

How to Construct a Food Chain or Food Web

1. Food Chain: Lion, Tree, Giraffe

- a. Find the producer first from the list of organisms and place it on the far left or at the bottom

Tree

- b. Then find who eats the Tree

Tree Giraffe

- c. Connect the two organisms with an arrow to show energy transfer

Tree → Giraffe

- d. Finally, place the organism that eats the Giraffe and connect with an arrow

Tree → Giraffe → Lion
 producer primary consumer secondary consumer

- e. Food Chains can also be draw up and down

Lion
 ↑
 Giraffe
 ↑
 Tree

2. Food Web: Shark, Algae, Shrimp, Whale, Sea turtle, Small fish, Crab, Seal, Plankton

- a. Just like in the food chain, start by listed all the producers at the bottom of the space on your paper

Algae Plankton

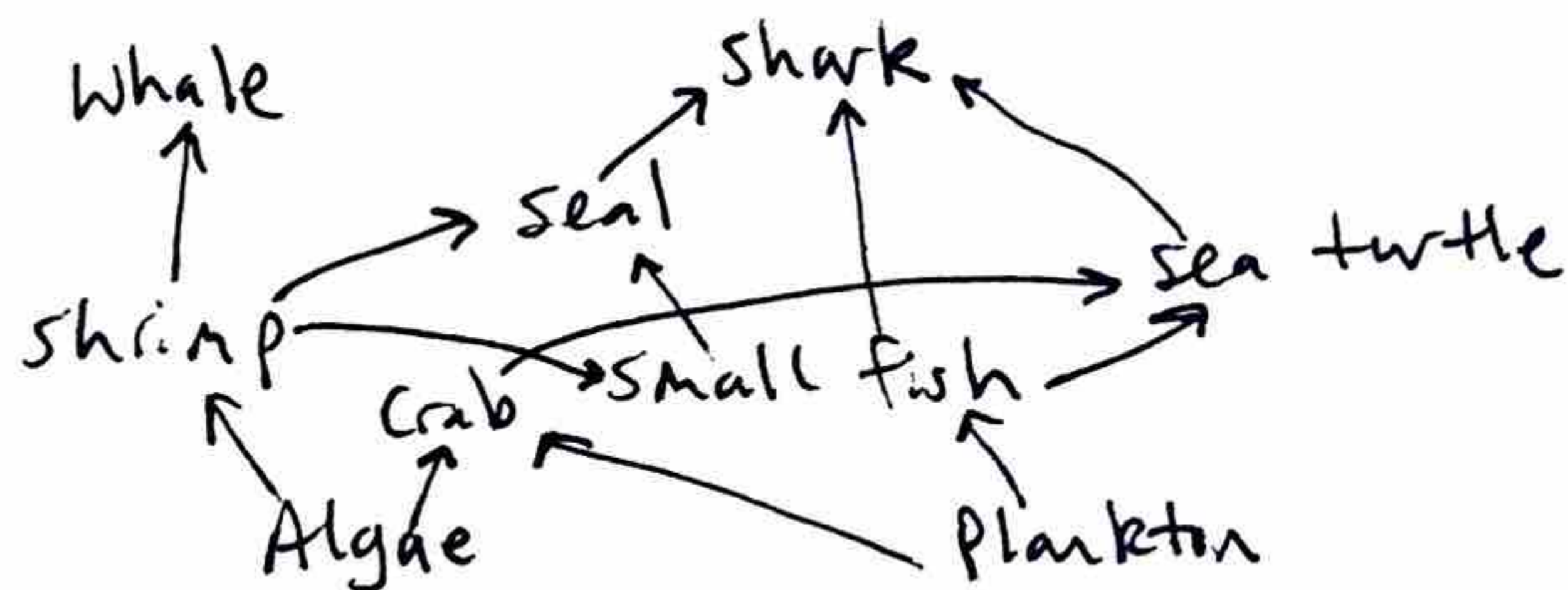
- b. Then, find the organisms that eat both of the producers and connect with an arrow

Shrimp Crab small fish
 ↑ ↑ ↑
 Algae Plankton

- c. Next, start with the organism on the far left and connect it with what it gives it's energy to

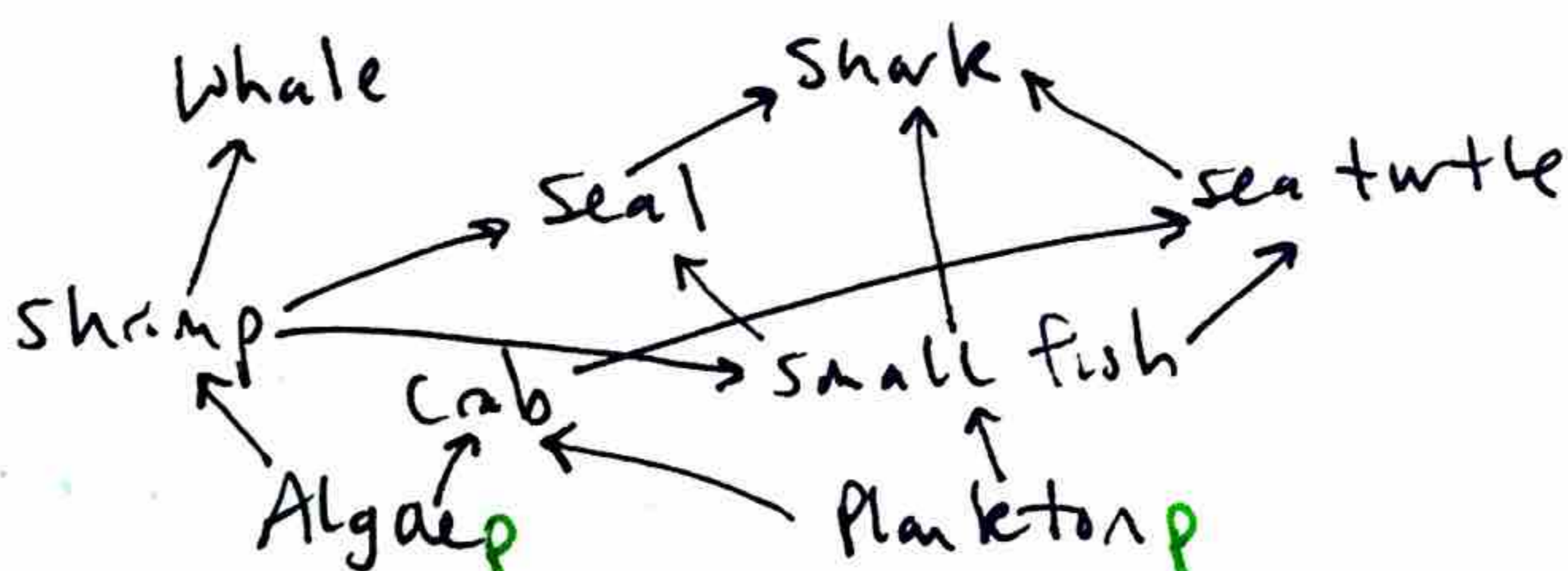
Whale seal shark
 ↑ ↑ ↑
 Shrimp small fish Sea turtle
 ↑ ↑ ↑
 Algae Crab Plankton

d. Finally, add all the other organisms and make the connections. Remember, it is not important to know exact what eats what, but more the correct flow of energy and the correct placement of the trophic level names

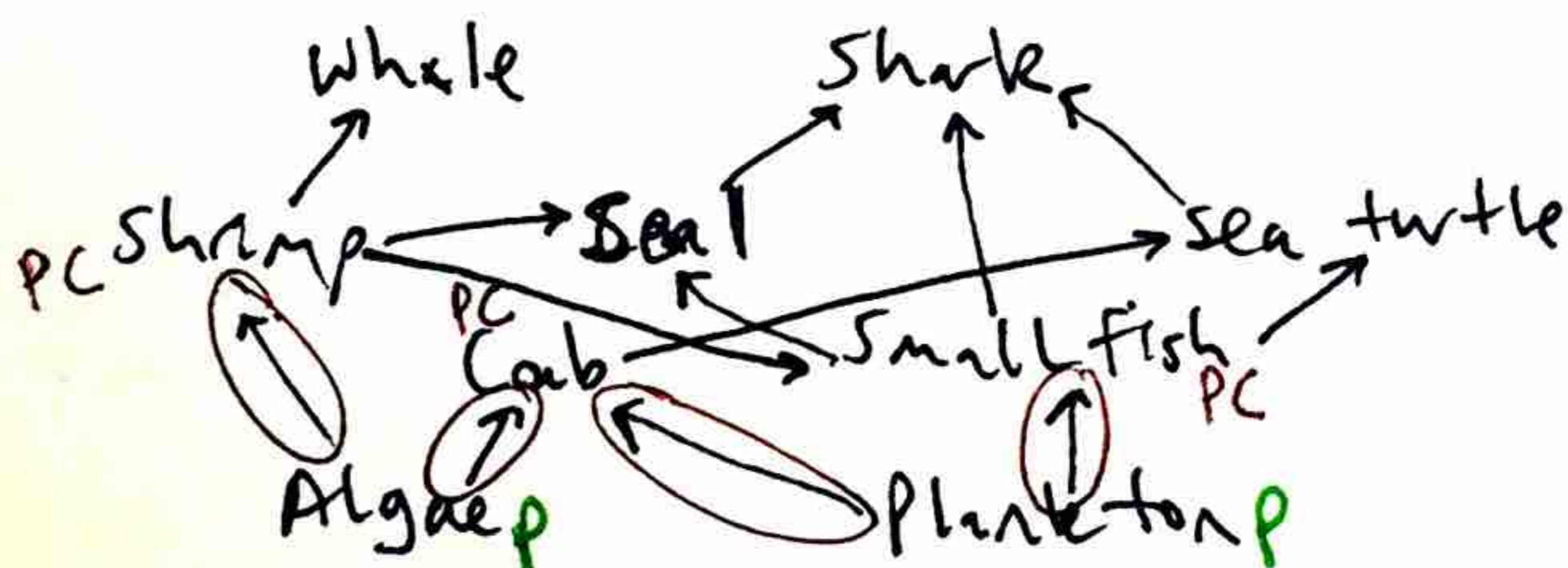


3. How to Place trophic level names

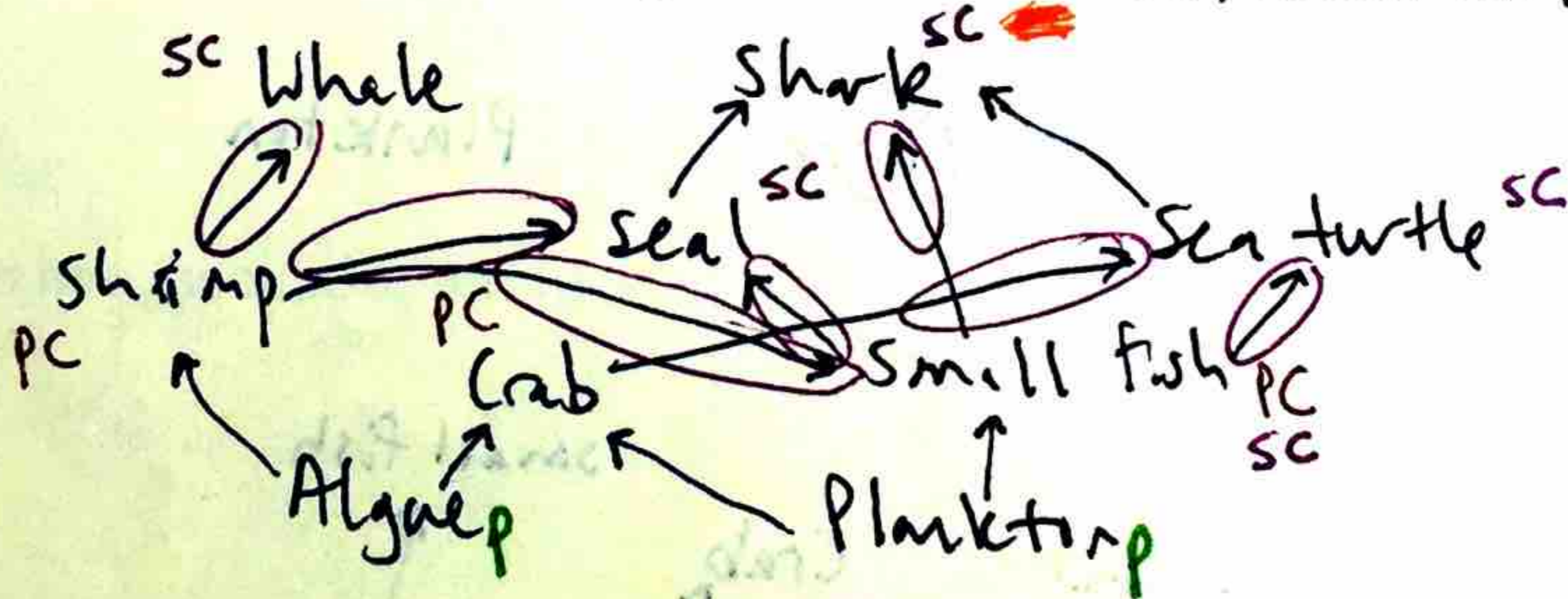
a. Start by labeling the producers. (P)



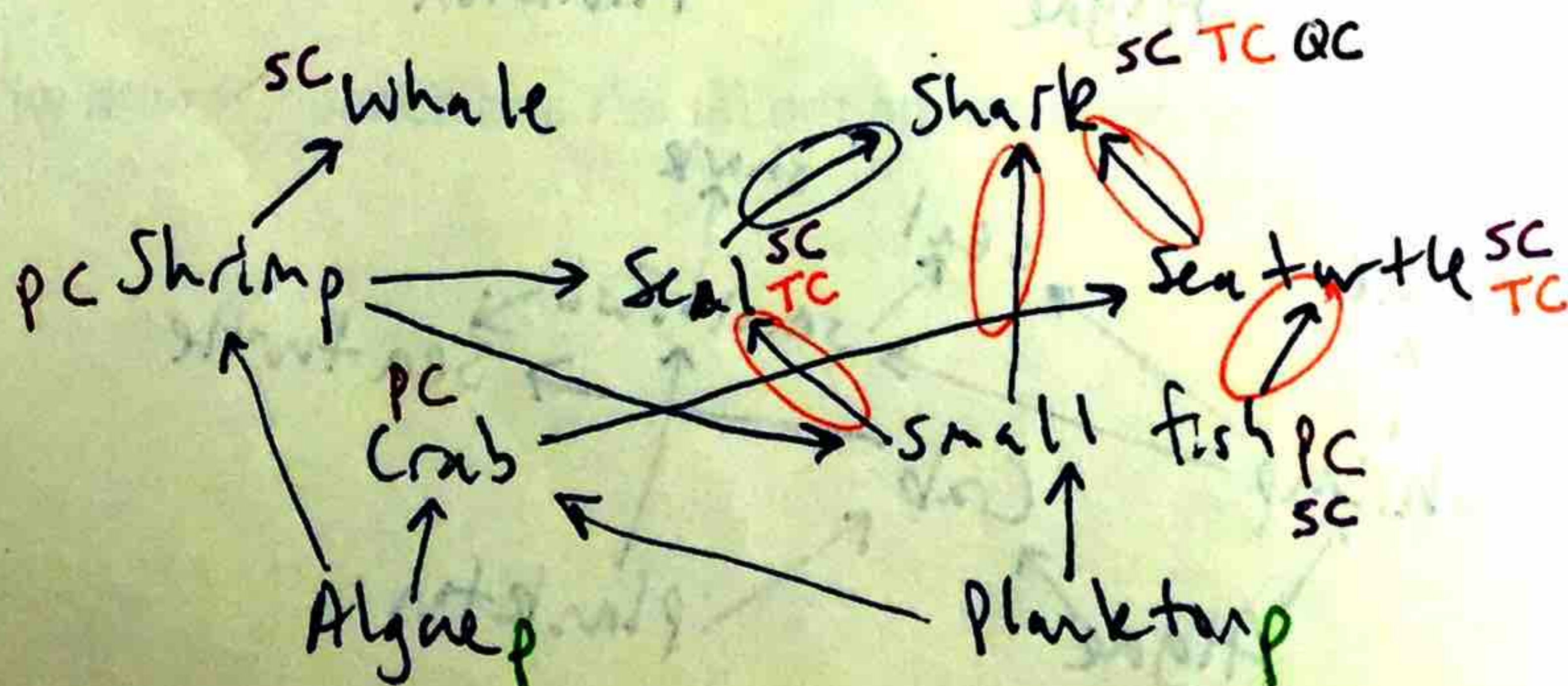
b. Next, find the producer on the far left and trace each arrow coming out of the producer. The first organism the arrow comes to gets labeled primary consumer (PC)



c. Then, start on the far left primary consumer and trace its arrows. The first organism the arrow comes to gets labeled secondary consumer. (SC)



d. Continue labeling each level name following the same steps as above



tertiary consumer (TC)

quaternary consumer (QC)