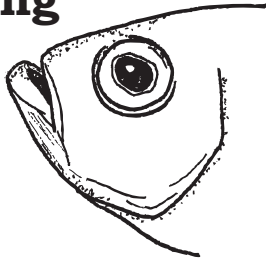


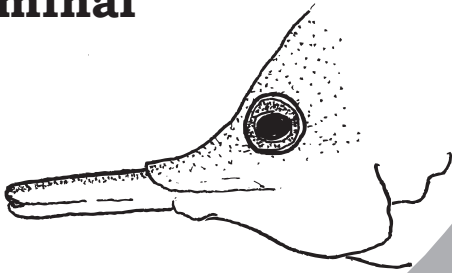
Mouth Design

Up facing



The shape and orientation of a fish's mouth may tell us something about its eating habits. A fish with an **upturned** mouth may wait for food to fall from above. Some fishes with this mouth design may have large lower jaws that can be extended out to engulf their prey. For example, the trumpetfish has a tube-like snout with a large jaw and upturned mouth that is used to suck in their prey.

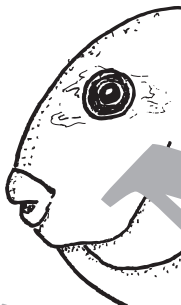
Terminal



A **terminal** mouth is often used by herbivores to pick or scrape algae from a surface. If a terminal mouth exists at the end of a long snout it may be used to reach into crevices for food, avoid urchin spines, or pluck off coral polyps.



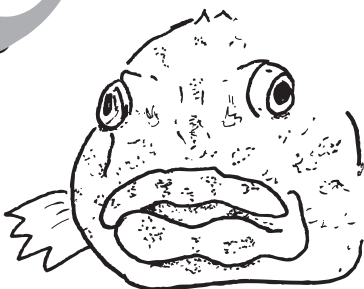
Down-facing



Bottom feeders may exhibit a **down-facing** mouth. Some bottom feeders may also have special sense organs such as barbels for finding food hiding in the sand.



Large



Large mouths may be used to capture large prey. However, many filter feeders exhibit a large mouth that remains open while swimming to filter large quantities of planktonic food from the water.