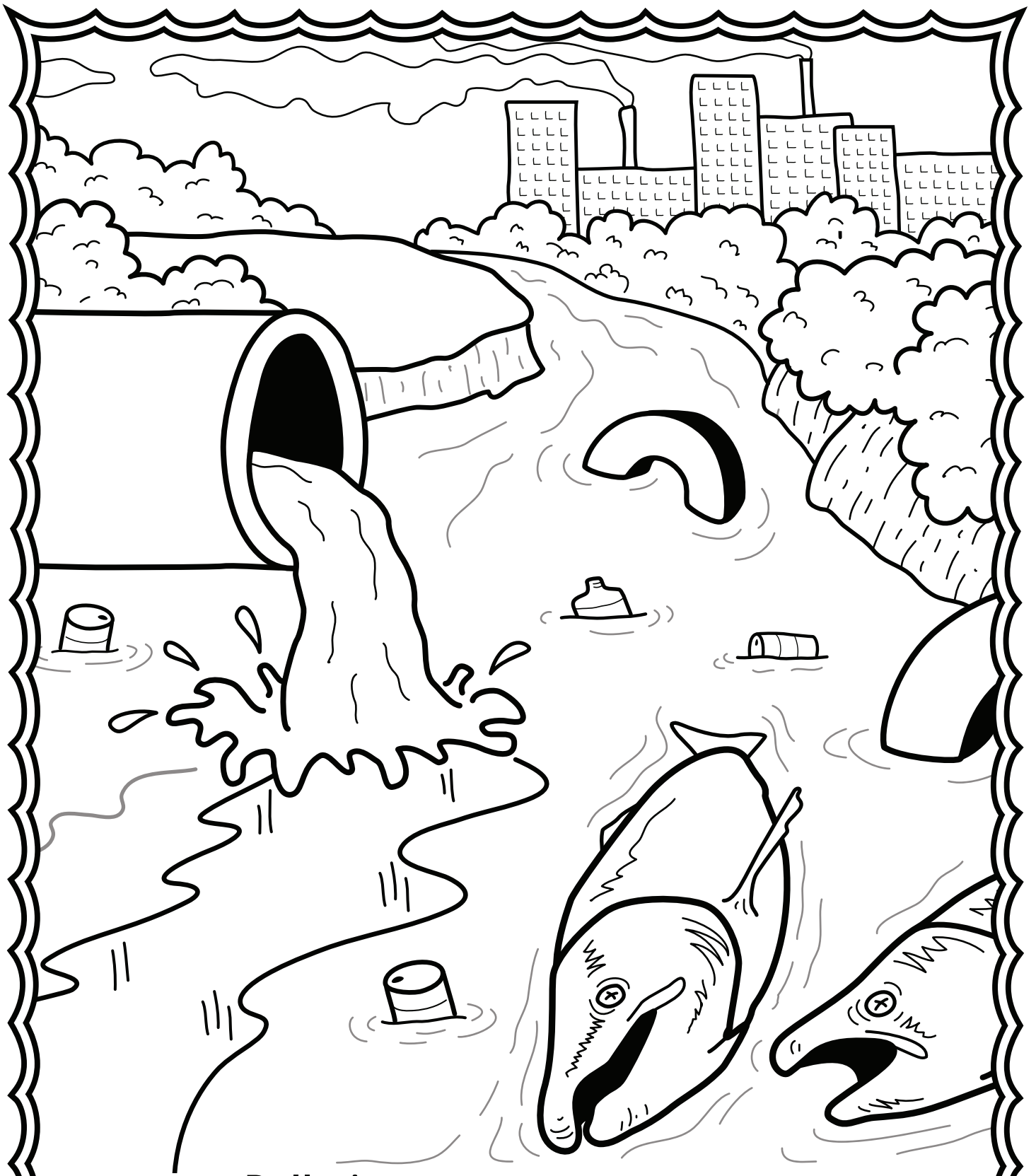
N

The **northern pike** is an “ambush predator.” It likes to hide and wait for something – anything! – to swim by, like frogs, mice, young ducks, and fish, including salmon. People have put **northern pike** into lakes and rivers where they do not belong. Never move a live fish or aquatic plant out of its home and into the home of another!



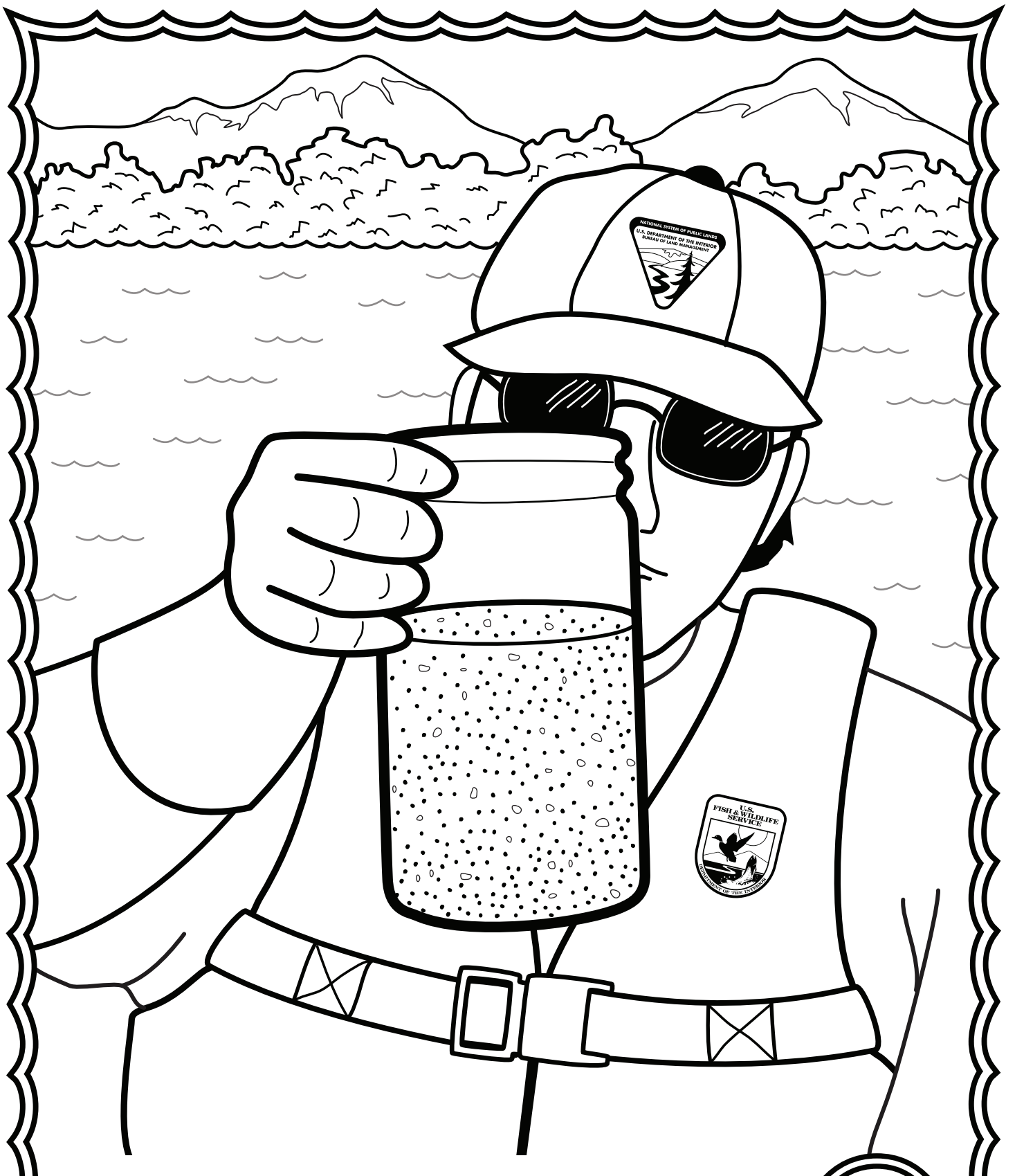
Over-fishing is when too many fish are caught. This causes less fish to be available in the future. A certain number of fish need to become parents so there are fish in the future! Fisheries biologists and managers help make sure **over-fishing** does not occur.





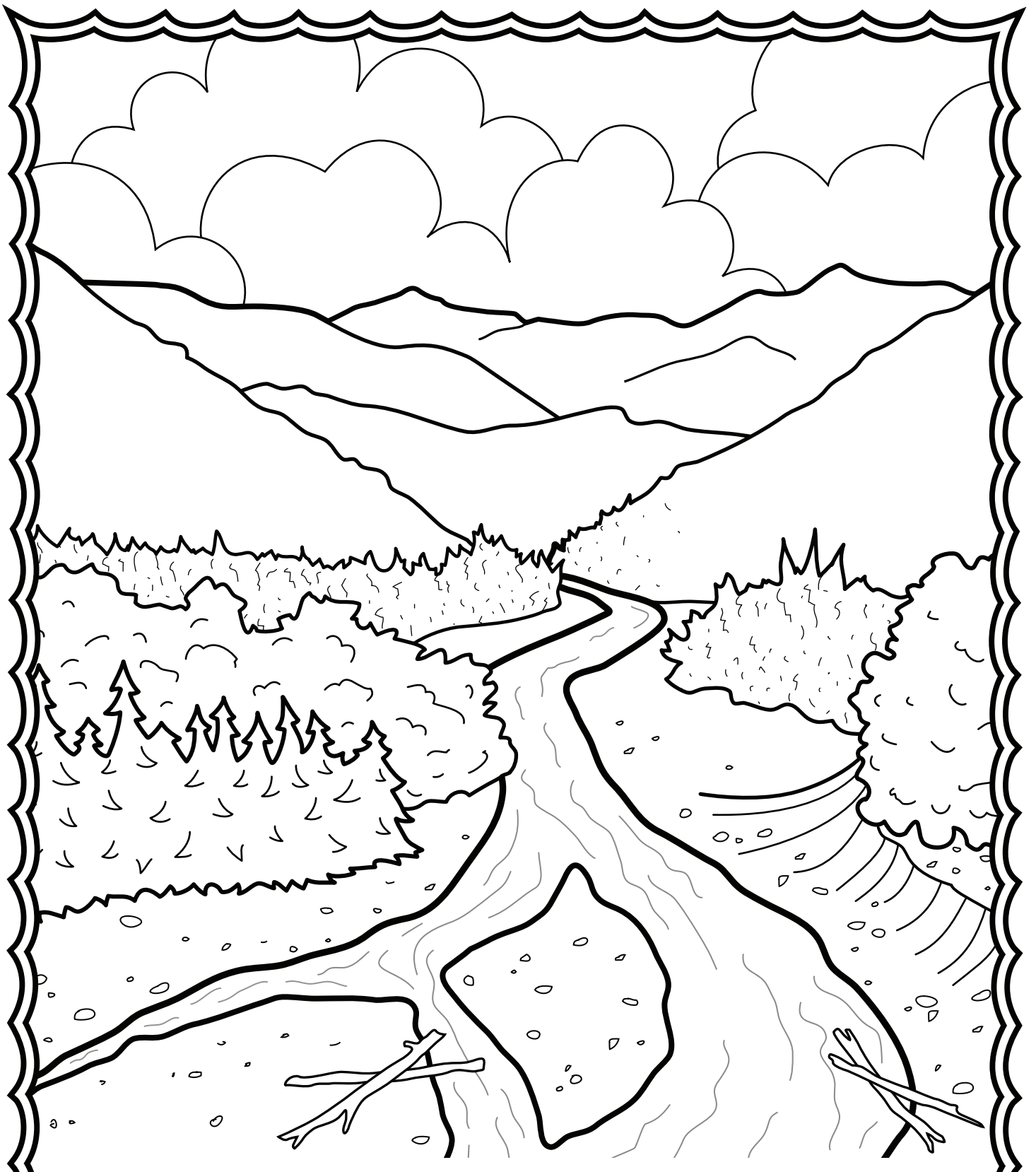
P

Pollution hurts people, fish and wildlife. Pollution on our roads, and in our yards, can wash into lakes and streams and make its way to the ocean. **Pollution** can range in size from very small things you can't see, to medium size things like plastic bags, to large things, like a mattress or bike thrown in a local stream! **Don't pollute!**



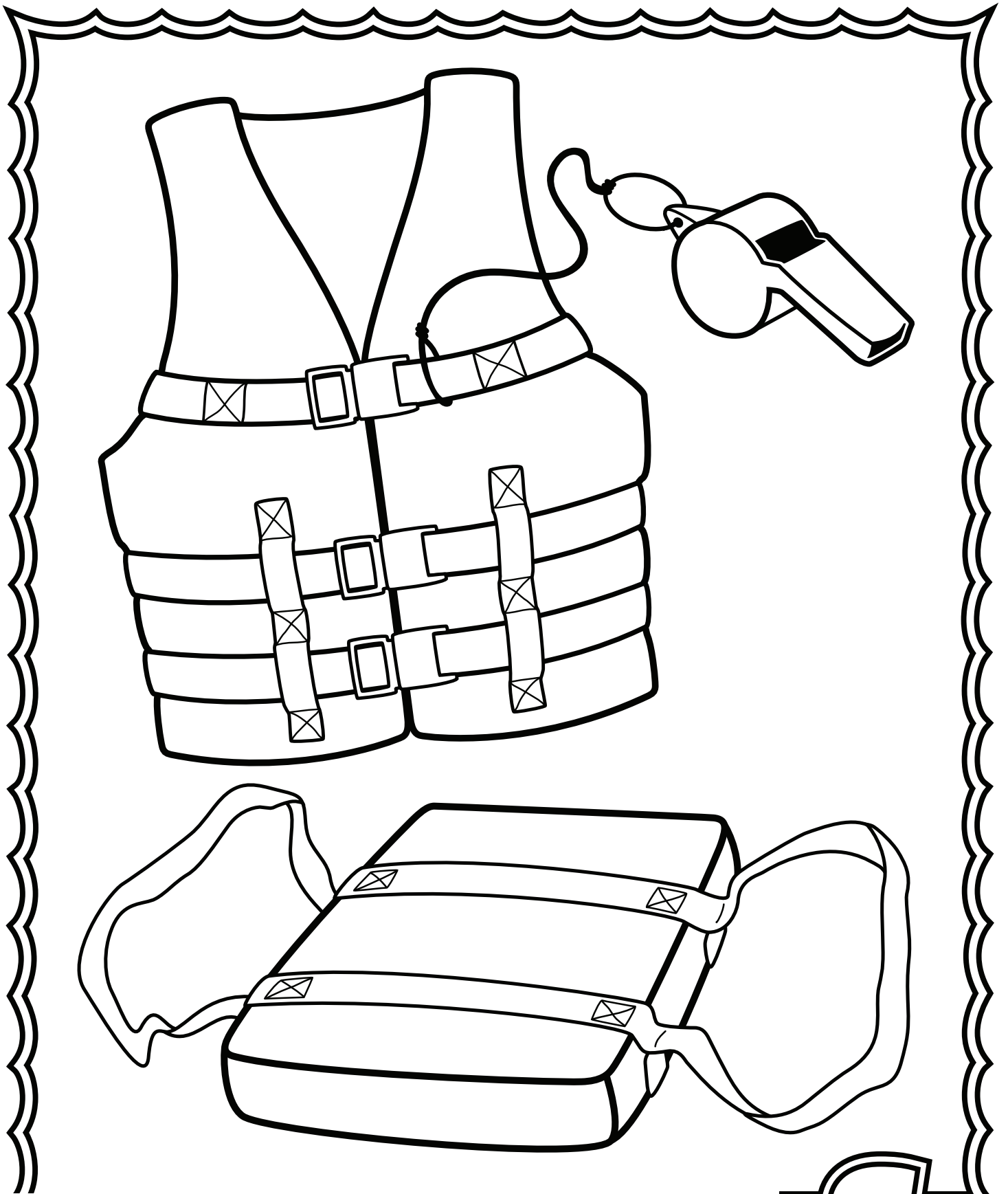
Fish need good habitat and lots of it. Scientists closely monitor the **quality** (how good) and **quantity** (how much) of waters fish depend on for food, shelter, and migration. Changes in the **quality** and **quantity** of water and habitat can cause harm to the fish we value.





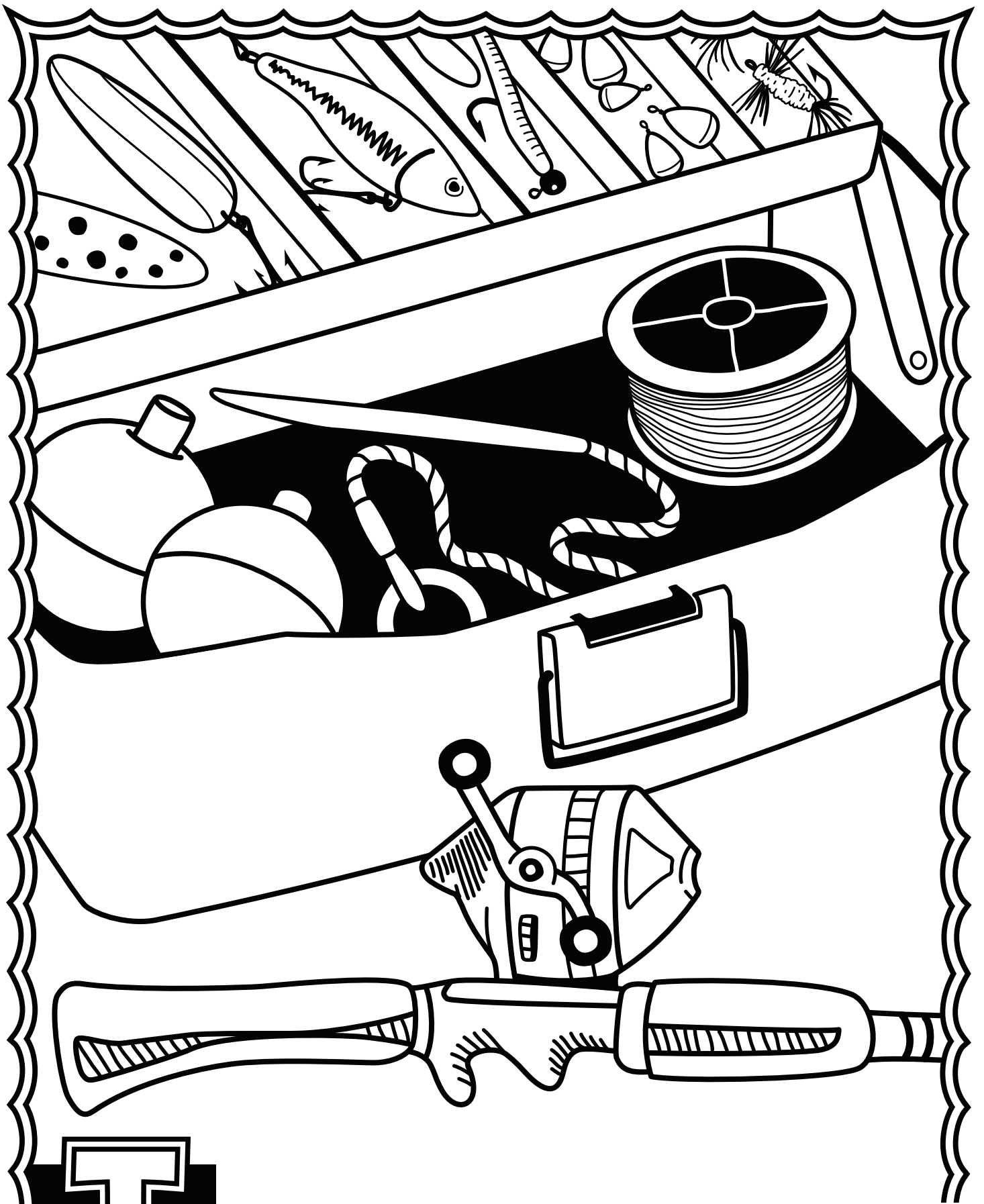
R

Rivers come in many sizes. They start as a small trickle at the top of a mountain and get bigger as more and more trickles come together. Fish use different parts of a river throughout their life for food and shelter. **Rivers** are like roads in that they provide a way for fish to get to where they need to go.



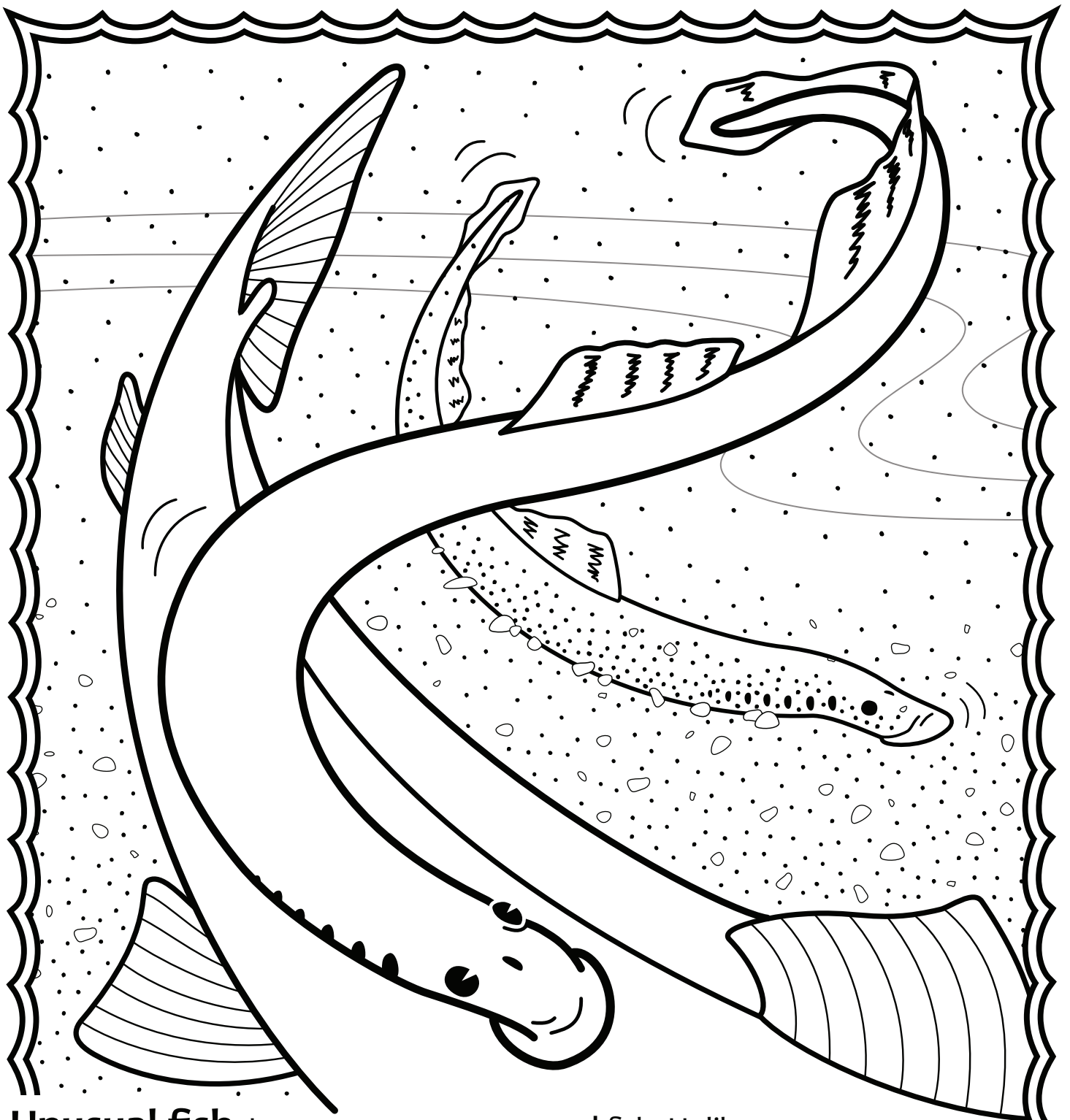
Safety comes first! Fishing and boating can be fun, but remember to take along these important items for your safety!



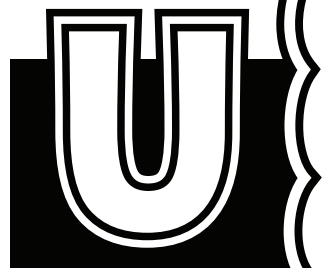


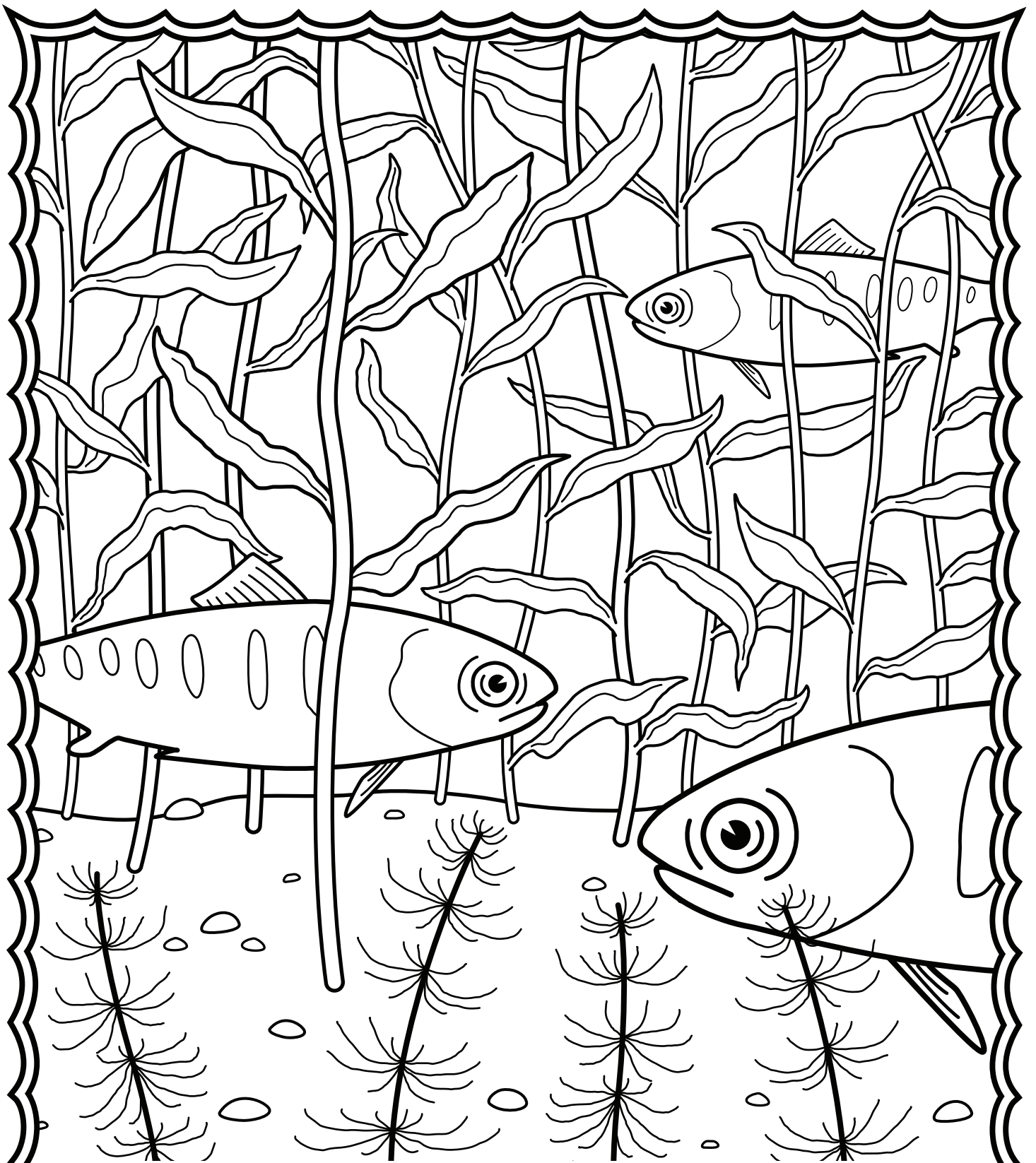
T

Tackle is the equipment used to catch fish. This includes rods, reels, line, lures, and bobbers. The type of fishing you do will determine the type of tackle you use.



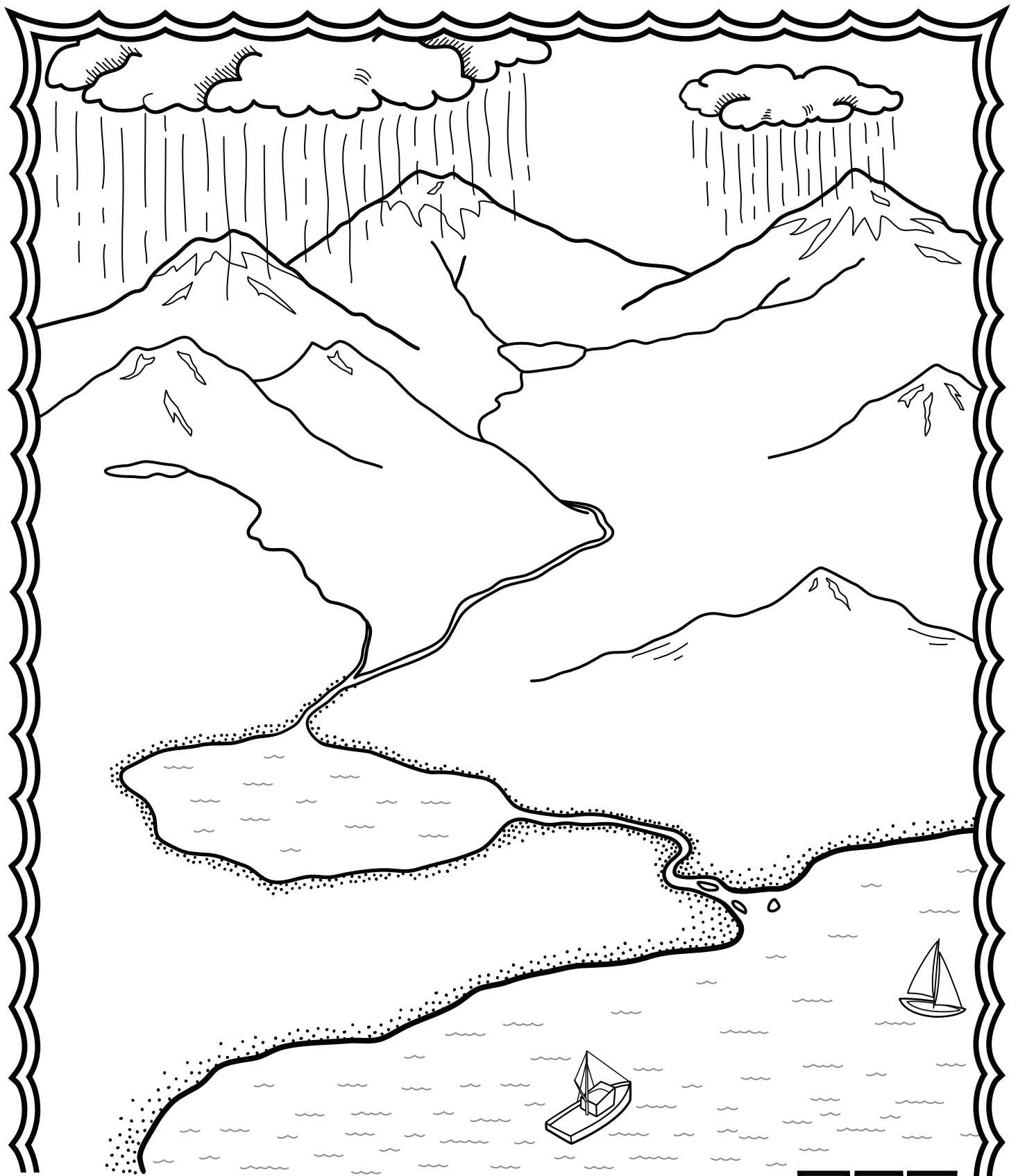
Unusual fish. Lampreys are very unusual fish. Unlike more familiar fish, lampreys don't have a jaw or bones! There are 5 kinds of lamprey in Alaska. All have round mouths that are used for filtering and sucking. Young lampreys bury themselves and eat the very tiny plants and animals they filter out of mud and water. They can stay buried for years. Some migrate to the ocean where they attach to bigger fish and suck out some of their fluids. Like salmon, those lamprey return to their home river to reproduce, and then die.





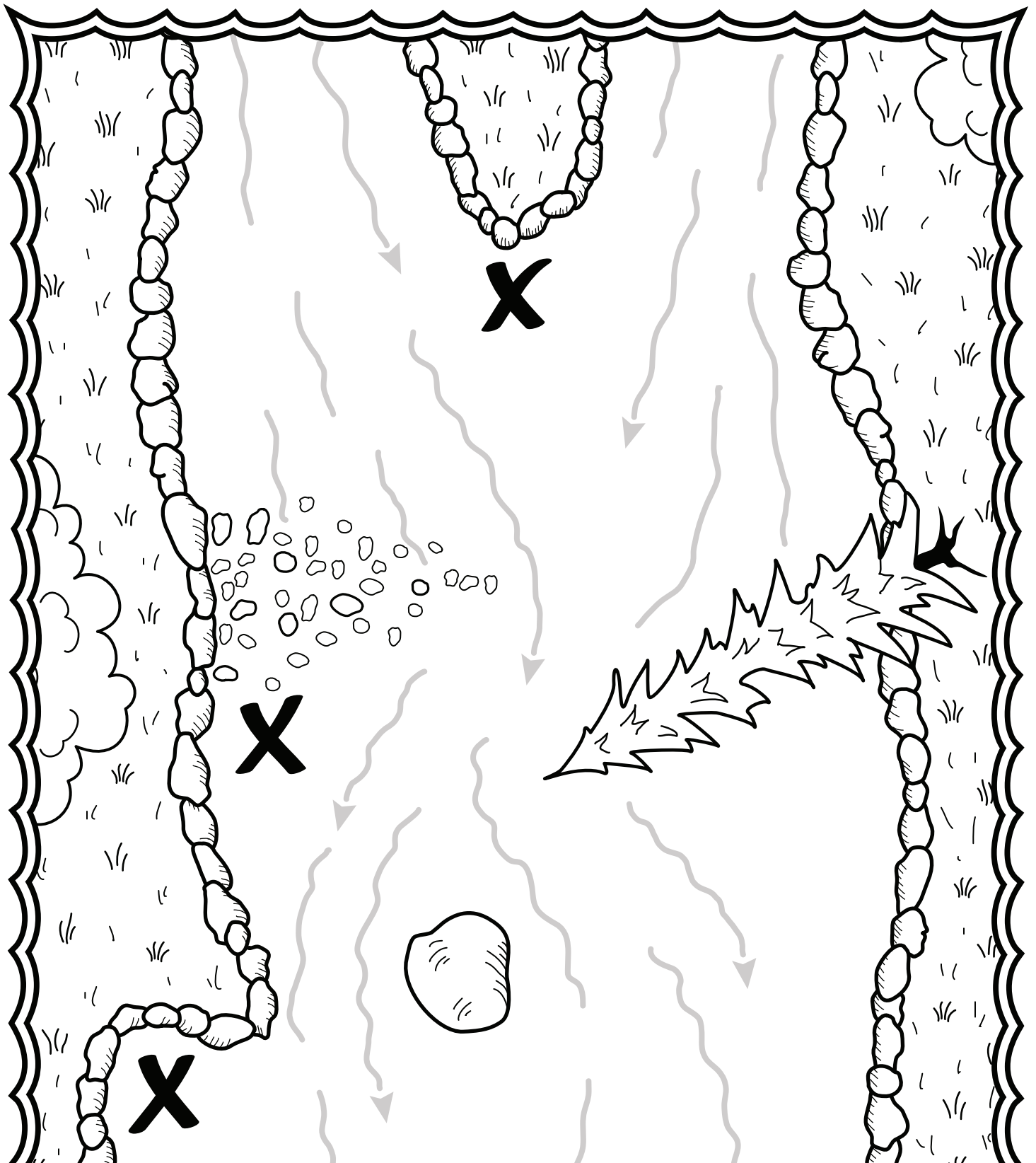
V

Vegetation that grows in streams and lakes provides shelter for fish and food for the insects that fish eat. **Vegetation** next to the stream keeps the river banks strong, and provides shade that keeps the water cool for fish during the summer. Too much vegetation can be a bad thing. Aquatic invasive plants must be controlled.



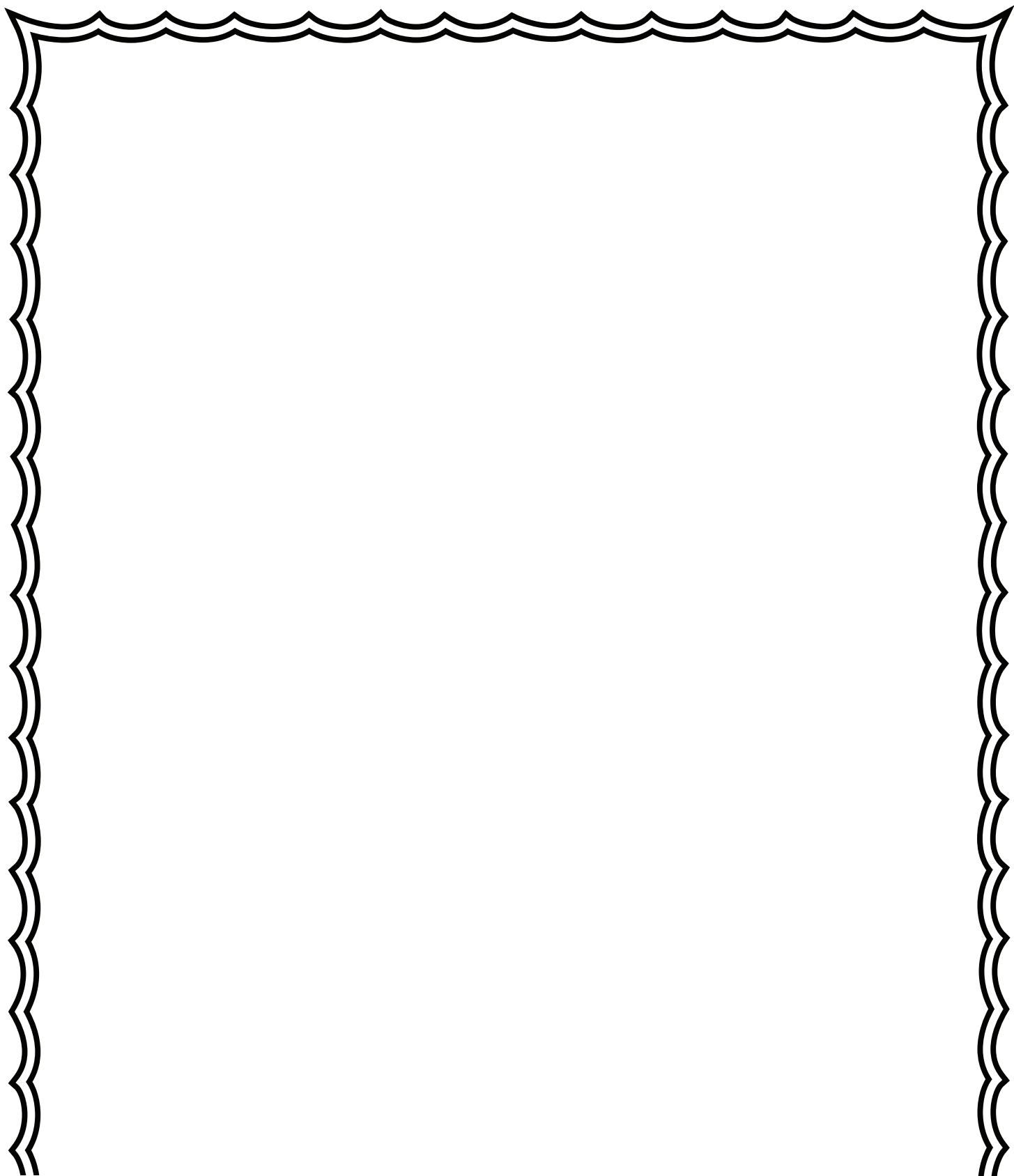
Watersheds are the nurseries that make many of Alaska's fish, including migratory species like salmon. Like a sink, **watersheds** catch rainfall which flows from small streams into bigger rivers until reaching even bigger rivers or the ocean. Everyone lives in a watershed.



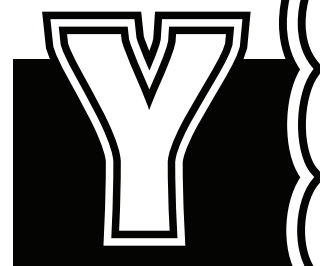


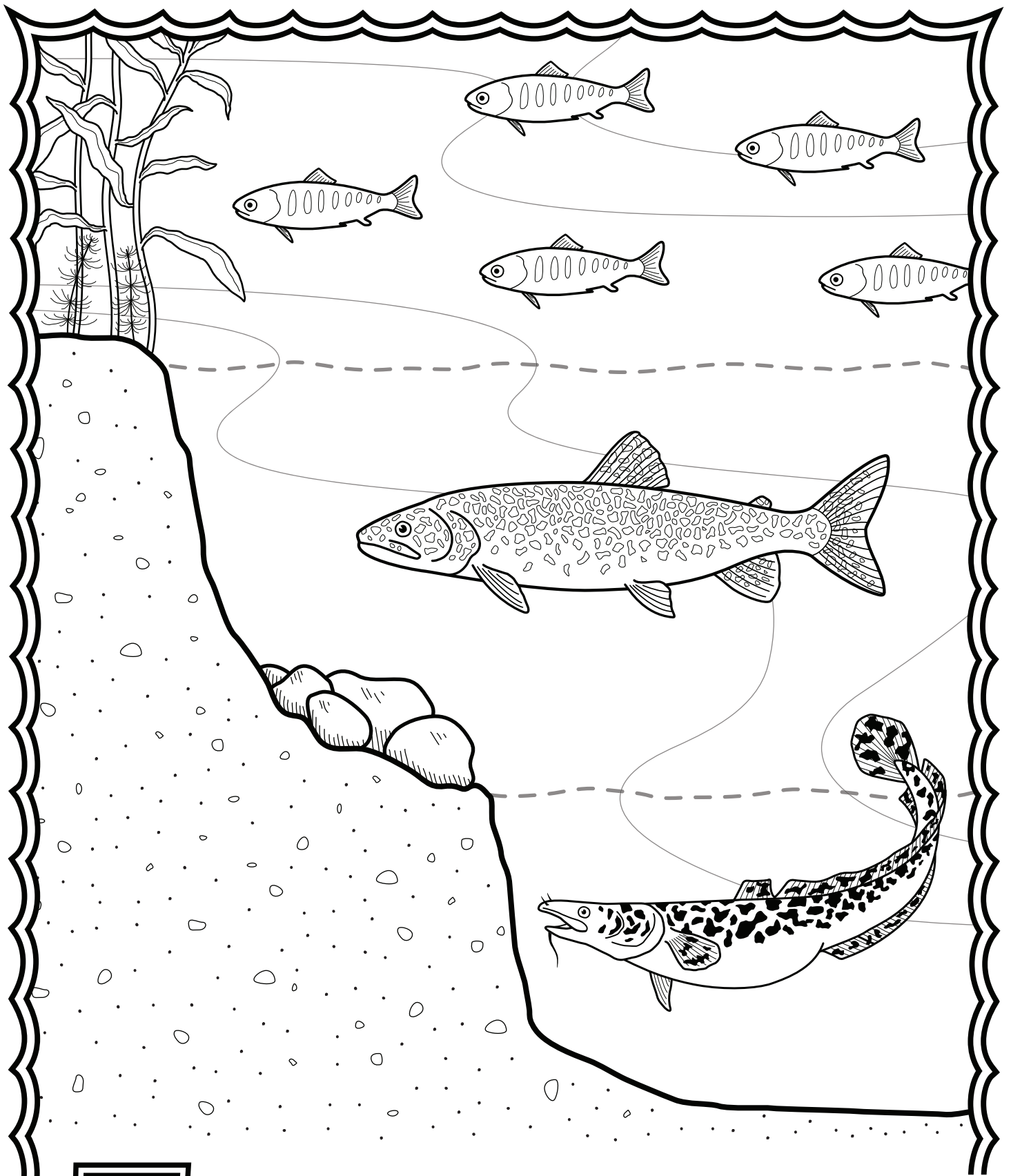
X marks the spot: This is a map of a stream with water flowing to the bottom of the page. Knowing where fish like to hide will help you find a good fishing spot. Fish like to hide around trees that have fallen in the water, or downstream of a rock where the current is calm. Where else would you put an X?

X



You. Draw yourself helping Alaska's fish or draw a fish you caught in Alaska. What **you** do to conserve and enjoy Alaska's fish makes a difference. The more **you** learn about fish, the more **you** will grow to love them and know what they need to survive!





Z

Zones are layers in a lake, stream or river that have different habitats and fish. Some fish can be found in the shallow water **zone** (juvenile salmon), some fish can be found in the open water **zone** (lake trout), and some fish can be found in the deep water **zone** (burbot).



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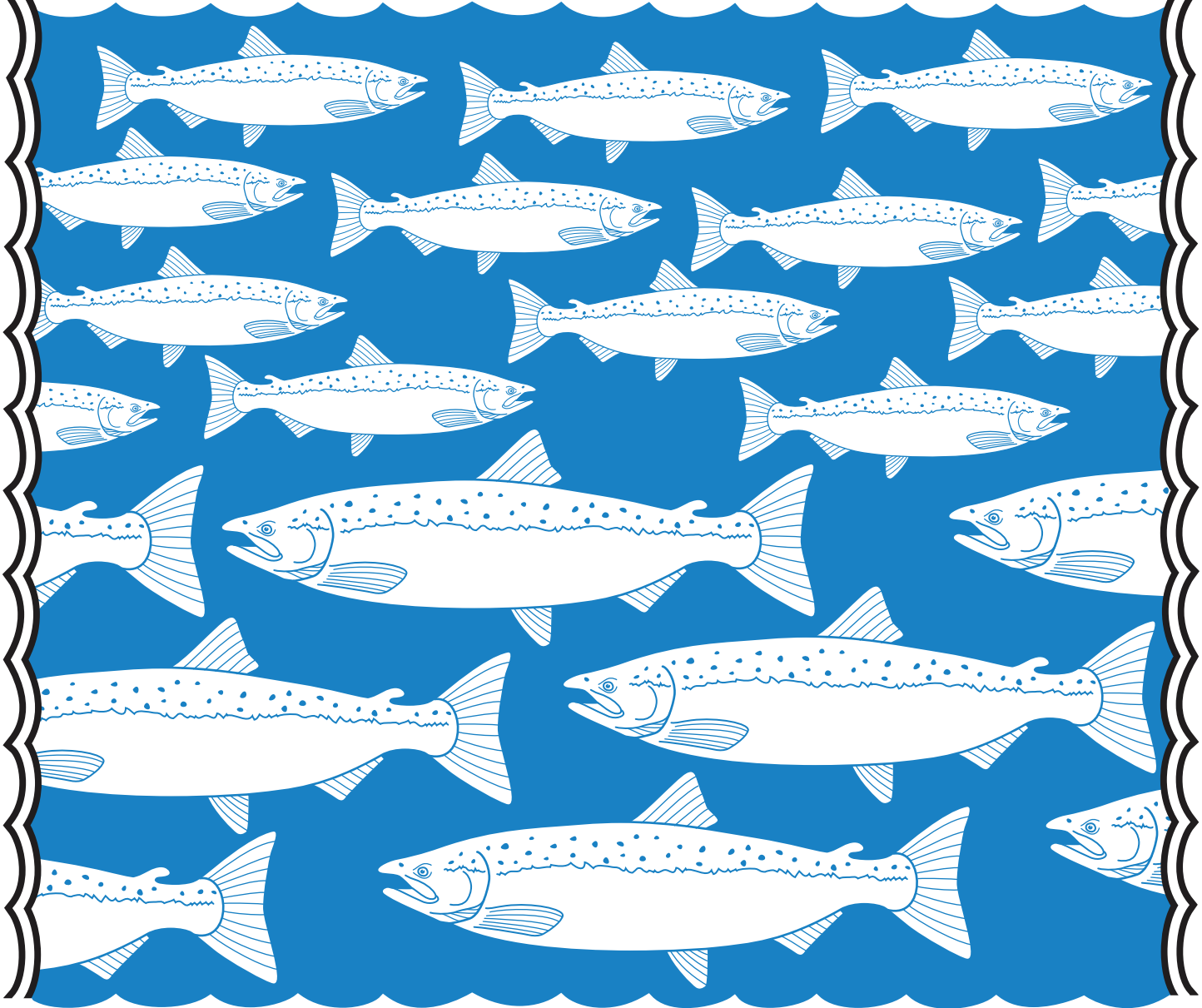


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