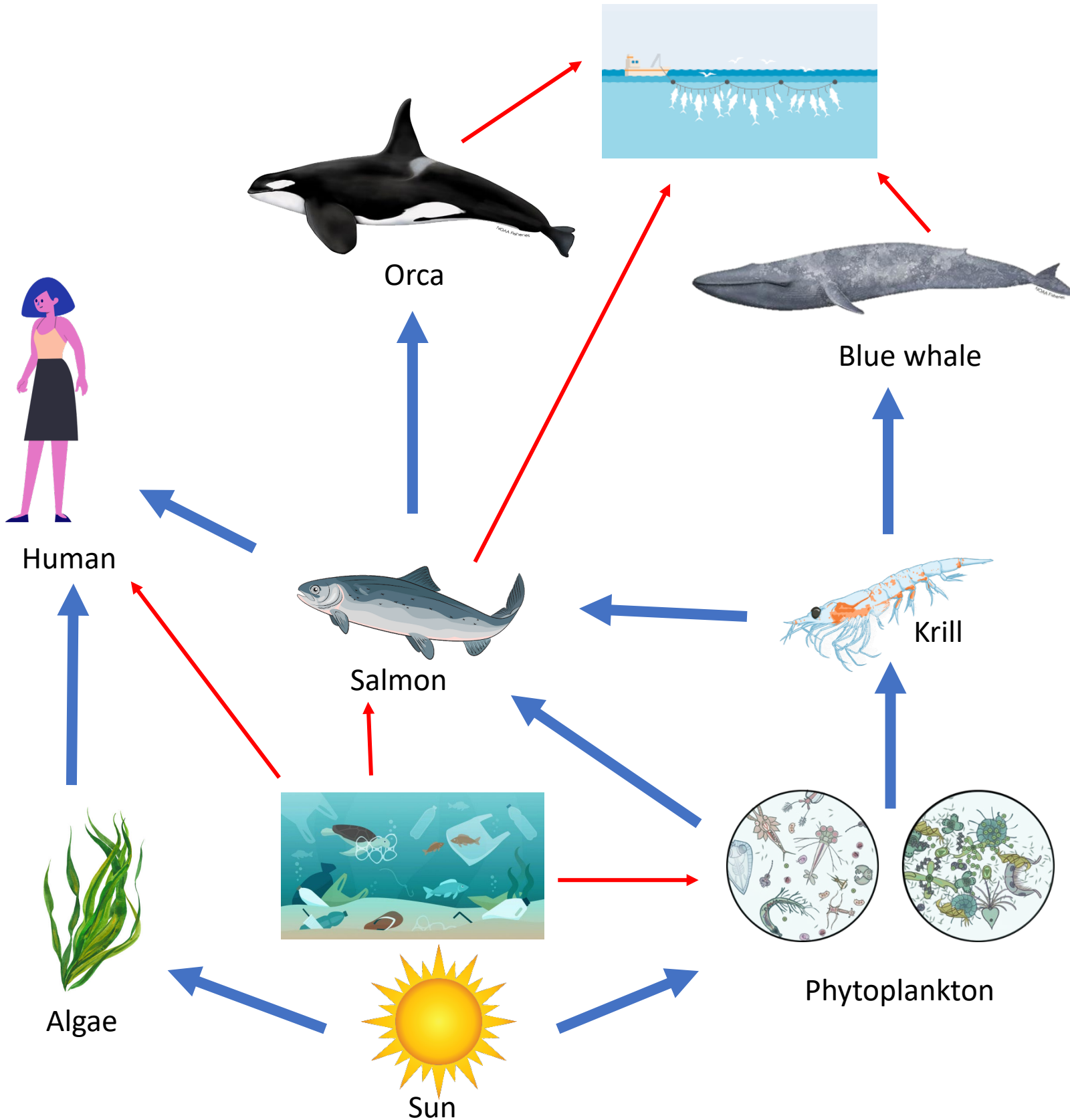


## Celebrating the Oceans: The Big, The Small and the Weird **Answer Key**



## Celebrating the Oceans: The Big, The Small and the Weird Answer Key

### Activity Questions:

1. Did you find the activity easy or difficult? Why?

*Each addition of an animal, or member of the food web, adds another layer of complexity. It is easy to see how each member of the food web has an important role to play and is connected by what they eat.*

2. Once you have the food web complete, remove the Krill. Without krill, what do you think will happen to the Salmon?

*Krill is a type of animal plankton, or zooplankton, and serves as a critical foundation to the food web for many predators including whales, seals, and fish. By removing krill, animals such as the salmon or blue whales would lose their primary food source and disappear. This would create a “domino effect” where we would then see the animals that depend on salmon, such as the orca, also disappear and so forth.*

3. Which member of this food web do you think has the greatest impact on the health of this entire ecosystem? Why?

*As we saw from removing the krill in the previous scenario, without foundational members of the food web such as phytoplankton or krill the food web collapses. For this reason, they could be considered the most impactful on the ecosystem. However, it is important to note that by removing top predators, such as the Orca, who plays a key role in maintaining prey species from growing out of control would also create a large impact. The two are needed to balance each other.*

### Become an Ocean Hero:

Explore ways you can take action to protect healthy ocean food webs and support sustainable seas! Did you know that overfishing leads to diminishing fish populations which disrupts the marine food web? Learn more on our [website!](#)

