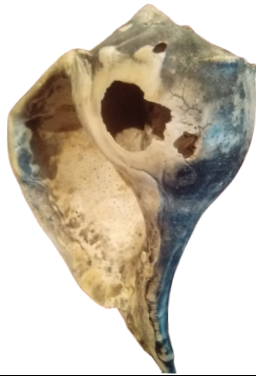


# SHELL IDENTIFICATION DICHOTOMOUS KEY

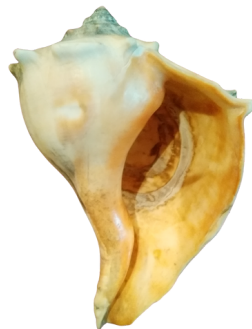
FOLLOW THE STEPS OF THE DICHOTOMOUS KEY TO NAME THE SHELLS














1A. SHELL HAS ONE PIECE (**UNIVALVE**)... **GO TO 2**

1B. SHELL HAS TWO HINGED PIECES (**BIVALVE**)... **GO TO 6**

2A. SHELL IS SPIRAL-SHAPED... **GO TO 3**

3A. SHELL HAS A SHORT-POINTED SPIRE (TOP)... **GO TO 4**

3B. SPIRAL IS NEARLY FLAT. THE OPENING IS THIN WITH SMALL TEETH-LIKE RIDGES: **CAMEO (QUEEN) HELMET** - LARGEST *HELMETS* FOUND IN THE WORLD. LIVES OFFSHORE (OUTER BANKS). CARNIVORE THAT FEASTS ON SEA URCHINS & SAND DOLLARS.

3C. SHELL HAS A *LONG UNICORN LIKE* SPIRE: **HORSE CONCH** -

CARNIVORE & THE LARGEST U.S. *GASTROPOD*. IT'S MEAT TASTES OF PEPPER.

4A. IF THE SPIRE TURNS RIGHT ... **GO TO 5**

4B. SPIRE (TOP) TURNS LEFT: **LIGHTNING WHELK** — CARNIVORE & SCAVENGER *GASTROPOD*. *HUNTS* *QUAHOG* *CLAMS*. LIVES IN SANDY BOTTOM SOUNDS.

5A. SHELL HAS LARGE KNOBS ALONG ITS SPIRAL RIDGES: **KNOBBED**

**WHELK** — CARNIVORE CLAM PREDATOR. LIVES IN INLETS, SOUNDS, & OFFSHORE.

6A. IF THE SHELL IS THIN OR LONG ... **GO TO 7**

6B. SHELL IS FAN-SHAPED, ALMOST RESEMBLES A HAND: **LIONS-PAW SCALLOP** — LARGE, THICK BIVALVE FOUND OFFSHORE. THEIR MEAT IS DELICIOUS.

7A. SHELL IS FRAGILE AND SHAPED LIKE WINGS WITH RIDGES: **ANGELWING** — FOUND BURIED IN MUD OR SAND FLATS. DELICIOUS MEAT AND TURNS PINK WHEN FEEDING ON ALGAE.

7B. SHELL IS LARGE, WEDGE-SHAPED WITH FINE SAWTOOTH-LIKE EDGE: **SAWTOOTH PENSHELL** — FOUND OFFSHORE IN SANDY MUD. ONLY NC SHELLFISH THAT MAKES PEARLS.

7C. SHELL IS THIN, SMALL, DARK, AND RIBBED: **RIBBED MUSSEL** — LIVES IN MUDDY BRACKISH WATERS. GROWS WELL IN POLLUTED AREAS.

7D. SHELL HAS ROUGH, IRREGULAR SHAPE WITH RIDGES: **OYSTER** — ATTACHED TO HARD SURFACES IN ESTUARIES AND REEFS. FILTERS 50 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY.