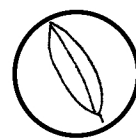


MANGROVES

Mangroves are tropical trees that thrive in salty environments along the water's edge. Three species are common in Tampa Bay: Red Mangroves, Black Mangroves, and White Mangroves.

Match the following adaptations mangroves have to live in the intertidal zone by drawing the symbols below in the circles where they occur on the mangrove system:



Salt exclusion and excretion: filtration at the surface of the root allows for salt exclusion and salt excretors remove salt through glands located on each leaf.



Red mangroves have prop roots that increases stability in soft sediments along the shoreline.



Mangrove seeds remain attached to the parent tree and develop into propagules (seedlings) before dropping from the tree, giving them an increased chance of survival.



Pneumatophores are pencil-like structures at the base of the tree that transport oxygen to underground roots. Black mangroves have numerous pneumatophores.



Red Mangrove
Rhizophora mangle

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OYSTERS

Oysters are bivalve mollusks that filter water as they feed. Live oysters and dead oyster shells form in mounds on the bay floor, creating bars or reefs.

Label the anatomy of an oyster using the terms below:



Gills - Beating cilia move water across the gills for filtering and breathing



Mantle - Loose outer tissue that covers the entire body and secretes calcium carbonate, which forms the shell



Tentacles - Sensory organs present on the edge of the mantle



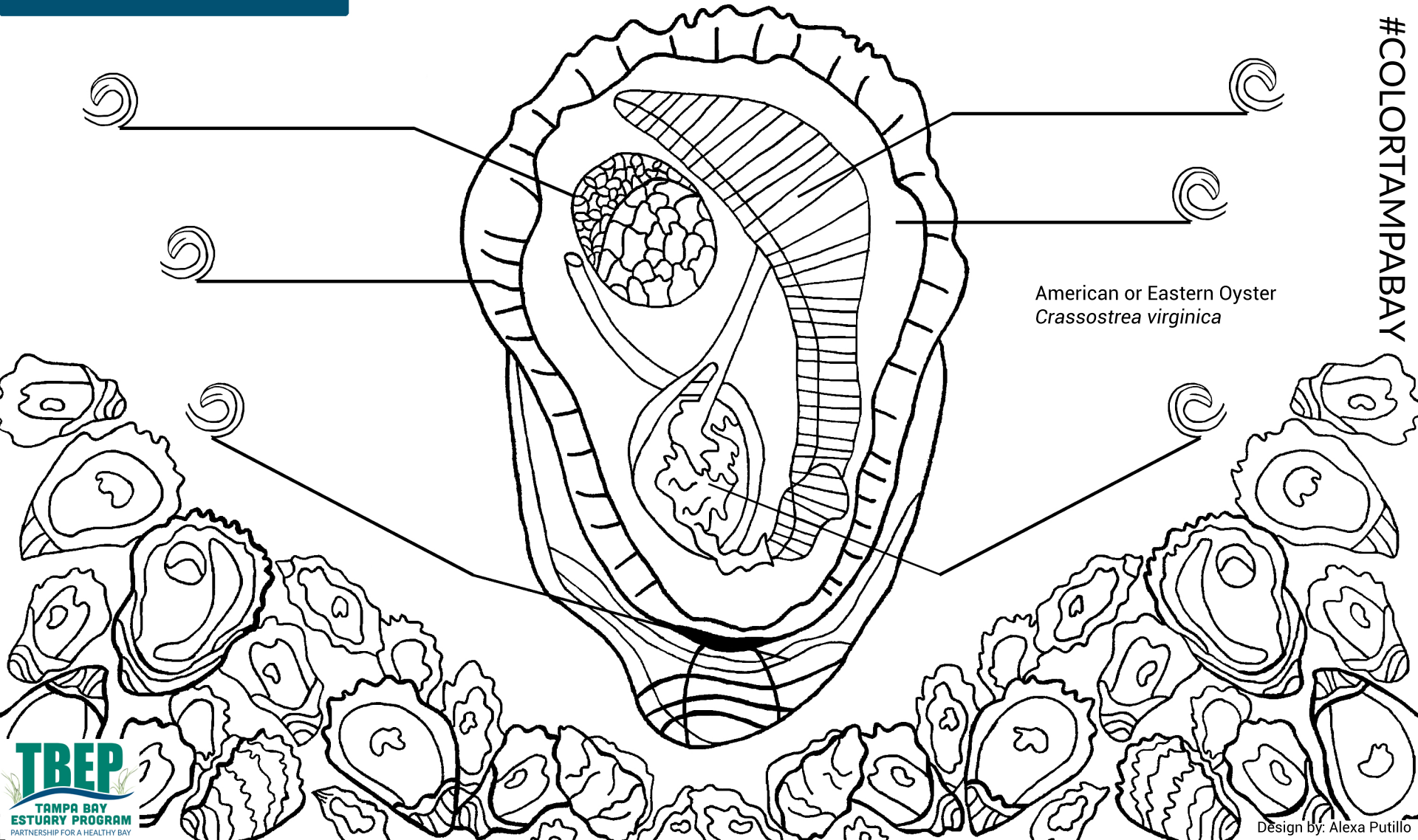
Hinge - The point where the two shells of an oyster come together



Stomach - Where food is broken down into usable nutrients



Adductor Muscle - The muscle to keep the shell closed



American or Eastern Oyster
Crassostrea virginica

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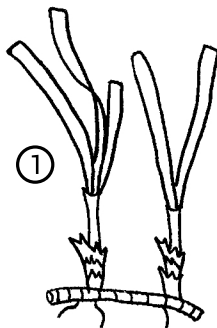
SEAGRASS

Seagrasses are flowering underwater plants found worldwide. Locally, they occur at shallow depths in protected bays and lagoons and in patches along the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico.

Can you name the three species of seagrass that dominate Tampa Bay?
Match the following name to the species of seagrass it belongs to below:

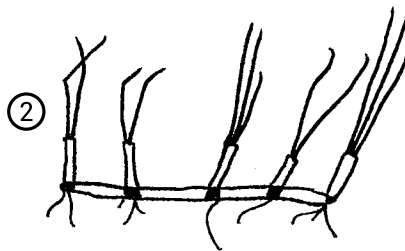
Turtle Grass
Thalassia testudinum

Hint: Has flat, wide, and ribbon-like blades



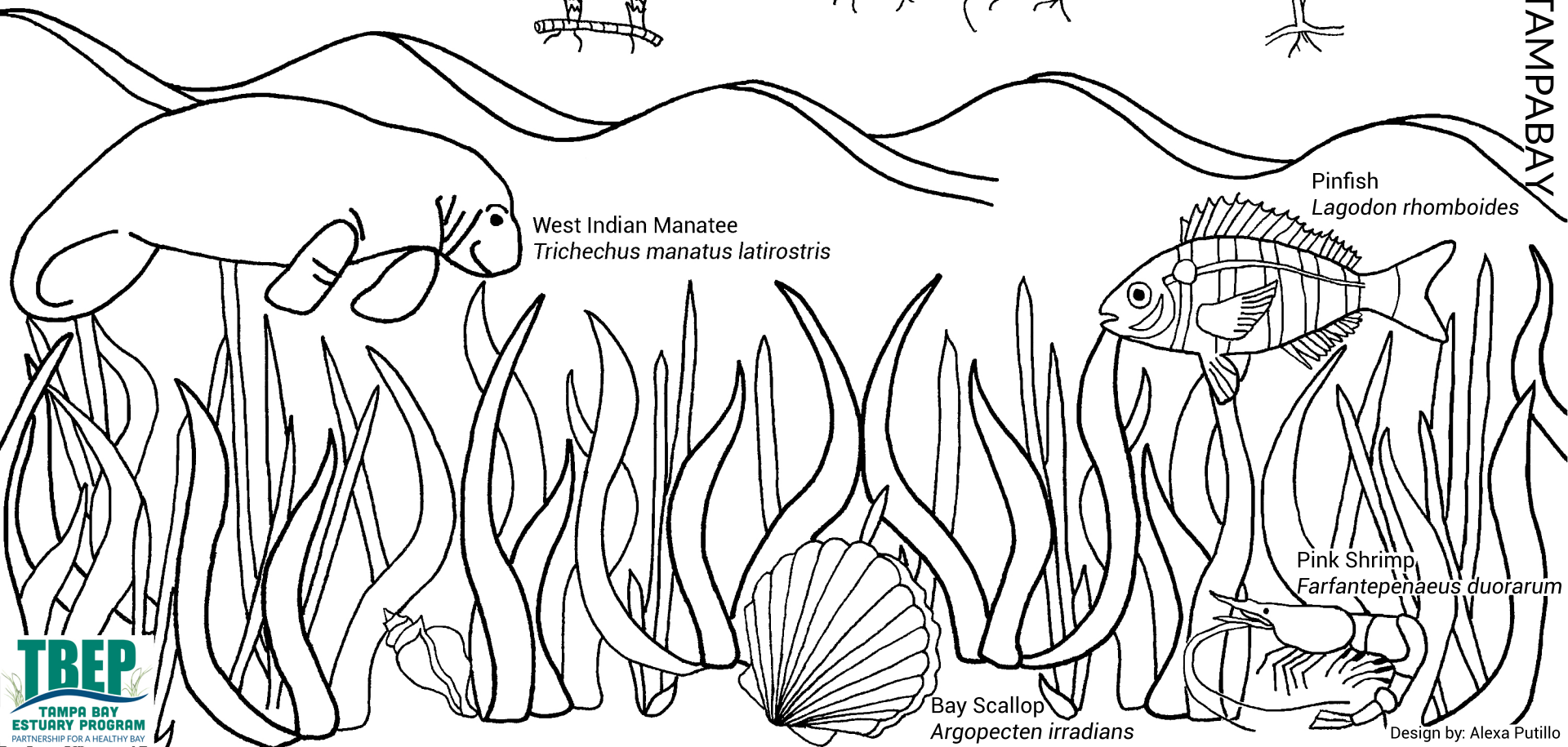
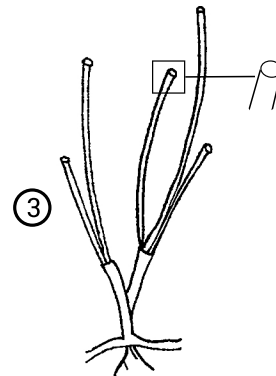
Shoal Grass
Halodule wrightii

Hint: Has narrow blades with notched tips



Manatee Grass
Syringodium filiforme

Hint: Has cylindrical blades



West Indian Manatee
Trichechus manatus latirostris

Pinfish
Lagodon rhomboides

Pink Shrimp
Farfantepenaeus duorarum

Bay Scallop
Argopecten irradians

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TARPON

Tarpon, one of Florida's premier gamefish, are found in temperate estuaries throughout Florida, including Tampa Bay. They also are found in marine waters, along beaches, and around coral reefs.

Label the external features where they appear on the tarpon's body using the terms below:



Pelvic Fin - The hip or belly fin and is used for balance and steering



Pectoral Fin - The chest fin, which is the closest fin to the fish's head and is used for balance and help with turning



Operculum - The gill cover and is a flexible plate that protects the sensitive gills



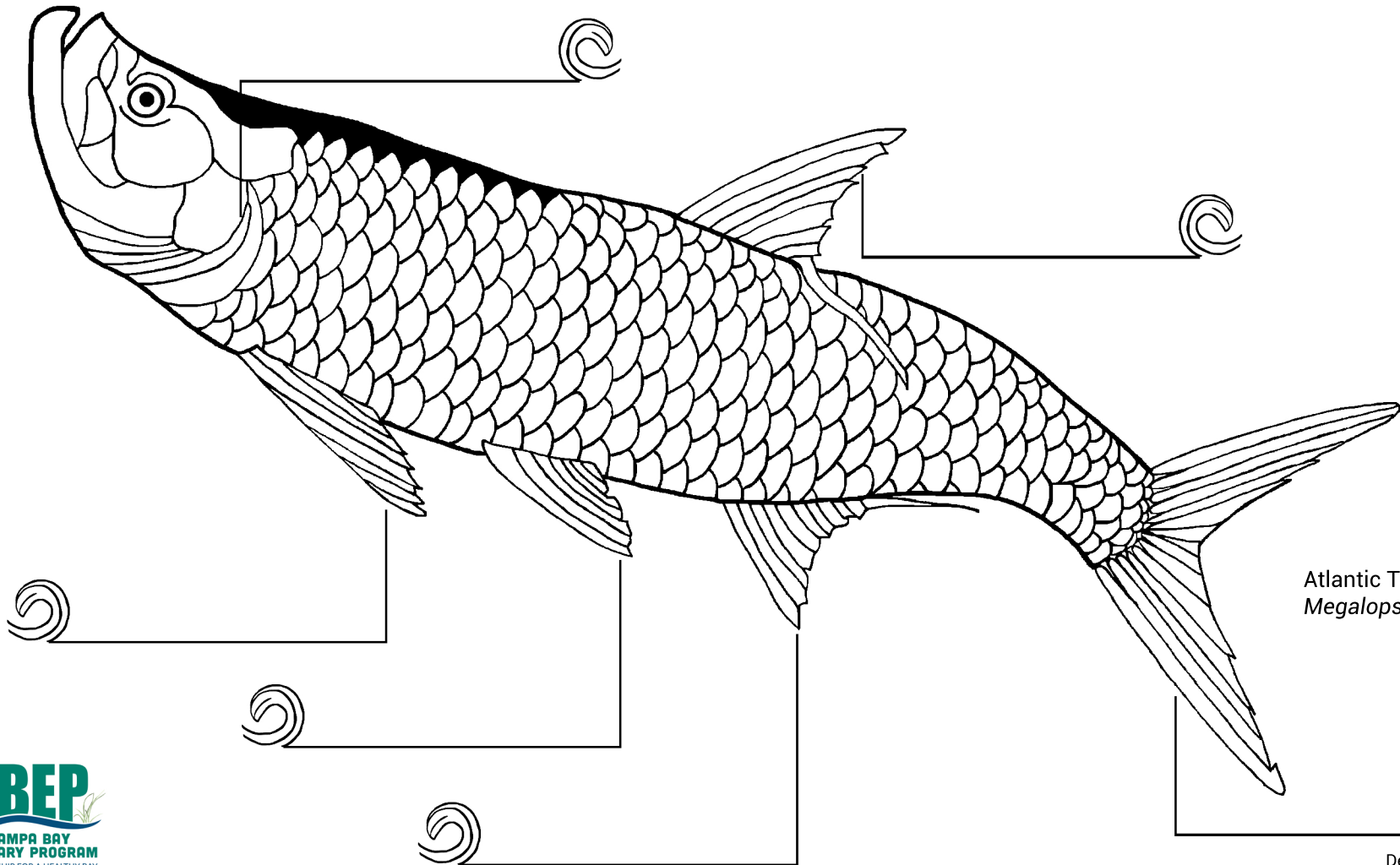
Caudal Fin - The tail fin and is the main fin used for moving the fish forward



Anal Fin - The fin closest to the fish's tail, located on the underside of the fish's body and is used for stability



Dorsal Fin - The top fin, located on the fish's back and is used for stability



Atlantic Tarpon
Megalops atlanticus

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