

# SHARK BITES

*Slicing and dicing info into "bite" sized pieces!*

## OUR TOP PICKS

We are striving to excite, engage, and enrich your understanding of YOUR connection to local waterways, no matter where you live.

At the core of all that we do is a passion to inspire others to help leave this world a better place, be the change to protect our planet, and instill a love and wonder of the natural world in you and future generations.



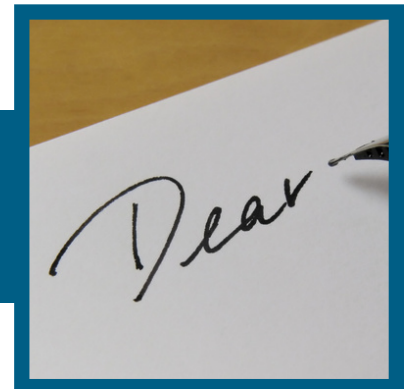
### RAIN GARDENS & THEIR BENEFITS

Learn about rain garden benefits to the Chesapeake Bay.



### PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARDS

CSH2O is thrilled to announce the 2024 recipients of this award.



### DEAR SHARK: SHARKS IN THE BAY?

You have questions, we have answers! We will reply to your most pressing queries about our local waterways!



## RAIN GARDENS & THEIR BENEFITS

BY DEBI CRUSE, GUEST WRITER

A rain garden is an area of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff. A rain garden is dry most of the time and typically only holds water during and after a rainfall. Rain gardens allow more water to soak into the ground than a conventional lawn.

Rain gardens offer many benefits to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, playing a vital role in addressing environmental challenges specific to this region. They offer a pleasant way to enjoy contributing to the health of the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay has long faced issues with nutrient pollution from excess nitrogen and phosphorus entering the waterways. Sediment runoff is also a significant concern due to its impact on water clarity and aquatic ecosystems. Oils, metals, and chemicals get washed into waterways during heavy storms because hard surfaces, such as driveways, sidewalks, roofs, and roads, prevent rainwater from being absorbed into the earth.

[Read more...](#)



# Sponsor Showcase

## Q & A WITH THE DAVIS GROUP

### How did you hear about CoreShark H2O and the work we do?

We met CoreShark H2O through our philanthropic nonprofit endeavors many years ago and have always admired their passion for their environmental educational mission.

### Why is CSH2O's work so important to your business?

As a small business, we were drawn to CoreShark H2O because we value the work of small nonprofits and their large impact on our community.

### How does CSH2O's mission align with your mission?

As an event management company, part of our mission is to enhance the fundraising efforts of our nonprofit clients. We have loved connecting with CoreShark H2O and feel honored to be a small part of their bigger goal!





## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARDS

BY BRYAN KENT GOMES & JEN AIKEN, CSH2O ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

As we embark on our 10th year (*a whole DECADE!*) we are so appreciative of the tireless and caring teachers and administrators that we work with to schedule, coordinate and present our Environmental Education programs to schools across Maryland. For the second year in a row, CoreShark H2O has awarded a Teacher and Administrator the "CSH2O Partner in Education Award". This award goes to two individuals, one teacher and one administrator, who have gone above and beyond expectations in supporting our mission through communication, coordination, collaboration and continued interest in our Environmental Education programs.

The 2024 recipients are **Lisa Harding** from **Brooklyn Park Middle School** and **Bonnie Myers** from **Bodkin Elementary School**. Let's learn a bit more about these amazing AACPS employees who regularly go above and beyond in their roles as well as being fervent CSH2O supporters.



[Read more...](#)



## First Day of Spring March 19



### Plant Natives and Let the clovers BE for the BEES

Learn More about the native plants that BEES prefer and do your part to support these pollinators.

**Look Up for Osprey**  
Bay residents often see the return of the Osprey as a true sign of Spring.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Shark Yoga, 4/12**

**Full Moon Paddle, 4/22**

**Bodkin ES Environmental Fair, 5/4**

**Full Moon Paddle, 5/22**

**Full Moon Paddle, 6/20**

*Visit our website for more info*

# SHARK BITES

## Dear Shark,

Why does CoreShark H2O have the word “Shark” in the organization's name if CSH2O focuses on educating students about the Bay? I mean, I’ve heard people say that there are sharks in the Chesapeake Bay, but I never believed it. Are there actually sharks in the Bay and if so, is it safe to swim with these “eating machines” lurking about?

Sincerely,  
Scared-of-Sharks

*Answer provided by: Jen Aiken & Bryan Gomes, CSH2O  
Environmental Educators*



Dear Scared-of-Sharks,

We’re so glad you asked since we get these questions a lot, and we get it! Sharks, like spiders, the dark, and snakes, can evoke a sense of fear in a large percentage of our population. And whether it is rational or irrational, the fear is there. Blame it on historical stories, pop culture (cue the movie Jaws theme music) or even a few isolated events that get massive coverage. Remember the “Summer of the Shark” in 2001? More information on that phenomenon [here](#).

The Discovery Channel launched the very popular “Shark Week” in July of 1988. The name of the first special? “Caged in Fear”. Hard to get around the fear mongering when the word is in the title itself!



Sandbar Shark  
*Adobe stock Image*



[Read more...](#)

## Keeping Up WITH THE SHARKS

**Bay Bells & Shark Tails**  
Oh what a night! On 12/9/23, over 200 attendees enjoyed a fabulous evening of dancing, Eastport Yacht Club Lights Parade, amazing food and fabulous raffles ALL to support our mission!

**Program Update**  
Since the start of the ‘23-’24 school year, our Educators have presented to over 1,500 students of all ages. We love what we do!

**10th Annual Brunch**  
On February 25th, over 200 people attended our annual brunch to support a whole DECADE of Environmental Education. Thank you!





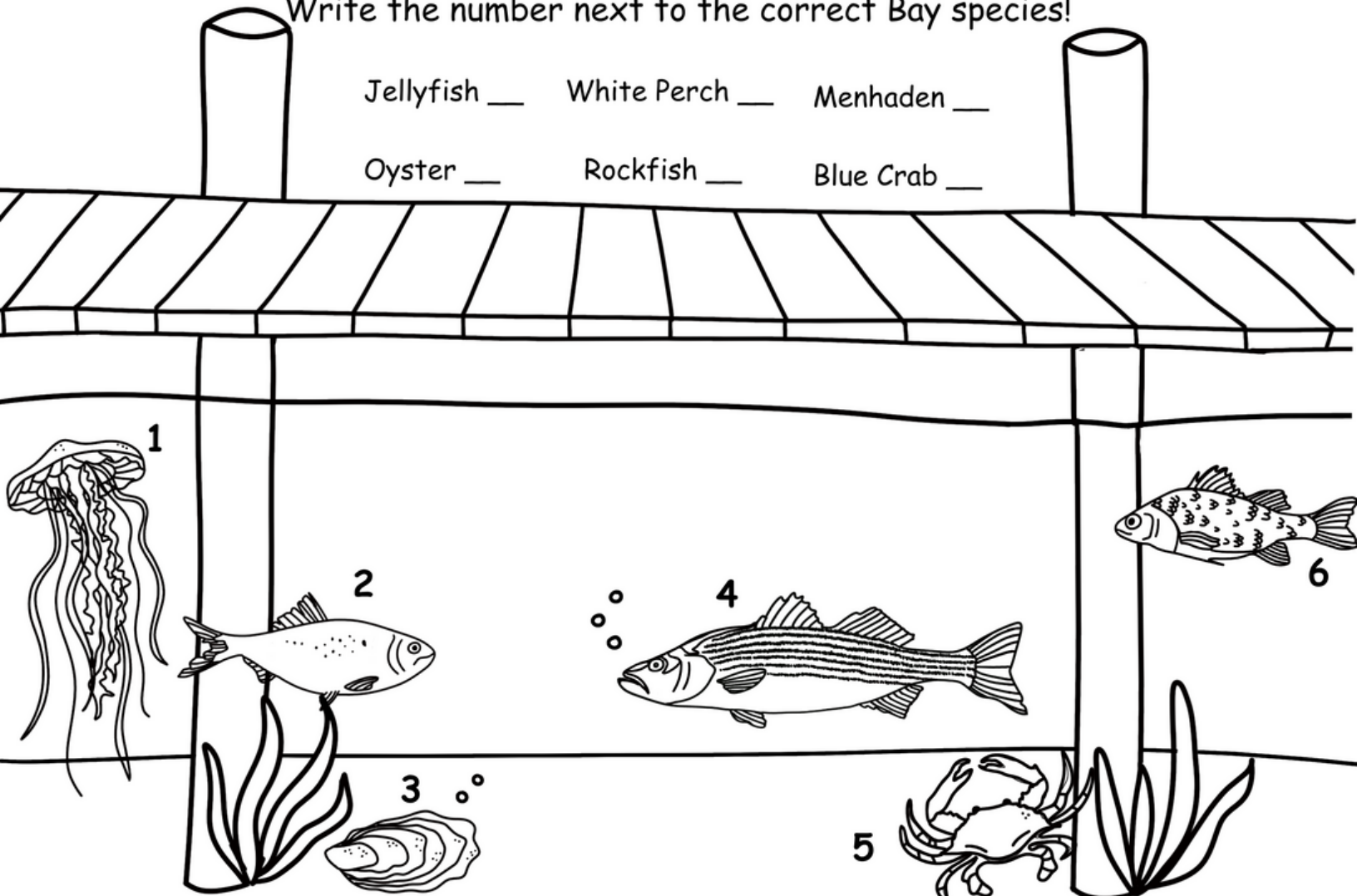
# KIDS KORNER

FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS!

## Chesapeake Bay Critter Match-Up

Write the number next to the correct Bay species!

Jellyfish \_\_\_    White Perch \_\_\_    Menhaden \_\_\_  
Oyster \_\_\_    Rockfish \_\_\_    Blue Crab \_\_\_



ART CREDIT: MEGAN BENTZ



**Check out Maryland's 2024 Fishing Regulations**