Partner names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Fish Dissection**

**Background information:**

We are investigating the physiology of fish by identifying different parts of their body that they use to move (dorsal fin, adipose fin, anal fin, caudal fin, pectoral fins and pelvic fins), sense their surroundings (nares, lateral line) and their internal organs (gills, air bladder, heart, stomach, intestine, kidney).

**Pre-lab questions:**

1. What are two ways that a fish’s environment is different than the one you live in?
2. How is a fish’s body different than yours because of those two differences?

**Materials:** fish, dissecting tray, dissecting tools, gloves (if needed)

**Safety:**

* Be very careful in handling sharp instruments, such as the scalpel and scissors. Always cut or scrape away from your body.
* Wash your hands thoroughly after the dissection.
* Properly dispose of all materials in accordance with your teacher’s instructions after the lab.

**Procedure:**

1. Prior to cutting into the fish, sketch it in the space below.
2. Identify the following fins on the fish and label them on your sketch above: dorsal fin, adipose fin, anal fin, caudal fin, pectoral fins and pelvic fins.
3. Find the nares and lateral line on the fish and label them on your sketch above.
4. Cut open your fish from anus to gill plate using scissors or scalpel. ***CAUTION: Use care when using scissors or a scalpel. Always cut away from your body.***
5. Find the gills and the gill rakes. Sketch an individual gill in the space below.

1. In the body cavity inside the fish, find the following organs and sketch and label them in the space below: air bladder, heart, stomach, intestine, liver, kidney.

**Analysis Questions:**

1. Which fin does not contain any rays (bone-like structures)?
2. How is a gill’s structure related to its function?
3. What would happen to a fish if its air bladder was punctured?