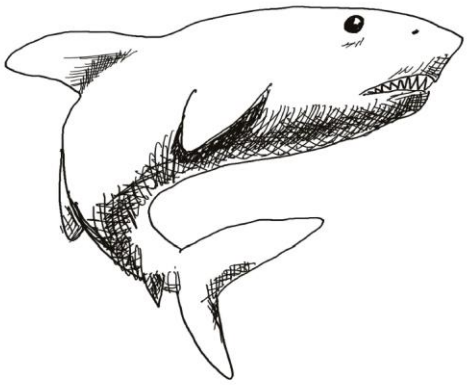
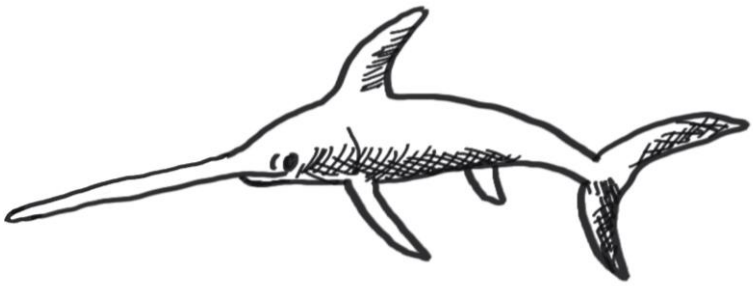
Organisms of the Open Ocean

Great White Shark



Great white shark are a type of fish that must keep moving in order to pass water over their gills. If a great white stops swimming it will no longer be able to breathe. Great whites, like all sharks, have a skeleton made of cartilage, like your ears or nose. The cartilage in their bones is not soft and squishy though. The only predator of adult great white sharks are orcas.

Swordfish



Swordfish are one of the fastest animals in the ocean and can reach speeds of 50 mph in short bursts. The sword shaped bill at the front is used for hunting. Swordfish will swim at high speeds into a school of fish slashing the bill back and forth. The fish which are hit will be stunned, allowing the swordfish to easily eat them.

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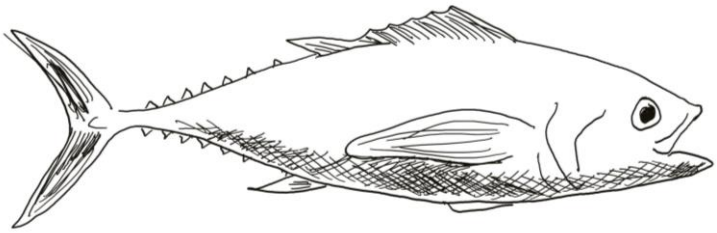
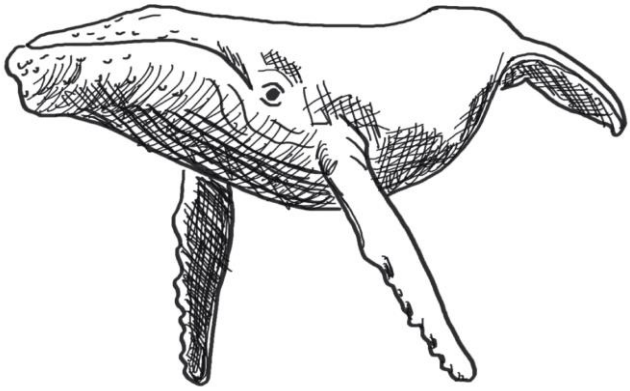
Yellowfin Tuna



These fish grow extremely quickly. In their short live, about 7 years, they can reach 700 pounds and can be almost 7 feet long. Tuna hunt by using fast speed and the ability to change directions quickly. Because of this the muscles in the tail are more similar to endotherm (warm blooded animals) than they are to other fish.

Humpback Whale



Humpback whales have the longest migration of any animal. They swim from the tropical waters near the equator where they have their babies to the cold polar regions where there is a lot of krill and plankton to feed on. They will often times work together to blow bubbles to group the krill together before eating them, this is called bubble netting. Because whales breathe air they must constantly return to the surface. When they sleep they sleep with one side of their brain and swim and breathe with the other.