


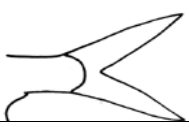




Fish Morphology – Fins

Fin Types

Name	Location	Function
Caudal	Tail (Most posterior)	
Dorsal	Along the back (dorsal) side of the fish	
Pectoral	Paired fins on the chest/trunk	
Pelvic	Ventral paired fins forward of the anal fins	
Anal	Ventral fin between the pelvic fins and the tail	
Adipose	Soft fin between the dorsal and caudal fins- usually closer to the caudal fin.	

Caudal Fin Shapes

Shape	Function	Examples:
Rounded 	Good for turning, fast for short distances only. Not used for long distance swimmers.	
Truncate (Square) 	Good for turning, great bursts of speed, but not great for fast long distance swimming.	
Lunate 	Fast swimmer, long distance migrator. Not best for turning sharply.	
Forked 	Great acceleration, good maneuverability for turning.	
Pointed 	Slow swimmer. Wiggles through the water using body motions, not tail thrust.	
Heterocercal 	Fast swimmers, constantly moving, aids in turning while moving fast, but not great for turning sharply	