Pumpkin Carving Instructions

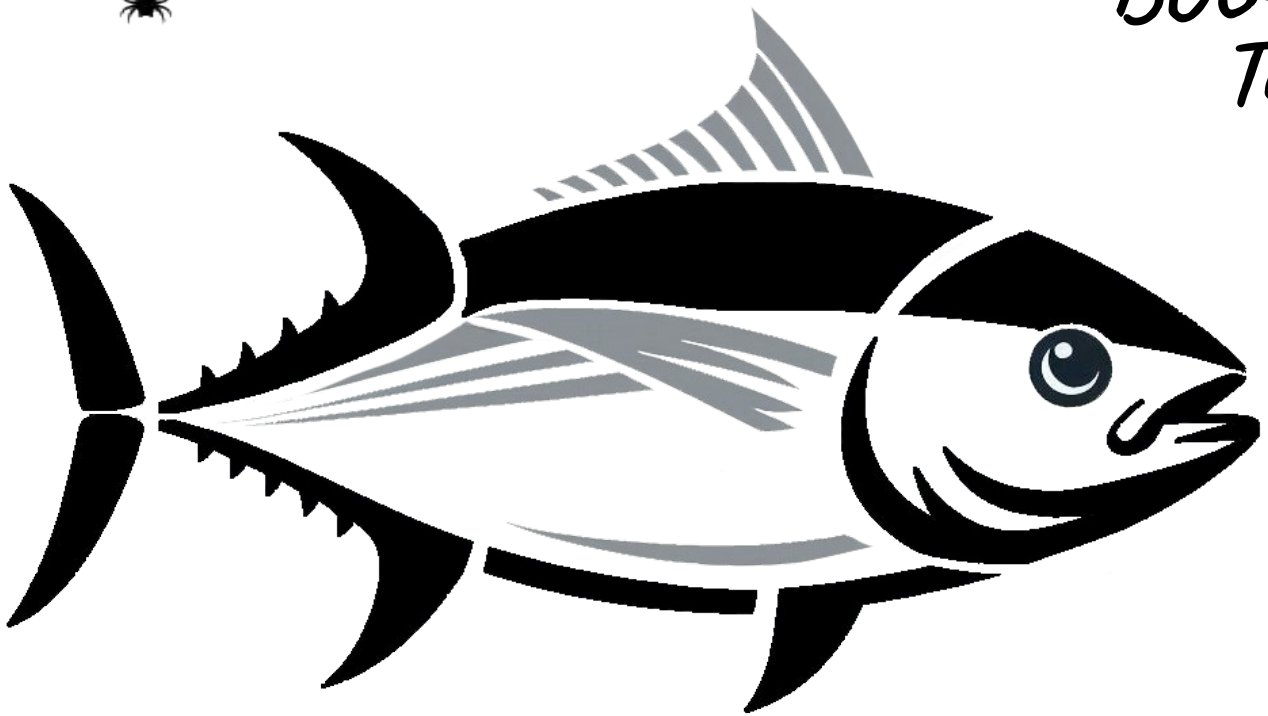
- Pick your favorite jack-o'-lantern stencil below inspired by the ocean, our NOAA Fisheries mission and research.
- Cut out the stencil leaving some white space to make it easier to apply to the pumpkin.
- Tape the stencil to the pumpkin, make sure it's as flush as possible. Use tape to secure any folds or flaps.
- Trace the design: Use a poking tool to make a series of holes along the outline of the design. You can also use a light pen or wipeable marker to trace the design. Or you can draw on top of the stencil, pressing hard with a pencil or ballpoint pen.
- Cut out and/or carve away the black or shaded areas on each stencil. A thin film of petroleum jelly will keep cut areas fresh.

Don't forget to share your fa-boo-lous pumpkin masterpiece on social media! Tag us on Facebook or Instagram @noaafisherieswestcoast and we'll feature your creation! #WestGhost #SpookyScience #FishyPumpkins

NOAA FISHERIES

HAPPY Halloween

BOO-fin Tuna



Carve out the black areas. Scrape the the grey shapes, removing only the top layer of pumpkin skin. This allows the glow to show. Add the eye with a black marker.

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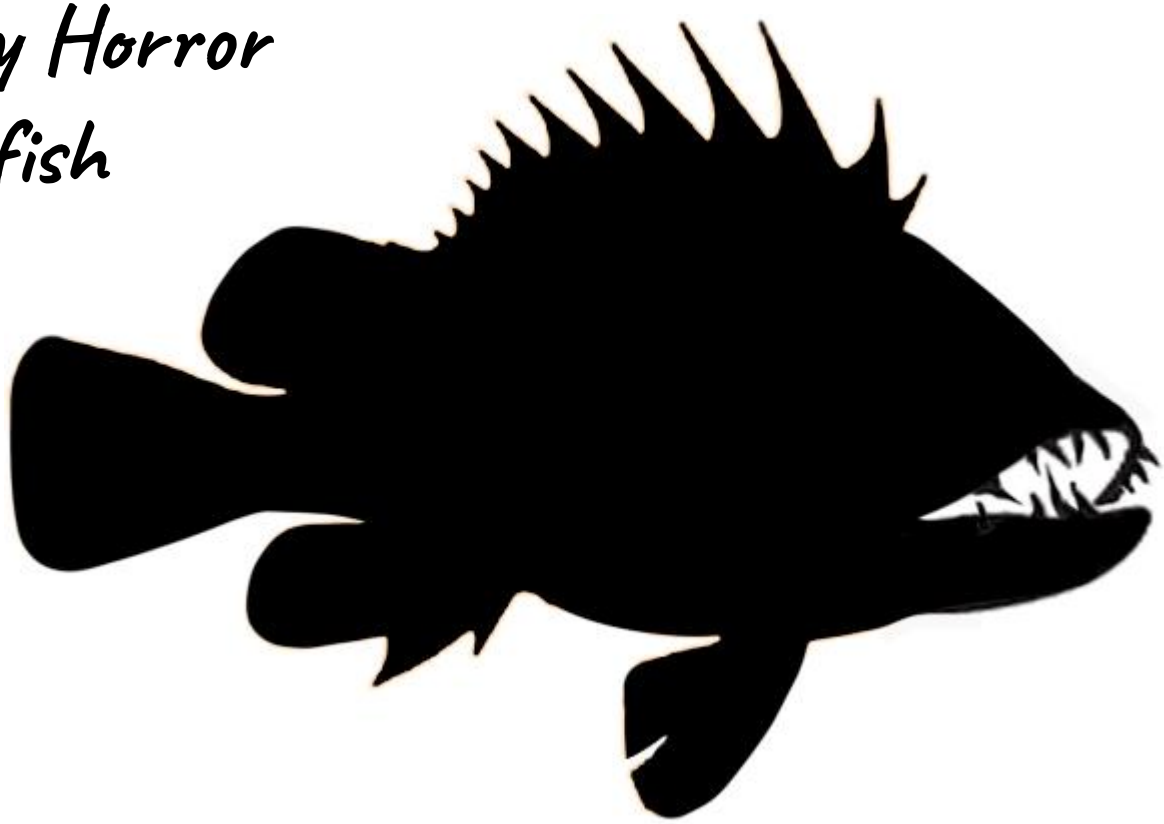
Rocky Horror Rockfish



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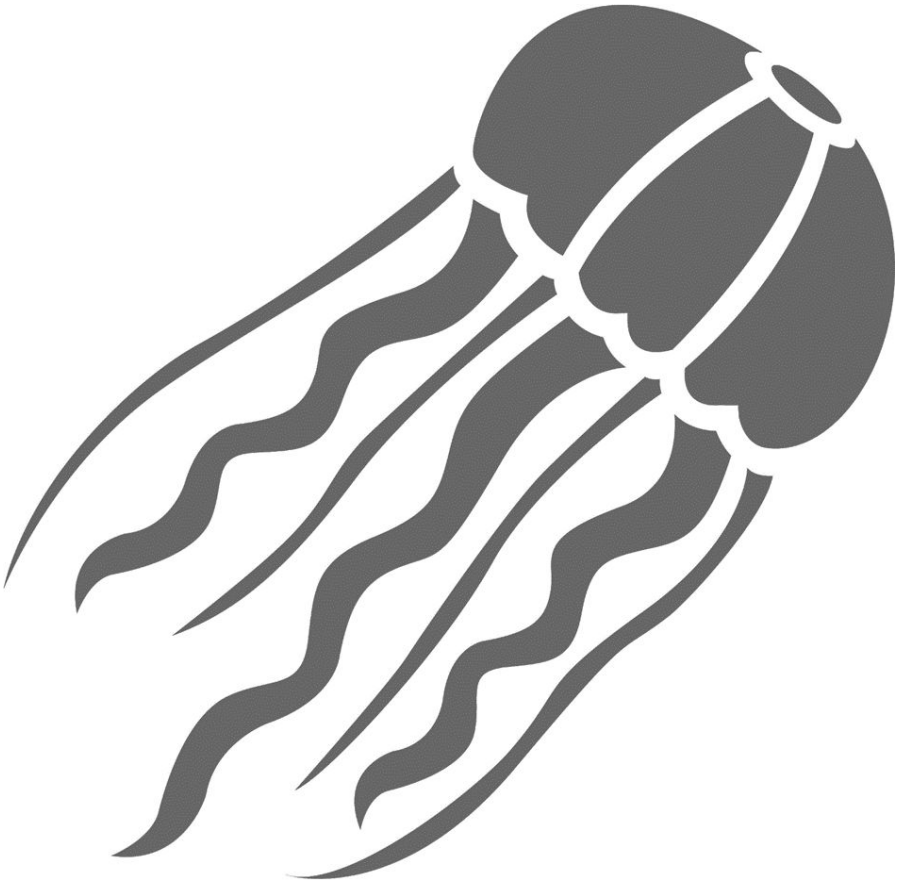
Sea Nettle Jellyfish



A graceful swimmer, the venomous Sea Nettle is renowned for its vibrant appearance.

Although beware, despite its spectacular appearance the Sea Nettle delivers a painful sting.

Kaleigh Ballantine/ NOAA Office of Education

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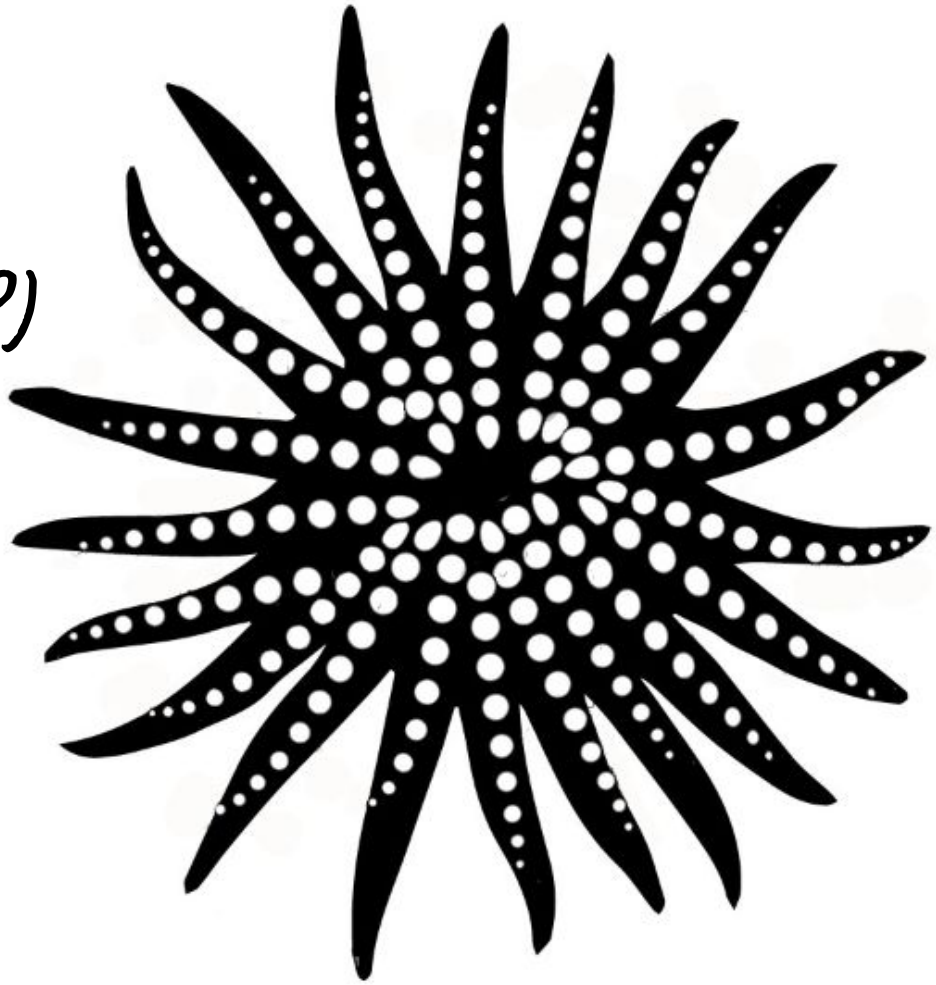
Sunflower Sea Star (or Starface?)



Lightly scrape the black areas, removing only the top layer of pumpkin skin. This will let the glow show through!

Use a sharp instrument to poke the holes.

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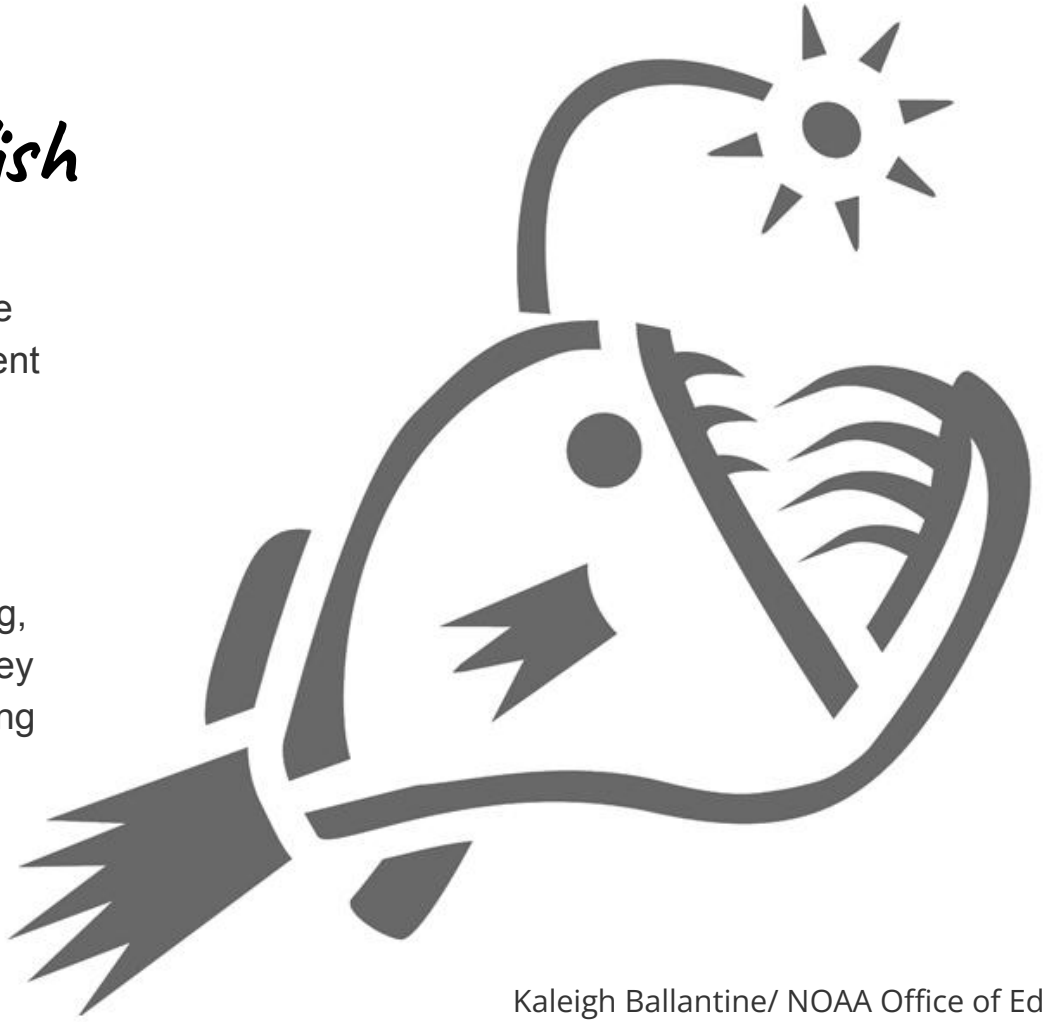
Anglerfish

Deep sea anglerfish have a bioluminescent lure to attract prey.

With a large mouth and long, pointy teeth they capture anything that they find.



Kaleigh Ballantine/ NOAA Office of Education

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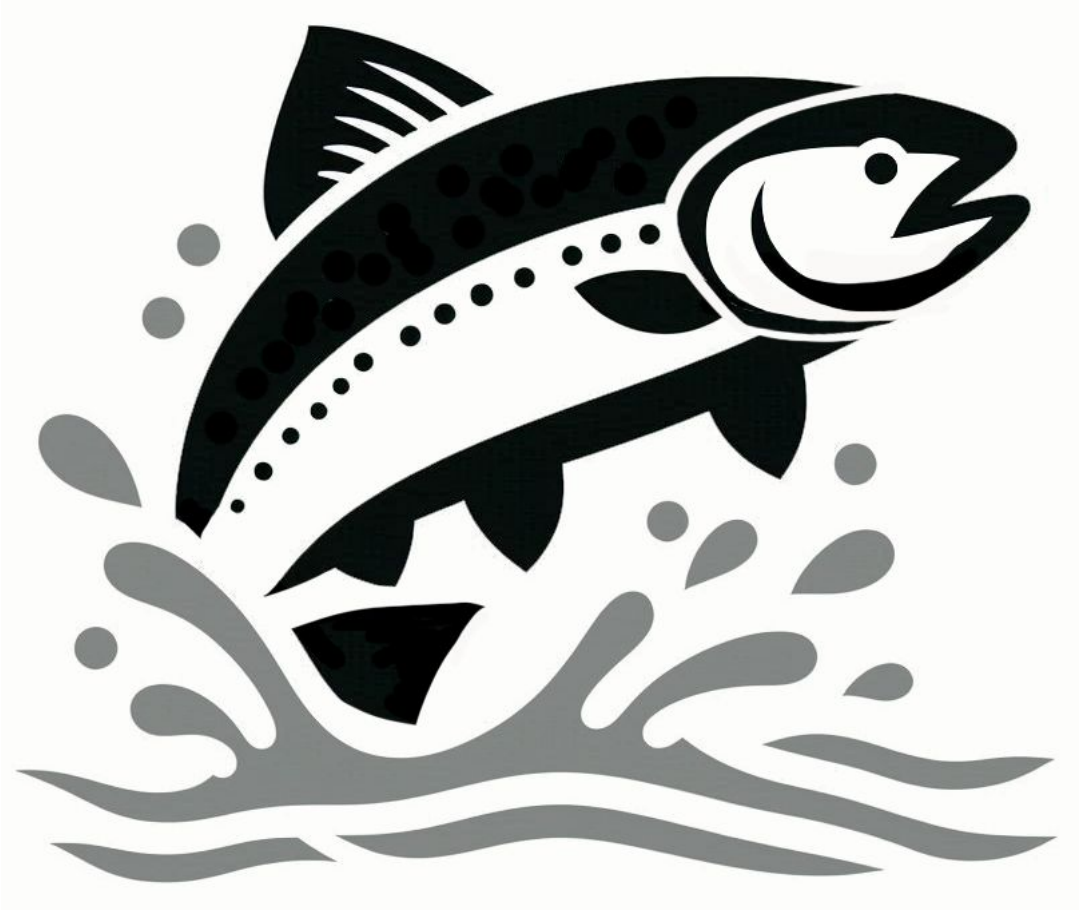
Phantom Salmon



Carve out the black areas.

Scrape the grey areas, removing only the top layer of pumpkin skin. This will let the glow show through!

Draw the eye and dots with a black marker.

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Fish Skeleton

You can carve the lines through, or scrape the surface, removing only the top layer of pumpkin skin. This will let the glow show through!

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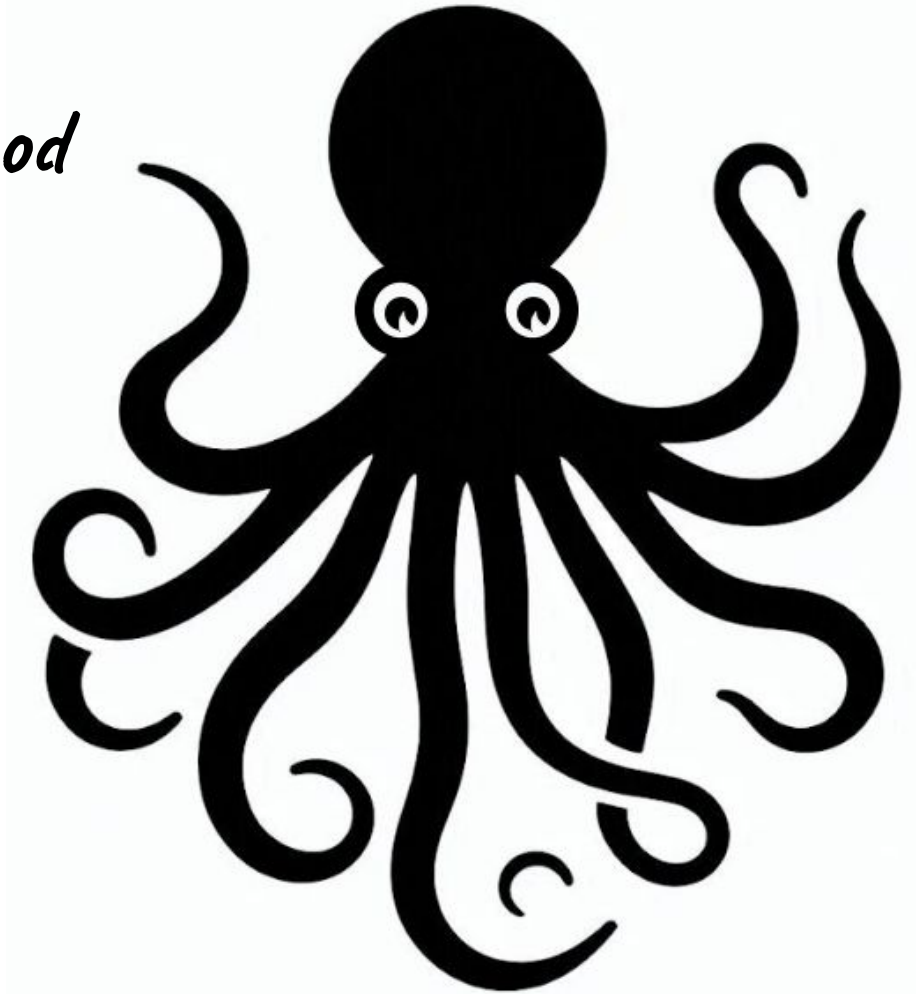
HAPPY Halloween

Creepy cephalopod



Lightly scrape this the octopus shape, removing only the top layer of pumpkin skin. That lets the glow show!

Draw the eyes with black marker, or carve them through for brighter eyes.

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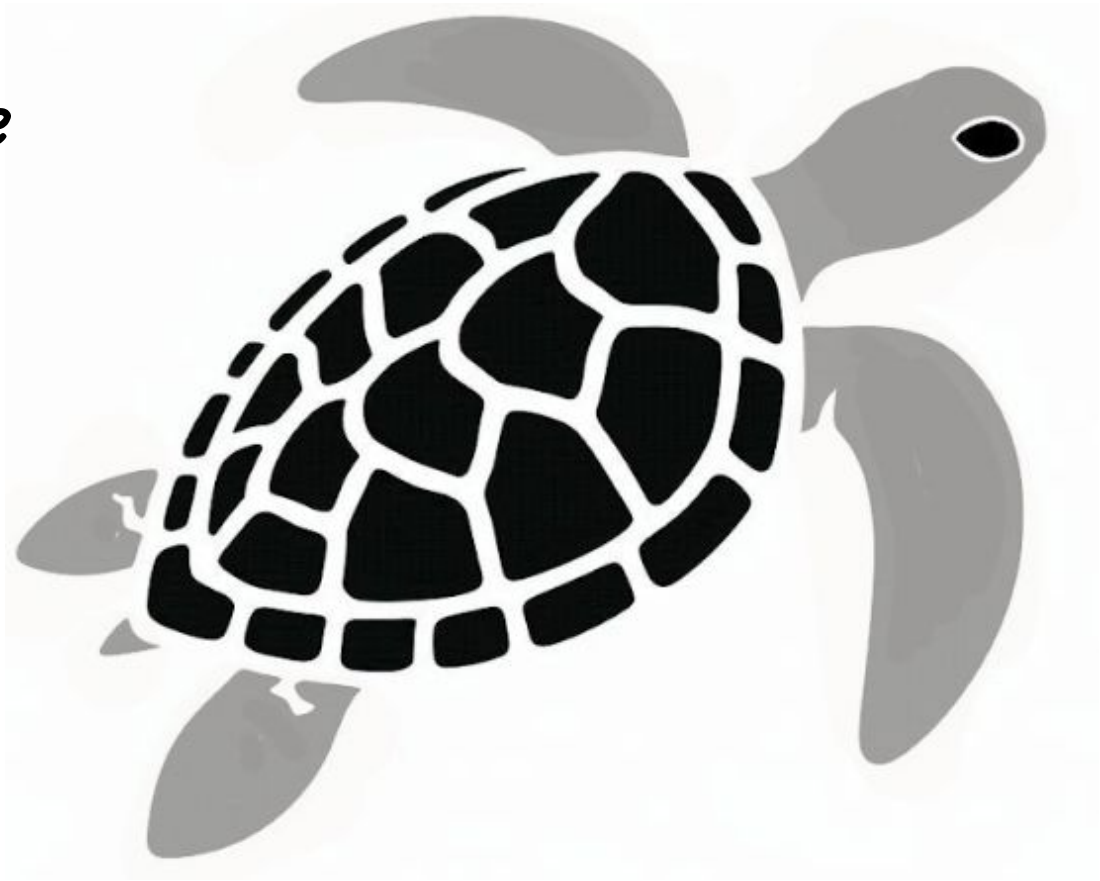
Spectral Sea Turtle



Carve out the black areas.

Scrape the grey areas, removing only the top layer of pumpkin skin. This will let the glow show through!

Draw the eye with a black marker.

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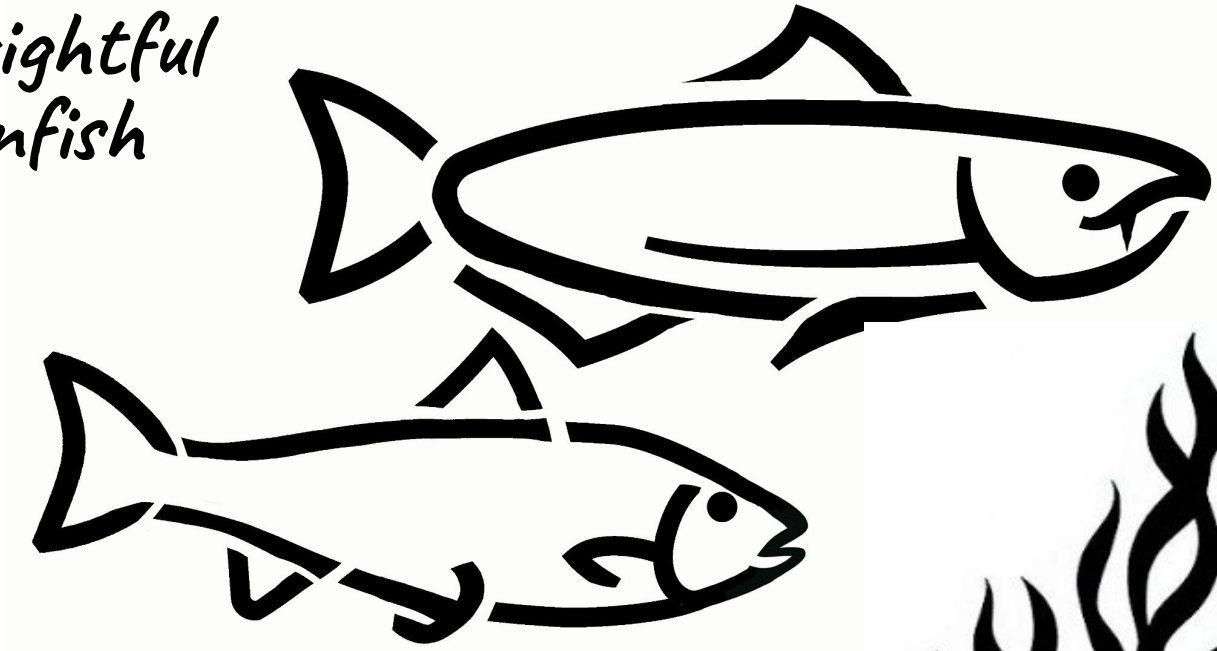
Frightful Finfish



You can carve the lines through or scrape the surface, removing only the top layer of pumpkin skin. This will let the glow show through! Draw the eye and other details with a black marker.

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