

# FISH PRINTING

## GYOTAKU, A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE ARTFORM







### WHAT IS GYOTAKU?

Have you ever heard a fish story that sounded too good to be true? Perhaps you asked to see a photo as proof of a big fish. Established over a century ago long before cameras, Gyotaku is an ancient Japanese art form that was traditionally used to record the size and species of a catch. Gyotaku prints are made by painting ink onto a fish, carefully smoothing a piece of rice paper across the fish, and then peeling it away to reveal a life-size fish print. Afterwards, the ink is washed off and the fish can be eaten. Gyotaku literally translates to "gyo" = fish, "taku" = rubbing.

### FISH FORMS

Fish have evolved different body shapes and anatomical features based on how they live in different environments. Some fish have evolved to be sneaky and flat, while others have evolved to be thin and fast.

Each fish in this kit has a card that describes the function of its form and a brief summary of its life history.

Fusiform/normal		Atlantic cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )
Elongated		Common sandeel ( <i>Ammodytes tobianus</i> )
Eel-like		European eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )
Flat		Southern stingray ( <i>Hypanus americanus</i> )
Short and/or deep		Smooth trunkfish ( <i>Lactophrys triqueter</i> )
Compressiform		Vagabond butterfly fish ( <i>Chaetodon vagabundus</i> )

### KIT MATERIALS

- ✓ Rubber Fish
- ✓ Foam/Paint Brushes
- ✓ Tempera/Acrylic Paint
- ✓ Paper Plates
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Paper Towels
- ✓ Fish Form Cards
- ✓ 11"x14" Paper

Kit includes all needed supplies.







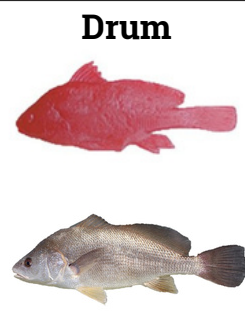

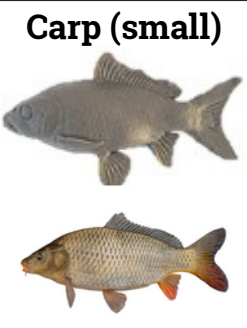
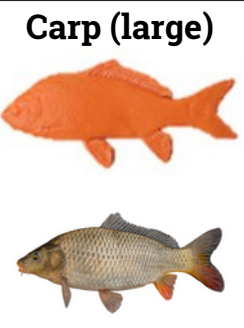
### FINISHED FISH PRINT



### FISH ID KEY

This kit includes eleven different rubber forms representing groups of fish that have distinctly different body shapes and features.

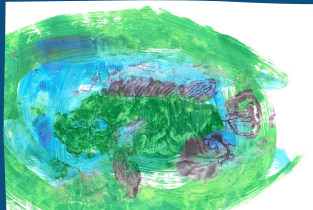
Use this key to identify each rubber animal.

<b>FISH ID KEY</b> This kit includes eleven different rubber forms representing groups of fish that have distinctly different body shapes and features.  Use this key to identify each rubber animal.	<b>Skate</b> 	<b>Green Sunfish</b> 	<b>Bluegill</b> 	<b>Trout (small)</b> 	<b>Trout (large)</b> 
	<b>Salmon</b> 	<b>Flounder</b> 	<b>Drum</b> 	<b>Northern Pike</b> 	<b>Carp (small)</b> 

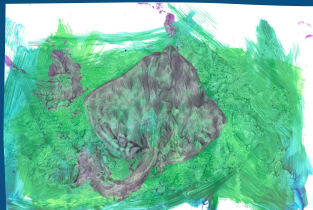
# FISH PRINTING

## GYOTAKU, A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE ARTFORM

EXAMPLE PRINTS MADE BY  
GARIBALDI STUDENTS



EXAMPLE PRINTS MADE BY  
TILLAMOOK STUDENTS



### BRIGHT EYE-DEA

In step #5, consider using a small paint brush to add the eyeball of the fish with a contrasting color.

### PAPER OPTIONS

If you'd like to make a keep-sake quality print, use traditional Rice Paper to make a final fish print after practicing with the printer paper provided in this kit.

## HOW TO MAKE A FISH PRINT

### SET UP

1

- Lay down newspapers to protect your workspace.
- Select which rubber fish you want to print.
- Put a small dollop of each paint color you want to use onto a paper plate to create your paint palette.



### GET CREATIVE

2

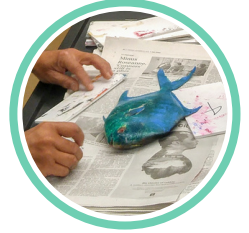
- Use a foam brush to dab paint onto the rubber fish, covering the whole surface with a light layer.
- Be creative. Make the features pop by blending colors, painting stripes, and creating patterns.



### PREP TO PRINT

3

- Carefully pick up your painted fish and move it to a paint-free section of newspaper, or place a clean piece of newspaper underneath so paint on the newspaper doesn't transfer onto your art print.



### LAY DOWN PAPER

4

- Center a piece of paper in the air over the painted fish; then, lay it down. Use your finger tips to pat the paper firmly, pressing all the main details such as eyes, fins, scales, etc. Take care to not slide the paper once it is in contact with the fish.



### REVEAL YOUR PRINT

5

- Slowly peel your paper print off the fish.
- Set your print aside to full dry.
- Wash the paint off of the rubber fish immediately.
- Pat the rubber fish dry with a clean paper towel.



### CLEAN UP

6

- Completely rinse foam brushes in water and allow to dry fully before packing up the Fish Print Kit.
- Pack up all supplies and return the Fish Print Kit to the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership office.

