

Grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Topic for 2016 Reel Art Competition is

## **Adaptations for Survival**

*What is an adaption?*

A change in the structure, function, or behavior of animals and plants which helps them become better suited to survive in their environment. Some adaptations are so unique that it often allows the species to thrive as a top predator or survive in particular environments where others may not. Certain characteristics are more common in particular environments, for example, in the deep ocean many animals possess bioluminescent qualities to provide light!

*The following are common themes of adaptations and examples, but many more exist!*

- Coloration (camouflage, spots, stripes, countershading)
- Body Form (location of mouth, fin shape/size)
- Defense (venom, spines, teeth, shell)
- Sensory Organs (eyes, whiskers, lateral line)

Artwork **must include at least one South Carolina fish in its habitat that displays the qualities of the adaption(s) you choose which ensures the fish's survival. It may be helpful to include more than one aquatic species in your depiction.**

Get creative! Choose at least one fish in South Carolina and any other aquatic species if you like. Do your research to discover how these fishes thrive in their habitat and the special adaptations they have to ensure their survival. You can find more information about species online.

Freshwater Fish Identification Guide (contact [aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov) for hard copies)  
<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed/pdf/FreshwaterFishPocketGuide.pdf>

Fish Identification Poster (contact [aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov) for hard copies)  
<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed/pdf/fishchart.pdf>

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/freshwater.html>

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/species/index.html>

[www.enature.com](http://www.enature.com)

[www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)

