

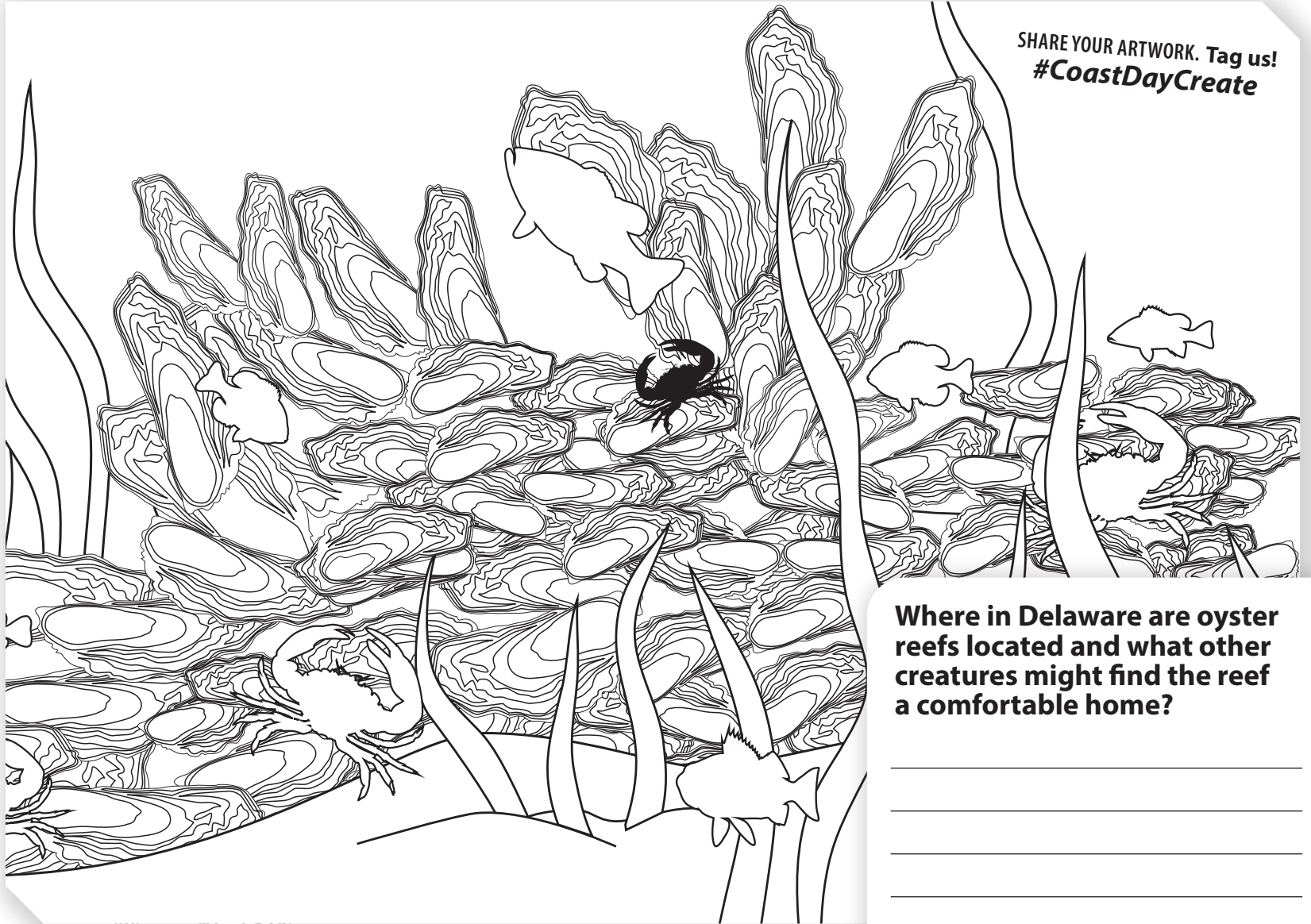


# Oyster Reef Habitat

**Oysters** live in salty or brackish waters on all U.S. coasts, clustering on older shells, rocks, piers, or any hard, submerged surface. They fuse together as they grow, forming rock-like reefs that provide habitat and shelter for other marine animals and plants.

## Fun Facts:

**Oysters** are a crucial component of global ocean health, providing food, jobs and habitat. Oyster reefs can serve as barriers to storms and tides, preventing erosion and protecting productive estuary waters. Oysters feed by filtering algae from the water, functioning as a natural filter and improve water that is overloaded with nutrients. A single oyster filters up to 50 gallons of water per day. The clean water can support underwater grasses, which—like the oyster reef—create a stable bay bottom and a safe, nurturing habitat for juvenile crabs, scallops and fish.



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**Where in Delaware are oyster reefs located and what other creatures might find the reef a comfortable home?**

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