



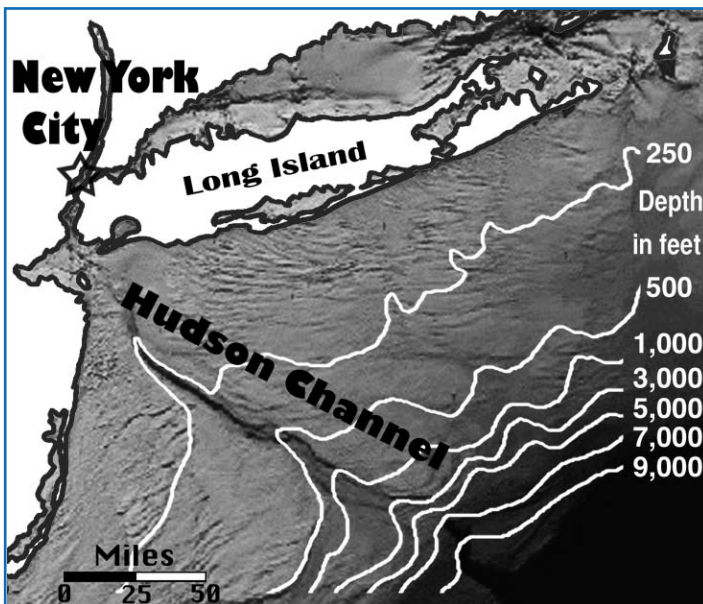
look around

New York City Audubon

NEW YORK CITY

THE HUDSON CANYON

by Sasha Dudding



If you **LOOK AROUND** near your home, you will see all sorts of land. You might see hills or valleys. Many people don't know that the bottom of the ocean has hills and valleys, too. A very deep area of ocean that is often found near a river is an ocean canyon. An ocean canyon forms a path from land to sea. One of these is the Hudson Canyon.

The Hudson Canyon starts at the coast of New York City where the Hudson River ends. It is 460 miles long— 1½ times longer than New York State—and is up to 10,500 feet deep, almost twice as deep as the Grand Canyon. It is 10,000 years old. The tides of the Hudson River created it in the last Ice Age.

The Canyon is home to many types of animals. There are summer flounder, sea sponges, black sea bass, eels, and tilefish. Tilefish

have made many strange funnel-shaped mounds on the bottom to live in. They share their homes with the other creatures in the area. The animals of the Hudson Canyon can be giant and gray, or flat and freckled. So next time you **LOOK ACROSS** the Hudson River, just imagine this nearby underwater landscape with its city of fish.

Sources:

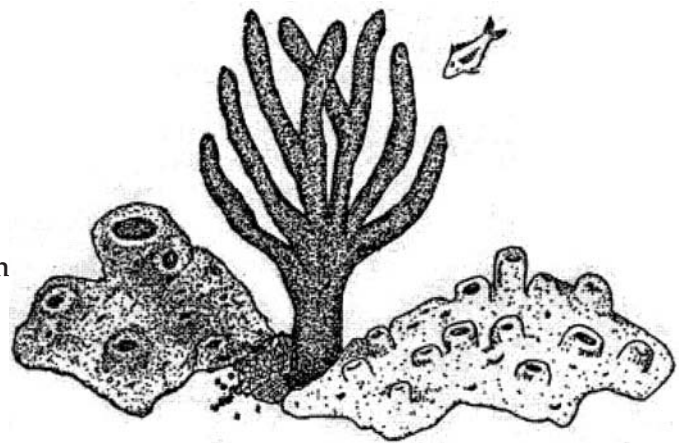
www.nrdc.org/water/oceans/priority/recable.asp

www.mcbl.org/shining_sea/place_atlantic_hudson.htm

www.accessnoaa.noaa.gov/mapping.html

Image:

fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/maps2/hudson_canyon/hudson_canyon.html



Sea sponges

Illustrations: Map, David Perry;

Sea sponge, courtesy of Friends of the Earth, Sea & Space Center, www.earthseaspacemuseum.org

A FIGHTING FISH

by Naola Gersten-Woolf and Sarah C. Haywood



GO WITH A GROWNUP

by Naola Gersten-Woolf

One of the things you can do in Hudson River Park is to walk, bike or rollerblade along a pathway between West Street and the piers. It runs from West 59th Street to Battery Place in Manhattan.

The Hudson River Park Trust has catch-and-release fishing events from some of the piers in Hudson River Park: call 212-627-2020 or visit www.hudsonriverpark.org/education/big-city-fishing.asp.

The lower Hudson River is a VERY important place for many fish—including striped bass.

Another name for striped bass is “striper.” If you **LOOK AT** a striped bass in a fish store, you will see there are 7 or 8 very thin dark lines that run along the sides. Now you know where names come from.

Striped bass are born in fresh water in several East Coast rivers. The young fish live in the river for a few years. During the colder weather, fish born in the Hudson River hang out under the abandoned piers next to Lower Manhattan. They do this until they are a few years old. Then they head to the Atlantic Ocean to spend the rest of their lives. They swim up and down the coast from Massachusetts in the summer to Delaware in the winter. If they live long enough, they can grow to four feet long and weigh more than 50 pounds.

When females are old enough, an unusual thing happens. Every spring for the rest of their lives they go back to the river where they were born to lay their eggs. The ones that were born in the Hudson River go back to freshwater 60 miles north of NYC. Currents keep the eggs from sinking to the bottom of the river and carry them southward. By the first winter of their lives, they head toward Manhattan.

Striped bass put up a fight when they are caught on a fishing line. This is the reason they are a favorite of fishermen and fisherwomen. Striped bass is the official saltwater fish of New York State.

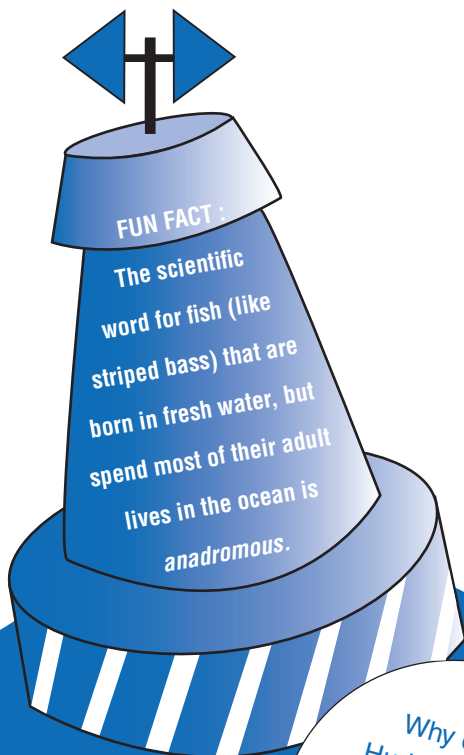


Illustrations: Fish, Prospect Park Audubon

NYC AUDUBON RUNS PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN. LOOK IT UP AT WWW.NYCAUDUBON.ORG

DO IT YOURSELF

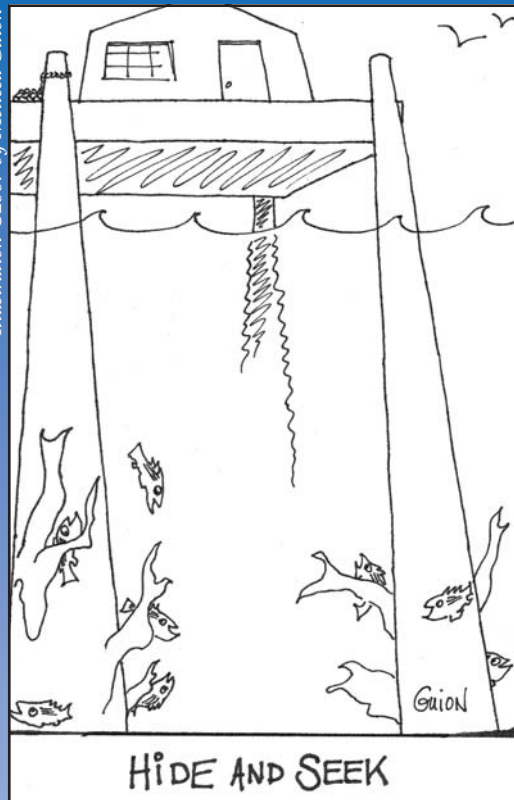
- For more information and photos visit: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50070.html
- For a drawing see: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/52661.html
- The River Project website has a virtual aquarium with pictures and information on creatures that live in the Hudson River: riverproject.org/education_aquarium.php
- The Rutgers University Marine Field Station website has some awesome activities for kids and lots of information for teachers and other adults. Try your hand at tagging and tracking a virtual striped bass at: www.stripertracker.org/kids/index.html



Why does the Hudson River have salt water in the part near its mouth to the ocean and fresh water farther up river?

The bellies of all fish are white or light colored. Why is this good for the fish?

Illustration ©2007 by Melissa Gaion



FIGHT TO SAVE THE STRIPED BASS

by Naola Gersten-Woolf and Sarah C. Haywood

In the 1970s, people saw that they were catching fewer and fewer striped bass. They tried to find out why and they found many reasons. All along the Atlantic coast, people were doing too much fishing. There was too much pollution in the water. The fish didn't have enough places to live safely.

The United States and several state governments all passed laws to protect the fish. Gradually, the numbers of fish increased again.

Then in the late 1970s and 1980s there was a plan to tear down part of the West Side Highway and build a new one. The new highway would be built on land added along the Manhattan shoreline. This is called *landfill*. Some people didn't like this plan. They believed it would take away places for the striped bass to live. They protested and went to court. Scientists were witnesses in court. They said that the Lower Hudson was a VERY important place for many fish—including young striped bass. Because the striped bass is a protected species, the judge said the landfill plan was illegal. The plan was changed to build a much smaller road with landscaping. New York State also created Hudson River Park. Most of this Park is on piers in order not to interfere with the fish in the river.

LOOK IT UP: LESLIE DAY, A FIELD GUIDE TO THE NATURAL WORLD OF NEW YORK CITY, PAGES 98, 148, 149.

DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT

by Tatiana Eder

Hi, I'm Tatiana Eder and this is my 3rd time writing for the NYC Audubon's *Look Around*. I am writing about the double-crested cormorant. I have also written about piping plovers and frogs.

The adult double-crested cormorant is a large, black, water bird with a long body and neck and a hooked beak tip. The babies are pale at the throat and chest with a dark-colored back, head, and wings.

This bird is the most widely spread cormorant in North America. The cormorant lives in large numbers along the coast and along inland waterways. Sadly, this bird is being blamed by sport fishermen for declines in fish population.

Double-crested cormorants live in ponds, lakes, rivers, lagoons, bays, swamps and open coastlines. They eat mainly fish. Once they spot their food, the bird dives underwater. It then chases the prey until it is close enough to scoop it up in its mouth which it then swallows whole.

Their nests are built on rocks, on the ground, or in trees. The nests are made of sticks, seaweed, and *flotsam* (litter that floats in the water, like cans, bottles, and plastic bags). They line their nests with grass, seaweed, and flotsam. They normally lay about 4 eggs and the eggs are a pale blue color.

When I went for a walk at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, I **LOOKED AROUND** and saw a flock of double crested cormorants sitting on logs. If you **LOOK AROUND**, you too might see some double-crested cormorants.



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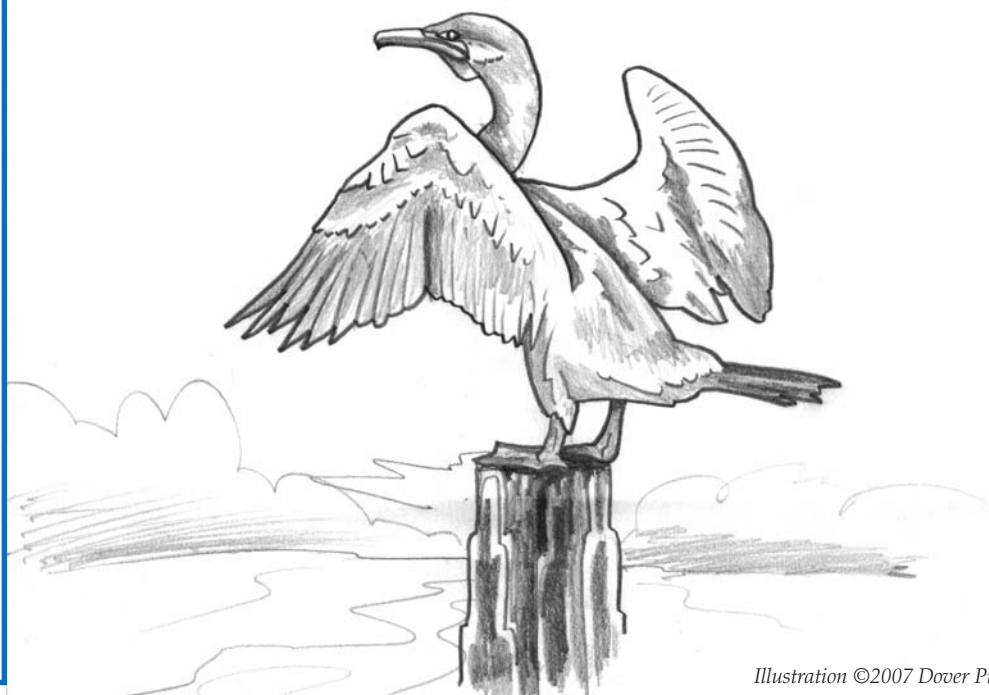


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